

Bookham's Bulletin



LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Please visit bookhamcommunityassociation.org for the very latest information

Autumn 2020

Historic Bookham station on track for a full refurbishment thanks to Network Rail

Work is underway to refresh Bookham station, a Grade II listed building in Surrey, to improve passenger journeys and preserve the much-loved structure.

The work – which is likely to take about six months – will take place while the station is open and will not affect South Western Railway services.

The main focus is to repair the station's structure, which unfortunately has been plagued with wet rot, a fungus that attacks timber. Teams from Network Rail and its contractor Osborne will also replace a large section of the roof.

Engineers will also refurbish and repaint the station's footbridge – which is also Grade II listed – with most of that work taking place at night when there are no passengers.

As a result of the work on the roof, passengers will not be able to access the station building, and a temporary ticket office has been built in the car park. Once the affected timber is removed, all of the floors and walls will need to be treated by chemicals before the station can be returned to its former glory.

Located on Church Road in Bookham, the station was opened in 1885 and has 2 platforms which provide train services to Guildford and London Waterloo via Epsom and Worcester Park.

Mark Killick, Network Rail Wessex route director, said: "We are delighted to be able to refresh the historic station at Bookham for the benefit of passengers and the local community.

"While the work is taking place on this Grade II listed station, we will try to keep noise to a minimum and apologise for any disruption.



Alan Penlington, South Western Railway customer experience director, said: "Our customers will see big improvements at Bookham station, and it will be great to see the footbridge restored to its former glory.

"We recognise these works will be disruptive, but the station will remain open and operational throughout. I'd like to thank our passengers for their patience whilst these vital works are carried out."



John Wadsworth

ESTATE • AGENTS



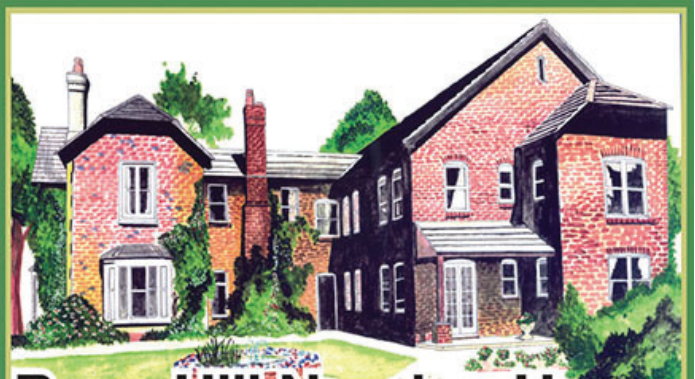
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From the Chairman



Three of the strangest month's most of us can remember have passed since the last Bulletin which was only issued online and as a pdf. I hope that many of you saw that edition but this time we are back in print. It would be stretching a point to say we are back to normal – new, or of any kind! – but more of us are getting out and many of our deliverers are happy to pop your Bulletin through your door again.

Our village is open again and life is returning to it and, hopefully to our shops and cafes as well.

A massive thank you to all the essential shops, and their workers, that stayed open throughout lockdown to keep us fed and watered. It has been tremendous that not only the NHS and Care sectors, but all the other things we take for granted such as the post, our refuse collections and our utilities carried on thanks to their staff working through it all for us.

Let us hope that things continue to improve and that we get through the Autumn without further restrictions.

With our halls closed and no Village Week the income to the BCA stopped completely. We are very grateful to the organisations that have made donations to us during this time including Bookham Stamp Club, Bookham U3A, Hardy Plant Society, Little Bookham Allotments, BF&D Garden Society and also to Anthea Sokell and friends who raised an amazing £1,000 with a plant sale for us in June – with another planned for this month.

Unfortunately, expenditure does not stop in the same way! We had a water leak during the thunderstorms in June that has damaged the main hall floor – hopefully covered by our insurance – and our main boilers are beyond repair and need replacing. These are, of course, in the one room – the self-contained boiler room - that still has asbestos wall boarding which needs to be safely removed first. We have been assessing different solutions and quotations and work to replace them is starting this month so all should be cosy for the autumn.

Keith Slark

THE OLD BARN HALL AND HARRISON ROOM ARE NOW OPEN

We have been working extremely hard to make our halls Covid 19 Secure.

The main hall can take up to 50 people and the Harrison Room 25

This is, however, subject to the Hirer carrying out a Covid19 Risk Assessment for their activity and submitting it to our Manager, Roger, before the booking is confirmed.

Users are responsible for ensuring all Covid19 requirements are met during the booking and for additional cleaning.

Our Special Conditions of Hire and Hall Risk Assessment detailing what we do and you will have to do are available from Roger or on our website:

bookhamcommunityassociation.org

The Waterfield Room will remain closed for the time being but you will be offered use of a larger hall at the same price, if available.

What's Happening

Not a lot at present but sometime in the future

Regular Events at the Old Barn Hall

- Mondays – Afternoon Bridge Club 1pm
- Tuesdays – Bookham Toddler Group 9.45-11.30am
- Thursdays – Afternoon Bridge Club 1pm
- Fridays – Country Market 10.15-11.30am
- Sundays – Jazz Club, check programme

Monthly

- Bookham Flower Club – first Monday 2pm
- Bookham Wine Club – 2nd Monday 8pm
- Bookham Stamp Club – 4th Tuesday 2.15pm
- The Arts Society – 4th Tuesday 7.30pm

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Next Edition of the Bookhams Bulletin

Deadline for Winter issue:

1 October 2020

Email articles or queries to the Editor

bookhamsbulletin@gmail.com

NEXT YEAR

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Saturday 19th June 2021

Open Gardens will be on
Sunday 27th June 2021

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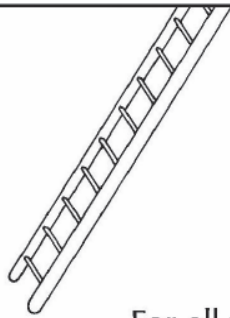
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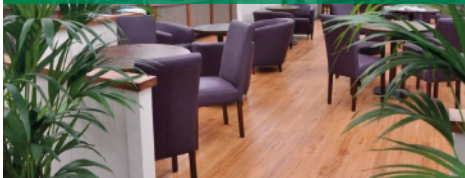


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Bringing people together

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New Data Protection Regulations came into force in 2019 and the Bookham Community Association falls under these regulations with regard to the personal information we hold in respect of our Members, Hirers, Directors, Volunteers and Affiliated Members.

Bookham Community Association – a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity - recognises that privacy is very important so we want you to be confident with the way that we handle your personal information. Personal information includes any information that identifies you personally, such as your name, address, email or telephone number.

Our responsibilities are to inform you about the Regulations, confirm our intention to comply, to outline our policy and to advise you of your rights to see that information and have it removed or corrected. You can see our Data Protection Policy on our website www.bookhamcommunityassociation.org at the office at the Old Barn Hall or ask for it to be sent to you by ringing 01372 456307 or email bcaoldbarnhall@btconnect.com

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Mole Valley Runners



Just before lockdown, members of the committee met staff at Mary Frances Trust in Leatherhead, where we handed over a cheque for £240, the proceeds from our Virgin London Marathon charity ballot. Then when lockdown started we sadly had to cancel all our club runs in line with government guidance.

But as we're so passionate about promoting positive mental health we wanted to find ways to continue to support our members. Debbie, the club founder and ex-mental health nurse, led the way supported by the rest of the committee, Paula, Louise, Nina, Carolyn and Michelle. We hosted a range of fun virtual competitions and events, organised by one of

our run leaders, Lee, where members were put into teams and could earn a point for using their daily exercise as a run or walk, or bonus points for being creative and exercising at home to help promote the 'stay home' message.

We've had runs around gardens, dining tables, patios, decking and even stair climbing, with lots of this in fancy dress too! We also introduced the Wheel of Doom – a wheel of fortune spinner with a range of horrific exercise moves on each colour and a team point was earned for completing the task (the idea was so successful a similar idea was used by a celebrity for their own fundraiser) Lee also suggested we use our positivity to raise money for Epsom and St Helier Hospitals NHS Trust, so we set up a fundraising page and have raised over £4,000 which is just brilliant.

Another run leader, Simon, kindly donated his own medals as prizes for members to enter a home 5k where we all ran on our own, either in our own home or around our garden. We all set off at the same time, with videos and photos being shared so it felt like we were doing it together during what has been a very

challenging time for us all.

