

Bookham's Bulletin

LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2016

Another great Bookham Village Day

Everyone had fun at Bookham Village Day on Saturday 18 June when crowds lined the streets to watch the big parade then enjoyed masses of entertainment laid on in the field behind the Old Barn Hall.

The Beatrix Potter theme, marking the 150th anniversary of her birth, was taken up enthusiastically by children from local playgroups and infant schools who recreated the writer and illustrator's popular animal stories in a variety of ways in the parade.

Bookham's big day began with a lively and colourful parade going down the High Street and along Church Road to the Old Barn Hall. There was music along the way, with Brian White's Magna Jazz Band and Pantasia Steel Band riding on Leatherhead Motor Company's lorry. Jason Wright's vintage Austin 7 led the procession.

Michelle Hudsmith of the event sponsors The Vineries Garden Centre had the hard job of judging the parade with a very high standard of entries. Smarty Pants Pre-school won the Peter Hancock Cup for best pre-school entry, with Dawnay Playgroup runners-up. Eastwick Infant School won the Roland Catt Cup for the best school age entry with Dawnay School second.

Great Bookham Belles WI won the BCA Cup for the best dressed stall with Eastwick WI runners-up winning the Vineries Cup. Little Bookham WI was given a special mention. Bookham Quilters won the BRABA (Bookham Retail and Business Association) Cup for the best themed stall in the hall

MC David Evans in colourful Union Jack jacket and hat kept a lively programme of entertainment swinging along in the arena including displays by Polesden Lacey, Dawnay and Eastwick Infant Schools, belly dancing from the Dancing Roses and Bookham U3A line dancing group. There was non-stop music from the Pantastia Steel Band playing in the Calypso Corner, Brian White's Magna Jazz Band and The Stomping Nomads. A very popular new addition this year was the Bucking Bronco sponsored by Di Carlos Hairdressers and Elios Barbers.

It was another hugely successful Village Day, bringing the community

together. Many stayed on till the end of the afternoon, and many more told me how much they had enjoyed the day.

This day couldn't happen without the support of many local organisations, businesses and individuals who volunteer their time to support us. A real Community event for the Bookhams.

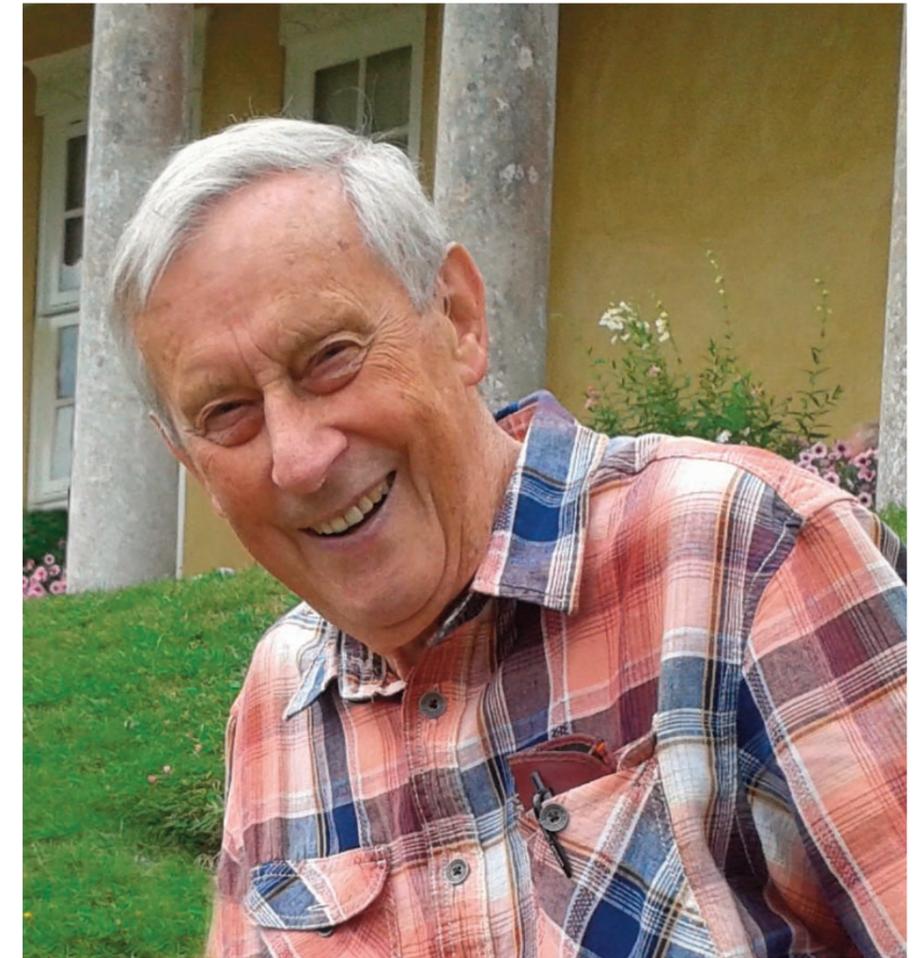
Veronica Hurren



ADVERT PAGE

Obituary

Martin Warwick (1934-2016)



Martin Warwick was a remarkable man with an amazing history. More of that later. Most people in the local community came to know him only after his retirement when he and his wife Jill left their home in Dulwich for a peaceful life in the much greener and more relaxed atmosphere of Great Bookham.

That was in September 2001. Their new home was a small bungalow in The Garstons surrounded by concrete. Over the next year they transformed it into a larger and far more comfortable home with landscaped gardens and an ideal setting for cosy living with their dog. Martin, a keen musician, soon became a regular steward at Polesden Lacey, playing its grand piano for visitors and editing its internal magazines.

It was the start of a new voluntary career as he also took over the editorship of the Bookhams Bulletin and from 2009 the Leatherhead & District Local History Society Newsletter as well. Both publications were transformed in design, doubled in size, and reflected the fun-loving attitude to life that made Martin such a popular and special person.

Special indeed. Despite an impressive career, Martin's earlier life had never featured journalism at all. His talents had taken him in a very different direction.

His parents were living in a council house in Peckham when Martin, their second son, was born in 1934. His father was a post office worker at Mount Pleasant sorting office. The family remained there for decades and it was Martin's home throughout his childhood, spanning the years of World War 2 and later.

He and his brother Peter both attended local LCC primary schools and then the private Alleyn's School on scholarships. Martin developed his love of sport but was taught only arts subjects and languages. Yet in the sixth form he showed an instinctive talent for mathematics and physics and at 18 won a prized open scholarship to study pure and applied maths at Queen Mary College, London University. After graduation, this led to teaching posts for several years at private schools in Norfolk before he discovered his real calling in the world of computers. He would never look back.

In 1963 he joined English Electric and worked on software development for one of the earliest digital computers. This involved creating operating systems that would enable software programs to be written. He was at the heart of developments as the whole industry took off, moving into management and from 1969 worked in London, lived in Dulwich, and

eventually became a consultant to both public and private organisations then establishing themselves in the rapidly evolving world of digital technology.

