There were once two brothers who were identical twins. Even though they looked alike, they were exact opposites when it came to their personalities. One brother was an optimist - he always saw good in everything and everybody. The other brother was a pessimist - he never saw good in anything.

One Christmas, their parents decided to try an experiment on them to see if there was any way that the two brothers could find some balance in their personalities. To the pessimist son, the parents gave a shiny bicycle. To their optimist son, they gave a bag of straw. They put the presents under the tree with the boys' names on them and waited to see what would happen.

On Christmas morning, the two boys discovered what they had received from their parents. Upon finding the bicycle, the pessimist proclaimed, 'A bicycle? Why did you give me a bicycle? It's too cold to ride outside, and I'll probably fall and hurt myself. I can't believe you gave me a bicycle!' The optimist opened his present, found the bag of straw and thought for a minute. Suddenly he ran to the garden and began looking around. His parents were completely puzzled, and they asked him, 'What are you doing?' To which he replied, 'Well, after getting a bag of straw, I just know there's a pony around here somewhere! I just haven’t found him yet!'

Are you a cup half full person or a cup half empty type? Do you have hope for the future or do you feel hopeless about the future?

There are signs of hope all around us but there is also a lot to feel hopeless about. We feel hopeless when we see the devastation of war in Syria and other places. We feel hopeless to know how to help in light of the refugee crisis. We feel hopeless as we watch the political situation both nationally and globally. We sometimes feel hopeless to cope with our own personal life whether that's in our relationships, health worries or at work. As I write this article, it is a cold winter's day. Yet there are signs of spring; as I walk past the trees I notice tiny buds beginning to form which will soon be leaves. Daffodils are beginning to poke up through the ground. There's the hope that spring will come, even in the depths of winter.

The world situation today can make us despair for the future or for our own welfare yet there is hope. There is hope in the beauty of nature, in the love of family or friends and there is hope in Jesus Christ. During March, Christians in Hurst Green are marking the season of lent. Lent is also a season of hope, hope in Jesus as we journey towards Easter.

So despite global uncertainty, or our personal circumstances don’t give up hope for good in your life and the world. Look out for those signs of hope and fix your eyes on Jesus our hope for salvation.  

Revd Karen Bell, Hurst Green Methodist Church

Tribute to Tony Pinner

On the morning of Tony's funeral, the church of St John's in Hurst Green was packed to the rafters, with people arriving over an hour before the service at 12 noon, to make sure of a seat. There were parking problems, made worse by the new development at the end of the lane.

Ladies were busy preparing the refreshment for after the service, and standard bearers from the local British Legion were getting ready to lead the funeral procession. Tony’s brother-in-law and nephews led the small family gathering.

More and more people arrived to add to the throng. The church was getting very crowded, the choir stalls were filled with people, and extra chairs were placed around the altar, and around the font at the other end of the church. But still people came, some having to stand at the back.

Tony’s coffin was carried into church to Lonnie Donegan's 'Putting on the style', since Tony had played in a skiffle group. The Revd Mary Seller led the service in her usual calm way. Many stories were recounted about Tony, his old van, his love of animals, especially foxes, the tree in his garden that he decorated with lights at Christmas, and above all, his generosity and kindness - how he would fix someone’s broken window and forget to charge them. His coffin left the church to Lonnie Donegan's 'Have drink on me'.

It was a wonderful tribute. It seemed as if the whole village wanted to show how much Tony was loved and respected, and how very much everyone was going to miss him.  

Pearl Hobson

There are only a few meetings where the committee gets together; the majority of the work can be done at a time that suits you. It’s not onerous, it is fun and it is very rewarding to be part of such a community based event.

We are holding a meeting on Thursday 9 March at 7.45pm in the York Rooms, St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green and we would like to invite anyone who is interested in getting involved with the Fair to come along and have a chat. If you can't make that evening, then please call Geoff Booth on 715748 for further details.

We very much hope to see you there.
Mighty Oaks Youth Club

It hardly seems possible, but we celebrated our sixth birthday the other day. The club thrives in its own particular way. For some of us, the stimulus that got it going was a very thorough, and disturbing, Report for Surrey Youth Crime Prevention Board about the situation in Hurst Green. Thirty adults and a lot of children had been quizzed for the Survey, and the report was published in April 2010. One of its main recommendations was that we should set up a Youth Club in the village.

With the help and guidance of folk from Surrey Services for Young People we went through all the processes for setting up the Club. Now we have about 100 youngsters on the roll, and 20 to 30 turn up on the regular Friday night meetings in the recently revamped Community Centre. The age range is from 10 to 13. The members pay a weekly subscription and there has been an ongoing fundraising campaign to supplement our income. Friday nights are what anybody would think of as a typical Youth Club programme, but that is not the end of the story. We organise a range of outings and events at other times that are very popular. The youngsters also take part in a number of community projects.

