

From the Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood & Forest Green

news&views

- SPRING 2022 -





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Contributions

Deadlines for contributions to the magazine are:

Spring - 1st February

Summer - 1st May

Autumn - 1st August

Winter - 1st November

Parish Office

01483 277 584
eofgparish@gmail.com

Ewhurst Baptist Church

01483 267 878

"If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring."

— Victor Hugo

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Front cover image: Chiquitita as a duckling. See pages 28-29.

From the editor

Spring! New hope, new growth. It's nature's way of telling us that change is okay, inevitable and can be beautiful.

There's lots of change around us at the moment. And it will all be okay as long as one thing doesn't change: the way we love each other in our community.

So let's give a smile, a wave from the car, or even a helping hand, always remembering that creation, in all its splendour, is smiling and loving us.

Happy Spring, folks!



Will Shepherd | Editor
will.shepherd@mac.com



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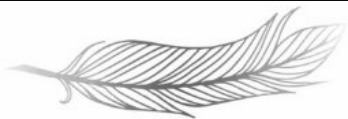


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Renewal

REVEREND BEN SCADDEN, MINISTER AT EWHURST BAPTIST CHURCH,
BRINGS US HIS REFLECTION FOR THE SEASON

Spring is near. The sun is warmer. Feelings of deep comfort and satisfaction accompany the



lengthening days. Soon gardens will be growing full speed, new life emerging amidst flora and fauna. Creation experiences constant renewal.

Of course, death is an integral part of that cycle. Old gives way to new. Nature does not compromise. Human life, however, is rather more complex.

We seek renewal but are somehow held back from realising the world that fully reflects God's character. We achieve so much but can't help taking advantage of one another. Societies remain fragile, peace and prosperity transient, injustice rife. If not for me, then perhaps for those from whose lives I benefit.

God's basic desire is that His love shapes our relationships. We draw near to Him, and He brings

us near to one another.

In him there is warmth. True comfort and satisfaction accompany divine presence. But this is not individualistic. If we are already comfortable, we can ask who isn't and why, and listen for God's guidance.

Death is also integral to this journey. There are things we must relinquish, habits and attitudes, as God brings renewal. This is true worship. Love without compromise. Old replacing new.

The decisions we make in drawing closer to God are, at least in part, the building blocks of his kingdom, here, now.

As new life emerges all around us, let's be inspired to take another step closer to God today, tomorrow, you won't fail to find him. He is near.

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Dementia



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Cranleigh Arts Centre, High Street, GU6 8AS

Come for Music, Refreshments, Friendship, Chat and Activities. Choices for those experiencing Dementia to enjoy and a relaxing time for their partners to join with others who also care or have cared for their Loved-ones.

Just turn up you will be made most welcome

Contact : Michael

Michael: 01483 274398

mamwild@aol.com

Melody Memories

2nd & 4th Wednesday morning – 10.30am – 12 noon.

Rowleys, Victoria Road, Cranleigh GU6 8NT

Music, singing and fun for those experiencing Dementia and their Carers. Refreshments provided by a team of Volunteers.

You will be made most welcome, just call to let us know you are coming

Contact : Carol

Carol: 07775 865125

carol@highedser.co.uk

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1st & 3rd Thursday afternoon – 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Wilson Room, St.Peter & St.Paul Church GU6 7PX

Come for refreshments, Friendship, Chat and Activities. The opportunity for those with memory problems to be entertained and for those who care for them to talk amongst themselves.

For more information, just give us a call...

Contact : Carol or Tony

Carol: 07775 865125

carol@highedser.co.uk

Tony: 01483 267027

tony.gauvain@gmail.com

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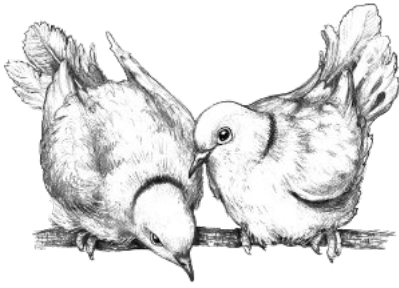
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Spring released

Snowdrop pearls push through the frosty lawn

Collared Dove's eggshell on path at dawn

Pipistrelle bat back on dusk patrol

Bumblebee buzzes out from his hole

Ladybird crawls from warmth of my car

Blackbird tunes up – re-mi-la-so-fa

House Sparrows squabble for nesting room

Creation is released from lockdown's gloom

Bouncing back, unwinding, Spring is sprung

Sing and rejoice – for new life begun.



Robin Stride



Spellbound by Science Wizards



Ewhurst Infant School children had a real treat again this year when they had a visit from Science Wizards.

The children took part in a carousel of science experiments including a coke can balance test and measure (What is the maximum amount of water used to balance a can of cola?)

Activities also included popping rockets, making slime and the grand finale... an exploding cola fountain demonstration.

It was so lovely to see the children's faces so excited and animated .

Little shop of history

JANET BALCHIN GLIMPSES INTO THE PAST OF OUR BELOVED EWHURST SHOP



Builders working on Hazelbank Stores recently uncovered the old shop sign for S.J. Hyde (see inset right), who ran the shop in the 1950s and 60s. In the early 20th century it was Kennet & Evans (pic. above), who ran it until just after the war. Bernie and Doug Damen took over in the 1970s. Damian and Kerry Whyte took over in 2006 and have already extended the premises once. The new extension will no doubt once again enable them to better serve our community. Here's to another century!





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Three acres and a cow

DAVID STEMPT TELLS US ABOUT HIS RADICAL GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER



My first memory of the Ewhurst legendary figure, Eli Hamshire (pictured above), dates back to my childhood over seventy years ago. In

those days my parents lived in Nelson, Lancashire, but, three times a year, we used to make the 256 mile trip to my grandparent's house in the Alfold →

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➔ Road, Cranleigh. There, in the front room, was a large sepia coloured photograph of a be-smocked Eli Hamshire, who, to my young eyes, looked suspiciously like Father Christmas.

In those days children were supposed to be silent at the dinner table, and so, sitting there silently, I listened with fascination to the stories of Eli unhitching his cart whenever he came to a toll gate, in order that he could pull his cart through by hand, thus avoiding paying a toll. The money he saved by this tactic would be given to the first beggar or tramp that he encountered.

As my grandfather was virtually illiterate there were very few books in the cottage in Alfold Road, apart from the Bible. One book which did exist, however, contained Eli's two main theses 'The Source of England's Greatness and the Source of England's Poverty' and 'The Three Great Locusts'. These two pamphlets covered Eli's thoughts upon the most pressing issues of the day and were written under the nom de plume 'The Carrier's Boy', although most of the actual writing was done, in purple pencil, by two of his children, Jim and Fanny.