Yet Martin's life was far from straightforward. He was brought up in a strict religious background but moved away from it in his thirties and adopted a very different lifestyle. He and Jill were married in 1978 and between them had seven children. Two of them went to Martin's old Alleyn's School where Jill also worked for a time. Her son Matthew learned music there and went on to become a professional musician with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Martin's role at the Bookhams Bulletin was crucial as he masterminded every aspect of its production until shortly before his death on 30 June. As well as editing the publication he took over its graphic design, introduced full colour throughout, took many photographs, wrote many articles, introduced jokes and cartoons, and liaised with all contributors, advertisers and the printer. He also created a web version for access via the Internet, making the Bookhams Bulletin literally available across the entire world. Truly one of a kind, Martin is sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Tony Matthews

Bookhams Bulletin

83rd Year

Issue 319

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What's Happening

September

18th Sunday Norbury Park Sawmill Open Day

October

11th Tuesday BCA AGM 8pm at the Old Barn Hall

December

2nd Friday Spangles Sparkling Entertainment

3rd Saturday Old Barn Hall 8pm
Tickets £10 - 457405

REGULAR EVENTS

Fridays Every Week: Country Market Old Barn Hall 10.15am to 11.30am

Jazz Club: Most Sunday afternoons in the Old Barn Hall - for dates see article

Bookhams Bulletin is also published on the website

www.bookhamsbulletin.co.uk

Even more pictures and up-to-date news

Deadline for November issue

1 October

Email articles to

bookhamsbulletin@gmail.com

Queries to Keith Slark

01372 457375

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Chariman's Report

Martin Warwick

We were all very saddened in July to hear that our much loved Editor, Martin Warwick, had passed away in the Princess Alice Hospice. Martin had been gravely ill since May, which is why those who contribute regularly to the Bulletin did not get your usual reminders.

Since advising people I have received many messages of condolence - which have all been passed on to his wife Jill and family. Over and over the same words come out:

'Martin was so kind and patient'; 'he was never anything but kind and helpful and very organised'; 'he was always good-humoured and helpful with me.'

This very much summed up this kind and gentle man who moved to Bookham with Jill in 2001 in retirement but keen to become involved with the local community. When our previous Editor, Eric Lloyd-Jones, decided to retire, Martin volunteered and became our Editor in 2002.

You will read about Martin's earlier life and skills overleaf, but he decided to put his computer skills in particular to good use. During his tenure he transformed the Bulletin from a black and white (actually green) 30 page magazine into the full colour 44 page eminently readable Bulletin you see regularly now.

He did this by building up his contacts with our affiliated organisations and attending personally many village events, using his increasing knowledge of the history of the area (another big interest) and his unfailing sense of humour which was illustrated by the jokes at the bottom of every page!

He was also an active member of the BCA's Management Committee and took a full role in all of our activities following up with his reports and photographs in the next edition. His quiet manner but incisive mind will be much missed at our meetings and we have all lost a dear friend.

This Bulletin

We are extremely grateful to Peter Tilley, Tony Matthews and Simon Jordan (Surrey Litho) for their work over a very short space of time in getting this edition to you. As you can imagine we have had to try to pick up the reigns without Martin to help but he would have been devastated if the Village Day edition had not been published.

Thank you also to the various photographers who stepped in to take photographs on Village Day, Open Gardens and during the week to replace those Martin would have taken.

New Editor

This does mean that we are looking for someone to take over the mantle and although Martin will be a hard act to follow, his systems and contacts are set up. He had taken on the production role as well but I am pleased to say that Surrey Litho have agreed to take the production back in-house and therefore the role is purely as editor.

If you feel you can help or know anyone you think could please contact me on 01372 457375 or keithslark@tiscali.co.uk



Jim Smith OBE

The last week of June also saw Bookham lose another well-known and respected figure in Jim Smith. Jim had been both a County and District Councillor and worked tirelessly for the Bookhams and surrounding areas for many years.

He was a larger than life figure both physically and in personality and was still working with Bookham Residents Association until his recent illness. Over the years he had been a constant source of advice and assistance to the Community Association with regard to grants and other help available. Jim was another figure to whom we are grateful that they took Bookham as their home and to their hearts.

Village Week

Due to thorough planning – or just pure luck – the rains stopped for two days to allow us Village Day and Open Gardens without the downpours that we saw before and after that weekend. Village Day saw one of the best fancy dress parades that we have ever seen and more stalls celebrating our theme of 'Beatrix Potter' than we have had for years. A very big thank you to all of you who contributed to the costumes and decorating, it did make a colourful spectacle. The Arena displays were great and the music from the Stomping Nomads and the Pantastics kept everyone entertained.

Village Day would not happen without the hundreds of you who help set up and steward, man the stalls and displays and provide the refreshments. Many thanks to you all!

Following Village Day we had Open Gardens on the Sunday and five other events detailed elsewhere. Thank you.

Keith Slark

Polesden Lacey Infant School – July 2016

After such an amazing range of inspiring activities and engaging topics covered both in and outside the classroom this term, I think you would be hard pushed to find a parent who wouldn't have happily swapped places with their child, to spend a day in their shoes at Polesden Lacey Infant School.

This summer term has once again seen learning brought to life, and every opportunity seized as a learning opportunity - linking current affairs with literacy, history and drama, numeracy with social responsibility, and science with the here and now. All these topics are cleverly interwoven and brought to life on a daily basis, and the ideas and questions generated by the children serve to fuel the fire of their imagination and learning.

Momentous events of the here and now in the form of the Queen's 90th Birthday, were celebrated in style with a colourful and regal street party held in the school grounds, and the children in Squirrel Class (Year 1) were even lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit Windsor Castle, finding out links between past and present royalty and nobility.

The magic and drama of plays written for audiences over 400 years ago were also brought to life in the present day by the lively and hugely entertaining Cat's Grin Theatre Co as the children enjoyed taking part in a Shakespearean Workshop, bringing to life the enchantment and drama of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth and The Winter's Tale.

The children's magnificent fund raising efforts in aid of Water Aid have been hugely successful this term, with the return of water

bottles filled to the brim with pennies, and their numeracy skills will be challenged as the sum total for each class is calculated.

Despite an unseasonably rainy day, the Reception Class children (Rabbit Class) enjoyed a fascinating trip to Nower Wood which enriched their knowledge and understanding of various different animal habitats.

But perhaps one of the most exciting science topics this term has been the opportunity that Badger Class (Year 2) have had in conducting a live experiment growing and recording the progress of rocket seeds sent to them by space hero and legend, Major Tim Peake. Seeds that have spent time on the International Space Station are being grown simultaneously alongside those that have not, and all the data is being recorded and collated to form a bigger national picture. The children also had the opportunity to sample real life 'space food', and created wonderful papier maché space helmets that would be the envy of any astronaut.

As always the summer term's highlights included participation in the wonderful spectacle and community event that is Bookham Village Day. This year the school took it upon themselves to recreate one of Beatrix Potter's earliest and most favoured stories, The Tailor of Gloucester, with the classes representing cottons reels, scissors and the Tailor's finished garments.

