



# Bookham Bulletin

LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Winter 2023

## The Meeting Place – what is going on there?



It is amazing how many come along to our Community Fridge at Bookham Baptist Church on Tuesday and Friday 11.15-12.15, Saturday 10.30-10.30 and St Mary's Fetcham

on Monday 10.00-11.00. This wonderful opportunity to prevent food going to landfill is open to anyone. The available food can be anything from cakes and bread, fruit and vegetables, flowers and some items of frozen food as well.

Our Anna Chaplaincy had a very busy summer holiday time. They held two Holiday at Home days for older people who could not get away for a holiday break. The theme was Scottish this time and included talks and activities as well as a group of Scottish dancers entertaining them. It was a wonderful day with excellent food and drinks as well. The picture shows the dancers and the guests.

The Living Well in Older Age talk on 22 November given by Robin Thomson on Coping with Dementia from 10.30am-12.00pm was well received and very helpful. The team also offer spiritual support to older people (and their families) whether living at home, in care homes or sheltered housing. The "praise and craft" sessions at Liberham Lodge are much appreciated. Coming up to Christmas a short Service will be held with Christmas carols on 6 December at Eastwick Road Church. Coffee and mince pies will be served at 10.30am followed by the short service at 11am.

We will be sorry to say goodbye to Anne, our first Anna Chaplain who will be leaving us at the end of the year. It is obvious from the above she and her team have built up a great programme of activities. As this article is being written interviews are to be held for her successor to carry forward the work.



In the meanwhile our Coffee Shop continues to thrive on Saturday mornings 10am-12pm and the coffee, tea and cakes are enjoyed by many. We will be open every Saturday to the end of the year and of course into 2024, We would be pleased to have further volunteers to be prepared to prepare and serve coffee to our customers so be in touch if you would enjoy being part of the team. Our Hearing Champion comes regularly to help with NHS hearing aids, and there will be more sessions in the New Year.

The Language Hub continues in term time to provide classes for beginners and improvers for whom their first language is not English. Dates and times on the website. As the work expands we would love to hear from anyone who is a trained teacher so do get in touch.

Finally our small group of people who meet on Monday mornings to learn to lipread so appreciate the service provided by our professional teacher. There is space for more people to join them. They recently had an opportunity for some of them to meet together

for coffee and exchange ideas about things they find helpful.

As you see we are a very busy voluntary organisation and appreciate new volunteers coming to help in our varied programme.

For more information about The Meeting Place and all our activities please go to our website <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.





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# Bookhams Bulletin

90th Year

Issue 347

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

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT to Annual General Meeting 2023

We are pleased to report that the use of all three halls has continued to increase and we have welcomed a number of new regular users as well as our long standing affiliates.

We continue to maintain the halls to the highest standard and replace or repair as necessary. In order to further improve the removal of rainwater from roofs we have replaced the guttering around the main hall sloping roofs with large capacity gutters. These drain directly into the surface water drains and reduce the water on the flat surfaces which have caused us problems in the past.

With the cooperation of our neighbours the large overhanging trees along the south boundary have been reduced and cut back to the fenceline. This has increased light levels in the Harrison Room and reduced the leaf and branch fall that can impede our emergency exit routes.

Our 5 yearly electrical inspection has been carried out and the final non-led lights have been replaced to reduce our energy usage.

In the Harrison Room toilets, and following a request from users, assistance bars were fitted and this has caused us to revisit the plans to refurbish those cloakrooms. Without a major external extension we do not have room for a full disabled toilet but we are revising the plans with a view to providing 'ambulatory' toilets in both the Ladies and Gents. These would provide more space and assistance for users with mobility problems. Unfortunately we were not successful with our grant application to the Asda Foundation, although we reached the final shortlist. We are reapplying to other grant bodies for this year.

Our Village Day theme was 'On Safari' and we were lucky to have really good weather. Very large crowds turned up to enjoy the parade of local youngsters as well as the music, entertainment and stalls. Many thanks to more than 50 of our affiliated organisations who ran stalls, refreshments and provided volunteers.

With help from our sponsors we raised over £14,000, a record. Village Week following raised £6768 from Open Gardens, Quiz Night, the Afternoon Bridge Club and Mole Valley Silver Band. Thank you to all who made that possible.

My thanks go to our staff, Halls Manager Roger Musgrove and Assistant Manager, Rob Williams for all their work over the year. None of this would have been possible without the volunteers on our Management and Village Day Committees and also Bookham Open Gardens Committee who do so much work behind the scenes. Thank you all.

We also wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of our ex-Membership Secretary, Dolf Arnold, who has stepped down from his role and the committee after many years. Dolf built up our Membership Donations to a substantial figure with his network of collectors as well as bringing technical expertise to the Committee.

See our website for the full accounts for the year 2022/3.

**HELP PLEASE-** we need a Membership Collectors co-ordinator please to work with our Membership Administrator. The work can be done whenever suits you and would involve a few hours per month. If you could help please contact me on [keithslark@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:keithslark@tiscali.co.uk)

Keith Slark  
Chairman.



## What's Happening

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15 Bookham Village Day	

**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  
Eastwick WI – Third 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

## Next Edition of the Bookhams Bulletin

**Deadline for Spring issue:**

**1 January 2024**

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to the Editor

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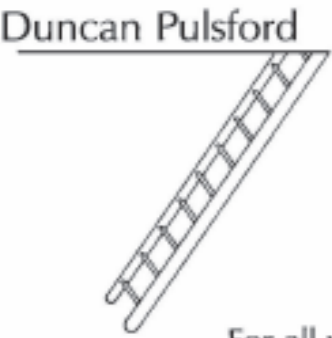
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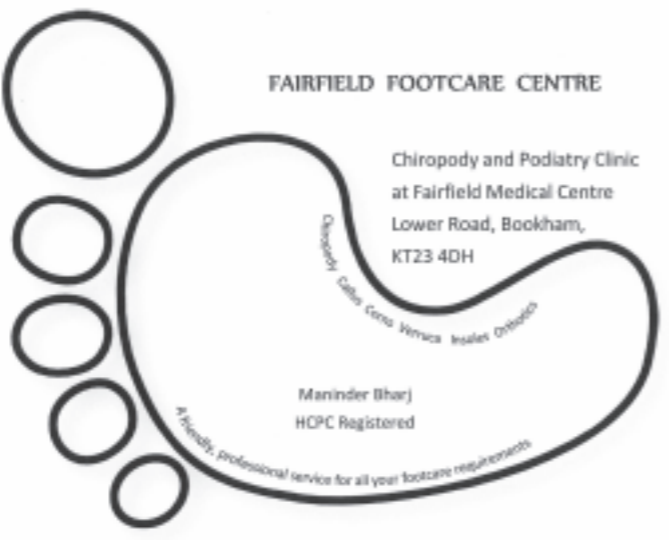
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Snezhana is a Russian born professional dancer, coach and international adjudicator, with experience in teaching Ballroom and Latin dance. By 16 she became the Youth Russian Champion, and by 17 was 3rd in the World Championships. Following this success, Snezhana moved around the world, representing Italy and Bulgaria with different partners. Then she was partnered with the United Kingdom Champion at that time, Craig Draper, and moved to the UK to dance and represent England.

Craig is originally from Sheffield. He achieved fantastic results from a young age, winning the British title in almost every age category. By the age of 26, he was placed 5th and 6th at the European and World championships respectively. Since retiring from competitive dancing, he has dedicated himself to training young dancers, professionals and dance enthusiasts.

Together they are an unstoppable team, teaching engaging and fun lessons for all ages and abilities. Contact Dance SCool on the details below to find out more:

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**Natasha Matthews – Marketing Officer**



## POSE

### IT'S PANTOMIME TIME AGAIN!!!



POSE are delighted to announce that this is our 50th year of performances and we invite you all to Bookham's very own pantomime in January 2024.

POSE is a Bookham based drama group who have performed a pantomime at The Old Barn Hall for the last forty years – possibly more, but who's counting! We continue to stick with the traditional family pantomime format, suitable for everyone and although the stories we have told recently have been more traditional tales, this year we are telling the story of 'Rapunzel' by Ben Crocker.

