

# Bookham Bulletin



LOCAL NEWS FROM BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Spring 2024

## FaB REPAIR

## CAFE



**Throw it? No Way!**

Come along to the Fetcham and Bookham Repair Cafés on the 1st Saturday monthly.

The aim of our Repair Café is to:

- Reduce landfill waste by repairing broken items
- Share knowledge and skills
- Create a social space where people can meet

All the Repair Cafés you'll find expert volunteers with repair skills in all kinds of fields that may include clothes, electrical appliances, bicycles, woodwork, IT, toys, etc.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit our media sites, email or call.

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Web: [www.fabrepaircafe.com](http://www.fabrepaircafe.com)  
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01372 375000

### Who are we?

The FaB Repair Café has been established to serve the local communities of Fetcham, Bookham, Effingham and the surrounding areas. It is supported by Bookham and Horsley Rotary and St. Mary's Church, Fetcham with a team of fantastic local volunteers all with the goal of living more sustainably and helping the environment by repairing items and reducing landfill.

### The aim of our Repair Café is to:

- Reduce landfill waste by repairing broken items
- Share knowledge and skills
- Create a social space where people can meet

### Why are we running the Café?

Lots of items get thrown away, sometimes with almost nothing wrong with them or which could easily be repaired with just a little bit of know-how. Our team of volunteers can share their knowledge and offer you help and advice on how the item can be repaired, reused or recycled.

### When and where?

The repair café is on the first Saturday of every month at St. Mary's Church Hall, 10a The Ridgeway, Fetcham, Surrey KT22 9AZ.

### Our Volunteers:

We already have lots of volunteers but are on the lookout for more. If you like fixing things (eg. Bikes, clothing, electrical items, mechanical items, wooden items such as furniture, etc.) or would like to help out in other ways such as helping to run the event or helping with refreshments, do please get in touch. You can email us on [fabrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:fabrepaircafe@gmail.com)

## Smiletime



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By Rob Baines, see page 3



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BOOKHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Bringing people together

# Bookhams Bulletin

91st Year

Issue 348

Bookham Community Association - Incorporated in England & Wales Company number 8000494

Registered Charity number 1148881. Registered Office: The Old Barn Hall 55 Church Road, Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 3PQ

## From the Chairman

### The late Michael Anderson



It was with great sadness that we heard that well known village community supporter Michael Anderson passed away just before Christmas 2023.

Michael was a wonderful and long serving friend of all of us here in Bookham where he was a familiar sight at so many events – and just walking – and talking - around the village!



He was a Liberal Councillor for Bookham for many years, and during that time was also a Leader of Mole Valley District Council. He was a great supporter of the BCA and helped us with advice re. grants and assistance many times.

Michael was a leading light of Village Day for very many years in front of the Parade down through the village in his Union Jack costume before MC'ing the proceedings from the arena.

We miss him and our thoughts are with Anne his wife and all their family.

### Our gatepost and wall

Our gateway met with an unfortunate accident which demolished the post and part of the wall. We hope to have had it repaired and back to its former glory shortly.

### Coming up

As well as the other events shown in What's Happening above please note these dates in your diary:

### Village Day – Saturday 15th June and the theme is 'The Olympians'

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

The White Elephant stall is looking for good items to sell – contact Heidi George [bookhamelephantstall@gmail.com](mailto:bookhamelephantstall@gmail.com)

### Bookham Open Gardens – Sunday 23rd June

Lots of gardens to enjoy - see page 16 for more information

Keith Slark [keithslark@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:keithslark@tiscali.co.uk) 01372 457375

**Cartoon** – the cartoon on the front cover is by Rob Baines. Rob lives in Bookham and draws cartoons in his spare time as a hobby. You can find him on the internet:

<https://www.bainescartoons.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bainescartoons>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bainescartoons>

## What's Happening

### March

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14/16	HofE Legally Blonde	p10

### April

14	Rotary Cycle SurreyHills	p15
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### May

22/25	BLOS Spamalot	p17
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### June

15	Village Day	p3
23	Open Gardens	p16

### Regular events at the Old Barn Hall

Bookham Country Market - Friday mornings

Old Barn Hall Jazz Club – most Sundays

### Monthly

Bookham Flower Club - First Monday

BF&D Garden Society – Fourth Monday

Bookham u3a – First Tuesday

Bookham Stamp Club – Fourth Tuesday

Cancer Chat Café – Second Wednesday

Eastwick WI – Third Wednesday

The Arts Society – Fourth Tuesday

Bookham Bees – First Wednesday

### Elsewhere

Bookham Litter Pickers – First Sunday

Bookham Seniors Computer Club – Friday

Bookham Scottish Country Dance – Friday

## Next Edition of the Bookhams Bulletin

**Deadline for Summer issue:**

**1 April 2024**

Email articles or queries

to the Editor

[bookhamsbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bookhamsbulletin@gmail.com)

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# South Bookham SPACE

The beautiful South Bookham SPACE is situated next to the Chrystie Recreation Playground. It is a multifunctional, multipurpose building with on-site parking and three separate and distinct areas for hire.

The main area is available for event hires such as birthday parties at weekends. However, it also offers an extensive range of indoor activities for all ages; from TinyTalk and baby massage, to children's dance, a wide variety of Pilates classes for all levels of ability, Pole Fitness and Yoga. When hiring you will have access to a well-equipped kitchen and toilet facilities, and we can also provide chairs and tables for up to 60 people. We now have limited download WiFi throughout the building.

The Outer SPACE is a floodlit multi-use games area which hosts fitness sessions, tennis, 5-side soccer, netball and basketball. There is access to male & female changing rooms with showers and we can provide goals, nets and hoops.

The new Social SPACE extension is large enough to accommodate meetings, classes and social events for up to 12 people (depending on format), with kitchen facilities and a balcony overlooking the Outer SPACE. The Social SPACE facilities include a stairlift to the first floor and a hearing loop to encourage full accessibility. It is equipped with a projector and interactive whiteboard as aids to teaching and coaching.

We welcome new regular activities. Please see our websites Hiring page for further details of the facilities we offer and our prices. Have a look at the Calendar pages for availability, then contact us to secure your place. If you would like to find out more about the activities hosted at SPACE please see our website [www.southbookhamSPACE.org.uk](http://www.southbookhamSPACE.org.uk). If you would like to hire a venue for your next party, event or meeting please email us [hire.southbookhamSPACE@gmail.com](mailto:hire.southbookhamSPACE@gmail.com). We look forward to you joining us.

Natasha Matthews



# Bookham Bridge Club

Bookham Bridge Club recently held their Annual General Meeting at the Old Barn Hall in Bookham. Members at the meeting welcomed Jerry Broers (pictured left) as their new Chairman who took over from Neil Higgins (pictured right) the retiring Chairman.

The club meets weekly in the Old Barn Hall on a Monday and Thursday afternoon to play Duplicate bridge. There are on average between 15 and 21 tables of bridge. A spare partner system is offered to ensure members and guests are assured of a game of Duplicate bridge.

The club is very sociable and welcomes potential new members. Bridge events are regularly planned throughout the year to



support differing local charities. If you play bridge and would like to join in the fun, please come along and try our very sociable and supportive club.



# Howard of Effingham School

Our Winter Concert was a huge success, with festive musical entertainment and performances from all our school ensembles as well as a number of student-led items.

This year's musical is "Legally Blonde" which will be on stage in March 2024. The production will involve a cast, crew and band of over 100 students and is expected to play in front of a packed house over the course of four performances. "Legally Blonde" will be a very

high-profile event in the school's calendar and will be extensively publicised both in school, in our feeder primary schools, within the wider community, on social media and throughout the mailing list at Leatherhead Theatre.