And more recently, the Summer Fair provided a whole range of fun stalls, games, and a new cuddly toy Fancy Dress Parade with a Star Wars



theme, all overseen by a 7ft tall Darth Vader to boot!

Sports Day approaches, and the extra mile-a-day run or walk they have been participating in, will certainly have stood the children in good stead.

As with everything, it would seem good preparation is key. With move-up-day just around the corner, the children get to spend time in their September classes with their new teachers. Summer Club is in full swing, whereby the autumn intake of Reception children are gently introduced to the new routines of school and socialise with their new classmates.

Word will get round that the current Year 2 children have perfected and refined the tools and equipment necessary for space travel. So, by the time they reach Year 2, time travel will have been mastered and I for one am putting my name down to be five years old again, and will be first in the queue at the classroom door.

Julie Welby



Barn Hall Crafters



We have had a busy summer at Barn Hall Crafters. It was great fun preparing for Bookham Village Day, learning new skills such as decoupage, knitted jewellery, paper

wreaths, and even hedgehogs made from paperback books.

Our members were busy bees putting finishing touches to their items for display. 'We enjoyed the Beatrix Potter theme this year,' said chairman Jan Edgcumbe, 'and our members excelled themselves putting together a marvellous display of their work. We were able to raise a generous donation towards the upkeep of the Barn Hall.'

In May we were fortunate to have Tiffany Gregory, an outside demonstrator, present an inspiring mosaics workshop and we were all

able to produce a work of art. During July we had Carol Ransom 'The Knicker Lady' who gave us a fun and informative talk on the history of knickers, bringing samples of all sorts of knickers from the 18th century through to current times. Later in July was our group annual outing to the Lavender Fields but more on that next time.

We always welcome new members, so if you are interested in joining our club please contact Jan Edgcumbe by e-mail at jan.tracksides@gmail.com.

Bookham and Fetcham Gardeners Association



Weeds, they are the one thing you can guarantee will keep growing through the harshest of conditions, so now is the time to get on their case. Through the summer, running a hoe through the vegetable patch and where feasible a hoe through the flower beds and borders will keep weeds in check but now is the time for a time saving long term solution. Mulch!

The American garden writer, Ruth Stout, (known for her 'no-work' gardening techniques) said "The unmulched garden looks to me like some naked thing which for one reason or another would be better off with a few clothes on."

Covering the soil through winter means weeds do not germinate as readily, goodness is retained in the soil rather than being washed away and the garden aesthetic is maintained.

You can use natural materials, like chipped bark or composted farmyard manure. Spread them liberally. Eventually they will rot down and you will have to replace them but a thick layer should last a couple of years. Alternatively you can use man made materials. There are various types of weed suppressing mats best put down when you are preparing new beds. Strawberries, for example, stay weed free and the fruit is cleaner if the plants

are put through a mat of some kind. These mats can also be laid as a substrate under another material, like gravel-as in the picture.

Just think- a weed free garden without effort!

There are two reasons for choosing companion plants, apart from just liking them. The first is to deter unwanted pests and the second to encourage beneficial insects.

Marigolds of all sorts reduce infestations of whitefly on brassicas. This really does work. Unfortunately, the marigolds disappear in the autumn before the whitefly, so you still get a few on the sprouting broccoli. They say carrot root fly doesn't like the smell of onions and garlic, so spring onions between the rows of carrots is supposed to help, as are garlic granules. Nasturtiums do really help to keep black fly away from beans, but don't have too many or let them rampage as they will smother French beans in no time. You could always eat them, the nasturtiums that is, as well as the beans.

Plants which encourage pollinators are legion; lavender, rosemary, sage, thyme and catmint are fantastic. Pot marigolds are good (two birds with one stone there) as are sunflowers. All edible and mostly unaffected by pests.

Slugs, snails and the dreaded leek moth do not seem to be deterred by anything. I have not yet tried sheep fleece or strong coffee, neither of which could be called company.

A few years ago you would have had to wait a long time for an allotment but all over the country I hear allotments are now available immediately and at Eastwick we are no exception. We are looking for prospective Allotmenters now. So, if you think you would like to give allotment gardening a go please call me - John Humphreys (site Agent) on 01372 454383 and I'll happily show you what

is available. You may need to roll your sleeves up over winter but I assure you it will all be worthwhile.

As you probably know although this Association was formed as Eastwick Allotment and Gardeners Association and has continually occupied the huts on the Eastwick allotment site at the bottom of Keswick Road for over 60 years, what many don't know is that we are open to all gardeners in the area and beyond. Yes we obviously we take a keen interest in the allotment site but we are primarily a club whose main interest is to supply pretty much everything a gardener needs at very competitive prices. So do pop in, we'd love to see you. We are open every Sunday morning between 10am and midday and I'm sure you'll recoup your modest £3 subscription on your first visit!

We would like to thank everyone who grew plants for us to sell at Village Day to raise funds for the BCA. Some were grown by the committee members who jointly wrote this article. If you would like to take part in guiding the Association we would welcome you onto our committee whether you're an allotment gardener or not.

Jointly written by Committee Members



ADVERT PAGE

Bookham Butterflies WI

Members of the Bookham Butterflies WI had a real cake baking frenzy ahead of this year's Village Week. Along with other local organisations, we baked dozens of cakes for Village Day itself, and spent the afternoon serving teas and coffees in The Barn Hall - wearing our rather fetching butterfly aprons!

Just three days later, even more cakes made by our members (and loads of savouries too) filled the kitchen at the Barn Hall as we organised catering for Village Week Quiz Night. The Butterflies team finished an excellent fourth in the quiz itself, joining forces with other members to serve 160 teas and coffees in the interval, along with 40 plates of homemade cakes and savouries. We all really enjoyed being part of Village Week. It was a fantastic community event and we were delighted to play our part in it.

We held our own Inter-WI quiz at Fetcham Village Hall in May. Six other local WIs joined us for a fun evening of quiz questions, hosted by our quiz master, Warren Rockett. The night also featured a charity raffle including prizes very kindly donated by The Vineries Garden Centre and Ken Davey Butchers in Bookham.

The raffle raised a fantastic £214 for breast cancer charity Walk the Walk, organisers of the famous Moon Walk London. Twenty Butterfly members took part in The Moon Walk in May, either as walkers or volunteers. Those who walked, took on a half or full overnight marathon wearing decorated bras. The money raised by the quiz contributed to a huge total of £8164 raised for Walk the Walk by the Butterflies team, quadrupling their original £2000 target. Donations can still be made until November at the following fundraising page <https://moonwalklondon2016.everydayhero.com/uk/bookham-butterflies-wi>

We also recently enjoyed our first Inter-WI walk. The five and a half mile outing was organised by West Horsley WI, with the whole group meeting at Sheepleas. Hidden in the woods, the group saw ten stone bridges built in the 1800s by the Earl of Lovelace to help transport his timber on wagons.

Recent speakers at our monthly meetings have included a local volunteer for the Air Ambulance, a solicitor talking about wills and the power of attorney, and finally a hugely entertaining talk by Carol Ranson, an expert



with an unusual but fascinating specialism – the history of knickers through the ages!