Evergreen is the Land of Lettuce until a local boy steals some parsley from Gothel, the witch, and it becomes the Land of Lettuce and

Parsley. When the young boy grows up to be King of Evergreen and becomes a father, Gothel takes her revenge and kidnaps his baby daughter.

Eighteen years later, the Princess Rapunzel is still missing and the reward of half the Kingdom of Evergreen remains unclaimed. Rudi O'Malley, the local charmer, thinks he has found where Rapunzel is being held but so do Brunnhilde and Max – Rapunzel's nanny and her son – and they all set off to find her.

Please come along to support your local drama group and join us for lots of fun and laughter as we follow our friends to The Tower, enjoy a sing song at the local pub, survive a shipwreck and after many other adventures, return to Evergreen – but can they rescue Rapunzel?

Rapunzel is at The Old Barn Hall on Fridays 19th & 26th January 2024 at 7.45pm and Saturdays 20th & 27th January 2024 at 2.30pm and 6.30pm.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW £10 adults, £8 children and seniors. Please call the Box Office on 01372 454001 or 01372 458254. Group rates are available for parties of 10 or more and Birthday Groups can be arranged.





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## Action Theatre Club



Well it's been a very busy time for the Action Theatre Club!

Performances in the past six months include Bookham Village Day, local school fairs, a summer outdoor theatre festival, a production of Annie the Musical as well as a performance at Shaftesbury Theatre in the West End. The students are now in full swing rehearsing for their Christmas plays, as well as preparing for dance contests and local events. There's never a dull moment!

As well as their triple theatre classes, for those who enjoy singing, dancing and acting, the

school now offers fabulous acting only courses aimed at those who have a dramatic flair! These groups put on a play every term. From comedies to thrillers, this group can turn their hand to anything!

The popular theatre club is now taking bookings for their free trials in January. Places are limited, so if you have a budding performer aged between 4 -18 years who would like to give it a go, do drop Lizzie an email at [actiontheatreclub@gmail.com](mailto:actiontheatreclub@gmail.com)

## Horsley Choral Society

Local Choirs Perform at Grange Park Opera

Horsley Choral Society joined with three local choirs for a sell-out performance of Verdi's dramatic Requiem at Grange Park Opera's Theatre in the Woods on Saturday 23rd September, watched by an audience of over 600.

The event was arranged by Godalming Choral Society to celebrate their 160th anniversary and led by their musical director Sam Hayes, who conducted a choir of 200 voices joined by four star soloists and the Hennessy Brown Music Collective Orchestra.

Godalming and Horsley singers were joined by choirs from Oxshott and Epworth who combined to create a stunning and memorable performance which did justice to

both the glorious music and the spectacular setting of the Opera House which was generously made available for this special event.

Apart from those performing on the day, credit should also go to all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver an event of this complexity. HCS Chair, Gill Walker and Paul Fair from the HCS Committee spent many happy hours with their opposite numbers in other choirs working through the details while Val Beynon, our Musical Director, led months of rehearsals as our singers mastered the famous complexities of Verdi's masterpiece.

With the success of this event now behind us Horsley's attention now turns to our Christmas concert, "Come and Adore" set for 7.30pm on Saturday 16th December at St Andrew's

Church Cobham. The concert includes a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria with Carols. For Box Office info call 07444 722318.

Horsley Choral Society welcomes new members without the need to audition and rehearses most Monday evenings at 8.00pm in East Horsley Village Hall. See our web site [www.horsleychoralsociety.com](http://www.horsleychoralsociety.com) or contact [secretary@horsleychoralsociety.com](mailto:secretary@horsleychoralsociety.com) for more information.



## Great Bookham School



New team and position in Trust set to make Great Bookham an education destination

Great Bookham School, formerly The Dawnay, is experiencing an injection of new talent and investment through its place as part of the South Farnham Educational Trust. Delivering the same outstanding curriculum as all the schools in the Trust, with fantastic grounds and potential for growth, Great Bookham is already benefitting from the Trust's focussed support.

A key part of that mission is the appointment of Head Teacher, Miss Jenna Allen. During her 14 years within primary education, she has taught across the entire primary phase and has a wealth of experience in driving school improvement through a variety of senior

leadership roles.

Already the school has seen in the introduction of £120,000 worth of IT equipment and IT infrastructure which is having an immediate positive and direct impact on the children. Children now have access to class sets of iPads and laptops which can be used in class in all subject areas. In addition, all children's toilets are to be fully refurbished this academic year, the start of a range of indoor school environment improvement plans.

But there is much more to come! With the additional guidance of Mrs Fiona O'Neill as Executive Head Teacher of both The Raleigh and Great Bookham, the school is making strides towards its goal of becoming an educational destination in the eyes of local parents and children alike.

Miss Allen says: "I understand there have been some significant changes of leadership over the last four years, within the school. However,

myself and South Farnham Educational Trust, are fully committed to ensuring that there is continued leadership stability."

The team at Great Bookham School are inviting parents to come and tour the school and meet Miss Allen in person.

Remaining tour dates are:

- Thursday 24th November: 9:30 – 10:30
- Friday 9th December: 9:30 – 10:30
- Wednesday 4th January: 9:30 – 10:30
- Monday 9th January: 9:30 – 10:30

To book a tour please visit our school website [www.greatbookhamschool.org.uk](http://www.greatbookhamschool.org.uk) and click on the 'Join us' tab.

Alternatively, Miss Allen is open to individual tours for parents who are unable to make the above dates. To arrange this, please contact the school office 01372 456 774 or [info@gbs.sfet.org.uk](mailto:info@gbs.sfet.org.uk).

# Polesden Lacey Infant School

At Polesden Lacey Infant School we have six values: being fair, resilient, respectful, caring, courageous and curious. In this edition of the Bookhams Bulletin I would like to focus on curiosity and what it means to the children. To help me do this I asked the children, in an assembly, some of the ways that they were curious and they did not disappoint with their answers! All of their suggestions were about knowing more, understanding more and being amazed at what they were finding out.

In this age where so many of us will 'Google it' to find an answer, the children had many more creative ways to feed their curiosity. They suggested, 'watching what others are doing', 'asking questions', 'having conversations', 'exploring', 'looking, smelling, touching, tasting and listening', 'thinking' and 'finding challenges to stretch our brains'.

Working in a school, particularly an infant school like Polesden Lacey Infant School, where the children have so many opportunities, both in the classroom and in our wonderful outdoor spaces to explore and observe, we see many moments of awe and wonder.

Within the space of one week children marvelled at; watching an open fire burn and seeing what happens when different



substances are entered into the flames; finding an empty bird's egg and working out what type of bird laid the egg; spotting a slow worm and discovering more about it and making charcoal pencils from sticks found in the woods.

Year 2 children also fed their curiosity about the explorers who had visited places on our planet and on the moon, which led them to ask questions about our solar system and the universe. Year 1 have been learning about the Amazon Rainforest and the threats to it. It led them to be curious about the impact on all the animals that live there and what they could do to help reverse the destruction. It is such a privilege to nurture our children's curiosity and

as Albert Einstein said, 'the important thing is not to stop questioning; curiosity has its own reason for existing'.

Enjoy being curious!



# Bookham Bees WI

At the time of writing this article we have said 'good-bye' to summer and autumn is upon us. Bookham Bees WI has enjoyed a full and exciting year with a wide variety of activities. We have welcomed several new members who have commented on the warm welcome they have received from the Bees.

We enjoyed presentations from some most interesting speakers over the summer. One of the highlights was a visit from the harpist, Margaret Watson, who demonstrated the flexibility of this beautiful instrument, playing music from pop to jazz to classical. Wow, what a sensation.

August always sees Bookham Bees celebrating with 'Drinks & Nibble on the Green', the field behind The Old Barn Hall. This is a casual evening as we chat, play silly games and watch the sunset.

Roger Mendham, our speaker in September, illustrated a Tour of the Monopoly Board. We learnt about the history of the game and improved our knowledge of the famous areas

in London which we thought we were au fait, how wrong one can be! During the summer several Bees met for picnic lunches.

To conclude 2023, in October we planned a demonstration from the charity we are supporting this year, Community First Responders. In November, Annabel Alford Warren will be talking about the National Garden Scheme, December will bring fun and surprises as we look forward to celebrating Christmas. A full programme is already planned for 2024.

