

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE



December 2024

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net

Rector	The Revd. Pru Dullely. The Rectory, Old Reigate Rd, Betchworth RH3 7DE. revprudullely@gmail.com ; 01737 901409; 07837 029469 The Rector is available on Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays
Churchwardens	David Sayce, 48 Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8HR (242776) (+ Bell Captain). <i>Email:</i> drsayce@ntlworld.com Elizabeth Vahey, 126 Sandcross Lane, Reigate RH2 8HG (221444)(+ electoral register). <i>Email:</i> lizvahey@btinternet.com
Hon. Treasurer	<i>Email:</i> treasurer.bucklandstmarys@outlook.com (Simon Thomas - pro-tem)
PCC—Hon. Secretary	Rosey Davy. <i>Email:</i> roseydavy@gmail.com
Musical Director (Organist & Choir Leader)	Richard Calver, Buckland Crossing Cottage, Rectory Lane, Buckland RH3 7BH. richardcalver@hotmail.com (07808 065920)
Safeguarding Officer	Caroline Gale. galecaroline@googlemail.com
Junior Church Reps	Amy Jago (07971 085134). <i>Email:</i> amy.k.jago@gmail.com ; and Sarah Munro (07714 273783). <i>Email:</i> sarahmunro@hotmail.co.uk
Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Editor Duncan Ferns, Yewdells, Dungates Lane, Buckland RH3 7BD (07786 966841). <i>Email:</i> fernscdc@gmail.com- Finance Bernard Hawkins, 57 Middle Street, Brockham RH3 7JT (843153). <i>Email:</i> bernhawk57@btinternet.com- Advertising Paul Daley, Beechwood, Dungates Lane RH3 7BD. 07825 037994 <i>Email:</i> bandbmagads@gmail.com
Church Rotas	Brasses: Sue Haynes (842613). Flowers: Jean Cooke (245161).
Community Rotas for Church Locking & Gardening	Leigh Banks, Malt Cottage, Rectory Lane, Buckland RH3 7BD 07957 157089
Friends of St. Mary's	Secretary: Ianthe Cox, Buckland. <i>Email:</i> ianthecox72@gmail.com
Churchyard Fund	Secretary: Duncan Ferns, Yewdells, Dungates Lane, Buckland RH3 7BD (07786 966841). <i>Email:</i> fernscdc@gmail.com



Its Christmas In Our Hearts That Puts Christmas In the Air

Christmas is not a season; Christmas is a feeling. It fills us with excitement. It can easily remind us of the joy we experienced our first memorable Christmas as a child. It fills our hearts with joy. It brings out the giving side of us.

Its Christmas In Our Hearts That Puts Christmas In the Air.

It's the feeling Christmas brings us that lets us bring down our walls and wear ugly sweaters. It's the excitement of putting up lights on the house, even though its work. It's buying and decorating a tree.

It's singing along to the Christmas songs on the radio.

'Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.'

Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993)
Clergyman & Author of 'The Power of Positive Thinking'

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

December 2024

Can you believe it – as I send this to the editors there is only 44 days to Christmas and by the time you receive this, that time will have almost halved!

Anyone else feeling the pressure leading up to Christmas? Yup me too. Family visits, presents, food, services, sermons, and activities, they all have to be fitted in... somehow! Of course, what we struggle with now is nothing compared to that first Christmas, and I wonder how overwhelmed Mary and Joseph must have felt as they tried to find somewhere, anywhere to stay before Mary gave birth. I imagine it felt very much like God had forgotten them in that moment. I mean they were having God's son! Surely, God would have made sure he made a safe entrance into the world wouldn't he? Yet despite the panic and the far from ideal accommodation, Mary did delivered safely and Jesus was born alive and well. There he was, that very first Christmas, the hope of the world, a tiny vulnerable baby, lying in amongst the hay and surrounded by animals.



I wonder what expectations, if any, we have of God this Christmas? Do we hope that he will answer a specific prayer for us or restore broken parts of our lives and that of our world? Maybe we are angry with him for not being there when we needed him. As we move into December, as we await the birth of this small Saviour, we purposely have this time of Advent to pause, to breath, to wait on God, and to bring to him our needs and those around us, to allow ourselves to be vulnerable. God makes no promise to us that life will be easy simply because we believe in him. He didn't even promise this to Mary, the mother of the Christ child. He does promise never to abandon us though, and the arrival of this tiny baby is his final proof of that. This is God's only son, and he is entrusting us with his care. Each Christmas in amongst all the kerfuffle and razzmatazz of the festive season, this, this is what we remind ourselves of.

Some of the sharp-eyed of you may have already noticed that the Midnight Mass no longer appears on the Christmas service list and has been replaced by an earlier service. Like a number of parishes in the diocese we are experimenting with an earlier time to help open the service up to people who find getting home after midnight too late. So, we are introducing the **'Not Quite Midnight Mass'**.

In content, it is exactly the same as the midnight service – carol singing and the first communion of Christmas but this way you will be home and tucked up in bed with your hot cocoa well before midnight... or at least have more time to frantically finish defrosting the bird with a hair dryer! Our **new 'Not Quite Midnight Mass' starts at 9pm and aims to finish at 10pm**. 10pm our time is midnight in Bethlehem. In effect then, we will be celebrating at the very moment that that tiny baby arrived in the world, which though it isn't midnight our time still makes it incredibly special.

Wishing you all a very joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Prux



DECEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Dec, 7.15pm.** Talk: Mary Neale, Suffragette & Morris dancing. DLHG, p.28
- 7 Dec, 2.15pm.** Christmas Wreath Workshop. BGHS, p.31
- 7 Dec, 4pm.** Ladybirds Christmas Concert. United Reform Church Dorking, p.28
- 9 Dec, 7.15pm.** Zoom Talk: Lewis Carroll & Oxford. DLHG, p.28
- 11 Dec, 7.30pm.** Christmas Carol Concert. Betchworth. B&B Choral Soc, p.27
- 13 Dec, 12 noon.** Christmas 'Winter' Lunch, Buckland Reading Room, p.7
- 15 Dec, 12-2pm.** Christmas Drinks, Buckland Reading Room, B&B Soc, p.29
- 16 Dec, 6pm.** Community Carols on Buckland Village Green, p.9

JANUARY 2025 EVENTS

- 24 Jan, 7.30pm.** New Year Quiz. Betchworth Memorial Hall. B&B Soc, p.29

CHURCH SERVICES—DECEMBER

Date	St Mary's Buckland	St Michael's Betchworth
1 December 2024 <i>Advent Sunday</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Luke 22: 25-36</i>
8 December 2024 <i>Advent 2</i>	10am Parish Communion & Baptism <i>Luke 3:1-6</i>	No Choral Evensong
15 December 2024 <i>Advent 3</i>		10am Parish Communion <i>Luke 3: 7-18</i>
Wed 18 December	7pm NINE LESSONS & CAROLS	
22 December 2024 <i>Advent 4</i>	10am Parish Communion <i>Luke 1: 39-45</i>	5pm NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
Tues 24 December	4pm CHILDREN'S CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 9pm (note earlier time) 'NOT QUITE MIDNIGHT' MASS	5pm NATIVITY SERVICE
Wed 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY		10am Family Communion <i>Luke 2: 1-120</i>
29 December 2024 <i>Christmas 1</i>	10am. Service of the Word <i>Luke2: 41-end</i>	
5 January 2025		10am Parish Communion <i>Matthew 2: 12</i>

We also hold a said, midweek Holy Communion each Thursday morning 10am at St Michael's church in Betchworth. It is open to anyone in either parish or visiting from elsewhere.

