

Bookhams Bulletin

LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Spring 2017

Wheels for Wendy



Wendy Armitage is quite possibly one of the most inspiring women I have ever had the pleasure of speaking to in my entire life. Local resident, Dancer, Cheerleader, Coach, Wife, Mother of two, and Businesswoman, Wendy has spent the greater part of the past eight years proving that she will not be let disability stop her from achieving her dreams.

Nearly her entire life, Wendy has danced and taught others to dance. After going to University, she discovered cheerleading and her passion for the sport was ignited. Wendy worked hard and set up the first competitive university cheerleading team in the UK. They went from strength to strength, winning multiple National Titles in the process. She coached her own team, and travelled the

world training other coaches, became an internationally accredited judge, and even went on to work with many International Cheerleading competition and event companies to help with everything from backstage to running the UK's first ever University Cheerleading Competition!

Sadly, in 2009, Wendy had to give up what she loved most when she was diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, which causes constant pain in her feet and legs, and could no longer stand well enough to continue. As her disability continued to worsen, cheerleading seemed to be all but out of reach until she spoke to a friend about ParaCheer. The ParaCheer division involves physically disabled and non-disabled athletes competing together on integrated teams, demonstrating on the world stage that disability is not a barrier to performing at the highest level in this fast-paced, acrobatic sport.

This year, Wendy has been chosen to be a part of the team representing England at the ICU World Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida. Team England ParaCheer will be the first ever integrated national team of disabled and non-disabled cheerleading athletes.

For Wendy, representing England is something that "she had always dreamed of doing and never thought it was possible." "It is exciting to be a part of something new" says Wendy. With tryouts in September, the team have from mid-September until the end of April to prepare for the competition. The team trains twice a month, working in six-hour sessions, spending a large portion of their free time practising and maintaining their level of fitness. Beyond the competitions, Wendy says that the sessions themselves, although challenging at times, are "good fun, good exercise and a great way to meet lots of people. Because Wendy has never cheered in a wheelchair, adapting stunts can be tricky; she says she is "learning to use her body in different ways." There are a "huge range of disabilities on our team: missing limbs, blindness, deafness - but by the end, you forget who is disabled and who isn't. The sport is very fulfilling." However, despite all of this NHS are not able to provide her with a wheelchair, so in order to compete, Wendy has started a Crowdfunder page to ask for financial assistance from all of her supporters.

Team England are set to compete in the first ever competitive ParaCheer division at the Cheerleading World Championships in Orlando, Florida, USA in April 2017 and we wish them the best of luck!

If you would like more information on Wendy's journey or to donate, please visit her Crowdfunder page at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/wheelsforwendy If you are interested in ParaCheer, please visit their website at www.paracheer.org to keep up to date with news and events happening near you!

Jennifer Terry



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Bookhams Bulletin

84th Year

Issue 320

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



What's Happening

Letter from the Editor

Hello, and welcome to the new edition of the Bookhams Bulletin! My name is Jennifer Terry and I am the new Editor of the magazine, taking the helm from our wonderful team who have kept this ship sailing through a very stormy time. As many of you know, last year our previous Editor, Martin Warwick, suddenly and sadly passed away.



Martin had been the Editor for many years, however, editing was only a minute facet of the greater work he had contributed during his years at the Bulletin. In addition to editing, he also took over graphic design, introduced full-colour, took many photographs, wrote many articles, introduced jokes and cartoons, and liaised with all contributors, advertisers, and the printer. He also designed the web version of the publication, making the Bulletin accessible from all corners of the world. Bookhams Bulletin is largely what it is today due to his hard work, perseverance, and passion to create something truly unique for the residents of Bookham. I know that on a personal level, have extraordinarily large shoes to fill when it comes to this position, and I do not take the role lightly. This was Martin's career, passion, and lifework. I intend to nurture the seeds that Martin had sown, and grow this publication into something he could have been proud of.

Perhaps it would be best to start with a proper introduction. Let's see, I'm a British-Canadian, borderline grad student with a Bachelor's Degree in English. So, naturally, editing the Bookhams Bulletin was not a difficult decision for myself to make! I am also married, and a mummy to one three-nager, who is as spectacularly independent as his mum! In University, I was one of two journalists who regularly wrote for the University Press, and I have had many of my articles published in local Newspapers, and have been more recently featured on Scary Mommy. I also write a personal blog, Jenn in Real Life, where I focus on light-hearted, albeit a bit sarcastic content that mostly highlights my own shortcomings as a parent. I'm also an aquarius who likes long walks on the beach.

My goal is to make the Bulletin accessible to all residents, as a local introduction of what our bustling village has to offer. There are two new permanent features that will be included in the magazine from this point forward, so be sure to check them out! The first, Meet the Makers, is a section dedicated to the wonderful array of local small-scale artisans, and a chance for them to show off their skills! With the introduction of this article, I hope to connect the local community with fantastic, high-quality goods and services within their area. In addition, I have also included a cover story to showcase local people of interest in greater depth. It's always so inspiring to meet the faces behind the magic!

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the amazing team behind the scenes! I wish to thank every individual that had any involvement in helping to create this wonderful publication. To our Chairman, Keith Slark, for taking a chance on me and believing that I could make it happen. To Peter Tilley, Tony Matthews, and Simon Jordan who have made this transition smooth. To Clare Cody for creating a wonderful new website for the BCA and Bulletin to be launched shortly on bookhamcommunityassociation.org, and maintaining it beautifully. To the entire BCA, thank you for supporting our new team and endeavouring to teach, or answer any questions. To the contributors, thank you for your unwavering support for the Bulletin. To both loyal and new readers, I hope that you will weather the season of change with me and in turn, I hope to provide the best version of Bookhams Bulletin that I can offer. It is with the utmost gratitude that I thank each and every one of you for supporting our entire team in this process!

I look forward to the coming year and the opportunity to work alongside so many wonderful people!

Jenn Terry

March 2017

9/11 - 'High School Musical' at Leatherhead Theatre by Howard of Effingham School - see page 19

21/26 - The Grange Art Exhibition at Denbies Wine Centre 9.30am - 5.30pm

April

4/28 - Bookham Camera Club's Exhibition at Leatherhead Theatre - see page 35

21 - 'Grease Sing-a-Long' at Manor House School £10
Great Bookham Belles WI. Details from sarah.mackridge@btopenworld.com

28 - Spring Open Day Bookham Seniors Computer Club - see page 7

May

4 - Bookham Votes - see page 19 & 31

13 - Bookham Flower Club's Show at the Old Barn Hall see page 11

June

1/4 - Visit to twin town Triel-sur-Seine - see page 14

17 - Village Day - theme 'Space Age'

18 - Bookhams Open Gardens - see page 9

20 - Village Week Quiz

REGULAR EVENTS

Fridays Every Week: Country Market Old Barn Hall 10.15am to 11.30am

Jazz Club: Most Sunday afternoons in the Old Barn Hall

Next Edition of the Bookhams Bulletin

Deadline for
May issue:

1 April 2017

Email articles to

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Queries to the Editor

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In Bookham 'Help Your Neighbour' goes further into the community. Currently there are over 200 people who regularly need transport to medical appointments at hospitals, local surgeries, dentists and opticians. We have a group of about 80 volunteer drivers who provide transport for about 1,700 lifts each year. Could you consider joining that group to help lighten the load?

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the first Bulletin of 2017! This is also the first edition edited by Jennifer Terry! Jenn is taking on the daunting task of carrying on Martin's work as Editor - we thank her, and wish her well. I know that she would be pleased to hear any comments and suggestions for the future to add to the many ideas that she already has herself. These can be sent to our Bulletin email address at bookhamsbulletin@gmail.com

Our new website is well on the way, with Clare Cody working away to bring it up to date. This will enable a wealth of information to be

accessed from a single source. With access to the Bulletin, and links to the websites of our regular contributors, the website will be exciting and vibrant, and for that we thank her for all of her hard work!

Village Day will be back again for another wonderful year! Held on Saturday, June 17th 2017, the theme for this years event is 'Space Age'. So put your thinking caps on for a colourful parade and stall dressing. Perhaps, our local shops should begin to stock their aluminium foil supplies!



If you think you are available to help in the run up to June, or on Village Day, please feel free to call Keith by telephone at 01372 457375 or email at keithslark@tiscali.co.uk. We need all of the help we can get at the moment, and look forward to another exciting year!

Keith Slark

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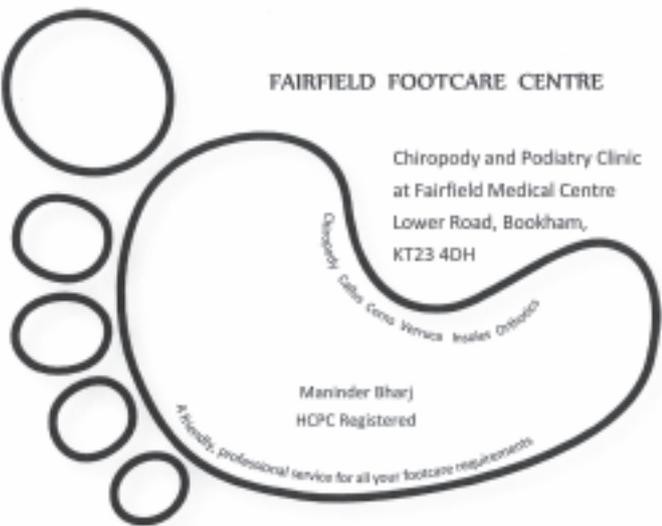
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Bookham Seniors Computer Club

As digital technology continues to change, so do the Bookham Seniors Computer Club sessions! We offer help to those over 50 who want to keep up with the changes and determine sessions to offer based upon requests we receive. We continue to schedule sessions for those just getting started with digital technology, and sessions to help people who want to make the most of their computing devices. We also welcome experienced users who would be willing to assist with any of the sessions!

We meet every Friday morning at Little Bookham Village Hall, from 10:00am until

12:00pm. Our courses are fun and informative! We have already had courses on 'Using Windows 10', 'Spread Sheets', 'Getting the Most from Your Ipad', and 'Digital Photography' to name a few. The fees for all courses start at £5 per session.

If you have a single knotty problem, or would like some help using a particular application, we also have a drop-in service session on the first Wednesday of every month, at Little Bookham Village Hall, from 2:30pm until 4:30pm. There is no set fee, however, donations are happily welcomed.

Our Spring Open Day will take place on Friday,

April 28th, 2017 from 10:00am until 12:00pm at Little Bookham Village Hall. Do come along for the opportunity to see what courses will be offered for the April - July 2017 Term. Refreshments are provided.

For more details, or to register and interest, please contact either Sue by telephone at 01372 454461, or Brian by telephone at 01372 450604. For those of you who are able to access the internet, please visit our website at for dates on upcoming courses in 2017 and further information regarding our club.

Sue Halford

Bookham Folk Dance Club

Another year has passed, and what a season it was for Bookham Folk Dance Club! Our Annual Christmas Dance was led by popular guest caller Ivan Aitken, and over sixty of our club members and visitors participated, it was a great turn out! Live music was provided by local resident, Fred Grimshaw who expertly played the accordion. Thanks to all of our club members, the wonderful long standing tradition of folk dancing remains alive and well!

But the event was a tad bittersweet, as our Chairman, Jan Martin (and usual writer of this article), was unable to join in on the festivities! Following an accident, Jan was left with a

broken hip and elbow. From all of us at Bookham Folk Dance Club, we wish to Jan the speediest recovery and hope for an early return to the dancing scene!

Bookham Folk Dance Club meet in the Harrison Room, at the rear of the Old Barn Hall, on either the first, or third Monday of the month, starting at 8:00pm. Visitors are always welcome to join our evenings and we are constantly in search of new members. If you would like to try English Folk Dancing, please come along to one of our evenings, tuition will be given gladly. If you have any more questions or are interested in joining our group, please feel free to contact Bryan



Shepherd by telephone at 01372 274081.

