

# Bookhams Bulletin



**LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Please visit [bookhamcommunityassociation.org](http://bookhamcommunityassociation.org) for the very latest information

**Spring 2026**



**BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

*Bringing people together*

Even though Christmas and the New Year are not far behind us, the BCA is already busy planning the 2026 Village Week. But that's just one part of what we do. As a Charity we own and manage the Old Barn Hall complex, publish the Bookhams Bulletin free to 5,500 households and run events throughout the year.

In a typical month, 30 organisations make use of the Old Barn Hall complex, making it a true focal point for our community and highlighting how central the BCA is to everything that makes our neighbourhood special.

As many residents know, apart from our Halls Manager and assistant, the BCA is run entirely by volunteers. Whilst we appreciate that not everyone has time to get involved as a volunteer, one of the simplest and most valuable ways you can support us is by paying an annual donation to the BCA. Many of you do this through our road collectors but we have many roads without a volunteer collector. An increasing number of residents now pay online each year or set up a standing order.

Paying a donation online isn't just convenient – it plays a vital role in sustaining the BCA.



Every donation we receive helps us plan ahead and fund the activities and improvements to our halls. Suggested donations are £5 per household or £3 for single households.

You can donate by:

- Click on DONATE on our website [www.bookhamcommunityassociation.org](http://www.bookhamcommunityassociation.org)
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**Bookham Open Gardens -Sunday 14th June 2026**

**Bookham Village Day - Saturday 20th June**

**Theme** *My Favourite Story*

# The Wind in the Willows

**A garden adventure**



## Half Term Fun, 14-22 Feb

Join Mr Toad, Ratty, Mole and Badger for an unforgettable family day out! Step into the world of *The Wind in the Willows* with a brand-new garden trail and hands-on activities, brought to life by EH Shepard's enchanting original illustrations. The adventure begins this February – and the trail continues all year!

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BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Bringing people together

# Bookhams Bulletin

93rd Year

Issue 356

Bookham Community Association - Incorporated in England & Wales Company number 8000494  
Registered Charity number 1148881. Registered Office: The Old Barn Hall 55 Church Road, Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 3PQ

## From the Chairman

We are now well into 2026 and looking forward to the Spring, bulbs are popping up and buds appearing on the shrubs. First signs are also appearing for our two main events of the year, Open Gardens and Village Day.



Open Gardens had a year off last year but will be back on Sunday 14th June with lots of both new gardens and established favourites. See more details on Page 7

Village Day is on Saturday 20th June and the theme is 'My Favourite Story' so we will be seeing lots of story book characters in the Parade from the High Street.

We have already booked the rides, the food and the entertainment so all we will be needing is you!!

Come along to join us on the day with all the family .....but if you are able to spare us a few hours to help prepare or, on the day, please let us know. In order to satisfy current safety rules for large events we need even more stewards so please put the date in your diary and email me on [chairman@bookhamcommunityassociation.org](mailto:chairman@bookhamcommunityassociation.org) to let me know when you could help.

These events are vital to enable us both to maintain our lovely village hall and to make improvements such as the new cloakrooms, solar panels and resurfaced car park all completed in the last twelve months.

*Keith Slark* [keithslark@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:keithslark@tiscali.co.uk) 01372 457375

## What's Happening

### March

|    |                          |     |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 18 | Scam Awareness           | P10 |
| 25 | Bookham u3a Open meeting | P7  |

### May

|    |                           |     |
|----|---------------------------|-----|
| 20 | Downsizing & Decluttering | P10 |
|----|---------------------------|-----|

### June

|    |                  |     |
|----|------------------|-----|
| 14 | Open Gardens Day | P7  |
| 20 | Village Day      | P 3 |

### Regular events at the Old Barn Hall

Bookham Country Market - Friday mornings  
Old Barn Hall Jazz Club – most Sundays

### Monthly

Bookham Flower Club - First Monday  
BF&D Garden Society – Fourth Monday  
Bookham u3a – First Tuesday  
Bookham Stamp Club – Fourth Tuesday  
Cancer Chat Café – Second Wednesday  
The Arts Society – Fourth Tuesday  
Bookham Bees – First Wednesday

### Elsewhere

Bookham Litter Pickers – First Sunday  
Bookham Seniors Computer Club – Friday  
Bookham Scottish Country Dance – Friday

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## Next Edition of the Bookhams Bulletin

Deadline for Spring issue - 1 April 2026

Email articles or queries to the Editor [bookhamsbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bookhamsbulletin@gmail.com)

  
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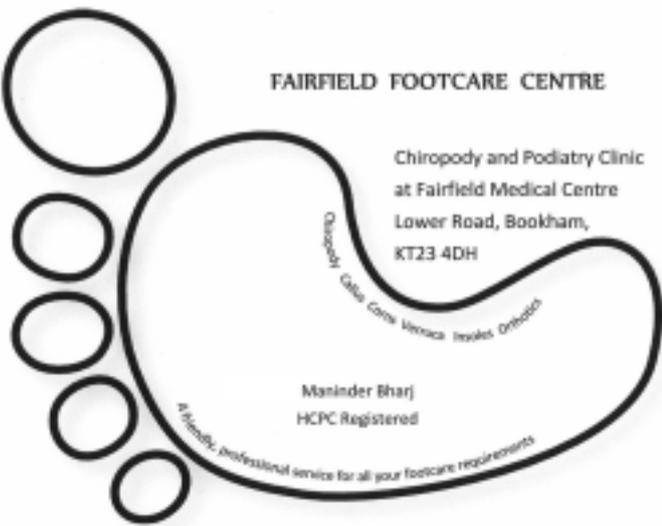
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# Bookham Open Gardens



## Bookham Open Gardens Day – Sunday 14th June 2026 – our 20th year!

It's still cold outside but the first snowdrops are out along with the early daffodils coming into bud, so it's time to look forward to a spring and summer full of flowers.

In 2026 for a change Open Gardens will be on the Sunday of the weekend before Village Day and we aim to have 10-15 gardens open, some old favourites and usually some new ones too. The day is an important fundraiser for the upkeep of our Old Barn Hall and in 2024 we raised £6,300. We do hope you can come along, so do put the date in your diary or

calendar!

We are always on the lookout for new gardens. If you think you might be interested in opening (or know someone who might) and would like to share your garden with our visitors, do contact us for a chat. We love variety, from quirky to formal, productive to picturesque, wildlife-friendly, large through to small. Typically we offer a range of different size gardens – it's amazing what can be fitted into a small area! Opening is a great way to get to know people and feel part of the community.

To make Open Gardens Day successful, we rely not only on our garden openers but also many volunteers who help on the day, selling tickets, serving refreshments at the Old Barn Hall, acting as garden stewards or helping on car park duties.

If you would like to open your garden or help for an hour or two in any other way, please contact Tina Hutton on 01372 457598, email [tina.hutton@btinternet.com](mailto:tina.hutton@btinternet.com) or Diane Poole on 01372 453771, email [opengardensinfo@gmail.com](mailto:opengardensinfo@gmail.com). Contacting us

will not commit you but we would love to come and see your garden and talk it through.

Look out for more detailed information in the next edition of the Bookhams Bulletin and on our website – [www.bookhamopengardens.co.uk](http://www.bookhamopengardens.co.uk). You can also check out and 'Like' our Facebook Community Page – search for 'Bookham Open Gardens' to find it – to see pictures from previous years.