Southwark Cathedral livestreams their services throughout the week from <https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/worship-and-music/worship/live-service-stream/>

You can also find it by searching '**Southwark Cathedral live service stream**'

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2024

Our Christmas lunch this year will be on Friday the 13th December, doors open at 12 noon and lunch will be served around 12.30'ish We already have a lot of names on our list but if you would like to join us on the 13th December we would love to hear from you. Please phone Liz Vahey on 01737 221444 or Carol Leeds on 01737 247399 and we can give you more information and we will know how many sprouts to peel!! We ask for a donation towards the cost of the meal, which will be added to other donations from 'Winter Lunches' and passed to Charities of your choice.

A big thank you to all the people who came to our November lunch. We had 20 visitors which included two new gentleman from Reigate and Buckland. We had a wonderful time and a good natter. I must also thank our helpers, Margaret & John Miller, Liz Vahey for cooking and washing up and Everett for putting out the tables and chairs and Keith and Heather for putting tables and chairs away!!

Carol Leeds

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



**The
Children's
Society**

As we come towards the end of yet another year, when so many families are struggling with the cost of essentials, our young people are feeling the stresses of their parents, and needing someone to confide in. This is where the Children's Society is on hand to support them either at school or in the helping with family tensions.

If you have a Children's Society collecting box, and have not had it emptied for a while, could you contact me (my details are in this magazine) to have your donations forwarded to the Children's Society. We also have a selection of **hand-made greetings cards on sale in St Michael's Church** raising funds for the Children's Society. These are made locally by Linda, and have proved popular with visitors and local people this year. Donations can also be made directly to The Children's Society on-line. Please call in to St Michael's Church to see the cards, or chat to me at any service. Thank you, Linda, for making the cards.

Margaret Miller, Children's Society co-ordinator for Betchworth and Buckland

COVER PICTURE (& below) - St Mary's Buckland CHRISTMAS CRIB



The Christmas Crib at St Mary's Buckland—as displayed in 2023, will return to be displayed in the church this month.

The background to the crib is recorded in the Parish Magazine of January 1982, 42 years ago: *'Thank you to Miss Spreckley and Miss Marr-Johnson for the gift of crib figures, made of olive wood from the Holy Land, to replace those which have served us well but now have to retire for reasons of infirmity and old age.'*

Ruth Spreckley (1912-2003, subject of 'Past Lives' No.6) lived at Pilgrim Cottage on Dungates Lane. Her friend Rachel Marr-Johnson (1909-1995) lived at Mint Cottage, Old Road. Both were spinsters and active in St Mary's church life. They travelled on a Pilgrimage holiday together to the Holy Land in 1981, where they purchased these crib figures and gifted them to the church.

Some readers will know that Ruth Spreckley and Rachel Marr-Johnson used to edit this Parish Magazine (before Richard Wheen) and also print it. I am told that they used a hand-cranked 'Roneo Drum Copier' based on a type-written stencil. This was an antique even in the 1970's, prior to the days of photocopiers or printers becoming affordable.

Ed.

**CAROLS
ON BUCKLAND GREEN
MONDAY 16 DECEMBER, 6pm**



Community singing of Christmas Carols

ALL WELCOME

Please bring cash if you'd like some mulled wine
and to donate to the charity of the night, the
'Church & Churchyard Fabric Fund', for
maintenance costs of the Buckland Church
graveyard



CHRISTMAS GEESE

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: 'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!' So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: 'Why don't they follow me?' Then he realised: 'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.' Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''. *Matthew 1:23.*



BUCKLAND BELLRINGERS

On **Remembrance Sunday** we rang with the bells half muffled. The bells sound out clear, then there's an echo, made by alternatively clear (hand stroke) and then muffled (back stroke) notes. Hand stroke is when our hands pull down on the sally (the fluffy part of the rope), and back stroke is when we pull the bell rope back down again. The leather muffles are tied on one side of the clapper of the bell, to dampen the sound at back stroke. The half muffled bells make a very evocative sound, suitably respectful for the day.



For **Christmas** service ringing, the bells sound out clear, joyfully marking the occasion. Longfellow's poem '**I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**' (written on Christmas Day, 1863) reflects on the despair of the war years and the confident hope of peace:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, Their old, familiar carols play, and mild and sweet. The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Over the festive season, bells appear on Christmas cards, and are used as Christmas decorations for Christmas trees. Where have you seen or heard bells recently? Bells are embroidered on Christmas stockings and tablecloths, and are mentioned in poetry. The first line of John Betjeman's '**Christmas**' poem is '*The bells of waiting Advent ring*', and Robert Bridges' poem '**Noel: Christmas Eve, 1913**' includes the lines '*Distant music reach'd me, peals of bells aringing*'.

Many carols and Christmas music include bells, for example, '**Ding, dong, merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing**'. John Rutter's '**All Bells in Paradise**' is a more recent carol which mentions bells (2012).

*All bells in paradise, I heard them ring, Sounding in majesty the news that they bring
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring, Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth, a heavenly King.*

Listen out for the Christmas *clangorous* ringing at Buckland church. If you would like to learn to ring, you are most welcome to join us in the belfry on our practice nights (Fridays 8pm). Perhaps make it your New Year's resolution?

Julie Beale

Buckland Matters

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL - DECEMBER NEWS

Surrey County Council (SCC) : A25 Safety Improvements

The update published in the July magazine highlighted that the SCC Highways Road Safety team is working to deliver a programme of “safety improvements” on the A25 Reigate Road between the High Street in Reigate and the Cockerel roundabout in Dorking.



By way of reminder, SCC Highways secured funding from the UK Government Department for Transport to meet the costs of the programme. A description of each of the 16 schemes which make up this programme and updates on the timeline for implantation are published on the SCC website (www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/a25-dorking-to-reigate-road-safety-improvements-scheme).

If you have any thoughts on schemes one, two and five, each of which relate to schemes located between Dorking and the Brockham Lane Junction, do make yourself a note in readiness for consultations currently promised before the end of March 2026. If you monitor the interactive roadworks map (www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks/map) you may see applications for road closures (sometimes for full closures and at other times to work under traffic lights) to enable individual schemes to proceed. Not all the permit applications the team has submitted have been granted; principally due to emergency works and/or National Highways M25 work taking priority. At the time of writing, permit applications to allow working under traffic lights for a 6-week period commencing mid-January, to implement tasks 12 and 13, on what we all call the Buckland bends are pending.

If, having read the information on the SCC website you have any comments and/or concerns relating to any of the other schemes or feel more details needs to be provided; as Surrey Highways does not appear to be making any commitment to consult on these schemes, please share your comments/concerns/requests with SCC Cllr Helyn Clack (helyn.clack@surreycc.gov.uk) and your parish council.

Dorking Masterplan – Have Your Say !

Mole Valley District Council is working on Masterplans to enhance Dorking Town Centre. Proposed improvements focus on streets, public spaces, accessibility, and creating better connections for walking, cycling and transport. Subject to approval, the Masterplan will define a vision that could be taken forward subject to funding being secured in the future.

A link to the online consultation is provided on the news page of the village website and the plans are also on display at Dorking library with a printed survey available if required. The consultation closes on Thursday 5th December 2024.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk 01737 448023

YOUR NEW YEAR ‘s RESOLUTION? Help out in Buckland Village

**We have some essential volunteer roles that are proving hard to fill.
Please, can you help!?**

VACANCIES FOR VOLUNTEER ROLES—an update

BUCKLAND ST MARY’s CHURCH—Treasurer

An essential role for the Church to exist, anyone with spreadsheet or book-keeping experience would find it easy to move into.

Please contact Simon Thomas, Treasurer.bucklandstmarys@outlook.com

FRIENDS OF ST MARY’s (FOSM) - Village Events Organiser

Someone to lead a team to organise larger events, (e.g May Fayre, Flower Festival, Open Village Gardens, to support church funds)

Please contact Chairman, Roger Daniell, rogerdaniell@icloud.com or Simon Thomas, sgthomas@btinternet.com

BUCKLAND ST MARY’s CHURCH—PCC (Parochial Church Council) Secretary. Main role is to take minutes at a quarterly meeting. Can be someone not currently on the PCC, but willing to be co-opted, following the retirement of Rosey Davy.

