

Bookhams Bulletin



LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Please visit bookhamcommunityassociation.org for the very latest information

Spring 2023

Bookham Open Gardens Day – Sunday 25th June 2023

It may be cold outside but the snowdrops should be out along with other early flowers, and it's time to look forward to a spring and summer full of flowers. Open Gardens will be on the Sunday of the weekend after Village Day again and we aim to have 10-15 gardens open, some old favourites and usually some new ones too. Last year we raised £7,000 towards the upkeep of our Old Barn Hall. We do hope you can come along!

As ever, 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. The joy is in the variety, from quirky to formal, productive to picturesque. Don't worry if you think your garden is smaller than some of our usual gardens – sometimes it's good to see what can be achieved in a small place. 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 or Diane Poole on 01372 453771, email 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.

You can also check out and 'Like' our Facebook Community Page – search for 'Bookham Open Gardens' to find it – and see pictures from last year's event.

Let's hope that 25th June 2023 will be a beautiful sunny day – see you there!

Diane Poole





RHS

Garden Wisley

rhs.org.uk/wisley

Discover what's new in the garden

With a calendar full of events, there are so many reasons to pop into RHS Garden Wisley this spring. From 270,000 tulips bursting into life at our Celebration of Tulips, to our Giant Easter Egg Hunt, there's plenty to discover for all the family.

RHS Orchid Show

17 - 19 March

Walkies

21 April, 13 & 25 May

A Celebration of Tulips

April

Spring Craft and Design Fair

27 April - 1 May

The Giant Easter Egg Hunt

1 - 17 April

May Half Term

- Sow Awesome

27 May - 4 June

Daffodil Show

4 - 5 April

Jazz Saturdays

10 June - 29 July

Your visit supports our work as a charity.

Discover courses, workshops and all our events at
[**rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/whats-on**](https://rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/whats-on)

*All events are subject to change, with some requiring advance pre-booking. Please visit our website for full information.





BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Bringing people together

Bookhams Bulletin

90th Year

Issue 344

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 Musings - February 2023

We are well into 2023, with a Coronation to look forward to in May followed by Village Day in June. Having celebrated Royalty with our theme last year of 'Jubilee' we are going 'On Safari' this year! We can still celebrate the 'King' but 'of the Jungle' amid, hopefully, lots of other animals and other wild life as well.

We are planning for the Parade from the High Street and lots of fun with music and dancing in the arena so please get the date in your diaries. If you would like to be involved in the planning or can help on the day please let me know. We will need lots of helpers!

The halls at the Old Barn Hall are busy with regular meetings back and lots to do there every week. If you want a new pastime or to find new friends do read through the Bulletin and see the Bulletin Board for contact details of well over 100 different organisations in the village.

Keith Slark keithslark@tiscali.co.uk



What's Happening

March

- 10 Big Quiz Night Page 15
- 17 Bee's Murder Mystery Evening Page 11

April

- 16 Rotary Cycle Surrey Hills Page 15

June

- 17 Bookham Village Day 'On Safari' Page 3
- 25 Bookham Open Gardens Page 1

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 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

BOOKHAM VILLAGE DAY 'ON SAFARI'

Saturday 17th June 2023

Old Barn Hall & Field 12 to 4pm

Parade Bands Displays Stalls Games
Real Ale Bar Barbecue
Lunches & Refreshments

www.bookhamcommunityassociation.org for info.



WHITE ELEPHANT STALL

Margaret and Richard Pankhurst have run the stall at Village Day for many years but can no longer do so. This has raised around £1000 each year.

Could YOU take it on for us please?

If you want to talk it over with no obligation please ring me on 01372 457375.

Next Edition of the Bookhams Bulletin

Deadline for Summer issue:

1 April 2023

Email articles or queries to the Editor

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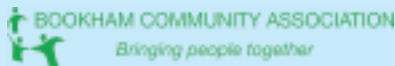
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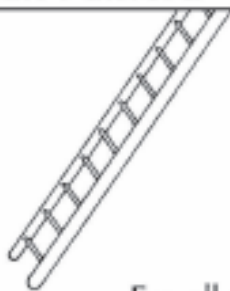
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SMOKY NEWS

Model Railway Club

Proposed for January 2023

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AlecMGarnham@gmail.com



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South Bookham SPACE



We count ourselves incredibly lucky at South Bookham for what we can offer to a wide range of clubs and activities. All are designed to help improve the mental and physical wellbeing of our wonderful community. Whether to improve your fitness, meditate and calm your mind, or want to meet like-minded people, there is something for everyone.

We also have a range of clubs for babies and children, where bonds between families are strengthened, and parents and carers can meet and socialise. For details of our activities, please see our website or visit our Facebook page.

We are proud to have helped many families celebrate birthdays and special occasions. South Bookham SPACE has three areas you can hire for this purpose. Our main hall is suitable

for larger parties. 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 so you can dance to your heart's content.

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

Social SPACE is a smaller venue with kitchen facilities, and tables and chairs for 10 people. With a stair lift and hearing loop, it is accessible for all. It also has a clear view of Outer SPACE from its balcony area.

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

We welcome new regular hirers who can add to our range of clubs and activities. See our

website hiring page for further details and our prices. Have a look at the calendar pages for availability, then contact us to secure your place.

To find out more about the activities hosted at SPACE please see our website www.southbookhamspace.org.uk. To hire a venue for your next party, event or meeting email hire.southbookhamspace@gmail.com. We look forward to you joining us.

Natasha Matthews



The Meeting Place



In the lead up to Christmas our Coffee Shop celebrated with customers by giving them Christmas cards and Christmas cake made for us by The Grange (who have been making our cakes for over 11 years, a great partnership). Weekends can be very lonely for some who are on their own, many who join us on a Saturday morning appreciate the company and opportunity for a chat.

The Community Fridge volunteers stepped up at Christmas to open on different days when we anticipated there would be a lot of food available from supermarkets. It was amazing on New Year's Eve, over 100 came along and there was so much food to take away and share. This not only helps those who are in need but also others who want to be part of the effort to save usable food from going to landfill.

The Anna Chaplaincy held a short Carol

Service especially for older people in early December. It was a wonderful occasion with over 30 attendees. Memory Gatherers (when a small group meets both to share memories and to swap ideas of how to preserve them in words, pictures or sound) are running again this spring. See our website for details about these interesting sessions.

During the autumn term the Language Hub was busy teaching three classes on Tuesdays. They currently have students from all over the world, including Ukraine, Poland, Albania and Afghanistan. Teachers focus on the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking with the aim of building the confidence of students in using English for everyday life. They provide a nurturing learning environment, and students pay only a minimal fee for the classes, some are free of charge. The new term started in January but new students and volunteers would be very welcome.

Our Lipreading Classes also restarted in January via Zoom. New students are always welcome to these classes which provide skills for lipreading and useful help in coping with deafness at all levels.

For more information about The Meeting Place go to our website <http://themeetingplace.org.uk>, email us at info@themeetingplace.org.uk or ring the TMP mobile 07425 133431 to leave a message.





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BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Bookham Help Your Neighbour Scheme

The Bookham Help your Neighbour Scheme was formed more than 40 years ago, to help local residents, who live within the Bookham parish boundary, to access medical appointments. Most of our clients are elderly and are no longer able to drive and do not

have friends or relatives nearby to help them.

We have nearly 50 volunteers, who either man our mobile phone or drive our clients to their appointments. They give as much or as little time as they choose and are not tied to any

regular commitment. We urgently need more drivers to make the scheme a success.

If you feel you would like to spare a little time to help please ring Heather on 01372 454403 to find out more.