The dates are 14th and 16th March. Tickets and order forms will be available through the school or Theatre - early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Howard of Effingham School





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# Bookham Country Market



## Onwards and Upwards!

2023 was a very successful year for the regular Friday Market. It is for many, the place to be on Friday morning. We asked customers to complete a short survey about their experiences at the Market. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The atmosphere, friendliness and range of products available all got top of the board scores.

We are open from 10am to 12 noon in the Old Barn Hall every week. The Market was open on 51 Fridays in 2022 and a total of 662 customers visited, of which 345 were new customers. They came to buy the high-quality products that are available, all locally produced with consequent low food miles.

We have a core group of customers who regularly visit the Market, and we are very grateful to them. From these the frequent flier was again Dennis Hicks, who came to 47 of the 51 Markets. In recognition we gave him a small reward for this loyalty.

There were eight others who attended 40 times or more during the year, who similarly received a small thank you.

On Saturday 26th November we held an extremely successful extra Market, focusing on Craft and Christmas food. It was open from 10.00 to 13.30 and was a buzz of activity throughout as customers took advantage to buy early presents from the huge range of unique products on offer.

That is not all. Most of our other usually available product range was also there – home cooked cakes, award winning specialty cheeses straight from the dairy, award winning artisan breads, home-made preserves and local honey. All these are available every Friday and more – free range eggs, plants & garden produce, home-made ready meals, books and jigsaws.

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

Having done your shopping, relax in the coffee shop, maybe with friends, and enjoy a Fairtrade coffee or Teapigs tea with a slice of home-made cake or biscuits.

The market is run completely by volunteers and is a valuable community activity.

See and read more at [www.bookhammarket.wixsite.com/mrkt](http://www.bookhammarket.wixsite.com/mrkt)

Contact us at [bookhammarket@gmail.com](mailto:bookhammarket@gmail.com)  
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# Great Bookham School



We were delighted to take part in the Spirit of Christmas event on Bookham High Street where children sang a range of traditional Christmas carols with enthusiasm as parents and local residents watched on. Despite the bitter cold, they managed to make us all feel warm and Christmassy inside.

Children in Year R, 1 and 2 treated audiences to a truly incredible rendition of the nativity story. They performed with such commitment and confidence and left us all feeling so proud and in awe of what they had been able to achieve.

We were very grateful to Rev Alan Jenkins and Celeste Rios for allowing us to hold our Christingle service at St Nicolas Church. The congregation were treated to our very talented orchestra and choir performing Once in Royal David City, followed by the Christmas story told through song and storytelling. The lighting of

Christingles, whilst singing Hope of Heaven, was a tingly moment which we know for many is the highlight of the service.

As part of our Wellbeing Ambassador programme, children visited all members of staff during the last week of term with a very festive Christmas tea trolley decorated in tinsel and playing Christmas songs. Staff were offered a selection of yummy Christmas treats and fresh orange as a small token to say thank you and let them know how grateful we are to have them.

We are very lucky to have such an inspirational staff team here at Great Bookham School who are full of fun and are always looking for ways

to give back to the children. With true team spirit and on the last day of term, all staff arrived at school dressed as elves to surprise the children. The team then went one step further by performing a flash mob dance to Santa Clause is Coming to Town during our final assembly of the year! The children were so excited and seeing them admire the staff with their festive efforts made it all worthwhile.

Follow us on Instagram or Facebook to find out what other wonderful things take place at Great Bookham School.



# Mole Valley Runners

The members at Mole Valley Runners continue to have lots of fun while also keeping themselves fit.

The club has continued to offer around 9 sessions per week. The runs range in ability from plodders to steady to continuous, with distances varying from 5k, to 8k or 10k. The runs go from places such as Norbury Park in Leatherhead, the High Street in Great Bookham, Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking and KGV playing fields in Effingham. There really is something for everyone, with runs both in the mornings and in the evenings.

The club arranged a private evening at the Excel Running Track in Walton-on-Thames over the summer and members were able to run laps of the track with chip timing. Members had great fun and also managed to achieve

some wonderful milestones, with people achieving personal best times for a 5k or running their first ever half marathon.

A lot of members from the club also attended the Bacchus half marathon at Denbies in September. The fun event saw members complete either the 10k or half marathon route whilst enjoying a glass of wine every 2 miles. A lot of the members went dressed as Pirates to add even more fun to the day!



If you are interested in joining a running club, we are a very friendly and supportive club. The emphasis is on getting out there and having a run while exploring the countryside and having a good chat with fellow runners.

For more information follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/MoleValleyRunners](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MoleValleyRunners) or have a look on our website [www.molevalleyrunners.org](http://www.molevalleyrunners.org)

#Support #Believe #Achieve #Run



# Litter picking in the Bookhams

This continues on the first Sunday of the month, unless it's a bank holiday weekend, in which case it's a week later. Meet at Lower Shott car park at 11.00am. All are welcome. After signing in, equipment is provided and places to litter pick are allocated. We collect for an hour or so and sometimes we have a drink

and nibbles afterwards, e.g. to celebrate the King's Coronation, after the Big Help Out, etc

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

Margaret Lawson



# Bookham Bees WI



Bookham Bees WI goes from strength to strength, with many new members joining us in the past few months. We have enjoyed a very successful year with many varied activities.

In October we welcomed a team from our nominated charity, Community First Responders. They demonstrated lifesaving skills which we were then invited to take part in. We were particularly interested in the use of the defibrillator kits dotted around the village, and it was very beneficial to see inside the kits and learn how to use them.

In November we had a very interesting illustrated talk by Annabel Alford Warren about the National Garden Scheme. It was founded in 1927 to raise money for district nurses.

Our December meeting was full of Christmas cheer. Members were greeted with a warming glass of mulled wine before making beautiful paper snowflakes. Mince pies and refreshments were served, and we finished the evening with carol singing accompanied by three members of our ukulele group.

The Bees are always on the move and in

October 20 members visited West Horsley Place and gardens. This 500-year-old house is being restored by the West Horsley Place Trust. Members went on a day trip to Brighton in late December, with lunch, shopping and a trip to the theatre to see the musical SIX.

The Bees have many various groups with something for everyone:

Coffee Group, Supper Group, Lunch Group, Book Clubs Gardening Group, Theatre Group, Pub night, Family History Group, Sewing Group, Knitting Group, Bridge Group and several different Walking Groups (for all levels of fitness). A Ukulele Group has recently started and an Art Group is planned for the Spring.



Bookham Bees WI Christmas Meeting

We have a very varied programme for 2024, including talks on The River Kwai, Smithfield Market, Bodyguard to Queen Elizabeth II, ending in December with a Christmas concert by the talented Margaret Watson and her Golden Harp.

Bookham Bees WI meets on the first Wednesday of every month (second Wednesday in January only) at the Barn Hall Bookham at 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. For further information please contact membership secretary Heather Broadhurst on [heather@broadhurst.org.uk](mailto:heather@broadhurst.org.uk)

Jenny Bissell  
President - Bookham Bees WI



Bookham Bees WI First Responders

# Polesden Lacey Infant School

'Polesden Lacey Infants is a magical place that gives our children wings to become enthusiastic, resilient and independent learners.' Parent feedback February 2023

Nestled in the heart of Surrey Hills in Bookham, Polesden Lacey Infant School is a true gem in our community. With a legacy of providing exceptional early education, this school has been shaping young minds since 1971. The school has a proud history of academic excellence.