The Bees have many groups encompassing various activities. Book Groups, monthly Supper Group, Coffee Group, a buzzing Garden Group, Bridge, several Walking Groups covering different levels of prowess, as well as a Pub Group, Theatre Group, Family History, Knitting Group and Sewing Group, with more to follow!

On Friday 29th September you may have spotted several people wandering around Bookham with clipboards. This was the Bookham Bees WI Treasure hunt. A walk of

approximately 3.5 miles testing powers of observation around our village.

Bookham Bees WI meets the first Wednesday of the month in the Old Barn Hall, Bookham at 7.30 for 7.45pm. For further information please contact Heather Broadhurst: [heather@broadhurst.org.uk](mailto:heather@broadhurst.org.uk)



# Howard of Effingham School



On Thursday 12 October The Howard held an Open Evening for students to find out a bit more what life in the Sixth Form is like. There were general talks and the opportunity to discuss specific subject choices and find out more about each course. The Howard offers over 30 courses in the Sixth Form including A Levels and BTECs. Some subjects will be new to the students, for example: Economics, Government & Politics, Psychology, Environmental Science and Sociology.

We had fantastic examination results this summer and know that we can offer an academically outstanding and great experience in the Sixth Form. If you would like to know more please do visit our website: [www.howardsixthform.org](http://www.howardsixthform.org) or contact the school on 01372 453694 or phone direct on 01372 414166.



**Celebrating Success at The Howard**

We celebrated our success over the summer with our KS4 and KS5 results, with students achieving what they needed to go on and be successful in the next stage of their careers: whether this be Howard 6th Form, a 6th Form College, an apprenticeship, a university course, or a first job.

Outcomes were improved on 2019 (the only relevant comparison given the variability of the Covid years) at both KS4 and KS5, and remained well above Surrey and national averages. At KS5, we achieved 30% A\*/A (compared to a national average of 27%) and



80% A\*-C (compared to a national average of 76%). At KS4, we achieved 37% 9-7 (compared with 23% nationally) and 73% 9-5 (compared with 55% nationally).

Impressively the percentage of students achieving 9-5 in English and Maths (65%) increased by 12% on our 2019 results, and is also 12% higher than the Surrey average. These excellent results are testament to the partnership between students, staff, and parents/carers which is so strong at The Howard, and which we know will continue this academic year.

Jenny Jeffery, Assistant Principal

# Litter picking in the Bookhams

This continues on the first Sunday of the month, unless it's a bank holiday weekend, in which case it's a week later. Meet at Lower Shott car park at 11.00am. All are welcome. After signing in, equipment is provided and

places to litter pick are allocated. We collect for an hour or so and sometimes we have a drink and nibbles afterwards, e.g. to celebrate the King's Coronation, after the Big Help Out, etc

For further details please contact me at [litterpicking@bookhamresidents.org](mailto:litterpicking@bookhamresidents.org) or go to the BRA website.

Margaret Lawson

# Great Bookham Belles WI



July saw our Summer Social meeting at Manor House School with members having the opportunity to chat amongst friends old and new and a performance and sing a long with our choir the Decibelles.

Also during July a rowan tree was planted in the grounds of Polesden Lacey Infant School

which had been donated by our WI for the Queen's green canopy. Many thanks to Chris Edge Treecare for sourcing and planting this (photo)

We do not have a full membership meeting during the summer holidays but our sub groups remain active, this year 2 new sub groups, a local history group and an out and about group, had their inaugural outings. The local history group went on a visit to Slyfield House and the out and about group visited the Fire and Iron Gallery in Leatherhead during their heritage week open days. Both groups have more outings planned for the coming weeks.

Members were back at our meeting place at Manor House School in September to listen to our speaker Di Coke tell us about being an avid competition enterer, the prizes she has won and giving us some tips to ensure winning ways! We also presented a cheque for £1,310 plus a collection of cleaning products, to



Leatherhead Start, our charity for last year (photo).

We have a variety of speakers, activities and outings planned for the autumn term as well as our annual meeting and members will shortly vote on the charity we will support for the coming year.

We are currently full with a waiting list but welcome visitors to our monthly meetings (usually the 3rd Monday of the month), please email [contactbelleswi@gmail.com](mailto:contactbelleswi@gmail.com) for information.

# Bookham and Fetcham Gardeners' Association

This has been such a positive year with interesting talks, such as on Kew Gardens, Growing vegetables, Rewilding the Knepp Estate, Growing bulbs and outings to see the tulips at Dunsborough Park, and NGS garden in Cobham and a good Safari to Village Day. The highlight was definitely our Summer Show.

This Show was held on the 8th July, again in the amazing Tithe Barn in Little Bookham. It really was a celebration of vegetables, fruits and flowers, the products of a favourable growing season and looked so beautiful against the backdrop of the ancient timbers. As tradition has it there was also a mouthwatering display of bakes, jams and



preserves, showing the local cookery skills and the competition was very strong, particularly in the men's section.

There really is a category for everyone, with painting, photography, sewing, needlework, knitting and crocheting. This year we were delighted to have a large number of entries from the Beaver Scouts. And great to see entries from the Grange. Their huge marrow won Best in Show in the fruit and vegetable sections and Pia Reynold's charming cottage tea cosy was awarded the Best in Show in the crafts.

It really is such a happy occasion and everyone enjoyed the afternoon tea with delicious cakes served on antique crockery. Thanks again to the Nicholls family for allowing us to use this wonderful venue and also thanks to the judges who give us so much of their time and expertise.

Do make a note in your diary for next year's show on Saturday 10th July and come and enter a category or two, or 20! Or come along and see the display and have a delicious tea. The schedules will be available in the new year so you can start planting or crafting. Perhaps you would like to meet other gardeners and learn about gardening topics. Our meetings usually take place in the Harrison Room of the Bookham Barn Hall at 7.30pm on the last Monday of the month.

If you would like to find out more about this society and activities please contact Angela Stevens on 01372 456713 or craigjrstevens@btinternet.com

Jennifer Smitheman.



# Bookham Seniors Computer Club



The Bookham Seniors Computer Club (BSCC) autumn term programme started with its AGM at Little Bookham Village Hall on Friday 8 September 2023 where it reviewed the events of last year, its accounts and elected officials for the forthcoming year. The programme for the autumn term was discussed and includes a broad range of topics for PCs/laptops, tablets and smartphones. The minutes of the AGM and details of the autumn term's programme can be found on the club's website at [bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk](http://bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk).

Following the AGM there was a presentation by a volunteer from Surrey Trading Standards titled An Essential Guide to Online Safety. This one-hour presentation covered topics including Passwords, Internet Banking, Phishing, Forged, Genuine and Secure Websites, Using Money Online, Logging Out, Email Scams and Security Software. The club also has regular discussions on the latest scams doing the rounds during its monthly Zoom calls (see below).

Trading Standards are happy to arrange for the presentation to other groups by contacting Katherine Preston at [katherine.preston@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.preston@surreycc.gov.uk).

Club meetings are held on Friday mornings between 10 and 12 at Little Bookham Village Hall (except the first Friday in the month which will be held via Zoom). During the AGM it was agreed that annual membership 2023/24 will cost £35 with no additional charges for attending any of the sessions which includes

tea, coffee and biscuits during a mid-morning break in the hall. The autumn term will conclude with its Christmas Party on Friday 8 December 2023 which will include the traditional infamous and fiendish Christmas and Technology Quiz.

The club runs informal sessions where you can get help with any problem you are having or questions that you have about PCs, tablets or smartphones. These sessions are free to members and are held at Little Bookham Village Hall 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. It keeps its members up-to-date, including details of the term's programme, via email and its website.

# Effingham and Leatherhead Rugby Club (ELRFC)

## Welcoming new players



We are actively recruiting for all our Minis and Junior age groups, from U5 to U18. We believe in trying to give everyone the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of rugby, so unlike some clubs, we don't cap the size of our age-grade squads, and we welcome players of all abilities.

While the season has already been running for a couple of months, it's definitely not too late to join. New players don't need any rugby experience, and we offer taster sessions for

those who might want to see how it all works before joining the club.

The youngest groups, U5 to U8, play tag rugby where we teach them core rugby skills with a real focus on values – teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship. From U9 to U11 we progress into contact versions of the sport, and all of our Minis players enjoy a hot-dog in the clubhouse afterwards.