Our two Book Groups have recently read *Bad Science* and *The Children Act*, the Cinema Group went to see *Eye in the Sky* and the Exploring Gardens Group visited Dunsborough Park. Members also had a very interesting trip to the historic Bletchley Park. For more information about our WI, visit our website at www.bookhambutterflieswi.com or our Facebook page Bookham Butterflies WI.

Manor House School



Manor House School in Little Bookham has become one of the country's first to undergo the new ISI Compliance Inspection, passing with flying colours. The new ISI Report covers all aspects of the school's provision including safeguarding, curriculum and health and safety.

ISI inspectors said Manor House School's teaching "enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources. Principles and values are actively promoted. This facilitates the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens. Good behaviour is promoted."

Headteacher Zara Axton said: "During an inspection, the ISI gives parents the opportunity to contribute their views on the school and their daughter's education via a confidential web-based questionnaire. The results are shared with the school as part of the feedback once the inspection is complete. The responses were highly positive with 100 per cent of respondents saying they felt their daughter was safe and well looked after at the school."

The ISI report coincides with another award for Manor House School's Holroyd Howe in-school catering team. Holroyd Howe is audited externally by the European Safety Bureau. Units that gain a mark of 95 per cent or higher are awarded a certificate of excellence. Two years ago Manor House's catering team won the highest audit score in Holroyd Howe. Now, to date, it is top again with a score of 98.4 per cent.

Recently the catering team ran an Around the World theme week to encourage pupils to try new foods and different flavours. Each day was themed around a different food for the pupils to try – including Spanish, Italian, Indian and Moroccan cuisine. Menus were written in the corresponding modern foreign language.

The girls counted down to August's Rio Olympics with a daily run around the athletics track as part of the Latin and South America Theme Week which started in June. They ran or walked as many laps of the school's 200m track as they could in 15 minutes – their aim was at least a mile a day each. Every lap earned them a sticker towards their house points total. Teacher Tracy Evans said: "This was an opportunity for friends, classes, houses and the whole school to come together to encourage participation."

The school will hold its next open morning on 1 October. Please contact Mary Fowell, 01372 457077, mfowell@manorhouseschool.org, <http://manorhouseschool.org>



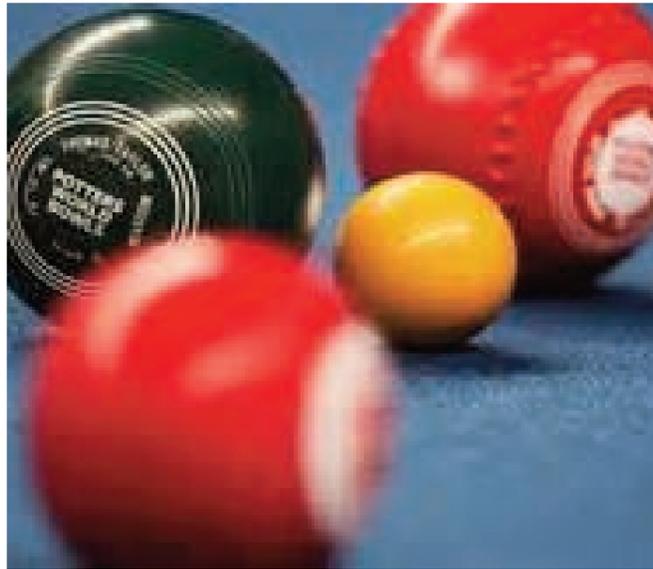
Bookham Butterflies WI

The Indoor Bowling Club attached to the Leatherhead Leisure Centre has been growing over the last 40 years. Now with a membership of almost 300, we look forward to welcoming new members in the upcoming season.

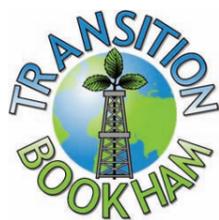
The Club is currently carrying out further improvements to the facilities for all members. These include changes to provide a new bright and comfortable viewing area, complementing the new bar and new furnishings. Everyone will be able to enjoy the challenge of the bowls mat and for the less able we have easy and safe access to the Club and bowling green.

Come along to our open mornings on Saturday 3, 10, 17, 24 September and 1 October from 10am to 1pm. It's free with free coaching for beginners and adequate free parking.

MVIBC has the most competitive membership fees in Surrey and a brilliant atmosphere for seniors, beginners and experienced players to enjoy good company and progress to any level they wish. Come and see what we have to offer - you will be surprised. Check our web site: www.mvibc.co.uk for contact details and more information



Transition Bookham



In April Transition Bookham attendees enjoyed a guided tour of the Randalls Road Community Recycling Centre, which is run by the company Suez (formerly Sita). As well as the CRC there is a waste transfer station taking waste from several local councils - it currently receives 26 tonnes per week of food waste alone.

We can all now recycle 35 different types of item at Leatherhead. If we take black bags of rubbish to the CRC to the skip marked "This will be diverted from landfill" the bags will be opened and items sorted for reuse or recycling. It would be really helpful to sort the items beforehand if possible. The textile bank is particularly popular and often full. Don't forget that in Mole Valley we can put out bags of textiles (and small electrical items/batteries) for recycling with the weekly bin collection.

There is a trial re-use shop on site which resells any items in reusable condition or donates them to charity. It has been very successful and is currently diverting around four tonnes of rubbish per month from going to landfill. Several of us picked up a bargain on our visit. Furniture that should have fire labels can only be re-used if the labels are still attached, so make sure you keep them.

You may be able to do some bird-watching on your trips to the site as birds of prey are regularly brought in to scare off the local gulls and pigeons. We were fortunate enough to meet a Harris hawk on our visit! See the picture.

Our May meeting was a make-do-and-mend session where we created some up-cycled items for our Village Day stall. On Village Day itself we were in the Harrison Room as with environmental information, eco lucky dip and up-cycled crafts. Thanks to those who stopped by our stall. Several of our friends opened their gardens on the Sunday and had a busy day.

Our June meeting was a really interesting talk on the history, cooking, growing and traditional uses of herbs and spices. This followed up on a talk from last year and included several less common herbs,

encouraging us to expand our horticultural and culinary horizons. We particularly enjoyed the herb cookies and rocket pesto during the refreshment break.

Our meetings continue on the third Wednesday of the month from August to November. Visit our website or see our posters on the local notice boards for details. Meetings are in the St Nicolas Pastoral Centre from 7.30pm-9.15pm, open to all and usually free, although we sometimes have a modest entrance charge for talks.

We are looking for more people to help with our activities: if you have an interest in the environment or finding out more about sustainable living please get in touch. There will be ways in which you can help even if you can't make our open meetings. Go to www.transitionbookham.org.uk or contact us at transitionbookham@gmail.com and ask to receive our monthly email newsletter. You can also find TransitionBookham on Facebook, follow us on Twitter (@ttbookham) and learn more about Transition in general at www.transitionnetwork.org.