For many years, it has consistently delivered an amazing education to our youngest learners. The dedicated staff and teachers at the school work tirelessly to create a nurturing and stimulating environment where children can thrive. Our commitment to providing a warm and welcoming environment is evident the moment you step through our doors. The friendly and caring staff make it a priority to ensure that every child feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.

This nurturing atmosphere sets the stage for a positive and enriching educational experience. We don't stand on our laurels though! We are continually embracing innovative teaching methods and technology to enhance the learning journey for our students. From interactive lessons to engaging activities, students are encouraged to explore their curiosity and creativity.

Polesden Lacey Infant School is much more than just a place of learning; it's an inclusive community that empowers young minds to reach their full potential. As it continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of education, we can be confident that this beloved institution will remain a cornerstone of our community, equipping our children with the skills, values, and knowledge they need to embrace a bright future. The school truly embodies the spirit of Bookham, where excellence, care, and community thrive.

If you want to know more of what we do please check out our website and social media:

Website -

<https://polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk/>

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/PolesdenLaceyInfantSchool>

Instagram -

[https://www.instagram.com/polesdenlaceyinfant/?igshid=MzMyNGUyNmU2YQ%3D%3D&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/polesdenlaceyinfant/?igshid=MzMyNGUyNmU2YQ%3D%3D&utm_source=qr)



# Great Bookham Belles WI



Autumn kicked off in style with a day outing to Blenheim Palace where members explored the house and grounds. Another outing saw a group of members marvel at the autumnal colours at Winkworth Arboretum. Our local history group went on a trip to Painshill Park and walked up Little Bookham Street learning about the old buildings and their history.

Our October monthly meeting was an interesting and emotional talk by Helen Beckman, a local actress and mum who told us her husband Jerry's story as he battles early onset dementia and Parkinson's disease.

In November we held our annual meeting and voted for our new charity of the year which is Leatherhead Swans. We look forward to raising money for them and getting to know them better over the coming months. We also held a raffle when two members won educational bursaries of £200 to use in the upcoming year. Olaf and Fritha gave us a fascinating talk on

their "Triangle House" which has been featured on Grand Designs, a group of members are looking forward to visiting the house in February.

Our December meeting was our now traditional Christmas craft meeting, when we made decorative wreaths whilst drinking mulled wine and listening to festive music. We also watched a slideshow of activities members had participated in during the year.

A highlight of the year was our Christmas party held at La Meridiana Restaurant in Horsley when 55 members enjoyed a lively evening of eating, drinking, listening to a Michael Bublé tribute act and dancing.

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



# Bookham Butterflies WI



In December Bookham Butterflies WI celebrated both Christmas and the group's 9th birthday with an evening of crafting, festive nibbles and Christmas jumpers!

The crafting activity saw members make dozens of beautiful woven hearts out of coloured paper – a traditional Scandinavian Christmas tree decoration (pictured). Members of the Butterflies' recently founded "Craft with a Heart" sub-group led the activity. The craft group also made poppies out of felt for Remembrance Sunday, as well as mini Christmas trees out of ribbon and beads. Those attending the weekly meetings of the new group range from complete novice to accomplished crafter, with a whole range of

expert knowledge being shared.

Staying with a "creative" theme, Bookham Butterflies staged their popular annual wreath-making workshop for the eighth time. The ladies taking part were provided with a wire frame and moss, decorations and ribbon – adding additional items, including greenery, which they brought from home. This was a fun, social event, with members meeting for a cup of tea and piece of Stollen or mince pie, whilst chatting and making their wreaths.

In November we visited the wonderful festive light event at Kew Gardens for the first time since 2019. On another trip to London a group visited Kensington Palace to view the fascinating "Crown to Couture" exhibition, which drew parallels between attire worn on the modern-day red carpets and the Georgian Royal Court in the 18th century.

Locally, our Garden Explorers group finished their varied programme of garden visits for 2023 with an afternoon at Bookham's very own Grange centre. At the end of our tour we tucked into huge scones with jam and cream for afternoon tea! What a friendly, happy place – residents at The Grange are so privileged to live in such a caring environment.



Finally, we are thrilled that during 2023 we raised a total of £1,116 for Eikon, a Surrey charity which helps young people feel safe, heard and supported. Our charity in 2024 will be Yorda Adventures, based in Chessington, who provide play and short breaks for children with significant learning difficulties.

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

## Bookham Help Your Neighbour Scheme

### CAN YOU HELP

Do you have an hour to spare now and then? BOOKHAM HELP YOUR NEIGHBOUR SCHEME is looking for drivers. We are a voluntary scheme providing lifts to medical appointments for

elderly residents living in Bookham who are no longer able to make these journeys alone. Volunteer Drivers give as much or as little time as they choose & are not committed to any particular day of the week.

For further information please contact

Heather Davies 01372 454403

Ann Cook 01372 457204

## Bookham Seniors Computer Club

Which of the following would make the strongest password?

- a) !"£\$%^&\*( )\_+
  - b) Llttl3B0ok#am
  - c) TheCatSatOnTheMat
- Answer at end of article

The club held a very successful autumn term programme with sessions on a broad range of topics

including Smartphone Basics, the forthcoming Landline Switch to Digital and Passwords. The term concluded with its Christmas Party on Friday 8 December 2023 attended by over 30 people. Along with the seasonal fare, entertainment included some Christmas themed puzzles and the traditional Christmas and Technology Quiz. The full quiz with answers is available on our website [bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk](http://bookhamseniorscomputerclub.co.uk) along with some of our quizzes from our monthly Zoom meetings.

The club started its spring term with an Open Day at Little Bookham Village Hall on Friday 12 January where members were invited to suggest topics for PCs/laptops, tablets and smartphones from which the term's programme has been finalised. This is now available on the club's website.

Meetings are held on Friday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 at Little Bookham Village Hall (except the first Friday in the month which will be held via Zoom). Annual membership for the year 2023/24 costs £35 with no additional charges for attending any of the sessions and includes tea, coffee and biscuits during a mid-morning break during the sessions in the hall.

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

questions that you have about PCs, tablets or smartphones. These sessions are free to members and are held at Little Bookham Village Hall on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month (except August) from 14.30 to 16.30.

The committee also provides help to its members by email, telephone and occasionally by remote connection with answers to questions, advice and solutions to computer related problems. It keeps its members up-to-date, including details of the term's programme, via email and its website.

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

Answer C: TheCatSatOnTheMat

# Bookham, Fetcham and District Garden Society.



As I write on the last day of 2023, I reflect on what a positive year this has been.. Life has returned to normal after the restrictions and tensions of Covid. We have been able to do outings, interact and share ideas, get back to our highly informative talks and hold our Summer Show. It is great to see the Summer Show being enjoyed by lots the general public and Garden Society members, not surprising

considering the stunning venue, the beautiful displays of produce, flowers, crafts and home cooking.

I find it so exciting to be part of such a long standing tradition. As the society goes into its 148th year, I can't help thinking of all the gardeners in generations past who gathered to share ideas, learn more, visit gardens and participate in the shows. I think back to familiar names of keen gardeners such as Turville Kille, a councillor and driving force for the establishment of the allotments and a very keen show exhibitor; Miss Micholls, a gardener and exhibitor, someone we remember through the cup she donated and being a previous owner of the the Barn where we hold our shows. Reading about Polesden Lacey and Mrs Greville, I am interested in the number of gardeners who were involved in maintaining the estate gardens and food production and "digging up the golf course to grow potatoes." The estate was an important part of Bookham life and the gardeners entered produce in the shows before and after the war. Perhaps that is why our entry cards for the shows have a place for "Exhibitor" and "Grower".

