

# Bookham Bulletin



LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Autumn 2022

## Polesden Lacey Shakespeare

### Celebrating 70 years of Shakespeare at Polesden Lacey...changing times

by Franki Gray, Marketing Director, Polesden Lacey Shakespeare

It all started in 1949: the Bookham Community Association floated the idea of holding some rather grand concerts at Polesden Lacey. Betty Harrison, the young, enthusiastic and socialist secretary of the association, was not convinced and proposed her own vision of

something simpler for the village: open air theatre. The first production, a pageant called Merrie England, was disappointing but the initial enthusiasm remained. This gave birth to plans to build a stage and produce a play for The Festival of Britain year in 1951. There were

enormous financial and organisational challenges, but through the enthusiasm and hard physical effort of those first volunteers from the village, the open air stage was built. A Midsummer Night's Dream was performed on 30 June 1951.

*Continued on page 4*



*A Midsummer Night's Dream June 1951*

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# Bookhams Bulletin

89th Year

Issue 342

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

### Back to normal for Village Day 2022

We were delighted to welcome lots of people to have a great time at Bookham Village Day back on its normal date in June.

They enjoyed non-stop music from Mole Valley Silver Band and Primary Covers, a great range of food and drink, many stalls, sideshows and children's entertainments. This year there were more activities for children with the Churches Together Climbing Wall, Elios & DiCarlo's Bucking Bronco, John Wadsworth's Coconut Shy, Donner's Punch & Judy Show as well as Bungee Trampolines and Tea Cup Ride.



The day depended on 50 different organisations who were involved in the stalls and displays plus the refreshments by Bookham Guiders and Bookham Butterflies WI. We are very grateful for all the work put in by their members and all our stewards and helpers, as well as everyone who came along to support us. Many thanks to our main sponsor The Vineries Garden Centre.

"It was a great day with so many people working hard to make it happen" said chairman Keith Slark thanking all the volunteers who had helped organise and run the big day.

"The music, the food and drink, the activities, the safety, all went so well with lots of happy smiling faces. With most refreshment areas selling out and stalls doing good business we will have made a substantial amount of money to help with the running of the Old Barn Hall."

The Fancy Dress Parade was won by the Rainbow Preschool and Polesden Lacey Infant School with Bus Stop Preschool, Peter Pan Playschool, Polesden Lacey Playschool, The Dawnay School and Eastwick Infant School as runners-up.

The Best dressed stall on the field was won by Great Bookham Belles WI with Bookham Bees WI runners-up and in the halls Bookham Flower Club took the trophy with Bookham Butterflies and Mole Valley Quilters runners-up.

This is a community event run by the Bookham Community Association but is also our main fundraiser to allow us to improve and maintain the Old Barn Hall for all of the village. I am delighted to confirm that this year's event raised £11,117 with Open Garden raising £6,816 and BABC Bridge events raising £1657 making a total of £19,647. A fantastic result and thank you all for being part of it.

Next year's Village Day will be on Saturday 17th June 2023 and the theme 'On Safari'.

Keith Slark      keithslark@tiscali.co.uk      01372 457375      0797 900 3921

## White Elephant Stall

I wish to thank everyone who assisted me this year on the stall, and I did have a super team, raising £818. I also wish to extend my thanks back over the years with different teams to the 1980s when Mary Bruce and I set up just one six foot table

More thanks also must go to everyone who

donated items for sale and, of course, to all who brought their wallets and purses and bought some of the great variety of goods on offer.

I now have to retire and hopefully there is someone reading this who would love to take it over next year.

Margaret Pankhurst

## What's Happening

### September

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### November

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### 2023

### June

17 Bookham Village Day 'On Safari'

### Regular events at the Old Barn Hall

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### Elsewhere

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For more information contact

Angela Baker,  
01372 454875 or  
angela@abgd.co.uk



## Next Edition of the Bookhams Bulletin

### Deadline for Winter issue:

1 October 2022

Email articles or queries to the Editor  
bookhamsbulletin@gmail.com



Betty Harrison



Elsie Green

The Open Air Theatre at Polesden Lacey was Betty's idea. She worked tirelessly to establish it for the first performance in 1951 and then, when support for it faltered in 1953, she convinced The National Trust that they should underwrite performances and reached out to Elsie Green to take on the role of Director. Betty remained on the managing committee until 1974. Elsie's first production for Polesden gained high praise for the quality of the acting and production and she stayed on to produce a play each year at Polesden for the next 36 years, receiving an MBE for her services in 1977. Elsie not only gave pleasure to many audiences but opened windows for cast members. Many gave memorable amateur performances and, with Elsie's encouragement, some went on to become familiar faces on the stage and on our television screens.

At first the theatre was supported by financial guarantors, however, in the third year they withdrew support. Betty, on her own initiative, approached The National Trust and reached an agreement with them to provide the guarantee, as long as the Bookham Community Association did all the work. This was an excellent decision by the Trust, as it began to provide money which contributed to the running of Polesden Lacey and other properties in the area.

The Green Oak bridge linking the Upper Sunken Garden to the Orchard was financed by the proceeds from performances. Performances were often supported by a full orchestra.



Julius Caesar 1963

With The Merry Wives of Windsor (1961) and Julius Caesar (1963), the reputation of the Polesden productions gradually grew, with

excellent reviews in the press. In 1964 the company was asked to re-stage their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream in Chichester and it was such a success they were asked to return the following two years.

In 1969 Reg Snow took on the role of General Manager of the theatre and asked Elsie to undertake two productions each summer, and for the next four years a classic play accompanied the Shakespeare production. In 1979 as well as A Midsummer Night's Dream and A Man for all Seasons, there was a concert given by The Spinners folk band as well as folk dancing. The dancers and singers were invited back in 1980 to accompany The Winter's Tale and another of Sheridan's masterpieces, The School for Scandal, which had a new director, Kay Dudenay.

Over the next five years a range of different productions and events were staged, including Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and the first appearance of the craft fair in 1982 as part of an "Edwardian Fête". What had once been a single day of Shakespeare had now become a two week experience appealing to a wide range of interests. These were the golden years of events at the theatre.



By 1999 the summer events had become a "Festival" with over 20,000 people attending over three weeks.

Despite all this, the revenue generated by the Shakespeare productions gradually fell, leading to a desperate situation in 2007 when requests were made for financial support. There was a dramatic response and the Friends of Polesden Lacey Shakespeare was created bringing together all those who sought to keep the productions moving. Finally in 2009 The National Trust withdrew their financial support and it looked as though performances

of Shakespeare each summer at the Open Air Theatre would come to an end.

At that point Margaret Hunter stepped into the breach. She heard, whilst in a hospital bed, of The National Trust's intentions and, despite her predicament, she managed to galvanise a group who decided to underwrite performances themselves. To stop performances losing money, it was decided to cut costs, by using minimal sets, and to stop performances in the evenings that required lighting. The first production under her management was a great financial success, and all subsequent productions have been profitable. There was never a need to call on the guarantors

The National Trust have continued to support the productions by providing and helping prepare the venue, publicising the performances and managing car parking and access to the theatre.

The registered charity, Polesden Lacey Shakespeare Ltd (PLS) was established to produce Shakespeare at Polesden, as well as using some of the profits from the productions to fund visits to schools by professional companies who perform child-friendly versions of the bard's plays, running workshops, showing the children what fun Shakespeare could be. In addition, the company funds Pop-up Shakespeare where short scenes from Shakespeare are performed around the grounds of Polesden Lacey free of charge to all visitors.



Pop Up Shakespeare 2014 – the Cat's Grin Theatre Co

Pop-up Shakespeare continues on into 2022 and 2023, though 2021 was the final year of a full scale Polesden Lacey Shakespeare production on the open air stage. Board members, who have provided unstinting support to the project, are stepping down and, despite attempts to interest other parties, it is clear that a team capable of taking the company forward is not going to materialise. The way ahead is not clear but it is possible that touring companies or those performing in other locations that can move their productions to perform for a few days at Polesden Lacey might provide future full scale productions.