Mole Valley Runners has a large Facebook group, and England Athletics Affiliated Club offering club runs for beginners to marathon runners across the week. To find out more about us, please look at our website molevalleyrunners.co.uk or join our Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/MoleValleyRunners

Paula Lakhani



Peter Pan Playschool

When Boris announced the phased re-opening of Early Years provision along with some school years, it came as a bit of a shock as no one expected us to be one of the first age groups to return. However, the Peter Pan staff and committee rose to the challenge and worked incredibly hard following Government guidance to complete the relevant risk assessments, action plans and policies to ensure we were ready to open our doors safely from 2nd June.

During lockdown, the staff made home videos of craft ideas, story-telling, bug hunts and other fun activities, and where the children were used to seeing us those who returned, came skipping in the front door on the very first day. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to

see how resilient they truly are, and also what a huge impact the staff's work at home has made to the children and their families.

Since we returned we've enjoyed lots of fun activities including outdoor play in the garden making bug hotels, gardening, planting and using the ride on toys. Indoors, whilst things look different, most of our favourite toys are still available, and we've been enjoying exploring the lego, duplo, painting, clay and lots of other fun and safe activities.

In September we are already at capacity on 3 of the 5 days, so if you would like to register your interest for the remaining places please do get in touch as soon as possible so we can provide you with further information.



Peter Pan Playschool is an inclusive 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, 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 Alternatively send an email to peterpanplayschool@gmail.com or call us on 07908 018924 and Louise and the staff team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



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Mole Valley Indoor Bowling Club

A very difficult period for everyone and we hope all our Bookham members have been surviving in a self-isolation environment. Not at all easy and particularly so for members living on their own and missing the contact with other members.

MVIBC is still closed along with the Leatherhead Leisure Centre until new guidelines are released. However, planning has been going on to prepare for any changes that

are put forward in the upcoming weeks.

Remember that indoor bowling is more than just bowling - it's a social meeting place. Unfortunately the distancing requirements will be difficult to accommodate initially but your committee will have been looking at all possible options.

Our new season usually starts in September with our annual recruitment. Full details of dates and times have not yet been published

but rest assured there will be more indoor bowling this year when regulations allow.

Remember all new or seasoned players are welcome to our membership. If you would like to know more about the club or our facilities - please visit our website www.mvibc.co.uk or email mail4mvibc@gmail.com or phone 01372 289 873

Michael Mackie

Bookham Butterflies WI

Bookham Butterflies WI were very busy during lockdown helping a variety of local causes and enjoying a number of virtual meetings.

The committee organised a sponsored walk – undertaken by members within their own households – called “Mosey for Meals”, raising an amazing £1,000 for Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. We joined forces with Leatherhead Rotary Club who were also fundraising and with their donations the overall total was an outstanding £8,000.

Butterflies members also gave almost £300 towards creating a hamper of ethical, organic skincare treats for staff at local care homes, some of whom have temporarily moved in. Our hampers went to Bells Grove, Keswick and The Red House.

Meanwhile a group of Butterfly members - alongside many people from the wider local community - has spent the weeks of lockdown making a variety of essential items for local hospitals, medical practices, care homes and schools.

These include hundreds of scrubs, bags, headbands, mask adaptors, tabards, hats, isolation gowns, face masks and “trauma teddies”. These knitted and crocheted cuddly

bears and gnomes wearing face masks were requested by the children’s ward at the Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford to comfort anxious children. Very close to home, we also made tabards and face masks for Eastwick and Oakfield Schools, as well as scrubs and masks for the Queen Elizabeth Foundation.

In total, almost 2,500 separate items (and counting!) have been made by a very generous group of amazing people from across the local community. The massive “making” operation was co-ordinated by Bookham Butterflies from the Fetcham Scout Hut, who very kindly gave us the use of their building.

Bookham Butterflies have been holding monthly meetings on Zoom while we are unable to meet up in person. We are delighted that almost 50 members joined us for each of our two virtual meetings so far, along with a couple of wonderful speakers in May. We heard from Adrienne Dines who talked about “The Art of Storytelling”. In June our speaker was Tracy Harwood, owner of the “Fetch’em from the Cupboard” shops in Fetcham and Ashted, who spoke about her mission to live life without plastic.

We have further speakers and activities planned for virtual monthly meetings in the near future and our two book groups are also continuing to meet online.

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



Linda Rockett making scrubs for local health workers



Staff at the QEF Foundation wearing scrubs made by Bookham Butterflies



Trauma Teddies made by a group led by Bookham Butterflies WI

Bookham Open Gardens - save the date - Sunday 27th June 2021

As with many other events, we were unable to run the 2020 Bookham Open Gardens. We had hoped to show you four new gardens and will definitely be in touch with them for next year. To show you what you were missing we ran a series of photo albums from our openers on our Facebook page. Our friends at the Bookham website also invited people to submit garden photos which you can see at <https://www.iliveinbookham.com/bookham-open-gardens-2020/>.

We are sure our gardeners will have welcomed all the extra time in the garden this year and look forward to being able to visit them next year instead. During lockdown we're sure a lot of you will have discovered how beneficial being in the garden can be!

Many of you will have missed the opportunity though to buy plants at Village Day and Open Gardens Day but we're pleased to say that Anthea Sokell ran an alternative plant sale in her garden and raised £1,000 towards the upkeep of the Old Barn Hall.

Diane Poole

Photos taken by Chris Rose.



Transition Bookham and the Plastic Free Bookham project



**PLASTIC FREE
BOOKHAM**
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

It won't be a surprise to hear that there hasn't been much activity since the last Bulletin was published. At time of writing we were waiting to see if it would be possible to hold our August meeting, and were intending to hold a socially-distanced tidying session at the St

Nicolas Pastoral Centre garden.

We have also arranged an online-screening of the film *The Story of Plastic*, followed by a discussion, which will count as one of the two plastic-free events that we need to arrange per year. We're also

delighted that we've over-achieved on the objective that requires us to have a councillor on our steering group, as we actually have two! MVDC has officially appointed Councillor Richard Moyses and Councillor Nancy Goodacre to our project.

Please take a look at our project website (www.plasticfreebookham.org.uk) to find out more about the project. If you're a local business or organisation and would like to work with us to reduce single-use plastic, please email us at pfcbookham@gmail.com.

In June we attended a meeting of Mole Valley District Council's Environment Forum - hosted online - to discuss progress on the draft climate change strategy. Councillor Claire Malcomson has

also started an environment blog, the first post of which outlines the measures that have been taken in the year since MVDC declared a climate emergency. It can be found in the Community area of www.molevalley.gov.uk under Climate Change & Sustainability, which also contains information on other local initiatives and changes you can make at home.

You can keep up-to-date with news items from Transition Bookham by emailing us at transitionbookham@gmail.com and asking to be added to our mailing list. There's more information on our website www.transitionbookham.org.uk. You can like and follow TransitionBookham on Facebook and follow @ttbookham on Twitter. We also have a PlasticFreeBookham Facebook page and Instagram account.

Great Bookham Belles WI

Since lockdown WI life has changed for our members, no longer can we meet monthly for our lively meetings and we have all missed the face to face contact. However each month we have held a meeting via Zoom.

This included a quiz in April and an enlightening talk by Kim Raine, a life coach, about 'How to cope in Lockdown', in May.

In June our guest speaker was Fritha Mason, the Global CEO from a fabulous Social Enterprise called the Secret Projects. She told us about her wonderful work training and empowering women in India to create micro

businesses making Secret Pillows and Secret Saris. It was sad that we couldn't see all of the wonderful things made face to face, however, we will be inviting her back when we're allowed to meet again.

Many of our crafty members have been busy making scrubs, wash bags and headbands (to protect ears when wearing masks) for the NHS and knitting or crocheting hearts for Covid patients and their families. Others have been busy baking for key workers or running errands for the vulnerable.

Our sub groups have kept in touch with each

other, with book groups, the environment group and choir meeting via Zoom and our walking group doing nature quizzes and more recently meeting up for socially distanced walks. Our walking netball group have been taking part in Netball England's fun Zoom sessions.