So how can we all in Bookham, Fetcham and

District be part of this tradition? You do not have to be a member to participate in our activities, but perhaps you would like to join. The Society holds regular meetings in the Harrison Room of the Barn Hall in Bookham at 7.30 on the fourth Monday of the month. Our topics are varied and designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in gardening of any form. You do not even have to have a garden to find topics of interest. In March we have Question Time, where no question is too simple to ask. May is Grow, Cook and Show, which I am sure will be full of ideas and tips. April is an outing planned to Loseley Park. Saturday 13th July is the very important date to put into your diaries and this is our Summer Show at the Tithe Barn in Little Bookham. Schedules for this show are now available so you can start planning, planting, painting, preserving or crafting. Be part of this long standing tradition and enter one, or twenty classes , or come along and see the beautiful display and have a delicious tea.

If you would like to find out more about this society and activities, or would like a show schedule, please contact Angela Stevens on 01372456713 or email [craigjrstevens@btinternet.com](mailto:craigjrstevens@btinternet.com)

**Gt BOOKHAM OLD BARN HALL**  
**TUESDAY MARCH 12th**

**OPPENHEIMER**  
 THE WORLD FOREVER CHANGES

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**TUESDAY APRIL 9th**

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# Rampant Roosters Morris Dancers



Following the Rampant Roosters dance-out in Bookham High Street for Rotary's Spirit of Christmas event, the Roosters have now hung up their Tatter Coats, Baldricks and Bells for the winter. We have been dancing out since May, but now it's time for some practice sessions in the warm and learn a few new dances.

Our dancing season begins every May 1st at the top of Boxhill at sunrise, come rain, snow,

fog or howling wind. Sometimes it's quite nice! Then it's an early breakfast at the Burford Bridge Hotel. We practise on Tuesday evenings in the Quaker's Hall in Dorking. From May onwards, we'll dance Tuesdays and some Saturdays outside pubs in surrounding towns and villages, usually with our friends from other Morris sides, and we also dance at festivals around the South of England.

Back in November we had our Burning of the

Sticks Ceremony on Brockham Green on the Sunday after the bonfire. We danced with three other Morris sides, Boxhill Bedlam, Black Swan and Wild Hunt, and after dancing outside the pub we progressed to the fire and cast our broken sticks into the embers to end the season.

This July, we have been invited by Dorking & District Town Twinning Association to visit Sinalunga in Tuscany, along with Dorking Brewery. We'll fly to Florence, take the train to Sinalunga, stay there three days, return to Florence and dance there for a few days and fly home. All this follows Sinalunga's choir's visit to Dorking a few months ago.

The Roosters are always looking for new members to dance with us or join our musicians. Come along to one of our practice sessions and experience what it's like to dance the Morris. No experience necessary, you just need to be fit, and it'll be a great way to meet new friends, dance-off that Christmas cake and help towards your New Year's resolution to lose weight!

Please visit our website: [www.rampantroostermorris.co.uk](http://www.rampantroostermorris.co.uk) to find out more, or send an email to: [squire@rampantroostermorris.co.uk](mailto:squire@rampantroostermorris.co.uk) to come along to a practice session.

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## Bookham Baptist Church

As expected, it has been a busy season here at Bookham Baptist Church, with plenty of footfall at our Christmas events. This year we invited our community to 'Step into Christmas' with a series of creative events designed to bring people right into the greatest story ever told – the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Kicking off with our contemporary Carol Service, an informal Christingle service where visitors enjoyed a selection of modern arrangements of carols, reflections, readings as well as some seasonal treats.

The Children's Centre enjoyed their Journey to Christmas celebration – which welcomed 30+ families to a morning of festive fun with a nativity theme. Children from our weekly toddler groups – bumps and babies and Crawlers and Cruisers – enjoyed Christmas songs and a bring and share party lunch. The Rainbow preschool also bounced into the Christmas break with an end of term celebration, which included an appearance from Santa and a bouncy castle.

More carols rang through the halls as more visitors enjoyed the All Age Christmas service featuring a very special guest star – Jimmy the donkey; followed later the same day by the Carols by Candlelight concert. A beautiful candlelit event which combined readings and stories and featured our community choir. Song could even be heard from the Community Space Café, as they celebrated the season each Friday morning from 10am in December with a selection of Christmas carols.

We now look forward to reopening our doors in 2024 with an already busy schedule of

events and courses. The Marriage Course returned in January. Having run for many successful years, this course is a great opportunity to breathe new life into your relationships.

The Money Coaching Plus course returns on 23rd January. Brought to us by CAP (Christians against Poverty) this course can help you get on top of your finances if you are feeling the crunch after Christmas. Talking teens is also back by popular demand in February. Further details on the courses and how to book can be found on our web site [www.bookhambaptist.org](http://www.bookhambaptist.org).



*Journey to Christmas celebrate the season with a nativity themed party.*



*Carols by Candlelight community choir*

# The Meeting Place



2024 started with a big "Thank you" to all our volunteers who joined the Trustees (also volunteers!) for tea and cakes in early January. We could not run all our activities without their skills, enthusiasm and hard work.

On this note, our Language Hub team are looking for another TEFL/CELTA qualified teacher to join them. This is a very rewarding role, students come from a variety of backgrounds and really enjoy the relaxed and supportive atmosphere. The lessons are delivered by qualified teachers and assistants on Monday evenings and Tuesdays in term time - face-to-face classes for beginners at Mole Valley Skills Hub in Leatherhead, and Intermediate level classes on Zoom. Lessons are designed to improve practical English language and communications skills for people whose first language is not English.

The Community Fridge team were extremely busy over Christmas, with huge quantities of surplus supermarket food made available to those who could use it. Recipes to use up sprouts were in high demand! It was exhausting at times but very rewarding to save so much from being wasted.

Anne Milton-Worsell has retired as our first Anna Chaplain after more than two years and has worked so hard to establish this new role. We are very grateful and will miss her. We are delighted that we have a new Anna Chaplain, and look forward to everything Elizabeth Tapp will bring to the role.

Our Coffee Shop is open every Saturday 10-12noon in Bookham Baptist Church hall. We serve great coffee and tea as well as delicious cakes made by The Grange. Everyone is welcome. Hearing Champions (a free service for people with NHS hearing aids which includes basic maintenance, battery supply,



cleaning & re-tubing, trouble shooting and advice) will be at the Coffee Shop once a month, see the website for dates.

Lip-reading classes are held via Zoom on Monday mornings to teach this useful skill and run in term time. Classes cover a wide variety of topics to make things interesting and challenging.

For more information about all TMP's activities, please go to our website <https://themeetingplace.org.uk/>, or email us [info@themeetingplace.org.uk](mailto:info@themeetingplace.org.uk).

# Rotary – Bookham & Horsley



Your local Rotary Club is an active and friendly group of 25 men and women. Our busy Christmas period saw our traditional collections for charity raise over £4,400 with Santa on his Sleigh visiting many roads in the area and supplemented by a supermarket donation point. Putting a smile on so many young faces is always a great reward for us, as we brave the cold December evenings. Thank you so much everyone in the Bookham, Horsley and Effingham communities for giving so generously. These funds supported 70 households in need in this area to give them some support over the Christmas period.