It was Eli's contention that if the estates of the large landowners were taken and re-distributed amongst the poor, then poverty could be eliminated. Based upon his own experience he felt that if each family in the land were given three acres of land they would be able to provide



Eli Hamshire married Rebecca Bowyer Gibbs in 1865 enough food for themselves. It was his contention that he was the originator of the phrase 'Three Acres and a Cow' which became a popular slogan in the 1880s for leading land reformers such as Jesse Collins and Joseph Chamberlain.

In the 1990s I inherited a copy of Eli's book which I decided to re-publish as I felt that some of his views were still extremely relevant a hundred years after his death in 1896. As the original book was rather hard to read because of the copious repetition and extremely unwieldy paragraphs, I decided to completely re-edit Eli's work.

When I had finished editing the book, my proof reader said that she would ➔

➔ like to know a little more about Eli and his family. As a result I managed to produce about 70 further pages about the Hamshire family, which I had garnered from the Parish Registers and from various ancient family members such as Cecil Muggridge and his mother Winnie. The complete work was published under the title ‘Three Acres and a Cow - the Life and Works of Eli Hamshire,’ and for a brief while it became a best seller in the Cranleigh Bookshop and the Ewhurst Post Office.

Basically Eli was a giant of a man who had been born on Christmas Day, 1834, the seventh son of James and Sarah Hamshire. His father was a

carrier who also farmed three acres of land at ‘Fields End’ cottage. Eli had had a limited education which was supplemented by his reading of the Bible, but by the age of thirteen, however, he had left school and was renting three acres of land in Gadbridge Lane where he kept the compulsory cow and raised chickens, which he sold on market days in Guildford.

Although Eli railed against the wealthy landowners, the clergy and the legal classes in ‘The Three Great Locusts’, he did build up quite a sizeable property portfolio in the Ewhurst area. Following



Eli invested wisely and, when he died, owned several properties; one a ten-roomed house on Ewhurst Green

his marriage to Rebecca Bowyer Gibbs in 1865 they lived in ‘Square Leg Cottage’, next door to which he built a ten-roomed house. He also owned ‘Weavers Cottage’ and property on both sides of Gadbridge Lane, where some members of the family still live.

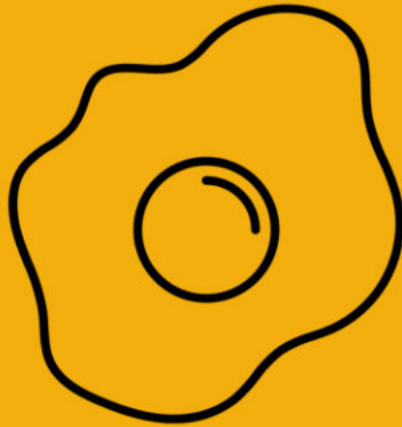
Although much of Eli’s income was derived from his chicken farm in Gadbridge Lane, and from carrying goods to and from market, he invested his profits wisely in property, and by the time

of his death had four or five properties in his portfolio. At least two of these properties, the ten-roomed house on Ewhurst Green and ‘Gadbridge Lodge’ were built by his cousin, Job

Robinson. He also inherited either ‘Laurel Cottage’ or ‘Green View Cottage’ following the death of his brother Henry in 1867. These properties provided him with a steady source of income.

Eli finally shuffled off this mortal coil on October 10th 1896 after failing to recover from dropsy. The ‘Surrey Advertiser’ published a short obituary which emphasised his agreeable nature, ending with the words, “The deceased was of a genial and cheerful disposition, and his stalwart figure, always clad in a slate coloured short smock, will be much missed.”

Great food, inspirational talks



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Just the ticket: Simon's rug (right) was chosen by celebrated UK artist Grayson Perry to feature in his Art Club Exhibition in Bristol Museum.

The exhibition was the culmination of a Channel 4 series which invited members of the public to submit drawings, paintings, sculptures, textiles etc. on six different themes.

Simon says: "I've always liked playing with scale so my previous rugs have been a giant Pantone swatch (top right) and an old fashioned wooden ruler" (middle right).



A travel rug like no other

SIMON FRASER MEETS GRAYSON PERRY WHO SELECTED HIS RUG TO FEATURE IN HIS 'ART CLUB' EXHIBITION IN BRISTOL

What do you do when you're watching TV? Are you totally absorbed by the antics on the screen or do you multi-task? You know. Eat, drink, fiddle with your phone, knit, that sort of thing. I ask because for the last two years, I've been making rugs. I'm currently in middle of a giant Sainsbury's receipt, but the one I started in April 2020 – and which this story is about – was based on a standard rail ticket. You know the thing – orange stripes top and bottom, lots of dot matrix printing on a green background. After hook and latching nearly 26,000 threads, I completed it in January last year and it measures about 6ft x 4ft.

At around that time, we heard that Channel 4 were running a second series of Grayson's Art Club and were inviting the public to submit drawings, paintings, sculptures, textiles etc. on six different themes, the last of which was Travel. Perfect. I took pictures of the

rug, my younger daughter Jess videoed me talking about it and we sent the whole lot off to Swan Films, the production company.

And we heard nothing, not even a "thanks, but no thanks". So, we weren't

exactly hopeful when we sat down with our M&S Chinese meal to watch the Travel episode one Friday evening at the end of March. For 56 minutes we watched, hurling insults at the screen every time someone else's work was featured. But then, right at the end, Grayson Perry showed his top three submissions of the week, and there it was!

O.M.G. Then cheers all round, spring rolls go flying, and we have one very confused dog.

Two days later, I got an email from the producers saying that all work featured in the show would be included in the next Grayson's Art Club exhibition. Was that okay with me? Er...what do you think? ➔



Simon Fraser, pictured here at Grayson's Art Club exhibition with his Train Ticket rug, woven by hand during the pandemic.

➔ During the summer, I got regular emails from Swan Films and Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, the venue for the exhibition, and then we got invites to the private view. We booked an Airbnb, bought some train tickets (of course) and on 1st December set off for Bristol.

The evening kicked off with a drinks reception where we chatted to other exhibitors who were all lovely and just as surprised and delighted to be there as we were, and then there were some speeches from the Mayor of Bristol, the Chief Exec of Channel 4 and Grayson Perry himself.

The exhibition is wonderful. Some people's lockdowns have clearly been really tough, but creativity has saved them and the work on display is extraordinary. Then we went back to the ground floor for another glass of wine and maybe the chance to hobnob with the odd celeb. We noted the massive queue waiting to talk to Grayson Perry himself, so we subtly engineered our way into the orbit of Philippa Perry, his wife. We chatted about education and psychology to her (that's her field) and then Philippa said to Fee "You must be the artist then?", a reasonable assumption as Fee was wearing a very large yellow rope



Fi Fraser (Simon's wife) enjoys a glass and maybe some negotiation with Philippa Perry (Grayson's wife). The Perrys ended up purchasing Simon's rug.

necklace that said Hello! and was looking very arty (as she always does). "Actually, I am," I said. "Oh, so which piece is yours?" asked Philippa. "The ticket rug." And this is where it all goes a bit surreal.