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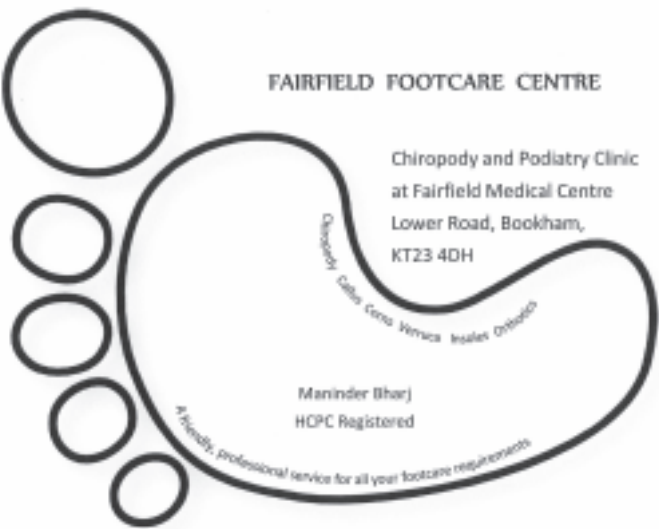
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# Bookham Bowling Club

So the summer of 2022 has been very kind to our club so far. Lovely weather and green green grass and blue blue skies.....cue song George.....except for the presence of being Covid aware again. All the preparations we have slip quietly into place, just in case.

Internal competitions gather pace towards the Finals weekend in September. External competitions against other clubs have proved that we can still accept defeat but more wins are better, See our website: [www.Bookhambowls.co.uk](http://www.Bookhambowls.co.uk) for the latest scores and more about the club.

Our annual away day at Arundel was cancelled and held at the club instead. The cost of transport was too great this year. Ladies versus the Gentlemen as usual, no holds barred. Close game with the Gentlemen prevailing.

Our charity day held on behalf of the Shooting Stars Children Hospice was a huge success with over £400 being raised on the overcast day. Still time for more money to be raised

during the season. The fancy dress theme was the letter 'T' and many took part as the photos show. Everything from the winner the Tomato Ketchup Bottle, through Tiggers, Tacky Tourists, Tyrannosaurus Rex Trainer, a Ticket collector and many more whacky costumes! Sorry Bowls England but it "was all done in the best possible taste"!

Many thanks to all the stall holders and those that took part.

Our club supported Bookham Village Day by raising money for the BCA at our stall. Many people enjoyed a quick training session and then had a go at either hitting the bell or gaining a score. We were privileged to be visited by none other than Paddington Bear during the afternoon - see photo - who made our teams day. Thanks (Amanda) but next time more marmalade sandwiches!

Our club is based off the Dorking Road at Chrystie Recreation ground. Look us up please.

**Richard Sealy – Press officer.**



# The Meeting Place



Life certainly does not stand still and we were so pleased to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at our Coffee Shop with a lovely red, white and blue marbled cake made and decorated by The Grange. The whole room looked great.



Our Ukrainian friends continue to meet here on Saturday mornings. There are often Russian speaking people available to talk with the refugees in a language many of them speak. The Coffee Shop continues through the summer and will be open on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

Although the Language Hub will be breaking for their holidays soon, their classes have expanded to help the Ukrainians (and others) learn and integrate. The Language Hub will this year be holding informal conversation sessions at St Nicolas Church Pastoral Centre on Tuesday afternoons in August except 23rd August.

The Community Fridge also continues throughout the summer to serve the community with foods that are saved from landfill. The fridge runs at St Mary's Fetcham 10-11am on Mondays (excluding Bank Holidays) and at Bookham Baptist Church on Tuesdays and Fridays 11:15-12:15 and Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am. As a thank you to the Fridge on behalf of The Meeting Place they were invited to a Jubilee Thanksgiving hosted by Surrey CC as a thank you for helping the local community during the pandemic.



Our Anna Chaplain and Anna Friends are working building up contacts and supporting older people, often those who cannot get out from home. August can be a time when so many take holidays. The Anna Chaplaincy will be holding a couple of "Holiday at Home" days on Wednesday 10th and Wednesday 17th August. This will be a great opportunity for older people who cannot get away to experience with others a selection of activities, fun and food in a relaxed holiday atmosphere. Please see our website for more details or ring Anne (our Anna Chaplain) on 07518 735729.

For more information on all areas of our outreach in the local community either ring our mobile, 07425 133431, go to our website [www.themeetingplace.org.uk](http://www.themeetingplace.org.uk) or facebook page [www.facebook.com/The-Meeting-Place-Bookham-373334882842124](http://www.facebook.com/The-Meeting-Place-Bookham-373334882842124)



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# Bookham Stamp Club



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

Bookham Stamp Club, founded in 1993, meets every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, 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, so if you are thinking of selling, or indeed need advice concerning your collection, contact our Trading Secretary David Bravery on 01372 452537. We feel that we have built up an extremely good reputation locally, and we are prepared to offer very competitive prices.

## Become a member

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

## Our recent meetings

In April, it was Christine Earle's Memorial Day and it was appropriate that our Chairman Patrick Reid presented a couple of Christine's displays.

May brought us our AGM back to its normal time after the pandemic, with our usual auction after (photo). Our Packet Secretary, Julia Todd was also awarded an honorary life membership.

In June our speaker Chris Oliver displayed a wonderful collection of the Union of South Africa.

## Our upcoming meetings

Tuesday 23rd August – Members' Displays – Air Travel

Tuesday 27th September – Tony Hickey – German Propaganda 1919-1933

Tuesday 25th October – Auction

Tuesday 22nd November – Members' Displays – My most interesting item

*We welcome experienced stamp collectors and newcomers and we look forward to seeing you.*

Barry Feltham, Hon. Secretary

# All Aloud Community Choir

The All Aloud Community Choir includes a number of people from Bookham and is looking for new members. The choir is a friendly and inclusive choir for anyone who wants to sing for fun and wellbeing, though we do sometimes perform at community events in Bookham or Leatherhead.



We sing a wide variety of styles of songs and rounds from across the world, from current songs back through the ages. We learn our parts by ear, no need to read music. Most songs are sung unaccompanied.

Your first three sessions will be free so you can give us a good try before deciding.

Tuesdays 6.30 – 8pm at Mencap's Fortyfoot Hall on Fortyfoot Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8RY

The autumn term starts on 6th September.

To find out more, email:  
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## Mole Valley WI

Mole Valley has had a busy few months and we are really finally getting back to "normal". As well as our monthly meetings we have held a very successful and enjoyable quiz night and made two garden visits.

Our charities for this year will be Sight for Surrey who are celebrating their centenary and the Children's Centre in Bookham Baptist Church. We are also, alongside Bookham U3A collecting toiletries for Ukraine. Forty of us are looking forward to a summer lunch at Effingham Golf Club an event that had to be cancelled twice due to Covid.

We have had talks on recycling, forest bathing not swimming but involving oneself in nature, and Living at the end of the Road (a talk of childhood and teenage years living in a lighthouse).

We are holding an Autumn Bazaar on 8th October in Fetcham Village Hall. Our sub groups are very active. Mole Valley WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in Fetcham Village Hall and always welcome visitors. You can find out more by looking at our website at [www.molevalleywi.chessck.co.uk](http://www.molevalleywi.chessck.co.uk)



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## Great Bookham Belles WI



It's been a crazy manic time this summer term for us at the Belles and it all kicked off with a murder in the Tithe Barn. This was of course our main fundraising Murder Mystery Dinner which over 100 people attended. It was a spectacular event courtesy of The Killing Game and raised over £2,000 for the Leatherhead Theatre.

Bookham Village Day was a superb event. It was so wonderful to be back out in the community. Jubilee events were extended to Village Day as this was the theme. We were overwhelmed to be crowned Best Dressed Stall with our Jubilee extravaganza styled creation complete with Royal Jolly Jars, Paddington and of course, Her Majesty.

June was Gin Month and we invited local Gin Distiller Sam Robinson from Raw Honey

Distillery in Fetcham to come and share with us his entrepreneurial story of how he started creating a beautiful gin in his father's garage!

Thirty-four Belles headed for Lullingstone Castle to see Tom Hart -Dyke and his worldwide Gardens and it was a real treat. We had the pleasure of Tom's company and he captivated us all with his incredible story of being kidnapped and held hostage in Colombia whilst on a plant hunting expedition.