Rotary is about far more than just fund-raising: our objective is to give back to the community but also enjoy what we do together and learn from it. Other recent and forthcoming activities include:

- Organising the second very successful 'Spirit of Christmas' afternoon on Bookham High Street in early December with our fantastic

local traders, to get the festive season underway

- Support and funding for the wonderful Ukrainian Refugee Christmas party on 6th January
- Our annual quiz night with lasagna supper in Horsley on 12th January is a sell out as usual
- Bookings now open for the 4th annual Cycle Surrey Hills event on Sunday 14th April – see the separate poster for this event. All details at <https://www.cyclesurreyhills.co.uk/>
- ...and our Repair Café initiative launched early February (see separate article front page)

So, we have a lot going on, quite apart from an exciting programme of Club evenings and outings. This Winter/Spring we have trips coming up to the Houses of Parliament, the Horse Guards regiment in Windsor, plus a wine tasting evening – just to mention 3 highlights. Interested in finding out more? Take a look at our Club website or FB page: just search 'Rotary

Bookham and Horsley' to find us and for details. Membership is open to all and highly rewarding: do get in touch!

Steve Gapper / Andrew Smith

**Back for 2024!**

**"CYCLE SURREY HILLS"**  
**Sunday, 14th April 2024**  
 Charity cycle ride in aid of local Rotary charities

Rotary Bookham & Horsley | Crossroads Care Surrey | esdas

**Ride the Surrey Hills with Family and Friends!**

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

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

To find out more and to register, scan the QR code or go to: [www.cyclesurreyhills.co.uk](https://www.cyclesurreyhills.co.uk)

# Bookham Bowls Club 2024

Another year to look forward to in the world of Bowls! The introduction of the new fox fence has thwarted them so far and hopefully the newly sown grass seed is not being molested. All is looking good so far for reopening the green late April.

For readers of our page this means we will be advertising for you to come and try bowls at the club. Free of charge where coaching and instruction is given by the coaches and other members. A chance to meet and greet us and see where "we live". Dates for your diary will be Saturday 27 April; Sunday 28 April. Times

probably 10am to 1pm. All you need is a sense of humour and flat soled shoes. We provide the rest including refreshments.

The Captain's charity this year is "My time for Young Carers" This is based locally around Mole Valley and is a small registered charity which supports young people caring for members of their family.

We are also holding a QUIZ NIGHT in March at the Old Barn Hall for other clubs and organisations to take part in. See our website for more information: [www.Bookhambowls.co.uk](http://www.Bookhambowls.co.uk)

Maintenance and upkeep of the club house continues through the closed season where we also have a Short Mat League taking place on a Saturday afternoon.

The weekly darts league is also well attended alongside the monthly coffee morning to ensure members can meet and chat bowling. We will also be supporting Village Day again.

We are based on the edge of the Chrystie Recreation Ground, Dorking Road (on the way to Polesdon Lacey). Last year was our 90th anniversary so come and help us make it to 100!

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# Bookham Open Gardens Day – Sunday 23rd June 2024



It's still cold outside but the snowdrops are out along with early daffodils, and it's time to look forward to a spring and summer full of flowers. Open Gardens will again be on the Sunday of the weekend after Village Day and we aim to have 10-15 gardens open, some old favourites and usually some new ones too. The day is an important fundraiser for the upkeep of our Old

Barn Hall and last year we raised £5,400. We do hope you can come along!

We are always on the lookout for new gardens. If you think you might be interested in opening (or know someone who might) and would like to share your garden with our visitors, do contact us for a chat. We love variety, from quirky to formal, productive to picturesque, wildlife-friendly, large through to small. Typically we offer a range of different size gardens – it's amazing what can be fitted into a small area! Opening is a great way to get to know people and feel part of the community.

To make Open Gardens Day successful, we rely not only on our garden openers but also many volunteers who help on the day, selling tickets, serving refreshments at the Old Barn Hall, acting as garden stewards, or helping on car park duties.

If you would like to open your garden or help for an hour or two in any other way, please contact Tina Hutton on 01372 457598, email [tina.hutton@btinternet.com](mailto:tina.hutton@btinternet.com) or Diane Poole on 01372 453771, email [opengardensinfo@gmail.com](mailto:opengardensinfo@gmail.com). Contacting us will not commit you but we would love to come and see your garden and talk it through.

Look out for more detailed information in the next edition of the Bookhams Bulletin and on our website – [www.bookhamopengardens.co.uk](http://www.bookhamopengardens.co.uk). You can also check out and 'Like' our Facebook Community Page – search for 'Bookham Open Gardens' to find it – to see pictures from last year's event.

Let's hope that 23rd June 2024 will be a beautiful sunny day – see you there!

**Diane Poole**

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# Effingham Methodist Church



Hello!

I'm Rev Dan, and since September 2023 have been Methodist minister in the area, serving at Effingham and Leatherhead Methodist Churches along with Cobham United Church.

I've moved here from Bognor Regis, and while I miss the sea, it has already been a joy in the last months to begin to get to know the area, and most importantly some of you – the people!

I love witnessing people, in diversity and difference, coming together with common purpose – whether that be community groups collaborating, or neighbours working together, or people gathering in church to worship, I

believe we are stronger together, and weaker apart.

For me togetherness is at the heart of what it means to be a community, and indeed, is central to what it means to be a Christian. So, I look forward to opportunities to be part of this community in all its beautiful and wonderful diversity and difference.

In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, walking and have huge love of Lego which I share with my two daughters – which is especially great for wet days!

**Rev Dan**

[Dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk)

01372 379575



# Bookham Light Operatic Society

Bookham Light Operatic Society's production of "SPAMALOT" will be bursting onto the stage of the Nomad Theatre, East Horsley in May. This hilarious and irreverent musical, based on the 1975 film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" and written by Eric Idle and John du Prez, parodies the legends of King Arthur and the knights of the round table. The original 2005 Broadway production was nominated for 14 Tony awards, winning three including Best Musical.

King Arthur is on a quest to find the Holy Grail, with his coconut wielding servant, Patsy, and his brave (and not so brave) knights. Python fans will spot many familiar characters and situations from the original film, but a host of new characters, and new twists to the story transform it into an all-singing, all-dancing musical extravaganza! So "always look on the bright side of life" and come along to Camelot.

#### Performances:

The Nomad Theatre, Bishopsmead Parade, East Horsley, Surrey KT24 6RT

Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th May at 7.30pm with a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30pm.

#### Tickets:

Prices: Adults £17.00, Children under 16 £12.00  
To book by phone, call 01483 284747 - please leave a message and we will return your call.

To book online, go to:

[www.nomadtheatre.com/book-now](http://www.nomadtheatre.com/book-now)

#### BLOS Contact details:

Chairman - Selena Edney: 07956 624195

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/bookhamlightoperaticsociety>

Website:

<https://www.bookhamlightoperatic.co.uk/>

**BLOS**  
Bookham Light Operatic Society

in association with  
**The Nomads**

at **The Nomad Theatre**  
Bishopsmead Parade  
East Horsley  
Surrey, KT24 6RT

**Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th May 2024 at 7.30 p.m.**  
**Saturday Matinee at 2.30 p.m.**

[www.nomadtheatre.com/book-now](http://www.nomadtheatre.com/book-now)  
**01483 284747**

Book and lyrics by  
**Eric Idle**

Music by  
**John Du Prez & Eric Idle**

From the original screenplay  
by Graham Chapman,  
John Cleese, Terry Gilliam,  
Eric Idle, Terry Jones  
& Michael Palin

**MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT™**  
A new musical *loosely* ripped off from the motion picture  
**MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail**

"SPAMALOT" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), [www.theatricalrights.co.uk](http://www.theatricalrights.co.uk)

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Be inspired by amateur theatre

## Old Barn Hall Jazz Club

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

We draw regular support from both local and other people from the home counties and elsewhere, The Bookhams has been a good catchment area for our generation of music lovers that has followed this particular style of music from the 60s up to the present day and

hopefully for newer generations as well.