The whole venture relies on a dedicated group of volunteers, and we need to recruit willing helpers all the time to maintain our strength. We set ourselves the target of maintaining a ratio of one adult to every eight children on Friday nights. So please come along and join the team. There will be a proper induction process, and you will be made very welcome. Please contact Carmen Lambert Singer 01883 722846 or Tara Thomas 01883 372610.

Neville Jacobs, 01883 714127

Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired

Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired enjoyed a fabulous Scottish Afternoon, by courtesy of our resident Scot, Club Secretary Ian Garden, and his wife Alison.

Resplendent in Highland Dress, black jacket with silver buttons, lace jabot and cuffs, ancient Davidson tartan kilt, Ian explained how more than 200 years after the death of Robert Burns, wherever Scots might gather all over the world Burns Night is celebrated. Alison paraded in the Haggis, with suitable bagpipe accompaniment, Ian recited the address written by the Immortal Bard in splendid dialect, produced his skean dubh (his dagger) from the top of his hose and thrust it into the delicacy in the time-honoured fashion.

Members then enjoyed a plate of Haggis, with traditional ‘neeps and tatties’ - mashed swede and mashed potatoes - and even those who were unsure if they would like it tucked in and declared it delicious.

There followed a Scottish Quiz with some easy questions and some not so easy. ‘What is a mavis?’ and ‘What would you do with a tweed kettle?’ stumped most of the Sassenachs present. Apparently, the former is a song-thrush and you would eat the latter, as it is a fish dish. The afternoon concluded with a welcome cuppa, some cake, and the obligatory raffle. Members gave Ian and Alison a great round of applause to thank them for such a wonderful afternoon.

Diana Drysdale

The Club meets twice a month and details are included in the ‘Dates for your Diary’ section, page 3.

The Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road, Oxted (opposite Tandridge leisure pool)

SUNTRIP SPRING SALE

Thursday, 16 March, 10am - 12 noon

cakes ~ collectables ~ jewellery ~ gifts ~ raffle ~ books ~ fancy goods ~ tea & coffee

We are well known by many customers for our skilled work in upholstery. We also carry out a variety of repairs and are very handy with a needle and thread.

The Centre is open Monday to Thursday 9am - 12.30pm with breaks for Easter, summer and Christmas. We are delighted to receive visitors and have a large selection of handmade goods for sale: baby clothes, aprons, oven gloves, cushions, bags, scarves to name but a few. We are always looking for new members, both young and old. Why not come and see what we have to offer? If transport is a problem, call our Manager, Mrs Dee Graham, 715189, and we will try to help.
**EAST SURREY WALKERS**

*It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot, and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade* - Charles Dickens

For full details on the walks and on joining East Surrey Walkers, go to [www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk).

Most of the following March walks start at 10am:

- **Short walks**
  - Mon 6th Bletchingly - Di 717800
  - Tues 14th Oxted - Fiona/Tony 712303
  - Fri 24th Limpsfield - Linda 712184
  - Tues 28th Limpsfield Chart - Tony 716980

- **5-7 mile stroller walks**
  - Sun 5th Walton-on-the-Hill - Jennie 716523
  - Tues 7th Friday Street - Brian 01883 349129
  - Wed 8th Bletchingley - Jeff 01883 743269
  - Sat 11th Dorking - Gordon 01737 555452
  - Wed 15th Otford - Bob/Mike 0208 852 3821
  - Sun 19th Oxted - Amanda/Helen 712303
  - Wed 22nd Farleigh - Richard 01883 626694
  - Thurs 23rd Edenbridge - Jim 07795 447758
  - Sat 25th Godstone - Jeff 01883 743269
  - Wed 29th Mogador - Dan/Denise 01883 346714
  - Thurs 30th Chevening - Mike/Allan 715475

- **8-12 mile longer walks**
  - Sun 12th Staffhurst Wood - Anne 715781
  - Sat 18th Abinger - Julie/Sue 01293 782066
  - Sun 26th Wrotham, Kent - Len 01737 555452

---

**St John’s, Hurst Green**

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**

- **26 March at 9.30am**

  - *All age service with posies*
  - *Simnel Cake and sherry to share afterwards*

---

**Oxted & District Probus Club**

At their February lunch meeting members of Oxted & District Probus Club heard Dr Ray Peacock OBE give a stimulating talk entitled ‘A Baker’s Boy in the late 80s’. It was not actually about a bakery but about his involvement in the development of the National Curriculum under the then Minister of Education, Kenneth Baker MP.