"Oh, my God," she said. "We love that. You've got to meet Grayson." And with that, she grabs my hand and tows us across the room, past the huge queue, and right up to her husband. "This is Simon," she announced. "He made the ticket rug." Now Grayson Perry is shaking my hand and congratulating me. And then he went back to his queue, which was only fair, leaving Fee and I with Philippa.

"Are you going to sell it?" she asked. "Er, well, I might, I'm not sure," I replied, in response to which she whipped out her phone and asked me for my email. Within seconds, I had an email in my inbox saying "Travel rug. We want it. How much?"

Two days later, we agreed a price and when the exhibition finishes in September (you've plenty of time to go see it) my rug won't be heading back to Ewhurst, it'll be going to Grayson Perry's house. You know, I still can't quite believe it.

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Whether you are an experienced outdoor bowler or fancy trying the sport you will be welcome at Ewhurst Bowls Club in the Cranleigh Road backing onto the recreation ground and next to Sayers Croft.

You can view our facilities via our web site www.ewhurstbowls.co.uk where you will see we have a 7 rink green, clubhouse with a bar, changing rooms and a kitchen.

If you would like to try the game we have equipment that you can use, all you need is a pair of flat shoes to start. We have two excellent coaches who can show you the ropes.

For those of you who haven't tried the game before we are running 4 coaching sessions on the 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th May starting at 2:00pm.

If you are interested in playing this wonderful game please contact Roger Newman on 01403 753140 or email roger.newman45@yahoo.co.uk.

COMING UP AT WALLISWOOD

Easter Egg Hunt | Sat 9 Apr | 10.30am – 12.30pm
Spring Quiz | Sat 7 May | 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Jubilee Party | Sun 5 June | 11.00am – 4.00pm

walliswoodvillagehall.org

CRANLEIGH BADMINTON CLUB

We meet every Friday evening from 8 to 10pm. We are based at Glebelands School, Parsonage Road, Cranleigh. The club caters for all



standards of player male and female. We can offer friendly advice for those with less experience and we can also offer good-standard competitive games for more experienced players.

There is no annual subscription, it is a pay as you play club so just turn up and play (£6 for 2 hours). There is plenty of free parking and the sports hall facilities are excellent. For further information contact club Secretary Maura on 01483 267634 or by email at maurasyed@hotmail.com or our club Chairman, Mike on 01483 276667

EWHURST CHURCH CHOIR




Choir leader, Val Henry, is actively seeking new voices for the church choir in Ewhurst. Rehearsals are 7.30pm, every Friday night at St Peter & St Paul's church. You are invited to observe or join in from the off. Contact Val: val.dixon.henry@btinternet.com



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The charities group from the parish will be collecting good quality, clean clothing, shoes and bedding for all ages to send to the Chernobyl region, a very deprived area.

Please put your donated items into strong plastic bags, making sure any paired items are secured together.

Leave the bags at St Peter & St Paul church, Ewhurst any day between: **Monday 28 Feb - Wed 30 March**. The church is open daily from 9.30am – 3.30pm. If you have any problems delivering, contact 01483 275047 or geoffjane67@gmail.com

STOOLBALL SEASON STARTS

Ladies! Come down to Ewhurst Green at 6.30pm on Monday 4th April and experience a 15th century game known as “cricket in the air”.

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Platinum Jubilee celebrations

JOANNA CADMAN SENDS A PREPARATORY NOTE ABOUT THE FESTIVITIES AHEAD



Her Majesty the Queen, our Sovereign, will have reigned over this land for an incredible 70 years this year. And the weekend of the 2nd to the 5th of June has been set aside to bring our community together in fun and celebration.

In case you wonder why the Whitsun bank holiday has been moved to the 2nd, which is a Thursday, this was the day of the Coronation. So, we start the weekend with the iconic bit. But hopefully in better weather. It was a foul day in 1952, I have been told. Cold and wet.

Thursday night will be taken up with celebrations on the recreation ground. Lighting a beacon, a barbecue, and the Fabulous Nobodies. A reason to party. Then we will make our way through the weekend with events from all our

societies, clubs, venues and churches in the parish. The Ewhurst Players will be presenting an anthology of readings, songs and music on Saturday evening at the village hall. Festivities will peak with street parties on the Sunday.

The hope is that everyone gets to enjoy as much as possible of what is going to happen that weekend, and we would like to produce and distribute a diary of what is happening and where, to ensure as far as possible that two amazing things are not happening at the same time. So, please let me know what your plans are so that I can liaise with you as we go through the next couple of months, and make this an amazing event, and a real tribute to our Queen.

Joanna Cadman,
Clerk, Ewhurst Parish Council
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References for previous work carried out
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Chiquitita rules the roost in this house! Clare's duck generally strolls around the family home, sometimes sitting on laps to be stroked or maybe having a quick dip in the sink. He's come a long way from the cute duckling (pictured on the front cover). Who knows where Clare's "bird journey" will take her next. Maybe we'll find out in the next issue.

Love a duck!

CLARE HARDING TALKS FRIENDSHIP... THE FEATHERED VARIETY!

“**W**hy don't you write about having a house duck?” said the editor, when he popped by for a chat and saw my Chiquitita quacking about the kitchen (see opposite)

Perhaps I should start with "why". Well, I think it's to do with my childhood. My mother used to tell me tales about the chickens she 'taught' in the backyard of her terraced house in Nottingham, when she was a little girl. She used to line them up along the back wall and wave a stick back and forth whilst reciting the alphabet to them all. I could picture them all swaying along with the lesson, apparently mesmerised and obedient. She told me this story many times and I suppose I grew to understand that these feathered creatures could bring something extraordinary into daily life. Also, clearly, they had a lot more going on than most people knew about, to be such willing and fun companions.

So, before the duck there were chickens. Three chickens to be precise; one for each of my daughters. Sounds speedy,

but hours of online research went into just this bit. What breeds? What to keep them in? What to feed them? and so on. The answers - hybrids, Eglus and pellets and corn - do not do justice to the time spent on this!

As first loves usually go, these three chickens were very memorable. Their names? Miss Speckledy, Harriet and Midnight give an idea as to their looks (okay, admittedly Harriet was brown). They really were adored by us all and my girls spent hours playing with them. I would have enjoyed telling my mother about her granddaughters' pastime.



Miss Speckledy, Midnight and Harriet. Prior to ducks, Clare began her "bird journey" with three chickens.

So this started me on a "bird journey". Now I live in a place which allows me to keep thirty or so hens and a smattering of cockerels. Chiquitita was the latest hatch and, being the first living creature he saw from his Aga nest, I became 'mum' and so he follows me everywhere. He is a proper house duck, even learning to swim in the kitchen sink. I'm fairly sure he thinks he's human. But more stories of that to follow...