The Juniors (U12 to U18) move into more competitive rugby and we introduce more of the elements of rugby found in the adult game – playing 15-a-side games by U14. Our coaches help the players improve their rugby technique while maintaining that important focus on values. All of our Junior age groups compete in Surrey Rugby cup tournaments during the season, as well as playing friendly

matches and training as a team at home.

In exciting news, the ELRFC 'Eagles' U9 age group will be playing on the pitch at Twickenham Stadium during half-time of Big Game 15, between Harlequins and Gloucester, on 30 December. As usual there will be a solid contingent of Eagles fans among the 50,000 strong crowd, cheering our boys and girls on. As you can imagine, this will be an amazing experience for our young players, and it's something they'll remember for many years to come.

If you'd like to find out more about the club, you can visit our website, email us via the addresses below or you can always pop down to see us.

[www.eaglesrugby.club](http://www.eaglesrugby.club) U5-U11: [minischairman@eaglesrugby.club](mailto:minischairman@eaglesrugby.club) U12-U18: [justin@tomorrowadvertising.com](mailto:justin@tomorrowadvertising.com)

# Bookham Butterflies WI



Bookham Butterflies WI raised £550 at its annual quiz night, for Eikon, its charity of the year. Eikon is based in Surrey and helps local young people feel safe, heard and supported. <https://eikon.org.uk/>

Nine teams took part in the quiz, answering questions on subjects including Games, Meanings, Captain and the Night. The winning team, named "Awesome" (pictured) received prizes of spring bulbs for planting. A huge thank you to all the local businesses who donated raffle prizes, including The Vineries, Carolina's, William Dyer, Di Carlo's, Ward & Cross and Layton's.

A group of Butterflies is now in training to take part in the 2024 MoonWalk London, organised by breast cancer charity Walk the Walk. Weekly walking sessions are held locally for members, who will be taking on a half or full marathon overnight walking challenge through the capital next May. Other members will offer their time as volunteers at the event.

Elsewhere, our Exploring Gardens group enjoyed good weather on summer visits to Ironwood House at Slinfold, Woodpeckers Garden in Woking and The Nutrition Garden in Frimley, where we learnt about edible plants. Some of us picked herbs from the garden and made tea infusions to drink with the unusual afternoon tea provided by the garden's owner. We ate delicious sandwiches made from beetroot, tomato and spinach bread, followed by lime and courgette, carrot, chocolate and beetroot, lavender and lemon verbena cakes.

Two new sub groups for Butterfly members have recently been formed – "Craft from the Heart" and a poetry group.

In August, a group of Butterflies and guests



dodged the showers on an interesting day out to Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, the home of Jamie Spencer-Churchill, the 12th Duke of Marlborough, and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. The sun came out later in our visit, as we walked through the extensive and beautiful palace grounds.

Recent speakers at our monthly meetings have talked about the benefits of forest bathing and the history of crime and punishment. In the build up to Christmas we will be celebrating our ninth birthday at our December meeting.

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

# Bookham Craft Club



At our September meeting we made Christmas Decorations, getting an early start!

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 9.30am in the Harrison Room of the Old Barn Hall. New Members are always welcome.

On Tuesday 28 November we will be doing Beaded Cards. Why not come along and find out what is on the programme for 2024.

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or call: 07890 290891  
for details

**BOOKHAM**  
**SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS**  
 CHURCH ROAD, HIGH STREET, GROVE CORNER

**JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE AFTERNOON**

- Live Music
- Santa's Grotto
- Family Advent Trail
- Nativity scenes display in St Nicolas
- Children's Activities
- Discover festive specials & offers from Bookham's local shops

**SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2023**  
**1.00PM - 4.00PM**

**Rotary**  
 Bookham & Horsley

**BCS** Bookham Choral Society

**Christmas Carols**

Musical Director:  
 Elliot Mercer

Accompanist:  
 Anthony Merryweather

**St Nicolas Church, Bookham KT23 3PG**  
**Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 7:30pm**

Tickets: £15, under 18s: £5 (includes refreshments)  
 Available from Harts, High Street, Bookham  
 and bookhamchoralsociety@gmail.com

www.bookhamchoralsociety.co.uk  
 Registered charity number 1058883

Supported by **HRTCT**  
 The Harrogate Retirement Trust  
 Charitable Trust

**Father Christmas and his Sleigh**  
**coming to a road near you in December 2023**

**Saturday 2nd** Bookham 'Spirit of Christmas' Event 1.30 - 4pm

**Sunday 10th** **EAST HORSLEY**  
 Forest Road, High Park Ave, Nightingale Rd, The Ridings

**Wednesday 13th** **EFFINGHAM**  
 Norwood Rd, Strathcona Ave, Links Way, Orchard Gardens

**Thursday 14th** **BOOKHAM**  
 Little Bookham Street, Childs Hall Road, Long Meadow

**Friday 15th** **BOOKHAM**  
 Lower Shott, Newenham Rd, Overton Way, White Way, Beales Rd

**Sunday 17th** **BOOKHAM**  
 Hawkwood Rise, The Lorne, Middlemead Rd, Sole Farm Ave

**Tuesday 19th** **BOOKHAM**  
 Howard Road, Dawnay Road, Hale Pit Road, Hilltop Rise

**Wednesday 20th** **BOOKHAM**  
 Dowlans Road, West Down, Groveside

**Friday 22nd** **BOOKHAM**  
 Barn Meadow Lane, Merrylands Rd, Twelve Acre Cl, Oaks Lane

**Sundays 4.30 to 7pm, Weekdays 5 to 7.30pm (Weather permitting)**  
 Further information from [keithslark@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:keithslark@tiscali.co.uk)

**Rotary**  
 Bookham & Horsley  
 Collecting for local needs and charities. Charity no.264727

**BOOKHAM COUNTRY MARKET**

**Wonderful Donation to Macmillan Cancer Care and Christmas is coming!**

On 29th September we held a MacMillan Cancer Care fundraising day and you did us proud. Together we raised £918 through a combination of wonderful cream teas supplied by volunteer cooks and a prize draw of 15 wonderful prizes donated by our suppliers and helpers.

Thanks to all our regular customers, and the new faces we greet each week, your local Friday market is thriving. We are here from 10am to 12 Noon every Friday morning in the Old Barn Hall. With Christmas on the way, now is the time to pick up, or order, some early presents or supplies.

If you want some specialty cheeses to make up a present we have some award winning varieties straight from the Dairy. Or you might like to give a bottle of gin made from raw Honey. Our local gin maker, based in Fetcham will be at this market, but is also at the Friday market on the 1st Friday of each month.

On Fridays you can order a Christmas Cake or mince pies from our home cooks to be collected later, and we have artisan breads without any chemicals. There are homemade preserves of all kinds and local Bookham honey, great stocking fillers.

Having done your shopping, relax in the coffee shop, maybe with friends, and enjoy a Fairtrade coffee or Teapigs tea with a slice of homemade Cake

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 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

**Comfort and Joy**

**Churches Together in Bookham**

On behalf of the churches in Bookham, I would like to welcome you to our services over Christmas. As always, our churches will provide a rich variety, celebrating the birth of Jesus with joy, hope and creativity. Come along and take a little time to wonder at the extraordinary gift at the heart of Christmas.