Please contact Rosey Davy, roseydavy@gmail.com

Ed.

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On why Carol Services are so dangerous

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as “the Curate who offended Mrs Smith.”



First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on “Here endeth”, “This is the Word of the Lord”, and “Thanks be to God”, are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year’s Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.

Your Loving Uncle, Eustace

MUSIC IN DORKING—DECEMBER



7th at 4.00, Ladybirds Choir at United Reformed Church Hall, £8, 01372 878321

7th at 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin’s church, £20

15th at 2.00, Royal Ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

15th at 4.00, Dorking Choral Society at United Reformed Church

17th at 7.15, Royal Ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

18th at 7.15, Royal Ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

Good news - the Dorking Halls will re-open in December! As well as the Christmas pantomime, you can see screenings from the Royal Ballet of Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* and Prokofiev’s *Cinderella*, as well as Andre Rieu’s special Christmas concert. Happy Christmas!

The Ladybirds choir, conducted by Helena Twentyman, have their Christmas concert on 7 December, followed by tea and mince pies!. The concert will raise money for the Rainbow Trust children’s charity. Dorking Choral Society’s Christmas concert is the following week on 15 December.

Brockham Choral Society will be singing Elgar’s *The Music Makers*, a lovely piece that evokes nostalgically several of Elgar’s earlier well-loved works, including the *Enigma Variations* – which will also be played by the evening’s orchestra, the Southern Pro Musica. This is also on 7 December, at St Martins Dorking.

Ian Codd

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Solution p.34

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20						21			22					
			23		24									
25	26	27						28			29	30	31	
32							33			34				
35					36	37				38				
39					40				41	42				
43				44				45						
			46				47							
	48	49							50		51	52	53	
54						55			56					
57						58				59				
60						61				62				

ACROSS

- 1. Possessing necessary skills
- 5. Puppy sounds
- 9. Loops
- 14. Harvest
- 15. Beige
- 16. Anagram of "Scare"
- 17. Emanation
- 19. Rock
- 20. Cast out

- 21. Everlasting
- 23. Coal mine site
- 25. Pardon
- 28. An uncle
- 29. Extremely pleasing (British)
- 32. Easy
- 33. East southeast
- 34. Fashion
- 35. Bright thought
- 36. Leases
- 38. Greek goddess of

- discord
- 39. A small wooded hollow
- 40. Unhappy
- 41. Prey
- 43. Estimated (abbrev.)
- 44. Mister
- 45. Crafty
- 46. Did a slow burn
- 48. Insurrections
- 50. Above the

- horizon
- 54. Humdrum
- 55. Total flux per unit area
- 57. Useful
- 58. Certain
- 59. Pleasant
- 60. Footwear
- 61. Tall woody plant
- 62. Didn't dillydally

DOWN	10. Group of eight	29. Abstain from	49. Freshwater mussel
1. Unit of land	11. Weightlifters pump this	30. Farewell	51. Short cut
2. Boast	12. Advanced	31. Beats	52. Behold, in old Rome
3. Prospector's find	13. South southeast	33. Finish	53. Require
4. Kind of church	18. Coral reef	34. Longitude lines	54. Public transit vehicle
5. At a future time	22. Academic term	37. First	56. Golf ball support
6. "Stick" of frozen water	24. Distaste	42. Forestall	
7. Any factual evidence	25. Parenthetical comment	44. Grins	
8. Most cheerful	26. Waits	45. Craving	
9. Palace	27. Refine	46. Not fresh	
		47. Take exception to	
		48. Arithmetic	

THE VERY BEST CHRISTMAS JOKES (I could find...)

A country preacher wanted a sign outside his church announcing the miracle of Christmas. The usual printers he used had already closed for Christmas, but another printer had offered to prepared the sign and erect it for him. He sent them a text with instructions for the sign. The sign was erected within two days, but he was surprised when he read it: 'Unto us a child is born, 6 ft long and 3 ft wide'.

Other signs outside church at Christmas:

'Do come in for a glass of wine and nibbles (gluten-free communion wafers)'

'God's having the family round. Are you coming?'

'Weather Forecast for Christmas Day: God Reigns and the Son Shines!'

'To be honest, if my wife had just given birth and then three men I'd never seen before turned up with 'gifts for the baby', I'd be looking at my wife's behaviour very carefully and taking a look at the diary 9 months previously.'

What do you call a blind reindeer? No-eye deer.

What do you call a blind reindeer with no legs? Still no-eye deer.

What do you call a dead reindeer? Venison

I heard the scarecrow got a big Christmas bonus. He was outstanding in his field.

The one thing women don't want to find in their stockings on Christmas morning is their husband .



SUDOKU

Grade: Medium.
Solution on p.34

		1		7				3
			8				7	
		5				6		
1				4			3	
9			7		6			5
	8			3				1
		6				5		
	9				4			
4				8		7		

© 2011 KrazyDad.com

WORDSEARCH—Christmas 2024

father
Christmas
Nicholas
Born
Third

Century
Greek
Village
Devout
Wealthy

Prison
Emperor

Poor
Family
Three
Daughters
Stockings

money
Stockings

U	G	S	D	C	M	F	A	M	I	L	Y
K	M	G	Y	H	T	L	A	E	W	I	M
P	C	N	N	R	O	R	E	P	M	E	E
O	F	I	O	I	S	T	M	D	L	H	G
O	N	K	S	S	R	E	H	T	A	F	R
R	T	C	I	T	E	E	N	R	T	K	E
A	U	O	R	M	T	G	F	E	E	M	E
I	O	T	P	A	H	R	A	F	E	E	K
G	V	S	T	S	G	E	R	L	U	D	C
C	E	N	T	R	U	R	Y	M	L	S	Y
O	D	G	D	S	A	L	O	H	C	I	N
T	T	H	I	R	D	B	O	R	N	T	V

Needy
Sick
Suffering

Solution on p.34

Local Services

HARTSFIELD MANOR
BETCHWORTH • SURREY

AFTERNOON TEA



10% OFF
for Betchworth & Buckland residents

QUINTESSENTIALLY ENGLISH

A selection of cakes, sandwiches & homemade scones with Cornish clotted cream & strawberry preserve.

£24.95 per person
Add a glass of Prosecco for \$6

BOOK NOW 01737 845300
WWW.HARTSFIELDMANOR.CO.UK



RANMORE

Proud to support

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH,
BETCHWORTH**

**INDEPENDENT MASTERS OF
ROLLS-ROYCE
& BENTLEY MOTOR CARS**

**SALES
RESTORATION
MAINTENANCE**

**01737 844999
SURREY, UK
RSANDE.CO.UK**

Nower House Residential Care Home

Coldharbour Lane | Dorking

**Care for a Cuppa ?
Come along and chat**

Where: Christian Halls Dorking

**When: Last Thursday of each month
11.00-12.00 noon**

Inspected and rated
Good

CareQuality
Commission



Abbeyfield
Making lives for older people
Wey Valley Society

www.awvs.org.uk

Call 01252 979111
or email marketing@awvs.org.uk

**Dorking's local Charity,
improving the lives
of older people by
putting care before profit.**

Local Services




Bullmores
Accountants
for Life

Tax • Accounts • Probate
Inheritance Tax &
Executorship

T: 01306 880880
E: partners@bullmores.co.uk
W: www.bullmores.co.uk




Bullmores LLP licensed to carry out the reserved legal activity of non-contentious probate in England & Wales by the ICAEW




**SURREY HILLS
HEATING LTD**

**DOMESTIC BOILER
SERVICING AND
BREAKDOWN**

OIL, LPG & GAS BOILERS



Call Dathan on: **07944 575970**
sales@surreyhillsheating.co.uk
www.surreyhillsheating.co.uk