Bryan Shepherd



3rd Bookham Scout Group

We would like to thank everyone that supported us in our Christmas tree sales this year. We sold over 350 trees.

The profit from the sales allows us to continue to provide an adventurous and enjoyable

programme throughout the four sections of our group. Look forward to seeing you next year!

If you are interested in joining our team to help support our youth members, any help would

be extremely useful - it does not have to be every week, please let me know

Karen Wheeler Group Scout Leader
karen.wheeler2@ntlworld.com

Barn Hall Crafters

We have had another very busy and enjoyable few months here at Barn Hall Crafters! Last October, one of our members, Brenda Dunbar, gave a beading demonstration to our group. After the demonstration, our members set out to create lovely handmade bead necklaces and bracelets.

In November, our Chairman, Jan Edgcumbe, demonstrated how to make beautiful cards even more beautiful by embellishing them with hand stitched thread. December saw one



of our members, Jan Clarke, present another one of her fabulous Christmas floral arrangements. This time around, she hand crafted a stunning artificial corsage.

We finished the year on a high with our Annual Christmas Party! Committee members organised the entire event and the day included delicious food, followed by fun and games, a quiz, crackers, jokes, origami Christmas tree making, a raffle, and a 'Secret Santa'! What a wonderful event it was!

Thank you to our energetic committee, we now have another exciting programme in place for 2017!

We would like to thank the committee and all of our members for their help and support throughout the year and wish you all a happy, healthy, and crafty 2017!

Are you a crafter? Do you enjoy going the extra mile to make things by hand? Then Barn Hall



Crafters needs you! Our Club meets on alternate Tuesday mornings, at The Old Barn Hall in the heart of Bookham. New members are always welcome and are encouraged to come and take a peek at what we do! If you have any further questions or would like to find out more information, please feel free to contact Jan Edgcumbe by email at jan.tracksides@gmail.com

Jennifer Bostock

Bookham, Fetcham And District Garden Society

2016 was a very exciting year for the Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society as we celebrated our 140th year as a society!

Throughout the year, there were plenty of activities to get involved in. While all of the experiences were both interesting and informative, the top three events included a very enjoyable day out to Hillier's Garden, a celebratory dinner (140th year cake included), and a very successful Annual Show.

Last summer, members of the committee delved into the archives and discovered a treasure trove of fascinating history about the society, which was then displayed at Bookham's Village Day for members of the public to view.

This year's line up promises to be even better! The society is open to all who are interested, so please feel free to have a peek at our program and come and join in the fun at the upcoming events!

Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society Program 2017:

27th February 2017: Paolo Arrigo (Franchi Seeds) - *From Seed to Plate*

27th March 2017: Barry Newman - National Vegetable Society

24th April 2017: Peter Almond - *Plants Have Feelings Too*

22nd May 2017: Visit to Saville Garden and the



American Memorial at Runnymede

15th July 2017: Horticultural Show - Manor Farm Tithe Barn, Little Bookham

25th September 2017: Clare Brown - *Colour All Year Round*

23rd October 2017: Practical Gardening

27th November 2017: AGM

The 2017 Annual Horticultural Show is coming faster than you think, so best to start preserving planning, planting and photographing to prepare! Schedules for the show are now available through Angela Stevens by telephone at 01372 456713 If you have any questions or require any further information regarding the society, please contact Angela Stevens by telephone at 01372456713. Just remember, this society is like a garden: the more you put into it, the more you get out of it!

Jennifer Smitheman



Bookham Open Gardens

This year, Bookham Open Gardens Day will be held on Sunday, 18th June, 2017. If you are a lover of gardens, make sure to put the date in your diaries now! Last year, we had around 700 visitors last year and raised over £5400 towards the upkeep of the Old Barn Hall.

If you are looking for inspiration for your own garden, Open Gardens Day is a fantastic way to find it! There are plenty of different gardens of all shapes and sizes, with local gardeners keen to share their stories, tips, and tricks. We offer much thanks to all the volunteer help from the Committee, support from locals who come out to see us, and from our sponsors, supporters, and raffle prize donors.

Alternatively, if you have an interesting garden, perhaps one with a theme, how about opening it for public viewing on Open Gardens Day? We are always on the lookout for new gardens to include on our itinerary, if you think you might be interested, please contact us for an informal chat. We are not necessarily searching for perfection, after all, variety is the spice of life! Anything from formal to quirky, productive to picturesque, no garden is off limits and we encourage anyone with an interest to apply.

To make Open Gardens Day a success, we rely on both our garden openers, and our many volunteers who help on the day with ticket sales, serving refreshments at the Old Barn Hall, driving the mini-bus, acting as tour

guides, and helping out with car park duties.

If you would like to open your garden, or like to volunteer your help for a few hours in any way, please contact Tina Hutton by telephone at 01372 457598, or by email at tina.hutton@btinternet.com. For more detailed information, please visit our website, www.bookhamopengardens.co.uk You can also check out our Facebook Page, Bookham Open Gardens to keep up to date with what we do. Let's hope that June 18th, 2017 will be beautifully sunny and that we shall see you all there!

Diane Poole



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Bookham Flower Club

Bookham Flower Club members have enjoyed a variety of demonstrations and events during the summer and autumn. This included everything from a lovely tea party to very informative and enjoyable demonstrations.



Last November, our members meeting had the pleasure of watching Stella Phipps and a member of staff from the Vineries Garden Centre demonstrate their vast knowledge on how to plant successful winter containers for spring flowering. A wonderful Christmas demonstration in December filled the stage with sparkle and colour! In addition, a successful raffle saw many members taking home a lovely floral arrangement. Later in December, our members were delighted to

visit Mottisfont Abbey in Hampshire, which had decked the halls with their 'Twelve Days of Christmas' theme in both the house and the beautiful garden.

The Club Show committee is busy preparing the 2017 Club Floral Design Show 'Spring Symphony', which will take place on Saturday 13th May, 2017, from 12:30pm until 5:30pm, at The Old Barn Hall, KT23 3PQ. Admission is £3 and there will be plenty of free parking. There will also be refreshments and a tombola. This will be a wonderful event with entries to a wide variety of classes for Club members and invited local clubs.

Members can take part in Club competitions in a variety of shows including The Surrey Area Show taking place in Woking on the 3rd and 4th of March, 2017; Hampton Court over the Mothering Sunday weekend on the 25th and 26th of March, 2017; Wisley Autumn Show; and various other events through invitation from other clubs. The Club was also invited to place a display within Guildford Cathedral.

Bookham Flower Club meets on the first Monday of the month (excluding Bank Holidays), from 2:15pm at the Old Barn Hall. There are trading and sales tables where accessories for flower arranging, excellent cards, and stationery are available.

Why not come and visit us for a demonstration? A Demonstration will take place on the 6th of February and the 3rd of April, when our demonstrators can enthral you with the wonderful world of flower arranging! A warm welcome is extended to visitors as well, who can come along and enjoy a relaxed, flower filled afternoon!

Jennifer Hurrell



Bookham Youth & Community Centre

The Bookhams Youth Project is currently underway, and whilst not based as the Centre, the facilities are still being utilised. We have to thank the Bookhams Residents Association, who have donated a generous grant, in addition to The Anchor Pub Fund, a local goodwill organisation who have donated approximately £450 to help fund projects at the Centre. Other youth organisations continue to use the large space that is available, and together with the much improved supplementary facilities, it allows the groups a degree of flexibility in the activities in which they partake. The space is used by other youth and young adult groups, such as Disability Challengers, Barnardos, and the St. Nicolas Church. All of these groups run clubs in the

evenings, with Disability Challengers using the Centre during holidays. Other groups use the facilities on an ad hoc basis.

During term time, Smarty Pants Preschool use the Centre, and can be contacted by calling the Centre by telephone during term time hours, or visiting their website at .

The Community Centre is also used by other members of the community for leisure activities, taking advantage of our Sports and Social Halls. Our current rota of classes includes Pilates with Helen Stevens on Mondays at 1:45pm, please contact Helen by email at helenotway@yahoo.co.uk; U3A Badminton and Table Tennis at 3:00pm on Mondays; Circuit Training at 8:45am, and

Pilates at 10:00am with Wendy Dodd, please contact by telephone at 07801 810665 or email at wendy.dodd@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

We have had very positive comments from people who have used the Centre as a party venue, such as for a 50th Birthday with a band, etc. There is seating for 100 people, and cutlery and plates can be provided for a small additional charge. We also have decorative chain lights to brighten things up! The standard charge for an event is £100 for Friday and Saturday, and £80 on Sundays and Bank Holidays. This includes private parking on the hard court at the back of the Centre.

If you would like more information on the centre and the activities that take place here, please visit our website at www.bookhamyouth.co.uk or contact our volunteer Booking Manager, Ellen Thomas by telephone at 01372 458019. You can also reach us by email at ellen-thomas@hotmail.co.uk, or bookhamyouth@o2.co.uk. If you feel that you could offer a bit of time as a volunteer and would like to contribute to a vital part of our community, please contact David Cox by telephone at 07825 354763.

David Cox



Mole Valley Indoor Bowling Club

Mole Valley Indoor Bowling Club (MVIBC) would like to wish all of our Bookham members and those from the surrounding area a very happy and healthy new year! The club has a full programme for the year of friendly competitive bowling for its members. We have achieved a very successful level of recruitment for the current season, with members of the club ranging from beginners to seasoned players.

As we pass mid-season for indoor bowls, MVIBC currently stands at a very good position in the *Surrey County Men's League*. With teams

in the Mens, Ladies, and Mixed Nationals together with various Surrey County games in progress, there is plenty of enthusiasm for all levels.

For members wishing to further develop their bowling technique, the current coaching team are available to help. Their will soon be more members who will join our coaching team after achieving accreditation from Bowls England. There are several important areas for members to become involved in, if they choose. In addition to the 'coaching courses', there are 'marking courses', and opportunities

to help the less able-bodied to enjoy bowling. These rewarding experiences are all available whilst taking part in competitive bowls in a friendly comfortable environment.

For more information about MVIBC, please visit our website at www.mvibc.co.uk, or email inquiries to mail4mvibc@gmail.com or call Guy Tortise by telephone at 01372 374653. Alternatively, the Leatherhead Leisure Centre will also provide our contact details within their building.

Michael Mackie

Bookhams WI

At their December meeting last year, Bookhams WI were entertained by the Brockham Bellringers. This was a particularly happy meeting, with lots of opportunity for members to sing along, and despite much laughter, have a go at bell ringing! After the entertainment, the bellringers joined our members for a Christmas tea! The Old Barn Hall was beautifully decorated, which added to the festive atmosphere enjoyed by all of the groups who met there.

At our January meeting, we heard a fascinating talk by Roy Buchanan, about his 34 years as a Police Officer. Some of the situations he had faced in his career were absolutely chilling, but with bad there were as many funny and amusing stories as well!

In February, we are looking forward to a talk by Imogen Middleton, on 'World War I, Surrey in the Great War'. It was felt that this would be a topic that many husbands, partners, and



friends would be interested in, so we are extending an open invitation for them to come along and join us. In fact, our January speaker, Roy, said that even he would like to come along as well!

2016 marks the 60th birthday for Bookhams WI, and the committee is planning many exciting celebrations!

Bookhams WI meet in the Old Barn Hall in

Bookham, on the first Wednesday of the month from 2:30pm. We always welcome newcomers and round off our get-togethers with tea and cakes, so please do not hesitate to come along to one of our meetings! For more information about who we are and what we do, please contact Faye McGregor by email at fay.mcgregor@btinternet.com.

Faye McGregor

Bookham Late Night Opening

Last year, *Bookham Traders* and *Churches Together*, organised the 11th annual Bookham Christmas Late Night Opening. The High Street, Church Road (from the Church to Post House Lane) was closed off to traffic, which enabled visitors to wander about at their leisure safely. We would like to send out a special thank you to the dedicated team of road stewards who made this night possible.