Our Netbelles were amazing this season. They entered Surrey Storm Bartercards first ever walking netball festival in Guildford and came a very respectable 3rd place – we are so very proud of them.

The last few months have been wonderful and hectic but sad news often hits us hard and the



news that our dear friend Deborah James lost her battle with cancer was very sad for everyone in the nation. Deborah came to our WI a while ago to share her story and it was an absolute pleasure to spend an evening with her. There was an immediate love and admiration for her from all of our members. We will be raising some more funds over the next few months for her amazing Bowelbabe Charity.



# Bookham & Fetcham Art Group

We are delighted to announce that our annual art exhibition is back after a 2-year break due to the Covid pandemic.

Come and see us in the Harrison Room  
SATURDAY 22nd OCTOBER 9-30am – 5pm or  
SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER 10am – 4pm

Tea & Coffee on sale both days so why not

arrange to meet up with friends and family. Take part in the public vote for your favourite picture/best in show the overall winner is awarded the Sydney Scoffin Rose Bowl.

The members also take part in a club competition, this year's theme is COUNTRYSIDE & NATURE the winner is voted for in a secret

ballot by the members and awarded the Members Cup.

We have a varied selection of pictures this year in many different mediums most of which will be for sale. We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your support.

Shirley Snow

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# Bookham Craft Club

This is a photo of some of our members at our recent meeting of "Show and Tell" where every member brings an example of their recent project.

New members are always welcome to come

and join us in the Harrison Room at the Barn Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, 9.15 am to 12 noon.

Sylvia Giddings



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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 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.

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# Bookham Flower Club

Life for Bookham Flower Club has been full, fun and varied over the last few months. A variety of innovative containers were used by Angela Turner, a National Demonstrator, in her presentation of Flower, Paper, Scissors in April, giving us new ideas for reducing our use of floral foam.

May brought Patricia Ellis to us with her title, Tins and Things, and more ideas for containers with which to enhance designs of beautiful plant materials. Also in May was National Flower Arranging Day which was marked by gifts of flowers to friends, and we had another workshop led by Sue Slark which has given some members confidence to enter the monthly meeting competitions.

Visitors to Polesden Lacey may have seen a Platinum Jubilee arrangement of a crown created by club member Sue Marshal. June was a very busy month starting just after the Platinum Jubilee weekend with a demonstration by Helen Hare entitled East to West, illustrating some aspects of the East in flowers.

This was followed by a coach trip to the Flower Festival at Chichester Cathedral, where the floral arrangements were beautiful and varied in type from traditional to contemporary.

Our stall at Village Day won the cup for the best decorated indoor stall and raised a record

amount by selling baskets of flowers arranged and donated by members. Two of our members, Christine Martin and Gillian Brand, represented the club with an entry in Banstead Flower Club's Show and were awarded Very Highly Commended against strong competition.



# Bookham Baptist Church



We are so pleased that physical numbers visiting our building and attending services have continued to swell. Weekly attendance to our 10.30 services have risen to an average of 80 - peaking at our Easter Sunday Service when we welcomed a massive 138 - all of whom enjoyed this very special service incorporating three baptisms. It is so good to see the return to Sunday worship gathering pace following the Covid related restrictions.

Our building has a satisfying 'buzz' about it

most days. The community fridge continues to attract many during the week when the waft of fresh bread emanates around the corridors. The fridge is dedicated to reducing land waste by distributing food which is just past its sell by date but still good enough to eat.

We are thankful that this space has welcomed a number of Ukrainian refugees and their hosts for coffee each Saturday as organised by Matt Day - a church member here at BBC and also founder of the Bookham Ukrainian Refugee

Support group on Facebook. This initiative is led by local volunteers so it's heart-warming to see the great efforts taken to welcome our visitors.

The gentle hum of activity continues into the afternoons and evenings with various meeting and courses taking place - including Golden Years a gathering for the more senior members of our community, and the popular 'Talking Teens' course which attracted a number of parents and carers each Thursday evening in June. There is also a youth gathering each Friday evening during term time where 11 - 15 year olds take part in a variety of fun activities arranged by the church Youth Team.

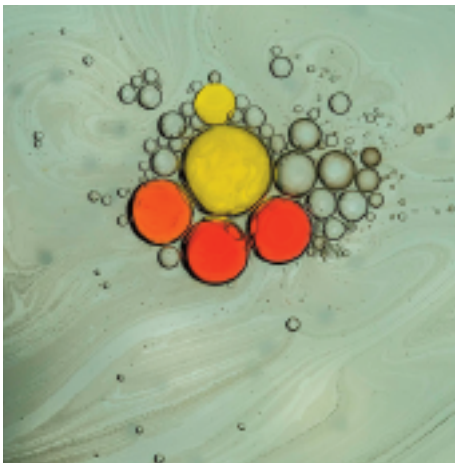
The summer time will certainly be a little quieter without the Rainbow Pre-School who will be taking a well-earned break after enjoying their right royal win at Village Day! We won't be short of little voices though as the Children's Centre continue to run groups and meetings throughout the summer months to keep the little ones of Bookham entertained.

We are looking forward to welcoming many more from the community and beyond into our building in the months ahead. You can stay connected with everything that is going on here by visiting our web site [www.bookhambaptist.org.uk](http://www.bookhambaptist.org.uk)

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## Bookham Camera Club

The spring and early summer have been full of activities for the Club and its members. After nearly two years of virtual "Zoom" and 'Hybrid' meetings, we all returned to the Church Hall in April. It was great to meet in person and return to sharing actual "print" photography. We will begin our new season Thursday, September 8th in person; but will complement our sessions with the occasional 'Zoom' meeting when we can benefit from a speaker in a far-off location.



Chris Evans, Abstract -- "Red and Yellow"

Our 21/22 season concluded with our Annual General Meeting on May 26th and included presentation of our annual awards. Certificates and Medals were awarded to the top finishers in our monthly photo competitions. Recognition was made to the top digital and print combined results for both our Club and Advanced Classes.

We also had a special competition requiring a set of images in six different photographic genre: 'Landscape', 'Nature', 'Abstract', 'Portrait', 'Food' and 'Black and White' with those receiving the overall best combined score named "Master of Photography." These fun competitions allow members to try something new and see the creativity of others.

We were fortunate to have past President of the Royal Photographic Society, Rosemary Wilman Hon. FRPS, to serve as our judge for this competition ensuring that the event was a great learning experience for all members. Over 20 different members received awards this year, showing a great breadth of participation.

We started the summer with our participation in Village Day and met some old and new

friends as we presented a selection of photos from our Annual Exhibition. Please contact our Membership Secretary, Gary Margetts [[gazza294@hotmail.com](mailto:gazza294@hotmail.com)] if you would like more information about the Club.

**Randal Tajer, Chairman,  
Bookham Camera Club**



Andrew Wells: Black and White -- PPE Scream

# Bookham Bees WI



Bookham Bees WI preparing for Village Day

Bookham Bees WI is really back in the swing of things and buzzing with activities. A very successful Quiz Night was held in May, which was a sell-out, and some of the profits donated to the charity we are supporting this year, Dyscover.



The Bees have lots of active groups, which is another way of meeting different members of the WI, whilst enjoying an activity of your choice. The Gardening Group has made many visits to gardens locally, as well as further afield. Also, a lot of swapping of plants and ideas are shared throughout the seasons.

The Theatre Group has also been busy attending shows at Wimbledon Theatre, New Victoria Theatre, Woking and GLive. We have many Walking Groups, some fast, some not so fast, some covering wider distances, some shorter. Walking gives us the opportunity to chat as well as enjoy the wonderful countryside.

Book Groups read books of varying interest resulting in fascinating discussions each month. The Pub Group and Coffee Group meet regularly and earlier in the year many of us enjoyed afternoon tea at The Grange

Centre. A Bridge Group is due to commence in the Autumn.

The photos shows the Bees busying themselves preparing for Village Day. Beautiful flowers were made for our stall as well as tiaras to wear whilst celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Picnics are organised for July and September. In addition, we have had many interesting speakers this year with more booked for the remainder of 2022.

Bookham Bees WI meets the first Wednesday of each month in the Old Barn Hall, Bookham at 7.30 for 7.45pm.