Let's hope that 14th June 2026 will be a beautiful sunny day – see you there!

Diane Poole



# Bookham u3a

Bookham and District u3a has a full ongoing programme of monthly meetings and talks held at 2.30 in the Old Barn Hall, Church Rd on the first Tuesday of the month.



Regular social events such as quiz nights for members continue and some shows are planned for 2026.

We are holding our regular event for new and prospective members on March 25th 2026 in the Harrison Room at the Old Barn Hall from 10.30-12.00. It is open to anyone wanting to find out about Bookham and District u3a; our programme and our 60+ active interest groups.

We welcome visitors to our monthly meetings, a talk followed by tea and biscuits and a chance to meet and chat with other members and you can decide whether to join us.

Find out more about our activities, Interest

Groups and future talk titles either by visiting our website: [bookhamu3a.org.uk](http://bookhamu3a.org.uk) or coming to a meeting.

Viv Bignell



# The Howard of Effingham School



Following the success of the November play 'Romeo and Juliet' the Howard of Effingham has announced their biggest show of the year 'We Will Rock You' and it's going to be on stage of Leatherhead Theatre in March 2026.

The play will include a cast and crew of over

100 students from all years and will be performed in front of a packed audience for 3 evenings and 1 matinee. This musical will be a notable event in the school calendar and be recognised in school, social media, within the large community and also the mailing list of the theatre.

Tickets will be available through the school and the theatre. Book tickets early to make sure you get a ticket before they run out! Hope you enjoy the show!

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# Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society

What a celebration 2026 is for us as a Society and indeed for the history of Bookham, Fetcham and this District! This year we celebrate a society that has been running continuously for 150 years. It even continued throughout the War Years, gaining momentum with the Dig for Victory campaign.

In 1937, when the Hon Mrs Greville was president, the Society's membership was recorded as 1,043 members and the Annual Show was one of the major community events. It is good to stop and think back: on what people were wearing in 1876 when the society started; what were the social norms; what were the villages like; what did they grow; and what part did the "Big Houses" play?

As a celebratory year we have a particularly special programme with emphasis on the historical side to find out the answers to these questions. We have exciting outings to the Newt in Somerset and National Garden Scheme gardens, interesting talks on a wide variety of topics, an Anniversary Celebration tea party and of course our Annual Summer Show on Saturday 11th July in the beautiful

Tithe Barn in Little Bookham and is open to the public from 2-4pm.

As in the last 150 years, participation of the show is open to all and we encourage everyone to give it a go and enter one or many classes and be part of this historic event. Even if you don't enter, this is always a wonderful community event with lots to admire, a beautiful venue and delicious tea and cakes to enjoy.

I am afraid we don't have the dog show, baby show and the classes for showing goats etc, but we do have classes where you can show and see a wide range of local skills. There are classes of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Flower arrangers always delight us with their displays. Children's classes are well supported and attractive. There is always a mouthwatering display of jams, cakes etc and arts, photographic, crafts and handiwork sections. The schedules are available, so you can find a class or classes to match your skills.

If you would like to be part of this interesting range of activities in this historic year, attend



out talks and outings or take part in our exciting show, please contact Angela Stevens on 01372 456713 or email [craigjrstevens@btinternet.com](mailto:craigjrstevens@btinternet.com)

## Effingham Gentlemen's Club

We are a social and activity based group for retired and semi-retired men from Effingham, Bookham, Fetcham, Horsley, Clandon and surrounds.

We hold a monthly meeting with a special interest talk from an expert in the field. Recent talks have included:

Confessions of a PR Executive

The Mysteries of Crop Circles

The real story of the Bridge over the River Kwai

Inside a royal protection officer

In addition to our monthly meeting we have an ever expanding list of frequent activities including:



Local country walks, visits to museums and shows including historic, automotive, aviation, and rail events

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## Bookham Camera Club

This year Bookham Camera Club celebrates its 80th Anniversary, having been established in April 1946. The club has met every year since, and each season offers a wide variety of talks, workshops, competitions and outings for its members.

We have just completed our annual exhibition at Denbies Gallery from 28th February with around 100 images from our members on

show. We are a friendly club with a lot of emphasis on helping members improve their photography and post-processing of their images.

Our talks this year are from some highly acclaimed photography experts covering a wide range of topics including the growing use and capability of mobile phones in photography.

The club meets weekly from September to early June at the Church Hall in Eastwick Road and welcomes new members at all levels of experience. Please contact [bookhamcamclub@gmail.com](mailto:bookhamcamclub@gmail.com) or visit our website <https://bookhamcameraclub.zenfolio.com/> for further information.

# Friends of Bookham Commons (FOBC)

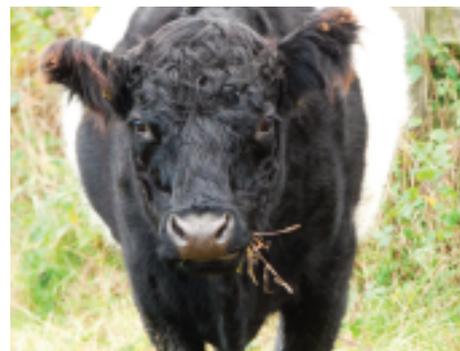
2025 was the year that the National Trust's (NT) grassland management of Bookham Commons resumed. The wide grass area on Church Road had many of the suckering poplars removed by hand by the NT volunteer group. The land was then mowed using teams of heavy horses, which proved a popular attraction for many locals. The grass cuttings were removed to avoid enhancing the quality of the soil, thus interestingly, gifting wildflowers a better chance of growing through. Wildflowers thrive in less fertile soil.

The fences on the Plains area were repaired allowing a small herd of 15, mostly belted Galloway cows to graze the area from mid-October until December. You may have noticed where the animals were sleeping and

creating pathways through the trampled bracken. Please be mindful of the toxic damage that canine waste can cause to these beautiful, docile cows. Local farmers have lost cows due to neosporosis, harmful parasites in dog poop. We urge you to always pick up after your dogs.

The volunteers have begun removing the suckering blackthorn following Natural England's guidance. This should help return the area to grasslands which makes the Plains, one of the most species rich parts of the Commons, owing to the wide varieties of grass and flora which thrive here.

In October the FOBC had a very successful, annual fundraising evening at the Barn Hall. Local native species specialist Connie Smith



from Wild About Britain gave a fascinating talk about promoting wildlife conservation, bringing along a tawny owl amongst other animals. The funds raised will go towards a new bird hide at Bank's Common for which we now have secured planning permission.

## Bookham Country Market



Successful again!

2025 was another successful year for the regular Friday Market. It is, for many, the place to be on Friday morning. Our customer base has gradually increased, and we see new customers each week.

We are open every Friday from 10am to 12.00noon in the Old Barn Hall. The Market was open on 50 Fridays in 2025 and a total of 787 customers visited, of which 272 were new. They came to buy the high-quality products that are available, all locally produced with consequent low food miles.

We have a valuable core group of customers,

who regularly visit, and we are very grateful to them.

From these the frequent fliers this year were again Dennis Hicks and Linda Turner, each of whom attended on 50 and 49 Fridays respectively. In recognition they received a reward for loyalty. There were ten others who attended 40 times or more during the year, who similarly received a small thank you.