HOLISTIC HEALING
HEALING FROM WITHIN
With A Little Help From Outside

**Not sleeping
Feeling stressed
Pressure building
No Time for yourself**

**Treat yourself to Reflexology,
Reiki or Polarity Therapies**

*For appointments, enquiries or possible
home visits, please contact Frank on:*

Wk: 01737 370474 Mble: 07768 211432
Info@holistichealingfromwithin.co.uk



Broome Park Nursing Home,
Station Road, Betchworth,
Surrey, RH3 7DF
Tel: 01737 843333
Email: admin@broome-park.co.uk

Broome Park Nursing Home is a true home away from home. Our exceptional team consistently goes above and beyond to ensure residents receive unwavering kindness and excellent care. Located in Betchworth, Surrey, amidst 11 acres of stunning grounds in the Surrey area of outstanding natural beauty, Broome Park offers exceptional elderly nursing and residential care. We can accommodate 54 residents in two buildings. The Main House, a 17th-century residence, features bright rooms and ornate period details, while Stable Cottage offers the same high level of care in a quieter and more tranquil setting, often preferred by residents who appreciate a more reflective pace of life. If you are considering respite or longer-term care for yourself or your loved one, we would be delighted to help you with this process and show you what we can offer.

Local Services

Get IT Fixed Get IT Connected

Expert Repair & Maintenance



Call now on 01737 845980

Brockham based. No call out charges.
Fully transparent quotations with no hidden costs.

ChalkHill Systems 
www.chalkhillsystems.co.uk

We make technology work for you

Buckland Nurseries Garden Centre

A25 Reigate Road, 
Buckland, RH2 9RE

01737 242990

bucklandnurseries.co.uk

Thomas Hogg & Son Ltd est. 1865


South East TREE surgeons

South East Tree Surgeons are a Family-Run business & offer an individual, personal service. We have been established over 22 years.

We provide a 24 Hour Emergency Service to Commercial businesses, local councils & private individuals. We offer Free written quotations & advice without any obligation.

Our Tree Surgery teams are Friendly, Qualified & insured. You can find out more about us on our website: www.southeasttreesurgeons.co.uk

Our Services include

- Crown Reduction, Crown Lifting & Crown Thinning
- Tree Pruning & Dead Wooding
- Precision Tree Felling
- Pollarding
- Branch removal
- Cabling & bracing
- Stump Grinding
- Hedge Management
- Storm Clearance and Ground Clearance
- Supplier of seasoned logs 

Please do contact us on 0333 577 7663
Or email us at: info@southeasttreesurgeons.co.uk

Rachel 
Thornhill
PHOTOGRAPHY

Professional Portrait Photographer
Families | Weddings | Headshots

rachelthornhill.co.uk | 01737 244745

Local Services

Safeclean

The founding car specialists from GUARDERMAN

Recommended
by leading
furnishers
throughout
the UK

Superb professional cleaning of
Carpets, Upholstery, Curtains and
Leather. Also Oriental Rugs and
Guardsman Anti-Stain Protection

- Spot stain and Odour removal
- Leather cleaning specialists
- Flame retarding
- Dust mite reduction service
- All work fully insured and guaranteed

*For a free, no obligation quotation
call today*

FREEPHONE
0808 144 9071

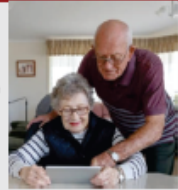


ARE YOU READY TO DISCOVER YOUR IDEAL CARE SETTING?

Take our free online
care needs assessment

SURVEY BENEFITS

- It takes 3 minutes
- Dom Care or Nursing Home
- Free Report emailed instantly
- Completely personalised recommendation



CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR
FREE CARE CONSULTATION

01306-775-829



SCAN ME

6-8 Pixham Lane, Dorking, RH4 1PT
www.downsvale.co.uk | www.sdhomecare.co.uk

Colin Campbell

Local Electrician

Registered Part P Approved Contractor

Mobile: 07770 760581

Landline: 01306 883126

Dorking Decorators

PROFESSIONAL PAINTERS & DECORATORS

Established Local Family Business

- Over 20 Years Experience
- Internal & External
- Commercial & Domestic
- Friendly, First Class Service
- Surrey / Sussex / Greater London



01306 640418

www.dorkingdecorators.co.uk



PENDRIGH MAKIN FAMILY SOLICITORS

Specialist legal advice on
Wills, Trusts and Probate;
Matrimonial, Cohabitation and Children;
Property

Friendly and professional service at
competitive rates. Home visits can be
arranged by prior appointment

Pendrigh Makin Solicitors
legal@pendrighmakin.com
Tel: 01737 221518



Lawn Mowing Scarifying
Lawn Care Hedge Cutting
Garden Tidy Ups Pressure washing

07905 160765 phil@philmowingdorking.co.uk

Local Services

J CHITTY & SON FAMILY BUTCHERS EST 1890

- * Local free range meat and poultry *
- * Home made sausages, burgers, pies *
- * Cooked meats, specialist cheeses and bread *

ABERDEEN HOUSE, BROCKHAM
TEL: 01737 843361

Open Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 7am - 5pm
Fri, 7am - 6pm; Sat 7am - 3pm

SHERLOCK

FUNERAL SERVICE

EST. 1888



6th Generation Family Business

24-hour Service, Funeral Plans, Free Advice on all Related Matters,
Free Parking On Site, Memorial Masonry

Trellis House, 190 South Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 2ES
01306 882266
office@sherlockandsons.co.uk
www.sherlockandsons.co.uk

ZOE UNDERWOOD

PROFESSIONAL DECORATOR

Interior & Exterior works welcome
Fully Insured
A clean, efficient & reliable service

Please call 07876 572624

Myra V. Baston

GradDipPhys. MCSP. RCST

Chartered Physiotherapist
Craniosacral Therapist

15a Dene Street, Dorking RH4 2DB
Tel: 01306 889680

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

ion

ELECTRICAL

CONTRACTORS LTD

- Established local business
- Over 25 years experience
- All works fully insured
- Free friendly quotations

Tel: 01306 644840

Mob: 07860 350419

Email: Rob@ionelec.co.uk



Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

Local Services



**Dave Ford
Tree Care**

**Professional
Arborists**

Tree Felling |
Pruning | Planting |
Stump Grinding |
Hedgerow Management |
Emergency Work |







Contact us for a free quotation

T: 01 306 888 441 E: info@davefordtreecare.co.uk
www.davefordtreecare.co.uk



Knights
GARDEN CENTRES

plants and life



a meeting place for plant-lovers!

We have all you need to make your garden grow
 With over fifty years experience in growing and selling plants you can be assured of the very best advice together with the most comprehensive range of garden products

Knights Nags Hall
Nags Hall Nursery, Oxted Road
Godstone - Surrey RH9 8DB
Tel. 01883 742275

Knights Betchworth
Plant Centre - Station Road
Betchworth - Surrey RH3 7DF
Tel. 01737 842099

www.knightsgardencentres.com

BEN WHEATLEY

Upholsterer

Traditional or Modern work undertaken

Chairs, Footstools, Blanket Boxes, Headboards

Other items considered, contact me for a quote

wheatley4upholstery@gmail.com

www.wheatley4upholstery.co.uk

Local Services

Need help with
your Accounts?