Many of the shops, including estate agents, cafes, and grocers, opened their doors to the public with a warm holiday welcome. Some shops even offered up some hot mulled wine and mince pies! Fortunately, the evening was blessed with dry and mild weather, which made for a wonderful event! At various locations along the road, the hum of carol

singers hung in the air, as they sang a familiarly festive tune. St. Nicolas Church was absolutely bustling, as people came to view the many Christmas trees decorated with 'A Right Royal Christmas' theme by various groups within the community. The Pastoral Centre had lots of fun of activities for the children, and Santa was kept very busy! There were a variety of stalls in the Baptist Church, with the Dawnay School Choir and Pantastic performing in the church.

The 'Best Dressed Shop Window' competition was won by *The Grange at No. 5*. Second place went to *Granary Crafts*, and third place was awarded to *Patrick Gardner Estate Agents*. They received their prizes at a 'Cheese and Wine' evening, organised by the churches as a thank you for all of their service to the community



throughout the year.

What a successful evening it was! We are already looking forward to our next event and hope to see you there!

Sue Ferguson

Bookham Girlguiding

Brownies and Guides from Bookham were among more than five-hundred young girls, aged between 5-14 years old, from all across Surrey, who took part in the exciting and anticipated "Growing Up Wild" day at Norbury Park last year. The event aimed to encourage the youngsters to have fun, explore, and connect with nature. It was joint partnership between Girlguiding and The Surrey Wildlife Trust, the latter of which organised an action-packed day of activities in the park!

The younger girls had the opportunity to search for minibeasts, identify plants and trees, make stick sculptures, and whip up a batch of mud-cookies in the mud kitchen! Some of the Guides, aged between 10-14 years old, took on conservation work in the woods of Norbury Park helping The Surrey Wildlife Trust saw down a number of trees. Other activities included building wigwams, dressing up as slugs and birds, and learning to light a campfire with flint and steel. And of course, we toasted an obligatory marshmallow or two!

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr. Michael More-Molyneux and the High Sheriff of Surrey Richard Whittington were also in attendance to watch the fun had by everyone.

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build friendships, gain



valuable life skills, and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities.

Bookham and Effingham District has three Rainbow group (aged 5-7 years), five Brownie packs (aged 7-10 years), four Guide Companies (aged 10-14 years), and one Senior Section group (aged 14-15 years). For more

information about Girlguiding in Bookham and Effingham District and to volunteer for one of the local groups, please contact Christine Moss by email at ggleatherheaddivcom@gmail.com or visit our website at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Jen McAllister

Bookham Recorded Music Club

At last year's September meeting, we were privileged to welcome Barry Sterndale Bennett as our guest speaker. Barry is the great-grandson of Sir William Sterndale Bennett, whose bicentenary was celebrated in April 2016. Sir William was a composer, conductor, pianist, and music educator and was firm friends with Mendelssohn and Schumann. Barry owns a large proportion of his grandfather's music collection, from which he selected a variety of compositions to entertain us.

In early October, Sheila Roberts presented "Music of the Spheres". She began with "Also sprach Zarathustra", by Richard Strauss, followed by "Sunrise", by Grofe, and Handel's "Total Eclipse! No sun, no moon from "Samson". Next, 'Mercury the Winged Messenger' from Holst's "The Planets", 'O Silver Moon' from Dvorak's "Rusalka", "Star Dawn" by Alan Hovhannes, and 'To the Evening Star' from Wagner's "Tannhauser". These were followed by the waltz "Music of the Spheres" by J. Strauss. The "Jupiter Symphony" by Mozart,

Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata", 'The Stars are brightly shining' from Puccini's "Tosca", Grofe's "Sunset", and finally Haydn's 'The Heavens are telling' from his "Creation" which brought an evening of heavenly music to a glorious close.

Later in October, Michael Withers presented "Scotland Revisited". He arrived in Glasgow in pouring rain, so chose Hamish McCunn's "The Mountain and the Flood". "Perthshire" is a piano solo by the Scottish composer W. B. Moonie, and Sir Malcolm Arnold wrote "Four Scottish Dances". "Little Suite - March" by Trevor Duncan was the signature tune to "Doctor Finlay's Casebook" Campbell Mackenzie's "Pibroch Suite" is considered to be classical music of the bagpipe repertory. The pibroch is the flute-like piece that the piper plays into. "Farewell to Stromness" by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, also served as Michael's farewell to Scotland.

In November, John Dicker presented "Messrs. M & Co.". In the first half, we heard 'Meditation' from "Thais" by Massenet, MacDowell's first

piano concerto, 'Song with Chorus' from Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream", a concerto for piano by Mozart, and intermezzo by Mascagni, and 'Celebration' from McCartney's "Standing Stone". There were only two works after the interval, "Piano Concerto in E major" by Mosezkowski, and the triumphant finale from Mahler's "Symphony No. 8".

We held our Christmas festivities in early December in the afternoon, when we welcomed several guests and had Christmas music, carols, our traditional quiz, mulled wine, and of course, a mince pie or two!

Bookham Recorded Music Club meets at 7:45pm on Thursday evenings in the Old Barn Hall. If you have question regarding our group or would like more information, please contact Sheila Morley by telephone at 01372 452766 or visit our website at www.thefrms.co.uk/affprogs/bookham.htm

Mary Brooks

Bookham Butterflies WI

Bookham Butterflies WI ended the year with a wonderful evening of celebrations for their second birthday! We toasted the occasion with Bucks Fizz, and tucked into specially made butterfly-themed cupcakes that read "Happy 2nd Birthday!" The celebrations rounded off another busy twelve months for the Bookham Butterflies, with many more activities planned for this year.

Creative juices have been well and truly flowing amongst many members recently, with a number of very popular workshops. A group of Butterflies had an interesting visit to the Jo Downs Glass Gallery in Ripley, where they used metal shapes and chips of glass to decorate larger sheets of glass. They fired the chips into colourful coasters, hangers, and candle holders and the results were absolutely amazing!

We also spent a fantastic evening making sloe gin with Ginny from Wild at Heart. Purely in the interests of science, we sampled sloe gin from Autumn 2015, while preparing the sloes by pricking them to release enough juice to give our sloe gin of Autumn 2016 a rich red hue. We were then taken through the various steps in the process of making the sloe gin, before ending up with two large bottles just in time for Christmas!

Early last December, twenty-two Butterflies took part in a hugely successful Christmas



Wreath Workshop. Cathy explained each step, before guiding us through foliage and colour palettes to create our own wreaths! We learned that there are absolutely no rules when it comes to wreath crafting and each one ended up as individual as the crafter who made it! We are already looking forward to holding the workshop again this year!

Members have also taken part in a number of very enjoyable quiz evenings recently, even taking home some silverware as a prize! Against the odds, our two teams that took part in the Emlyn Downs WI Quiz Night at St. Mary's Church Hall in Fetcham, finished in first and second places, despite stiff opposition from six

other WI's in the area. We were also delighted to enter two joint teams, with West Horsley WI, in the Purple for Polio Quiz, organised by Bookham and Horsley Rotary. We also had a great time at Mole Valley WI's Quiz Evening, and have more in the diary for the coming year!

Our weekly walking groups, book groups and Supper Club continue to be very popular, as is the new "Ladies Who Lunch", a weekday lunch club who meet once monthly at a different restaurant, pub, or cafe in the local area.

A group of Butterflies also made the second trip from our WI to the Tower of London, to see the historic 'Ceremony of the Keys'. This takes place every evening at the Tower, and has done so in one form or another since the 14th century.

To keep up to date with Bookham Butterflies WI's most recent events, follow our Facebook Page, Bookham Butterflies WI. For more information about our WI, please visit our website at www.bookhambutterflieswi.com

Jen McAllister



Leatherhead And District Twinning Association

Did you know that Bookham, along with Leatherhead, Ashted, and Fetcham is twinned with a French town called Triel-sur-Seine? Triel is situated about 25 miles west of Paris, not far from St. Germain-en-Laye and is about the same size as Leatherhead. Our twinning is now in its 13th year!

To celebrate, this year we are inviting friends, new and old, to join us on our biennial visit to Triel, on Thursday June 1st, 2017 until Sunday June 4th, 2017. If you would like to meet new people, enjoy warm hospitality in the homes of our "Triellois" hosts, and enjoy travel by luxury

coach, then why not join us? Our stay will include a visit to the Chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte, a mini Versailles without the crowds, and a dinner dance on the Banks of the Seine.

If you would like to find out more about the Leatherhead and District Twinning Association, please visit our website at www.friendsoftriel.com. We also hold social events to get to know each other better before the exchange visits, so we can all travel comfortably as friends.

The cost of our visit to Triel will be £190 per person. The visit will coincide with the Spring

Bank Holiday half-term, so if you would like to travel as a family, we will only charge children under 18 years old £130 per person. Do not let the language barriers put you off, as many of the Triellois speak English very well. We will also ensure that anyone with little or no French background has English speaking hosts.

If you are interested in joining us on our trip or would like more information about the group, please feel free to contact David and Elaine Crutchley by telephone at 01372452845 or by email at elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com

Elaine Crutchley

Bookham Choral Society

Bookham Choral Society would like to wish a very Happy New Year to all our members and to all of you who come so regularly to our concerts.

Bookham Choral Society has had a busy autumn! Last year, our November Concert was held in Manor House School and consisted of Vivaldi's Gloria, and Bach's Magnificat. We were accompanied by the Burley Ensemble and has four terrific, young soloists: Jessica Broad, Felicity Turner, William Blake, and Thomas Flint. It was a truly enjoyable evening!

Our Christmas Concert in St. Nicolas Church ended the year in cheerful style! Our large audience enjoyed the mixture of traditional carols and more modern works, with a few humorous anecdotes thrown in for good measure. With bellies full of mince pies and

wine, we all cheerfully dispersed for our own Christmas celebrations.

With the new year comes new challenges, and we now find ourselves rehearsing for the Leith Hill Musical Festival. We were delighted to welcome so many new faces at our first rehearsal of 2016. We could all hardly fit in the rehearsal room, but there is always room for more! Many members of the choir will be



singing the great oratorio by J. S. Bach, St. Matthew's Passion, on Sunday March 12th, 2017. Our official competition day is on Saturday April 8th, 2017, so please come out and show support for your local choir! Some of the pieces featured include Haydn's Little Organ Mass, and Carter's Benedicite. Both events will be taking place in the Dorking Halls and tickets are available from the box office. We hope to see you there!

Bookham Choral Society meet on Tuesdays 7:45pm-9:45pm and are always delighted to welcome newcomers! If you would like to join our group, or for further information about Bookham Choral Society, please call Charlotte Warr by telephone at 013720 375536 or visit our website at www.bookhamchoralsociety.co.uk

Cheryl Mendham

Bookham Toddler Group

Happy New Year! 2016 has finally come to a close and what a wonderful year it has been for the Bookham Toddler Group! And with the new year brings a brand new term for Bookham Toddler Group which resumed on January 10th, 2017.

In the Autumn term, the children enjoyed a variety of indoor activities including a wide range of ride-ons, toys, puzzles, playdough, a craft table and so much more! We enjoyed many wonderful concessions last term, which included Phoenix Trading, our lovely photographer Colin, who snapped gorgeous photos of your little ones, and Tracy, our resident hairdresser, who was on hand to tackle the tricky toddler haircuts with an expert hand! The cooler season had our tiny crafters completely inspired by the ever changing scenery around them! Whether it was making egg carton caterpillars, feathery frames and the Scarecrow's Wedding, fairy house toadstools and bug hotels, the children were absolutely enchanted with the autumnal theme! The Autumn term came to a close with a spooky Halloween celebration, complete with creepy crafts and the obligatory bouncy castle appearance!