Friends of Bookham Commons

Bookham Commons Centenary Year

Surrey, and notably Bookham, residents have long been at the forefront of supporting the local countryside. This year marks one hundred years since the Bookham Commons were gifted to the community. In 1922 Little Bookham Common was acquired, along with Eastwick Park by a property developer, when they were sold-off. Concerned local residents raised the funds (no mean feat just after the First World War) to rescue and protect this wonderful ancient landscape on their doorstep. Little Bookham Common and Banks Common were both generously given to the National Trust to manage in 1923, which is why they are now known as Bookham Commons.

This followed other visionary local supporters who had already safeguarded Hindhead Commons and Box Hill even earlier.

It is most fitting that this year the work of the longest standing ranger on the commons has been recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours list. Ian Swinney has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to conservation and heritage in Surrey. Next January will be his 45th anniversary as ranger on the commons, and this December will mark his 50 years of service for the National Trust. Ian was due to retire in 2022, but is continuing to work on a part time basis whilst managing his hand-over to Sam Valente, the new ranger, who is moving across from working at Polesden Lacy.

Ian and Sam are continuing the work on the commons, in line with the Countryside Stewardship and Woodland Management Plan tasks, agreed with Natural England and the Forestry Commission. There have been many tributes paid to Ian for his award, and he always includes a shout out for his regular volunteers, who do so much, turning out every week in all weathers.

The Friends of Bookham Commons continue to raise money for future projects on the commons, which otherwise would not get funded. This year we are planning to enhance the wetland scrapes at Banks Common and provide a bird hide overlooking them... watch this space!

Polesden Lacey Infant School



This is a wonderful time of year at Polesden Lacey Infant School, the short days of winter are behind us and more and more things are springing into life.

As an Eco School, we are passionate about the environment, we want to make sure we are providing habitats that support local wildlife and to develop the children's understanding of how they can look after the natural world.

We have been very fortunate to receive more sapling trees that the children have planted to provide additional habitats for the insects, birds and animals living in our local area. We have also planted bulbs and seeds for insect friendly plants, to create more areas for wildlife and teach the children about how plants grow

and the role they play in increasing biodiversity.

We know that it will be a while before we see the fruits of our labour, but we will have the excitement of watching them grow and knowing that, in time, they will provide homes and food for our wildlife as well as making our lovely school even more beautiful and welcoming.

One of the ways that we get to appreciate our school grounds is during our weekly Forest School sessions. Each week, every class has one afternoon in the wood and orchard. They are expertly led by our fully trained Forest School practitioner who plans a wonderful variety of opportunities for the children.

Some of their activities are linked to learning that the children are experiencing in the classroom. Some are inspired by seasonal or cultural events and many are based purely on exploring the amazing environment we are lucky enough to have within the school grounds. No matter the weather, we put on our waterproofs, pull on our wellies and head into the woods for some fun!

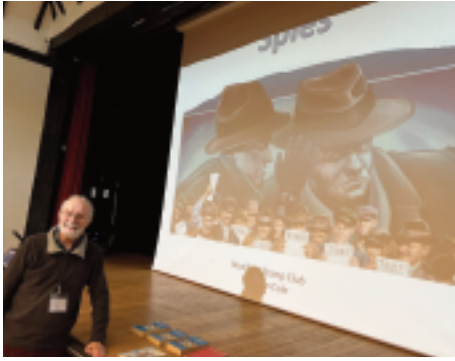
At the end of October, we received the good



news that our application to be a Fairachiever Fairtrade School had been approved. We celebrated with some yummy Fairtrade chocolate!

If you want to see more of what we do, please check out our new website: <https://polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk/>

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 that are 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, please contact the Secretary Barry Feltham for the latest by email and he will return your enquiry. 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. To find out more details before attending contact our Membership Secretary Fred Mitchell on 01372 374614, or look at our website www.bookhamstampclub.com

Our recent meetings

November brought us the second instalment of the Roy Gilbert Cup, members brought along their most interesting item. The winner was Barry Brown with his grandfather's and fathers WWI memorabilia.

We also had a presentation by member

Malcolm Cole on "Spies", covering the role of Spymasters, Spies and those who job was to catch spies. The display showed how dangerous it was to be a spy, with many meeting a deadly end.

In December members enjoyed our usual Christmas buffet lunch and raffle.

The winner overall of the Roy Gilbert Cup was Simon McArthur and was presented by Roy's wife Frances. Members also enjoyed a presentation from Malcolm Cole on 'Tanks' and 'WWI The Long Journey Home.'

Our upcoming meetings

Tuesday 28 February – Frank Hoadly - Switzerland

Tuesday 28 March – Matthew Sefi – GB Downey Heads & Transatlantic Post Office

Tuesday 25 April – Visit from Redhill Philatelic Society

Tuesday 23 May – AGM & Mini Auction

Barry Feltham

www.bookhamstampclub.com

Great Bookham Belles WI



Another fun filled and enlightening autumn term has flown by for Great Bookham Belles WI. In October we celebrated our 8th birthday, and it was at the age of 8 that our guest speaker, novelist Adele Parks, decided that she wanted to be an author. Years, and professions later, that dream came true when, after a series of losses in one year, she went to a therapist who inspired her to do what she loved best – "scribbling"! Twenty two books later, ranging from romantic comedy to family drama and historical novels, all of her books have made The Times top 10 sellers list! Our evening concluded eating delicious birthday cup cakes provided by The Grange.

November was our annual meeting, thanks to our ever enthusiastic President Amanda Edge for agreeing to remain our President for the 8th consecutive year, and to new and old committee members for making the Belles such an inspiring WI. Our charity for the

coming year is Leatherhead Start and we welcomed Myfanwy to our meeting to tell us about the work this much needed and worthwhile charity is doing.

December was our festive Christmas meeting, we drank mulled wine and watched a photo montage of all the things our members had been up to during the year. The highlight of the evening was each member making a "gonk" to take home to adorn mantelpieces etc during the Christmas period. Even those who are not gifted crafters were able to produce these cute little gonks (see photo) thanks to expert tuition from Elf Jacky and her assistant Carly.

December also saw a coachload of Belles going to Bath Christmas Market (see photo), everyone enjoyed a lovely day and staying into the evening meant seeing the festive lights added to the atmosphere.

We look forward to many more exciting evenings and events in 2023, our members make this WI a friendly and invigorating group to belong to.

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 for information.



Bookham Country Market



Loyalty Rewarded!

During 2022 the Market went from strength to strength and became, for many, the place to be on Friday morning. We open from 10am to 12.00noon in the Old Barn Hall, every week. The Market was open on 49 Fridays in 2022 and we served 415 new customers who had not attended previously. They came to buy the high quality products that are available. We have a core group of customers who regularly visit the Market and we are very grateful to them.

From these the star performer was again Dennis Hicks, who came to 48 of the 49

Markets in 2022. In recognition we gave him a small reward for this loyalty. There were two others who attended more than 40 times during the year, Linda Turner and Joan Street who similarly received a small thank you.

After a successful extra Market on Saturday 26th November, focusing on Craft and Christmas food, we will be running another Saturday market with an Easter theme on 1st April. Look out for announcements and check on our website for further information.

A wide range of high quality hand-made craft products will be for sale, lovingly created by our highly skilled home craft makers plus our other normally available product range will be there also – Home cooked cakes and ready meals, award winning specialty cheeses straight from the Dairy, award winning artisan

bread, homemade preserves and local Fetcham honey.

You can make sure you get what you want by ordering via our new on-line ordering system. Just go to <https://bookham-country-market.sumup.link/> and place your order by 12 noon Wednesday and collect two days later at the Friday Market.

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

Contact us at bookhammarket@gmail.com

Mole Valley WI

Mole Valley has had a very busy time over the last three months. We had a very interesting and informative talk about the Livery Companies and Almshouses and learned that women have only been accommodated since 1983.