We have a happy atmosphere into which newcomers are always welcome. There is no membership fee to join the club. So why not pop in any Sunday, when the music (and dancing) starts at 1pm (entrance fee £14).

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

#### Sunday Calendar of events:

March 3rd New Orleans Jazz Bandits

March 10th San Jacinto Stompers

March 17th Sarah Spencer's Transatlantic Band

March 24th Southern Revival Blue Five

March 31st Hugh Crozier's Incomparables

April 7th Gambit Jazzmen

April 14th Thames Valley Quintet

April 21st New Orleans Bump

April 28th Jake Leg Jug Band

May 5th John Maddocks Jazzmen

May 12th Excelsior Vintage Jazz Band

# Bookham Camera Club

Our 23/24 Bookham Camera Club season is in full swing. A great mix of presentations from prominent professional photographers, internal talks, competitions and fun, hands-on workshops. We've had workshops so far this season covering "Macro," or close-up photography as well as one on 'motion capture.' These sessions start with a brief introduction to the concept by one of our expert members and then proceeds to the hands-on workshop with stations set up for members to try the techniques described.

We also had a day out in London in November with architectural, street and cityscape photography on offer. We split up into smaller groups based on an interest area – facilitated by an experienced club member—and met up again for a meal at the end of the day's shooting.

But surely the high point of our season so far was our strong performance in the annual Surrey Photographic Association (SPA) Interclub Print Competition. Bookham placed First in the Nature competition and joint third in the Open class. As SPA has over 40 member clubs this was a strong performance for our members. The SPA provides a great opportunity for members whose images do well in Club level competitions to see how they measure up against the broader community of amateur photographers.

We've been lucky to have a good influx of

new members this season, with novices as well as more experienced photographers joining. Check out our website <https://bookhamcameraclub.zenfolio.com> / to find an evening that catches your interest and contact our Membership Secretary via the "Contact" section on the website so we can welcome you on the evening you visit.



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## 3rd Bookham Scouts

### Christmas Tree sales

All the leaders and the Trustee board of 3rd Bookham Scout Group would like to thank everyone who supported our tree sales. We had a great year and raised over £6,500. This is

our main fundraiser for the year. This makes it possible to keep, renew and maintain our kit and helps us provide exciting and adventurous programmes for all our sections.

If you would like to support our group, we are

looking for a new chairman and always grateful of any other support.

We also have spaces in our sections available.

[Info@3rdbookham.org.uk](mailto:Info@3rdbookham.org.uk)

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## Eastwick WI



Monthly meetings at Eastwick WI have mainly featured members' talents rather than outside speakers this autumn. In October we made cards using a variety of papercraft decorative

items, under the direction of several members. The results were beautiful and very varied.

The following month we heard talks by some members about their experiences. We were told about life as a children's hostess on board a cruise ship, living in Nairobi, working in amateur dramatics and work in the patent office. Eastwick members have certainly led interesting and varied lives.

At Christmas we enjoyed a delicious lunch at a local restaurant and were entertained at our meeting by a group of musicians with links to the Orpheus Centre. They performed several amusing songs related to Christmas, encouraging



audience participation, as well as poems written by their leader and solo items. Earlier in the month a very enjoyable shuffleboard evening was held.

Eastwick WI welcomes visitors. For further information see [eastwickwi.chessck.co.uk](http://eastwickwi.chessck.co.uk)

You can read this but do you know someone with a visual impairment who can't?

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## Friends of Juniper Hall look forward to 2024



Juniper Hall, at the foot of Box Hill, will be familiar to local residents. It is part of a national organisation – the Field Studies Council (FSC – which is an environmental education charity providing information and enjoyable opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore and understand the environment.

“The Friends of Juniper Hall” was set up to help raise funds to enhance the facilities over and above what is provided by the FSC who finance and carry out the major works.

Recent projects include providing extra benches for the dining room, building a pond and providing humane live mammal traps to enable the students to study the behaviour of small mammals.

The Friends raise the money for these improvements by holding a series of events during the year, mainly lectures including lunch, always a convivial occasion! Following an enjoyable Christmas lunch attended by members and guests we are now looking forward to 2024.

On Thursday 14 March at 11:30am we will be given a talk by Dr Lewis Campbell the catchment manager for the River Mole with the South East Rivers Trust. He will tell us about the trusts work maintaining local rivers and the river Mole in particular. This meeting will be followed by lunch.

Following the AGM in May there will be an evening meeting on 6th June with a talk on Rewilding and the Knepp Castle Estate. Talks later in the year will hopefully include a contribution from Surrey Wildlife Trust.

We are always looking for new members so please do consider joining us. You can find out more about us and how to join on our website [friendsofjuniperhall.org](http://friendsofjuniperhall.org).

## Bookham and Fetcham Gardeners' Association

With spring fast approaching, think back to the weeks before Christmas when there appeared to be cardboard arriving from all directions. Do you take it to the tip or bundle it up to go out with recycling? Alternatively, have you ever considered “no dig” gardening at home or on an allotment?

You can grow your own fruit, vegetables, and flowers at Eastwick Allotments in Bookham. The results are fresh seasonal home-grown produce with no “food miles”. Get the children or grandchildren involved. Everything tastes better if you have grown it yourself.

But what about all the digging? This is where all the cardboard comes in. No dig gardening is as simple as it sounds. All you need is:

Cardboard:

Compost: Readily available at the BAFGA hut on a Sunday morning at Eastwick allotments

Simple tools: A fork or spade, again, available at the allotment hut at very competitive prices.

There is a lot of advice on the internet or books about the No dig approach. But simply: Remove the weeds and grass from the chosen site.

Cover the ground with a thick layer of cardboard.

Add a layer of compost onto the cardboard and you are ready to go.

Whether you prefer traditional gardening or want to try the “no dig method” at home or on an allotment, you can still become one of our members for a £5 annual subscription. You don't have to have an allotment to benefit from the competitive prices and discounts on your gardening essentials. Our shop on the allotments is open 10am till midday every Sunday. The gardening advice and friendly banter is of course free.

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# Little Bookham WI



Little Bookham WI members have participated in fun celebrations this festive season. We enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch at Clandon Regis Golf Club. The setting was perfect and with easy parking as well as

friendly, efficient service, it is not surprising that the members have requested to return again next Christmas.

A smaller group ventured up to London to see the lights and attend a Christmas concert at Cadogan Hall. They even managed to fit in some Christmas shopping.

At our December meeting we had a busy time making a Christmas decoration, joining in games and enjoying a Christmas tea. We rounded off the meeting with a Secret Santa.

The committee at Little Bookham WI have been very active planning for 2024, so there is lots to look forward to in the year ahead with

many interesting talks and activities already organised.

We also have opportunities for members to meet in our smaller groups; WI Knitters, Coffee and Chat and Flower Arranging. This year we are also starting an exciting new group, 'The Sunday Lunch Club', where members will be able to visit a different pub or restaurant each month.

Little Bookham WI meet at Little Bookham Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except August) at 3pm. Visitors are always welcome.

F. McGregor

# Eastwick Road Church

The Golden Years group held their Christmas Lunch at the church mid December.

It was followed by a short Carol Service. For two leaders present it was their last Christmas with us, so our thanks to Rev. Steve Elmes from Bookham Baptist Church for all his support over the year. And to the Anna Chaplain, Anne Milton-Worsell who is retiring. But we are all very pleased to be welcoming Elizabeth Tapp who is replacing Anne so the work continues.

The Golden Years have their Spring programme with talks, quizzes, music events, meeting every Wednesday at 2pm – 3.30pm. Lifts can be provided.