This term, Liz Chaney from Phoenix Trading is back with lots of lovely cards, stationery, and gift ideas! In addition to our regular concessions, including the wonderful Colin our resident photographer and Tracy, our fantastic toddler hairdresser, some new faces have made their debut: Sonya Taylor, a photographer, has joined us this term as well to showcase her photography business, as well as Bookabees, a brilliant new book club is

solely for kids! We also had some very friendly and informative mums from 'Peter Pan Playschool' visit to chat about their playschool.

As the winter months approached, we had loads of toddler fun and frolics as the children got into the spirit of the season at The Old Barn Hall! After the antics of Halloween, the children had fun celebrating all of the festivities that the holiday period had to offer! From a Bonfire Night theme, to gorgeous Diwali crafts, to a superhero theme where the children dressed up as their favourite superheroes! We made animal masks, Lochness monsters, and rang in the Christmas season with some homemade cards, tags and wrapping paper! The term ended with a hugely successful Christmas Party before the group broke up for the holidays! There were lots of exciting things happening, including some yummy Christmas treats, a raffle draw, an Entertainer, Face Painters, two craft stations, cookie decorating, and a visit from Father Christmas who came suited and booted, bearing gifts for all of the children!

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers, organisers, supervisors, caterers, crafters, makers, bakers, setter-uppers, taker-downers, money-takers, coffee-makers, carers and all around superstars! Without your perpetual support, this group could not be possible! Thank you all!

As many of you know, Bookham Toddler Group is run exclusively by volunteers! We are local mums, dads, grandparents and carers who offer weekly sessions for children from birth to preschool/school age. We meet at the



Old Barn Hall in Bookham every Tuesday morning from 9:45am - 11:30am. Newcomers are always welcome! Your first session is free, and afterwards it is just £2 per child (plus 50p per additional child). Babies under 6 months come for free. Refreshments are provided, so come on down for a warm drink and a chat with other local parents, while relaxing in our child-friendly environment. Full details of the current terms activities/events and general information can be found on our website www.bookhamtoddlergroup.co.uk, on our Facebook page or contact Natasha via email at natasha_allwood@bookhamtoddlergroup.co.uk

Jennifer Terry

Bus Stop Preschool



Yet another fabulous term at Bus Stop Preschool has passed!

The autumn term is always a fantastic one for our Forest School activities, as the children get to spend their time outdoors! The colours of the season were amazing, there were lots of leaves to hide in, and hot chocolate to keep warm as the weather cooled down!

Our first event of the term was our Harvest Festival song time, where the children sang many wonderful songs (both old and new) about tractors, vegetables and all things related to the Harvest. The children also collected yummy treats to give to the residents of Keswick House in Bookham, which they delivered in person. In addition to the treats, the children delighted the residents with song, showing off all of the Harvest songs they had learned.

Next up was Halloween, which saw much making of spooky mud potions and digging

up pumpkins from our very own vegetable patch. We enjoyed "Room on the Broom" by Julia Donaldson as our spooky Halloween read and all of the children thoroughly enjoyed it.

For Bonfire Night, the children made firework rockets and edible sparklers made of breadsticks decorated with icing and sprinkles! The treats proved extremely popular with all of the children! Bonfire Night was a great opportunity to discuss fire safety, especially while we were sitting around the fire square. Together, we read "Frances the Firefly", a great



story provided by the Fire Service to help teach children about the dangers of fire in an accessible way.

Last year, Hayley took some lovely photos of the children which were printed for purchase. The proceeds were evenly split between Bus Stop Preschool and the Children and Maternity Unit at Epsom General Hospital, whom we are still fundraising for.

Last but not least, what an amazing holiday period we had, indulging in everything Christmassy! The children made lots of different things at the craft table during the run up to Christmas, including cards, crackers, and even wooden reindeer for which they had to use their palm drills for - very grown up! This year, they visited The Dawnay School again to watch the Nativity play, and all sat very nicely. The National Trust's Polesdon Lacey House had also invited them back for a special tour of the house, and to see their gigantic Christmas tree! On the last day of term, the children dressed up for their own version of the Christmas story and sang lots of lovely Christmas songs that they had learned. We were all especially proud of their rendition of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" without any assistance from the teachers!

Here's looking forward to the Spring term and lots of brilliant Spring themed activities!

For more information on Bus Stop Preschool, please do not hesitate to contact Kate and/or Kelly by telephone at 01372 879712 or email them at busstoppreschool@aol.co.uk

Abby Haran

Jo Jingles Music & Movement Classes



Jo's back and raring to go! He's looking forward to creating many more special memories by learning through fun, music, and dance. Jo Jingles provides fun 45 minute music and movement classes, with age specific classes for children from 3 months up to 5 years old. These sessions teach children to play percussion instruments expressively, sing

songs, and identify rhythms to move and dance to. Classes are tailored to engage all age ranges, from infant up to preschool. Some of our weekly themes have included 'Space', 'Dinosaurs', 'Weather', 'Numbers', and 'Your Body'. Classes encourage hand-eye co-ordination, and help children learn social skills whilst making friends. It also encourages physical, mental, and emotional development. Children play two, age-specific percussion instruments each week.

It is widely recognised that music can be used to aid in child development in many key areas beyond musical ability. Research suggests that children under the age of nine are particularly receptive to music. Children are born with an abundance of 'genes and synapses that make them immediately ready to learn music'. If this

natural sensitivity to music can be stimulated from a very early age, it will help development in other areas. Research is even suggesting that the earlier music is introduced to a child, the more potential the child will have for learning in the future!

At Jo Jingles, we offer a fun filled addition to all occasions, from birthdays to christenings. Classes are held at Fetcham Village Hall, on Monday mornings. There are no membership fees, and a free trial for those who are interested. Please contact Viv Hunt for all inquiries by telephone at 07751 438943, or by email at vivhjojingles@aol.com. For more details, please visit our website at .

Vivienne Hunt

The Dawnay School

At the Dawnay we are committed to promoting healthy living, as well as aiming for academic excellence. Naturally, sport features heavily in our curriculum and in our extra-curricular provision. For that past two years, we have achieved the Sainsbury's Silver Award for School Games. This past year, we were determined to go for the gold!

In order to prove to the assessor that we had indeed deserved it, we had to meet the following criteria:

- Taking part in local inter-school competitions and tournaments
- Organising inter-house competitions for pupils in the school
- Providing at least 2 hours of sporting activity per week within the school day
- Getting our pupils involved in coaching and organising sporting activities for other pupils (our Sports Crew)
- Involving a high number of children in sporting activity both in and out of school

Thank you to our dedicated sports teacher, our fantastic 'Sports Crew' and the army of parents who so willingly transported our teams to all corners of the county! We finally achieved our goal, and it was a golden win for the Dawnay!

There were many highlights in the past year, including placing second in the county finals for Dodgeball; competing in the Girls Football Finals, in which we also placed second; competing in the Tri-golf Finals and the County Finals for Netball. One of our proudest moments in the midst of all of the competitions was achieving the 'Sporting Values Awards' in the Dodgeball Tournament. This award recognises the team who uphold Olympics values regarding the team's attitude toward others and acceptance of decisions. Great sportsmanship was displayed by all.

Our Sports Crew, made up entirely of Year 6 pupils, have been exemplary and have enjoyed organising sporting events for the school. They have helped with sports days, and have been vital



motivation for the younger children, always encouraging them to stay positive and enjoy the sport itself. During our infants sports day, children were inspired by the Crew and as a result, every single child participating in all activities while maintaining a positive outlook.

When we were awarded the Sainsbury's Gold Award for School Games, they acknowledged the wonderful contribution that our Sports Crew offers the entire student body, stating "The Dawnay School does a tremendous job of embracing P.E. and school sports into the fabric of their school".

Congratulations to all on achieving your well deserved Gold for our school, we are so very proud of each and every one of you!

Gail Hard, Headteacher

Christian Aid

Could you help? The residents of Bookham have for many years generously supported our Christian Aid house-to-house collection. In 2016, we raised some £10,000 (including gift aid recovery) to support our work in Third World countries.

We have a team of regular helpers, but every

year we need more and more people to help with the house-to-house collections. We are looking for anyone who is interested and able to help distribute and/or collect envelopes on an allocation of around twenty houses. Envelopes are to be distributed from May 6th to May 13th, 2017. The envelopes will be collected the following week.

Full support and instruction will be given. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact David Crutchley by telephone on 01372 452845 or email Elaine at elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com

David Crutchley

Transition Bookham



The latter part of our 2016 programme turned out to be a repeat of 2015, starting with our 'Make-Do-and-Mend' evening last October. The same month saw our Annual Workshop, where we upcycled old Christmas cards into new ones with the aid of scissors, glue, shaped punches, and bit of imagination!

Some of the upcycled cards appeared on our stand in the Baptist Church at the Late-Night Shopping Event, along with some upcycled jewellery, notebooks, and plenty of on-hand expertise to give information on how to live a more eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyle. If you didn't get a chance to drop in and see us, visit the 'Ten Things You Can Do' page on our website for ideas and local information, www.transitionbookham.org.uk

In January, we begun our new programme with our Annual Review and planning

meeting. This year, there won't be a meeting every month, but we are looking at the possibility of holding other events, but this will mostly depend on member availability.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 15th, 2017, at the St. Nicolas Pastoral Centre, from 7:30pm until 9:15pm. We welcome Ian Swinney, a National Trust Ranger, as our guest speaker.

On Wednesday, April 19th, we will be holding another 'Make-Do-And-Mend' evening. There will be no meeting in May.

Transition Bookham is a group of local people trying to reduce the environmental impact we have on our planet. We aim to raise awareness of environmental issues and work towards living a sustainable lifestyle. Open Meetings are always held in the St. Nicolas Pastoral

Centre, starting at 7:30pm and finishing by 9:15pm. Some meetings are free, and others have a modest entry fee - please check local noticeboards, or on our website at www.transitionbookham.org.uk. If you are interested in environmental awareness and sustainable living, please feel free to come along to one of our meetings and see what our group is all about! Follow our Facebook Page, Transition Bookham, to keep up to date with all our events. You can also follow us on Twitter @ttbookham. We send out a regular email newsletter with information about all of our events and other items of interest! If you have any further questions or would like more information about the group and/or newsletter, please contact us by email at transitionbookham@gmail.com

Win Magyar

Eastwick WI

The latter part of 2016 saw Eastwick WI members enjoy two social events: on Halloween weekend, we met in the Old Barn Hall for a wonderful evening of Shuffleboard. This game is like a giant version of Shoveha'penny and is played in teams of three. With husbands in tow, it was no surprise that things got a little competitive! In December, we gathered for our Annual Christmas Dinner in the lovely panelled dining room at Effingham Golf Club. Later that month, at our Christmas meeting, we were entertained by Paul Wheatley who sang a mixture of carols and Christmas music while we sipped wine and tucked into stollen.

At our monthly meetings, we have enjoyed speakers on a variety of subjects including the role of women in the Middle Ages, the Princess Alice Hospice, and a talk from an inspiring disabled speaker who is helping deprived children in Colombia.

A group of members went on an outing to London, where they visited the Florence Nightingale Museum and even went on the London Eye!

The extra activities are an important part of WI life, where members get to know each other in small groups. There are so many things to enjoy as an Eastwick WI member, we enjoy playing Mah-jong, badminton, and Scrabble; visiting gardens and going on expeditions to take photos; discussing books and getting together to practice various crafts. It is safe to say that our diaries are full! If you would like to find out more about Eastwick WI, please take a moment to potter through our website at www.eastwickwi.btck.co.uk We meet on the third Wednesday of every month, from 7:30pm in St. Mary's Annexe, The Ridgeway, Fetcham. All visitors are very welcome!

Sally Dampney



Howard Of Effingham School

The Hunting of the Snark

Last year at Howard of Effingham, the Key Stage 3 Lower School put on a production call "The Hunting of the Snark". The play is set during WW2 and follows a group of children who are hunting for a bomb. While there is much to be said for the comical nature, the play also conveyed the hard hitting truths about the negative impact of war on children, which is still relevant today.