A small committee organised an extremely successful Autumn Bazaar with lots of stalls including gin and honey products. In November we had our Annual Meeting and we were very pleased when Sue Scott stepped up to be president. Our various sub-groups gave

their annual reports and all of them have been very active. Some members have shown an interest in a new activity – walking football.

We broke with tradition in December and members were invited to an evening meal of cottage pie with delicious desserts all served with wine. The current committee acted as waitresses and the tables in the hall were suitably decorated for Christmas. We were then entertained by the Courgettes and the Zucchini sisters with a mix of music from the 60s, 70s and Christmas songs.

Information about our WI is on our website molevalleywi.chessck.co.uk and we always welcome visitors.



Bookham Bees WI



Well, what a year 2022 proved to be for Bookham Bees WI. It is amazing to think we celebrated our fourth anniversary in April and have had the privilege of being entertained by many fascinating speakers, along with embracing many of our own activities.

We kicked 2022 off at our first meeting with us attempting to Zumba. In February we were



inspired by an Ambassador from Dyscover, our Charity of the Year, speaking about her experience with Aphasia. Gosh, we had so many brilliant speakers including 'The Lumberjills' - Britain's Forgotten Army in WW2; an Air traffic Controller; a talk on hats and hat making; Home and Fire Safety (a talk everyone of us should listen to); The Thames – Theatre of Pageantry and Pleasure; The Fashionable Face of the 20th Century, along with other fun evenings.

The Bees don't just meet up on the first Wednesday of every month but the opportunity is there to join many groups of different varieties. There are several Walking Groups, Coffee Mornings, Theatre Group, Pub Group, Family History, Gardening, Jigsaw Swop, Book Clubs, Bridge Group, Knit and Crochet and more to follow, including a Sewing Group and Supper Group.

At the time of writing this article we are a week

away from our first meeting in 2023 when we will be hosting a group of Belly Dancers, The Jewels Dance Troupe. Members will be encouraged to participate but it will not be compulsory!

During 2023 the Bees look forward to another fascinating year learning from a variety of speakers and experiences.

We are arranging a fundraising event on Friday, 17th March at The Old Barn Hall, a Murder Mystery, which will include a delicious supper and lots of fun endeavouring to identify 'Who done it'. Do get in touch if you would like to join us, the more the merrier.

Bookham Bees WI warmly welcomes new members. We meet the first Wednesday of every month in The Old Barn Hall, Bookham at 7.30 for 7.45pm.

Further information from: dianagreenman@gmail.com

Bookham Flower Club



Floral art includes the use of all plant material, and this was demonstrated by Michelle King with her title Tutti Frutti. The arrangements she created all included pieces of specific fruits which she linked to particular places and cities.

Also in October, was the NAFAS Surrey Area Show held at the De Vere Horsley Towers hotel.

Four of our members won awards for their entries with Sue Slark winning the award for the Best Use of Texture. The show was well supported and well worth seeing.

November brought Calendar Moments from Barbara Caldecourt. Her arrangements were inspired by events during her year such as a family member's Ruby anniversary, a birthday and christening, and also the Chelsea Flower Show and a Horticultural Show local to her home.

In late November a coach trip was organised to visit Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury. Although a very wet and chilly day, the Christmas lights, market and the decorated rooms in the house were beautiful, original and inspiring, giving us a good start to the

Christmas season. A National demonstrator, Nick Grounds, treated us to an afternoon of laughter with his repartee, interspersed with information on the flowers and foliage he was using, while producing beautiful arrangements with a Christmas feel, in early December.

Sue Slark was awarded the NAFAS Associate of Honour at the Surrey Area November meeting. This award recognised the work she has done for the organisation for the Club, Surrey Area and nationally, and was celebrated by the club with the presentation of an orchid at our December meeting. Our AGM is coming up in March and we are looking forward to our Show in the Old Barn Hall on July 1st.



Bookham Butterflies WI



In December, we celebrated both our 8th birthday and Christmas, with a party, our first in-person festive gathering since before the pandemic! Members wore seasonal jumpers, as they tucked into a glass of fizz, as well as nibbles and butterfly-themed cakes, while making cute Christmas tree decorations from pom-poms.

Earlier in the month, Butterflies and their guests enjoyed a very festive outing to the stunning Waddesdon Manor in Aylesbury, the home of the Rothschilds. The house and grounds were beautifully dressed for

Christmas, with lots of Christmas trees inside and outside the building, as well as an outdoor light trail. We also once again held our wreath-making workshop - a fun social event - at the Old Barn Hall.

In the autumn, Bookham Butterflies' Exploring Gardens group ended a great year of visits with a wonderful walk at Winkworth Arboretum. After some rain, the sun did make an appearance, which brought a fantastic glow to the stunning seasonal colours of the trees. At the end of the walk, members enjoyed our customary tea and cake under an awning. We are already looking forward to next year's programme of garden visits, which will get underway in the spring.

We were delighted to welcome Callum Russell from Fetcham based charity Sight for Surrey as a recent monthly speaker. As a blind person, Callum is a service user of Sight for Surrey, a previous employee and now a volunteer speaker. Callum entertained us with many amusing anecdotes - it was wonderful to get

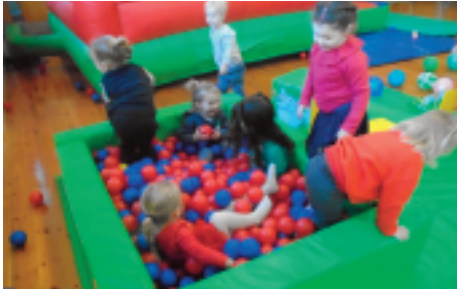


an insight into the work of this fantastic local organisation, at the end of a year in which they celebrated their centenary.

In 2023, we are looking forward to speakers talking about such diverse subjects as "The History of the Post Office", and "Finding and Keeping Your Pelvic Floor"! We are also planning a trip early in the New Year to Bletchley Park, the famous home of code-breaking during the Second World War.

For more information about our WI, visit our website www.bookhambutterflieswi.com

Bookham Baptist Church



It has been a busy time at Bookham Baptist Church – as expected over the festive season. We have welcomed many through our doors at a variety of events.

The Golden Years – a weekly gathering for the over 60's - kicked off festivities with a concert featuring a local Ukulele band from U3E. The group enjoyed refreshments and raised over £200 for Motor Neuron Disease.

Our youth team welcomed more than 40 young people to 'Secret Santa' in early

December; an entire day spent doing a host of festive activities – including shopping in Guildford, Nerf gun battle, Christmas dinner, and a silent disco. Huge fun had by all!

The Children's Centre enjoyed their Christmas party in Mid-December. A festive extravaganza for the under 5's who attend the Crawlers & Cruisers group each Wednesday at 10.30am. Families enjoyed a nativity themed party. The centre are preparing for their parenting course, Talking 2s to 5s, which starts on 26th January; a 5 part course designed to help support parents of young children.

More little voices could be heard around the church throughout December as the Rainbow Pre-School children practised their songs for a special performance for parents/carers. The children also enjoyed a bouncy castle, ball pit and craft activities.

The singing continued as the month went on

with two special and well attended Christmas Carol Services held one week before the big day and a special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service to finish.

We have plenty more to look forward to in the new year and beyond. Talking Teens parenting course is back by popular demand in March and the youth are preparing for their summer trip in August, to mention a few. Please visit our what's on page to see what we are up to www.bookhambaptist.org/whatson



Bookham Rifle Club – fun shoot

Wappenshaw shoot is held on one of the first shooting Sundays of the year and without the pressure of competition, yet is strangely helpful in training.