Animal magic

BELLA MATTHEWS ENTHUSES ABOUT HER FIRST TERM AT MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE

My first day at Merrist Wood College was AMAZING. We had a practical lesson like you wouldn't believe. I was in small mammals class, and we started by cleaning out and feeding the likes of ferrets, guinea pigs mice, gerbils and hamsters. After we had finished, the animal keeper who was supervising us said he would introduce us to a skunk named Coda! Some of you are probably thinking, did it spray me with its stinky smell? Well, it didn't. Skunks only spray when they feel threatened.

During term we had to create a portfolio on handling and caring for animals. So I held lots of different animals: a snake, ferret, guinea pig, rabbit, (we had to put the rabbit in a harness and lead), goat, mouse, and a leopard gecko. Did you know that Merrist Wood has lots of specialist

animals too? Like meerkats, emus, alpacas and llamas.

Here is a fun fact about donkeys. Their amazing memory, means they can recognise other donkeys and locations from up to 25 years ago. How about llamas? You may know they spit, but only when they feel threatened. A female will spit on a male when she is not interested in him. Then there's the leopard gecko, They can bark. And you must avoid their tail. If you grab it, it will drop off (a defence when getting away from predators). Do you want to hear a

fact about guinea pigs? They purr. And they have sensitive lips too. They "mouth" things in search of clean and tasty food. Told you it sounded weird.

Lastly this has nothing to do with college, but what is your favourite animal? Mine is an otter.



Bella learned a lot about animal handling in her first action-packed term at Merrist Wood College .

Overheard by Marmaduke

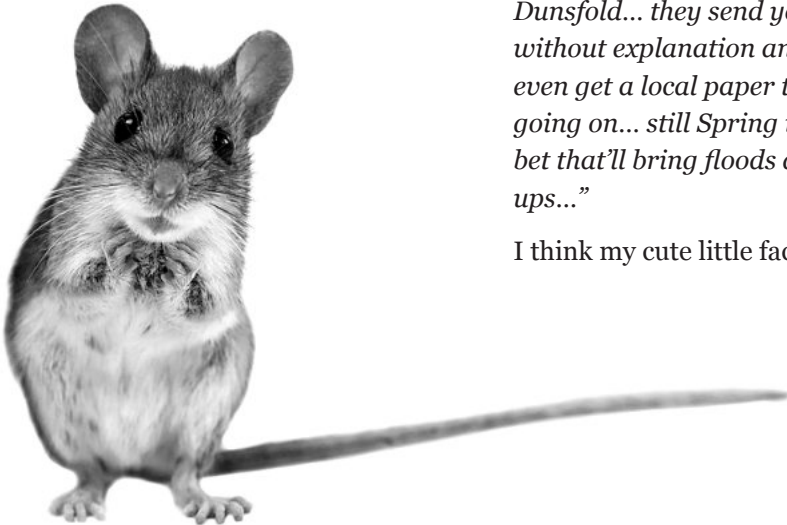
Hi Folks! Marmaduke the church mouse here. Phew, some of you can't half talk! What a load of ranting!

And one subject has really taken off in the village over winter. How about this I heard after the service last Sunday:

"Good grief Doris, sorry I was late but there's another set of traffic lights in The Street and they were on red for hours I mean what's going on every time I try and go anywhere there's another lot holding everyone up and never anyone to ask what it's all about (apart from sometimes sitting in a car all day just to make sure the traffic lights are working!) and the other day

I got all the way from Ewhurst Green to the Bulls Head Inn... still closed you know... and a sign said the Forest Green road was shut so I was diverted back through the village via Loch Ness to get to The Parrot only to find the road was open all the time and the closure was further on towards Ockley... and why they let you drive all through the village before telling you there's a diversion goodness only knows and you sometimes think one lot of traffic lights have gone but then they return again a few days later and just about every road around here is getting shut for some reason or another and you can forget going to Dunsfold... they send you miles away without explanation and you can't even get a local paper to tell you what's going on... still Spring is coming but I bet that'll bring floods and more hold-ups..."

I think my cute little face says it all.





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A Spirituality of Fundraising

SARAH MURPHY PREVIEWS THE BOOK THAT INSPIRES THIS YEAR'S LENT COURSE

A spirituality of fundraising? How can raising money possibly be spiritual, I hear you ask yourselves! Is it not just a necessary and unpleasant activity to support spiritual things? Let me explain: some of you may have heard of Henri Nouwen, who was a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and writer, and the author of some 39 books. In much of Nouwen's writing we see themes such as the constant love of God, forgiveness, and one's 'heart' or true self. He would always stress the need for authentic relationship, both with God and with oneself, recognising that there are parts of us that we choose to bury, or from which we derive our value, rather than simply accepting ourselves as beloved children of God. It was Nouwen who wrote a book entitled *A Spirituality of Fundraising*.

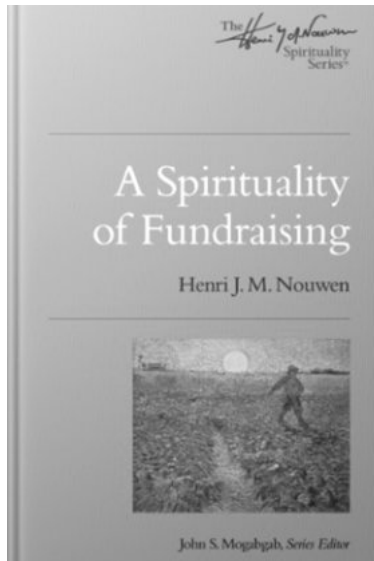
In his book Nouwen acknowledges that

for most of us the words spirituality and fundraising do not go hand in hand – we do not think of the two as being related at all. However, he regards

fundraising not as a response to a crisis, but instead, a form of ministry. Fundraising with spirituality is a way of proclaiming a vision, and inviting people into that vision. Because the vision is amazing and exciting and needs people with whom to collaborate, fundraising as ministry invites people into a new way of relating to their resources, from which they, too, will be enriched.

2 Corinthians 9: 11 writes

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity”. Nouwen writes “when those with money and those who need money share a mission, we see a central sign of new life in the Spirit of Christ. We belong together in our work because Jesus has brought ➔ us



“Fundraising is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick or feeding the hungry”
- Henri Nouwen

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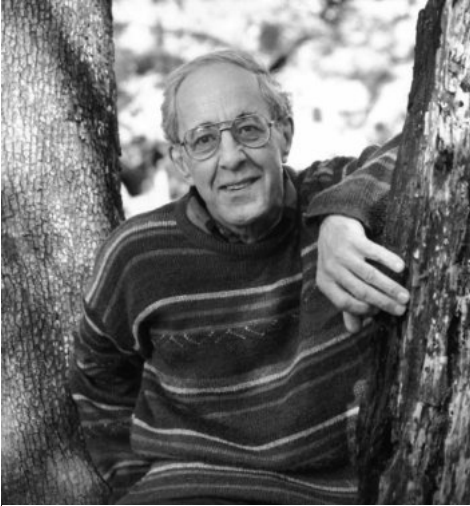
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➔ together, and our fruitfulness depends on staying connected with him". It is about relationship, both with man and God.