Sadly we had to postpone our Murder Mystery Evening which was to be a fundraiser for Cherry Trees but we fully intend to reschedule it as soon as we are able to do so! We also missed decorating our stall for Village Day but look forward to being back to our winning ways next year!!

Bookham Flower Club

Being creative is therapeutic and that has been the case for members of Bookham Flower Club during lockdown. A monthly pop up floral art exhibition has been organised by a technically minded member to ensure we had the opportunity to continue practising our floral art and appreciating the efforts of our fellow members. The committee decided on a title and members were asked to submit photographs of their arrangements which were to be constructed from plant material taken only from the garden. Comments (kind and constructive) were made by another member who is an area judge.

The photographs and accompanying comments were then distributed to the membership by email where possible or by hand where not. The first event was so successful that it was decided to repeat the following month and the month after that, still with a good response from entrants and viewers. The titles chosen were "Spring time, incorporating wood", "Making do - with a nod to VE Day" and "June Blooms".

It is fascinating to see the different interpretations and skilful use of the materials available from the garden. We have been grateful for the opportunity to be creative with our floral art and keep in touch with our

members and look forward to resuming our first Monday in the month meetings when we are able to use the Old Barn Hall again.



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



Sadly, all our plans for the summer had to be abandoned due to the coronavirus pandemic and so nothing has happened since the guitar evening on 14th March which seems a long time ago.

We did manage to hold our Annual General Meeting on 1st May by Zoom, which was a first, so at least we are compliant with our constitution. Unfortunately we had to do without the usual quiz and glass of wine but at least the business matters were dealt with.

At the AGM it was reported that Nick Carr our past chairman for 13 years had died. Nick had been a stalwart of Little Bookham Church for over 40 years including four spells as

churchwarden and wearing his Friends' hat was a major driving force behind the development of the Rector's Vestry and Bowdler Room, the churchyard extension and gates and the belfry refurbishment. He was the "go to" man for minor repairs, replacement lights etc. and his expertise will be sorely missed.

Our next event will be providing refreshments at the Tithe Barn on Heritage Day, if it goes ahead. We also hope to have our usual talk with mince pies and mulled wine at the end of November, depending on the future guidelines for gatherings.

The proposed monthly market at St Lawrence Church, Effingham was due to start in April. It will now start on Saturday 25th July but moved to outside the church hall just down the road from the church. The market is between 10am and 2pm and stallholders are local artisan food producers and crafts people. A café will be

staffed by the Friends and parking for the disabled is available. This will be repeated on the fourth Saturday of every month and will remain outside until we get the go ahead to move into the church. Please do come and support this new venture.

The Friends is a secular organisation created some years ago in order to help fund the upkeep of the 11th century All Saints Church, Little Bookham, a key part of our community's heritage. In January 2018 the parishes of Little Bookham and Effingham were merged and subsequently it was agreed that the charitable objects of the Friends would be extended to cover the upkeep of both All Saints Church and St Lawrence Church, Effingham, another 11th century building.

Membership is £20 p.a. and for more details please contact our Chairman, William Hill at <membership.friends@icloud.com>.

Bookham Choral Society

Before the suspension of all our musical activities many of our members were able to sing in the Leith Hill Festival Oratorio, The Mass in B Minor by JS Bach, on 8th March. The choir was accompanied by the internationally acclaimed baroque orchestra, Canzona, with rising stars of the concert platform as soloists. The Conductor and Festival Director Jonathon Willcox was delighted with the energy and musical confidence the choir brought to the performance in Dorking Halls.

We were also delighted we were able to host our annual Coffee Morning in The Old Barn Hall on 7th March. Many called in to enjoy a cups of coffee and some spectacular homemade cakes and to browse the many stalls. As ever, the Raffle was the most popular attraction with a huge number of prizes generously donated by choir members and their friends.

In early spring we were busy preparing for the

annual Leith Hill Musical Festival. The Festival was postponed, and we await news of when it will happen. There was a suggestion it might take place, in a slightly different format, in September and a final decision on whether it will go ahead will be taken around the middle of July. Hopefully normal life will be resumed in time for our Autumn and Christmas concerts.

Who knew that singing in a choir could be so contagious (in more than one way)? As well as producing glorious music we are all projecting spray into the air so we will not be singing as a group for a while. However, our conductor Richard is guiding us through rehearsals online so we do not get too rusty. Although we can see each other we can only hear the conductor and ourselves!

At this difficult time we are blessed to live in this age of technology. There have been countless concerts and operas to listen to or



watch online. Some members have been rehearsing with other choirs including Gareth Malone's 'Great British Chorus'.

We send our best wishes to all choir members and our regular concert audience members. We hope you are all in good health and we look forward to seeing you in the not too distant future.

Cheryl Mendham
Publicist, Bookham Choral Society

Bookham Bowls Club

Like most clubs we are under the restrictions imposed during the C-19 pandemic. Therefore we have been unable to host any internal or external matches alongside any of the social days /events that we had arranged during this season. Social distancing has meant that members taking part in the daily roll-ups have had to adhere to strict guidelines during this period and onwards.

Our Secretary Tony Moore writes on 23 May 2020: "I am very sorry to advise you that June



Enjoying a game

Shaw has passed away peacefully, from a non Covid related cause, in a care home in Poynton, near Stockport.

"June joined Bookham Bowls Club in the early 1970s. She was one of the outstanding bowlers in the Club having won the Ladies Championship on 18 occasions between 1973 and 2001, as well as winning county honours and representing Surrey at the highest level. It is understood that June represented Scotland in her earlier life.

"June was our Ladies Captain from 1978-80 and was elected an honorary Vice-President and Life Member in 2003. Her two sons pre-deceased her and her closest remaining relative is her daughter-in-law Mandy who lived close to the nursing home and visited on regular occasions.

"June would have been 96 in three weeks time"



Bowls Club members taking part in last year's Village Day

As the club's Press Officer I would like to ask any Bookham Bulletin reader who may remember June to have a look back in their bowling photo archives and send in a copy/scan of her to us at: bookhamtony1@btinternet.com It would be gratefully appreciated to enhance her profile.

Richard Sealy – Press Officer - 01372456280

www.bookhambowls.co.uk/

Bookham Stamp Club

Due to the corona virus, Bookham Stamp Club has suspended all meetings until further notice. But this does not preclude members from following their chosen hobby as this can be done remotely and can occupy a considerable amount of spare time you have at the moment.

So, those who are thinking: What shall I do with my old stamp collection, or the collections that have been left to me by family members? Why not join our club and reignite,

or indeed start a new hobby rather than sell it. But if you do decide to sell the collection, we would be interested in purchasing unwanted collections, or indeed need advice concerning the collection contact our Trading Secretary, David Bravery on 01372 452537.

The club was founded in 1993, and usually meets every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham. The club has Trading Tables which open at 1.30pm for members to

buy. Our displays commence at 2.15pm, and the programme includes visits from an impressive list of speakers, members' displays, and three times a year we hold auctions.

The club also has a packet exchange through which members can buy and sell stamps.

If you wish to find out more visit our website www.bookhamstampclub.com or contact our Membership Secretary Fred Mitchell on 01372 374614.

Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society

We have all been enjoying perfect gardening conditions with lots of warmth, a good bit of rain and most of all, time to garden. There have to be advantages that we haven't been able to work or commute, or do all those time consuming errands. As a result gardens and allotments are looking beautiful and many people are discovering the joys of gardening, growing vegetables and just enjoying one's own space.

The big disadvantage is that we have not been able to hold our regular meetings, outings and our wonderful Summer Show. With very careful conditions and distancing, a small group of us were able to go on an evening visit to the beautiful Stuart Cottage in East Clandon. It is part of the National Garden Scheme so there will be future opportunities to go there. The old tiled cottage and surrounding garden wall has a lovely character and makes a beautiful backdrop for the meticulously presented garden.

At this stage we are not sure whether the rest of our year's programme will be able to go ahead, but we will keep you informed.

September 28th – Steve Bradley on Making the most of Bulbs



Perfect attention to detail.

October 26th- Paul Patton on Autumn Inspiration - Looking forward to Spring.

To join us or for more information, please contact Angela Stevens on 01372 456713 or craigjstevens@aol.com

Jennifer Smitheman
Photos by Chris Rose.



Angela and John Stevens enjoying the Stuart Cottage garden.