Every year a new devious set of targets are created for the fun of shooting a target partially obliterated, trying to almost miss a diagram or just shooting through a polo-mint hole.

Everyone brings in a prize to enter and then everyone wins one! You do get a lot of variety of Christmas presents that someone didn't expect, or a selection of chocolates!

The club's philosophy is that shooting is open to all abilities - you can shoot in competitions that match your averages so it always feels like you can improve at any level - and its definitely there for you to enjoy the experience, both on the range and in the clubhouse.



Bookham Camera Club

Our season is in full swing with the usual programme of competitions, presentations and workshops as well as a number of social activities for members. Guest speakers have included Jane Lazenby, a professional photographer who explained how art has shaped her photography, and Thomas Peck, a photojournalist who talked about how the works of early photographers are still influencing us today. In addition we had excellent talks from our own members, notably Max Dobres with an entertaining talk on the tools, techniques and dedication needed to achieve amazing shots of galaxies thousands of light years away, and Eddie Hyde on 'Making Sense Of The Landscape'.

On the social front, the club met monthly for coffee mornings and the Halloween Social evening was well supported with fun competitions followed by snacks and drinks. The Nature and Landscape Special Interest

Groups met regularly and the nature Group organised a trip to a Birds of Prey Centre in Kent and the Landscape Group took trips to beauty spots in the area.

Looking ahead for 2023 we have another set of excellent guest speakers lined up, various internal and external competitions and we will be preparing for our annual exhibition at Leatherhead Theatre at the end of March.

Bookham Camera Club is aimed at all levels of photography and meets every Thursday evening from Sept-June from 7:45 pm through 10:00 pm. Interested to know more? Then feel free to contact our Membership Secretary, Gary Margetts at gazza294@hotmail.com or email the Club at bookhamcamclub@gmail.com.

The images are titled 'Eurasian Eagle Owl' by Eddie Hyde' and 'Distant Galaxies' by Max Dobres'.



Bookham Seniors Computer Club



The club started its spring term with an Open Day at Little Bookham Village Hall on Friday 13 January 2023 where members were invited to suggest topics from which the term's programme has been finalised. This is now available on the club's website at bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk along

with minutes of the AGM.

Meetings are held on Friday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 at Little Bookham Village Hall (except the first Friday in the month which will be held via Zoom). Annual membership costs £25 with no additional charges for attending any of sessions which includes tea, coffee and biscuits provided during a mid-morning break at sessions held in the hall.

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.

The club welcomes new members. If you are interested in finding out more about the BSCC then phone Sue on 01372 454461 or Brian on 01372 450604 or visit our website bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk.

Bookham Choral Society

We would like to wish all our members and everyone who comes to our concerts each year, A Very Happy New Year. May 2023 be a happy and healthy year for you all.

This year we really are back to normal with the Leith Hill Music Festival in the Spring and then the Summer, Autumn, and Christmas Concerts to look forward to later in the year.

We had a busy Autumn and Christmas preparing and rehearsing for two lovely concerts. In November we presented a concert of works which were very much in keeping with Remembrance Day. The main piece was 'Seven Last Words from the Cross' by Paul Carr and we were delighted that the composer travelled from Bath to hear his very moving work performed in Leatherhead Parish Church. We also sang classical pieces by Brahms, Mozart, Rheinberger and Mendelssohn as well as a beautiful piece, 'I Believe in the Sun'. This little phrase was scratched onto a wall in Auschwitz by a Jewish prisoner and is the ultimate expression of

hope and optimism.

By December, the refurbishment programme in St Nicolas Church, Bookham was complete, and we were able to return to our 'home' for our Christmas concert. We sang a programme of traditional Christmas carols and enjoyed a musical interlude by our talented accompanist Anthony Merryweather featuring well-known Christmas airs. Our Director of Music, Richard Robbins, read 'The Night before Christmas' with some dramatic flourishes. Our large and enthusiastic audience enjoyed wine and mince pies during the interval. We took a collection at the end for East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services and were grateful for the generosity of our audience.

Some of our members are now rehearsing for the Leith Hill Oratorio. This year Verdi's Requiem which will be performed in Dorking Halls on 12th March. Then we will be competing in Leith Hill Music Festival on Friday 14th April and performing in the evening concert. We have a lovely programme of



music including: Zadok the Priest by Handel, The Lark Ascending by Vaughan Williams, and the Nelson Mass by Haydn. Do come and support us!

Cheryl Mendham

Rotary, Bookham & Horsley



Santa and his sleigh Christmas Collections 2022

During December the members of Bookham & Horsley Rotary accompanied Santa and his sleigh as it made its rounds of Bookham,

Effingham and Horsley. Playing carols and Christmas music plus a knock on the door by Santa's helpers encouraged young children to come out, meet Santa and tell him what they were hoping he might bring them on Christmas Eve.

The delight on the faces of the children made our visits worthwhile on their own but the very kind donations of their parents and other residents meant that we raised over £4,000. This has been spent providing food vouchers to people living in our area who otherwise would have found Christmas difficult to manage. The feedback from the recipients of the vouchers

has been both heart-warming and very moving, we couldn't have done this without you.

A big thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy, and money to support us, it has already made a big difference to the lives of local people. Many thanks to Connevans who sponsored the refurbishment of Santa's Sleigh this year.

The next Rotary events coming up are a Bridge Evening at the Old Barn Hall on 17th February and Cycle Surrey Hills on 16th April – see poster opposite.

To find out more please contact us on info@bhrotary.org.uk.

Bookham Bowling Club

YEHA and Happy Birthday to the Bookham Bowling Club!

It's our club's 90th birthday this year, having been founded in 1933, and still bowling in the same location within the Chrystie Recreation ground.

An achievement that we are basing several events on during this coming year. Starting with a Quiz Night at the Old Barn Hall – see attached poster - so all can join in with our celebrations. Great fun and food served as well.

Special one-off competitions that will be advertised so spectators can come along and view. Surrey Bowls are also arriving to give us a match in our honour.

Following on from last year's Commonwealth Games the game of bowls was certainly raised as a sporting attraction. We had many enquiries.

So our famous COME & TRY WEEKEND is again being held on the 29/30 April. A free event where some coaching is given as you try out the game. There will be a chance to join at this time if interested.

The photos show last year's President Day bowlers and championship trophies being awarded by the club President Janice Begent



to the new Ladies Champion – Jane Fiducia and new Men's Champion - Paul Davis.

The Captain's charity day in 2022 benefited the Shooting Star charity by £1,600 and this year's chosen charity is the Leatherhead & District Scout Groups which includes Bookham & Fetcham.

The club will also be in attendance at Bookham Village Day on 18 June.

The club and grounds have again been spruced up for our special 90th year so please have a look at our website. A Happy New Year from us all.

Back for 2023!

"CYCLE SURREY HILLS"
Sunday, 16th April 2023

Charity cycle ride in aid of local Rotary charities

Rotary Bookham & Horsley

Crossroads Care Surrey

esdas

Ride the Surrey Hills with Family and Friends!

Enjoy a Sunday on-road charity cycle ride in the glorious Surrey Hills whilst supporting two very worthwhile local Rotary charities: Crossroads Care Surrey and East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services.

Starting and returning at St Teresa's School, Effingham (near Ranmore Common), there is a choice of three routes to suit families (over 12s) and more experienced riders looking for a challenge.