As always, we were very pleased and proud with the quality of the performances produced by our excellent cast. In addition, we were enormously grateful for all of the hard work and dedication on behalf of the Stage Crew. This was a massive commitment for both cast and crew as it was a challenging script and the students sacrificed many hours of their time.

Thank you to all those of you who came out to the show to show us your support! The production helped raise money towards our Annual School Musical.

High School Musical

We are delighted to announce that our spring musical for 2017 will be 'High School Musical', with performances March 9th to March 11th 2017, at the Leatherhead Theatre.

High School Musical written by Peter Barsocchini, is a teen/romantic-comedy musical, and the first installment within the culturally phenomenal musical trilogy. The plot has been described by critics as a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. It is a story about two high school Juniors from rival cliques - Troy Bolton, captain of the basketball team, and Gabriella Montez, a shy

transfer student who excels in mathematics and science. Their paths cross when they simultaneously try out for the lead roles in their high school musical, and as a result they divide the school.

The show will be performed by a 100-strong cast, with the lead roles as follows:

Troy Bolton - Angus Black

Gabriella Montez - Josie Smith

Ryan Evans - Rhys Wallis

Sharpay Evans - Saskia Bond

Tickets and order forms will be available through the School or Theatre. Early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

*Hannah Osborne, Head of Drama
Kat Finch, Head of Music*



Bookham Vanguard

After much input from Bookham residents via both formal and informal consultations, and after four years of work by your Neighbourhood Forum, the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan went off to Mole Valley District Council. They, in turn, went through a formal public consultation and eventually our NDP was examined by an Independent Inspector. The Inspector said that "the Plan reads well, looks well and has a very clear and sharp focus on the style, size, and type of housing required in Bookham, protecting the retail centre and the design and quality of build Bookham aspires to."

The Inspector recommended some changes,

however, he also recommended that MVDC should agree to the NDP going forward to public referendum. At the Mole Valley District Council meeting that took place on December 6th 2016, all was agreed. We are now in the final stages of this phase. If you would like to read the final NDP, please take a look at our website at

Having an approved NDP in place has two major benefits: first, it means that Mole Valley will, by law, have to adhere to the policies therein when evaluating planning applications for developments in Bookham; secondly, due to future developments in Bookham, approximately £65,000 per year will

be available to be spent specifically in Bookham as a result of the introduction of a new Community Infrastructure Levy. For more information, please visit

The Referendum will be held on May 4th, 2017, coinciding with usual Local Elections. So, please get ready to vote!

If you would like a printed copy of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, or more information about our group and what we do, please contact us by telephone at 07836 646456 or by email at info@bookhamvanguard.co.uk

Trevor Sokell

Great Bookham Belles WI

October's Monthly Meeting marked Great Bookham Belles WI second anniversary, and what could be a better way to celebrate than with a bit of bubbly and cake! We had a guest speaker, Amanda Torrie from Love Cake, who showed us the art of creating cake decorations. We all watched in awe as she intricately worked a perfect bluebell from icing and wire! As autumn came to a close, the Belles were whisked away for a fabulous afternoon at Simply Scones, at The Grange, a local charity which the Belles are supporting this year! The day was filled with beautiful things from the lovely bone china spread, to the fab homemade jam and clotted cream to top a variety of delicious scones!

The run-up to Christmas was a very busy time for Great Bookham Belles! Our AGM at the end of November saw our Great Bookham Belles President, Amanda Edge, unanimously voted in for a third year! Committee member, Jacky Stedman taught us the art of 'book folding', where we folded the pages within a book to create a finished form of a hedgehog! A week later, fifty of our crew boarded for a coach trip to the Winchester Christmas Market. The city had a bustling atmosphere, with stalls teeming with wonderful handmade and expertly crafted Christmas gifts, decorations and foods. Some of our members even took the opportunity to tour the historical Cathedral.

Our final meeting of the year saw the All Aloud community choir's visit. We were treated to a medley of festive tunes, and then it was our turn to join in! As the members were split into three sections to sing a Finnish Christmas tune, much laughter was had at the expense of our girls tackling the language barrier! Over the Christmas period, we were able to donate Christmas gifts to elderly patients in the Royal Surrey Hospital.

Great Bookham Belles WI meet on the third Monday of every month, from 7:30pm at Manor House School. For information please visit our website at www.greatbookhambelleswi.org or email us at contactbelleswi@gmail.com

Sallie Jenns



Rainbow Playgroup



Every week at Rainbow Playgroup, we have an outdoor session for the children we like to call 'Outdoor Explorers!' We are privileged to be able to use a small wooded area on the grounds of the Dawnay School and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity whenever we can! Everyone very much looks forward to this weekly stomp in the woods with eager anticipation. The children are free to explore, experiment, adventure and

discover the world around them within a natural, but safeguarded and controlled environment.

Playing freely in the woods is open-ended with the intention of allowing the children to blossom in the freedom and independence that we afford them. Freedom to play outdoors, discover and learn at their own pace with the support and encouragement of an adult is a vital part of our group's core values.

In addition to free-play, we do occasionally plan activities that are led by the interests of the children and evolve to suit each child's individual learning needs and requirements. Whether it is building dens, digging holes, making mud pies, bug hunting or discovering how many ways one can use a stick, the children never tire of the endless possibilities that this outdoor environment offers.

Naturally, the activities will change to mirror the seasons. We love our 'Outdoor Explorer' sessions, and find them to be a fantastic addition to the children's learning experience!

As many of you know, Rainbow Playgroup is situated in the heart of Bookham in the hall of the Bookham Baptist Church. We are a non-profit organisation that has been running for over 25 years, created for families within the local community. We work closely with the Wellspring Children's Centre and Noah's Ark Toddler Group so we can provide continuity for families from birth to reception. We provide a well planned learning environment within our bright and spacious hall. Our staff are dedicated and qualified early years practitioners. The group is open 9:15-12:15pm, Monday - Friday in the Bookham Baptist Church. We welcome all families with children from 2 years old. If you would like to come and visit Rainbow Playgroup, please contact the group's Manager, Janna Anscomb by telephone at 01372 811313

Tracey Pratt

The Dawnay Playgroup

Last autumn has whizzed by at the Dawnay Playgroup! The children have now been joined by two new and very special additions - Jeffery and Toffee, their wonderful new Guinea Pigs! The children were both carefully selected by the children themselves. The pigs have been an absolute hit with the children, whom are all fully involved in the care and maintenance of their new pets. The children thrive on the new found responsibility, and always remember to bring in the occasional treat for them both (usually in the form of fruit or veg).

As the term came to a close, we ended playgroup with a brilliant Christmas performance in which all of the children participated. All of the children dressed up and performed Christmas songs with accompanying choreographer to a packed and appreciative audience! The performance was a complete success!

On our final day of term, we held a Christmas party for the children and their families which everyone enjoyed! There were games, loads of festive goodies and face painting. We even received a visit from a few of Santa's helpers,



who left presents for all of the children, even remembering one for Toffee and Jeffery!

The Dawnay Playgroup has been running in the heart of Bookham for over 50 years! We are a loyal team of experienced and qualified staff, situated within the infant building of The Dawnay School. We are determined to provide a stable and safe environment for children from the ages of 2 1/2 to 5 years old. All families are welcome! If you require any further information or would like to arrange a viewing of the playgroup, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone at 01372 453796 or email us at staff@dawnayplaygroup.co.uk.



We are open Monday to Friday, 9:00-12:00pm. Don't forget, we now run until 3:00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays!

Abby Ward

National Auricula & Primula Society

The National Auricula and Primula Society are back again for another year! Last year, our shows and the autumn seminar were very well attended! There were, rather surprisingly, an array of wonderful exhibits, despite foul weather conditions and a stranger than usual growing season.

Spring is just around the corner, and members of the National Auricula and Primula Society (Southern Section) are looking forward to once more staging our three annual shows at the Old Barn Hall. Firstly, on Saturday, March 11th, 2017 we will host our 21st Early Primula Show, which will take place in the Harrison Room of the Old Barn Hall, from 10:00am for members and 2:00pm for the public. Our

second event, the 49th Primula Show, will be held on Saturday, April 8th, 2017, in the Main Hall of the Old Barn Hall, with a 10:00am start for members and 2:00pm open for the public. On Saturday, April 29th, 2017, the 133rd Auricula Show, will be our final show of the year, in the Main Hall of the Old Barn Hall, open to members at 10:00am and to the public at 2:00pm. Finally, our Annual Seminar will be held October 7th, 2017 in the Harrison Room of the Old Barn Hall, from 10:45 with coffee!

All are very welcome to come and have a look at all of our shows! There is no admission charge and usually primula plants up for sale in the aid of the Society. If you would like to know more about these traditional 'florists'

flowers', just ask! There will be a number of experts in the ranks happy to answer any questions you may have. The schedules for all shows this year are now available on our website at www.napsociety.co.uk, where you can also discover a wealth of photos, advice, and encouragement! More contact details are available on the website. If you would like more information or have an inquiry regarding our society, please contact Lesley Roberts by telephone at 01725 511421.

Come along to the shows and enjoy some of the most perfect of spring flowers! We hope to see you there!

Lesley Roberts



Eastwick Schools

The last term and a half at Eastwick Schools has been jam-packed with activities, learning, new experiences, and events for both the children and their families! Alongside the usual exciting topics, trips, productions, assemblies, sporting events, Fireworks nights, and Christmas fairs, children at Eastwick are enjoying more choice than ever when it comes to trying out new skills and building on existing ones in after-school clubs.

The list for the infant school now includes judo, parkour, and mini yoga in addition to the preexisting football, tag rugby, gymnastics, cricket, and tennis. Also on offer is ukulele, choir, cookery, sewing, Spanish, and French. Judging from the number of excited children lining up after school, the clubs are very much in demand!

Enjoyment, exercise, and variety is the aim of the afterschool clubs, and perhaps none more so than Fun Sport on a Friday afternoon, run by Headteacher, Mrs. Kareen O'Brien, assisted by junior school students and parent volunteers.

The junior school also has an impressive number of club opportunities, such as archery,

cross country, football, rugby, cricket, judo, netball, parkour, tennis, chess, gym, yoga, table tennis, and dance. Additionally, pupils are offered music lessons, Spanish, photography, book, computing, sketching, art, sewing, and cookery clubs.

Certain clubs give children the opportunity to represent Eastwick Schools in many competitions against neighbouring schools. The first part of this school year has produced amazing results for our football, rugby, and cross country teams!

The whole school got exercising at the end of the last academic year, when all children partook in a countrywide initiative called "Run to Rio", marking the 2016 Olympic Games. The students aimed to collectively run the 5,700 miles from Surrey to Rio. This was a 12-week programme that took place over the duration of the summer.

In November, Rio was brought close to home for Eastwick children when Olympic triathlete, Gill Sanders (who competes for South Africa, but lives nearby) came to talk about her Olympic experiences. Gill has raced both at London 2012, and Rio 2016, as well as winning

a silver medal for the team triathlon in the Commonwealth Games, in Scotland back in 2014. As part of an educational initiative to encourage children to "Be the Best You Can Be", she also talked about what inspired her to get to the Olympics and how she keeps herself motivated every day. The children were fascinated by her story and realised that anything is possible if you work hard at what you love, and 'be the best you can be'!

We are a hard federation of Eastwick Infant School and Eastwick Junior School within The Howard Partnership Trust (a multi-academy trust). Whilst we are two separate schools, we live as one school delivering a singular vision of *An Eastwick Education: Ready for Everything*. If you are interested in more information about our schools, please visit our website at www.eastwickschools.uk. For inquiries about the infant school, please call us by telephone at 01372 453672 or email us at infantinfo@eastwickschools.net. For inquiries about the junior school, please call us by telephone at 01372 453277 or email us at juniorinfo@eastwickschools.net.