The Meeting Place



As this article is being written we are coming out of the lockdown for covid-19. During the lockdown we have been keeping in touch with those we have

been regularly supporting. We are now looking at ways with social distancing we may be able to open our Coffee Shop again particularly on Saturday for our regulars who we have been in touch with us by phone.

The Language Hub has been running classes on Zoom which helps their students but would like to start up their regular face to face classes again. Hearing loss, lipreading classes and hearing aid assistance are looking at new ways of meeting but the lip-reading teaching has been doing some short videos and advice on line for our class. All of this has had its challenges!

However the Community Fridge has been growing week by week as we seek to help those who because of isolation, loss of jobs and poverty have valued the regular food bags they are receiving. All the food we distribute is helping to prevent food going to landfill. Besides this we had a wonderful donation of food from the Islamic Group in Leatherhead which has given more variety in

what we have been able to offer.

Many volunteers have come forward to enable all of this to happen for which we are so grateful and they come and pack or deliver regularly. As things built up most weeks over 150 bags have been going out on different days. Over and above this we are asked sometimes for emergency bags to go out to people who have no food until their next normal delivery. Some people say they no longer need support but then we get more



people coming on the list. It may be some while yet before these deliveries end but when we are able to allow people to come to the Baptist Church and look at and receive food the Community Fridge will be there available to everyone.

For more information please go to our website <http://themeetingplace.org.uk>, email info@themeetingplace.org.uk or call mobile 07425 133431 to leave a message. Also you can follow us on Facebook



The Old Barn Hall Field, The Garstons and Mead Crescent

The field lies behind the Old Barn Hall, is owned by Mole Valley District Council and has been used as the venue for Bookham Village Day since, at least, 1948.

At the lower end the field opens out to The Garstons via a triangle of land left as an open space by the developers of the estate in 1956. On the North side there is access to Mead Crescent via a small plot of land also left by the developer.

These areas were adopted by Surrey County Council as Highways Land together with the roads, pathways and verges and have been maintained by them since that time. The Old Barn Hall is within the ownership of Bookham Community Association (a Registered Charity), and the field behind is in the freehold ownership of Mole Valley District Council.

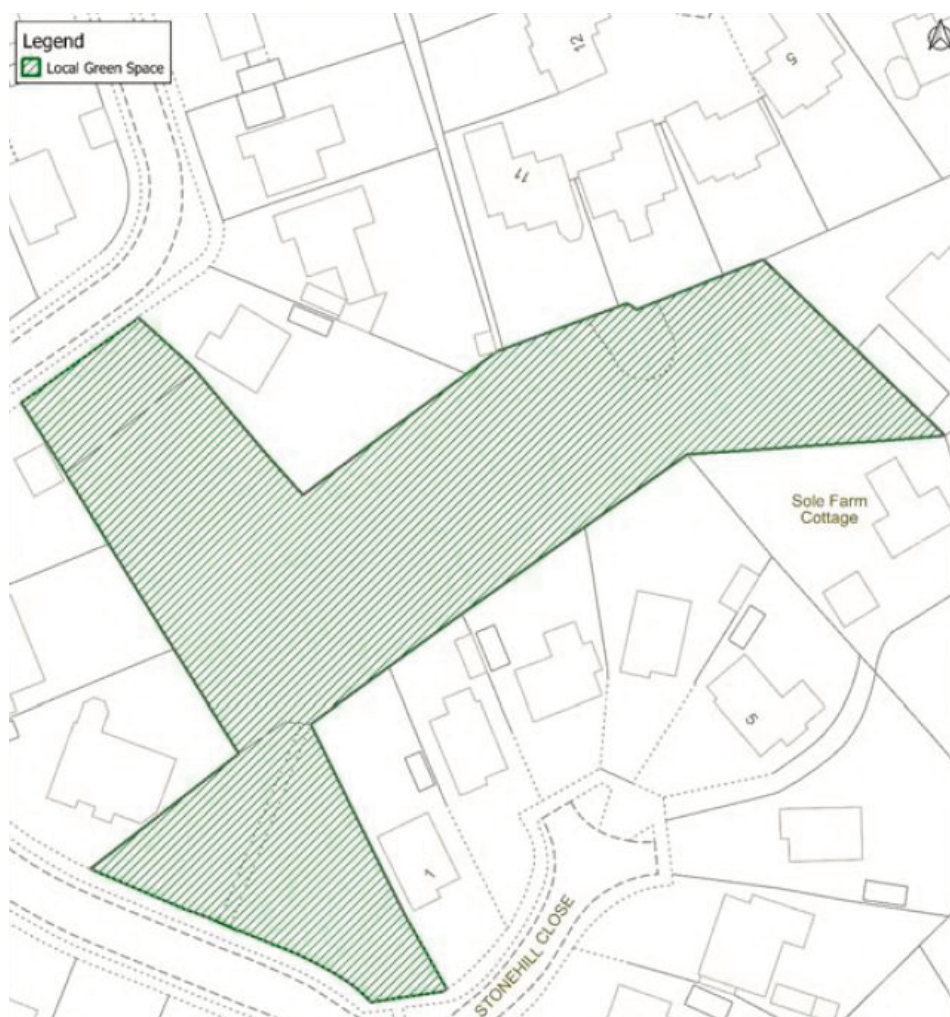
The field is designated in the approved Local Plan as an open space, and this designation is expected to be maintained in an emerging review of the Local Plan which is due over the next few years.

When the freehold of the two separate parcels was offered for sale at auction recently it was hoped locally that bids would be modest and

purchase by local benefactors or even the local community might be possible via crowd funding. The fact that they formed part of the adopted public highway it was hoped would limit interest. Sadly, this was not to be. After an initial sale of the whole parcel at a price in excess of £60,000, the land was subdivided into two triangular parcels in The Garstons, and the separate plot in Mead Crescent.

The two Garstons plots sold at even higher figures and the Mead Crescent land was sold at auction last week for £66,000. In the meantime one of the two subdivided areas in The Garstons was the subject of a planning application for a single house (subsequently withdrawn following over 80 local objections).

A group of local residents together with the BCA, the BRA and supported by local Councillors, are looking at ways to preserve these open spaces for the community. Further information will be issued in due course but if you have any special skills in this regard and would like to help please register your interest get in touch via the BRA web site: www.bookhamresidents.org.uk or alternatively call the BRA 24-hour message line: 0300 030 9890 with your contact details.



Mole Valley Women's Institute (WI)



The members of Mole Valley have been pretty active during the past three months despite the strange and worrying time during the Covid 19 crisis. All meetings in the hall were cancelled and we still do not know when we will be able to meet again as a group.

However our committee, gardening club and ramblers have all had regular Zoom meetings which have now become the norm. As the rules about meeting up relaxed our Knit and Natter group has been able to meet in a member's garden.

Several of our members joined the push to help the NHS and have been busy sewing scrubs, headbands, kit bags, gowns and masks. Others not so handy with a sewing machine helped by providing the necessary fabrics.

On a sunny day in April several members all joined together for a virtual cup of tea and cake.

If you would like to come to a meeting (when they resume) or to find out more about Mole Valley WI details can be found on our website 'molevalleywi.btck.co.uk' which has been regularly updated during the crisis.

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Leatherhead Division Girlguiding

Many Girlguiding activities across the Leatherhead Division continued "virtually" during lockdown.

7th Bookham Brownies were one of the local units involved in a virtual weekend event called "Stay About". Those taking part camped overnight in tents pitched in their gardens, or under shelters created inside their homes. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides logged in online during the weekend for videos and instructions, as they took part in a whole host of activities. These included making homemade facemasks (out of cucumbers and yoghurt),



2nd Bookham Rainbows have earned 16 interest badges between them during lockdown!



1st Effingham Brownies made "trash fashion" for teddies

eggy bread, a cake in a cup and mocktails. Girls could also take on a local expedition, make an obstacle course, a camp flag and shadow puppets.

7th Bookham are making plans to celebrate their 50th birthday, when the unit is able to meet together physically again. In the meantime, the unit is running a competition to create a badge to mark the anniversary.

2nd Bookham Rainbows have earned an incredible 16 interest badges between them during lockdown. The girls have also enjoyed a VE Day themed session, become explorers and created a short story together. Weekly meetings have been held online since May and there are even plans to officially enrol the unit's newest recruit on Zoom!