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at Bookham Baptist Church - phone 01372 811313 Church Office



2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Eastwick Road Church - phone Sue 01372 453704. Church Sec.



# Leatherhead and District Twinning Association



Following our successful trip to Trier-sur-Seine in 2023, we are thrilled to be welcoming the Triellois back this year for a visit that will mark the 20th anniversary of the formal twinning between our two towns. Trier is a picturesque town perched on the steep banks of the River Seine about 40km west of Paris. Due to the impact of the pandemic this will be their first visit since 2018, and we want to give them a special welcome, just as they gave us in 2023. Our visitors will arrive in the early evening of Thursday 27th June and depart after breakfast on Sunday

30th June. We are busy planning a day out to a place of interest on the Friday, an official reception, and a gala dinner and dance. Would you be interested in hosting one or more of our visitors? We welcome French and non French speakers as we can always match people according to linguistic ability, and many of our French friends enjoy speaking English. It has been good to have new members join us this year and we have already organised a Quiz evening and a spring walk. In addition to the visit we plan to organise a garden party, and a French film evening. If we get enough interest we would also like to restart our French conversation circle. We are a friendly group of people and would love to

include you as part of our association. Some of us are proficient French speakers, for others our French is almost non-existent, but we all have a love of French culture, food and wine! The age range on our recent visit to Trier was 9 to 80+, so age is no barrier. Membership is £10 per person, but if you have children under 18 they are free.

If you are interested in membership and / or hosting please contact us via our website – [www.friendsoftrier.com](http://www.friendsoftrier.com) or ring us on 01372 452845.

David Crutchley

# Friends of Bookham Commons

## A centenary year

2023 was the one-hundred-year anniversary of Bookham Commons being bought in 1923 by a group of Bookham residents and donated to the community for access for all. It was also the year that Ian Swinney our long-standing ranger retired after fifty years' service with the National Trust, forty-seven of them working on Bookham Commons. Ian's replacement is Sam Valente who is now in place as the new Surrey Hills ranger. The National Trust held a retirement celebration and presented him with his own NT plaque.

This year the belted Galloway cattle have only been grazing on Banks Common due to a movement restriction on the animals that were due to graze on the plains area. Visitors will have noticed that the vegetation has grown enormously this year, due to the early rain with some hazel putting on two metres of growth, and the silver birch not far behind. Clearance of non-native invaders like turkey oak has continued, along with ash trees affected by die-back. The programme of clearance to keep the plains area open will continue in 2024 as this is the most wildlife rich part of the commons.



# Peter Pan Playschool



The children loved the build up to Christmas at playschool. We turned the home corner into a Christmas house, which was lots of fun to decorate each day. We made Christmas cards and went in small groups to the postbox to post these and waited excitedly for them to be delivered to our homes.

We're very fortunate to be supported by the wonderful team at Eastwick Road Church where we had our nativity play and songs, and Lesley from the church played the piano for us. We raised £250 from the nativity play raffle and refreshments which really help top up our budget as a charity run preschool for local families. Our wreath making event raised around £200 too.

With the expansion of funded childcare for working families from April in the news, a lot of parents may be confused about if and when their child will be funded. At the moment all children are eligible for 15 hours funded childcare the term after they turn 3, and some eligible 2-year-olds can access FEET funding

the term after they turn 2. Working parents of 3-year-olds who meet criteria can apply for an additional 15 hours in the extended offer.

From April this year eligible 2-year-olds will be funded the term after their 2nd birthday. In September this offer extends to eligible working families from the term after their child turns 9 months. You may have seen on the news that there is a real disparity between the funding that settings receive from government and how much it costs to deliver places. As a charity, we rely on fundraising to cover this gap and hope as the expansion of childcare is rolled out we can continue to offer free funded early education for all. If anyone local is able to support our fundraising in any

way, we'd love to hear from you!

We are now full until September 2025 but we do have a couple of spaces for children that will be moving onto school in July 2024. Please get in touch as early as possible to secure your place in our unique and special playschool environment.

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



Check out our website on

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

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Churches Together in Fetcham & Bookham Marian Cutler  
marian.cutler@ntlworld.com 801092

Effingham Methodist Church Rev Dan Balsdon 379575  
Dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church Father Fr Stephen Dingley  
458263 eandfparish@btinternet.com

Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit Fr Stephen Dingley 458263  
eandfparish@btinternet.com

St Nicolas Church Rev Alan Jenkins 452405  
alan.jenkins@stnicolasbookham.org.uk PCC Secretary Nick Garrett,  
pcc.secretary@stnicolasbookham.org.uk

## **LIBRARY**

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libraries@surreycc.gov.uk

## **HALLS FOR HIRE**

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Bookham Scouting Centre 454383 johnphumphreys@hotmail.com

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

South Bookham SPACE hire.southbookhamspace@gmail.com

St Alphege Hall, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Effingham KT24 5JP.  
effingham@abdiocese.org.uk

# The Plastic Free Bookham Project



We continue to make progress towards our objective of achieving Plastic Free Community status for Bookham. 2023 saw five more organisations sign up as Community Allies – a big thank you to Great Bookham and Fetcham Pages, Bookham and Horsley Rotary, the Bookham Bees WI, Surrey Climate Commission and the Bookham Country Market for joining us on our plastic-free journey.

This takes our total to 18 out of the 20 we need and we're optimistic about signing up a further two allies in the early part of this year. If you're involved in running a local organisation that hasn't yet signed the pledge, please do

consider it and get in touch with us at [pfcbokham@gmail.com](mailto:pfcbokham@gmail.com) for more information.

We still need five small-medium local independent businesses to become Business Champions by reducing or having avoided three items of single-use plastic in their operations. If you can help us with this objective please visit [plasticfree.org.uk](http://plasticfree.org.uk) to find out more or get in touch with us at the above email address.

At time of writing the repair cafe co-initiated by our ally Bookham and Horsley Rotary was planned to start on the first Saturday in February at St Mary's Church, The Ridgeway, KT22 9AZ. Opening times will be from 10am

until 12.30pm and on the first Saturday of the month from then on.

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

## The Grange Embarks on New Chapter



Last autumn The Grange warmly welcomed new CEO Alison Keeley, who joined us after six successful years leading Linkable in Woking. Since arriving, Alison has immersed herself in our community and been involved in projects such as Creative Arts' "The Enchanting Forest" drama showcase. A year in the making, it featured our wonderful actors and crafted costumes from recycled materials, embodying

our creativity and sustainability.

Another year-long endeavour was curating an exhibition of Grange needlework and pottery for Sunbury's Embroidery Gallery. The centrepiece? A breathtaking embroidered homage to our natural surroundings, stitch by delicate stitch, worked on by many at The Grange.

In early December local clubs and volunteers helped us plant 400 native plants and trees, generously donated by the Woodland Trust. Our Greener Grange co-ordinator Rachel Casey said, "The trees will provide homes and food for insects and birds. Their leaves will give summer shade and autumn colour, producing oxygen and stabilizing the soil. They will calm minds and reduce stress, creating a beautiful hedgerow." Project coordinator Ann Haywood added, "This woodland hedgerow will help The Grange reach a 10% net gain in biodiversity. More plants will go in once the

new greenhouse is built and the old one removed." As we went to press, the concrete foundation was being laid for the greenhouse in our walled garden.

We closed out last year with a jubilant Christmas concert at The Menuhin Hall featuring volunteer choirs—the Mickleham Choral Society and Bookham U3A Choir—directed by the talented Juliet Hornby. Its phenomenal success has everyone eagerly awaiting 2024's event. Tickets sell out quickly, so mark your calendars for purchasing tickets next September!