On Saturday 15th November we held an extremely successful pre-Christmas Market, focusing on Craft. Open from 10.00 to 13.30 it was a buzz of activity as over 160 customers took advantage to buy early presents from the huge range of unique products on offer.

Some of our other product range was also there – home cooked cakes, award winning cheeses straight from the dairy, home-made

preserves and local honey and gin.

All these products are available every Friday along with – free range eggs, plants & garden produce, homemade ready meals, books and jigsaws.

Our Christmas Raffle raised £595, which was donated on support of the local "Brigitte Trust" Charity.

The market is run completely by volunteers and is a valuable community activity providing a venue for social interaction, income for the BCA to help the upkeep of the Old Barn Hall and a source of unique high quality, locally produced products for its' customers.

See and read more at [www.bookhammarket.wixsite.com/mrkt](http://www.bookhammarket.wixsite.com/mrkt)

Contact us at [bookhammarket@gmail.com](mailto:bookhammarket@gmail.com) 07836 646456

## Effingham & Leatherhead RFC marks 60th anniversary in 2026

Effingham & Leatherhead RFC ("The Eagles") is celebrating 60 years since its founding on 13 January 1966, a milestone for the community club based at its village ground in the heart of Effingham.

"I'm delighted the club is celebrating its 60th anniversary. We're planning a celebratory event later in the year so it would be great to hear from anyone who played for the club in its formative years. And of course, we welcome new players at any time." — David Armstrong, Club President.

The Eagles today field a thriving youth programme with more than 400 children aged 4–18, and the Senior XV competes in Counties

3 Surrey. The club welcomes new members of all ages and abilities.

Origins: The club was founded as Effingham Rugby Football Club by Dr Charles Sutton and others on 13 January 1966 to benefit both the King George V charity and the local community. The inaugural match was played in March 1966 against Guildford & Godalming RFC.

Identity: Original club colours were a green jersey with white collar, white shorts, and green and gold socks. The early emblem was the "Golden Galleon of Lord Howard of Effingham."

Growth: Minis section was formed in 1975 and

Juniors section in 1982. In 1997/98 the club adopted the name Effingham & Leatherhead RFC and the nickname The Eagles.

Today: More than 400 young people now play at the club, and the Senior XV competes in Counties 3 Surrey. New members are welcome year round.

Effingham & Leatherhead RFC is a community club based in the heart of Effingham. The club provides rugby for all ages and abilities, from Minis and Juniors through to Seniors, with a strong focus on participation, player development, and community engagement.

Find out more at [www.eaglesrugby.club](http://www.eaglesrugby.club).

# Bookham Trefoil Guild

## Guiding for adults Fun and Friendship

### FIND FRIENDSHIP - GET ACTIVE - GET INVOLVED - GIVE SUPPORT

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US - whether you have been, or are, actively involved in Guiding or Scouting, all adults are welcome.

Our monthly meetings in the Autumn saw us receiving a visit from Surrey Fire and rescue service Leatherhead Blue Watch , an evening when we shared favourite books, a fundraising lunch for the charity DYSCover which provides

support for people with aphasia, and ending the year with a Christmas lunch .

Our meetings over the next few months are on Thursday evenings 7.30pm at Bookham Guide Headquarters, Keswick Road KT23 4BH , Bookham, corner of Keswick Road and Durlleston Park Drive.

19th March - Challenge evening and our AGM

16th April - Wild about Britain - animal encounter

Also a monthly pub lunch on the first Friday of the month.



Please contact us to find out more.

Anne Coleman 01372 452309  
anne.coleman6@btinternet.com  
www.trefoilguild.co.uk

## The Meeting Place

### ACTIVITIES FOR SPRING

At this time of year we look back and reflect on a busy and successful 2025, and look forward to all we have planned for 2026.

The Coffee Shop offers a warm welcome to the community and is a hub for all The Meeting Place's activities – come and see what we do, meet a friend there or make new ones. We are open on Saturday mornings throughout the year in Bookham Baptist Church hall, from 10am-12noon. We need a couple more volunteer servers to join the team - if this appeals to you please drop in to find out more or contact us using the details below.

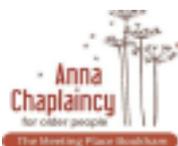
You can also visit our Community Fridge, where we make food that would otherwise be wasted available to anyone who can use it on Saturday, Tuesday and Friday mornings. During 2025, more than 40 tonnes of food was distributed which made a difference to so many people in our community and saved so much from being wasted.

Hearing Champions (offering free support and maintenance for NHS hearing aids), will be at the Coffee Shop on Saturdays 7 March and 4 April. Our Lip Reading group and Language Hub classes (for those whose first language isn't English) are running again.

The Anna Chaplaincy team offer a range of activities for older members of our community (and their carers), seeking to support them whether they live at home or in a care home. One of these is a series of "Living Well in Older Age" talks at Bookham Library. On 18 March the topic is Avoiding Scams, and in May we will learn about Decluttering for Moving and Downsizing. All welcome - keep an eye on our website or look out for posters for more details.

For more information about these activities see <http://themeetingplace.org.uk> , email us at [info@themeetingplace.org.uk](mailto:info@themeetingplace.org.uk) or ring the TMP mobile 07425 133431 to leave a message. You can follow and like us on Facebook too.

## LIVING WELL IN OLDER AGE



## LIVING WELL IN OLDER AGE JAN-NOV 2026





### Scam Awareness

Come and meet an expert from Age UK Surrey to find out about equipment which is available to those who are elderly living alone, vulnerable or who have disabilities.

- ★ **When?** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (10.30am to 12pm)
- ★ **Where?** Bookham Library
- ★ **Who?** Over 65s and carers welcome
- ★ **Booking?** Contact Liz Tapp - The Anna Chaplain  
Email [ac@themeetingplace.org.uk](mailto:ac@themeetingplace.org.uk) or  
Tel: 07518735729
- ★ **Cost?** Suggested donation of £2  
Tea & coffee will be provided

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 10.30am-12pm</b><br><b>SCAM AWARENESS</b>                              |  |
| <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 10.30am-12pm</b><br><b>DOWNSIZING AND DECLUTTERING</b>                   |  |
| <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026 10.30am-12pm</b><br><b>HOW TO ACCESS SUPPORT WITH SIGHT AND HEARING</b> |  |
| <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2026 10.30am-12pm</b><br><b>PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE PART 1</b>         |  |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2026 10.30am-12pm</b><br><b>PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE PART 2</b>          |  |

- ★ **Where?** Bookham Library
- ★ **Who?** Over 65s and carers welcome
- ★ **Booking?** Contact Liz Tapp - The Anna Chaplain  
Email [ac@themeetingplace.org.uk](mailto:ac@themeetingplace.org.uk) or  
Tel: 07518735729
- ★ **Cost?** Suggested donation of £2  
Tea & coffee will be provided



[anna.chaplaincy.org.uk](http://anna.chaplaincy.org.uk)  
The Meeting Place Bookham is affiliated to Anna Chaplaincy for Older People  
Anna Chaplaincy is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a Registered Charity (233280)  
[brf.org.uk](http://brf.org.uk)



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[brf.org.uk](http://brf.org.uk)

# South Bookham SPACE



We count ourselves lucky at South Bookham SPACE to be able to offer a wide range of clubs and activities. All designed to help to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of our wonderful community. Whether you're looking to improve your fitness, meditate and calm your mind, or want to learn a skill and meet like-minded people, there is something for everyone. Full details of our activities on

our website. We have helped many families to celebrate birthdays and special occasions too.