*Rev Steve Elmes- Chairman, Churches Together in Bookham*

**St Nicolas Church**  
 Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> 6.30 pm: A service of Christmas readings and carols reflecting the joy of Christmas.  
 Christmas Eve 10:00am: A simple said service of Holy Communion  
 Christmas Eve 3.00pm: A Crib Service, especially suitable for those aged 7 and under  
 Christmas Eve 4.30 pm: AND repeated at 6.00pm: A family carol service suitable for older children and adults.  
 Christmas Eve 11.30pm: A service of Holy Communion with carols to welcome in Christmas Day  
 Christmas Day 8.00am: A 40-minute celebration of Holy Communion based on the *Book of Common Prayer*.  
 Christmas Day 10.00am: An all-age service to celebrate the joy of Christmas including Communion.

for details go to [www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk](http://www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk)

**Bookham Baptist Church**  
 Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 6:00 pm The 6ix Contemporary Carol Service  
 Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm Christmas Carol Service  
 Christmas Eve 11:15 pm Holy Night Service  
 Christmas Day 10:00am All age Christmas service

Visit [www.bookhambaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.bookhambaptistchurch.org.uk) for details or check out our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/BookhamBaptist](https://www.youtube.com/user/BookhamBaptist)

**Catholic Parish of Effingham and Fetcham. Christmas Masses**  
 Effingham: Christmas Day 9.00 am  
 Fetcham: Christmas Eve 6:00 pm, Christmas Day 10.30 am

See website [www.effinghamandfetcham.org.uk](http://www.effinghamandfetcham.org.uk) for updated information

**Eastwick Road Church (United Reformed)**  
 Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Carol Service  
 Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Family Christmas Service  
 Christmas Day 10.00am A Joint Christmas service at Bookham Baptist Church

More details of services available on-line go to [www.bookhamurc.org.uk](http://www.bookhamurc.org.uk)

**St Lawrence Church, Parish of Effingham with All Saints Little Bookham**  
**At St Lawrence, Effingham**  
 Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> 4pm Christingle Service  
 Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> 6pm Village Carol Service  
 Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service  
 Christmas Eve 11pm Midnight Mass  
**At All Saints, Little Bookham**  
 Christmas Day 10am Christmas Day Family Service

For full details of how to attend and of more events go to [www.effinghamwithlittlebookhamparish.org.uk](http://www.effinghamwithlittlebookhamparish.org.uk)

**Anna Chaplaincy**  
 for older people  
 The Meeting Place Bookham

Anna Chaplaincy in Bookham and district was launched in September 2021 specifically to provide spiritual support and care to elderly folk who have become isolated through physical and cognitive frailty. Our Carol Service will be held on **December 6th at Eastwick Road Church at 11am with refreshments from 10.30.**  
 For more information contact Anne at [ac@themeetingplace.org.uk](mailto:ac@themeetingplace.org.uk), or phone **07518 735729**

# Bookham Bowling Club 2023 – 90th Anniversary



What an extraordinary year this has been for our 90th Anniversary.

The weather for the most part has been brilliant to play in although some matches were shortened due to the extreme heat! And recently towards the end of the season some matches were abandoned due to the rain! Rumours of the green needing a Lifebuoy station are unfounded.

Saturday 12th August was the day of celebration with a memorial club photo taken of almost all the members.

A game of Bookham Bowls inspired 'Ringo' ensued afterwards and a lovely celebration cake washed down with Prosecco once bowling had finished was had in the club house. Happy Anniversary All!

Congratulations to the ladies team who won all their league matches and were announced as being top of the league for 2023. They were 3 points clear of their nearest rivals, Banstead Neville, to win the trophy with 200 shots for and only 94 shots against. Outstanding!

The Clubs Finals Day held over the first weekend

in September saw some mighty matches played for the internal trophies in the hottest of weather.

Congratulations go to the new men's champion Steve Mullins and to the new ladies champion Chris Wooler. Well done to them and a listing of all the winners can be found on our website: [www.Bookhambowls.co.uk](http://www.Bookhambowls.co.uk) along with photos of the day.

Our green has been well maintained as usual and many compliments have been received from visiting clubs. It is about to receive its yearly treatment ready for 2024 and for a brief while will

look like a ploughed field or an Alien landing site!

Winter close down will see some more modernisation to the club house and old Pavilion being carried out. Events like Short Mat Bowls, Darts, Quizzes, Bingo, Whist, Bridge are already in the diary.

Our Come & Try weekend is being planned already for next May so watch this space.

If you're interested please visit our website (see above) to read more about us. We are off the Dorking Road on the way up to Polesdon Lacy at the start of the Chrystie recreation ground.



## Bookham Rifle Club



A Family Morning was held at our AGM in July where club members brought their family and friends to try out shooting for supervised sessions including several juniors. Club trophies were presented by Lynette.

Bookham did amazingly well at the Surrey County Open competitions. Gold and Silver at 100 yards (Tim Hammond and Jane Newing), with 5 Bookham shooters in the top 7. Jane had a blistering day by winning the Dewar (50, then

100 Yards) and a clean sweep of all the Club Teams competitions. Tim Hammond, Dave Crispin and Alan Downer swept the podium for the Veterans competition, it's not just the teenagers who shoot well!

The Browne Martin cup is a competition across all home counties and is shot shoulder-to-shoulder in the finals. Bookham Rifle Club were on superb form with a 9-point victory over the impregnable Colchester to make sure the cup was retained for a second year in a row. Congratulations team Bookham!

We have a wide spectrum of ages, diversity and abilities across the club - Congratulations to our Junior Shooters: Toby Meek (now ranked GB number 1) in the International Junior Mens Air Pistol (held in Holland) who returned with both Bronze and Silver Medals.

Also, many congratulations to Tom James, Aidan Healy and Sarah Waites who all got



through to British Shooting's School Rifle Championship Finals held in Cannock. Aidan reached the final of the Seniors and Sarah came away with a Team Gold for the Howard of Effingham School. Our junior section is awesome and a product from the Target Shooting school which continues to grow and expand [targetshootingschool.co.uk](http://targetshootingschool.co.uk)

We welcome new members all the time – whether you're starting out or just want to return to a sport you used to be a part of. ([bookhamrifleclub.org.uk](http://bookhamrifleclub.org.uk)) We are a great club, right on your doorstep.

## Bookham Blue Heart project



Our road verge reflowering project has now been running for three years and the designated verges have seen a huge increase in the number and variety of wildflowers, along with the insects and invertebrates that they benefit. Many residents have also opted to plant a Blue Heart in their front verge or space and we have been busy providing these from our 'factory'! These too have seen an increase in biodiversity as the flower plants that have previously been hiding have been allowed to bloom. The Blue Heart road verges

have been carefully selected and agreed with Surrey County Council for their suitability. The aim is to provide corridors of connectivity to allow plants and wildlife to move and thrive. On the A246 we have seen an abundance of nectar-rich flowers including Pyramidal and bee orchids as well as chalk-loving flowers such as Knapweed, Scabious, Trefoil and Ox Eye Daisy to name but a few. In Spring we had a fabulous display of Cowslips and Orchids right in the centre of our village! At the Grange in Rectory Lane we have been busy planting and nurturing a wonderful selection of wildflowers which have established after last year's awful drought. We appreciate the co-operation of the Grange team who have also created a wonderful wildlife garden in the grounds! We are also beautifying eyesores such as the substation at Lower Shott, the verge by the traffic lights and in front of the telephone exchange in Church Street. We were



delighted to be finalists in the Surrey Wildlife Trust Community Champions Award.

We appreciate that not everyone is a fan of our project and we are trying hard to maintain a balance to keep everybody happy. There were teething problems when the new mowing contractors didn't mow a lot of places that they should have mown! Thankfully this now seems to have been resolved.

Steve Poole

# Bookham & District u3a



Bookham & District u3a is a thriving local organisation with around 500 members but there is always room for new faces. We have over 60 interest groups ranging (alphabetically) from architectural history to wine appreciation. We arrange outings to the theatre and places of interest and hold social events.

Our activities take place outdoors and indoors with a variety of activity levels: there are many walking groups - exploring London or more locally; card games; croquet; tai chi; science and



technology; and so on. Many groups have space for new members and we are happy to facilitate the formation of new groups. Groups meet mostly on weekdays, weekly or monthly. Have a look at our website [bookhamu3a.org.uk/Groups](http://bookhamu3a.org.uk/Groups) for a full list.

We host monthly talks in the Old Barn Hall at 2.30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month from September to July; with tea and biscuits afterwards giving a chance to meet other members and the Committee for a chat. If you

are interested in finding out more about us please come along to one of these meetings.

### Upcoming talks:-

December: Walking into Grandma's kitchen in 1940s Madras.

January: Utterly immoral: Robert Keable and his scandalous novel.

February: Morris Dancing and what the Industrial Revolution did for it.

March: Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Membership also offers other learning opportunities including online sessions, a wide-ranging schedule of study days held at the Yehudi Menuhin Hall in Stoke D'Abernon, and an annual Summer School in Chichester.

Membership is open to all retired/semi-retired people in the Bookham area. To find out more look at our website or email [membership@bookhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@bookhamu3a.org.uk)

# Bookham Camera Club

The 2023/24 Camera Club season got off to a great start with our opening event on September 7th. Awards for the winners of last season's competitions were presented, several members shared images from their summer travels and photography projects, with a lovely social event enjoyed by all.