To find out more and to register, scan the QR code or go to:
www.cyclesurreyhills.co.uk

Bookham Bowling Club celebrating our 90th Anniversary

Come and join us at the

★ **THE BIG** ★

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 10th MARCH 2023

BARN HALL, BOOKHAM 7.00 for 7.30pm

HOT SUPPER PROVIDED
BRING YOUR OWN Drinks, Plates, Cutlery & Glasses
£15 per person

MEMBERS, CLUBS, QUIZZERS & FRIENDS ALL WELCOME

Either enter a TEAM (6 to 8) or we will allocate you to a Team

★ *Raffle prizes* ★

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CONTACT: Howard Fancourt – 01372 454000

Old Barn Hall Jazz Club

Members of the Old Barn Hall Jazz Club would be delighted if you would care to visit us one coming Sunday, when we meet at the Hall, 55 Church Road each Sunday from 1 to 4pm. We are highly rated nationwide as a well-known venue for New Orleans traditional jazz music, played by leading bands in this particular musical genre.

We draw regular support from both local people and others from around the home counties and elsewhere. Great Bookham is a good catchment area for our particular 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 Graham, Mick, Margaret and Alan who are the current leaders of our group and 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 pop in any Sunday when the music starts at 1 pm (entrance fee £13).

For further information please contact Mick Welstead
Tel: 01444 243745 or mickywelstead@gmail.com

Sunday calendar of events

- February 5th Golden Eagle Jazz Band
- February 12th Southern Revival
- February 19th New Orleans Jazz Bandits
- February 26th No Jazz
- March 5th T J Johnson and His Band
- March 12th Gambit Jazzmen
- March 19th Hugh Crozier Hot Quintet
- March 26th Sussex Jazz Kings
- April 2nd John Maddocks Jazzmen

Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society

Our October talk was given by club member Jenny Smitherman titled, Proteas, Ericas and Redbush Tea. What an interesting and informative evening hearing about The Cape Floral Kingdom, the Fynbos.

This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the smallest but richest of the six Floral Kingdoms. Formed about a million years ago, it boasts the richest and highest concentration of plant species in the world.

Many of the plants we grow in our gardens originated from there, namely Ericas, Daisies, Irises and Orchids to name a few. This area only represents 0.5% of Africa's total range but is home to one fifth of the continent's entire flora. A fascinating evening enjoyed by all.

We finished off the year with a fun-filled evening and a brief AGM then a slide recap of

the Jubilee and our beautiful Summer Show. This was followed by delicious refreshments, a plant themed Christmas Quiz and a musical flower quiz that had us all humming along. Perhaps we should form a garden society choir singing all about flowers.

The 2023 program promises to be very exciting. Following the January meeting talk by Pamela Holt on the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, on Monday 27th February Geoff Peach

will speak on Vegetables for Showing and for the Kitchen.

Our talks take place in the Harrison Room of the Old Barn Hall starting at 7.30pm, usually on the 4th Monday of the month. If you would like to find out more about this society and its activities please contact Angela Stevens on 01372 456713 or craigjstevens@btinternet.com

Gail Diprose



Eastwick Schools

Eastwick Schools enjoyed the festive period by participating in a number of musical events in the local community.

The Junior choir were invited to perform the Christmas carol 'Deck the Halls' at St. Andrew's Church in Cobham. The concert had been

organised by the local charity Sight for Surrey who were celebrating their centenary. It was a truly magical moment, with candles lit, beautiful surroundings and an organ accompanying their singing.

Meanwhile, Infant pupils joined the Junior

Choir to perform for the Rotary Club of Bookham and Horsley 'Spirit of Christmas' event. The children amazed their audience with festive songs from the KS1 Christmas production and other Christmas songs.

The Junior School were able to celebrate advent this year with families attending year group Christingle Services at Bookham Baptist Church.



Bookhams Residents' Association (BRA)



BRA gives Bookham a green and seasonal uplift

Our volunteers play an important role in the Bookhams Residents' Association (BRA) helping make Bookham a great place to live and enjoy. Below are some of the BRA initiatives where our volunteers have been active in helping the community in recent months.

The BRA team in conjunction with Surrey County Council (SCC) and other local groups and companies have been busy around the village at the tail end of last year. In the shopping area new planters have been installed at Lower Shott and Church Road and four planters in the High Street each containing trees and appropriate planting. In a new collaboration with the Bookham Butterflies WI and the BRA, flower beds in the High Street have been replanted and will be maintained with a colourful mix of flowering plants and shrubs thanks to the on-going

commitment from the gardening section of this WI group. Funding for the trees and planters are the result of a Community Infrastructure Levy bid made by the BRA. In addition to the shopping area planting an avenue of nine cherry trees have been planted by the BRA and SCC teams along the Lower Road by the recreation ground which will look spectacular in the spring.

The BRA also co-ordinated and paid for the festive lights in the High Street, Church Road and Lower Shott and new for 2022 the display was extended to the Lychgate gate at St Nicolas's Church. We trust they gave you some seasonal cheer!

These are just some examples of the work of our volunteers and there are many others supporting the BRA and we are very grateful to all our volunteers. Being a volunteer is rewarding and we are a very friendly bunch so if you would like to find out more, including how to get involved, or to contact the BRA and also see regular updates, visit our website at www.bookhamresidents.org.uk



Les Huett

Communications - Bookhams Residents' Association

LOCAL ACTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTATION

WALK - CYCLE - RUN

SCC are preparing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for each borough

They are gathering ideas via a Common Place Map: surreylcwip.commonplace.is/comments

Effingham Parish has three proposals illustrated opposite. The aim is to improve safe active travel accessible to everyone

Please support these proposals by scanning each QR code to follow the links, then scroll down and click on

AGREE

Suggest your own cycling and walking ideas at: surreylcwip.commonplace.is



Peter Pan Playschool



Lawrence School, taking a ride on the 479 bus to watch their reception class nativity play.

These outings to local schools really help the children become confident and resilient, plus for some it's a first experience walking around the village and it really helps to make the later transition to school much smoother as they have an idea what "school" means when everyone starts talking about it in the summer.

At the end of term we had our nativity play in Eastwick Road Church. Many of the older children said their lines with gusto and confidence, and they all joined in some of the singing and actions. We're always very grateful to the church for allowing us to use the main church for the nativity play as this too adds to new experiences for the children.

For parents looking ahead to register at playschool, we have very limited availability for September 2023, so please do get in touch as early as possible to secure your child's place.

Peter Pan Playschool is an inclusive pre-school setting, which cares for children from 2 years old until school age. We offer weekday

morning sessions 9.10-12.10 during term time, with optional extended hours until 1.10 and 2.40 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We accept Government FEET and FEE funding as well as the extended 30 hours funding.

To find out more about us please take a look at our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/PeterPanPlayschool and our website www.peterpanplayschool.co.uk Or send us an email at:

peterpanplayschool@gmail.com or call us on 07908 018924 and Louise and the staff team will be happy to answer your questions.



We had a very busy lead up to Christmas, with some lovely outings to local schools. We walked to Great Bookham School to visit their Christmas reindeer which was very exciting! We also walked to Eastwick School to watch the reception class nativity play which was lots of fun to see some of our old playschool friends who have moved on to school. We went to St

Girl Guiding – Leatherhead Division



For the first time since before the pandemic, Girlguiding - Leatherhead Division organised a Christmas Crafts Day for local Guides and Brownies. The event was held at the Tithe Barn in Little Bookham (pictured), which was the most magical Christmas setting, as its beams were strung with fairy lights.

Over 90 local girls attended, making an incredible ten different items: reindeer jars filled with chocolate brownie mix, a mirror bauble, a wood slice coaster, headbands, beeswax lip balm, seed papers, a Fimo keyring, a Steampunk bracelet, a small Christmas scene inside a tin lid, as well as a decorated fabric bag in which to take everything home.