1st Bookham Guides are meeting online too, with organised activities such as mini pioneering, scavenger hunts, quizzes and crafts.



7th Bookham Brownies take part in "StayAbout", a virtual weekend

They are also holding a competition to grow the tallest sunflower. Bookham Rangers have enjoyed online quizzes and escape rooms, a virtual tour and quiz around Paris and also held a "Great Bookham Bake Off".

Elsewhere in the Leatherhead Division, members of 1st Fetcham Rainbows and 1st Leatherhead Brownies raised money for the Faurefold Girlguiding holiday and campsite at Westcott, through a series of fun challenges based on the number 26. 1st Effingham Brownies made "Trash Fashion" outfits for their teddies, room in a box designs and a recycled board game. 2nd Fetcham Rainbows went on a safari adventure – they drew a giraffe, coloured it in and sang "We went to the animal fair".

For more information about Girlguiding in the Leatherhead Division, and to volunteer as a leader for one of the local groups, contact Christine Moss on ggleatherheaddivision@gmail.com or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk



The Howard Nursery School is a small, friendly nursery set in the grounds of the Howard of Effingham School. We are very proud to have been able to remain open for Key Worker children during the COVID- 19 lockdown. As part of The Howard Partnership Trust we utilised facilities across the Trust to fulfil the Government's request to open for Key Worker children. In the midst of a global crisis, we were able to deliver true partnership working.

Our children who remained at home engaged in a wide variety of learning activities which were planned by our dedicated practitioners. Some included making and drawing pictures for the residents at Gracewell in Bookham. Ordinarily we regularly visit the residents at Gracewell, where they enjoy reading stories to our nursery children. We value the time spent together, enjoying each other's company, playing games and chatting.

Whilst we have not been able to access our normal weekly Forest School sessions, we have been enjoying picnics on the school field, exploring nature, laughing and playing games together and having fun outside, all within our little 'bubbles.' We have been very impressed with how quickly and easily the children have settled back into nursery life and embraced the new rules, routines and restrictions.

For the remaining summer half term, we are focussing on the children's physical and emotional well-being as well as preparing those who will be transitioning to school in September. Although we are unable to finish the academic year with the usual celebrations, we are certain the children will continue to



shine their 'Howard Light' at their new schools. We are proud of the kind, caring, independent individuals they have all become, demonstrating curiosity about the world and a love of learning.

If you would like your child to be part of The Howard Nursery School, we have spaces available for September and would love to hear from you. For more information, call 01372 453832 or email info@thehowardnursery.thpt.org.uk. Please visit our website on www.thehowardnursery.org



Howard of Effingham School HowardFest goes Virtual

Since 2018 the Howard of Effingham School has held HowardFest, a summer music festival with the aim of offering as many of our students as possible opportunity to showcase their talent whilst raising money to support the school's music department. It's always a hugely popular event, with many acts from students current and past throughout the day.

This year, due to the current pandemic, the Howard departed from its usual setting and took HowardFest online, streaming the event live on YouTube where hundreds of people tuned in to watch a wide variety of acts from their home.

Howard students spent the lockdown period recording and filming acts from pop and rock songs to jazz standards to theatrical performances to an art exhibition. HowardFest 2020 had it all! All the acts were edited together by music teacher Sam Lockyer and,

despite some technical difficulties, the whole festival went live with five hours of high quality performances on 20th June.

This year the school decided, instead of raising money for the music department, they would support local charities helping those affected by COVID-19. They are supporting the Community Foundation for Surrey Coronavirus Response Fund supporting local charities and volunteer organisations through our current crisis. They have already raised over £800 for this worthy cause.

The Howard were incredibly fortunate to have Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Amy Wadge perform at the event. Amy has written songs for many well-known artists such as Camila Cabello, Gwen Stefani and Ed Sheeran, and she performed her renditions of 'Faith's Song' and 'Thinking Out Loud' for the online audience. Other highlights included

bands such as Metanoia, the Majority, Howard Jazz Band and Howard Teacher Band, as well as a huge 'Howard Ultimate Ensemble' consisting of many members of the Howard community all singing and playing Bill Withers' 'Lean On Me' together virtually.

All the students enjoyed taking part and watching their work and others broadcast live. We are all grateful to The Howard community and music staff for supporting this event and enabling it to happen, and especially to Mr Lockyer for the work he put in to edit and organise all the performances in time for the live broadcast. The event is available on YouTube simply by searching 'HowardFest 2020'. We hope to be able to return to live events this coming year, and hopefully to see some of you at the next HowardFest!

Kat Finch, Head of Music

The Arts Society



As with all local groups, the last few months have been challenging for the society but members have had the chance to view online presentations from our head office.

We were given an informative guide to the design of the new £20 note featuring the artist John Constable. The intricate work on the note includes many aspects of the painter's life. It was fascinating to learn why the aspects of his work were chosen to ensure that the note becomes difficult to counterfeit.

The latest in June showed lecturer Rebecca Hossack's presentation 'Aboriginal Art - recording the Dreamtime'. It tells the histories - and stories - of three aboriginal paintings hanging in Rebecca's home, works by Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, Emily Kame Kngwarreye and John Mawurndjul. They are three of the great painters of the Aboriginal tradition -

Members can also become 'Instant experts'



Sicily



On the river at Windsor - Photo by Derek Simmonds

with written presentations on The Arts Society website most recently featuring Bernard Leach pottery and an introduction to street art.

Chairman Angela Stevens looks forward to the day when our meetings can be held in the Old Barn Hall and we can be socially interactive. As an alternative Zoom meetings are planned in the autumn. In September we hope Evelin Eaton will present the historical, cultural and artistic aspects of the Bayeux Tapestry.

If national travel arrangements continue to improve, the next overseas visit could be viable. A six day tour of Sicily starting on 1st October is planned. It will include visits to Segasta, with a massive unfinished Doric temple, to Erice and Trapani. A guided tour of the Cathedral at Monreale then on to Palermo.

The Valley of Temples at Agrigento will lead to a final day at the port of Masala and boat trip to the island of Mozia.

Further visits will be considered and members informed. The programme for the rest of 2021 is booked. It will all depend on how the virus and any government response affects distancing and social contact. Eventually, new members will be 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

Rotary Club of Bookham & Horsley

Since writing three months ago we have learnt to adapt to coping through lockdown very well. Our Virtual Zoom Meetings continue each week and are as well attended as any in the region, with 15-18 faces and wine glasses typically appearing each Wednesday evening. During our typical 75-minute call, we have been entertained by talks, music and film quizzes, and guest speakers. Two standout guest talks have been a review of the work of the Community Coronavirus Care team (and how we can help them), and highlights of a trek to the North Pole made by intrepid Bookham resident Gordon Stein (Gordon will be back with his full version with props at a live meeting next spring).

We are now considering options for our meetings, activities and fund-raising events over the next year, led by incoming Club President Keith Slark from the start of July. Getting the balance right to ensure we fit within Government guidelines AND mindful of what the local community both want and feel comfortable with is not easy. We hope to run such staple annual Rotary events as the November Bookham Brunch and Christmas Round-The-Houses sleigh runs, albeit with necessary modifications. Some fund-raising events this autumn, such as bridge evenings, may have to be curtailed as too high-risk. Other new outdoor events are being considered.

The Club is in good health in terms of

membership, with recent joiners last year now moving into more prominent team leading roles for fundraising, charity spending and media relations. We were also fortunate to welcome Steve Gapper to the Club this spring. Steve is an experienced Rotarian and has been a member of clubs in Edinburgh and (most recently) Alresford near Winchester. Welcome Steve – you will make a great contribution!

Talking of contributions, the Club was delighted to present a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Eddie Crouch MBE. Eddie joined this Club in 1967, was Club President several times and also a past District Governor. This fantastic contribution to serving the local community has been recognised with a letter from the global Rotary HQ near Chicago. The letter from Mark Maloney, International President, includes this paragraph:

Each year since you were inducted into your club, you have chosen to devote your time,

energy, and skills to our organization. You are and continue to be a member because of

your passion for service, and your dedication has helped make Rotary a greater force of

good in the world.

Eddie, it has been our privilege to be part of Bookham & Horsley Rotary Club alongside you.