Our Enterprise Team is gearing up for spring with unique hand-made Mother's Day and Easter cards and gifts. Visit our No. 5 Church Road shop or website to support local artisans.

Keep up to date on everything we do through our website, [www.grangecentre.org.uk](http://www.grangecentre.org.uk), or by following us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

## Mole Valley WI



Yet again we have had a busy three months. We learnt about industrial relations in the 60s,

70s and 80s of the Ford Motor Company site in Dagenham. Our annual meeting in November was interesting in that we have several new committee members and also some useful information from fire personnel from Leatherhead Fire station.

We had a very enjoyable and successful quiz night in October, always a good evening's entertainment. We went on a Christmas coach trip to London for evensong at St Paul's Cathedral and a trip to see the magnificent

Christmas lights.

Our December meeting really put us all into Christmas spirit. We had beautifully decorated tables with savoury tasters with either wine or juice. Our entertainment for the evening was St James Weybridge Handbell Ringers led by Alan and Marion Sharps. They played wonderful Christmas carols and music. The group has been going 10 years and Alan is the only man! Maybe there is someone reading this who would like to give bell ringing a try?

# Dorking & District RSPB Group

## Great Spotted Woodpeckers

Early spring is a great time to look for birds – they are starting to sing making them easier to locate and before the trees come into leaf they are easier to see than in high summer. Although perhaps not what a human would call song, the distinctive drumming of a male woodpecker against a tree in short sharp bursts in spring defends territory and aims to attract a mate. Great spotted woodpeckers are black-and-white birds with red underneath. Adult males have a red patch on the hind crown (right photo), the female's crown is plain black (left photo) while the youngsters' heads are mostly red.

The powerful bill is fitted on a skull reinforced to absorb the shock of striking wood and complemented by strong neck muscles. This enables the drumming, the excavation of the nest hole in a tree trunk, the cracking open of tough seeds and also, aided by a long bristly tongue, allows it to chip away wood to feed on hidden invertebrates. In the garden, a peanut feeder is an especial favourite. In late summer the adults can be seen teaching the young how to cope with this alien bounty. The brood of between four and six young leave the nest

about three weeks after hatching, at which point each parent takes complete responsibility for half the youngsters.

The woodpecker has short legs with strong claws on the toes, of which two point forwards and two backwards (zygodactyl) which facilitate moving up the tree trunk by two-footed hops. Their stiffened tails act as a pivot and extra support. These also work well on garden bird feeders, where the woodpecker is often the most dominant species. *Images below are courtesy of Rob Carr, RSPB Dorking & District local group.*

RSPB Dorking and District Local Group covers the local area (including Dorking, Leatherhead,



Bookham, Epsom and Ewell). We offer regular walks, both at weekends and midweek and meetings in person and online to provide the chance to learn more about nature in a friendly way. Check out our activities on Facebook @ "RSPB Dorking and District" or our website <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict/>



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# Bookham Flower Club

Bookham Flower Club enjoyed two completely different meetings in November and December. The November meeting is traditionally a meeting when the club entertains itself. This year it was decided that a patchwork of flowers could be created by members giving the chance for everyone to join in the activity. The Old Barn Hall was buzzing as ten pieces were designed and arranged by groups of members all having been provided with similar flowers and foliage.

The pieces were then placed together in a patchwork and later raffled individually.

There was a really festive atmosphere at the December meeting when the competition was a Christmas Wreath and National Demonstrator Jacqui Arnold created a stage full of amazing Christmas floral designs. She was accompanied by her elf (her husband) who helped with placing the arrangements and added to the entertainment.

Many lucky winners of the raffle took home some fabulous flowers. There were ten entries for the Christmas Wreath competition entitled 'Anything Goes'. The Judges Choice award went to Chrissie Cemm and the Mary Easun plate for an outstanding Christmas entry was awarded to Carolyn Trott. All the entrants had their wreaths ready for hanging on their doors early in December and members gathered ideas for their own. Mince pies with tea concluded a special meeting.



# The Arts Society Bookham



After many years guiding the Society, notably through the difficult times of COVID emergency restrictions, Angela Stevens has passed the baton of chairman to Linda Tickner.

All members gave sincere thanks to Angela for her commitment and wish Linda every success in the future.

The year ended in the Old Barn Hall with Christmas lunch. The delicious meal provided by Elizabeth was organised by Angela Stevens and Judy Money and was followed by an enlightening talk on Beatrix Potter, an extremely talented lady. The beneficiary of this year's raffle was Downside Nursery School to assist in building a climbing installation.

The New Year's programme opened with 'Women Artists in Britain' by Dr Amy Lim. It was linked to an exhibition at Tate Britain later this year which will showcase examples from the 16th century to WW1. In February, archaeologist Louise Schofield will recount her experiences excavating in 'the mysterious southern coast of Albania, Mesopotamia and Northern Ethiopia'



Music returns in March with Ian Glendhill describing, and giving voice, to examples from the 'Pink Champagne: The World of Viennese Operetta'. From an earlier era, in April, Clare Ford-Wille will be giving a lively lecture about Dutch art. In 'Oak Trees, Royal Navy & Shipyards of East Anglia and the East Coast' our May lecturer Magdalen Evans will display paintings which celebrate our fascination with maritime history.

Of special delight in 2023 was a return to the Mediterranean in October with a tour 'The History of Western Sicily and Palermo' when we visited many ancient monuments (see photo). In May we have a full five-day tour of Northern Ireland, including The Titanic Experience and Derry.



Whilst continuing their work at Guildford Cathedral, Angela Stevens and the Heritage Volunteering group have also turned their skilled attention to more literary matters. Although suspended at present because of filming, cleaning and documenting the vast number of books in the library at West Horsley Place will recommence when filming has finished.

New members are warmly welcomed to the Society at lectures at 7.30 on the fourth Tuesday in the month at The Old Barn Hall. <http://theartsocietybookham.org.uk/>. Meanwhile, anyone interested in joining the Society should make contact via the website.

John Cook

## Bookham Stamp Club



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

Our programme includes visits from an impressive list of visiting speakers, members' displays and also Auctions that are held twice a year. We also have a packet exchange through which members can buy and sell stamps.

### Sell your stamp collection

We are interested in purchasing unwanted collections, but at the moment there is a temporary suspension of this "service" until a replacement is found as our former Trading

Secretary has retired. Nevertheless, please contact the Secretary Barry Feltham for the latest by email and he will return your enquiry: [secretary@bookhamstampclub.com](mailto:secretary@bookhamstampclub.com)

### Become a member

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

### Our recent meetings

Our October meeting brought us our annual auction with 255 lots. In November we were entertained by Bill Barrell (pictured) with his amazing and rare collection entitled 'The development of the Royal Mail, postal reform and the 1d value 1840-1880'. A fabulous display enjoyed by everybody who witnessed an amazing afternoon.

Our usual Christmas buffet lunch and a few glasses of wine in December was attended by 42 people. We had our hugely popular raffle with a record number of prizes, the top prize being a £90 hamper. We also enjoyed a light-



hearted PowerPoint presentation from Barry Feltham on the history of Christmas.

### Our upcoming meetings

Tuesday 27 February – Susan Taylor – A Different Approach to Trinidad & Tobago.

Tuesday 26 March – Michael Lockton – GB Postal History

Tuesday 23 April – Jim Etherington – The B.E.F in France 1939-1940

Tuesday 28 May – AGM & Mini Auction.

We welcome experienced stamp collectors and newcomers.

Barry Feltham

Hon. Secretary

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

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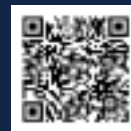
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