SPACE has three areas you can hire for parties and teach activities. Our main hall is suitable for larger groups. With chairs and tables for up to 60 people and a well-equipped kitchen. There is room for a bouncy castle or play area, and a licence to play music.

Outer SPACE is an area for sports activities. There are markings for a range of sports, including 5-a-side football, netball and basketball. Goals and nets can be provided.

Social SPACE is our smaller venue. It has kitchen facilities, and tables and chairs for 10 people. With a stair lift and hearing loop, it is accessible for all. Also, a balcony overlooking Outer SPACE.

If you would like to view any of these venues, please contact us, or see the virtual tour on our website and social media sites. Then email us to hear about our incredibly low hire prices and make a booking.

We also welcome new regular hirers who can add to our range of clubs and activities. Please see our website's Hiring page for further details of the facilities we offer and our prices. Then look at the Calendar pages for availability and contact us to secure your place.

To find out more about the activities hosted at SPACE please see our website [www.southbookhamspace.org.uk](http://www.southbookhamspace.org.uk). If you would like to hire a venue for your next party, event or meeting please email us [athire.southbookhamspace@gmail.com](mailto:athire.southbookhamspace@gmail.com).

**Natasha Matthews**

## Mole Valley Silver Band

The Mole Valley Silver Band is sprinting into 2026 with energy, ambition and a diary that's already filling fast. If last year is anything to go by, it's going to be another great year of music-making across the community.

In December alone we gave more than half a dozen lively, well-received concerts in shopping centres, golf clubs, churches and village halls in support of schools, charities and others. Highlights included our second Christmas concert for the Dyscover charity in Tadworth, and we needed extra seating for our annual concert at Fetcham Village Hall!

Earlier in 2025 the band performed in far-off Lancashire and Devon as well as nearby Guildford and Wallington — and we've been invited back in 2026. We have plans for

concerts in Dorking and Fetcham – check our website (below) for details - so there's already plenty to practise for.

With smart new livery (as pictured in the Swan Centre), exciting new music and a real buzz within the band, we can't wait to strike up. One of our greatest joys is playing for young audiences. Many children see and hear brass instruments live for the very first time at our concerts — and for many musicians, that moment of discovery is what first inspired them to learn.

So if you have children or grandchildren eager to give music a try, or if you played years ago and would like to pick it up again, our training band is the perfect place to start. We welcome complete beginners and returning players of



all ages in a friendly, supportive environment — no pressure, just enjoyment and progress.

Both our main band and training band rehearse every Monday evening at The Ashcombe School in Dorking.

To learn more, visit [www.molevalleysilverband.co.uk](http://www.molevalleysilverband.co.uk). For further details, contact our secretary, Sarah Kent, on 01372 456176 or email [secretary@molevalleysilverband.co.uk](mailto:secretary@molevalleysilverband.co.uk).

## Leatherhead Youth Project



Leatherhead Youth Project has provided youth work in Bookham since 2017 with the generous support of Eastwick Road Church, St Nicolas Church and Bookham Baptist Church. We offer a number of projects for young people, including after school drop-ins, residential trips and volunteering opportunities.

### BYouth

We recently conducted a survey of the young people who attend BYouth to get some feedback from them and find ways to improve our work. Of those surveyed, 96% told us they

felt safe at BYouth, with 92% they felt supported by the youth workers when they've had a difficult day. We are so encouraged by this feedback and we are excited to continue to provide support and opportunities to grow for local young people.

### Impact Report

We have released our latest impact report, detailing the work that we have carried out as an organisation in 2025. Some highlights include providing 2491 hours of youth work, seeing 103 different young people access BYouth, and taking 24 young people on a residential trip in the Easter holidays. We are so proud of the work we have been able to do as a team. If you would like to read the full report, please visit our website.

### Making Good

In February, we took a group of young people to Nower Wood to take part in some

conservation work. This was part of our social action project Making Good, which offers volunteering opportunities for local young people to enable them to develop new skills, get out of their comfort zones and give back to their communities. Making Good was recently awarded the Leading the Way Youth Award at the Sustainable Mole Valley Showcase Awards!

### Youth Cafes

Our youth cafes in Bookham and Leatherhead are open to young people in Year 7-13 and are free to access. If you would like any further information or to make a donation to help us continue our work, please email [lucy@leatherheadyouthproject.com](mailto:lucy@leatherheadyouthproject.com) or visit [www.leatherheadyouthproject.com](http://www.leatherheadyouthproject.com).

**Lucy Hicks**  
**Bookham Lead**  
**Leatherhead Youth Project**  
**01372 383345**

# RSPB - Dorking & District Group



## Grey Heron

With their long bills and hulking grey bodies, Grey Herons are unmistakable and commonly seen along rivers, lakes and even garden ponds.

Usually seen alone, this all changes from February, when the birds head to communal

nesting sites, known as heronries. Here they will lay their eggs, with typically 3 to 5 chicks hatching in March and April.

In 2022, the largest heronry recorded by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) contained 110 nests. Since 1928 the BTO Heronries Census has monitored nest sites. Overall the UK's breeding population has increased, and this is reflected in the local site at Bookham

Commons which has recorded up to 20 nests.

*Grey Heron: Image courtesy Rob Carr*

See more on our activities and photos or if you're interested in joining below

Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

Instagram: @rspb\_dorking

Website:

<https://group.rspb.org.uk/dorkinganddistrict/>

## Bookham Help Your Neighbour

Did you know there was an organisation in Bookham dedicated to offering a volunteer run service to take people to medical appointments? That is Bookham Help Your Neighbour. We exist to help those who, through disability, age, infirmity or other reasons find it a huge challenge to get to the medical appointments we all face with increasing frequency as we get older.

Our volunteers give up their time so that our clients can have a friendly face to accompany them and to make their experience as stress-free as we can manage. We ask only a small donation to cover the cost of the transport.

Would you be willing to join our sadly dwindling pool of drivers who enable us to offer this service, perhaps two or three times a month? It can be

very rewarding and without our volunteer drivers and those who man our phone line on weekday morning we could not continue.

We would love to hear from you - please contact Jan Raines on 01372 450009 if you would like to know more.

Please don't wait - contact her today!  
Thank you

## Eastwick Road Church



It was good to welcome over 40 people to the Golden Years Christmas Lunch provided by outside caterer, Ben and friend. This was followed by a short Carol Service in the Church led by Gill Campbell, minister at Bookham Baptist Church. It was also an opportunity to

say thank you to the many volunteers who enable Golden Years to take place week by week.

The new programme of activities is out and we resume meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at Bookham Baptist Church and 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Eastwick Road Church 2pm - 3.30pm. All Welcome!

For more information phone Bookham Baptist Church on 01372 811313 or Eastwick Road Church 01372 453473

We were delighted just before Christmas to host a concert from the music group Celtish



who tour widely in the UK and have appeared on Songs of Praise. We were treated to a selection of carols sung with different musical instruments played by Julie Cameron - Hall and Nigel Cameron.