Elsewhere in the Leatherhead Division,

Effingham Guides have recently been awarded their "FareShare" badge. The girls completed several challenges relating to the fight against food waste, including learning about the local Community Fridge and "best before" and "use by" dates, as well as making dinner using a "Too Good to Go Magic Bag" of surplus food. The unit's leaders volunteered at Tesco in Guildford, encouraging shoppers to buy food items for FareShare – a national network of charitable food distributors. Effingham Guides themselves donated two bags of food items.

Meanwhile, 1st Ashted Brownies made flowers out of post-it notes in memory of Her Majesty the Queen, who was an example of the spirit of Guiding throughout her life.



To find out more about adult volunteering roles in Girlguiding units across the Leatherhead Division, contact Dax Patel on ggleatherheaddivision@gmail.com

Meanwhile, local women are being encouraged to join Bookham Trefoil Guild, the local Girlguiding section for adults. The group meets once a month at Bookham Guide Headquarters and runs a busy programme of speakers, activities and outings.

In 2022, Bookham Trefoil Guild raised more than £500 for the Teenage Cancer Trust – its charity for 2023 is the Grange Centre in Bookham. While many Trefoil Guild members have been, or are, actively involved in Guiding or Scouting, all adults are welcome, with or without previous involvement in the Guide or Scout movements. For more information, contact anne.coleman6@btinternet.com

The Friends of All Saints Little Bookham Church and St. Lawrence Effingham Church

We are a secular organisation set up to support the maintenance of the fabric of the two historic churches in the Parish of Effingham with Little Bookham. Both buildings are key elements of our community's heritage.

St Lawrence Church, Effingham was probably built between 1086 and 1100. The churchyard is where Barnes Wallis, the designer of the bouncing bomb used on the dambuster raid during the Second World War, lies at rest. Sadly, the last surviving member of that mission has recently passed away.

All Saints Church may have originally been built around 1100. The church contains

probably the finest collection of hatchments in Surrey, displaying the armorial bearings of the past Lords of the Manor. A hatchment was hung outside the residence of the Lord of the Manor on death and subsequently hung in the church. Even older is the adjacent yew tree which has been dated at 1,300 years old!

Both churches are normally open during the day and are well worth a visit. A history of both churches can be found via this link: <https://www.effinghamwithlittlebookhamparish.org.uk/history/>

The Friends is a very friendly organisation and organises several social events. In recent

months we have held a very successful fish and chip quiz supper and hosted an evening with LBC radio presenter Tom Swarbrick. Tom gave a fascinating insight into life behind the door of Number 10 where he had worked as communications director for Theresa May.

Information on joining the Friends is inside each church or via email to membership.friends@icloud.com. Membership is £20 per year. Please consider joining as the call on our funds has never been greater with significant repairs required to the southern wall of All Saints Church in 2023.

William Hill Chairman

The Plastic Free Bookham Project



2023 started with 13 local groups and other organisations signed up out of the required 20 needed to complete our Community Allies project objective. Community Allies pledge to promote the project and reduce their own usage of single use plastic where applicable.

One local business was approved of the required six that are needed to complete our Business Champion project objective. Business Champions commit to reducing single use plastic – a minimum of three different items – with action already taken counting towards this target. If you run a local group or small-to-medium local business you can help us to achieve Plastic Free Community status for Bookham by signing up – please get in touch at pfbookham@gmail.com for more information.

We had a much-appreciated early Christmas present in December when we learnt that our umbrella organisation, Transition Bookham, had made a successful application for a small grant from The National Lottery Community Fund, distributed by Transition Together. The grant covers our running expenses for 2023 and we thank National Lottery players for making this possible. More information on Transition Together - the organisation that supports the Transition Network - can be found at transitiontogether.org.uk.

We continue to promote information on reducing waste and recycling. Packaging labels may claim that something's recyclable but unfortunately this does vary between local authorities. We recommend visiting www.surreyep.org.uk to use the web-based search tool or download the Surrey Recycles app to check what can be recycled in Mole

Valley. There's a search tool for other local recycling collections on the Bookhams Residents Association website. We've also got a list of national schemes that we're aware of on our website www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk.

To keep up-to-date with project progress, please like and follow PlasticFreeBookham on Facebook. You can find lots of useful information about reducing single-use plastic on our website (see above). We also share items of environmental interest on the TransitionBookham Facebook page and Twitter account @ttbookham. More environmental information is available at transitionbookham.org.uk.



Eastwick WI



Eastwick WI's Christmas party took place in their regular meeting place, The Old Barn Hall. We played games, competed in a quiz and consumed wine, mince pies and stollen. It was a good start to the Christmas season. Earlier in

the month we enjoyed a festive lunch at Tyrells Wood Golf Club.

In November a talk about chocolate was followed by our Annual Meeting at which we welcomed Sheila Webber as our new president, while giving our thanks to retiring president Brenda Kent.

A varied programme of speakers has been booked for the coming year and all the interest groups have plans to spend time together. The Walkers and the Garden Group are looking forward to finer weather, but the Book Group

and the Mahjong group are not dependent on the weather as they meet in each other's homes. The Camera Group will continue to share their images on Zoom.

Eastwick WI meets at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month for a talk or demonstration, refreshments and a friendly chat at The Old Barn Hall. Visitors are very welcome. Please look at our website, www.eastwickwi.chessck.co.uk, where you can find all the details of forthcoming events and pictures of our activities.

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
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Bookham Scottish Country Dancing Club

Are you looking for a something new, fun and sociable?

If you love Scottish music and dancing why not think about joining Bookham Scottish Country Dancing Club?

What is Scottish Country Dancing?

Scottish Country Dancing is a type of folk dancing similar in some ways to English Country Dancing and Square Dancing but with more defined steps and a wider variety of formations. There are hundreds of different dances to try out and enjoy.

If you have been to a wedding or ceilidh and danced 'The Dashing White Sergeant' or an 'Eightsome Reel' you are already familiar with the music and know that dances are made up of a repeated sequence of several formations. Scottish country dances are either lively reels and jigs or more sedate and elegant strathspeys. The music will get your feet tapping and lift your spirits. The basic steps and formations are easy to learn and we can offer extra help for beginners.

Why do Scottish Country Dancing?



It is sociable, fun and wonderful exercise. You don't need to come with a partner as everyone is encouraged to dance with a different partner for each dance. All dances are walked through before dancing. We all help each other and even with only a little experience you will soon be dancing with confidence.

Our friendly club would love to welcome anyone to come to a club night and join us. No special dress is required but come with soft

shoes suitable for dancing.

The club meets on Friday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30pm (from mid-September to beginning of July) in Little Bookham Village Hall, Little Bookham St, Great Bookham, Leatherhead KT23 3AF

For more information contact: Dianne Delaney by email: dianne.delaney@talktalk.net

or by phone: 01306 884936

Eastwick Road Church

On Wednesday December 14th our more mature members of the Golden Years from Bookham Baptist Church and Eastwick Road Church gathered together for a Christmas



lunch. This was provided by Lavender Catering and this was followed by a short Carol Service in the Eastwick Road Church.

The Golden Years group resumed their meetings on Wed. January 11th 2pm– 3.30pm with tea and cake, quizzes, guest speakers and occasional music items. The venues are: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month Bookham Baptist Church, and 2nd and 4th Wednesdays Eastwick Road Church. Lifts can be arranged.

For more details contact Sue Ferguson : 01372 453704 or Emma Stephen: 01372 459640

St Nicolas Church also hold weekly coffee mornings.



Tuesdays 10am – 12.00 in Pastoral Centre

Thursdays 10.40am – 11.40am as above.

Bookham Litter Picking Group

The group meets on the first Sunday of every month at 11am at Lower Shott car park. Equipment is provided and places to litter pick are allocated. New members are warmly welcomed. (You don't have to come every month!) We collect litter for about an hour.