Cathy Liversidge

Polesden Lacey Playschool

A Happy New Year to all! 2016 went out with a bang at Polesden Lacey Playschool! We were incredibly busy in December with the festivities, including putting up our tree, enjoying our Fair, and performing in our Christmas Show. The children proved to be the stars of tomorrow, singing beautifully and performing with gusto! We all enjoyed a sing-song while nibbling on some mince pies and festive cakes! We had a raffle with amazing prizes that had been kindly donated by a variety of local businesses. A huge thank you to all of you for helping make our raffle so wonderful! We also need to thank our fantastic fundraising team for organising and making the entire event possible!



With the twinkling lights of Christmas behind us, we have begun the topic of 'Food' for this term. The children have been very enthusiastic to explain their favourite foods, their least favourite foods and why. They discussed how to maintain a balanced, healthy diets and were keen to try out new fruits and vegetables. In January, we walked to the Fruit Grove in Lower Shott, and each child was given 50p to buy a piece of fruit to share at snack time. All of the children felt very grown up as they paid for and bagged their purchases! Thank you to all of the staff at the Fruit Grove for creating such a memorable morning!

As the term continues, we are looking forward to painting with spaghetti, making gloop from custard powder, and learning about foods from around the world. The children will also be making pasta necklaces, fairy cakes and making very good use of our allotment amongst many other activities. Rehearsal for our Easter show has already begun!

At Polesden Lacey Playschool, we are a non-profit organisation with a small, dedicated team of qualified staff that run sessions for children

aged 2 1/2 to 5 years old. To arrange a visit, or enquire about admissions please call us by telephone at 01372 458145 for general enquiries (please leave a message), or 01372 453162 (during session time). If you would like more information about the playschool please visit our website at www.polesdenlaceyplays.wix.com/playschool or email us at alison.s.roberts@btinternet.com

Natasha Matthews



Effingham Golf Club Juniors

2016 has come to an end, and the Finale of our season was the end of year Prize Giving. The event was attended by proud relations and junior winners of second half competitions. The awards for the main competition winners, Academy and Rookies, were presented by Club Captain, Chris Wilkinson.



Rory King was appointed Junior Captain 2017, with Joel Stroud as his Vice. At noon, January 1st, 2017, Rory 'drove in' before a large crowd of members. Despite the intimidating surroundings, Rory had nerves of steel and hit a long drive into the wind. The funds raised on that day were donated to the Captain's Charity, The Teenage Cancer Trust.

Effingham Golf Club boasts a thriving Junior Section (up to 18 years) of boys and girls providing a progressive programme from beginner to accomplished player. Whether you are a complete novice, or interested in giving golf a try, the club is keen to help you with our 'Junior Golf Development Scheme'. Some young and aspiring golfers may either not have an official handicap, or may not be quite up to the standard needed for immediate Junior Membership with the playing rights it provides. However, this is not a problem as these can be addressed by the Junior Organisers in a number of practical ways that meet the individual's situation.

The Club is keen to extend the opportunity of Junior membership to existing young golfers in the local area. Much of the coaching is



subsidised by the Club, so as to make it affordable to all. As well as regular monthly competitions, there are inter-club matches. There are no joining fees for a new Junior Member, but there is a modest annual subscription of £100 (under 13 years), and £205 (13-18 years). You can find out more about joining Junior Golf by contacting our Head PGA Professional, James Gunning by email at jgunning@effinghamgolfclub.com, or by telephone at 01372 452203 (golf inquiries - pro shop).

David Cox, OBE, Junior Organiser

Bookham Decorative And Fine Arts Society

One year ago, Brian Williams, the newly elected Chairman of Bookham DFAS encouraged everyone to make 2016 a memorable year for the society. We were not to be disappointed! The lecture programme included the landscapes of Capability Brown, the paintings of Klimt, humorous postcards from the first half of the 19th century and the obvious talents of Nell Gwynne. Even the anatomical drawings of Leonardo da Vinci, 'dissected' by the critical eye of a retired surgeon.

NADFAS has a diverse and vast number of knowledgeable speakers of whom we are able to select for such presentations, based on their expertise in their chosen field. Every talk was informative, but sparkled with wit and enthusiasm.

Whether you have never heard about post-impressionist masterpieces, or that Napoleon Bonaparte had a soft side, you will be surprised just how fascinating these subjects are! This is exactly what we learn, share, and love about our talks here at Bookham DFAS. To supplement our understanding of the topics covered in the talks, seven visits had been arranged including outings to Greenwich, Broadlands, and Battle Abbey. All visits were aided with the use of knowledgeable tour

guides, food, and plenty of photo-ops. We ended the year with a Christmas lunch, with excellent catering from *Home Cooking by Elizabeth*, followed by Margaret Watson an exceptionally talented harpist!

Not contented with our local trips, we also take part in larger scale biannual tours! This year's itinerary includes North Wales in May, and Northern Italy (including Venice) in October! These 5-day tours are arranged through a specialist company and are always memorable.

Bookham Decorative and Fine Arts Society meet at the Old Barn Hall on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Doors open at 6:45pm for coffee, tea and biscuits with a talk starting at 7:30pm. Here at NADFAS, we are a friendly bunch of local residents who have an insatiable curiosity to learn about almost anything! If you are interested in what we do, why not come for a 'Taster Talk' for just £5? For more information and contact details, please visit our website at www.bookham-dfas.org.uk

John Cook



Christmas Lunch Photo Derek Simmonds

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INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENTS

Mole Valley WI

The past couple months have been astoundingly busy for our members at Mole Valley WI! We had a multitude of wonderful talks last year including, the history and everyday lives of Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn, and the amazing work of Great Ormond St. Hospital where 255, 000 patients were treated last year alone!

The holiday season was set in full swing with some memorable events! The talented musical quartet, Moodswing, entertained us with a variety of songs from the late great, Cole Porter, followed by a selection of traditional Christmas carols. Our Annual Quiz Night had a fantastic turn out, many showed up to show their support! Throughout the evening we enjoyed an array of thought-provoking questions and a delicious supper to warm our bellies in lieu of the colder temperatures. At the end of the year, four members kindly volunteered their services to the Fairfield Day Centre and helped to serve lunch to many of

the residents. In return for their kind gesture, the team were graciously rewarded a lunch of their own!

This year will see many more exciting outings for our members as well! In April, our theatre group is off to see "Funny Girl", directed by Michael Mayer, at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking. An additional outing to Bletchley Park is currently being organised by Emlyn Downs Group.

2017 offers a varied programme of events and we have so much to look forward to! We had talks from London Livery Companies and future talks with Ewbank Auctioneers. Our 'Birthday Bonanza', with entertainment by Paul Weakley, was the highlight of our February Meeting!

Mole Valley WI welcomes all new members with open arms! Including our regular monthly meetings, our group also provides a selection of sub-groups. These include anything from



gardening, sport, and drama, to bridge! Our groups cover a wide range of activities and interests to suit all tastes and ages. Feel free to come along to a meeting, which take place on the second Tuesday of every month, from 7:30pm onwards at the Fetcham Village Hall. If you would like more information, please visit our website at www.molevalleywi.btck.co.uk, or contact Meriel Sexton by telephone at 01372 454496.

Liz White

National Trust Bookham Commons



A great deal of our work on Bookham Commons takes place around the edges: whether it's woodland margins with its interesting wildlife, car park surrounds that need to be kept tidy, or property boundaries that need inspecting for tree safety, fly-tipping or encroachments...it all needs looking after!

We've made excellent progress with the "Edge Project", our three-year plan to rescue the nightingales habitat, promoted and sponsored by the Friends of Bookham Commons and aided by the Surrey Community Foundation. This project aims to restore the wild flowers,

grassland and dense scrub that will benefit a variety of species of birds and insects, whilst providing a pleasant experience for the occasional wandering human! While this work may look destructive, please be assured that all work is undertaken very carefully on a rotational basis with the long-term survival of the wildlife at the forefront. We hope to preserve this historic landscape for future generations to enjoy and we know the results will be magnificent!

The manorial strips of common land going south into the villages of Great and Little

Bookham are undergoing some changes which will affect both for ourselves and the households that border it. These are our high-profile 'shop window' and need to be kept a little less wild than the rest of the commons. Annual wayleaves have been replaced by long-term leases and are now required to provide vehicular access to properties. However, this protected common land adds greatly to the valuation of a house. Thanks to the National Trust Act, this land cannot be built-on or used for any other purpose without the express will of Parliament.

None of this beautiful, peaceful and interesting landscape would be here without your valued and continued support, for which we are all grateful! Thank you! For more information on Bookham Commons, please visit our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bookham-commons. If you would like to get in touch, please email us at info@bookhamcommons.org.uk or visit the Friends of Bookham Commons website at www.bookhamcommons.org.uk

Ian Swinney,

Village Day White Elephant Stall

Don't worry if you have not got a white elephant just let us have your unwanted bric-a-brac to sell.

We are already collecting for the B.C.A. White Elephants stall on Village Day in June and welcome your donations. Last year £926.39 was a fantastic sum to raise so it would be super if we could top up to the thousand in 2017.

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Bookham Country Market

One of our new craft contributors for 2016 was Anna Clarke, a local contemporary artist who draws inspiration from nature and colour. Her love of the natural world stems from memories of the dramatic, rugged scenery surrounding her childhood home in Bulgaria. Anna states, "the gentle rolling hills of Surrey are such a contrasting landscape, but the light and colours of the changing seasons can be brought to life with textural finishes and bold colours highlighting the beauty of our stunning countryside." She also says that she loves "representing the natural world in abstract form, capturing its essence whilst leaving something to the viewer's imagination. Anna works in a wide range of media from oils, to charcoal, acrylics, and handmade felt.

Anna is largely self-taught, but she enhanced her skills at prestigious art schools in London. Following a career in marketing, she finally turned her passion for art into a full-time occupation. Despite a busy family life in Bookham, Anna has been exhibiting her work



in local galleries, numerous art fairs, and charity events in and around Surrey. She has had some wonderful feedback and many happy customers!

Anna's recent felted work has been such a success that she now also runs felting workshops, some of which will be as a part of the Surrey Artists Open Studios (SAOS) this June.

Whether for her own enjoyment, or for private commission, Anna uses her tools to creatively capture a likeness, whether beloved pet or person. "My passion for texture means that I don't aim for a perfect photographic smoothness, but the end result should be an accurate expression of a much-loved subject."

You can view Anna's work on her website at www.artyana.co.uk, or meet her and see some of her work at the Bookham Country Market which opens from 10:15am until 11:30am every Friday, in the Old Barn Hall. There are also stalls selling homemade cakes, baked goods, prepared meals, preserves, fresh free range eggs, meat, and locally grown plants and vegetables. For more information about Bookham Country Market, please email us at bookhamcountrymarket@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BookhamCountryMarket

Peter Almond

Armada Probus Club



What a fantastic end to the year at the Armada Probus Club! Great company, festive food, with music and singing by the *Blazing Saddlers*. It made for a wonderful Ladies Christmas Dinner event!

It was the first time since our amalgamation that both sets of ladies had joined for our festive meal. The dining room at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club was suitably decorated, and the lovely meal was served by attentive staff. Throughout the evening, the *Blazing Saddlers* entertained us with songs and music with a variety of instruments. While the band broke, the noise rose like a storm as everyone chatted. After the meal there was business to attend to before the *Blazing Saddlers* returned and invited us all to join in the singing! One of our other notable guests was Paddy Grady, a well-known Southern Irish singer who led the group with rousing singing, and a couple of encores before leaving for home.

Our club of retired professionals and businessmen within the Bookham, Dorking and surrounding areas. We meet at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club on the first Wednesday of the month for a two-course meal, followed by a talk on various subjects from external speakers. Future talks include the 'Costa Concordia Disaster' in February, and 'My Life in Politics' by our local MP, Sir Paul Beresford in March. Anyone wishing to join the club should contact the club Secretary, Peter Younghusband by email at peter.younghusband@virgin.net or by telephone at 01372 459603.