If you are interested in coming along to see how we buzz, you will be made most welcome. Further information from [dianagreenman@gmail.com](mailto:dianagreenman@gmail.com).

## Old Barn Hall Jazz Club

### Do you like jazz?

Members of our club believe that the form of jazz music on offer at the Old Barn Hall every Sunday is music that is both melodic, moving and fun, so, if you are not already a convert, why not give it a try one Sunday? You will receive a warm welcome from us. Our music is also eminently suitable for dancing.

We meet on Sundays from 1 pm to 4 pm and have done so for the past ten years and counting. We are recognised and highly rated nationwide for having top quality bands

available who play New Orleans traditional style jazz. The Bookhams are a great catchment area for the generation of music lovers that has followed this form of music from the 60s. Our locals include Graham, Barry, Margaret and Keith who are part of a band of helpers whose wish is to let you share their joy in this lovely form of music-making and to make you welcome when you visit us. The team is headed by our chief organiser Mick, an experienced expert in the field of jazz promotion. There is no membership fee so pop in at any time on a Sunday when the music starts at 1 pm.

### Sunday Calendar of Events

Sept	4th	Panama Café Orchestra
	11th	Excelsior Vintage Jazz Band
	18th	Southern Revival NOJB
	25th	Jake Leg Jug Band
Oct	9th	John Maddocks Jazz Band
	16th	Sussex Jazz Kings
	23rd	Excelsior Vintage Jazz Band
	30th	Thames Valley Quintet
Nov	6th	Sussex Jazz Kings
	13th	Gambit Jazzmen

## Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society

It is so wonderful to be getting back to normal with interesting talks, enjoyable outings and good attendance. The evening outing to Bridgend Cottage, Ockham was particularly pleasant with a beautiful wildflower meadow, attractive well established garden and a glass of wine to top it all.

We made our presence felt at the Platinum Jubilee Bookham Village Day with plants to sell, lots of contacts and details of the show and the most beautiful crown that even the Queen would have been proud of.

We were busy preparing for our Annual Summer Show on the 16th July and there was a hive of activity with produce and flowers being grown, jams etc being prepared, cakes being trialled, garments being knitted and pictures being painted.

After that we have a break until our programme continues on 26th September

with a visit to RHS Wisley. This will be followed on the 24th November by Sue Slark encouraging us to try some flower arranging, and we conclude the year with the AGM and

activities on 28th November.

If you would like to find out more about this society and activities please contact Angela Stevens on 01372 456713 or [craigirstevens@btinternet.com](mailto:craigirstevens@btinternet.com)



# Bookham Open Gardens



## Bookham Open Gardens 2022 was another great success!

As in 2021, over 600 people bought tickets and an amazing total of around £6816 was raised on Sunday 26th June. It all goes for the upkeep of the Old Barn Hall and is most welcome!

The weather held all day and so our visitors didn't have to worry about rain. Inside the Hall our team provided hot and cold drinks, rolls and their usual tempting selection of cakes, and there were a couple of Country Market stalls selling crafts. Outside there was the ever popular plant stall and visitors were also able to buy plants at some of the gardens.

The gardens were mainly old favourites but there were a couple of ones new to the event. All were full of colour and charm, some had quirky and interesting features too, and some followed the growing trend to gardening for wildlife as well as to look beautiful. We hope our visitors were inspired by the variety of what was on offer and maybe have picked up an idea or two for their own patch.

The Grange once again opened their Victorian walled garden, where clients are encouraged to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables ably assisted by the horticultural team. They personalise their own plots very imaginatively and leave some grass to grow long for wildflowers to attract the pollinators. At Little

Bookham Allotments plots are tended by enthusiastic gardeners who enjoy a community atmosphere and rural setting surrounded by birdsong. Both edibles and beautiful flowers feature, and there is a wildflower meadow. Polesden Lacey Infant School was back after an absence of some years and the children were very keen to show visitors their outdoor learning areas, wildlife habitats and wildflower meadow.

Some visitor comments included:

*We loved seeing your havens! This is always a highlight on our calendar for us and we were blessed with another year of perfect weather for it! Thank so much to everyone involved.*

*Lots of interest from the very modern to the more traditional - we enjoyed them all, as well as a welcome lunch stop at the Old Barn Hall. It all seemed very organised obviously meant lots of work for lots of people! Thank you*

There is a fuller selection of photos of the event on our Facebook page 'Bookham Open Gardens' which we invite you to 'Like'. We'll also be putting them up on our website

[www.bookhamopengardens.co.uk](http://www.bookhamopengardens.co.uk) in due course. Do let us know via our website or Facebook page if you might be interested in opening your garden in 2023 – we are always on the lookout for new gardens. You can also mail [opengardensinfo@gmail.com](mailto:opengardensinfo@gmail.com).

The Committee and Bookham Community Association would like to thank everyone who visited and those who worked so hard to make the day so enjoyable and successful and gave so freely of their time. This includes

- The garden openers for putting on such a splendid show.
- All the volunteers involved with making and serving refreshments, selling tickets, marshalling the car parks, and stewarding at the gardens on the day.
- Wishing Well and Bungalow Stores for selling tickets in advance, along with our main sponsor, The Vineries Garden Centre. Our other supporters, Patrick Gardner & Co estate agents, Maddox Homes, Rohallion Security and dB Designs Southern Ltd.

Diane Poole



# Bookham Seniors Computer Club



Bookham Seniors Computer Club took part in Bookham Village Day in June at the Old Barn Hall where the theme was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. If you have not tried our Queen's Jubilee quiz it is still on our website [bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk](http://bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk) where you will also find the answers along with some of our other quizzes.

The club will start its autumn term with its AGM on Friday 9 September 2022 at 10:00 in Little Bookham Village Hall where we will discuss the programme for the autumn term. Following a break for tea or coffee and biscuits

there will be a presentation on how to avoid scams whether they are by phone or computer. The club welcomes new members so why not come along to hear what we do and discuss how the club can help you.

Details of the autumn term's programme will be posted on our website [bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk](http://bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk) after the AGM.

The club meets during school term time on Friday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 either at Little Bookham Village Hall or, once a

month, via Zoom. Annual membership costs £20 and there is no additional charge for attending any of the sessions which includes tea, coffee and biscuits during a mid-morning break in the hall.

The club runs informal sessions where you can get help with any problem you are having or questions 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.

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](http://bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk).

Please make a note of the AGM on Friday 9 September 2022 at 10:00 in Little Bookham Village Hall and come along and meet us.

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# Peter Pan Playschool



It's been a busy and fun summer term so far at Peter Pan Playschool. Highlights include a visit from Mr Plod the tortoise and Caramel the pet rabbit, joining in the Village Day parade, learning about brushing our teeth, watching our caterpillars change into butterflies, a jubilee party, and exciting visits from our new reception class teachers as well as visits to our new schools. To support the transition to school, we've got lots of school dressing up clothes which have proven very popular! We're also looking forward to our sports day and end of term picnic.

We held a quiz night fundraiser which was well attended by the parents, and used some of the money raised to purchase a new table with built in bowls and pretend cooker hobs – we've been using this indoors to extend our playdough cooking.

With the lovely weather we've been having,

we've put our gazebo up in the garden, and have enjoyed lots of water play, bubbles, sand and the mud kitchen, helping us to keep cool on the hot days. These sensory activities are great for learning about cause and effect, being creative, shape, space and measure (if it's full/empty/heavy/light), they really help underpin listening and attention skills.

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

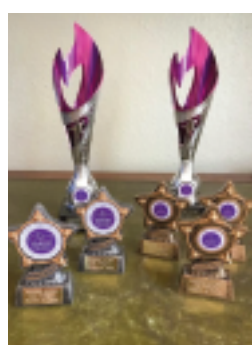
2.40 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We accept Government FEET and FEE funding as well as the extended 30 hours funding and a range of childcare vouchers.

To find out more please take a look at our facebook page [www.facebook.com/PeterPanPlayschool](http://www.facebook.com/PeterPanPlayschool) and our website [www.peterpanplayschool.co.uk](http://www.peterpanplayschool.co.uk) Or you can 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. We're now taking applications for September 2023 and have a waiting list for September 2022.