If you like what you read about Rotary and want to make a difference, go to our website



Eddie Crouch receiving his certificate from President Andrew Smith



Eddie Crouch's certificate

and/or call us, or join our mailing list for occasional updates. Once normal service is resumed you are very welcome to come along to a trial meeting.

For all details visit www.bookhamandhorsley.rotaryweb.org or contact our secretary Mark Secker on 01372 458733 or mark.secker@outlook.com

Andrew Smith

Bookham Baptist Children's Centre



This has been a strange time for us all, including local families with babies and children in Bookham. Some families will have really enjoyed a slower

pace of life with less routine and more time to spend together, perhaps going out for more walks than previously. Others will have found it a very challenging time, trying to manage babies and toddlers at home with little or no support, unable to access usual activities and finding the whole experience emotionally draining and physically exhausting!!

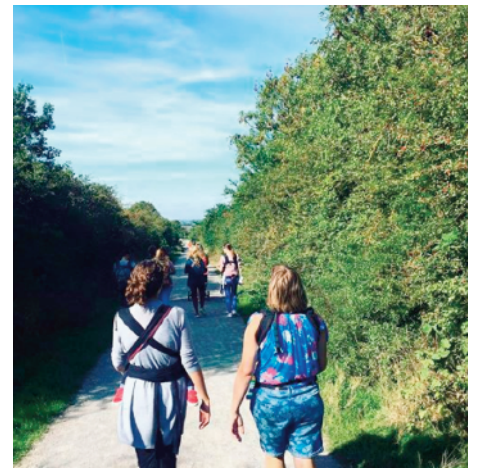
Although the Children's Centre has not been able to run any of our usual groups or courses since March, we have still been working behind the scenes.

We have organised some socially distanced

Sling/Buggy walks for new parents and Zoom catch up sessions. You can also access local breastfeeding support via Zoom. We have been continuing to offer phone/socially distanced Family Support Outreach to some families locally. We will also be partnering with the ETHOS project in the autumn to offer Pop Up Recruitment Stations for those who now find themselves out of work or struggling to know where to turn.

Over the coming months as the situation changes we hope to be able to run more sessions and support more families with children in our community – we miss seeing all the little ones and their parents/grandparents and carers and we look forward to welcoming families again when it is safe to do so. To keep up to date with what is happening please follow and like our Facebook Page and register with the Children's Centre via our website.

If you or someone you know has children and could do with a little extra support, or you have any other questions then please get in touch with us by emailing familyservices@bookhambaptist.org or phoning 01372 811 313.



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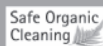
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Bookham Bees WI



During these strange and unprecedented times Bookham Bees WI has kept the Bees buzzing as much as possible in offering companionship to Members via Zoom and WhatsApp, as well as the old traditional method of chatting over the telephone. We are so lucky to have modern technology!

Many members have been helping with the Community Fridge, led by Edna Woodhouse, who is a Bookham Bee and a member of Bookham Baptist Church. In addition to this,

some of the Bees have been sewing masks, linen bags and scrubs, along with many other people in the village, helping to supply the NHS and local care homes.

The Bees have also been on hand for neighbours and friends, who have been shielding due to Covid-19. Shopping, prescription collections and sharing on-line shopping slots have kept things buzzing along.

The Bees have continued with their monthly meetings via Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month, with Members who have access to Zoom. In July they played, 'Would I Lie to You' which caused a lot of laughter and certainly helped us to get to know each other better!

In addition to the monthly WI meetings, Zoom Coffee Mornings are held when several of us take our coffee cups to our iPads and computers and enjoy a 40 minute chat with our fellow Bees.

The friendship and contact that has been offered via WhatsApp and Zoom has been a real boost in keeping morale up whilst many Bees have been isolated in their homes. None of us know when we might all meet again in person but the camaraderie offered through our WI has helped many of us to keep looking forward to the time when life begins to return to normal. We have even welcomed new members to Bookham Bees WI during lockdown so if you are interested in joining us please do email: bookhambees@outlook.com We would love to see you.

A Special Summer at BusStop

Activity at BusStop Pre-school, Nursery and Forest School might have slowed down a little during lockdown but it very definitely did not stop!

April and May were spent planning, creating and replacing resources and projects. Parents were kept on their toes too with lockdown projects and challenges for the children - delivered via WhatsApp - to keep everyone connected and familiar with each other. The children loved their weekly projects - whether creating hats, looking for particular things in nature or sharing their favourite songs.

Up at the BusStop bungalow on the Polesden Lacey estate, with its wonderful garden, there were plenty of grown-up projects for the team. The weather took care of the future of many of the shelters which had semi-permanent

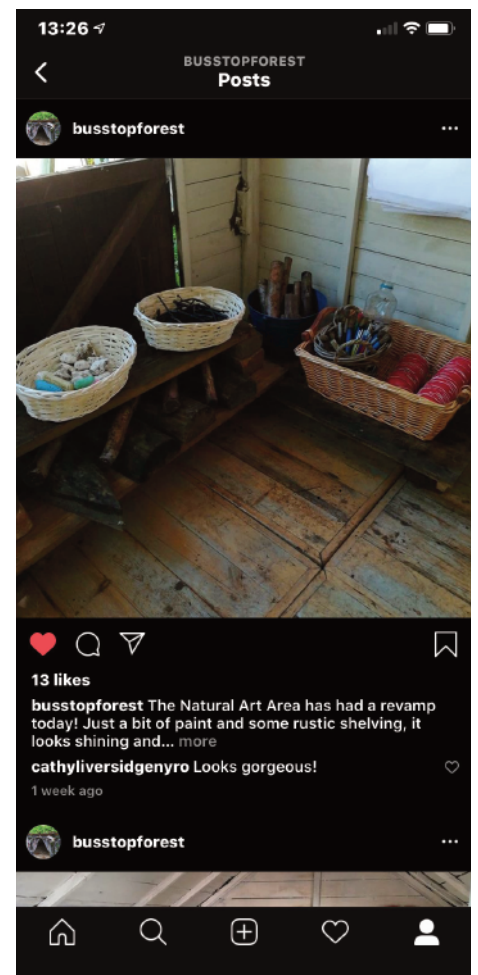
residence in the garden and a 'refresh' programme had to be advanced! You can see a picture here of a wonderful new Story Dome which is going to (eventually) look like a yurt and contain a cooking stove, as well as all manner of exciting creative resources. You can see a lot more pictures of the BusStop garden and the wonderful spaces within it on BusStop's Instagram account - @busstopforest

The Natural Art Area has also been repainted and refreshed and raw woollen fleeces sourced from a member of the extended BusStop family used for some experimental felting.... quite an art by the sound of it.

Many of the children returned in June for the final half-term of the academic year. Their joy at being back at the BusStop bungalow and garden, able to play with the sandpit and garden toys and to roam their favourite places in the Polesden Lacey estate, was palpable. The family team at BusStop have created such a wonderful, friendly, imaginative, creative space and it was clearly much missed by the children whilst they were unable to enjoy it.

In September there will be a new intake of children, ready to join their - as yet unknown - new playmates for another year of fun in the BusStop Bungalow....

Cathy Liversidge parent



Leatherhead Youth Project



Whilst finding new ways to do Youth Work during social distancing, we have also

celebrated 15 years since LYP started our first project in Leatherhead.

Youth Work Online

At LYP we have moved our projects online,

whilst we cannot meet, this has included posting interactive and informative social media posts every day of the week for our young people. We've also filmed weekly team challenges and hosted live online quizzes. All of these activities have kept up communications between our team and young people.

We have also been able to run some targeted small group work online, including a weekly Zoom call with a small group for games and discussions. Plus, a weekly game of Minecraft (an online video game), where our team and young people work together to build a village and survive on an island. So far, the Minecraft village includes five houses, a food shop and a beach with sun beds.

Our Counselling and Emotional Wellbeing

Team (previously named the One-to-One Team) have been able to keep up with many of their meetings with individual young people, through video calling and phone calls. Alongside this, our youth workers have weekly phone calls with some of the young people who regularly attend our projects, to stay in touch whilst we can't meet.

Offline, our team are finding more ways to serve the wider community and three of our team are volunteering with the local Community Fridge teams.

We are passionate about supporting local young people, we know this is such a difficult time for them, so we will continue to be available as much as possible and look to provide as many alternative ways of support as possible.