Mike Farrell





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Polesden Lacey Infant School



The beginning of a new year is a wonderful time to reflect, as well as to look forward to. At Polesden Lacey Infant School, last year's autumn term was bursting at the seams with exciting activities, bringing learning to life in the most ingenious ways.

A highlight for many was 'Science and Technology Week', where the children were able to participate in a Lego workshop! Budding architects and designers worked together to construct our very own 'Lego Town!' The pupils were also given the opportunity to recreate the painting 'Hunters in the Snow' by Flemish artist, Pieter Bruegel

the Elder. Using a wonderful and richly textured combination of collage and paints, the children created a powerful and impressive display for everyone to enjoy.

Year 1 and 2 pupils were able to invite their grandparents along for a special tea party in their honour. The children delighted them with an extensive range of fun and seasonal songs. Families were treated to a double bill of Christmas shows, where the children's performances were the epitome of holiday cheer. A 'Christmas Making Morning' enabled parents and carers to share in the magic of the season as they helped their children craft homemade gifts, decorations, and cards.

As the spring term commences, there is an exciting opportunity for parents and carers to participate in a Math lesson, alongside their child in the class. We hope this experience will prove an exciting challenge for young and older minds alike!

So by my calculations, the volume of activity this spring will be off the scale, and I for one, cannot wait to learn more!

Julie Welby



Groveside Badminton Club

We are recruiting new members! Groveside Badminton Club is a well established sports group that practice in Bookham. We also have a number of teams in the Surrey and Sutton leagues.

Groveside Badminton Club plays at the newly renovated Sports Hall at St. Teresa's. Why not drop in for a game and get fit while you're at it? Our club is a fun and vibrant group focused

on the social and fitness aspects of the sport. We pride ourselves on our friendly atmosphere and provide an excellent opportunity to make friends as well as getting in your exercise! Although we are a non-league club, we all play to a good standard so there is plenty of competition!

We play every Tuesday evening throughout the year from 7:30pm until 9:30pm. We offer a

'Pay As You Play' or subscription-based membership. Costs are between £4 and £7 per session, depending on the term and payment type (subscription or pay-as-you-play). For further information regarding the club, contact Ed Carr by telephone at 01372 819171 or email us at contact@groveside-badminton.co.uk

Ed Carr

Peter Pan Playschool

The children at Peter Pan Playschool had an exciting time in the lead-up to Christmas! They wrapped lots of presents for the cuddly toys, made decorations, cooked, learned new songs, and rehearsed for their nativity play. The final performance of the play was a triumph and provided many teary-eyed parents with memories to cherish, and photos to embarrass their children with in the years to come! We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many local businesses who supported us by donating prizes for our annual Christmas Bookham and Fetcham Hamper Raffle, which raised a record total last year! As a community, non-profit setting and registered charity, we rely on these funds to maintain the equipment and resources available for the children who attend.



Peter Pan Playschool is a very friendly preschool near the Eastwick Schools with an exceptionally experienced and highly skilled staff, three of whom have been with us for over ten years! Time and again, our parents tell us that their children love coming to Peter Pan Playschool and have developed hugely in confidence and independence during their time with us. We have a lovely, spacious garden where the children can choose to use in any weather! There is a mud kitchen, fruit and vegetable patch, den building area, and countless opportunity for exploration and play. We also have purpose-built infant toilets and basins to complement our already excellent facilities, and a large on-site car park.

We currently have a few spaces for 2 1/2 year olds to 4 year olds available for September, so please do not hesitate to contact us for more information. Please visit our website at



www.peterpanplayschool.co.uk for further inquiries. Peter Pan Playschool sessions are Monday - Friday from 9:10am until 12:10pm, term time only. We also offer a limited number of places for Stay-and-Play which runs from 9:45am until 11:45am on Fridays during term time for 18 months to 4 years old and their parents/carers for just £2 per session. Places can be booked by text or telephone at 07908 018924.

Helen Macfarlane



Surrey Wildlife Trust

Last autumn, mild weather was followed by a proper winter chill! Frost and icy grounds, and almost alternate days of thick fog or clear skies and sunshine. Norbury Park can look as stunning in its winter gray scale as it does in full summer brights!

Some of the Trust's beautiful Belted Galloway cattle, 21 altogether, grazed the various areas of SSSI chalk grassland from the end of August, until a week before Christmas. For the first time, the whole of Walnut Tree Clump grassland was grazed as one area, with huge thanks to Norbury Volunteers for their sterling work in putting up over 1000m of electric fence. Also, thank you to the public who seemed to cope well with the squeeze gaps we provided to allow them continued access in and out of the area! Much as we hope the cattle will keep the scrub down, even this hardy native breed are in fact 90% grass eaters,

so some areas have had a follow-up cut by the tractor to maintain the scrub so it does not dominate the more specialist chalk downland grasses and wildflowers.

A small amount of ride widening and coppicing has been done in the southern end of Bookham Wood, but there were no major woodland projects planned for last year aside from routine maintenance of the area. However, one of the more important tasks from this list was Tree Risk Assessments. To do this, the whole of the site was walked, assessing any trees that posed potential safety issues with particular concern for public footpaths, bridleways, and tracks. As you can imagine in Norbury, this takes a huge amount of time and diligence! We are extremely grateful to our colleague (currently on maternity leave), who has surveyed nearly all of Norbury, complete with babe (and jack

russell) in tow! If you happen to spot some trees with a small green dot on them, it does not necessarily mean that they are condemned, just that they are worthy of further assessment.

Did you know that historically there was a holly plantation in Bookham Wood? This was then harvested every December and taken up to London for people to buy around Christmas time! If you have any bits of knowledge or historical information about the park that you wish to share, please feel free to contact us! Norbury Park Volunteer Group meets every third Friday of the month, carrying out various tasks to preserve this invaluable area of Surrey countryside. For more information, please contact the Ranger, Andrea Neal by telephone at 07990 582291 or by email at andrea.neal@surreywt.org.uk

National Trust Polesden Lacey

The house at Polesden Lacey has been open every day throughout January and February, with our new seasonal programme, Rules and Roller Skates: The Perks of a Life in Service. This programme explores the lives of Polesden's hardworking servants, and what they got up to in their precious spare time while their mistress, Maggie Greville, was away!

Until recently, the house was closed down over the winter weekdays to allow the rooms to rest. But for the first time, this flagship National Trust property will be open every day, whilst exciting, new rooms are slowly revealed to the public. Visitors will be able to access backstairs areas for the first time, including the servants hall and the attic bedroom, where the male servants slept. But what did Polesden's servants do to wind down? If Downton Abbey has taught us anything, it was that servants were dreadfully overworked during the early twentieth century, trudging back to their tiny bedrooms only after everyone else had retired to pre-heated beds that the staff had already prepared.

However, for Polesden's servants at least, it wasn't all drudge and duties. Rules and Roller Skates reveals that there were, in fact, many perks to living life in service at Surrey's finest



party house for a mistress at the height of Edwardian society. Creative Programming Manager, Lauren Milsom, explains "this season's programme, Rules and Roller Skates, was inspired by an amusing account by Mrs. Greville's stable groom, Arthur Thompson. Arthur revealed how during Mrs. G's absences, staff took a more relaxed approach to their duties, even roller skating up and down the north corridor near the kitchens! It's just lovely to think of the servants enjoying their home as much as their mistress would have done."

Over the years, the house team have made contact with various surviving members of the staff, or their relatives, to collect stories about their time in service. These accounts all speak of a tightknit community who worked, lived, and played together. Some even found true love, not without a little push from their notorious matchmaker, Mrs. Greville!

Mrs. Greville encouraged a strong sense of community amongst her staff, including an Annual Servants Ball, and a thriving social club. Servants from across the property would meet up to enjoy a drink, play darts and billiards, or peruse the large library, all of which Mrs. Greville had generously stocked. With the use of the 18 hole golf course, tennis courts, and a competitive cricket team (well placed in the local leagues), there was certainly a thriving social scene that the Polesden staff enjoyed in their hard earned leisure time!

Rules and Roller Skates: The Perks of a Life in Service runs from January 5th, 2017 until March 30th 2017. Admission is free to all National Trust Members. For more information about upcoming news and events, please visit our website at

Camilla Morgan



Village Council Voting on May 4th 2017

Voting takes place on the 4th of May, so make your vote count!

Bookham voters will have three polling papers to fill out on 4th May:

1. One for the County Council Elections
2. One for the Referendum on the Bookham Neighbourhood Development Plan - For more information, see the Bookham Vanguard Article or visit their website at www.facebook.com/bookhamvanguard
3. One for the Village Council Advisory Poll being conducted on behalf of Mole Valley District Council.

The District Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review on the possible formation of a Village/Parish Council for Bookham. This involves consultations with organisations in the Village, allowing them to comment whether they agree or disagree with the proposal, and an Advisory Poll giving all voters a chance to have their voices heard. For more information on views agreeing and disagreeing for a Village Council, please visit both websites at:

www.beamforbookham.uk
www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

The Grange

We have had a very busy, but incredible year at the Grange! Our 'Lifting Expectations' Project, which involved remodelling the Victorian Main House, is almost complete with just the Ballroom to finish. We now have a fully accessible building with a new lift, which for the first time in the building's history, gives everyone full access to the first floor. On this level, we now have extra rooms for our skills training sessions which includes a dedicated kitchen area for the enterprise group Grange Creations, where they make their best-selling fudge! In addition, there is now space for the Creative Arts and Textiles department and a show stopping state-of-the-art IT suit - The Karten CTEC Centre.

Following a successful Bridge Tea in the Autumn, we rounded off 2016 with a fabulous Christmas Concert at the Menuhin Hall. Ian Assersohn again kindly agreed to be our Musical Director and with the help of 57 strong choir of local supporters, everyone sang their hearts out. We had two magical soloists, Luke and Charlotte, who attend the skills sessions at The Grange, and lovely poems read by Deborah Grant and Sir Richard Thompson. Sir Richard read out the winning entry of our poetry competition written by Ange Treanor, which was absolutely hilarious!

We feel extremely lucky to have such amazing support from local organisations, groups, and businesses. Bookham Country Market kindly invited us to be the featured charity at the end of August; the Great Bookham Belles WI generously purchased some items from our wish list including a wheelbarrow, watering cans and talking scales; IRESS, located in Bookham High Street held a cake sale for us and not forgetting the fantastic Brunch Event organised by the Rotary Club of Bookham and Horsley, the proceeds of which have been presented to The Grange. We are also delighted to announce that we have been

selected by The Co-operative Food as one of their three charities to benefit from the Local Community Fund Initiative.

These are just a few highlights of many! A massive thank you to everyone who continues to support us, we are very grateful of all of you and would like to take this opportunity to send out our best wishes for 2017!

For more information about The Grange and our work, please take a look at our website: www.grangecentre.org.uk

Marion Chow



Little Bookham WI

Last year, the festive season truly began for Little Bookham WI with the decorating of our Christmas tree for the 'Christmas Tree Festival' at St. Nicolas Church. The decorating theme on this occasion was 'A Royal Christmas'. President, Pat Hammond, led a working party with Dalma Williams, Kate Cross, and Betty Murphy, who crafted decorative miniature crowns. The tree looked very regal indeed! In late December, the Members' Meeting was a 'Christmas Celebration'. We enjoyed 'Memories of Christmas Past' from Sheila Morley, talking

about her first Christmas as a married woman; Jan Heasman spoke on 'Christmas Day Alone', about when she was a WPC in London; Shirley Addison talked on a 'Large Family Party', covering many significant events; and Pat Steer, on her experience of 'A Spanish Christmas'. Members took part in a Christmas Hat Parade and competition. Ruth Archer won first prize for her Christmas tree hat. Following refreshments, there was a Christmas raffle in aid of Denman College. The bursary draw for a place at Denman College went to our lucky



winner, Julia Watts! Congratulations! The evening was rounded off with a comedic rendition of Cinderella, performed by the committee, and was much enjoyed by everyone.