We will continue this year with outstanding presentations from renowned photographers, hands-on workshops and friendly competitions for members of similar skills and abilities. We have special interest groups that meet regularly to delve deeper into areas of shared enthusiasm. Nature, Landscape and Wings and Wheels groups have been active for several seasons.

We have recently introduced a group focused

on "FUNdamentals" for those members working to master the basic techniques of getting the most out of their cameras as well as 'post-processing' and printing on their computers.

The Club meets every Thursday (7:45pm for an 8pm start), with meetings at Eastwick Road Church. Occasionally we have Zoom-only sessions when we are joined virtually by a great photographer from outside our local area.

If you are interested in learning more about photography, getting the most out of your new camera, or just coming along to enjoy great images and conversation about a shared interest, please join us as a guest at a meeting. Check out our website <https://bookhamcameraclub.zenfolio.com/>

to find an evening that catches your interest and contact our Membership Secretary via the "Contact" section on the website so we can welcome you on the evening you visit.

### On the Tube – Max Dobres



# Old Barn Hall Jazz Club

Members of the Old Barn Jazz Club invite you to join them one coming Sunday when they meet at the Hall, 55 Church Road. Concert meetings are held every Sunday from 1 to 4 pm. We are highly rated nationwide as a well-known venue for New Orleans traditional jazz, played by leading bands, many of international repute.

We draw regular support from both local and other people from the home counties and elsewhere, Great Bookham being a good catchment area for our generation of music lovers that has followed this particular style of

music from the 60s up to the present day and hopefully for newer generations as well.

Our local helpers include Margaret, Alan and Barry, under the direction of Graham. They are assisted by other willing supporters who create a happy atmosphere into which newcomers are always welcome. There is no membership fee to join the club. So why not pop in any Sunday, when the music (and dancing) starts at 1 pm (entrance fee £13).

For further information, please contact Graham Dunn, Tel. 01372 451170, [obhjazz@gmail.com](mailto:obhjazz@gmail.com)

### Sunday Calendar of events

November 19th San Jacinto Stompers

November 26th New Orleans Bump (plus Christmas lunch)

December 3rd John Maddocks Jazzmen

December 10th Southern Revival New Orleans Jazz Band

December 17th Golden Eagle Jazz Band

No meeting 24 or 31 December.

# Polesden Lacey Playschool



The children have returned to playschool with smiling faces and oodles of enthusiasm, both our existing children from last year and younger newcomers. With a newly elected Committee at the September Annual General Meeting (AGM) and some new additions to the staff, there are plenty of fresh faces and ideas for the playschool going forward into the new academic year.

Much of the milder days are spent outside learning through play in the wonderful outdoor facilities that being on site of the Infant School offers. Our children have really been enjoying the trim trail, sandpit and new slide that we received last year. We've been busy caring for our flowers and prepping in our allotment, harvesting the last of the tomatoes, weeding to replenish the soil, all ready for planting in the Spring.

One of our favourite activities this term has been part of our All About Me! theme, where the children worked together to draw around each other lying on the floor. They were then able to cut out the shapes and decorate life size versions of themselves using a collage of different coloured and textured materials.

Christmas preparations are well under way in the classroom as we get ready for our annual



Christmas Show and look forward to a visit from the North Pole.

For further information about the Playschool, please visit our website or get in touch. For all admissions enquiries or to arrange a visit please email [hello@polesdenlaceyplayschool.co.uk](mailto:hello@polesdenlaceyplayschool.co.uk)

**Ellie Pragnell**  
Chair, Polesden Lacey Playschool Committee

# Bookham Baptist Church



The church was a hive of activity throughout August as our Children's Centre laid on a host of Summer holiday activities – not only for 0-5s but also for families with primary school aged children. We were thrilled to welcome large numbers to each event which ranged from Movie afternoons, Family wide games and Messy Play.

Our Golden Years regulars also enjoyed a holiday at home event, which welcomed local over 60s to a Summer themed day which

included a delicious hot meal and some Summer themed fun and games.

The Community Fridge was in full operation throughout – bringing hoards to the building each Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. This popular initiative of The Meeting Place charity continues to bring 70+ local people along daily to choose a selection of food from local supermarkets which would otherwise go to land fill. Our Community Space café runs alongside this to enable the community to come together for coffee and conversation from 10.30am each Tuesday and Friday. All welcome!

The buzz of activity continues into the new term as our regular groups reopen and the children of Rainbow Pre-school start their new year. In addition to our 10.30am service and the six at 6pm, we have introduced a new monthly service which is growing in

popularity. This 3pm Service runs on the first Sunday of each month at (you've guessed it) 3pm. This is a short service of around 45 minutes with tea and cake to follow.

We now look forward to Christmas, when there will be a wide range of special services and activities to celebrate the festivities throughout December. Kicking off the season is our Contemporary Carols at 6pm on Sunday 10th, closely followed by our Children's Centre Christmas party on 13th. Be sure to keep 17th free as we are planning our special Children's Christmas service at 10.30am and our traditional Carol service in the evening. Not forgetting our Holy night service at 11pm on Christmas Eve and our special Christmas Day service at 10am. There is sure to be mince pies and mulled wine in abundance! Visit our web site for full details – [www.bookhambaptist.org](http://www.bookhambaptist.org).

# Eastwick WI



Eastwick WI celebrated its 53rd birthday with a buffet supper and entertainment by former choir members of the Orpheus Centre. We were told about the Centre, which was formed by Richard Stilgoe to provide training and life skills for young people with disabilities. Eastwick still has several founder members.

In August there is no formal meeting., but we went to the Grange for afternoon tea. In September we visited the Fire and Iron Gallery and were fascinated to watch iron being forged and to look round Rowhurst, one of the oldest buildings in Surrey. The cottage dates back to the 15th century but Roman and even bronze age remains have been found there.

At our regular WI meeting in September we heard about the past and present of Clandon Park from Martin Ellis of the National Trust. He told us about the Onslow family who owned the estate for several centuries before the Trust took it over in the 1950s. After the devastating fire five years ago much research has been



done into the building and sadly it is not possible for it to be restored to its former glory. It will be carefully preserved so that visitors can understand how it was built and will have a museum and new walkways and a roof terrace.

Eastwick WI welcomes visitors. See the website [eastwickwi.chessck.co.uk](http://eastwickwi.chessck.co.uk) for details.

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## Little Bookham WI



Our members have enjoyed many interesting talks and activities recently including a fun games afternoon and a wonderful summer tea party with delicious sandwiches, cakes and strawberries and cream.

Talks at our monthly meetings have included,

'The Layers of Jane Austen' a talk by the vivacious Jenny Colquhoun from Bake, Natter and Roll WI in Farnham. Jenny educated us on the many layers of clothing that Jane Austen's contemporaries would have worn. Jenny also brought suitable bonnets for us all to wear to add to the fun atmosphere of the afternoon.

We were very fortunate that one of our own members gave us a talk, 'A tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II' relating her years working for the Royal Family at Buckingham Palace. Her talk was embellished by enabling us to view many precious artefacts.

At our 58th birthday meeting we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Katherine Hook on, 'Sloe Seduction' a gin and chocolate making talk. Katherine also brought along chocolates for us to sample which were much appreciated. We rounded off the afternoon with traditional singing of Happy Birthday and wonderful lemon cupcakes made especially for us by member Gill Tutt's daughter.

Future plans include a visit to, 'Fire and Iron' in



Leatherhead; a Christmas excursion to London to see the sights and festive lights and also our annual Christmas lunch which, this year, is to be held at Clandon Regis Golf Club.

Our friendly WI meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Little Bookham Village Hall starting at 3pm. Visitors are always welcome.

**Fay McGregor**

## Eastwick Road Church



The autumn started with Lesley the Community Worker and the Knitting Group coming together on Tuesday mornings to begin their wall hanging project. They have knitted toys for Peter Pan Playschool, which were used in the Village Day procession, as well as other knitting projects for local groups.

A Ploughman's Lunch followed the Harvest service, at which we ate the bread and the rolls which had been made in the church kitchen

the day before.

The Golden Years Group meets every Wednesday 2 - 3.30pm, 1st and 3rd at Bookham Baptist Church and 2nd and 4th at Eastwick Road for tea and cake with quizzes, craft, music and speakers in the autumn programme. All welcome.