Photos by  
Randal Tajer,  
Chris Martin,  
Roger Bull,  
Jen Broh

# Eastwick Schools

As another memorable academic year draws to a close, we pay special tribute to members of staff retiring after many valued years of service to the school and local community;



## **Mrs Jenny Bookham - Juniors Receptionist**

The 'Mrs Bookham' has dedicated over 18 years towards Eastwick School in her various voluntary roles; becoming the front-desk face of Eastwick in 2012; An integral part of the team, every Junior pupil, parent and staff has been supported and looked after by Mrs Bookham one way or another. She is loved for her kindness, patience and diligence in offering empathetic pastoral care to everyone she interacts with and always has a smile on her face.



## **Mrs Janet Harrison - Class Teacher**

Mrs Janet Harrison has worked at Eastwick Schools since 2001! She has held many roles during that time and has thrown everything she has at each one. Mrs Harrison has been an advocate for the young people under her care and her colleagues, faultlessly supporting others in a selfless way

seldom found in any industry – she has been, in short, a gem. We wish her well as she moves on to her exciting chapter of retirement.



## **Mrs Debbie Ellis - Breakfast/ Afterschool Club Manager & TA**

For over 21 years, Mrs Debbie Ellis has graced the Eastwick corridors, fulfilling many roles with enthusiasm, care and passion. Most recently Mrs Ellis has been a learning support assistant, adored by children, and a diligent and strong After School Club Manager. She leaves behind her some big shoes to fill!



## **Mrs Liz McDermid - Chair of Governors**

Mrs Liz McDermid, a former member of the parenting community at Eastwick, has for many years fulfilled the role of Chair of Governors. Liz has been instrumental in supporting the school during exciting and turbulent times and has been a constant that has safeguarded the school's identity and unique qualities. Liz's skillset as a governor is renowned widely across The Howard Partnership Trust and we wish her well as she embarks on a new role within the organisation.

# Leatherhead Hockey Club



We are a friendly club based at Therfield School in Leatherhead welcoming ladies, mens and colts players. During the winter season we have teams in ladies and mens



leagues and also friendly ladies and mens sides who play non-league matches. Matches take place at weekends with training midweek. Our colts sessions (for children aged

7+) run on Sunday mornings during the winter season. Over the summer we run ladies and mens teams playing midweek evening matches and interclub sessions. We are a social group enjoying a variety of meetings off the pitch. We welcome new members of all standards, be it beginner or experienced. Your first session is free so come along and try us!

Visit our website at [www.leatherheadhockeyclub.co.uk](http://www.leatherheadhockeyclub.co.uk) for further details, or email [info@leatherheadhockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:info@leatherheadhockeyclub.co.uk) (adults) or [colts@leatherheadhockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:colts@leatherheadhockeyclub.co.uk)

# Mole Valley Indoor Bowling Club



**Consider something new!**

**Take up the challenge!**

Members from Bookham and the Mole Valley area have been enjoying their indoor bowling throughout the summer months with weekly roll-ups, and friendly home and away matches with other clubs such as Sutton, King George Field, Grattons (Crawley) and Worthing. All well organised with helpful transport arrangements to give everyone an enjoyable and (two out of three wins to date) successful day out.

We look forward to welcoming new members to the club. Come to our free (have a go) open sessions on each Saturday morning in September, 10-00 am to 1-00 pm.

You may be an absolutely new beginner, or an experienced player – all equally welcome, whatever age or social group. Indoor bowling is a surprisingly absorbing and entertaining sport.

There are many different formats to the game to suit all standards. Help is on hand and all will be readily explained by our qualified coaches and other experienced club members, at

whatever pace and level of interest suits you.

Located at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre with ample easy parking. Look out for further information locally and check out our new website at [www.mvibc.co.uk](http://www.mvibc.co.uk) or email [mail4mvibc@gmail.com](mailto:mail4mvibc@gmail.com)

We look forward to welcoming you at MVIBC where we hope to show how challenging and rewarding indoor bowling can be, particularly at MVIBC.

**M Mackie**

# Ukrainian Refugees Summer Picnic



The Summer picnic held on Saturday 2nd July was a phenomenal success. In total, we had about 55 Ukrainians, 20 hosts and 25 volunteers who came along.

The highlight of the day was seeing children just being children - on the bouncy castles, eating ice creams, having faces painted and playing games, as if they didn't have a care in the world. Our resident Ukrainian party

planner got inclusive games and dancing going and a lot of fun was had by all.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who made it happen! Bookham Community Association for use of the hall. Bookham & Horsley Rotary Club and their amazing volunteers, Leatherhead Youth Project who ran kids games, the U3A who gave away little luxuries for the mums and toys for the kids,

and the local cake bakers who came forward with their amazing contributions.

Bookham Community Association has kindly allowed us to use the Hall again on 24th September and 17th December. We plan to organise a Christmas Party for the December event.

**Matt Day / Angela Benny**

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## Bookham Butterflies WI



Bookham Butterflies WI once again hosted the tea and cake stall (pictured) in the Old Barn Hall during Village Day. Dozens of home-made cakes were sold, many decorated with a Jubilee theme. The Butterflies were delighted to raise £778 for the BCA.

Just a few days earlier, the Butterflies celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special summer party – their first party in more than two years. Members were asked to

wear items in either purple, silver or white as a recognition of the Queen's long service. Sparkling wine and soft drinks were served, along with savoury nibbles created by the baking group. Members took part in a quiz, with all the questions relating to the Queen and there was also a raffle (winners pictured), with Jubilee-themed prizes, including a box of chocolate corgis!

The Butterflies programme of events and outings is back in full swing. A group of members, plus their guests, enjoyed a gloriously sunny spring day out at Arundel Castle, during the annual tulip festival there. Over the last eight years, over 1.2 million bulbs have been planted within the castle's gardens and grounds, in a wide variety of stunning colours.

Another group visited the Grade 1 listed building at West Horsley Place, on the fascinating "Nooks and Crannies" tour. Queen Elizabeth I once stayed in the house and much more recently, it was inherited unexpectedly by the TV presenter Bamber Gascoigne in 2014. Future trips include a visit to the Strictly Come Dancing costume department in Croydon.



We had a thoroughly enjoyable drumming workshop with Ray Watters during a recent monthly meeting. Another speaker was Steve Lewis, who entertained us with tales from his career as a press photographer.

Our Exploring Gardens group started its 2022 calendar of local garden visits in April and has so far explored the wonderful gardens at Shelters Way in Tadworth, Coverwood Lakes at Ewhurst, as well as the gardens at Oakleigh and Wildwood in Frimley Green. Our Coffee and Chat group has also restarted, with its first meeting at The Vineries.

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



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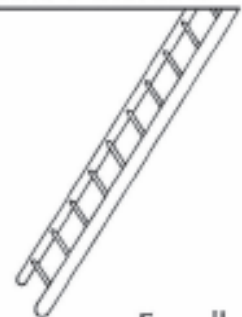
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# Little Bookham WI



Recently we have enjoyed a variety of talks on topics including, 'The Fire and Future at Clandon Park' and 'Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show'. We have also been very creative with our excellent teacher and President Pat Crawford encouraging us to discover new artistic skills we had never tried before, culminating in some amazing still life drawings.

At our end of May meeting, the nearest to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, members dressed in silver and purple and shared stories and anecdotes about their meetings and connections with Queen Elizabeth II. We also contributed mementos for a Jubilee display with magazines and photographs of the Coronation, miniature royal coaches, Coronation and Jubilee pottery and much more.

Our groups, as always, have been busy. Knitters have made lovely jumpers and cardigans for the many refugees who have come to the UK recently. Our walkers are keeping fit and healthy exploring some delightful walks across Surrey. Their next will be a walk at Sheepleas followed by coffee at Squires Garden Centre. The 'Coffee and Chat' group meets regularly for a relaxed get

together at different member's homes. Our flower arranging group are taking inspiration from the lovely display of filled baskets by Bookham Flower Club at Village Day, everyone is bringing a basket as well as flowers and foliage to their next meeting.

This summer we are looking forward to many trips and treats including the Emlyn Lovelace Group summer lunch at Effingham Golf Club, The President's Summer Tea in August and a guided tour of Hampton Court Palace in September.