Nouwen's strong appeal comes from his passion to apply spirituality to real life.

However, Nouwen recognises that many of us have a very unhealthy relationship with money and it is this flawed relationship that makes fundraising such an uncomfortable topic. In his book, Nouwen explores our fears concerning asking; our anxiety about being rejected when we do ask; money as our source of security; and money as a means of control. Money, power and self-worth are highly interwoven in our society, so Nouwen asks the reader some soul-searching questions. He wants to get right to our 'heart'.

God knows our need for security, but he does not want us to misplace our trust in things or people that cannot offer us real security. Nouwen writes that "we

cannot find security if our heart is divided", echoing the words of Jesus who stated that we cannot be the slave of both God and mammon. (Luke 16:13)

In the upcoming Lenten period, the Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green will be running a weekly course on *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, giving us an opportunity to examine ourselves and our attitude to money, so that we might be better equipped for any future activities of fundraising.

If this is something that piques your interest, please look out for future details in future church news sheets. If you do not currently subscribe to the church news sheet but would like to do so, please email the parish office at eofgparish@gmail.com.

When we approach fundraising in a spirit of gratitude, we do so knowing that God has already given us what we most need for life in abundance.

Therefore our confidence in our mission and vision, and our freedom to love the person to whom we are talking about donating money, does not depend on how that person responds. In this way, gratitude allows us to approach a fundraising meeting without grasping neediness and to leave it without resentment or dejection. Coming and going, we can remain secure in God's love with our hearts set joyfully on the kingdom - Henri Nouwen

Friends of St Peter & St Paul

A ROUND-UP FROM THE NEW CHARITY SUPPORTING EWHURST CHURCH



Thank you to everyone who bought our Christmas cards. We sold a record number - more than 1000 - raising over £300.

We are now well into plans and activities for this year with a church visit for a Sayers Croft school, helping the Charities Group with the popular Quiz Night and getting the Easter Market underway.

We hope you will join us for the Easter Market at the Parrot, Forest Green on Tuesday 5 April between 10am and 2pm. You can browse the wide variety of stalls, find a bargain at “Going for a Song” and refresh yourself with coffee and/or lunch while you wait to see if you have been successful in our excellent raffle. For a unique experience – why not travel on the classic bus running to and from Ewhurst?

We are also planning a family orientated village event to suit all ages during the summer holiday months. Details soon!

None of these things happen without your help, so please let us know if you

are willing to help at the market, donate raffle prizes or “Good as New” items for our bargain stall (sorry, no clothing)

Items for the Easter Market can be left at the Wilson Room on Wed, Thurs or Friday mornings 10am – noon or use the contact details below to volunteer, donate or find out more, please contact our secretary on 01483 268694 fspspsecretary@gmail.com or visit our website: friendsofewhurstchurch.com

Thank you to all our registered Friends, especially for their generosity with their time, help and money. New supporters are always welcome. You don't have to donate to become a “Friend” but you need to register with our secretary so we can legally contact you about all we do.

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Leith Hill Tower: The highest point in southern England at 1,029 feet and offers a spectacular prospect over the surrounding countryside, both north and south, which includes 14 counties.

Leith Hill Tower

BARRY THOMSON BRINGS US INSIGHT INTO ONE OF THE MOST
ICONIC LANDMARKS IN THE SURREY HILLS

The iconic building known as Leith Hill Tower was built in 1765 by Richard Hull who called it “Prospect House” and in 2015 it celebrated its 250th birthday.

The name is apt for the top of the tower is the highest point in southern England at 1,029 feet and offers a spectacular prospect over the surrounding countryside, both north and south, which includes 14 counties and on a clear day you can see the clock tower of the Palace of Westminster (known as Big Ben) and the 133 metre tall arch over Wembley Stadium.

It was reported in 1844 that “On St Swithin’s Day (15th July) the air was so remarkably clear that a nine foot square observatory near Ashford, Kent, is visible and a four-inch staff on Dunstable Downs is identified through a small telescope. At the same time the spires of 41 Churches in London are visible as well as the scaffolding around the new Houses of Parliament at Westminster which had been destroyed by fire in 1834.”

The tower became a landmark for mariners in the English Channel but

having been poorly constructed it was much decayed by the time of Hull’s death in 1772 and he is buried under the structure.

Records indicate that Hull intended to make the tower and surrounding park a place for the public to enjoy, and he would have been gratified to discover that during the Victorian period Leith Hill became a very popular picnic spot.

In the early 1800’s ownership passed into the hands of William Perrin Esq. who thoroughly rebuilt the tower and raised its height by 20 feet adding the iconic coping and battlements to make it a more conspicuous “sea-mark”. However, over subsequent years the tower is said to have become “a harbour for vagrants, smugglers, gypsies and poachers and other undesirable characters” to the great annoyance of Mr Perrin who in 1800 filled the structure with rubble and cement.

In 1819 there was an attempt to establish an annual fair at the tower and, although there was a large attendance for the inaugural event, the scheme failed as a result of what was described as “bad conduct of the ➔

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➔ lawless and profligate whom it brought together” and the fair was subsequently banned.

Later in the 19th century the tower passed into the hands of Josiah Wedgwood the third of the Staffordshire pottery family who lived at Leith Hill Place nearby but in 1863 the tower was returned to the Evelyn family.

W J Evelyn Esq wanted to re-open the tower but on finding the cement too hard to remove decided to add the octagonal stair turret on the north-west elevation so that the public might once again reach the top and this was constructed in 1864. It is recorded that the tower guardian, one Mrs Skilton, served lunches, tea and ginger beer as well as telling the story of the tower to visitors and estimates having 6,000 visitors a year.

The English romantic painter Samuel Palmer creates his acclaimed watercolour entitled “Lonely tower” inspired by Leith Hill Tower and his etching of the same in 1879 is one of his most famous works. See illustration.

The first guide to Leith Hill is

produced by Charles Rowe of Dorking entitled “Leith Hill, a description of and list of places in view from its summit”. The hill became a popular tourist attraction in the early 1900’s during which Socialites were collected from Dorking Station and transported to and from the hill by horse and carriage.



In 1923 the tower was donated to the National Trust by the owner at that time, W J MacAndrew.

The hill and tower attracts walkers and visitors from far and

wide and a special bonfire was lit on the hill on Friday 6th November 2015 to commemorate the tower’s 250th birthday, as had taken place in June 1911 to celebrate the coronation of King George V.