Bookham Library

Well, it certainly has been a strange few months. Public libraries in Surrey, in common with libraries throughout the country, have been closed but are now starting to emerge. They won't be quite as we remember them - there will be no public computers or printing, no bus pass or blue badge applications, no newspapers and no seating, at least initially. As I write on 6th July, the following libraries are opening their doors for the first time in three months to offer a limited service - Camberley, Dorking, Egham, Epsom, Farnham, Godalming, Guildford, Horley, Oxted, Redhill, Staines,

Weybridge and Woking. Remember, your library card is valid in any public library in Surrey but don't forget to take it with you.

More libraries will reopen in the future but, in the meantime, do not worry about any books or DVDs that you may have on loan. All loans have been extended until at least 4th September so there is no need for you to take any action and no extra rental will be charged.

Surrey Libraries' online offer is continuing. If you haven't yet discovered the joy of walking miles whilst listening on headphones to

someone reading you a story then there is a treat in store for you! There are ebooks and eaudiobooks to suit all tastes and ages on the RBDigital and Borrowbox apps and Rhymetime and Storytime sessions continue online as well. Further information is available from the Surrey Libraries' webpage or phone 0300 200 1008 (Monday to Friday 9 to 5 and Saturday 10 to 12).

We look forward to welcoming you back into Bookham Library as soon as we possibly can.

Eastwick Road Church – United Reformed Church



Although all the church buildings in the village have been closed during the lockdown the Church has been open and active.

At Eastwick Road Church weekly 'In Touch' Newsletters are being produced with a message, hymns and prayers. The Newsletter gives contacts details of those who could help with shopping, prescription collecting etc.

St Nicolas Church and Bookham Baptist Church have used youtube to to live stream services thanks to the technical ability of some of its members! Many people have tuned into these.

Eastwick Road Church using a local shop and The Grange delivered a Cream Tea to those who were more socially isolated within the church community.

The Golden Years Team, from all the churches, has also been working with the staff at Keswick, leaving prayer and activity cards, and arranged to have some plants delivered from The Vineries for residents to plant up.

The Bookham Youth Project, currently based at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre, has been keeping in touch with the young people using all the

range of IT available, offering support and encouragement.

Many have never heard of Zoom before March but this has been a very valuable way of keeping in touch.




As from July 4th churches can hold services so all are carefully working out if they open for Sunday Service how they can operate safely with all the restrictions.

For everyone this has been a unique opportunity to look at how we'd do church, and serve the local community not just during the pandemic but in the future.

Sue Ferguson
Church Secretary – Eastwick Road Church

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Executive Members Angela Baker, Roger Bull, Sylvia Bull, Peter Clarke

AFFILIATED GROUPS

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Changes and applications for affiliation to veronica@hurren.org
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Non Emergency Telephone contact 101 or 01483 571212 - Emergency
Calls '999'

EDUCATION

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Bookham Arts Society Linda Tickner 454151 Lindatdfas@aol.com

Bookham Seniors Computer Club, Brian Baker 450604
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Fetcham & District U3A Chris Wimble 879486
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Leisure Learning Terry Hulme 454223 terryhulme@outlook.com

Surrey Adult Education Service Mid Surrey Area Leatherhead KT22 7SY

Surrey Quilters Guild Jan Godding 453801-
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Dawnay School, 456774

Friends of Dawnay School c/o The Dawnay School 456774

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Talking Newspaper for the Blind Andrew Smith 812042
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The Usui Reiki Academy Surrey Amanda White 07432 777875
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Topic of Cancer Bookham Support Group Nigel Lewis-Baker 456025
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Bookham Country Market 456401 Please see the Market on Facebook

Bookham Craft Club Julia Brookman 453679

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Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit Fr Stephen Dingley 458263
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Bookham Scouting Centre 454383 johnphumphreys@hotmail.com

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South Bookham SPACE hire.southbookhamspace@gmail.com

Bookham U3A Social History Group

VICTORIA COTTAGES, HOME TO THE AMEYS AND OTHERS

Bookham U3A Social History Group researched two of the village's oldest surviving cottages during the 2020 lockdown. Familiar today as the pink premises of the dental practice England's House, the cottages at 28 and 30 High Street date back at least to 1548 when occupied by a Dame Elizabeth Durden.

They were known as Victoria Cottages from the 19th century. No 28 was called simply Victoria Cottage while its neighbour retained the earlier name England's. They were modified in the 17th century and have been separately occupied ever since. The dental practice arrived at No 30 in 1992 and now shares the freehold with a private owner of No 28. Originally covering two acres, the timber-framed cottages once had a hole in the roof for smoke release. An original wood staircase survives inside as well as ancient first floor windows.

For centuries a well in front of the cottages provided water and was still used by the tenant of No 28 until she died in 1990. Her name was Kate Amey and she had been born in Victoria Cottage in May 1899. Her parents, William and Emily, had married in 1890 and moved there in 1891. Their first child, George, died of tuberculosis in 1893 aged two. His sister Florence was a few months old. Two further daughters were born, Alice in 1895, and Kate in 1899. Four months later William himself succumbed to TB at 39. Emily remained for the rest of her life.

The 1901 census shows the widow Emily, 37, earning her living as a laundress, living with her daughters. Their neighbours in England's were bricklayer John and Amelia Atkins who



Emily Amey

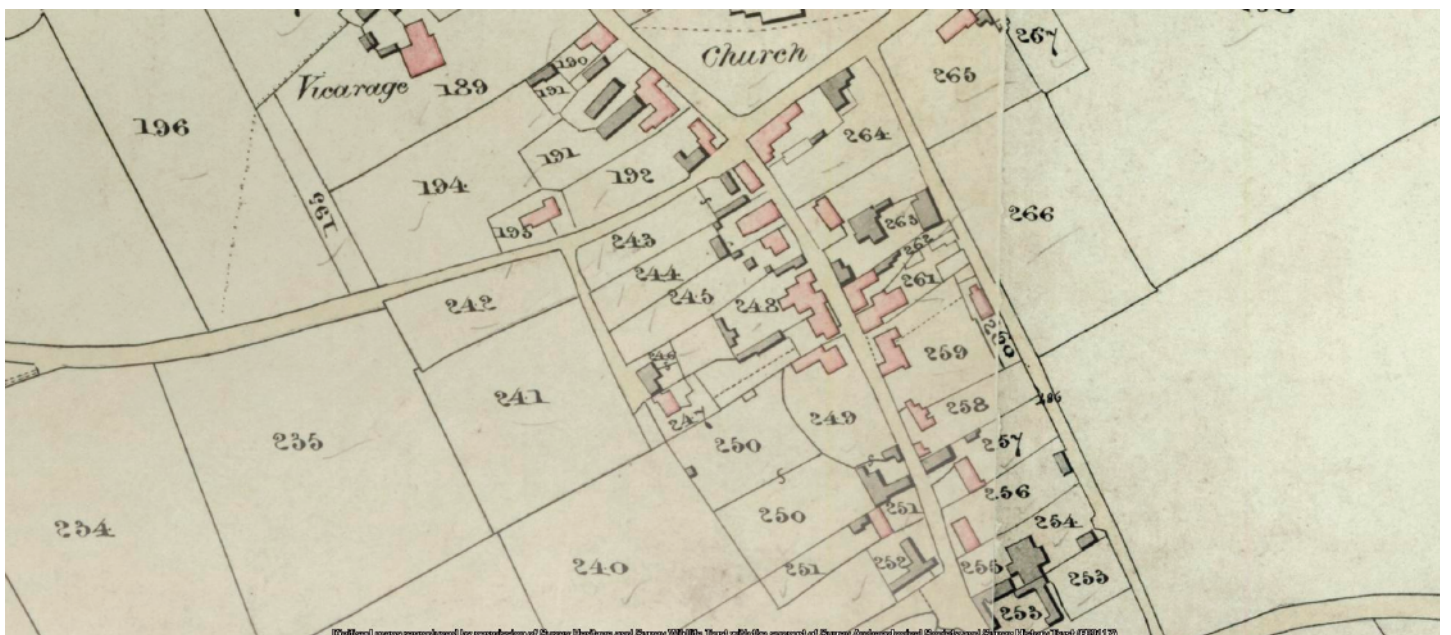
had lived there for at least 20 years before that. John died in 1906 and Amelia in 1910. In 1906 Emily Amey started working at the Barn Hall as caretaker and cleaner and did similar work at St Nicolas Church. She remained at both until retiring aged 85 and dying in 1959 aged 95. To the end she scrubbed floors and trudged along the High Street in all weathers, washing the church robes using water from her cottage well.