In addition, there are many "Womblers" who litter pick in certain areas, often near their homes, at times to suit them. We are able to

provide the necessary equipment. Also different people help at various times eg students doing their service section for their D of E Award, Cubs, Brownies, Guides and members of different churches.

The amount of litter we are finding has really decreased. THANK YOU to all who help make the Bookhams such a lovely place to live. A special thank you also goes to dog owners who

are now bagging up their dog's mess. Although poo bags may say they are compostable they are an eyesore if left, so should be placed in one of the bins, or taken home.

If you would like more information about how you could help with litter picking please contact me at litterpicking@bookhamresidents.org

Margaret Lawson

Spirit Of Bookham



Bookham & Horsley Rotary were pleased to partner with BRABA (Bookham Retail and Business Association) to organise this new community Christmas event on a Saturday afternoon in December. It was designed to bring the whole community together including our local shops and businesses in the run-up to Christmas. The High Street and the top end of Church Road were closed during the event meaning everyone had plenty of room to mingle.

The event was a great success with around

1000 people attending at some stage during the afternoon. Over 25 of our local businesses were open, along with The Crown and Royal Oak pubs who also had food available. Santa arrived on his sleigh early in the afternoon and parked outside Studi07 on Church Road and was visited by hundreds of children in the magnificent grotto inside. Entertainment was provided by Great Bookham School and the Eastwick Schools who attended with their choirs along with other choirs including All Aloud Community Choir and The Downsmen,

both based in Leatherhead, as well as Bookham-based Decibels and the Churches Together choir. The Rampant Rosters Morris Dancing Group added to the fun. Bookham Library was there with their popular story time and had a fun Treasure Hunt arranged with the shops. There were competitions and activities to suit all ages throughout the afternoon.

St Nicolas Church was open to showcase its internal refurbishment for the first time, and well over 200 people visited to see the new layout for themselves and enjoy refreshments and the activities going on there. Thank you to all who took part and attended, along with those who organised the event and especially the stewards who froze in the cold in the process, but kept everyone safe.

We hope to run the event again this year so look out for more information as 2023 progresses. If you are involved with a community group that would like to be involved, please contact the Rotary Club on info@bhrotary.org.uk.

We hope that this year the event will be even bigger and better.

Ukrainian Refugees' Christmas Party



Another successful event was organised by the community. The December Christmas Party was attended by 70 Ukrainian guests along with volunteer helpers. These were from the Bookham Ukrainian Refugee Support, Bookham and Horsley Rotary, The Community Fridge and The Meeting Place.

A group of Ukrainian ladies busied themselves in the kitchen and presented some delicious Ukrainian fare and went on to entertain us with traditional songs. This was followed by a visit from Father Christmas with gifts for all, some British Carols and the Ukrainian National Anthem - not a dry eye in the house.

With both a raffle and a tombola, the guests all went home with some extra prizes on top of their Christmas gifts.

Angela Benny

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OLD BARN HALL MANAGER

Roger Musgrove (456307 or mobile 07731 451483)

The Old Barn Hall Office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9.30am to 12noon

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EDUCATION: THE EARLY YEARS

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Bowdler Room, All Saints Church, Manor House Lane 456752
j.peers@tiscali.co.uk

South Bookham SPACE hire.southbookhamspace@gmail.com

The Arts Society Bookham



The Society has now settled back to monthly meetings at the Old Barn Hall when old friends can meet for a coffee before the lecture. A positive part of the COVID restrictions, Zoom talks to be enjoyed in the comfort of home, are to continue under the careful guidance of Chris Rose. Regular holiday tours to cultural centres and day visits are planned.

The Christmas lunch in December was followed by James Campbell's 'Shepard's Christmas' the illustrator of The Wind in the Willows and Winnie the Pooh. He used E H Shepard's own words of much of the magic and joy of successive festive seasons,.

A very different tone was set in the January lecture. Shauna Isaacs 'The Art of the Steal: Nazi Looting in WW2'. In February, a members' favourite, Peter Medhurst, gave a talk with musical and visual illustrations on the music stimulated by 'Mendelssohn's Tour of the Highlands in 1829'.

In March a former head of department at Croydon School of Art and author, Julian Halsby, will introduce 'John Singer Sargent - A Life through Pictures' and will show the wide range of the artist's work from images of WW1 to society portraits and Venetian water



colours.

There is a lighter tone in April with 'A Bit of a Carry On' and is the theatrical life of Peter Butterworth and Janet Brown presented by their son Tyler. The theatrical theme continues in May with John Snelson and 'Much more than Gathering Lilacs – the real genius of Ivor Novello'.

Following a successful comprehensive tour last autumn to Glasgow and Edinburgh the visit this May will be further south where Judy Money has planned a tour 'The Houses and Heritage of Devon'. Based in Exeter, the tour will include visits to stately houses and gardens.

While continuing their work at Guildford

Cathedral, Angela Stevens and the Heritage Volunteering Group have also turned their skilled attention to more literary matters. Although suspended at present because of filming, the cleaning and documenting of the vast number of books in the library at West Horsley Place will recommence once this has 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 send information by email or in the post.

John Cook

The Grange

2023 marks the 85th Anniversary of our charity. Our founder Miss Julia Sweet is said to have visited Great Bookham from her home in Leicestershire for a wedding and, upon walking down Rectory Lane, espied our now home which she felt was ideal for her School of Stitchery and Lace; she was not wrong! In due course the name changed to The Grange at Bookham.

After four and a half years of heading up our organisation, Eloise Appleby, has stepped down from her role as Chief Executive Officer due to ill health. Our Board of Trustees have appointed Hugh Skeil, former Head of Finance and Transformation, as Acting Chief Executive Officer, until a new person is appointed.

In the meantime The Grange continues with its good work, skill sessions and activities for The People We Support. Over Christmas, we baked and sold over 90 Christmas cakes and made nearly as many Christmas wreathes. We held our Carol Concert plus the countless Christmas Lunches, parties and pantomimes that we provided or attended. Of particular note was our Alice in Wonderland Art Installation. Our

Creative Arts team transformed our grounds into a true Wonderland, and wonder we did in awe, as the storybook characters came to life in the form of spectacular costumes fashioned from recycled fabrics sewn by our people and worn by them too. Our procession paraded its way around the site to the rose garden, where visitors could make their wishes of hope for the New Year; in the late evening, with the additional lighting, it looked especially magical. The project took around six months to complete involving all areas of the Grange and, having been awarded the status of Plastic Free's first Business Champion in Bookham, it was a 'green' art project where we repurposed everyday objects into new artefacts.

Following on from an extremely successful Pop up Exhibition last November at West Horsley Place, Tom who we support is having his debut solo exhibition! This will take place at The Lightbox from 18th to 30th April, please keep checking their website for more details as they have not got that far at time of going to press: www.thelightbox.org.uk/Pages/Category/exhibitions.



Looking for some Mother's Day Gift Inspiration? Look no further than our website online shop: <https://www.grangecentre.org.uk/online-shop/> for a selection of cards and presents hand made by the people we support or in our Shop@No5 in Church Road. When you buy an item from The Grange, you are supporting our work, helping people with disabilities live more independent lives.

To find out more about what we get up to and how you can support The Grange, whether it be as a donor, customer or volunteer visit our website: <https://www.grangecentre.org.uk/> and follow us on social media @thegrangeatbookham or on Twitter @thegrangecentre

RSPB

NATURE'S CALENDAR: IN THE NEW YEAR

Battling Robins

Ah the robin: that beautiful cute cuddly little bird seen in peaceful Christmas card scenes and the Netflix animation Robin Robin. But all isn't quite what it seems...

Robins are actually tough as nails with fire in their belly as well as on their chest. A good feeding patch is well worth defending, and that is exactly what they are doing when you hear them singing in mid-winter or see them chasing off anything that might have an eye on their worms.