## Bookham Butterflies WI

### As usual, Bookham Butterflies enjoyed a very busy festive season!

In November, the Butterflies held a Christmas Craft Evening for members - each table had at least one member of the Craft Group to assist the crafters and give guidance. Everyone had a fun time making various festive items, including Christmas cards (Christmas tree and



snowman designs), Ribbon trees, felt decorations and Santa napkin rings. In early December, Bookham Butterflies once again organised its popular annual wreath-making session, which was another huge success.

Fifty members and their guests went on a wonderful pre-Christmas outing to the Whitchurch Silk Mill in Hampshire, heading to the festive markets in Winchester afterwards. Finally, the Butterflies' Christmas Party also doubled-up as an 11th birthday celebration. Members dressed up in seasonal attire, including Christmas jumpers, for some festive fun, fizz and nibbles, during a very sociable evening, including a lively game of bingo, and the "Right/Left game", a form of pass the parcel. More than £300 was raised through a Christmas raffle for the Butterflies' charity of the year, Riding for the Disabled, Horsley, Bookham

and Leatherhead branch. This was the Butterflies' final fundraising event of the year for this wonderful local charity.

In early February, we will be holding our annual Quiz Night to raise funds for our 2026 charity, the Guildford-based Cheryl King Trust. Cheryl was a wonderful, gifted musician and popular music teacher, committed to providing opportunities for all children to learn about music regardless of background. The Trust was set up in her memory in 2015 following her death.

For more information about our WI, visit our website [www.bookhambutterflieswi.com](http://www.bookhambutterflieswi.com)



# B

## Birchgrove Leatherhead Christ Church Apartments

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# The Arts Society Bookham



Our year ended in The Old Barn Hall with our now traditional Christmas lunch. Chairman Linda Tickner led the thanks to the delicious meal provided by Elizabeth and the careful organisation

by Angela Stevens and Judy Money. It was followed by a 'Wassail Away', by Tony Rawlings, who with guitar told the stories behind carols.

In January Colin Schindler looked at the evolution of the Hollywood musical with excerpts from the beginnings of sound to the present day. This was followed in February by Gardens of the Restoration in which Lucy Hughes-Hallett showed how landowners returning from the continent with Charles II brought new ideas incorporated in many of the gardens we visit today.

Russian and Ukrainian art over the past 200

years is the subject of Gabriel Chanan in March. A movement of artists called The Wanderers challenged the traditional art of the two countries incorporating real life in the 19th Century.

There is a change of continent to the USA for the April meeting. Charles Harris discusses how the western migration of settlers beyond the Mississippi effected American art in the 19th century; the 'Cowboy Attitudes'.

A change, too, for the May meeting when Antonia Keanney gives an entertaining look at the lives and loves of the 'Ladies of the Marlborough family - Lust and Laudanum'. June and July meetings present Danish landscape art and The History of Natural Pearls. See our website for further details.

In April we will visit Rochester Cathedral and Restoration House and in June we will use our knowledge from the April lecture when we will

be at Blenheim Palace.

Those interested in joining the Society are invited to meet the committee and members at a Coffee Morning at The Old Barn Hall from 10am on Thursday 12th March.

Work continues at Guildford Cathedral where Angela Stevens and the Heritage Volunteering Group use their skills with sewing and needlework. Anyone interested in working with the group should contact Angela either at a lecture evening or via the website below.

New members are warmly welcomed to the Society at lectures at 7.30pm on the fourth Tuesday in the month at The Old Barn Hall. Tea and coffee are served from about 7pm. Meanwhile anyone interested in joining the Society should make contact via the website. <http://theartsocietybookham.org.uk/>

**John Cook**

## Girlguiding, Leatherhead Division

Have you ever considered offering your time as a volunteer, but don't quite know where to start? Leatherhead Division Girlguiding is shining the light on the many volunteering opportunities it offers for local people and the benefits which volunteering can bring.

Ashley Lloyd (34) has been a leader at 1st Bookham Guides for the last five years. She'd never been involved with Girlguiding previously, but wanted to offer her time as a volunteer, having moved to the area from London. She takes up her story:-

"I'd really enjoyed doing some volunteering at school and at uni, but hadn't done anything for a while. Having moved to the area, I wanted to get involved again and Leatherhead Division Girlguiding said they'd love to have me. I haven't look back with my volunteering and absolutely love it!

"Over the last few years, it's been so rewarding to watch the girls in our unit grow up. As volunteers, we help the Guides experience so many wonderful activities – going away to camp, cooking for the local hostel in Leatherhead, doing night walks in the local area and singing campfire songs at the local nursing home, amongst many other things. I've learnt so much myself through my volunteering with Girlguiding – including teamwork, which is such an important life skill.

"For anyone who is thinking that they'd like to volunteer, but is unsure about the commitment, I'd reassure them that you don't have to volunteer every week and whatever time you can offer is really appreciated. You might only be able to volunteer once a term or once a year. Everything helps. Maybe you have a particular skill which you're able to offer on an ad hoc basis. The father of my fellow leader



at 1st Bookham Guides is a carpenter and every year or so he comes to a weekly meeting and helps the girls make bird boxes!"

To arrange a chat about how you could volunteer with Leatherhead Division Girlguiding, email [div.comm@girlguidingleatherhead.org.uk](mailto:div.comm@girlguidingleatherhead.org.uk) or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and follow the registration link.

## Bookham Youth & Community Centre

### Planning Application due for approval by end of February 2026

By the time this article is published we hope the Planning Application for the new Youth & Community Centre & Multiple Use Games Area (MUGA), will have been approved.

BYCA, BRA, and Leatherhead Youth Project (LYP) engaged with SCC's Land & Property team who tried hard to make the changes we wanted. However, budget constraints and having to achieve a 20% Bio Diversity Net Gain on the site meant that some wants, e.g larger main hall, were not possible.

### What's been happening?

We worked with Bookham Colts to ensure that

the MUGA meets the needs of their younger age groups and SCC aims to do this. Helpful and constructive discussions have also been held with neighbouring Eastwick Park Surgery about working together to benefit the community.

Youth Work will be provided by LYP, as pre closure in 2019, with youth worker costs covered by Bookham Churches Together. BYCA will look to cover facility costs from fund raising and hire income thus making it accessible to all young people.

Equipment for the new centre, circa £20k, will have to be funded by BYCA from a SCC grant that can only be made after the planning application has been approved. There are tight time scales due to cut off dates.

Heads of Terms of a lease - As a "not for profit charity", BYCA has concluded negotiations with SCC for an initial lease of 7 years (the maximum allowed on a "peppercorn" rent).

### What happens next?

Assuming approval - BYCA will continue to work with SCC and other stakeholders to prepare for the completion of the new building and the considerable work required to get it open and running.

BYCA's New Website - Thanks to donations from the Anchor Pub's "local good causes fund" and BRA, we have a new website. Please look at the website to keep up to date with progress.

<http://www.bookhamyouth.org.uk/>

# FaB Repair Café



## Repair Café Celebrates 2 years in operation

In December 2025 the FaB Repair Café celebrated its first two years of operation. Over those 24 months we have successfully repaired 1,300 items for our local community, potentially saving over 3,100Kg from landfill.