Little Bookham WI meets at Little Bookham Village Hall at 3pm on the third Wednesday of every month except in August.

Fay McGregor

## Leisure Learning Current Affairs Classes

Leisure Learning has now planned its programme for the season which will run from October 2022 to April 2023, and with all that is happening in the world we can be sure of some instructive and fascinating sessions.

The programme is as usual very varied and brings together experts from many fields to talk to us on subjects which will include Climate Change, the War in Ukraine, the future of the BBC, the effectiveness of Protest and the Energy Crisis. After each talk there will be an opportunity to ask questions of the speaker and to have a class discussion.

There are two separate groups which each meet in Bookham for two hours (with a drinks break) on Thursday mornings or afternoons with identical content in each session. If you are interested in joining either of the groups to learn something about world and/or domestic issues, please contact Terry Hulme in the first instance on 07570 133838 or e mail him on [terryhulme@outlook.com](mailto:terryhulme@outlook.com) for further information.

These classes have now been running successfully for 15 years with most people returning year on year but there are occasional

vacancies so enquiries are welcome. There's no form filling or preparation needed and the level of active participation is up to individuals.

Because we run the courses ourselves, we have low overheads and the projected cost for the year ahead is only £100 for the 20 sessions – less than the cost of a glass of wine for each two hour class. If you do join us, you will get a warm welcome from existing members and learn much more about subjects which are so important to all of us.

Terry Hulme

## Polesden Lacey Infant School



I feel privileged to be the Headteacher of Polesden Lacey Infant School. Not only do I get to see the children learning, progressing and growing into independent learners but I also get to be part of everything that is offered to us by the wider community. Over the past few months, I have finally been able to experience some of the wonderful 'Bookham' annual events. Village Day, back in June, was a superb event. All of our staff and parents had told me what a great day it was but I have to

admit that I was a little sceptical about it all. How wrong I was! It was a joyful community occasion. We had chosen to reinforce our message of recycling and taking care of our planet in our Queen's jubilee costumes. Every child made a crown decorated with recycled material, they waved wands made from sticks collected from our woodland, decorated with bags that had reached the end of their useful life and carried lines of bunting made from naturally tie dyed material printed with leaves (again from the woodland). We chanted, 'plant a tree for the jubilee' and had the most fantastic time topped off by winning first prize in the parade and a spectacular dance through the decades of our Queen's reign by our Year 2 children. We were also able to open our wonderful grounds as part of Bookham Open Gardens - some of our children showed visitors around. All those who had guided tours came back smiling and said how wonderful our tour guides were!



The children continue to have the most amazing time at their weekly Forest School sessions. There has been den building, wand making, mini-beast hunting, exploring and always lots of fun. If you want to know more of what we do please check out our website: <https://polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk/>

Rebecca Mole

# 'My Road to Mandalay'



Many older residents of the area may well remember Don Townsend as the proprietor of Runmore Garage, West Surrey Motors Ltd at the junction of Woodlands Road and the main Guildford Road in Little Bookham. Don had arrived there in 1947 and built it into a well respected business.

Others may remember Don as one of the founder members of the Bookham and Horsley Rotary Club, as a long term Chairman of the Bookham Scout Group or as a keen member of the Dorking Masonic Lodge where he was Grand Master for a period of time.

What very few will be aware of however, including until recently, his close family, will be anything with respect to the time that Don spent in both the British and the Indian Army during the second World War. Like many who returned from the war, particularly those returning from the conflict in Burma (now Myanmar), Don did not share his experiences but turned his attention instead to his newfound business and raising his family.

The story of Don's war, from joining up as a private on his 20th birthday in 1940 and ending up as one of the youngest Major's in the Indian Army when still only 25, is now captured in a book 'My Road to Mandalay' by Don's son David. It takes the reader from Don's initial training in the UK in Yorkshire and Aldershot, through a year supporting the 8th Army in North Africa and then on to India where he gained a commission in the Indian Army and became a specialist in tank transport. By the time he was 22 he was leading one of the longest military convoys ever to cross India and

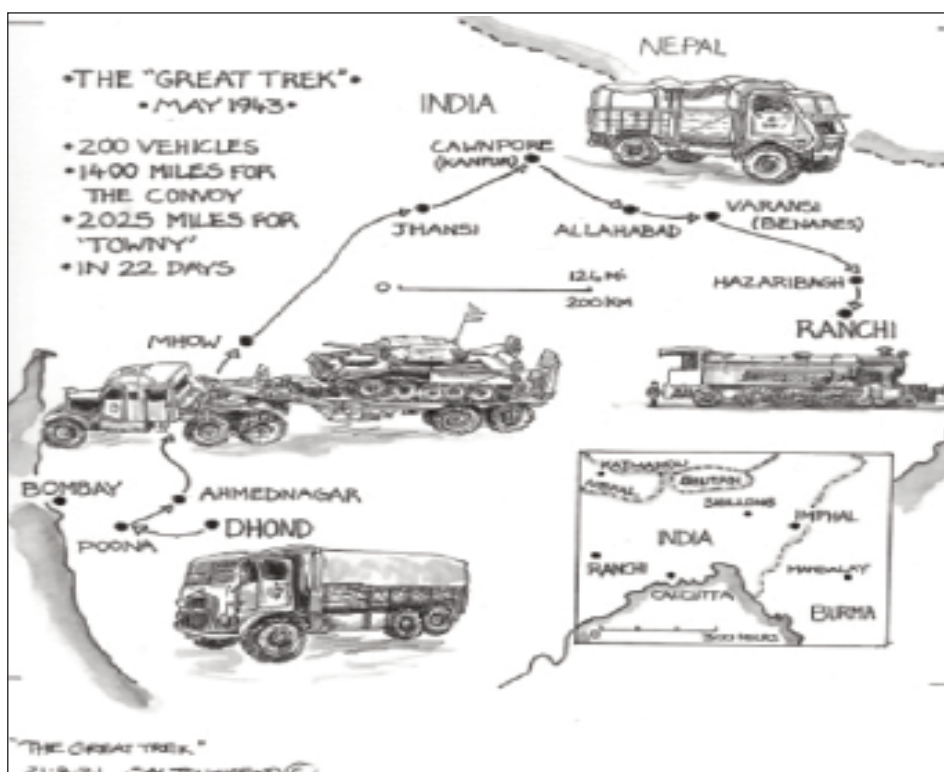
thereafter played a significant role in the Battles against the Japanese as a member of the 14th 'Forgotten' Army. Though the Japanese surrendered in 1945, Don's war continued, and it was not until July 1946 that he eventually returned to British shores.

The twist on this most surprising story is that it is compiled from letters that Don wrote to one Connie Pead, whom he had never met before the war, but who became a new pen friend in January 1944. In the two years that they exchanged letters they evidently developed a very special bond and it only took six weeks after Don's return for them to get engaged. So, not only a war story that covers a very much under-publicised part of WW2 but

with a unique twist that as David points out, has a very happy ending for him and his brothers' and sister! The whole story is told with a surprising sense of humour and covers as much about the people, places and human aspects of Don's adventures as about the military aspects of the war itself.

If you would like to learn more about this touching local story it is available on Amazon in both paperback and kindle versions using the following link:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Road-Mandalay-David-Townsend/dp/1913962873/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?crd=703MCZ2WZOH3&keyword=s=david+townsend&qid=1648839363&sprefix=david+town%2Caps%2C186&sr=8-7](https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Road-Mandalay-David-Townsend/dp/1913962873/ref=sr_1_7?crd=703MCZ2WZOH3&keyword=s=david+townsend&qid=1648839363&sprefix=david+town%2Caps%2C186&sr=8-7)



## The Plastic Free Bookham Project



We continue to make steady progress towards our project targets for signing up Community Allies and Plastic Free Business Champions. Eight community groups and organisations are now signed up as allies, with others in the pipeline. We're also delighted that The Grange has been approved as our first Business Champion.

If you run a small independent local business and are interested in reducing the amount of single-use plastic that you use, our website [www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk](http://www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk) tells you how to sign up, or email us at [pfcbokham@gmail.com](mailto:pfcbokham@gmail.com) for more information. Our focus in the autumn will be reaching our Business Champion target of

six businesses.