Bookham, Fetcham & District Garden Society

At Bookham Village Day we celebrated 140 years of the garden society. Our stall on the theme of Beatrix Potter displayed old photographs, Show Schedules, Minutes from 1878, the church kneeler and our new banner created by Gerda. The present committee, who are all ladies, wore decorated hats, in sharp contrast to the committee of 1878 who were all men!

Our Autumn Show is on Saturday, 10 September in the Old Barn Hall. Entries staged 9am-10.30am with the show open to the public at 2.30pm. Show schedules and other information about our society can be obtained from Angela Stevens on 01372 456713.



If you enjoy gardening, whether it be a window box or an allotment, do consider joining us.



Mole Valley Women's Institute

Our newly formed gardening club has started to take root and is proving to be a popular group among members with talks about taking cuttings and orchids so far.

The ramblers have enjoyed walking at Abinger and the Isabella Plantation with a welcome stop for lunch along the way.

Our outings have included Guys and Dolls at Woking in July and Hidden London with a trip along the Regents Canal in August. We will also be visiting the Houses of Parliament in November.

We have enjoyed talks on puppetry, including Punch and Judy from Professor Ken Dalston, and Chris Roberts, an ex-Red Arrows pilot, told us the history of flight and display flying with some amazing pictures taken from inside the cockpit of his aircraft. Other speakers to come with topics ranging from the history of Great Ormond Street to Handbag to Handcuffs!

There were many entries in our Best Rose competition and Denise Forrest won the Rose Bowl with her bloom.



If you would like to join us for our monthly meetings, we meet at Fetcham Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm. Further details can be found on our website www.molevalleywi.btck.co.uk.



Bookham Youth Project

Bookham Youth Project is a joint project between the three churches in the village - St Nicolas parish Church, Eastwick Road Church and Bookham Baptist Church - and Leatherhead Youth Project. The churches will provide the funding and Leatherhead Youth Project the work, based on over ten years experience of providing high quality transformative youth work in Leatherhead. The project will begin in September. Oli Bell, senior LYP youth worker, will spearhead this exciting new development.

The youth project will focus on developing high quality relationships with young people

in the local community, seeking to take them on a journey of transformation so that they can make a positive impact in their community and the wider world. It will be based at the youth centre in the Lower Road, at south

Bookham SPACE, in the three churches, and at Howard of Effingham School. To find out more, contact Rev Rob Stevens at robstevens@bookhambaptist.org or call 01372 811313.



Polesden Lacey

Polesden Lacey has seen an enormous amount of activity over the summer. General Manager Andrea says: "Let's not contain our excitement about what we're doing. Our project to restore the original layout of the house is now underway, with walls being knocked down as we speak. We've been discussing this possibility as a team for such a long time so it's easy to overlook how significant this moment in time is. This is the start of a new and exciting chapter – hurrah!"

As the restoration work progressed, there were events, conservation work in the house and grounds, new volunteer roles, staff recruitment in catering, and the camp site opening. There was thatching of the Thatched Bridge and tree surgeons lifted crowns along the New Limes Walk and other key areas. So too the mowing, strimming and pruning ahead of this year's staging of The Tempest as the outdoor Shakespeare production. Workers took advantage of the scaffolding on the house to prune some wall shrubs and climbers and there was also dividing of iris and planting of summer bedding in containers.

This is the first year of Polesden's new financial



regime and putting funds in the reserves for next year's projects depends on hitting targets for the year. Half way through 2016 the figures were not looking bad, despite the wet weather, but Polesden could not afford to miss the targets for the rest of the year.

Up to 27 June a total of 115,469 visitors had arrived compared with 124,475 last year and visitors to the house had reached 41,412 compared with 49,967 last year.

Looking ahead, the team would like to set up a Polesden choir/band to participate in the Christmas festivities. If interested please contact Andrea in the Bothy offices or Bethan.williams@nationaltrust.org.uk.



- **Volunteer early morning socials:** Thurs 14 Jul; Fri 19 Aug; Sat 17 Sept; Mon 17 Oct; Tues 8 Nov)
- **The Big Polesden Picnic:** Thursday 7 July, from 5.30 pm South Lawn. RSVP to polesdenlacey@nationaltrust.org.uk
- **363 drop-in tours:** The House team will be running drop-in tours for anyone interested in finding out more about the new spaces that we are going to open as part of 363 and what they might look like. Please come along at 2pm or 3pm on one of the following dates if you would like to join a tour – Mon 4 July or Sun 24 July.
- **Sounding Board meetings:** 10.30 in Kings meeting room 5 July, 2 November
- **Induction stage 1:** 10.15-12.00
- **Induction stage 3:** 10.15-12.00, Wed 29 June, Thurs 21 Jul, Sat 13 Aug, Mon 22 Aug, Fri 23 Sept, Sat 22 Oct, Mon 21 Nov. If you started volunteering more than three months ago and haven't attended a session yet, please contact plvolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk and the team will book you in.
- **Volunteer Christmas lunches!** 21-25 Nov, 28, 29 Nov. Booking sheets available from end Sept.
- **Spring meeting 2017:** Tuesday 7 February

VILLAGE WEEK

Something for everyone during Village Week

Village Day marks the start of Village Week when a variety of events are organised by local organisations all raising money to run the Old Barn Hall and produce the quarterly Bookhams Bulletin.

As always Gardens of Bookham Open Day on Sunday was a big attraction with more than 700 coming along to view 14 gardens, of all sizes and types. There was a free minibus service between gardens, and many people enjoyed a break for refreshments in the Old Barn Hall.

Monday was the opportunity for local bridge players to enjoy lunch in the Old Barn Hall followed by an afternoon of duplicate bridge, organised by Bookham Afternoon Bridge Club. In the evening Mole Valley Silver Band performed their summer concert of enjoyable and light-hearted music.

Tuesday was the popular Village Week quiz night when 18 teams from BCA affiliated organisations tested their memories to answer questions set by last year's winners Little Bookham WI who chose The Worlds of Women as the theme for the quiz. The winners were Eastwick WI who will organise next year's quiz.

On Thursday the 2006 Miss Potter film about the life of Beatrix Potter was screened, and on Friday the week ended with a great evening of traditional jazz from Brian White's Dixieland Jazz Band. Brian has been presenting his Dixieland Jazz Nights during Village Week for 35 years.

Thank you to all of you who contributed whether on organising committees, stewarding, manning stalls, opening your garden or any way at all.

Village Day raised in the region of £xxxxx from all of your hard work, sponsorship donations and advertising.

Open Gardens donated £5,500 to the BCA from tickets, refreshments, plant sales and sponsorship.

Bridge Lunch - run by Bookham Afternoon Bridge Club raised £873

Silver Band – Mole Valley Silver Band held their Monday evening concert

Quiz Night – run by Little Bookham WI with refreshments by Bookham Butterflies WI (for the BCA!) raised £886

Film Night – showing the film 'Beatrix' raised £185

Jazz Night – unfortunately was poorly supported and made a loss.