The FaB Repair Café, which serves Fetcham, Bookham, and nearby areas, was established by members of Bookham and Horsley Rotary Club, St. Mary's Church, Fetcham, and a dedicated team of skilled local volunteers. The initiative promotes sustainable living and environmental stewardship by repairing items

and reducing landfill waste. We are part of a network of over 20 Repair Cafés in Surrey, over 400 in the UK and more than 4,000 Cafés worldwide.

Our volunteers offer expertise in repairing a diverse range of items, including:

- Bikes
- Computers and IT equipment
- Clothing and textiles
- Electrical appliances
- Mechanical devices including clocks
- Jewellery
- Wooden objects
- Garden tool sharpening

For those who have not yet visited us, our sessions take place in the church hall at St. Mary's, Fetcham (off The Ridgeway), on the first Saturday of every month. A full list of dates for this year can be found on our website. Visitors are welcome to bring broken possessions for assessment and repair by our volunteer specialists. They are encouraged to

remain with the repairer during the process to observe the work and potentially acquire useful skills for future repairs. Please note, we request only one item per visit. Alternatively, visitors may join us for coffee and cake and learn more about our activities so why don't you drop in and see what we are up to?

We are always interested in welcoming new volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team, kindly email us or attend our next Café session to learn more about us. For inquiries regarding our services, please email [fabrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:fabrepaircafe@gmail.com).

Stay informed by following us via:

- Facebook: Fetcham and Bookham Repair Cafe
- Instagram: [fabrepaircafe](https://www.instagram.com/fabrepaircafe)
- Website: [www.fetchamandbookhamrepaircafe.com](http://www.fetchamandbookhamrepaircafe.com)

Our services are provided free of charge; however, donations are appreciated to help us to cover our costs.

**Martin Cannon**

# Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead RDA

## Make a Difference & Volunteer with Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead RDA

Do you love horses and enjoy helping others? Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled (RDA) offers a unique way to make a real difference in your community. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, children with additional needs experience the joy of horse riding and grow in confidence and independence every week.

We run 23 thirty minute sessions each week for around 115 riders from local schools. That's a lot of little lives touched by this wonderful charity, and it's all made possible by volunteers.

No experience is needed, just enthusiasm and a smile. We're looking for volunteers to help as side walkers, leading ponies, fundraising helpers, event support and tech-savvy people to assist with social media and our website. It's a chance to spend time outdoors, meet new

people and make a positive impact in just a couple of hours a week.

Our purpose built all weather arena provides a safe and welcoming space for riders, ponies and volunteers. Most roles are term-time with some evening and weekend sessions too.

Join our welcoming community and see the difference you can make.

Contact [hblrdavolunteers@outlook.com](mailto:hblrdavolunteers@outlook.com) to find out more.

# Great Bookham Belles WI

Another hectic term has flown past. Our monthly meetings have included an enlightening talk by Ros Dodd on The Neuroscience of Finding Your Calm Place, focusing on brain-based ways to combat anxiety and find inner peace.

The October meeting was our 11th birthday and 2 lady solicitors from Leatherhead firm Cunningham Eves held a very informative question and answer session on wills, probate etc, a necessary subject which we all should be thinking about!

November was our annual meeting and quiz, many thanks to Carla for agreeing to be our President for the second year running, we also presented a cheque for £800 to our charity of the year, Chloe and Sophie's Special Ears Fund. In December our members made a Christmas craft, whilst enjoying mulled wines and mince pies!

In addition to our monthly meetings, we also have many active subgroups including a weekly walking group, book groups,



gardening and cycling groups, craft groups, a local history group and an out and about group. Trips have included a very interesting visit to Beddington Energy Recovery Facility (photo), a free educational trip for groups which we highly recommend, and a trip to The Grange Simply Scones which were delicious.

Our craft group also organised a glass decorating workshop, even those less artistically inclined produced some beautiful



pieces. In December, 47 members enjoyed a Christmas meal at the recently reopened Old Crown in Bookham, the food, service and atmosphere were excellent.

We are currently full with a waiting list but if you would like to put your name on the list or come as a visitor to one of our monthly meetings (usually the 3rd Monday of the month), please email [contactbelleswi@gmail.com](mailto:contactbelleswi@gmail.com) for information.

# The Rampant Roosters

The Rampant Roosters have hung up their bells and baldricks for the winter after their last dance-out in Bookham High Street for the annual Spirit of Christmas event. This year, luckily, it didn't rain, and the wind wasn't so biting. It was very well attended, and our Norbury Tunnel dance had kids, mums and grandparents running round and round through our tunnel of sticks. This year was a record as we were able to dance all round Surrey, Sussex and France without being rained on once.

We held our annual Burning of the Sticks ceremony on Brockham Green the day following the Bonfire, and were joined by friends from three other Morris Sides. We had a large appreciative crowd who joined in with some of our dances. Our tradition concluded by processing around the burning embers of

the fire and casting our broken sticks into the fire to end the dancing season.

On January the first, we will be performing our traditional Mummers Play in the Stepping Stones pub in West Humble.

Mumming plays are a type of drama performed by local groups at specific times of the year, typically Christmas, Easter and Halloween. The story follows the death of a hero in a fight, and is brought back to life by a doctor. Our play has many characters dressed in costume, played by members of the Roosters, who either learn their lines, or read them off the back of their props! Our play is about St. George who fights the dreaded Turk, (alas, no dragon!) Any mistakes with their lines or props only adds to the entertainment.

We are now concentrating on our weekly



practice sessions, where we battle the elements to reach the village hall at the top of Box Hill. Here we learn how to all dance in the same direction, and not drop our sticks! Our 2026 dance – out season will start on May Day at silly o'clock in the morning to welcome the sun as it rises. Then it's off to a warming breakfast in the local pub.

## Armada Probus Club

### About the Club

The Armada Probus Club is a welcoming community for men and women who are retired or semi-retired. Our members gather on the first Wednesday of each month at Effingham Golf Club to enjoy a sociable lunch in the lovely wood-panelled dining room, followed by an engaging talk from a guest speaker. We are pleased to have a comprehensive programme of speakers scheduled well into 2027, ensuring that each meeting offers something interesting and new.

### Activities and Outings

Beyond our monthly meetings, we organise theatre trips and outings to places of interest, reflecting our commitment to providing a

vibrant and active club experience. In May, members enjoyed a fascinating guided tour of Brookwood Cemetery, Grade I listed Historic Park and Garden. It is the largest cemetery in the UK and has been serving the community since 1854. In July, we enjoyed a cruise around Portsmouth Harbour, followed by a captivating visit to the D Day Story Museum in Southsea.

More recently, our programme included a tour of Twickenham Rugby Stadium and Museum, where we explored the origins of rugby and experienced the atmosphere of the home of English rugby.

The Club also has an enthusiastic walking group, which meets monthly. These walks are typically concluded with a convivial lunch at a local pub.



### Membership

We are always keen to welcome new members into the Armada Probus Club. If you are interested in joining us or would like to learn more about our activities and membership, please visit our website at <https://armada-probus.club> or contact our Secretary at [alanbrowne1066@gmail.com](mailto:alanbrowne1066@gmail.com)

## Plastic Free Bookham



We closed 2025 with a new organisation joining us on our journey to reduce single-use plastics - thank you to Bookham Butterflies WI for becoming a Community Ally and committing to spreading the word about our project.