The Big Plastic Count took place in May, with thousands of people across the UK counting the amount of plastic in their household waste in one particular week. By the time you read this the results should have been published, which we await with interest. Even though you can now recycle soft plastics at many supermarkets - in addition to recycling plastic tubs and trays in the kerbside collection - it's still much better to try and avoid plastic wrappers and containers that are only used once. Take a look at our website for some ideas for cutting down on plastic usage.

Our only recent event has been an eco-craft day run by our umbrella organisation, Transition

Bookham. We made birthday cards out of old cards, maps, sheet music and other recycled card and paper, and saved some jewellery from the bin by helping with repairs. Along with a bric-a-brac sale the day helped boost our funds and a good time was had by all.

To keep up-to-date with the Plastic Free Bookham project 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](http://transitionbookham.org.uk)

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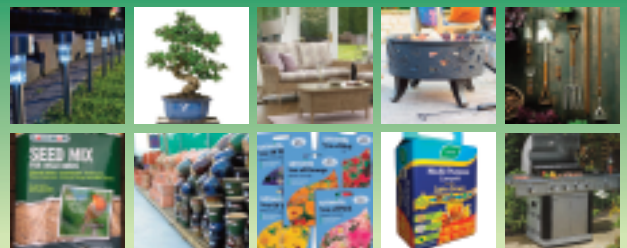
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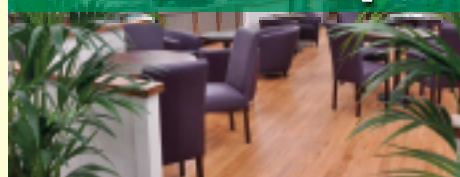


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South Bookham SPACE hire.southbookhamspace@gmail.com

# Rotary, Bookham & Horsley

Almost £100,000 donated to good causes!

One of the main purposes of Rotary is to raise funds so that we can help deserving causes both locally and internationally. As many of you know, our charity funding supports many local and global initiatives. We can only do this thanks to the support of the people of Bookham and Horsley who give so generously of their time and money to help us.

We recently worked out how much we have raised and donated over the last six years and the total comes to a staggering £95,521.

With this in mind, our next fundraising event will be a Murder Mystery evening in the Old Barn Hall on Saturday 17th September 2022. It should be great evening so please save the date for diaries and we'll announce further details shortly.

If you want to find out more about Rotary, why not take a look at our website and/or call us, or simply join our mailing list for occasional updates. If you'd like to come along to a trial meeting, we'd love to see you!

For all details visit [www.bookhamandhorsley.rotaryweb.org](http://www.bookhamandhorsley.rotaryweb.org) or contact our secretary Ian Cornwall on [iancornwall@aol.com](mailto:iancornwall@aol.com).

Steve Gapper

## The Arts Society Bookham



The Society has now settled into the familiar monthly meetings at the Old Barn Hall, following the summer break with old friends meeting for a coffee before the lecture to speculate on the future.

Barry Venning in the July lecture featured 'Art after Windrush: postcolonial artists in Britain since 1948' and explored the contributions made by artists of African, Caribbean or Asian origin to British art since the SS Empire Windrush arrived in Tilbury from the West Indies in 1948. by

In September Jo Walton presents 'The Art and Craft of John Piper'. An abstract painter in the 1930s, he was also a writer, critic and typographer and a lover of architecture. During the Second World War he became one of the best-known Official War Artists, creating the powerful image of the destruction of Coventry Cathedral.

Familiar to many members the Swinging

Sixties were part of our youth. The October lecture 'The Sixties: the Beginning of an Era' is given by Pip Burley who was part of the musical revolution of the time. He was a keyboard player with bandleaders like Sydney Lipton, Joe Loss, Ken Mackintosh and Claude Cavallotti, as well as performing his fair share of rock 'n roll – including (even) a concert with The Beatles! Dancing in the aisles?

November brings a more sedate talk, The History and Development of Chinese Imperial Silk 'Heaven's Embroidered Cloth' by David Rosier and traces the origins, and myths, that surround Imperial Chinese Silk, an exquisite product that has mesmerised the world and on occasions exceeded the value of gold.

Whilst continuing their work at Guildford Cathedral, Angela Stevens and the Heritage Volunteering group have also turned their skilled attention to more literary matters. They are cleaning and documenting the vast number of books in the library at West Horsley Place. Please contact Angela if you are interested.



The six-day autumn tour organised by Judy Money is 'The Art, Heritage & Historic House of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Central Scotland'. (Image courtesy Wikipedia.) Bookings at monthly meetings or via our website.

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

## The Grange

### The Big Picnic

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee The Grange hosted a Big Celebration Picnic on Sunday 26 June and everyone was invited. The Grange has always had strong links with the Royal Family and the Big Celebration Picnic gave us the chance to celebrate those



connections. After two years of separation due to Covid-19 it was wonderful to see so many people back at The Grange sharing food, fun and music with one another.

To mark the Platinum Jubilee we received a grant from the Arts Council to produce a piece of theatre. A Stitch in Time was created and premiered at The Big Picnic. The Grange worked with Blue Apple Theatre and artist Nicola Henshaw to produce this unique performance telling the story of the history of The Grange and its royal connections. Thank you to everyone involved including Dawnay School and Gracewell in Bookham for producing the props we used in the show.

The celebration also coincided with the end of

Learning Disability Week, this year's theme was all about celebrating people with learning disabilities reconnecting with the community – well we certainly did do that. Thank you to all who made it such a special day and to those who came to support, including Paul Beresford MP and the Surrey Lieutenancy for opening our amphitheatre, it was a fantastic day.



# RSPB

## Where have my garden birds gone?

by Joan Bingley, Dorking & District RSPB Local Group

In late summer, the birds and birdsong of spring seem to have departed from our gardens. Listen carefully however, and cryptic calls and furtive rustlings from the shrubbery have replaced the upfront songs. Look closely and you may spot some very scruffy-looking birds lurking as they conserve energy and avoid predators while they moult.

**Why moult?** Feathers take a battering during the processes of courtship, breeding and rearing young to independence. Damage by encounters with competitors and predators, brushing against vegetation, attacks by mites and other parasites all mean that there comes a time when new feathers are needed. As each new feather grows from the follicle of the previous one, the old feathers must be shed before its replacement is in working order. Replacing its feathers, being between 5% and 10% of the bird's total body mass, requires considerable effort. To minimise other energy use, keep out of the way of predators, deal



with limitations to flight, insulation and water resistance as a result of feather loss and to forage for specific nutrients for feather production demands careful timing.

Most garden birds moult in late summer, when food, cover and weather remain favourable, breeding is largely completed before the demands of migration and winter. Exact timings and the length of the process vary with factors such as latitude, size, the extent of the replacements and migration strategies. Few achieve even a partial moult in less than a month, with some larger birds taking more than three months.

When fully feathered again, look out for



smartly dressed nuthatches and coal tits visiting your feeders. And marvel at the dowdy chaffinches, greenfinches and house sparrows whose feathers will gradually abrade over the winter to reveal their exciting breeding plumage when rivalry heats up in the spring.

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 <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict/>.

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## Bookham Choral Society

The members of Bookham Choral Society were delighted to take part in the Leith Hill Music Festival in the Spring after a three-year gap. It was so uplifting to be part of the large choir that sang on Saturday 9th April. The programme consisted of two Ralph Vaughan Williams hymns and then 'A Little Jazz Mass' by Bob Chilcott, the 'Porgy and Bess Suite' by George Gershwin and 'Feel the Spirit' by John Rutter in which we were accompanied by the fabulous Mezzo Soprano soloist, Melanie Marshall. We wore brightly coloured blouses and shirts instead of our usual pristine black and white outfits and the whole evening was a joyous experience.

When our Weekly Rehearsals restarted after Easter, we were so pleased to return to our home of many years, the Eastwick Church Hall in Bookham. This summer we presented a joint concert with the Buckland and Betchworth Choral Society. Apart from making new musical friends, it was good for us all to experience different conducting styles. The concert, 'Music for an English Summer Evening', was held in St Pauls' Church, Dorking on 25 June, and consisted of lovely English melodies from composers John Rutter, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Edward Elgar, and others. It



was a delightful evening and many thanks to our conductors, Richard Robbins, and Jamie Sperling, for preparing us so well.