Many thanks to all of these local businesses who provided help, raffle prizes or donations towards Village Week:

The Vineries Garden Centre - Our sponsor for both Village Day and Open Gardens

Di Carlos Hairdressing and Elios Barbers – sponsoring the Bucking Bronco on Village Day

Astek Dental
Carlos
Gardner & Co

Di
Patrick

Beauty Solaire
Gascoine Pees
Painshill Gardens

Blakes Florists
Henshaws
The Old Crown

Bocketts Farm
Huggins Edwards & Sharp
Wishing Well

The

Brackenbury's
T W White

John Wadsworth

Cavendish French
Fruiterers
Castle

Laytons
Ye Olde Windsor

Cikako Murphy
Leatherhead Theatre
W H Cox Removals

DB Designs Southern
House School
Outside Marquees

Manor
Inside

Village Day White Elephants

With your generosity in donating so many saleable items and my young assistants hard work

and ability in selling them back to you on Village Day we raised a massive £926.39 for the B.C.A.

A huge thank you to everyone involved from Margaret.

TO LAYOUT STILL

MONTAGE DOUBLE SPREAD

Rainbow Playgroup

The cries of 'I want it!' and 'I had it first!' will be familiar to parents and staff in pre-school settings alike. It is completely natural and normal for young children to have disputes over materials, space and friendships. The challenge is how to resolve these disputes so that everyone feels listened to and in a way that leaves children with new skills to handle future situations they might encounter.

For the past 18 months at Rainbow we have been implementing the six HighScope problem solving steps when disputes occur. Betsy Evans developed the approach working together with the HighScope Educational Research Foundation in America. The steps provide an effective tool to manage children's conflicts positively. Typically adults resolve children's conflicts by fixing the problem for the children. How these steps differ from the typical approach is that, through using the steps, adults support children to come up with their own solutions to their own problems. This leaves children feeling listened to and heard as well as helping them use their creative and intellectual skills to solve their own problems.

Rainbow staff have noticed how, with use of the steps over time, some children have started to solve problems independently and sometimes need little or no assistance from adults to work their conflicts out. Parents too have noticed and commented on how the children are taking their new found problem solving skills into their home situations. One parent said that when a family dispute occurred, voices were raised and the

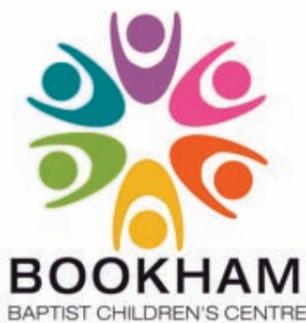
emotional temperature was running hot their child declared 'Hang on! We don't have to do this, we can talk about it and solve the problem.'

Betsy Evans, a leading light in early years education, is coming to Bookham to give two presentations on young children's social behaviour. There will be a two-hour session, primarily aimed at parents and grandparents of young children, on the evening of 29 September and a four-hour session, primarily aimed at early years practitioners, during the day on 1 October. Tickets cost £15 for the two-hour session and £30 for the longer session and are available from Bookham Baptist



Rachael Underwood

Bookham Baptist Children's Centre



Bookham Baptist Children's Centre continues to take great steps forward in developing our services for the local community. Over the past few months we've seen Noah's Ark Toddler Group (Thursday's 1.30-3pm) go from strength to strength. With a fantastically well resourced

room we offer messy play, a creation station, an active zone as well as an outside area and free tea, coffee and cake. Our recent Sing & Sign session was very well attended and will be repeated soon.

The introduction of our free Rhyme Time (Fridays 10.30-11am) has been hugely successful and full most weeks. There are lots of interesting songs and rhymes as well as musical instruments. Most families also join Rachel Wedd (children's centre co-ordinator) for coffee & cake afterwards in The Meeting Place coffee shop and community hub. It's a great opportunity to make friends and receive much needed support as parents.

Our Parenting Puzzle course has been full as parents have come together to develop their parenting skills and understanding. The

Church where the events will be held. Refreshments are included. You can read more about HighScope and the problem solving approach to children's conflict on the website www.highscope.org and on Betsy's website www.kidsandconflict.com

If you are curious to learn more about this exciting and different approach to young children's disputes please do come along. When the problem-solving steps are used effectively children learn important skills they can take forward to use both in school and throughout their adult lives.

Effingham Golf Club – Juniors Section



The Junior Club Championships were played at the end of June. In all, 45 young people ranging from beginners to elite golfers played in the scratch medal competition. The latter group all wore the new team shirts, provided thanks to the sponsorship of Savills Cobham Office.

The main competition was played in tough conditions. Junior Cub Champion for 2016 was Ben Richards, a pupil at the Howard of Effingham School (see picture). He played an astonishing eight shots below his handicap and was presented with his trophy by Lady Captain, Jackie Brown. At the end of the day family members joined the young golfers for a

barbecue and the prize giving.

Effingham Golf Club boasts a thriving Junior Section (up to 18 years) of boys and girls, providing a progressive programme from new starter to accomplished player. If you are either a complete novice or interested in just giving golf a go, the club is keen to help you with its junior golf development scheme.

Much of the coaching is subsidised by the club to make it affordable to all. As well as regular monthly competitions, there are inter-club matches. There is no joining fee for a new Junior Member but there is an annual

subscription of £100 (under 13 yrs) or £205 (13-18 yrs). Young aspiring golfers without an official handicap or below the standard for immediate Junior Membership can be advised by the Junior Organisers to meet their individual needs.

You can find out more about joining Junior Golf by contacting our Head PGA Professional, James Gunning at jgunning@effinghamgolfclub.com or telephone 01372 452203 (golf inquiries – pro shop).

David Cox OBE, Junior Organiser



Bookham Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Bookham Decorative and Fine Arts Society has presented Rector Mandy MacVean of All Saints, Little Bookham, with a formal Church Record. The book, containing over 250 illustrated pages, describes the church's interior fittings and was the result of enthusiastic work by recorders from the Society since 2012. They made detailed notes of each item and researched for more information. The project, following a similar one in 2010 at St Nicolas' Church, was coordinated by Catherine Hall. She appears in the picture with her team and the Rector.

Exact national standards required extensive descriptions of all the items - the material of which it is made and the dimensions; the designer, maker and the year of manufacture; translation of any inscription; where it is positioned in the church and the name of the donor. Strict guidelines for each reference were demanded and consultation with experts from heraldry, local history and church history including the church archivist make this an accurate record for researchers to consult in the future.

Everything within the church is included from the Anglo-Saxon font and the scratch dial to the contents of the 21st century re-built vestry including fire extinguishers. The church

contains probably the finest collection of hatchments in Surrey, displaying the armorial bearings of past Lords of the Manor. Many of the items including the magnificent windows are illustrated with beautiful colour photographs by Derek Simmonds.

The work of the recorders is part of a programme instituted in 1973 by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies in collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum. Copies are also made for the Council for the Care of Churches, the National Monuments Centre, the V&A and the Surrey History Centre. The Record may be viewed on request to the Rector.

The Society's autumn lecture programme

commences in September with a talk by Christopher Rogers on Inigo Jones and the New Age, including the newly re-opened Queen's House at Greenwich. In October Sian Walters will speak on Canaletto in England.