Payroll - VAT - Tax Returns
Local to Betchworth

Call Esther 01737 652852

Email info@a4cgroup.co.uk

Dorking Paving and Landscapes

01737 668429

07854 451067

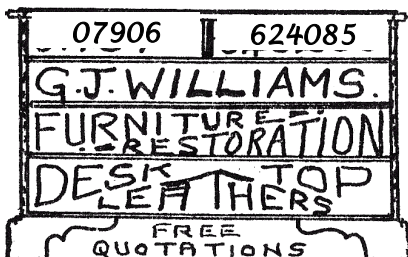


Fully guaranteed and insured
workmanship, over 15 years
experience in block paving,
patio installation, fencing,
turfing, decking and all other
landscaping and paving services



9 Oakdene Rd
Brockham
Betchworth

www.DorkingPavingandLandscapes.co.uk
nick@dorkingpavingandlandscapes.co.uk



**Surrey Mole & Wasp
Control**

**Professional Pest control
Service**

Fully Qualified, Fully Insured

Tel: 01737 844 364

Mob: 07821 614909



**Old Wall Cottage, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey
RH3 7DR**

Tel: 01737 843029

COMPLETELY REFURBISHED INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY

We are an independently run home with character and offer Residential and 24-hour Nursing Care located in the picturesque village of Betchworth, Surrey. All rooms are tastefully decorated and comfortably furnished as you would expect from a cottage environment.

Enquiries: admin@yandmcareltd.co.uk

Local Services

Richard Mason, NCH Arb

Qualified and insured Tree Surgeon
and Arboriculturist
Logs and Woodmulch

20, The Borough, Brockham,
Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7NB

Tel: 01737 844916

Mobile: 07976 751277

WWW.
BillKear.co.uk
1972

- Groundworks
- Roads & Driveways
- Landscaping
- Lakes & Ponds
- Drainage
- Foundations
- Ditching & Vegetation Works
- Concrete Bases & Flooring
- Road Haulage
- Riding Arenas & Gallops
- Fencing
- Treeworks

Boambridge Field Station, Partridge Ln, Newdigate, Dorking, Surrey RH3 5EE

01293 862666

enquiries@billkear.co.uk



PORTER & COMPANY

Independent Financial Advisers

Independent Financial Adviser

Dorking

t: 01306 644 695

e: simon.porter@porterifa.co.uk w: porterifa.co.uk

Porter & Company (IFA) Ltd is an Appointed
Representative of Best Practice IFA Group
which is authorised and regulated by the
Financial Conduct Authority

Vivien Cresswell

Made-to-measure

Soft Furnishings

Curtains, Roman Blinds, Cushions

Extensive range of fabrics

cresswellscurtains.co.uk

(01737) 843858

D. STEVENS

Decorating &
Maintenance

07776 180254

Dstevens331@hot
mail.co.uk

**Would You Like
to
ADVERTISE
HERE?**

Then please contact
The Advertising Team

Email:
bandbmagads@gmail.com

Local Services

Betchworth Garage

Cheaper Car Servicing

- Fast & Friendly Service
- All makes and models
 - Free local collection
 - M.O.T. Packages
 - Approved Parts
- Vans & Larger Vehicles



01737 843 718

Moore's Open Storage, Reigate Road (A25), Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7HB

www.betchworthgarage.co.uk



Find us on
Facebook

Dorking Pest Control Services

Local Authority Approved Contractors

www.dorkingpestcontrol.com



Our Services Include:

Wasps, Bee Swarms, Hornets,
Rats, Mice, Squirrels, Fleas, Flies,
Ants, Cockroaches, Bed Bugs,
Rabbits, Moles, Foxes and Deer.



- Domestic, Commercial and Industrial
- Contract Work
- Preventative Control Programmes



Experts in pest control throughout Surrey

Office: 01306 743001

Ivor: 07710 117491

Chris: 07971 519415

www.dorkingpestcontrol.com



Foxglove Gardens

Garden
Maintenance
Services

Matthew McConnell

07792 213 798

- Grass cutting
- Garden design
- Hedge cutting
- Soft landscaping
- Weedkilling
- Turf laying
- Planting
- Pressure washing
- Moss clearance
- Flowerbeds & pots

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

References Available

Local Services



Making your house a home.

Free estimates, fully insured for
your peace of mind.

T: 07979506783

E: Enquiries@andrewcrouchdecorating.com

Andrewcrouchdecorating.com

BUCKLAND GARAGE

**FREE CHECKS
TYRES, BRAKES,
EXHAUSTS,
BATTERIES**



*MOT Testing
Station*

*Repairs & Servicing
to all makes*

*Reigate Road
Buckland,
Near Reigate*

**01737
242766**



**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
AGRICULTURAL • SCHOOLS • ACOUSTIC
HOARDING • GATES • SECURITY**

RICHARDSON & BRADS FENCING LTD

T: 01306 640 143 - 01483 414 745

E: INFO@RBFENCINGLTD.CO.UK

W: WWW.RBFENCINGLTD.CO.UK

A: 148 SOUTH STREET, DORKING, SURREY, RH4 2ES
UNIT 45 MARTLANDS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, SMARTS HEATH LANE, MAYFORD, GU22 0RQ

Local Services



freshconnect.

Home Deliveries

*We're
back!*

THE RETURN OF HOME DELIVERIES

We are delighted to announce that the Fresh Connect *Home Delivery Service* has re-launched and is better than ever! From *Depot to Door*, we are here with the freshest premium produce delivered straight to your home by the click of a button. With plenty of slots and next day delivery available, what's not to love!

Visit our Online Shop

Head to our online portal
homedeliveries.freshconnectuk.com
to start shopping.
We deliver 6 days a week!

ORDER ONLINE 



10% off your first order with **WELCOME10** discount code.

0207 720 4126 *Let's shop local!*

homedeliveries.freshconnectuk.com

Local Services

'PHARMACY FIRST' PROGRAMME—HOW IT CAN HELP YOU

The 'Pharmacy First' Programme was established in January 2024 by NHS England to help manage patient workload. Many patients could be seen by a trained pharmacist on-the-day without a GP appointment, and receive advice and supply some NHS medicines, where clinically appropriate and under strict clinical pathways. The Doctor's surgery may refer you direct to a pharmacist for the following conditions:

- Uncomplicated UTI for women 16-64yrs
- Shingles 18yr+
- Impetigo 1yr+
- Infected insect bites 1yr+
- Sinusitis 12yr+
- Sore throat 5yr+
- Earache 1-17yrs.

All pharmacies who have signed up for the Pharmacy First can treat these conditions. Patients can contact their surgery in the usual way but if appropriate the surgery will refer to the pharmacy and the pharmacy will contact the patient directly. The outcome is then added to the patient's record.

If you do need some medical advice on a non-urgent issue you may also want to consider using your pharmacies more. They are extremely knowledgeable well trained but typically underutilised.

*Craig Scott, Chairman, Patient Participation Group (PPG),
Brockwood Medical Practice*

Clematis heracleifolia 'Buckland Magic'

If you have recently acquired this plant, now is the time to prune it hard, down to about 15 cm (6 ins) from the soil level, cutting just above a pair of leaf stalks. You do this every year. If you have it, sprinkle a little bone meal around it and put a mulch of compost on top but not touching the stem. I shall be propagating more for 2025! Thank you for supporting this venture to mend the rear path in the graveyard at St Mary's, Buckland.

Everett Leeds

Features

GARDENING NOTES

Festive December

Brighten up the space around your front door this Christmas. Door wreaths can be made with the most plentiful garden greenery, such as holly, ivy, winter or evergreen jasmine – in fact any evergreen foliage and winter flower or berry that is available. Battery operated led lights can be wrapped around and will give a welcoming glow as light fades in the evening. If you have planters near the front door, scented flowers also give a warm welcome. At this time of year, sarcococca (Christmas Box), daphne odora aureomarginata, and hyacinths will provide that something extra.

Enjoy inside gardening in the run-up to Christmas and the New Year- houseplants are plentiful and will help to lift your spirits during the darker days and longer nights of winter. Be careful to pick the right space for each plant: for cool areas, cyclamen will be very happy and come in a range of colours from festive reds and white to purple and shades of pink – water sparingly. Azaleas are also happiest without heat, as they are naturally a woodland plant – water prolifically!

The bright red bracts of poinsettia make them a favourite in December, but they don't appreciate winter weather. Keep them warm at a fairly constant temperature if possible, and away from cold draughts near windows and doors. Schlumbergera (Christmas cactus) have a tropical look with their succulent stems and myriad of flowers, and are surprisingly easy to grow and keep from year to year.