There's still only one accredited Plastic Free Community in Surrey – could Bookham become the second in 2026? If you run a small to medium independent business based in

KT23 you could help achieve that

objective by successfully applying for a Business Champion award from Plastic Free Communities. The award is free and businesses don't need to be completely plastic-free. See the For Businesses page of our website [www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk](http://www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk) or email [pfcbookham@gmail.com](mailto:pfcbookham@gmail.com) for more information.

At time of writing we were expecting another Big Plastic Count to take place in March 2026 although the date hadn't been confirmed. It

last took place in 2024 and is a nationwide audit of how many items of plastic households recycle or throw away in a particular week. It was truly eye-opening last time to see quite how much plastic waste a household can generate even when making a conscious effort to reduce it!

We'd encourage people to take part – register or check the results at [thebigplasticcount.com](http://thebigplasticcount.com). See the Alternatives to Plastic page on our website for lots of ideas on how to reduce your plastic usage.

# Bookham Stamp Club

[www.bookhamstampclub.com](http://www.bookhamstampclub.com)

Bookham Stamp Club, founded in 1993, meets every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall in Bookham with our very popular Trading Tables opening at 1.30pm, and displays at 2pm.

Our programme includes visiting speakers, members' displays and auctions. We also have a packet exchange through which members can buy and sell stamps.

## Sell your stamp collection

We are interested in purchasing unwanted collections. Please contact either Malcolm Cole: [chairman@bookhamstampclub.com](mailto:chairman@bookhamstampclub.com) 01372 457392.

or Barry Feltham:  
[secretary@bookhamstampclub.com](mailto:secretary@bookhamstampclub.com)  
01372 450288.

## Become a member

If you are new to stamp collecting or want to renew your hobby, come along to one of our meetings, you will be warmly welcomed by up to 50 plus members, but if you wish to find out more before attending contact Membership Secretary Fred Mitchell on 01372 374614, or look at our website [www.bookhamstampclub.com](http://www.bookhamstampclub.com)

## Our recent meetings

We had a superb afternoon in November when two of our members displayed. Graham Stockdale was first with the theme of 'Famous People in British History' mainly from the Victorian era. Graham showed signed covers with accompanied letters featuring Queen Victoria, Benjamin Disraeli, Robert Peel, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Rowland Hill, and many others.

Next up was Steve Paice with the first issue of Australian stamps. Steve went through the history and the production of the stamps in 1913 and its various manifestations until 1938 including the different flaws, perforations, dyes and plate proofs.

The Christmas meeting was attended by 45 members who enjoyed a wonderful buffet lunch. We also had a quiz and a raffle with the star prize being a superb £100 hamper won by Robert Hurst. The winner of the Roy Gilbert Cup this year, held in September, was presented to Peter White by Roy's wife Frances (picture).

## Our upcoming meetings

Tuesday 24th February – Peter Cockburn – North Borneo – Postal History & Postcards.

Tuesday 24th March – Geoff Richardson – Bosnia.

Tuesday 28th April - Barry Feltham – Tower of London.

Tuesday 26th May – AGM & Mini Auction.

Tuesday 23rd June – Visit from Camberley & District Philatelic Society.

**We welcome newcomers to the hobby as well as experienced collectors.**

**Barry Feltham**

**Hon. Secretary**



# Bookham Seniors Computer Club

Many centuries ago a wise Chinese Philosopher espoused thus:



"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

As a member of the BSCC we won't teach you to fish (!) BUT we will attempt to educate you how to avoid your PC being "phished"\* (or your laptop, tablet or smartphone) as well as many, many other things.

**Phishing Definition:** *the fraudulent practice of sending emails or other messages purporting to be from reputable Companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information such as passwords and credit card numbers.*

The Club has a large and active membership aimed at the over 50s in the area and provides a broad range of friendly and relaxed courses aimed at novices and those seeking to enhance their knowledge about using their PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

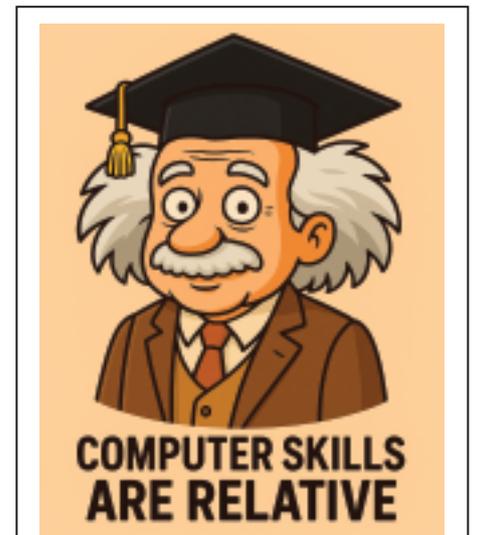
The Club started its spring term with an Open Day on Friday 9 January at its traditional venue, Little Bookham Village Hall (LBVH) where the programme for the spring term was discussed.

The Club welcomes new members so why not come along to discuss how the club can help you. The programme is on our website [bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk](http://bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk).

Meetings are held on Friday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 during term time at the LBVH. Annual membership 2025/26 costs £35 which includes attending the sessions with tea, coffee and biscuits provided during a mid-morning break.

The Club also runs informal clinics where you can get help with any problem or question that you have about PCs, laptops, tablets or smartphones. and are held at the LBVH on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month (except August) from 14.30 to 16.30.

The Committee also provides help to its members by email, telephone and occasionally by remote connection with answers to questions, advice and solutions to computer related problems.



You don't have to be Einstein to help others. If you already help family or friends with their computer skills, however basic, why not volunteer to help us at our weekly meetings and/or monthly clinics?

To find out more phone Sue on 01372 454461 or Brian on 01372 450604 or visit our website [bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk](http://bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk).

# BULLETIN BOARD

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Changes and applications for affiliation to veronica@hurren.org  
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effingham@abdiocese.org.uk

# Bookham Bees WI



Bookham Bees WI has enjoyed a bumper year, full of interesting speakers, outings, and sub group events all filled with fun and laughter.

In October we welcomed the return of the First Responders. It was 2 years since their previous visit and we all said it was important to have a refresher course. We invited ladies on our waiting list to join us as well as other local WI members. A great deal of money was raised for this very worthy charity.

Personal stories connected with our charity of the year CRY were told at the November meeting.

Our meeting in December put us all in the Christmas spirit. A large Christmas tree adorned the stage of the Barn Hall. The Committee served drinks and canapes and members circulated to catch up with each other. This was followed by an amazing performance by Eirlys Myfanwy Davies, star of stage and screen and a member of Glyndebourne opera. She sang a variety of opera songs, Christmas carols and finished

with a moving rendition of 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

There is a very varied programme for 2026 with something for everyone, and we are all looking forward to another busy and interesting year.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Old Barn Hall at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

For more information, please contact our membership secretary, Heather Broadhurst. [infobookhambees@surreyfedwi.org.uk](mailto:infobookhambees@surreyfedwi.org.uk)

# Bookham Flower Club

October was a flower filled month for Bookham Flower Club. At our meeting on the first Monday, we welcomed Clare Brown to talk about her sustainable growing of cut flowers at her flower farm, Plant Passion, in East Clandon and to demonstrate her ideas for creating floral bouquets and tributes without using plastic.