As a Senior Engineer with the Philips Group, Dr Peacock was invited to join an advisory committee instigated by the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher and he was the only industry representative. The invitation probably came about because he had suggested to the Minister at an initial conference that what MPs needed in the House of Commons was a blackboard! As discussions of the planned National Curriculum continued, he led a delegation to Japan to see how maths was taught to children, a visit that proved to be most thought provoking.

Oxted & District Probus Club meets on the third Wednesday of most months at St Peter’s Hall, Limpsfield, RH8 0DG. The club provides an opportunity for retired business and professional men to meet together over lunch. We meet for pre-lunch drinks and chat, then have a 2 course lunch followed by a speaker.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the Club Secretary Bob Paterson, rpatersonr@aol.com, tel 01883 713597.

---

**Tandridge Handicraft Society, www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk**

The Society meets every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre. On 10 April at 2pm there will be a talk by Linda Walsh on Mixed Media textile art with examples, ‘Click and Stitch’. Visitors and new members are welcome, £5 entry including tea and biscuits. Come and join us.

More information from Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.

---

**Bletchingley Bowls Club: www.bletchingleybowl.co.uk**

If you fancy trying something new in 2017 which combines exercise, learning a new sport and making new friends and acquaintances together social activities throughout the year, then pay us a visit.

The outdoor season starts at the end of April and Bletchingley Bowls Club welcomes people of all ages and abilities. The Club was founded in 1929 and is based at Grange Meadow, Bletchingley on the A25 opposite the Bletchingley Arms. There are excellent facilities including a bar.

A coffee morning is being held on Saturday 8 April, 10am - 12 noon when you can view the Club. There will be an Open Day on Sunday 7 May from 2 - 6pm, followed by a series of ‘Play Bowls4Fun’ evenings on Friday 12, 19 and 26 May and 2 June, 7 - 9pm. All you need initially for the Open Day and ‘Play Bowls4Fun’ evenings is a pair of flat soled shoes; all other equipment will be provided. Coaching sessions will be available during the season for new members. To find out more, contact one of the following Committee members: Mike Stone, 714414; Patricia Dawson-Taylor, 715458 or Brian Rogers, 01959 509111.
ALEX JONES FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Renowned Caring Service
Private Chapel of Rest
Day & Night Attention, Monumental Masonry
A totally independent Family Concern
Tel 730383 or Lingfield 01342 832534

APARTMENT - SLEEPS 2/3
Stunning views, near St John's church & station. Self contained, fully equipped, private balcony. Weekend/mid week let. Ideal for visiting friends and family. 07831 865530

BOILER REPAIRS AND SERVICING
All gas appliances repaired, serviced & installed Power flushing. Westerham Plumbing & Heating Richard Day - Gas Safety Register 151580
Mobile: 07710 933153 712588

CAMERON BUILDING AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES LTD
All aspects of general building undertaken
www.cameronservices.co.uk
Mobile: 07855 894426 715856

CHARTFORDS TREES LIMITED
www.chartfords.co.uk
Qualified & Insured Tree Surgeons info@chartfords.co.uk 01883 406160

CHIRODIST HCP REGISTERED
Ingleadac Therapy Centre
Julie Reynolds 07766 141179

CLEANING SERVICES
Garden, Garage & House Clearance
Collections/Deliveries/Complete Removals
Paul 07850 970278 Office 713807

CRABWOOD www.crabwood.co.uk
Small self-contained flats for independent senior citizens, affordable rents, unfurnished, resident part-time manager, gardens, close to Oxted centre
manager@crabwood.co.uk 07963 669452

CROZET ALARMS LTD
Local company that installs, maintains, repairs, and services Burglar Alarms, CCTV and Door Entry Systems. For a free survey and quotation: enquiries@crozet.co.uk or 723458

DAY’S GARAGE
Car sales, MOT, Service & repairs, Bodywork
17 Hurst Green Road, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9BS
01883 730058

DENISE MODLOCK, Dip Counselling
MBACP Relationship issues, Depression Anxiety. Don’t suffer alone. See how counselling can help. Contact: 07887 842788 denise@modlock@hotmail.co.uk

DEWDNEY LANDSCAPING
Hard & soft landscaping, domestic or commercial
Email: info@dewdneylandscaping.co.uk www.dewdneylandscaping.co.uk
Contact Robert Dewdney 01959 439818

FAIRALLS
For all building materials
www.fairalls.co.uk 742256

FIRST POST FENCING
Complete domestic fencing specialists
Fully insured 01883 717942 or mobile 07795 455667 www.firstpostfencing.co.uk

GARDENING SERVICES
Regular maintenance to one-off clearance work.
Veg plots/ponds/rockeries a speciality. Friendly, reliable and tidy. References available.
Simon M:07936 285032 H:01342 325176