Bowls of spring bulbs such as paperwhite narcissi are easy to prepare and care for, and amaryllis are always a Christmas favourite; their rigid stems rise up to produce huge buds before transforming into huge trumpets of colour. Don't forget Christmas tree season is now in full swing. Buy early for the best selection and keep outside (in water if possible) until you cannot resist the temptation to bring them in to decorate. Happy Christmas!

David Hogg, Buckland Nurseries

CONFIDENCE IN LOVE

An opinion piece by Father Richard Rohr (Franciscan & Author)

Faith in God is not just faith to believe in spiritual ideas. It's to have confidence in Love itself. It's to have confidence in reality itself. At its core, reality is okay. God is in it. God is revealed in all things, even through the tragic and sad, as the revolutionary doctrine of the cross reveals.

We cannot attain the presence of God because we're already in the presence of God. What's absent is awareness. Little do we realize that God's love is maintaining us in existence with every breath we take. As we take another breath, it means that God is choosing us now and now and now and now. We have nothing to attain or even learn. We do, however, need to unlearn some things.

To become aware of God's loving presence in our lives, we must accept that human culture is in a mass hypnotic trance. We're sleepwalkers. All great religious teachers have recognized that we human beings do not naturally "see"; we have to be taught how. Jesus says further, 'If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light' (Luke 11:34). Religion is meant to teach us how to witness and be present to reality. That's why the Buddha and Jesus say with one voice, 'Be awake.' Jesus talks about 'staying watchful' (Matthew 25:13; Luke 12:37; Mark 13:33-37), and 'Buddha' means 'I am awake' in Sanskrit.

All spiritual disciplines have one purpose: to get rid of illusions so we can be more fully present to what is. These disciplines exist so that we can see what is, see who we are, and see what is happening. What is is love, so much so that even the tragic will be used for purposes of transformation into love. It is God, who is love, giving away God every moment as the reality of our life. Who we are is love, because we are created in God's image. What is happening is God living in us, with us, and through us as our unique manifestation of love. And each one of us is a bit different because the forms of love are infinite.

God, lover of life, lover of these lives
God, lover of our souls, lover of our bodies, lover of all that exists:
It is your love that keeps it all alive... May we live in this love.
May we never doubt this love. May we know that we are love,
That we were created for love, That we are a reflection of you .
That you love yourself in us and therefore we are perfectly lovable.
May we never doubt this deep and abiding and perfect goodness.
We are because you are.

Buckland's PAST LIVES

Learning from memorials

A3

Alfred Gwynne
Vanderbilt
1877-1915



Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt was one of the wealthiest men in the world, following inheritance from his family's shipping and railroad empires in the USA. In 1915, he was travelling on the ship 'Lusitania' which was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland. He lost his life with the sinking of the Lusitania. From 1912 to 1915 he lived in Buckland at the house named 'The Stream' on Old Road.



Two images of
Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt

Alfred was born in New York on 20 October 1877 to Cornelius and Alice Claypoole Gwynne Vanderbilt. As a youth, Alfred was educated at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, and at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. All of his brothers were Yale alumni. His father contributed to the construction of Vanderbilt Hall on the Yale campus in 1894 in memory of William Henry, Alfred's eldest brother. Alfred graduated from Yale in 1899.

When Alfred's older brother Cornelius, Jr. married Miss Grace G. Wilson against Cornelius Sr.'s wishes in 1896, Cornelius, Sr. cut off the elder brother

from the bulk of the inheritance. In 1899, their father, Cornelius, Sr. died suddenly at age fifty-six of a cerebral hemorrhage. He still had not forgiven his elder son, so the bulk of the \$72 million estate (around \$40 million) passed to Alfred Gwynne². This is equivalent to 4.3 billion US dollars in today's money. Alfred's inheritance was significantly higher than his other brothers, which created an irreparable rift between the once close brothers, and they remained unreconciled up to the time of Alfred's death².

Marriages and scandal

On 11 January 1901, Alfred married Miss Elsie French, daughter of the wealthy Francis Ormonde French, in Newport, Rhode Island. A son, William Henry, was born to them on 24 November 1901. Elsie filed for divorce on 1 April 1908 for Alfred's adultery aboard his private railway carriage, aptly named the Wayfarer, with Mary Agnes O'Brien Ruiz, wife of the Cuban attaché in Washington. The two had met during one of Vanderbilt's trips to London, when he had saved her life. She had been on a horse in Rotten Row that had run away with her on it, and Vanderbilt, with much style, grabbed the reins and brought the horse to a stop. The divorce reportedly cost Vanderbilt \$10 million. Agnes was devastated and she committed suicide by poison in her London hotel room in 1914.¹ While Alfred's friend Charles Williamson was able to testify in court to ensure that Alfred would not

be found at fault for the suicide, the scandal was to follow Vanderbilt for some time afterward. Not least because three further lovers of Alfred also committed suicide...

In 1911, Alfred Vanderbilt visited his family in the Dorking area: first his American step-mother, Lily, the dowager Duchess of Marlborough, who rented the Deepdene mansion house in Dorking from 1893 to 1911, and he had a cousin Consuelo living at Oakdene, in Holmwood near Dorking. During this visit Alfred met Margaret McKim, living at 'The Stream' on Old Road in Buckland.

Within 2 years of his divorce, Alfred married Margaret Emerson Smith Hollins McKim on 17 December 1911. Frank Morrison, a Reigate Solicitor and Registrar, conducted the marriage between Alfred Vanderbilt and Margaret McKim in his office at Morrison's Solicitors in High Street, Reigate. There were just four friends as witnesses and no press attention. Margaret, an American divorcee, was previously married to Dr. McKim in Reno, Nevada and had divorced him on grounds of 'drunkenness and cruelty'. After her divorce, Margaret had emigrated to England and purchased the house in Buckland.

Alfred and Margaret continued to live at The Stream after their marriage. They had two children whilst in Buckland, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt Junior and George Washington Vanderbilt.



Left: Deepdene Mansion House, the home of Alfred's stepmother from 1893 to 1911.

Below (L & R): Two views of 'The Stream', Old Road, Buckland.



Alfred Vanderbilt took little interest in his family companies. He lived the life of an extravagant playboy. He had many affairs and was the subject of numerous scandals in the press, not least because four women with whom he had relationships had 'committed suicide'².

After women, Alfred's passion was for horses. He was a very skilled rider and competed in 'Road Coaching', often called Carriage Racing. In 1908 he brought a coach called 'Venture', made in New York, and a string of pedigree horses from the USA to the UK. He led the revival of horse and carriage coaches of olden times on the London to Bright-

on and London to Horsham roads⁴. The Vanderbilt estate in Newport USA had the largest private riding ring in the world. Vanderbilt's purpose in traveling on the Lusitania in May 1915 was to direct a meeting of the International Horse Breeders' Association¹.

Lusitania

Alfred was a frequent traveller and some years made as many as seven Atlantic crossings. On 1st May 1915, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt boarded the ship 'Lusitania' in New York bound for Liverpool. Seven days into the voyage, off the Irish coast, the ship was hit by a tor-

pedo from a German U-boat. As the ship went down, Alfred spent the last minutes of his life rescuing women and children, and distributing lifejackets to them. He took no heed of the warnings to save himself by heading to the lifeboats. He lost his own life in the process, aged just 37. Vanderbilt's body was never found.

There were many grateful accounts from survivors, who said in the press that they owed their lives to Alfred Vanderbilt. Alfred's reputation in the press was transformed from an irresponsible playboy and philanderer to an absolute hero.