Today, Tanhouse Farm Shop serve a range of drinks and snacks from the ground floor hatch at the Tower, a welcome sight for walkers and visitors. On a clear day a climb to the turret of the Tower to enjoy the splendid views is well worth the small charge.

With acknowledgements to the National Trust history boards on site at Leith Hill Tower.

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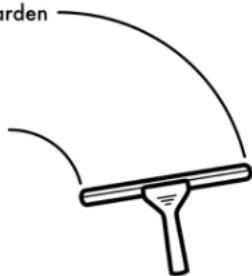
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Thoughts on prayer

BELINDA KERRY REFLECTS ON THE POWER OF COMMUNING WITH GOD



In May 2020, the Church of England reported that unexpectedly high numbers of people tuned into online or broadcast services, and 6,000 people phoned a prayer hotline in its first 48 hours of operation.

Five years ago, I took over the reins of compiling the Prayer Diary for the old parish of Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green. Now two parishes publish the diary which provides a prayer for every day of the year on a new topic each week. Why do I do it and who prays? What is prayer and why do some people pray? What do they pray for and how and when do they pray?

In Islam, five daily obligatory prayers are considered one of the pillars of the religion. The command of ritual prayer repeatedly occurs in the Quran. The person performs the prayer while they are facing Mecca. Muslim prayer involves bowing, kneeling and prostration.

In Judaism, observant Jews pray three times a day and communal prayer is

preferred over solitary prayer. Jewish prayer may involve swaying back and forth and bowing.

Christian prayers are quite varied. They can be completely spontaneous, or read entirely from a text, like the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. The most common prayer among Christians is the Lord's Prayer, which is how Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:9-13).

Christians describe prayer as a communication or conversation with God and most Christians believe prayer deepens a person's faith. The Bible encourages Christians to pray all the time:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone →

who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8)

Prayer can be silent or said out loud. It can use set words, or a person's own words. Prayer can be a listening exercise too.

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."
- Mother Teresa

"It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without heart." - Mahatma Gandhi

The 24/7 Prayer International Movement (24/7prayer.com) says that prayer can be talking, thinking, writing or drawing and it doesn't have to be confined to church on a Sunday morning.

Before Christmas, my Christian book club read *Come Emmanuel* by Ann Lewin. She writes: "Prayer is not just about the time we set aside to focus our attention on God. Prayer is the life blood of our relationship with God, a relationship that continues through all our activities and dealings with others." She says that, being busy (especially before Christmas) is no excuse not to pray as we can offer our prayers while we shop, while we watch the news on

television, as we write our cards or when we wrap our presents.

If some feel insecure about knowing what or how to pray, it is worth noting that even Christ's disciples asked for guidance. And Jesus answered, teaching them the Lord's Prayer.

There are many references to prayer throughout the Bible but to know how Jesus taught prayer and how he prayed, read; Matthew 5:44, 6:5, 21:22, 26:39-42, Luke 18:1-14, 22:40, 11:1-13, John 17:1-26.

So, why do people pray and what do they pray for? During the early months of the pandemic, Google searches on prayer rose by 30%, the highest level ever recorded. By 1st April 2020, more than half of

the world population had prayed to end the coronavirus.

I generally pray for God's wisdom, strength and forgiveness. I wish blessings on people I know and ask God to bring them love, healing, peace and joy. I tell him what I'm grateful for and say sorry when I've made a mistake. This world is filled with stress, conflict and sadness and some people are constantly bombarded with responsibilities and pressures. So I lay these troubles at God's feet in prayer and ask for his peace.

My personal experience is that prayer brings peace, increases love, strengthens faith, changes attitudes, inspires hope, reduces stress and helps me to understand myself better.



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Technology heaven?

RUPERT HARDING SEES HOPE IN HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE USING THEIR MOBILE PHONES

Arrghhh! I looked down aghast! My mobile phone lay there, looking up at me, flashing alternate yellow and black screens. On one corner, a broken glass crusted crack had appeared. I looked down at the slate tiling that had ended its free fall. Then, back at the shelf from where it had dislodged moments earlier.

Had it really happened? It was so quick. Was I imagining it all? I picked it up and my worst fears were confirmed. No amount of button-pressing would resuscitate. It was a very dead phone - not resting like the Monty Python parrot, but as dead as a dodo.

My mind quickly raced through the immediate implications. All my banking; contacts; emails; my entertainment... my photos!! And what about essential communication with the wife and kids.

It made me realise just how much I rely on this 2x6-inch piece of plastic, and the

the 237 different apps that reside therein (they survived the latest cull).

Is it a bad thing how much I need it? And how much time I spend in “virtual” communication? Most people, old and young, acknowledge that nothing beats

spending real time with real people, laughing, socialising, working, debating, agreeing and disagreeing.

However, although there’s much research about these devices being bad for us, I’ve noticed something

interesting in how my teenage daughters make a virtue of these virtual capabilities.

In between real-life interaction, they chat with each other much more frequently than previous generations, largely because the opportunity to do so is there. As they are in constant touch, they are less likely to feel the sense of loss that previous generations often felt when it was time to part at the end of a fun occasion. They continue the chat →



Contrary to many negative reports, Rupert has noticed how mobile phones have enhanced his daughters’ friendships, particularly in lockdown.

➔ after physically separating as though they are still very much together. It is not necessarily a conversation on the phone but could be via one of the many messaging or voice mail apps.

This is generally considered quite healthy because it avoids a large part of the angst felt by previous generations created by the fact that we might feel we are missing out (if a member of a friendship group cannot make an important occasion, their friends will often video call them during the evening to involve them and ensure that they are not forgotten). During lockdown, my daughters' ongoing communication with their friends and their school was enormously important

for their survival. In many ways, it gave us as parents a chance to see first hand how well they communicate with each other. I have seen little evidence of the more negative aspects such as online bullying.

Without trying to stretch reasoning too far, I wonder if our connection with God should work in a similar way? Prayer is like a 5g network that always works. The only poor signals come from our own devices. There's always someone listening at the other end and you will always come away with a positive result.

I realised, as I looked down at my broken phone, that I didn't need this device to make my most important call of the day.



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THE FABULOUS FOUR - STUART, CHRISTINE, PHIL AND KINDALL -
UPDATE US ON THE REVIVAL OF THE NEW BULLS HEAD INN

Sisyphus comes to mind. Blithely, and apparently naively, hoping for a July 2021 opening, the endurance rehab is coming to a denouement. The new windows are in, as are the electrics, aircon, floors and ceilings. The ensuite facilities are fully tiled and sanitaryware ready to be installed, the python conduits for the draft beer is in place, the kitchen roof and cladding is done and... well, we'd have to post every day to keep you updated on the progress.

In addition to the construction team, the BHI 4 -Stuart, Christine, Phil and Kindall - are soldiering away: paint stripping, wallpapering, refinishing furniture, pulling wires, completing the first headboard panelling, chasing away a thief to the point of injury; all sorts.