Three weeks later we held our biennial Floral Design Show entitled 'Autumn Glory' and so



the final preparations were completed, and plans were made for the entries. We are lucky to have the beautiful backdrop of the Old Barn Hall for the display of our floral creations and the support of Surrey County Council Community Fund. The show judge, Margaret Rumens, and the Surrey Area President, Dee Kelly, complimented the club on the standard of the entries. Photographs can be seen in the December edition of the newsletter on the Surrey Area of NAFAS website.

Just over a week later Jennifer Thompson was our demonstrator for our November meeting. She illustrated her title of 'Flowers in Rhyme' with clever interpretations of six well known nursery rhymes and there were plenty of lovely arrangements which some of us were lucky enough to win in the raffle.



At our December meeting we were treated to a 'Fairytale Christmas' in pantomime style by Dr Christina Curtis and her assistant Clare Bryant. Christina filled the stage with an amazing display of flowers and accessories illustrating her story of the prince rescuing the princess from imprisonment in an ice castle. The Mary Easun Plate awarded for the most outstanding Christmas entry in the club competition was won by Liz Rosser.

# Leatherhead and District Twinning Association

We have had an eventful year. Our monthly French conversation group led by Gwen White brings together a wide range of French speaking ability. We have been to two French films, one of which was preceded by a delicious meal in the brasserie of the French Institute; we also enjoyed a relaxing "at home" French film night.

In the spring we walked the Bookham trails followed by tea and cake at David and Elaine's home, where later in the year we held a fun garden party with champagne and games. In September we arranged a 2 day trip to Boulogne-sur-mer. We explored the town and enjoyed the market – particularly drinking a leisurely coffee in the midst of the busy market.

Our annual quiz evening was very well supported, and it was great to recruit new

members. We are most grateful to individuals and businesses that sponsored the raffle with some amazing gifts, including a stay in a holiday property in Southwold.

Our big event is 2026 is a visit to our twin town of Triel-sur-Seine from 4th to the 7th June, where we are invited to stay with families in the town, making sure that everyone stays with a family where communication is not hindered by lack of French. Transport will be by Eurostar from St Pancras International to Gare du Nord, Paris where we will be greeted by our hosts and driven to Triel, about 30 km from central Paris.

This trip will include a visit to the château and gardens of Chantilly and a guided tour of the Great Stables. The weekend will conclude with a gala dinner at a renowned local restaurant.



All ages are welcome – on previous trips the ages have ranged from 6 to 90+. Estimated cost is £290 per person. Details on our website – <https://friendsoftriel.com>. You can contact us from the website if you are interested in joining at the mere cost of £15 per adult (under 18s are free) or ring Elaine on 07792 178539. Finally, do call into the Leatherhead Theatre to see, in the entrance opposite the door to the foyer, two commemorative art works which celebrate our friendship and 20 years of official twinning.



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# Great Bookham School

## Celebrating Success, Kindness, and Growth

As we reflect on the past term, I am filled with pride and gratitude for everything our school community has accomplished together.

Our Christmas celebrations were nothing short of magical. The early years delighted us with their heartwarming nativity performance, showcasing the talents of our Reception and Pre-School children. Key Stage 1 brought energy and enthusiasm to their lively nativity. To top off the festivities, the children were thrilled on the last day of term when they were greeted by a team of snowmen! Our staff surprised everyone by dressing up and performing a lively flashmob dance.

Another highlight was our whole-school participation in Positive Noticing Day. This initiative encouraged everyone to pause,

appreciate, and express gratitude. It was inspiring to see pupils and staff alike embracing acts of kindness and recognition, reinforcing the strong sense of community that makes our school so special.

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have worked incredibly hard this term to promote kindness and positivity. They led a range of wonderful activities during NSPCC Kindness Week, encouraging pupils to think about how small acts of kindness can make a big difference

We are also delighted that our school has been awarded the Healthy Schools Award, recognising our commitment to promoting physical and emotional wellbeing for all pupils. This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff and the positive habits we encourage every day.

This year's academic achievements have been

truly outstanding, building on last year's excellent outcomes and taking them even further. We are thrilled that our school has been ranked the 3rd best performing school in Surrey, according to the latest Department for Education performance tables. In addition, we were proudly recognised in The Times as one of the Top 550 schools in the country. These accomplishments are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our pupils, staff, and families.

It has been a pleasure to welcome so many families touring our school as they look for Reception and Year 3 places for September 2026. We are excited to continue growing and look forward to welcoming these new pupils into our community.

**Jenna Allen**  
**Headteacher**

# Bookham & Horsley Rotary Club

A very busy six months with more to come.

For a small group of 20 men and women we manage to run lots of events including the Spirit of Christmas and Santa and his Sleigh visits only thanks to the wonderful support we get from local residents.

We thought you'd like to know that this year's Santa collections generated over £4,500 and an equal amount was spent providing food vouchers for 61 local families in the run-up to

Christmas. We know from the feedback we receive that your generosity makes a massive difference to the recipients so, on their behalf, thank you.

We've also run a Barn Dance, the Bookham Brunch, a Bridge Evening and a Quiz raising funds for a number of local charities, with more events planned for this year.

If you'd like to get involved in helping with any future events then we'd love to hear from you



– please email Steve Gapper at [sgapper53@gmail.com](mailto:sgapper53@gmail.com).

# Polesden Lacey Infant Academy



As the Headteacher of Polesden Lacey Infant Academy, I am delighted to share some wonderful news with our local community. It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding couple of terms for us, and I am bursting with pride and delight at the journey our school is taking.

## Better Together: A New Chapter

The biggest highlight of our academic year has been officially welcoming Polesden Lacey Playschool into our school family. By joining forces, we have created a seamless educational journey for our youngest learners, from their first steps in preschool through to the end of Year 2.

Furthermore, we are thrilled that they are now also part of the LEO Academy Trust. This partnership allows all of us to collaborate with a wider network of excellence, sharing resources and expertise while maintaining the unique, nurturing "eco village school" feel that makes Polesden Lacey so special. By working together, we provide the very best start for your children.

## Learning Beyond the Classroom

We believe that some of the best lessons aren't learned sitting at a desk. Our Forest School programme remains a cornerstone of life here. Watching our pupils build resilience, solve problems, and develop a deep respect for nature in our beautiful grounds is a joy. Whether they are identifying local wildlife or working together to build a shelter, these experiences stay with them for a lifetime.

This year we have been able to offer 'Stay and Play Forest School' sessions for pre-schoolers. We will be continuing to run these throughout



the rest of the school year so please keep an eye on our social media or website for new dates.

Instagram: [polesdenlaceyinfant](https://www.instagram.com/polesdenlaceyinfant)  
Facebook: Polesden Lacey Infant Academy  
Website: [www.polesdenlaceyinfant.co.uk/](http://www.polesdenlaceyinfant.co.uk/)

## Our Community, Our Strength

A school is only as strong as the community around it. We are so grateful for the support of our parents; your involvement is what helps our children truly thrive. Whether you are a prospective parent or a long-standing neighbour, our doors are always open.

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