For more information contact the Church Office on: 01372 453473 (9am-12.30pm)

## Leatherhead and District Twinning Association



The past year has seen us bounce back after the challenges of Brexit and Covid. Our social calendar has been full. The year started with our AGM in November 2022 when we welcomed some new members. In early spring we had a most enjoyable Quiz Night with a plentiful supply of refreshments, including lots of French wine! In April we had a walk at Polesden followed by a cream tea.

The highlight of the year was our visit to our twin town of Triel-sur-Seine (just 40km west of Paris)

in June when we were generously entertained by the local twinning association, the mayor and the town. The visit included a lunchtime picnic on the banks of the Seine, a visit to a chateau which was Rommel's HQ in WW2, and Monet's garden. We want to re-establish the custom of visiting alternate years. The photo shows our Mole Valley Council representative Bridget Kendrick displaying a stunning plaque given to us by the Mayor of Triel, Cédric Aoun, with Nicole Jusserand, the president of the Triel Twinning Association, on her right.

Our late summer garden party was great fun with garden games, a bring and share tea and time to relax together in one of our member's beautiful gardens.

At our AGM in November 2023 we will plan for the year ahead and then enjoy cheese and

wine together.

If you are interested in all things French (you don't need to speak the language) we would welcome you joining our association. The subscription is just £10 a year and under 18s are free. 2024 is the 20th anniversary of the formal twinning and in June our French friends will visit, many of whom speak good English. Our members will provide hospitality and we will arrange a programme of visits and a formal reception at The Mansion to recognise this significant milestone in the partnership between our two towns.

To find out more please go to our website - [www.friendsoftriel.com](http://www.friendsoftriel.com) or visit our Friends of Triel Facebook page. We are very happy to chat with you. Ring David and Elaine Crutchley on 01372 452845.

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# Mole Valley Indoor Bowling Club



## The new season begins

Our final (of four) Open Mornings for new recruitment was held on the last Saturday in September, with a good response from visitors wishing to become members of the bowling fraternity. And we were also very pleased to welcome existing bowlers deciding to join the indoor game at Mole Valley Indoor Bowling Club (MVIBC).

We have a very good team of coaches and other helpers to make sure our visitors were at ease with their initial experience, particularly those new to bowling. A good range of suitable bowls were available from the club's store, then onto the green to give our visitors

a good insight into the fun and challenge that is available from indoor bowling at MVIBC.

The new season started at the end of September, with an Opening Drive on Sunday 8th October.

New members who have not bowled before are supported and guided over a 3- month period by our coaches and other experienced players, With the basics accomplished our new bowlers will be ready to take part in the match play of the weekly roll-ups, followed by league games, and participation in the club championships.

With league games under way members could find themselves playing several times a week in the morning, afternoon or evening along with a club team taking part in the wide range of fixtures organised with other bowling clubs in the county, some are run as friendly matches, in others there is team selection for county leagues and national championships.

All making it a busy time again at MVIBC - whatever the weather outside, and follows the advice of keeping fit and happy through those



Winners of the 4s Home Counties Final  
The MVIBC team wearing Surrey colours

dull winter days - let bowling fill those quieter times.

If you would like to learn more about indoor bowling please get in touch via our web site at [www.mvibc.co.uk](http://www.mvibc.co.uk) or email [mail4mvibc@gmail.com](mailto:mail4mvibc@gmail.com). MVIBC can provide a friendly challenge in a warm and sociable atmosphere with a level of manageable exercise for a very reasonable annual cost, and no additional rink fees.

M Mackie

# Peter Pan Playschool



We've had a lovely start to the new academic year, and the new and returning children have all settled in really well. We've secured extra funding from Surrey to be able to work on a higher number of staff each session to provide a bit of extra support for some of the children, and this meant we have been able to get out and about in the village in small groups, rather than going en masse like we usually do.

In the lead up to our harvest festival service in Eastwick Road Church, we took the children in small groups to walk to the village. We visited Tesco and purchased some items to donate to the harvest collection for local charity Leatherhead Start, and we also visited Layton's

greengrocers to purchase some fruit and vegetables to share at snack time. The learning opportunities from these outings is huge, and it was lovely to see the children chatting to each other, sharing the experiences and talking about when they'd been to the shops with their family, and what they liked to buy at the shops.

Earlier in the year we were the successful winners of the Tesco Community Grants, and we updated our mud kitchen area and sensory play opportunities in the garden. They encouraged us to apply for their new scheme, Stronger Starts, focussing on promoting health and wellbeing in children, so we'll be the blue penny collection from October to January. We'll be purchasing some additional balance/exercise play equipment and also using some of the money to repeat the outings to the village to purchase healthy snacks.

For parents looking ahead to register at playschool we are now full until September 2025. Please get in touch as early as possible to



secure your place in our unique and special playschool environment.

To find out more about us please take a look at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/PeterPanPlayschool](https://www.facebook.com/PeterPanPlayschool) and our website [www.peterpanplayschool.co.uk](http://www.peterpanplayschool.co.uk) Or send us an email at [peterpanplayschool@gmail.com](mailto:peterpanplayschool@gmail.com) or call us on 07908 018924 and Louise and the staff team will be happy to answer your questions.

Check out our website on

[www.bookhamcommunityassociation.org](http://www.bookhamcommunityassociation.org)

Keep up to date with what is going on around the village.  
Make sure you keep your organisation's details up to date and let us know if you have an event coming up.

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# The Plastic Free Bookham Project

**PLASTIC FREE BOOKHAM** After a quiet summer we were very pleased to have a stand at the Green Fair held at St Nicolas in mid-September. Many thanks to the Eco teams at St Nicolas Church and Bookham Baptist Church for organising it and inviting us along.

In September we also attended an evening at Leatherhead Theatre organised by Surrey Climate Commission entitled 'What's stopping us stopping climate change?'. The speakers were Lord Deben, former chair of the UK Climate Committee, Natalie Bennett, former leader of the Green Party, and systems thinking expert Ed Straw. It was an interesting evening with the three speakers offering different perspectives on the question posed. Solutions ranged from the need for major changes to our

political system to changes in our individual choices and behaviour, but all were in agreement that we need to act now.

On that note, another positive step has been taken in the reduction of single-use plastic with a ban on certain items including plastic cutlery and polystyrene cups that came into force at the beginning of October.

Another piece of good news is that Bookham and Horsley Rotary and St Mary's Church in Fetcham are working together to start up a local repair cafe. At the time of writing we were looking forward to attending an open meeting to find out more.

We continue to reach out to local organisations to sign up to become Community Allies of our project – take a look at the For Organisations page of our website (address below) for details

of what's involved. We also need more small-medium local businesses to sign up as Business Champions to promote the process of reducing avoidable single-use plastic – see the Plastic Free Communities website [plasticfree.org.uk](http://plasticfree.org.uk) for further details. Please get in touch at [pfcbookham@gmail.com](mailto:pfcbookham@gmail.com) if you can help.

To keep up-to-date with project progress, please like and follow PlasticFreeBookham on Facebook. There's information about reducing single-use plastic on our website [www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk](http://www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk). We share items of environmental interest on the TransitionBookham Facebook page and we're @ttbookham on the application formerly known as Twitter. There's also a wider range of environmental information at [transitionbookham.org.uk](http://transitionbookham.org.uk) – email us at [transitionbookham@gmail.com](mailto:transitionbookham@gmail.com) if you'd like to join our mailing list.

# Bookham Flower Club



Bookham Flower Club enjoyed their August cream tea in a member's garden on the only hot and sunny afternoon amongst days of rain. At the September meeting, demonstrator Angela Woodley presented 'Traveller's Tales', producing some lovely designs with flowers of stunning colours in a variety of interesting containers.

The members' competition entitled 'Oriental Elegance' attracted more than usual (9) entries even though several members were involved with the Wisley Flower Show that day. The club's Judge's Choice award was won by Leslie Palmer. At the Wisley Show, two members created a design for the inter club class and three others entered individual classes, with Sue Slark winning a second place award. Two members of Bookham Flower Club worked very hard on the committee to organise this show which is enjoyed by many visitors, this year in unusually high temperatures.