Wee Wrens

Another of our smallest birds, the wren, is easier to spot at this time of year as they'll be

out frantically searching for insects to eat. The lack of insects and their small size makes them particularly vulnerable to cold weather, and in the most severe winters populations can dramatically decline.

Their scientific name is Troglodytidae which means 'cave dweller'. This reflects their habits of nesting and searching for food in gaps and crevices. Many defend territories where they know there will be a good supply of food but the differences are often put aside on an evening when they come together to roost to keep warm.

Put up your Christmas nest boxes!

Frisky Foxes

It may be the middle of winter but foxes are turning up the heat. January is the peak of their breeding season when they're at their

most vocal, with their screeches and screams echoing through the blackness. They don't really mean any harm, they are just looking for love or fighting off rivals.

Once couples pair up they spend a few weeks patrolling their territory and hunting together, forming a strong bond. The female also seeks out a place to give birth to her pups once spring arrives. These could be in purpose-built dens or equally underneath your garden shed!

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 in a friendly way. Check out our activities on Facebook @Dorking RSPB or our website below for details of the walks <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict/>

Mole Valley Ramblers

Mole Valley Spring Walks 2023 Festival - 22nd April - 1st May

Perhaps you're feeling a little jaded after the long winter? We have the perfect antidote!

Mole Valley Ramblers warmly invites you to join them, to witness first-hand the spectacular arrival of spring in our sublime local countryside. Surrey is blessed with miles of footpaths, bewitching woodland and divine scenery. The Mole Valley Area is particularly fortunate to be located in the heart of this glorious countryside.

Recapture your passion for adventure and fun by accompanying this welcoming and sociable group on one of their free guided walks.

This agreeable, friendly and healthy leisure pursuit is open to anyone. With just a few basic items like sensible clothing, footwear, plus a snack and some water you can get started. The walks are graded as leisurely, moderate or strenuous so you are guaranteed to find a walk to suit you.

We have created an exciting 10 day programme with over 30 walks. On each day, there is to be a selection of 3 or 4 different routes differing in length between 3 and 15 miles. The walks also vary in difficulty so there should be something to satisfy everyone from the most experienced walker to the complete novice. There is no need to pre-book. Just check the website to establish the starting time and location and turn up. On arrival, one of our team of experienced and knowledgeable volunteer walk leaders will

greet you, take your details then introduce you to the rest of the walkers.

A few of the walks will include a stop at a pub or a café and perhaps even a music venue. Others will simply have a drink and or a picnic break. We are planning a walk/rail combination, a night time hike, a nature trail, a 'follow the mole' trail, a riverside walk. This year, we are aiming to incorporate even more

walks with quirky or unusual themes, to further enhance the experience and broaden the appeal.

There is even a 100 mile challenge for the more energetic amongst us.

Please visit the Mole Valley Ramblers Association website for details.

<http://www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk/festival>



Mole Valley Indoor Bowling Club

Not the World Cup yet..!

But a Mole Valley team have become Home Counties Fours Champions for the first time, after winning the finals held at Camberley against teams from Middlesex and Sussex. Last season saw the same team win the Surrey County I.B.A. Fours, so the latest achievement is a really brilliant result for all involved.

Much less demanding was the recent festivity



bowling held under the guise of the Chairman's Christmas Celebration Drive but still a very successful day with plenty of food and fun for all.

The club is in the very busy mid-season, with progress being made across the wide range of matches for the internal championships, as well as the challenges from friendly inter-club games, county and national competitions, and the ongoing internal league games plus weekly roll up sessions. Coaching sessions have been held for new members, and specific support for members seeking a markers qualification and help for those looking to become new coaches themselves.

This year the club has introduced a new format for our website that has been very successful after a great amount of work by the IT team. In addition, the new web site allows on-line booking for members and carries results and reports from current games. New members will find that playing in the weekly roll-ups and/or local friendly matches provides a very good introduction to the game of indoor bowling.

Indoor bowling at MVIBC provides many different levels of challenging competition, for



everyone in all categories of age and ability. New and inexperienced members can receive free coaching as required, and experienced bowlers seeking the more serious matches will find plenty of challenges available.

To find out why indoor bowling is so popular and share the benefits available – get in touch with MVIBC by visiting our new website at www.mvibc.co.uk where you will find lots of information. You can also email your questions to mail4mvibc@gmail.com The club is accessed via the Leatherhead Leisure Centre, and bowling members will be very pleased to hear from you and answer your questions.

Have a happy, healthy year in 2023 with good bowling

M Mackie

Rainbow Pre School



As the Autumn Term progressed at Rainbow pre-school last year, the children were very

busy in preparation for Christmas. They had a Christmas tree in both the indoor and outdoor area, which they could decorate with lots of colourful decorations. The parents donated some, but the children in our craft area made most, including twinkly stars, paper chains and sparkly pegs.

The outside Christmas tree had a makeover as well, with fir cones and natural resources secured on with mud! The children also



enjoyed making pretend Christmas biscuits using ginger and spice dough, peeling Brussel sprouts, making sage and onion stuffing in our kitchen area. The children were involved in lots of crafts. Including making a Christmas wreath and designing and decorating a clay candleholder.

They glued and wrapped boxes in Christmas paper to make pretend presents to go under the tree and explored pretend snow with toy arctic animals and igloos in our 'feely tray'. Our invite to visit the Reindeer at Great Bookham School was a big hit with the children, and 'Dancer, Prancer' and Santa's sleigh were talked about a lot, while sharing our photo book we made of the outing.

Towards the end of the year, the children were delighted to receive four beautifully knitted 'Listening Monster Bears' from ladies in a local community knitting group. The children in small groups enjoyed talking about them (after having a cuddle with each one), making up names for them and mark making their names on labels to stick on the bears. They are going to be used in our daily small group time



with the children and their key person, to help build children's confidence and encourage them to 'have a voice' and share thoughts, ideas, feelings or act out play...whatever is relevant at the time to that individual child.

We are looking forward to a busy spring term at Rainbow, which will include parents' ideas from our termly parent forum coffee and chat morning.

If you would like more details about our Pre-school or would like to arrange a visit, please contact Heidi Watson on 01372 811313 or Email: rainbow@bookhambaptist.org

Howard of Effingham School



This year's autumn drama production was 'A Christmas Carol' where in one ghostly Christmas night, miserly businessman Ebenezer Scrooge discovers the limitations of his life and beliefs. He learns to pity himself and to love his neighbour – but is that enough?

As the show is so well loved and known by all, our biggest challenge was doing it justice! We luckily had a bit more time to rehearse using our very valuable EnAct sessions. More than



ever the production has felt collaborative; Mrs Osborne, Mrs Kimbangi and I, all directed sections, as well as our amazing students Shannon and William.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us. Both nights were a great success with large audiences. The production helped raise money towards new lighting equipment which both our GCSE and A Level students can benefit from.

Our spring musical this year will be Wizard of Oz, with performances from 16 to 18 March 2023 at The Leatherhead Theatre. The production is by L. Frank Baum, with music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y Harburg.

Follow the yellow brick road in this delightful stage adaptation of this beloved tale, featuring the iconic musical score from the MGM film. The timeless tale, in which young Dorothy Gale



travels from Kansas over the rainbow to the magical Land of Oz, continues to thrill audiences worldwide. Including classics such as 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road' and 'Over the Rainbow'.

It was very difficult to cast with so much talent! The 110-student strong cast from all year groups is led by Shannon as Dorothy, Hollie as Scarecrow, Harriet as Lion and Robert as Tinman.

Tickets and order forms will be available through the school or theatre – early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Nicole Hadley-Jessett

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