Okay, the jackpot question: when? Yup. Current projection for our soft

opening is the (very) end of March/beginning of April. I know. Groan.

Recently a 'denizen' of Ewhurst's social scene told us he'd been waiting so long for the Bulls Head Inn to open. We felt his pain and have done for many months now – and – we see the light at the end of the tunnel.

We're putting together our in-house team. We've received a number of applications for housekeeping, servers, chefs and more. We welcome all interested parties and all will be considered. If you have experience, even better. We will be as

warm and welcoming to our team as we will be to our guests. The Bulls Head Inn will be a cheerful, entertaining and delicious place to be.

We are looking forward to holding monthly, Monday night quizzes in the balloon room. In the... Say whaaat? Just you wait and see (said grinning ear-to-ear). ➔



Installing the replacement chimney

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The ceiling of the mysterious “Balloon Room”

A brief history

Stuart and Chrissie took possession of the Bulls Head Inn in January 2021. In February, the four of us (plus Derek) began removing decades of kluged ‘upgrades’. Stuart and Chris were regularly in and out of the building; sleuthing where old wiring and plumbing went - and - carefully removing the lot. This led to a few splashes on the way; funny to hear about but annoying as, uh... heck. (And breathe).

The contractors began work at the beginning of March with a skeleton crew. Labour was difficult to find due to covid and factors inhibiting labour sourcing. Building materials began

drying up, followed by rapid increases in price: cement, wood - the basics. Lead times for deliveries that should have taken a few days to a few weeks stretched into months: doors, wood flooring, air-conditioning units, kitchen equipment, dining chairs... progress was sluggish. There went July.

By September, the construction team was filled out and, with a new site manager on board, things really started moving. We hoped for November (no), then December (no). New target: Valentine’s Day. Yet again, no. A pow-wow was called. An opening date for the end of March/beginning of April was agreed. Miracle of miracles, we appear still to be on track for that. Woo-hoo! And as they say, ‘Don’t touch that dial.’



Sneak peek of the bar under construction.

Starting out in the sixties

PETE BENNETT REMINISCES ABOUT HIS CAREER BEGINNINGS

Having retired from work at the beginning of 2021, I have had some time to reflect on things that have occurred during my career. Some funny, some hairy and some quite ridiculous. I am sure we all have a story to tell and I thought it may be nice to share some of these with the wider public. They are all generally lessons in life, and I would encourage you all to think back and share these moments with the wider public.

I started work at the tender age of 16. I entered a five-year student apprenticeship with a small firm of heating and ventilation contractors. I was average at school and left with four GCEs: Maths, Woodwork, Art and Technical Drawing. (I failed three: English, History and Biology). This was not a good basis to enter a technical career. I worked in a drawing office four days a week and did one day a week at the Borough Polytechnic getting some basic education in the technical sciences. Needless to say, I did not take

my studies seriously enough at that age (as I knew it all, of course!) So, I failed my first-year exams. I wasn't allowed a resit and had to do the whole year again. But I had lost a year in my apprenticeship plan. The next two years I passed but again failed to study hard enough in the third year and failed again. I finally passed the third year in



Pete's mentor, Alex Mustoo took him under his wing and was not just a master opera singer, but also a master of tough encouragement.

the fifth year of my apprenticeship. Not good really taking five years to do three years academic work.

I had now run out of apprenticeship time and could not go on to do the key year of my studies. This was to go to full time one year course at the National College of Heating and Ventilation Engineers. I was now 21 years old and starting to

regret not putting in the effort earlier in my apprenticeship.

I was generally getting on quite well as a trainee engineer. I worked for a number different senior engineers who took time to lead you through the day-



Pete Bennett, aged 21, enjoying his apprenticeship at J. H. Nicholson & Co working for a number different senior engineers, who took time to lead him through the day-to-day rigours of heating and ventilation design.

to-day rigours of the H&V design industry. One senior engineer in particular, Alex Mustoo, was very kind and helpful. As I reflect, I realise how much I owe him. He must have been very patient. He had a huge moustache (Jimmy-Edwards-style for those with a long memory) and really wanted to be an opera singer but was turned down by Covent Garden so he gave up. He always entertained us in the pub at Christmas when, after a few beers, he would break into song. Everyone in the pub would rapturously applaud him.

I was desperate to go to full time college and get properly qualified. I decided I needed to extend my apprenticeship. So, I plucked up the courage to see the

governor (Mr Winch) to ask to be able to do this. I made the arrangement for a meeting with him and was duly summoned to his office and closed the door. Although I had not said why I wanted to see him, he seemed to know what this was about. I outlined what I wanted to be able to do and he said, puffing behind his usual huge cigar:

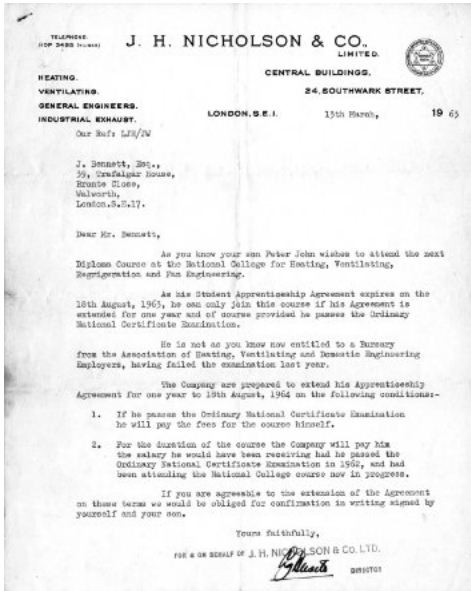
“So, you want to go off to full time college for a year and expect me to pay you your normal salary as well.”

“Yes, Sir,” I said.

“Why do you think you are in this position?”

“Well, I have run out of apprenticeship time, Sir”

“Why is that?” ➔



The letter offering Peter an extended apprenticeship and a salary while he studied for a diploma

➔ “I may not have worked hard enough in the last few years, Sir.”

“What makes you think you are good enough to pass these much harder tests when you have failed to work hard enough previously and why should I pay you when you are not here, but at college?”

“I will work hard, Sir.” (I didn’t reply to the second part of the question).

“What is to stop you leaving as soon as you come back after I have paid you?”

Lamely, I said, “I will not leave, Sir.”

He was clearly being very patient with me but determined to make me realise what a fool I had been not to work hard and get my exams passed. He then made this suggestion.

“I am prepared to support you for a further year at full time college at a salary you would have earned if you had previously passed your exams and that you will stay with the firm for a further two years after that’.” I was delighted with that offer and said, “Yes sir, I agree to that” and made to leave his office. He called me back and asked what assurances did he have.

“I have given my word.” I said

“You word?” he said

“Yes, Sir,” I replied, ‘I was a Boy Scout. My word is my bond!’

“Well, I understand that, but I think we should put it down in writing and both sign it,” he said and added, “We will get you father to sign it as well.”