However, there is yet another twist to the story of his 'heroism' revealed in the 1982 book about the Lusitania disaster.^{2,3} *'The truth was, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, the renowned sportsman and ladies man, did not know how to swim and was probably inwardly petrified of the sea'.*

Alfred made no attempt to push his way through the mad crowd and into a lifeboat. There are at least four theories of what went through his mind in the midst of a sinking ship:

- maybe it was simply his fear being in the water prevented him from leaving the vessel,
- maybe he thought that 'men of his standing were not supposed to panic', so he protected his calm 'image' to the end.
- maybe he felt that he had lived dangerously all his life, and he was somehow wanting to end his troubles and worries in this world.

- maybe purposely, in a heroic act of valour, or even by accident, he gave away literally the last lifejacket within the area he could access. We will never know. Alfred's body was never found.

Of Alfred's \$26,375,000 estate, his eldest son William inherited five million and the Congressional Medal. His wife Margaret received eight million in properties in England and America, and the remaining sons Alfred Gwynne and George Washington, received the rest.

Local memorial

By the northern carriageway of the A24 in Mid-Holmwood (just past 'The Emporium'), near Dorking, is a stand-alone memorial to Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt.

The memorial inscription reads 'In memory of Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, a gallant gentleman and a fine sportsman who perished in the Lusitania, 7th May 1915. This stone is erected on his favourite road by a few of his British Coaching friends and admirers'.

References

1. *The Lusitania Resource*. www.rmslusitania.info/people/saloon/alfred-vanderbilt/
2. Gittleman, S.H. & Gittleman, E., 2013. *Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt: The unlikely hero of the Lusitania*. University Press of America, 290pp.
3. Hickey, D & Smith G., 1982. *Seven Days to Disaster: Sinking of the Lusitania*, p.223 ref. to Vanderbilt not being able to swim.
4. Brown, Norman. *Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt. (His Road Coaching)*. 30pp. Edition of 500



Above: Alfred Vanderbilt, driving with top hat, the London-Brighton Coach⁴
 Below: The memorial to Alfred Vanderbilt on the A24, Mid-Holmwood

Societies & Charities

BUCKLAND & BETCHWORTH
CHORAL SOCIETY



**CAROLS for
CHRISTMAS**

St Michael's Church, Betchworth RH3 7DN
on 11th December 2024 at 7:30 pm

Tickets: £15.00 * *...includes a mince pie and glass of wine!*

 Buy tickets from members, on the door or at
www.ticketsource.c.uk/buckland-betchworth-choral-society
* UNDER 16'S ARE FREE Registered Charity No. 1131720

Sue Chamberlain

DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



**2 December, 7.15pm for 7.30, Dorking Crossways Church
Mary Neal & the Suffragettes who saved Morris Dancing**
Morris dancing is a subject of many jokes, but it has a serious history. Who saved Morris dancing, why & was it worth it? Local favourite Kathy Atherton will explain all.

**9 December, 7.30pm Zoom-only talk
Charles Dodgson and Christ Church, Oxford**
Martin Grossel talks of Christ Church Oxford and it's famous author Charles Dodgson – better known as Lewis Carroll.

David Burton - <https://dlhg.org.uk>.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

We are all looking forward to presenting our selection of Christmas songs to Broome Park Care Home mid December. Fourteen carols. Six of those include the word 'Christmas' in the title. I wonder how many carols you can remember. What's more important, will you get a chance to keep up the tradition and sing any of them?

You are welcome to join us for a trial session next year. **We meet at the Reading Room, Old Road every first and third Monday from 10am until 12noon** with a social tea/coffee break. What better way to start the week? Singing is good for you.

Meike Laurenson

THE LADYBIRD'S CHOIR—CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 7 December at 4pm, United Reformed Church Dorking
Raising funds for Rainbow Trust Children's Charity

The choir will present a variety of carols and songs both well-known and less familiar. Numbers you will hear include Ding dong merrily on high, the exquisite O holy night and Huron Indian Carol with its beautiful, haunting melody. Tea and mince pies will be served after the performance. Tickets are priced at £8 and are available on the door (cash or cheque) or in advance from Sue Scarrott on 01372 878321.

Susan Scarrott

For the protection and conservation of the quality of life in Betchworth & Buckland

The Betchworth & Buckland Society



Christmas Drinks & Nibbles

Sunday 15th December 12-2pm

The Reading Room, Buckland

Members £10 & Non-Members £12



New Year Quiz

7.30pm Friday 24th January 2025

The Betchworth Village Memorial Hall

Register your team as soon as possible as the 100 places go quickly.

Individuals/couples are welcome to come along
and make up mixed teams.

Supper and a welcome drink with a bar throughout the evening

Members £20 & Non-Members £25

Winetasting

Friday 21st March 2025. The Reading Room

7/8 wines with cheese & biscuits. Coordinated by Vineking. Price tbc

*Numbers are limited for all events so please register your interest
as soon as possible.*

Ticket enquiries & further details please contact

betchworthandbucklandsociety@gmail.com

www.betchworthandbucklandsociety.org.uk



Cat Martin

THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH

One for the Diary—Monday 3rd March 2025

Special Interest Morning with light lunch 10.30am–2pm (approx.)

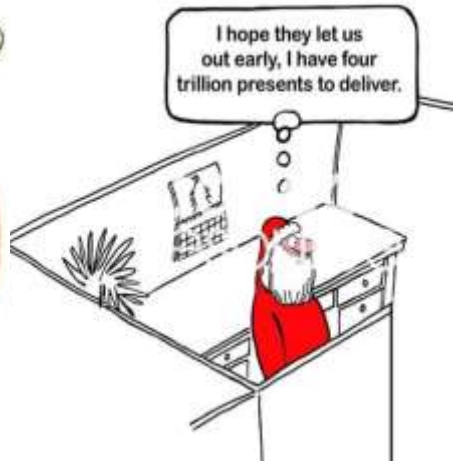
English 18th Century Porcelain presented by Jane Gardiner



Two lectures in Betchworth Village Memorial Hall, Station Road, RH3 7DF, plus mid-morning coffee and finger buffet lunch, £30 per person. Registration from 10.00am.

The Special Interest Morning will examine the early experiments into porcelain making in England in the middle years of the 18th century. We will look at the different pastes developed to achieve both whiteness and strength and consider the influence of both silver and continental porcelain on shapes and decoration. We also look back at Chinese and Japanese export wares as a source of inspiration. The lectures will feature Chelsea, Bow, Derby and Worcester porcelains. Tickets at £30 each can be booked by contacting John Bloomfield (01737 842980) or Christine Smart (01737 841597).

Carole Evans, www.theartsocietybetchworth.org.uk



BROCKHAM GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Brockham * Betchworth * Buckland

As you all may know, earlier in the year, Brockham Parish Council asked if any local people would be prepared to take on the responsibility of planting up and caring for one of the village planters. I volunteered to look after the one at the Strood Green bus stop. When I took it on it was heavily root bound and needed a considerable investment in soil and new plants to revitalise the display. The allowance from the Parish Council enabled me to purchase additional soil, a small salix suitable for planters and some perennials for pollinators. Brockham Green Horticultural Society kindly gave me additional funds from their Fortune Legacy to add summer bedding and spring bulbs. I'm sure that you will agree from the picture that it has looked beautiful all through the summer, as have the other planters which have been adopted by people in the village.

Dates For your diary:

Christmas Wreath, Garland and Table Decoration Workshop - Saturday 7th December 2:15 to 4pm – The Old Snooker Room, Brockham Village Hall

Costs per person are Wreath with ribbon £20, Table Decoration £15, Garland £15

If you are interested, please book a place (indicating your preference) asap by contacting us on the email address below.

The Earthworm – all you wanted to know but did not dare ask by Chris Stewart. Monday 17th February 2025. 7:30pm – 9pm Brockham Village Hall



Ruth Johnson, bghsociety@hotmail.com

Hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature.
To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body,
but the soul.