Rehearsals will restart at Eastwick Church Hall, Bookham on Tuesday 6th September at 7.45 pm. We will be preparing for our Autumn Concert on Saturday 12th November in the Leatherhead Parish Church. Our very popular

annual Christmas Concert is in St Nicolas Church, Bookham on Tuesday December 13th.

We always welcome new members. If you would like to join us, please come to Eastwick Church Hall on Tuesday 6 September at 7.30 pm.

Cheryl Mendham

# The Dawnay School



## Introducing 'Great Bookham School'

The Dawnay Primary School has converted to Great Bookham School on academisation with South Farnham Educational Trust. We are now offering bespoke tours for all new entrants and particularly those looking for Reception and or Year 3 places for this or next September. We would love to see you so just give us a call for a tour with the Head Jenna Allen or Executive Head Fiona O'Neill.

Our Drama Club presented 'Wind in the Willows' to their parents in March in school with a cast of 20. It was so good that we decided to expand the play to include all of KS2 and take it to Leatherhead Theatre and on Wednesday 8th June, a cast of 160 presented 'Wind in the Willows – a musical' to a packed house of 400 parents.

The children acted, sang and danced their way



through this classic piece of fiction delighting their infant & secondary school siblings, parents, carers, aunts, uncles and grandparents. The director Matt Wilson was moved to tears at the end following a vote of thanks by Executive Headteacher, Mrs Fiona O'Neill.

I hear you ask, how on earth did you manage to be so inclusive?

Well – each year group had a different scene and their own songs and dances, so with the original principals from drama club linking the

whole thing into one cohesive story, disbelief was suspended for the duration!

The costumes were amazing and Howard 6th Formers supported the choreography and last minute costume and make-up backstage. A huge thank you to all the Dream Team GB led by Matt Wilson. They all worked tirelessly to make props (with a huge helping hand from our wonderful caretaker Kelvin Mandeville), rehearse, encourage and direct to enable these young children to be so successful. Several stars were born that night!

Do come and visit us so we can share the vision for this new school in the heart of Bookham Village.

### Fiona O'Neill

Headteacher, Great Bookham School  
The Raleigh School  
South Farnham Educational Trust (SFET)  
Tel: 01483 282988  
[www.theraleigh.org](http://www.theraleigh.org)

# Rainbow Pre School



We started our summer term with a visit from two playful orphaned lambs. The children were very excited to meet them and in small groups, they went into the lambs' pen to interact, groom and pet them. The owner also talked to the children about the lambs needs and care.

We took our children and their parents on a spring walk to Bookham Common where we fed the ducks and swans at the pond and looked for changes that happen in nature during the spring. The children all had their own nature bag, which they collect natural resources in, to explore in Rainbow the next day. We finished at the woodland play area where the children had a snack and a drink and parents and children had a chance to socialise.

We currently have a student doing a qualification with us, and she kindly brought in her pet chameleon to show the children. The children were fascinated with it, and she



explained all about her pet to the children and if the children felt comfortable, they were able to touch/hold the chameleon. This then led to lots of different discussions and activities around reptiles.

This term we are running our rising 5 sessions. These are afternoon sessions for children who will be leaving to attend school in September. They run once a week for 6 weeks in the last half of the summer term, and are designed to help encourage school readiness. We use these sessions to introduce activities that are a little more structured and in line with what they may do at school.

We also do different numeracy and science based activities. This year we are watching caterpillars turn into butterflies. The children note each week how they have changed and log it in their own butterfly journal. This is always a busy term, especially for our children who are leaving for school and we wish them all the best for the autumn term.

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



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.

# Howard of Effingham School



One of the highlights of the term was Sports Day. This was the first Sports Day in a number of years at The Howard to be held with involvement from all students in years 7-10: either as competitors or spectators. Indeed, all students had also contributed to the overall points competition through their PE lessons.

The day was split into two halves, with years 7 and 8 being on the KG5 playing fields for the

first two lessons of the day, and years 9 and 10 being there for lessons three and four. Students who were spectating were divided into their houses and lined up along the finishing straight to cheer their peers as they finished their races.

The PE Team did a brilliant job organising the day, and keeping everyone engaged and involved. I was delighted to see how keen and proud all our students were to take part, compete, and represent their houses in track and field events, and in particular in the voluntary staff and student relay races which took place at the end of both sessions. Student Leadership was also on show, with our young

sports leaders helping to coordinate and run the day. The standard of competition was evidenced by the number of school records which fell: some of which had been in place for over 20 years. More importantly however, everyone enjoyed being involved and supporting one another in what was a great day for the school.

We look forward to showing prospective Y7 parents round our school during September and October or seeing you at our Open Evening on Thursday 29 September 2022 between 5.00 – 8.00 pm. Do check our website for further details <https://www.thehoward.org/>

# Bookham Food Festival

Following a highly successful inaugural event in 2021, Bookham Food Festival returns to the Old Barn Hall & Fields on Saturday 10th September 2022, 12pm - 9pm.

Visitors will see demonstrations from highly renowned chefs in our Festival Kitchen, eat incredible food from a variety of street food vendors in our Street Food Village, purchase fantastic produce from local businesses in our

Festival Market and - new for 2022 - learn from wellness experts in our Wellbeing Zone. We encourage visitors to cycle to the event to take advantage of our free bike check service, provided by Bike Hero!

Tickets are released in stages via our website. Advance Tickets are free, but we are grateful for any donations which will help towards the running costs of this great event.

The organisers of the Food Festival are all volunteers, and the event is funded via generous sponsors and donations from visitors. Profits from the day are split between our charitable causes and invested into future events. More information about our chosen charities can be found on our website.

[www.bookhamfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.bookhamfoodfestival.co.uk)

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# Polesden Lacey Playschool



We were delighted to take part in the Bookham Open Gardens as the Infants opened up the school grounds as part of the event. Our Committee had been out earlier in the year working hard to give our allotment an overhaul so it was lovely to be able to show it off. We love spending time outdoors during our gardening days, where the children now have a sensory patch with fresh smelling herbs, fairy garden, wildflowers to help

support our local bees and butterflies, along with our edibles that can be harvested and used alongside our cooking sessions.

Outdoor play has a fundamental role in a child's early development. Freedom to move in a therapeutic, stimulating outdoor environment makes for healthier, happier children. It teaches essential life skills, boosts confidence and improves behaviour and we are so fortunate for all the outdoor facilities we have to offer.

Before the end of term, we also enjoyed an educational visit to Bocketts Farm and had wonderful time learning about the farm during a tractor trailer ride, feeding the larger animals and getting close to the smaller animals with a handling session for the bunnies, guinea pigs and cockerel. There was plenty of time for free play too and a chance for parents to get to know each other away from the Playschool gates.


As always we were sad to say goodbye to our Swan children, who will be moving on to their chosen infant schools this autumn. Good luck Swans! We hope you enjoy your 'big' schools, as we look forward to welcoming our new Cygnets.

For further information about the Playschool please get in touch or visit our website. If you have any enquires with regards to admissions, unfortunately, we are full for the 2022-23 academic year. If you would like to join our waiting list, please get in touch as soon as possible with our Admissions Officer, Alison Roberts (info@polesdenlaceyplayschool.co.uk)

Ellie Pragnell

Chair, Polesden Lacey Playschool Committee



 LYP is a local charity passionate about helping young people, established in 2005. We offer innovative youth services in Leatherhead, Bookham and across Mole Valley which aim to respond to local needs and help young people to be safe, happy and making positive changes in their lives.

## OUR BOOKHAM PROJECTS INCLUDE:

**BYouth**  
4:15-6:15PM  
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BYouth is a drop-in youth cafe for school years 7-11 with crafts, games, cooking, the latest console games, table tennis, table football and loads of other stuff to get involved in.

**YEARS 7-11**

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**Explore & Connect**

6:30-8PM  
ALTERNATE MONDAYS

A CHANCE FOR YOU TO COME AND EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, WITH DINNER AND GAMES.

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