I cannot imagine any 21 year-old having to do this today. My dad did sign it and I did get qualified. I still have that signed piece of paper.

On my return to the office after nine months at full time college having passed the necessary exams, my head was a bit too big for my boots and I was brought down to earth by Alex Mustoo, when he poked me in the chest and said, and I quote: “Bennett, what you have to realise is that this industry is only 5% technical and 95% common sense. Technically you are rubbish. You are just lucky you have plenty of common sense.”

I have never forgotten that.

Tree-mendous

FALLEN OAKS FINALLY GET CLEARED AT OKEWOOD CHURCH

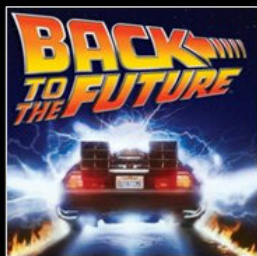


Top left: 100-foot oaks fall at Okewood Church on 21st May 2021. **Bottom left:** the last of the remaining oaks is cleared away by January 17 2022. **Right:** the bank is “made good” by February 2022.

It was 21st May 2021 and 50mph winds battered our parish. Through the power of WhatsApp the wardens were alerted within half an hour of trees down at Okewood Church (by a lady who had just moved her car from where they fell). Arrival on the scene revealed two 200+ year-old oaks lying in open

scissors position: one glancing the church roof, the other straddling the brook below. Disaster. But now, after months of wrangling with insurance companies and finding the right suppliers to mend the roof, path, fencing and make good the bank, we can say that all is ready to “make new”.

RETRO FAMILY FILM AND PIZZA



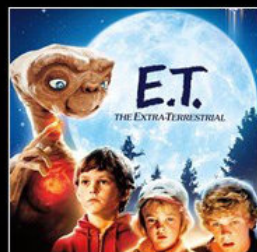
BACK TO THE FUTURE (PG-13)

SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2022
2PM



JURASSIC PARK (PG)

SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2022
2PM



ET (PG)

SATURDAY 14 MAY 2022
2PM



Bring your song

AN OPEN MIC HAS STARTED AT EWHURST VILLAGE CLUB OFFERING LOCAL TALENT A PLATFORM TO PERFORM



Every last Monday of the month Ewhurst recaptures a bit of its soul: live music. With the likes of Clapton, Bruford and Jones in its DNA, it makes sense to offer local talent a platform to perform. And, although it's

early days, we're seeing some greatness emerge from the surrounding streets and houses. Be there, for support or with your song: Next open mic: **7.30pm Monday 28th March, Ewhurst Village Club.**



Lent Lunches

Thursdays 12.30pm
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March
The Wilson Room, St Peter & St Paul
£5 | No need to book, just turn up



Ash Wednesday

6pm 2nd March
Holy Trinity, Forest Green



Mothering Sunday

11am 27th March
Services at both Ewhurst
& Okewood churches



Easter Sunday

17th April

6am Sunrise Service, Pitch Hill
9am Easter Holy Communion, Forest Green
11am All Age Easter Service, Okewood
11am Easter Family Communion, Ewhurst
For other services in Holy Week check eofgparish.org.uk/calendar



Parish Breakfast

8.30am Sat 9th April
Oakwood Village Hall
£5 | Email barrythomson1@gmail.com
belinda.kerry@gmail.com

For more details on our upcoming services and events in Spring, please check the calendar on our parish website.

www.eofgparish.org.uk/calendar



Parish Churches Service Schedule

SUNDAY	9 am	11 am	4 pm	6 pm
FIRST	OKEWOOD Holy Communion	EWHRST Morning Worship	MESSY CHURCH Walliswood Village Hall	
SECOND	EWHRST Book of Common Prayer	OKEWOOD Morning Worship		EWHRST Evening Worship
THIRD	OKEWOOD Morning Worship	EWHRST Holy Communion		
FOURTH	EWHRST Book of Common Prayer	OKEWOOD Morning Worship		FOREST GREEN Evening Worship
FIFTH	JOINT SERVICE AT 10.30am (For church venue check eofgparish.org.uk/calendar)			

PLEASE NOTE THAT SERVICE TIMES OFTEN CHANGE FOR SEASONAL FESTIVALS. ALWAYS CHECK THE ONLINE CALENDAR

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood & Forest Green | The Parish Office, The Wilson Room, Ewhurst, GU6 7PX | Tel: 01483 277 584 | eofgparish@gmail.com

THE ARTS SOCIETY LECTURE

2pm & 7.30pm Wed 24th March
Jewellery from Downton to Gatsby

Andrew Prince, jewellery craftsman for TV series Downton Abbey, journeys from 1890 to 1929, a period when great Couturiers working with jewellers redefined opulence.

2pm & 7.30pm Wed 27th April
A Brief History of Literary Tourism

Beginning in 18th century Stratford with Shakespeare, we journey via Scotland to end at museums dedicated to Wordsworth, the Brontes and Jane Austin. Annalie Talent is our guide.



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Always being the last!

A poem by Katie Large from Ewhurst Baptist church
Aged about 11 and one of four children

*Being the youngest
Might seem quite cool,
But really it's not that at all.*

*Not at the top
Not in the middle.
Being the smallest
Is a bit of a fiddle.*

*I have to shout louder
To actually be heard.
To make myself noticed
Amongst the rest of the herd.*

*Like a howler monkey
I would scream and shout.
Just to get my important point out.*

*Just imagine me
Standing on a chair.*

*Bellowing at the top of my lungs
Does anyone care ?*

*Crunch! Ouch! Splat!
The noises of my house
They never stop.
My voice is just the squeaking
of a mouse.*

*When we argue
The chairs run and hide.
Just to get away from
Being made to pick a side.*

*But throughout this
We still love each other.
Our house is our home
So, we must get along
with one another.*

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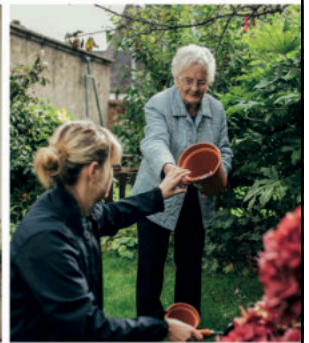
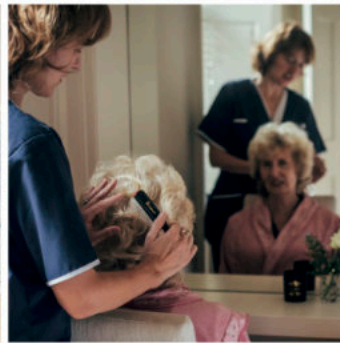
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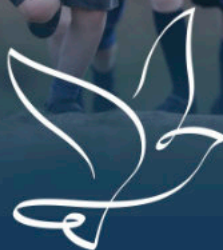
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