Alfred Austin (Poet 1835-1913)

NEW COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION EVENTS
BROOME PARK NURSING HOME
Station Road, Betchworth



Calling all knitters; join residents, their families, and staff for a morning of knitting, coffee and chat. Only basic skills required – we are knitting squares for blankets.

Our next date is Saturday 30th November 11am

DEMENTIA CAFÉ

Starting Saturday 4th January, 11am-1pm.

A relaxed space for those living with dementia, and their loved ones to meet, chat and support each other, with refreshments plus the odd activity thrown in for fun.

Anyone and everyone is welcome!



Are you handy with a hammer, saw or sandpaper and would you enjoy working alongside residents making simple things? (think 'man shed' but inside and open to women as well).

Come and join us!

Saturday 4th January 3pm onwards.

Fortnightly sessions. Ring 01737843333 to check times.

DORKING MUSEUM IN DECEMBER

The team at Dorking Museum offers warmest seasonal greetings to all readers and to the supporters and friends of the Museum.

Building between the vines – the story of the Denbies Lego house: Back in 2009, James May built a full-size Lego house with around 3.5 million bricks between the vines of the Denbies Wine Estate for the BBC television series James May Toy Stories. A new exhibition opens on 5th December, telling how and why it was built. Also specially designed Lego models with a Dorking connection, treasure hunt and other children's activities.

Family Activities at Dorking Library: Saturday 7th December, 10am-2pm: Even more Christmassy Creations: Craft activity with the Arts Society Dorking – including the children's contribution to the Museum's Christmas window display! Saturday 14th December, 10am-noon: Winter mini challenge: Can you make a bookmark?

Local books: From the recent exhibition, the book *Sweeping through history – 100 years of municipal vehicle manufacturing in Dorking* celebrates the 100th anniversary of Johnston Brothers moving to Dorking and the role that they have played in the town's industrial history.

Also updated and reprinted: *The Vanishing River of Box Hill*, revised by author Peter Brown to cover the 'disappearings' of recent years, with additional illustrations; and an amended 'Time Gentlemen, Please: the Story of Dorking Pubs' by David Langford and (Buckland's very own!) Jim Docking.

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street. Open Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. 01306 876591.

David Burton

Don't worry about what you eat between
Christmas and New Year.
Just be concerned about what you eat between the
New Year and Christmas.

Anon

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

**Crossword (p.18)
Solution**

A	B	L	E		Y	I	P	S		C	O	I	L	S
C	R	O	P		E	C	R	U		A	C	R	E	S
R	A	D	I	A	T	I	O	N		S	T	O	N	E
E	G	E	S	T		C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T	
					C	O	A	L	F	I	E	L	D	
A	B	S	O	L	V	E		E	M	E		F	A	B
S	I	M	P	L	E		E	S	E		M	O	D	E
I	D	E	A		R	E	N	T	S		E	R	I	S
D	E	L	L		S	A	D		T	A	R	G	E	T
E	S	T		S	I	R		D	E	V	I	O	U	S
					S	M	O	L	D	E	R	E	D	
	M	U	T	I	N	I	E	S		R	I	S	E	N
B	A	N	A	L		E	M	I	T	T	A	N	C	E
U	T	I	L	E		S	U	R	E		N	I	C	E
S	H	O	E	S		T	R	E	E		S	P	E	D

Wordsearch (p.20) Solution

U	G	S	D	C	M	F	A	M	I	L	Y
K	M	G	Y	H	T	L	A	E	W	I	M
P	C	N	N	R	O	R	E	P	M	E	E
O	F	I	O	I	S	T	M	D	L	H	G
O	N	K	S	S	R	E	H	T	A	F	R
R	T	C	I	T	E	E	N	R	T	K	E
A	U	O	R	M	T	G	F	E	E	M	E
I	O	T	P	A	H	R	A	F	E	E	K
G	V	S	T	S	G	E	R	L	U	D	C
C	E	N	T	R	U	R	Y	M	L	S	Y
O	D	G	D	S	A	L	O	H	C	I	N
T	T	H	I	R	D	B	O	R	N	T	V

Sudoku (p.20) Solution

6	2	1	4	7	9	8	5	3
3	4	9	8	6	5	1	7	2
8	7	5	1	2	3	6	9	4
1	6	2	5	4	8	9	3	7
9	3	4	7	1	6	2	8	5
5	8	7	9	3	2	4	6	1
2	1	6	3	9	7	5	4	8
7	9	8	2	5	4	3	1	6
4	5	3	6	8	1	7	2	9

BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

December 2024. Issue No. 1182

COPY DATE: Thursday 12 Dec



Articles Please submit articles for next months edition by the above date, via email to fernsdc@gmail.com. If possible please submit WORD format for text files, JPG for images and PDF for posters. New articles and contributors are welcomed. If in any doubt about whether an article could be published, please contact the Editor.

Editorial Views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the editor or other church staff.

Contact details This magazine is published by St. Mary's Church. Contact names, phone numbers and emails are provided as a service to readers, and these appear in the printed and web versions of the magazine with the permission of the individuals. Please advise the editor of any updates or corrections to the contact details.

AVAILABLE FROM: 20 Dec 2024



Distributors can collect on the above date. Household delivery will be up to a few days later.

HISTORICAL NOTES

A book on the History of Buckland is available: **Buckland 1000-2000 with 2020 Vision** by Duncan C Ferns. 300pp, over 250 illustrations and a 600-name index. Purchase from Squires Nursery Buckland, local Waterstones, Amazon online or request to fernsdc@gmail.com.

Buckland (then Bochelant) was mentioned in the Domesday Book as a village of 35 households, a church and a watermill. These days it is a picturesque village covering 1362 acres, with a total population of around 580 in 240 households. Buckland is in the Diocese of Southwark (*Bishop*: The Rt. Revd. Christopher Chessun) and the Area of Croydon (*Area Bishop*: The Rt. Revd. Rosemarie Mallett).

BUCKLAND READING ROOM ACTIVITIES

Regular activities in the Reading Room:

- Monday am Singing for Pleasure (1st & 3rd Mondays)
- Tuesday am Toddlers
- Tuesday 2.15pm Bridge Club
- Thursday 2.15pm Bridge Club
- Thursday evening Yoga
- Saturday pm Sugarcraft Guild (2nd Saturday)

*For booking enquiries please contact Jane Stewart, preferably by email:
Bookings4bucklandreadingroom@gmail.com or 07733 116992*

Arts Society, Betchworth	Carole Evans	01372 452563
Bell Ringers (<i>practice Friday evenings</i>)	David Sayce	242776
Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery	Laura Snelling	843610
Betchworth & Buckland Toddler Group	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Betchworth & Buckland Society (<i>Secretary</i>)	Nathalie Nichols	07801 967623
Betchworth Operatic & Dramatic Society	Diane Mayall	842758
British Legion	Maurice Daley	843058
Brockham Green Horticultural Society	Ruth & Paul Johnson	842691
Brockham Surgery/ <i>Chemist</i>	n/a	843259/842175
Buckland & Betchworth Choral Soc. (Sec.)	Jean Cooke	245161
Buckland Parochial Charity (<i>Clerk</i>)	Debbie Jones	07701 347351
Buckland Parish Council (<i>Clerk</i>)	Sheena Boyce	448023
Buckland Village Shop	Amy Snaith	845999
Children's Society	Margaret Miller	842098
Family Activities Betchworth & Buckland	Katrina Rea	07803 163868
North Downs Primary School	Jane Douglass	843211
Reading Room- Chairman	Tim Howe	844595
- Treasurer	John Maud	843530
- Secretary	Liz Vahey	221444
Reigate Pilgrims Cricket Club	Julian Steed	842220
St. Catherine's Hospice	Sheila Dyer	842046
Women's Institute	Margaret Miller	842098

Websites: *Church:* www.stmarythevirginbuckland.net;

Village: www.bucklandsurrey.org.uk

Printed by Barkers Print Ltd. 01306 888858 rob@barkersprint.co.uk