GREENWELLS TREE SURGEONS
All aspects of tree work
E-mail: info@greenwells treesurgeons.co.uk www.greenwells treesurgeons.co.uk
Contact Stuart Rimmington 01959 561101

GUITAR TUITION
No grades, no boring scales: play the songs you like in a short space of time. 723311

H2O PLUMBING SERVICES
General plumbing, bathroom installations, alterations, no job too small. Free quotes.
City & Guilds trained MI/RP
Richard - Mobile 07867 450420 or 07808 19383

HURST GREEN BUSY BEES
PRE-SCHOOL AND FOREST SCHOOL
Early learning in a homely environment www.hurstgreenbusybees.com 722796

I.T. AIDE
Mobile 07799 164993 714369

JACKSON-STOPPS & STAFF
National estate agents with local knowledge
www.jackson-stops.co.uk 712375

JEM HOME SERVICES
General House & Garden Maintenance
Painting, Tiling, Carpentry, General DIY Pruning, Weeding, Hedge/Tree/Grass Cutting
Call Jon - Mobile 07906 029813 712905

KAVBRO BUILD LTD
Units S & T, Lambus Business Park Tilhurst Hill, South Godstone, RH9 8LJ
All Building Work Undertaken 722100

KIND HOST FAMILIES NEEDED
Overseas students (11-18 years) studying locally need kind people to stay with for occasional weekends and half term holidays. Pay per night.
english-country-guardians.co.uk 712792

KINGSMEAD PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC
www.kingsmeadphysio.co.uk
224 Pollards Oak Road, Hurst Green R Galloway, J Moses 712987

KNIGHTS GARDEN CENTRES
Betchworth Nag's Hall
www.knightsgardencentres.com 742275

LA BELLE ROOFING COMPANY LTD
www.labelleroofing.co.uk
All Aspects of Roofing Systems - Built-up-felt, Asphalt, Tiling mail@labelleroofing.co.uk 01959 577797 Jason Mobile 07887 541499

LAUREN’S HOME HAIR STYLING
www.homehairsyling.co.uk
07799 177695

LEE’S LOCKS
24 emergency locksmith. No call out charge.
Locks fitted to insurance BS3621. OAP discounts
01883 840042 or 07921 068564

MGBUILD
Extensions, Loft Conversions, Kitchens… Big enough to cope, small enough to care 07553 264254 01732 865066 www.mgbUILD.net

TO ADVERTISE, please ring 717473 or e-mail: rascals@rogerlugg.co.uk

MOTORCYCLES WANTED
Pre 1980 motorcycles bought for cash - any condition running/not, British/Japanese/Italian etc
Mobile: 07956 465466 Home: 723683

MR COMPUTING LTD
Local mobile computer repair and maintenance.
No fix, No fee & No Call-out charge.
Virus; Internet; networks & new Dell pcs.
Call Mark or Sue 730345

NICHOLLS BUILDERS LTD
Mobile 07850 850175 717062

PAINTER & DECORATOR
M. J. White-Howels. Over 25 years experience
Mobile 07771 632203 713251

PAINTER & DECORATOR
Caroline Mee NVO Qualified, Fully Insured High Quality Finish Mobile 07887 514915 717278

PAYNE & CO
Independent estate agents and valuers since 1937 www.payneandeaco.com 01883 712261

PETER MAYNARD
Seasoned LOGS delivered any size.
Hedges, Tree work, Grass mowed and strimmed.
Fencing undertaken 717563

PIANOS TUNED & REPAIRED
Peter Franklin 716752

RH HEATING AND PLUMBING
Highly recommended local family business offering installation, servicing and repairs 717214 or 07580 712714

R. M. DEAN DECORATING LIMITED
Professional Interior and Exterior Decorators Checkatrade registered 01342 836433 07783 805347

SBS HEATING SERVICES
Boiler Servicing/Installation/Repair Gas Safety Registration No 199283
Mobile 07801 427641 712268

STEPHEN GEAL
Painter & Decorator
All interior & exterior decorating
Fully insured Mobile 07714403598 712727

STEVEN HAWKINS PLUMBING & HEATING LTD
Heating & plumbing services, bathroom installation, tiling, boiler changes, cylinder replacements. City & Guilds Gas Safe registered
Tel 01732 863183 Mob 07980 610691

STONEMANS FUNERAL SERVICE
Family owned run; private chapel; prepaid funeral plans; home visits 740123

SYCAMORE COURT
Oxted retirement apartments with services 24 hour staff, alarm call, domestic assistance, laundry and lunches if required www.sycamorecourt.co.uk 723500

W. A. TRUELOVE & SON LTD
Funeral Directors & Monumental Craftsmen
49 Station Road East, Oxted, RH8 0AX
An Independent Family Firm since 1885 www.watltd.co.uk 732000