From 1939 onwards Kate shared both her mother's home and work, taking over the tenancy alone 20 years later. The rent had been fixed since the turn of the century and she refused any review so the cottage was never modernised with running water or electricity. She died in 1990 and was buried at the church. Victoria Cottage increased in value dramatically after her death and the property was sold with a share of freehold in 1999 for £162,000. In 2016 it fetched £350,000.



Ethel Kate Amey

No 30 had a different history. A series of families lived there - some for decades - including the Crockfords before the Atkinses and from 1917 the Scotts. Some were gardeners. Local solicitor Stephen Fortescue owned both cottages from the mid-1950s onwards and installed a modern water system in England's as well as upgrading the garden. He lived there himself for a while but No 30 was then occupied on and off for many years, sometimes as commercial premises until 1992.



Mole Valley Ramblers Navigate Through Lockdown with Flair



A small group enjoying a socially distanced mid-morning coffee break on Juniper Top near Box Hill, Dorking.

During what should have been a year of triumphant celebrations marking their 40th anniversary, no-one could have imagined that the whole series of events would have to be cancelled, along with all the group walks.

Despite this crushing blow our group was quick to evolve to the challenges of the new

order. We rapidly responded to the situation by setting up weekly Zoom meetings so members could stay in contact and support one another. An online monthly magazine quickly followed, making its first appearance in April with articles and contributions from within our own ranks. Telephone calls to those particularly isolated were undertaken by our Chairman to keep them connected.

The website was regularly amended to reflect the ever changing situation and finally our popular MVR Social Facebook Group page gave members a chance to share their experiences during lockdown. They included photos along with accounts of their individual walks, glimpses into their beautiful gardens, advice on what might be good to watch or listen to and even regular musical contributions from one particularly talented person.

Over the years great friendships have been forged within the group and clearly these

strong bonds have remained intact during these difficult times. The group is looking forward to the time when the restrictions have been lifted and group walks are able to recommence.

In the meantime we were aware that many people were attempting to walk alone or in small groups of family and friends and could benefit with an update to enhance their navigation skills to safely and confidently enjoy the countryside.

As a result, Mole Valley, East Surrey and Woking Ramblers collaborated to launch an innovative online workshop giving members of other Surrey Ramblers Groups an opportunity to improve their use of map and compass along with an introduction to using digital aids.

We all know that walking is good for your physical and mental health but what is often overlooked is that being part of a group is equally beneficial in its own right.

Keep Calm and Grange on!!!



Firstly, I would like to thank the local community for all your support and heartfelt messages, we are so grateful to you and hope everyone is keeping safe.

Along with everyone else, this pandemic has had an unprecedented effect on The Grange. We support over 125 people a week who either live on our main site in Bookham, off site in flats owned by The Grange or at home with relatives. In a normal week the people we support access a full programme of sessions to teach them new skills and enrich their daily lives. They include cooking, gardening, woodwork, creative arts, our social enterprises: books beyond words, fudge making, creating mugs, plus running our cafes: Simply Scones, Cuppa and Cake and The Dorking Café.

We also have two shops; The Grange at No 5 in

Bookham and Inspirations in Dorking, currently still closed. We provide numerous social activities, including sports, bike rides and lots of evening clubs. Many of our people have regular work-experience placements and are missing that social interaction with the businesses, schools, nurseries and shops who so generously welcome them each week.

As soon as the Coronavirus hit restrictions on visitors to our main site in Bookham were put in place, and our shops, cafes and all off-site activities stopped. All immediate fundraising activities were postponed or cancelled which will have a long-lasting impact on our income. And our regular visiting corporate teams, who not only help around our site but often fundraise for us too, can no longer visit.

With our usual sessions stopped more one-to-one activities have been implemented instead, for example going for a walk around our lovely grounds, taking part in different arts and crafts, plus tending our fabulous walled garden. Activity packs have been posted to those no longer visiting or living on our site, providing a welcome distraction and keeping their skills going!

For a person with a learning disability any change in their usual routine has a big impact on them. Our amazing staff are doing everything possible to keep in touch with and support not only the disabled adults who attend our services, but our team of 120 volunteers, parent carers and other stakeholders.



Jenny enjoying a cup of tea at Polesden Lacey

Online resources have been utilised to the max. Regular buddy phone chats or online by staff and key workers to those in another location make people feel connected and even a virtual online tea break session has been established - all having been really well received and will continue as long as this lasts!

Now that lockdown is more relaxed some of the people we support have been excited to take advantage of the generous time slots donated to The Grange by Polesden Lacey and have hugely enjoyed the change of scenery!

For more information about The Grange and how to support our work, look at our website: www.grangecentre.org.uk. - make sure you check out the inspiring photo gallery found under the 'People we support' tab.



A tale of two Annes who are phone buddies

Keep safe everyone, Marion Chow

Polesden Lacey Playschool



We, at Polesden Lacey Playschool, were lucky enough to be able to open and support Key Worker children from Easter. We were even more delighted when we could reopen the Playschool on 1st June for all other children who wished to attend. All returning children have taken incredibly well to the 'bubbles' they are in and the social distancing measures put in place to safeguard those who attend playschool and their families.

A large portion of our children have returned and are once again enjoying everything Playschool has to offer. From making pasta necklaces and pictures with stickers, to playing with toys and running around with their friends, they have all done their parents proud. All the staff are incredibly pleased to see so many smiley faces again.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our staff. They are being extra diligent and giving

up even more of their time outside of playschool hours to ensure the room and outdoor classroom remain clean and sanitized, and ensure each toy is properly sterilised after each session

Children who have remained at home are continuing with their home learning too. Those moving up to their Reception classes in September have been set the challenge to develop their independence. They practice using knives and forks and changing their own clothes.

Whilst painting and baking are still firm favourites with the children, some have been taking advantage of the amazing weather we have had and have been looking at maps and building dens. Lots of the children enjoy growing plants and harvesting vegetables. Practising on scooters and bikes is a great way to get their daily exercise.

Sadly, we couldn't say goodbye to the children who are moving onto Reception in our usual way. Please know that all the staff are incredibly proud of how much you have grown. Your new teachers are incredibly lucky to have you.. We wish you all luck as you start your new schools and begin new adventures.

A huge thank you to the parents, children and staff at Playschool. Have wonderful summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming those returning in September.

For more information about the playschool, arrange a visit once they are allowed or enquire about admissions call us on 01372 458 145 (for general enquiries/admissions, please leave a message if there is no answer), email us at alison.s.roberts@btinternet.com, or visit our website - <http://polesdenlaceyplays.wix.com/playschool>

Natasha Matthews

Eastwick Women's Institute

Although we have not been able to have our monthly meetings and group activities we have kept in touch via our monthly Updates from our President and Secretary and judging from the feedback most members have been very busy. Apart from the initial forays into cupboard clearing and tidying and even a bit of DIY, the activities have been diverse.

Many of us have been involved in the great sewing scheme initiated and run by Jill Jackson, aided by Clare Cody and what a tremendous job they have done! Hundreds of pieces of various PPE have been made by the 60+ sewers involved to support the local hospitals and nursing homes. Personally I

never want to sew on another button in my life! It has all been very worthwhile and those involved have all felt that they were doing something to help in these difficult times.

Those of us who are keen gardeners have been beavering away to bring them up to scratch, several of our members were due to open their gardens this year for Bookham Open Gardens Day, which sadly had to be cancelled, so maybe all our efforts this year will stand us in good stead for next year.

One of members, a retired teacher, has been using her skills to home tutor her grandson, which has been rather exhausting, but at least

the little boy will return to school fully up to date. Well done Granny!

Sally Dampney has organised her Mahjong Group with a Zoom meeting on a fairly regular basis and they met for tea in a member's garden recently, so a good time has been had by all.

We should have held our 50th Birthday celebration this summer but, like everything else, this has had to be postponed until such time when it is safe for us all to be together again, so at least we have something special to look forward to even if it is not until 2021.

Brenda Kent

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