The Society meets in the evening of the last Tuesday of the month. Members may bring a guest to the lectures if they inform Linda Tickner, Membership Secretary, or another committee member beforehand. There is a charge of £5 per visitor and visitors are restricted to three lectures per year. Contacts at www.bookham-dfas.org.uk or call John Cook on 01372 459596 or email johncookep68@gmail.com

John Cook



Bookham Wine Club

Before we get into the details of the Club's latest wine tasting adventures, we'd like to thank those of you who visited our stall on Village Day. We certainly enjoyed chatting with you all and hopefully the wine on offer for tasting met with your approval. For those who couldn't be there on the day, we sampled two wines - a lovely white Rioja from Spain and an Argentinean Reserve Malbec, complete with Gold Decanter World Award 2015. Although club members appeared to have had a slight preference for the Rioja, a complex wine with ripe fruit flavours (including banana, lemon and dates) and gaining in popularity, the Malbec with its plum and raspberry aromas and velvety finish was certainly not to be sniffed at.

Since our last update in May, club members

have been treated to an evening of wine tasting hosted by Ben Watkins from The Guildford Wine Company, who provided us with a selection of lighter wines especially for the summer. Stasa Flauto from Blice Wine introduced us to the World of Slovenian wine and to four completely new grape varieties - Sipun, Malvasia, Refosk and Rebula. All the wines tasted were made from grapes hand-picked and while Slovenia is not one of the larger wine producing countries, the quality of the wine is certainly excellent. You heard it here first.

Our July meeting featured a presentation by the club's own Peter Clarke entitled Vive La Difference. This was followed by a presentation on Portuguese wines in August and we will taste wines from New Zealand in September.



If you felt inspired to learn more about wine after meeting us at Village Day or perhaps would like to find out more about the club, please do contact us. Further details by emailing membership@bookhamwineclub.org.uk

Bookham Belles WI

For a second year the Great Bookham Belles were involved with Bookham Village Week. Our talented members worked hard making beautiful hand-painted Beatrix Potter pictures, Jolly Jars for the children and Peter Rabbit decorated terracotta pots to create Miss Potter's Emporium. Our WI was delighted to win first place for the Best Dressed Stall.

In June, 20 of our members enjoyed a trip to the Silent Pool Gin Distillery and were captivated as the tour began with a talk about the Silent Pool, the legend of the haunted woman and how they use the water from the

pool for their gin. This was followed by a tour of the still, machinery, boiler and the processes that go into making the gin.

Our monthly meetings have had a variety of speakers. Guest speaker in June was Julia van den Berg from House of Colour who shared great tips and ideas about fashion and what type of colours we may need in our lives to help improve our self-confidence and esteem. Afterwards there was a great deal of talk from members about fashion faux pas and how our impulse buying habits need to be curbed.

In May the Belles ventured out from their usual meeting venue with a trip to the Vineries Garden Centre in Effingham for an evening of hanging baskets and planting pots demonstrations along with private shopping time.

In April we were treated to a talk from Monica Weller, a local author who co-wrote a book about Ruth Ellis the last woman to be hanged in Britain. We were all gripped with tales of murder, lies, guns and espionage as she revealed some amazing truths about what really happened.



The Meeting Place

The Meeting Place, a charity that pioneers and manages a number of hubs benefiting the Bookham community, hosted 70 people for an evening of wine tasting on 25 June and raised £600. The tasting, which took place at Bookham Baptist Church, took the form of a quiz where guests were invited to try to match the description of the wine to country of origin as well as guessing an approximate price.

Our next fund-raising event will be the Annual Quiz Night on Saturday, 19 November. Tickets will be available from Bookham Baptist Church from 1 October.

The Community Hub and Cafe at Bookham Baptist Church is open on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am until noon for speciality coffees and cakes. It provides space

for people to meet others and access support and information in a relaxed atmosphere. The Community Hub provides the opportunity to buy children's clothing and toys and serves as an access point for information about partner organisations and the support they offer locally. We can also help access a piece of equipment or a particular service in times of crisis from the Help Hub. The Language Hub provides language skills and practice opportunities for those who speak English as a second language.

For more information about our services and volunteering call 07425 133431, go to www.themeetingplacebookham.webs.com or see the Facebook page, TheMeetingPlaceBookham



Polesden Lacey Playschool



As the school year drew to a close, the children at Polesden Lacey Playschool were learning about mini beasts. Many seeds were planted and grown to encourage a range of bees, bugs and insects, both around the playschool and to take home to our own gardens. Many different mini beasts were created including some fantastic balloon bees which flew in to join us making honey sandwiches. See picture.

The children also made wormeries to take home and fill. We used the topic of mini beasts to explore mathematical concepts such as symmetry and improve fine motor skills making spider webs.

We had a wonderful time at the Village Day parade. A big thank you to all of the children, parents and teachers, for putting so much time and effort into the costumes and joining in so whole-heartedly. Beatrix Potter would have been delighted to see such a celebration in her honour. We loved dressing up as the vegetables in Mr McGregor's garden and sang with gusto as we walked down the High Street. We were even joined by Mr McGregor himself!

In the summer term we were also visited by Ofsted. The children and staff showed how much work, time and effort goes into every



day at the playschool and the inspector was very positive about the 'challenging activities which build on children's previous learning'. Also how the children are 'enthusiastic learners and confidently explore their own ideas', 'make good progress and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, including school'.

We are proud to say we have been graded as good and the inspector said we had many outstanding features. All credit to the planning and assessment carried out by the teachers and the terrific relationship they have with parents and carers to provide a setting and education tailored to each child's needs. The full report is available online.

For more information about the playschool, please call us on 01372 458145 for general enquiries/admissions (leave a message if there is no answer) or 01372 453162 during session times. Email alison.s.roberts@btinternet.com or go to <http://polesdenlaceyplays.wix.com/playschool>

Natasha Matthews



ADVERT PAGE

Mole Valley Ramblers

Mole Valley Ramblers' chairman, Gordon Lewis, led a team recently on a mission to renovate Jim Spencer's seat, the local landmark at Norbury Park. The seat had been put in place in 2005 to commemorate the first chairman and life president of Mole Valley Ramblers who started the area's popular walking group over 35 years ago.

Since 2005 the seat had been an ideal resting place for all passers-by but over the years the weather had taken its toll and it looked in a sorry state. After much debate, it was decided to ask the experts whether it could be saved and with excellent advice from the Norbury

Park saw mill, Gordon led his team of David Sangwine, Christine Eagle, Cliff Weight, and Fiona Spencer to the rescue.

First, the build-up of moss and debris from overhead trees had to be removed with stiff brushes before a preservative was added, then washed off and left to dry. A week later, Gordon returned to add a coat of oil as a finishing touch. The result is that the seat is as good as new and back in commission for everyone who needs a rest.

Gordon says: 'Jim Spencer was more than simply the first chairman of the club. He inspired people to get out and enjoy the

countryside but overall to walk – irrespective of age. His ethos continues today and ramblers know that not only will they have the benefit of a walk in the fresh air around our lovely area, but most importantly, that they will be among friends.