This year, we are already looking forward to outings to Chartwell, Jane Austen's House and Museum in Hampshire, and a backstage tour of the National Theatre!

Little Bookham WI is a small, friendly group who meet at Little Bookham Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month, from 7:30pm. Visitors and newcomers are always more than welcome to come along to one of our meetings!

Fay McGregor



Meet the Makers - Natasha Allwood Cakes



Welcome to the first installment of "Meet the Makers", your local guide to artists and artisans within and around the Bookham area. With birthday season in

full swing, it seemed only natural to include a professional cake baker as our first profile!

Natasha Allwood is a local resident, mummy to four, Chairman of Bookham Toddler Group, and cake-baker extraordinaire! Natasha runs her business from her home, Natasha Allwood Cakes, baking bespoke cakes for all occasions. From biscuits to tiered cakes, everything is handcrafted to specific individual tastes and requirements to ensure it is the centrepiece for your special day.

Natasha first moved to the area from North West London after meeting her husband. After living locally for almost seven and a half years, Natasha says that "she feels like she has lived here her entire life," thanks to such a tightknit and welcoming community. As a mother of four children, and three of them under the age of five, Natasha wanted to use her passion for

baking to create a business that she could fit around them.

A self-taught cake decorator, Natasha works her sugar craft magic during night shifts to enable her to keep her 'mummy hat' on during the day! The amount of time she dedicates to each cake depends on the level of detail required. "Creating a bespoke cake is all about the detail", says Natasha, priding her work on precision, quality and being able to create something very personal.

Working anytime between 9pm and 4am, she says that "being a mum of four, running the local toddler group, and a cake business is definitely not without its challenges!" She manages to divide her time well, "It is like preparing a roast dinner: everything is about timing" as she grows her business whilst ensuring she is able to do the school runs.

Natasha encourages people to follow their dreams as she has done, stating "it is possible to completely change direction. Before I had my three youngest, I was working in corporate business development. With the support of my husband, and the friends I have made in this community, I have been able to indulge my

passion for baking while creating a business from it."

I was lucky enough to sample her most popular flavours: vanilla sponge with a jam and vanilla buttercream, and a rich chocolate sponge with a chocolate buttercream filling. I can assure you that on both counts, she has certainly set the bar high!

In the future, Natasha is looking forward to fewer night shifts as the youngest of her brood reach school age. For now, she is mastering her skills, and her work is a clear indication of her passion and dedication for the art of cake baking. If you would like more information, or have any cake inquiries, please visit Natasha Allwood Cakes on Facebook, or call by telephone at 07950 400156

Jennifer Terry



Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Leatherhead Museum reopens on Thursday, April 6, 2017 after its annual winter break with brand new exhibitions featuring the visuals and designs of children's book illustrator and local resident, Cathy Brett. We are celebrating our Society's 70th anniversary this year, so you can be sure of a treat when you drop in to explore the 17th century Hampton Cottage at 64 Church Street, Leatherhead. We will be open throughout the spring, summer, and autumn every Thursday and Friday from 1:00pm until 4:00pm, and Saturday from 10:00am until 4:00pm.

If you want to know what Bookham and the wider district once looked like, what went on here and how people lived their lives, we can bring it all to life for you. As well as the Museum, our records at the Kirby Library, and stocks of our own published books (available from local booksellers), we have a full programme of monthly talks lined up throughout the year in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Leatherhead Institute every third Friday of the month from 7:30pm.

On March 17, 2017 Society archaeologist, Nigel Bond will be talking about his work here in Surrey. Pat Jenkins, archivist of the City of London Freeman's School will be talking about Ashted Park on April 21, 2017. On May 19, 2017

Professor Peter Edwards will be speaking on the history of Eastwick, right here in Bookham!

On September 15, 2017 Tony Matthews, Editor of the Society's quarterly Newsletter, will present our new oral history service. This features the actual voices of local residents recalling life in the district up to a century ago. People of all backgrounds were recorded between 1979 and 2002 by local history author, Edwina Vardey, and their interviews are now being made public for the first time. Tony has also revived the programme with fresh recordings of today's residents. So if you have your own long memories and would like to be interviewed for future posterity, just let us

know!

Finally, on October 20, 2017 Chris Stagg will tell us about local popular musicians and recording in the 1950s. You will have to wait until November 17, 2017 to hear TV personality and University Challenge founder, Bamber Gascoigne speaking on the new Grange Park Opera House, at his estate at West Horsley Place.

For details of all activities, please visit our website at www.leatherheadmuseum.plus.com, or call us by telephone at 01372 386348. You can also email us at staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Tony Matthews





The Rotary Club Of Bookham And Horsley

Our Club had an active year once again! Last autumn, a team of volunteers planted 5,000 purple crocus bulbs near the village sign at Lower Shott. This was part of our fundraising and awareness campaign for *End Polio Now*: Rotary's highest profile international project, championed by the organisation for several decades alongside the Gates Foundation, the UN, and many others. In November, Rotary's *Saturday Morning Bookham Brunch* was our most successful ever, raising over £1,700 for charities. December brought evening talks to the Club including two from our own members with an Indian theme, and finally a Christmas meal with a talk from John Irwin, who gave us some fascinating insight into the culture of Punch and Judy.

The Club sends its sincere thanks to all residents of Bookham, Effingham, and The Horsleys for their tremendous generosity last Christmas. We raised over £3,700 to benefit local charities, and the many families in need within the local community over the holiday period. As usual, we made collections at various supermarkets and in the three villages in the weeks that lead up to Christmas. There

was also a Santa sighting, as he and his sleigh toured the local streets and proved to be a popular greeting. Our own collections were supplemented by Rotary Christmas shoebox donations from the Howard of Effingham, and RGS Guildford. Students filled the boxes with toys, toiletries, educational and household items. Once filled, the boxes are shipped to families living in poverty in countries such as Albania, Croatia, Romania and Ukraine. For many recipients, this was the first gift they had ever received.

Rotary combines the opportunity to really make a difference in the community whilst enjoying the company of like-minded friends. We rely on the generosity of the wider community to make our efforts count. Why not join us for a trial Club evening or join our mailing list for updates? For more details and to keep up to date with our events, please visit our website at www.bookhamandhorsley.rotaryweb.org or contact our secretary, Paul Simons by telephone at 01483 284193 or email at pandasimons15@yahoo.co.uk

Andrew Smith



Christmas Charity Post - Annual Report for Christmas 2016

The Committee were once again concerned that income from the local Christmas Charity Post would drop off this year, as people appeared to be sending fewer cards nowadays. Our final income was £3,597 compared to £3,988 last year but still a fantastic result! Thanks to all concerned.

We delivered over 11,000 cards and will be sending £3,000 to projects in developing countries.

The £3000 will be split between three charities, with £1000 going to Practical Action for a solar powered irrigation project in East Africa; £1000

going to Medecines Sans Frontieres for their work with Syrian refugees and £1000 to Water Aid for their work in providing clean water overseas.

Michael Agius, Chairman

The Meeting Place

There has been a great deal on the news, and in the press about how so many feel lonely in our society. This is the main reason we started The Meeting Place in Bookham, and since then we have created many opportunities to reduce that sense of isolation and exclusion. Our Coffee Shop sessions throughout the week and on Saturdays reach out to parents with young children, the elderly, and anyone in between! We know that different groups require company at different times, so any and all are welcomed at the Coffee Shop.

We welcome all who seek help and can assist with guidance to other local support groups if necessary. Illness can lead to a real sense of exclusion from day-to-day life, both for the sufferer and their carers. From Dementia, to deafness we offer a safe place to offer care and support to those who need it most. For those

unable to speak or understand English, we now have a wonderful Language Hub, where TEFL trained teachers volunteer their services at a more reasonable rate for daytime and evening classes in Bookham. Poverty is often hidden in our area, but it is much more prevalent than we realise. We keep our price low, and if asked, we can help practically with discreet referrals to local Food Banks, BESOM for household goods, and advice sessions from Citizens Advice. Wellers Hedleys Solicitors offer free legal advice on Fridays from 10:00am until 11:00am, once every fortnight, please contact The Meeting Place to book an appointment. Hearing Champions hold sessions on Saturdays, please contact us for dates. Our AGM is on Saturday March 18th, 2017 from 12:15 followed by a soup lunch! Please let us know if you intend to come, to ensure there is enough food to go around.

The Meeting Place Cafe and Community Hub is open from 10:00am until 12:00pm Monday, Friday, and Saturday mornings at the Bookham Baptist Church. There is a soft play area for smaller children, good quality books and games for sale, with tea/coffee, cakes and biscuits available for purchase. We are proud of all we have achieved, and all we continue to achieve in creating links with other local groups. To make this possible, we need to keep bolstering our team of volunteers and Trustees, so if what we do appeals to you, please consider joining! To find out more information, or to speak to any Trustee or Volunteer, please visit our website at www.themeetingplacebookham.webs.com or call by telephone at 07425 133431.

Margaret Hibbert, Chairman

Bookham Camera Club

Bookham Camera Club is delighted to be holding its Annual Exhibition in Leatherhead Theatre from April 4th, 2017 until April 28th, 2017.

This will be the fourth year we have exhibited in the theatre, and it promises to be a spectacular display of some great photography! This will include around 100 large, framed prints together with a rolling display of nearly 200 digital images. During the Exhibition, we will be holding two 'Meet the Photographers' sessions: on Saturday, April 15th, and Saturday, April 22nd between 10:00am until 12:00pm, a number of our members will be in the theatre ready to discuss



photography with you! If you have any questions about the images displayed, camera equipment, or any other photography related inquiries, please come along! We will be delighted to see you!

Since our beginning over 70 years ago, when 11 photographers gathered in Bookham Congregational Church Hall, we have expanded into a large, dynamic group of around 70 members! We are a diverse club of photographers of all ages and abilities, what we have in common is the ambition of taking a better photograph. Our annual programme is designed to be active informative, engaging, inclusive, and most importantly, enjoyable.

We meet in the Eastwick Road Church Hall in

Bookham every Thursday evening, from mid-September through until the following May. Our programme involves a mix of expert external and internal speakers, practical sessions, and competitions. Whatever your photographic interests, we are sure to have something to attract you and experienced photographers ready to share their knowledge with you! If you are interested in photography, or just want to see some lovely images, please come along to the Exhibition, you will not be disappointed! If you would like more information about the club, please visit our website at www.bookhamcameraclub.zenfolio.com for all of our contact details.

Roger Mendham

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The Old Barn Hall Office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9am to 12noon

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BCA COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

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AFFILIATED GROUPS

Listed below are the groups affiliated to the BCA. Changes to these details, and applications from new clubs, should be forwarded in writing/email to the Secretary, Veronica Hurren.

GROUPS AFFILIATED TO THE BCA

Changes and applications for affiliation to veronica@hurren.org
tel: 451790

BRA

Bookham Residents Association (BRA) Peter Seaward 452532
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CONSERVATION

Friends of Bookham Commons Robert Hall 453183 -
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Friends of Little Bookham Church Val Winter 454273
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Friends of St Nicolas Church Angela Stevens 456713-
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Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society Lucy Quinnell
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Transition Bookham Esther Phillips-Constans 456905
esther_s_phillips@hotmail.com

EDUCATION

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Bookham & District U3A Gillian Arnold 452046
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Bookham Seniors Computer Club, Brian Baker 450604
brianbaker@btconnect.com

Bookham Toddler Group Natasha Allwood
natasha_allwood@bookhamtoddlergroup.co.uk

Dawnay Playgroup Abby Ward 453796 info@dawnay.surrey.sch.uk
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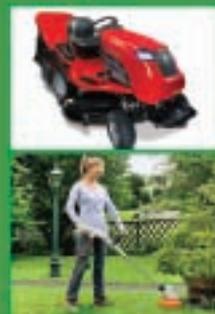
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