The October meeting was a wonderful celebration of the club's 60th anniversary. A celebratory lunch and cutting of the Diamond anniversary cake by Chairman Pat Crawford, accompanied by Surrey Area Chairman Margaret Trepant and National Demonstrator Stephen McDonnell-Daly. Stephen preceded the afternoon meeting when he gave an

entertaining demonstration of stunning floral artistry, whilst filling the room with laughter with his accompanying stories. Lucky winners of the raffle took home some beautiful flowers. The 'Judge's Choice' was awarded to Pat Crawford in the club competition entitled 'Captured'. The consumption of the cake and Prosecco was the perfect ending to a great celebration.



# Mole Valley WI



What an amazing summer it has been. We held our annual picnic lunch meeting in August and then played Shuffleboard, great fun! We heard from Marion Dante and her interesting talk on "Dropping the Habit" in which she described her life as a former nun.

Flower arranging was demonstrated at our September meeting or rather just not "plonking flowers in a vase". Our gardening

groups have been busy especially the allotment ladies who have been picking all sorts of fruit, flowers and vegetables.

We had a great day out in Rye and Romney Marsh, a quiz night was planned for October and we are looking forward to a Christmas outing to London in December. More information about what is on offer at Mole Valley is on our web site [molevalleywi@chess.co.uk](mailto:molevalleywi@chess.co.uk)

# RSPB Dorking & District

## Coot & Moorhen

Anywhere there is quiet water, there are Rails, dark birds with a distinctive shape and gait. Their bodies are slim to slide through reeds or grasses; the legs, feet and toes relatively long to aid progress running over land, floating vegetation and mud. Only two species are easy to see, swimming on open water and feeding on grassy banks – the Coot and the Moorhen. Nests can be obvious as both species build bulky structures, platforms of vegetation close to or in shallow water. Both



birds are easily found on Bookham Commons.

The Moorhen is black with white flashes along its sides and shows a white tail as it runs away – as it frequently does! Adults have a red frontal shield with a yellow tip, while young birds have black bills. An omnivore, the moorhen eats leaves, worms and insects. It rarely dives, feeding on surface insects and leaves when swimming, or walking on mud or grass and even climbing into shrubs in search of food.

The Coot is black with a prominent white head shield, origin of the phrase "bald as a coot". Mainly vegetarian, it feeds on land, on floating vegetation and in water. It may surface feed, scrape algae off with its head just submerged or dive to reach water plants on the bottom. Its long legs enable it to sprint when required and its toes have distinctive lobes to assist swimming and diving. It brings any weed collected on dives to the surface before eating, so is sometimes robbed by aggressive ducks.



Coots can be extremely aggressive to each other as well, having spectacular fights over territory. They feed their fluffy red-billed chicks for a month, longer than most water birds.

RSPB Dorking and District local group covers the local area, has regular walks and meetings in person and online to provide the chance to learn more about nature in a friendly way. Check out our activities on Facebook @Dorking RSPB or our website [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict).

# The Grange

## A September to Remember



performances, art workshops & installations, and plenty of activities for the family; the celebration was not only a vibrant homage to the charity's remarkable history but also a testament to the community's unwavering support. It was truly a memorable day and we would like to thank all who supported us, raising an impressive £4,300 to further our cause.

Guided heritage tours were a central part of the celebration, allowing visitors to delve deep into the history and significance of The Grange. Participants had the opportunity to explore the site, learn about its evolution over the years, and gain a deeper understanding of the charity's enduring mission. If you missed out you can always book to visit us on a Tuesday afternoon for Simply Scones and request a tour afterwards of our Heritage Room.

This September we have had much to celebrate. Most recently we achieved great success in the South & South East In Bloom Awards, where we picked up Gold for the Walled Garden section and a Level 5 (highest level) for RHS Britain in Bloom "It's Your Neighbourhood" category. Brimming with excitement a contingent from The Grange was able to receive the two prestigious awards from RHS Wisley and bring them home.

Again this September, we hosted a spectacular Heritage Day event to mark 85 years in Bookham. Filled with music from a Vintage Dutch Street Organ, dance & drumming



# The Arts Society Bookham



August is a transition month for the Society, lectures are suspended, and we meet for a coffee morning away from the usual rush of coffee before a lecture. and, along with person news, we can discuss lectures attended and those in the coming months. The proceeds of a raffle were donated to Downside Nursery for a nature project.

The September meeting was the history of royal coronations from Saxon times recounted by Barbara Askew: the ill-fated coronation of Harold that led to the Norman invasion of 1066 as shown on the Bayeux Tapestry. Interestingly, the early coronations from Edward the Elder in 899 to that of Aethelred the Unready in 987 were held locally at Kingston.

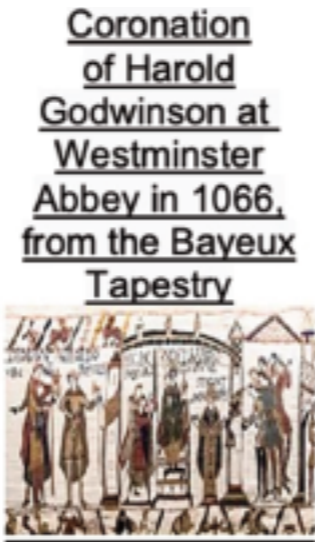
In October there was a lecture by Stuart Harvey of the great Renaissance painter and architect Raphael. Sarah Deere Jones in November will bring 'Sounding String- The History of the Celtic Harp'. Performing lively

jigs as well as songs, Sarah traces the extraordinary story of the harp in the Celtic areas of Britain. After the annual Christmas Lunch in December Elizabeth Merry's talk will be the art of Beatrix Potter 'Town Mouse, Country Mouse'.

We returned to the Mediterranean in October with a tour 'The History of Western Sicily and Palermo' visiting the many ancient monuments in the area but finishing on a lighter note with a wine tasting at the Florio Wine cellar.

Whilst continuing their work at Guildford Cathedral, Angela Stevens, ably assisted by Beryl Havers and Gill Funnell, the Heritage Volunteering group have also turned their skilled attention to more literary matters. Although suspended for a while because of filming, the cleaning and documenting of the vast number of books in the library at West Horsley Place recommenced once this had finished.

New members are warmly welcomed to the Society at lectures at 7.30 on the fourth



Tuesday in the month at The Old Barn Hall. <http://theartsocietybookham.org.uk/> . Meanwhile, anyone interested in joining the Society should contact Linda Tickner via the website and she will be pleased to send information by email or in the post.

John Cook

# Bookham Stamp Club



Bookham Stamp Club, founded in 1993, meets every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham and our very popular Trading Tables start opening at 1.30pm, with displays commencing at 2.15pm.

Our programme includes visits from an impressive list of visiting speakers, members' displays and also auctions held twice a year. 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, but at the moment there is a temporary suspension of this "service" until a replacement is found, as our former Trading Secretary has retired. Nevertheless, please contact the Secretary Barry Feltham for the latest by email and he will return your enquiry: [secretary@bookhamstampclub.com](mailto:secretary@bookhamstampclub.com)

## 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 that attend each meeting, but to find out more details before attending contact our Membership Secretary Fred Mitchell on 01372 374614, or look at our website [www.bookhamstampclub.com](http://www.bookhamstampclub.com)

## Our recent meetings

Our September meeting gave members a chance to win the Roy Gilbert Cup for the most interesting thematic display. There were 14 entries in total ranging from early GB covers, egg labels, the Apollo space programme, Lundy Island, correspondence from the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) etc. The winning entry (photo) on early British covers was given by Richard Park.

In August we had a visit from John Bushell (photo) displaying Aviation covers including Zeppelins. July brought us Chris Forwood with



a very amusing display of "Stamps and Symbols" with many mistakes made by the designers. In the second half we enjoyed the KGV issues.

## Our upcoming meetings

Tuesday 28 November – Bill Barrell – The Development of the Royal Mail, Postal Reform and the 1d value 1840-1880.

Wednesday 20 December – Christmas Lunch/Raffle and a display on The Story of Christmas.

Tuesday 23 January – Richard Hewitt – Birds of the South Atlantic.

We welcome experienced stamp collectors and newcomers.

Barry Feltham  
Hon. Secretary  
[www.bookhamstampclub.com](http://www.bookhamstampclub.com)

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