Mole Valley Ramblers has a busy, regular walk programme with half day and full day walks at weekends and popular midweek rambles. New walkers are always welcome. Go to www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk or email molevalleyramblers@yahoo.co.uk

Susan Moyle

Farewell to the Bookham Grove cedar



At the end of June, Great Bookham sadly lost one of its most magnificent trees, a huge Cedar of Lebanon in the grounds of Bookham Grove. The tree was almost 120 feet (37 metres) in height, and at its most spectacular when seen silhouetted against the sky at sunset.

Bookham Grove Management Company expressed huge regret and deep sadness that this beautiful old tree had to be felled. The life of the tree had been prolonged by the addition of bracing ties to support the upper limbs about eight years ago. Unfortunately, during Storm Katie earlier this year, and despite the bracing, one huge limb measuring over 90 feet (27 metres) in length broke off and crashed to the ground, but fortunately did little damage. On further assessment by a specialist, the tree

was deemed no longer viable due to the weakened structure and the extent of decay, and also its position close to the road.

The Cedar of Lebanon was introduced to Britain in 1638. The oldest one still living today was planted in 1646 by Dr. Edward Pocock in the grounds of his rectory near Wantage in Oxfordshire. The species subsequently became popular with landscape gardeners and many were planted in parks and private estates in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Readers may remember the majestic cedar in the grounds of Highclere castle used in the title scenes of *Downton Abbey*.

The Bookham Grove cedar was probably planted more than 300 years ago, before the house itself was built in the early 1700s. The

main trunk had reached a girth of 20.5 feet (6.25 metres), making it the twelfth largest known specimen in the country, and the largest in Surrey according to the website www.monumentaltrees.com. It was also bigger than the two cedars mentioned by Thomas Pakenham in his book *Meeting with Remarkable Trees*.

A substantial portion of the trunk and lower branches has been left as a memorial to this iconic tree, and it is hoped that some of the timber can be used in creative ways to make benches and other items. The Bookham Tree Wardens are also investigating the feasibility of planting a replacement tree as a legacy for future generations.

Jenny Wilson, Bookham Tree Warden volunteer

ADVERT PAGE

Good News for the Hard of Hearing

The 'T' Loops in the Old Barn Hall and Harrison Room have been replaced to meet current standards and should now meet the needs of all those whose hearing is not quite what it should be or used to be.

We are very grateful to Connevans Limited, a local family run firm, for providing their advice, labour and materials free apart from the amplifiers themselves. Thank you.

Unless you need to rely on lipreading, it will not be necessary to sit in the front row of the main hall because the loop signal can be picked up virtually anywhere in the hall.

However, an inherent aspect of these systems is that the signal strength does vary somewhat between locations and there are a few small 'dead' spots, so anyone experiencing problems may benefit from moving to another seat, possibly only a few feet away.

Fetcham U3A recently held a comprehensive seminar in the Old Barn Hall on the subject of hearing loss covering the workings of the ear, means of listening to television etc. (apart from the usual hearing aid), tinnitus and lipreading. Catalogues are available from a local company that makes and supplies a

comprehensive range of products. If anyone would like more information please contact Keith Slark or Peter Clarke.

As an aside, if anyone is aware of their own or partner's hearing loss of whatever magnitude, but is discouraged from seeking help by the cost of commercially available hearing aids, there is a cost-free solution. All that is needed is a referral from your GP to a hospital audiology department, and if you go to SHC Audiology in Dorking hospital even the parking is free!

Peter Clarke

Bookham Country Market

Stevie Carter is a recent addition to Bookham Market who makes a fine range of pottery from cane tops for gardeners to beautiful tableware. Her interest began when she joined an adult education class in Dorking. A hobby quickly became an obsession as she installed tools and equipment in her garage. Encouraged by her teacher, she continued to experiment with different techniques, glazes and styles.

Her time spent abroad has inspired her work. In the late 1970s she was a regular customer at the local pottery in Annaba, Algeria, while in the early 1980s she would browse the souk in Baghdad. In 1990 the family moved for a

year to Holland and the blue-on-white glazed earthenware of Delft influenced much of her subsequent work. In addition, holidays in France and the USA generally included visits to the local potter resulting in a collection of jugs, bowls and beakers for her own kitchen.

In 2010 Stevie retired as a teacher and with her husband bought a house in Provence where she established a workshop and was soon giving six pottery classes a week in French and English. She particularly liked painting local landscapes, birds and fish using a blue-oxide mix over white opaque glaze. On returning to Britain in 2013, the whole family were recruited to help construct a studio in Stevie's

garden. She now works mainly with stoneware which is reduction-fired in a gas kiln. Some of her glazes are made using local wood-ash. She also runs pottery workshops in a local primary school and community garden and enjoys working with clay.

The Country Market is open 10:15am to 11:30am every Friday in the Old Barn Hall. There also stalls selling homemade cakes, other baked goods and prepared meals, preserves, fresh free range eggs, meat and locally grown plants and vegetables. Email bookhamcountrymarket@gmail.com or go to www.facebook.com/BookhamCountryMarket

Peter Almond



ADVERT PAGE

Norbury Park - Surrey Wildlife Trust



The first week of July saw proper summer weather and working up on Keepers Grasses and Fetcham Downs it felt like Norbury Park was at its best – the colours and scents of the wildflowers were just amazing and the butterflies, which have endured such a variable season weather wise, were out in good numbers making the most of things.

On the Wednesday we were working along the River Mole with our East Area SWT volunteers, clearing Himalayan Balsam and again, it was just lovely to be out there – not too much of an arduous task, although still more to do, and rewards such as passing Kingfishers, Little Egret, and then the site of a Buzzard and Red Kite sharing a thermal in the blue sky.

Unseasonable rain led to vegetation growing extremely well and both rangers and volunteers were busy trimming the many paths and bridleways while dodging showers. Volunteers also helped put up two rabbit exclosures on Fetcham Downs to help monitor what damage/good the rabbits do. We awaited what came up in the exclosures that was usually nibbled by bunnies. And again, with the help of volunteers and in partnership with the Mole Valley Orienteering Club we reinstated the permanent orienteering course across the park. The work of a volunteer is very varied.

Norbury hosted a few events this summer, the first on 11-12 June was run by The Little Welly, encouraging children out into the countryside by means of a fun obstacle course and then lots of more informative activities including some run by SWT's own education department. It was efficiently and professionally organised by the Little Welly team, with our help and input as necessary and was a hugely successful weekend with more than 2800 visitors. The aim of course was twofold – not only to educate, involve and inspire future generations, but also to bring in

much needed funds to help us manage our countryside, for wildlife and people.

Summer was also survey time. For example the weekly butterfly transect is underway until the end of September with chalk grassland condition assessments being carried out and a moth survey revealing 123 species in just one evening, including a few rarities.

Norbury Park Volunteers meet monthly on the third Friday of the month. For details please contact the Ranger at Andrea.neal@surreywt.org.uk or call 07990 582291. For more information on Norbury Park and Sawmill Open Day on 18 September go to www.norburyparksawmill.org.uk



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