



HURST GREEN NEWS

May 2021

May the Force (of Nature) Be with You!

If I have learned one thing over my working years and this past lockdown year, it is that a sense of humour really helps to keep one going. One of my ex-pupils used to be so excited to say 'May the FOURTH be with you' on May 4th each year. It still makes me chortle. Did you know that Lewis Carroll invented 'chortle' in his poem Jabberwocky, still one of my favourites - 'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves did gyre and gimble in the wabe; all mimsy were the borogoves and the mome raths outgrabe'. The hero, 'beamish boy', manages to slay the Jabberwock, to the delight of his father who 'chortled in his joy'. Maybe you have had your Jab - we hope so, and that we might soon be 'galumphing back' to some sort of normality. My friend posted on Facebook that he had his 'Jabberwock' and reassured me that his borogoves were still mimsy!

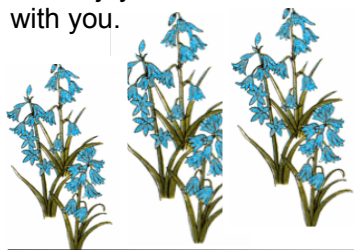


The Jabberwock, as illustrated by John Tenniel, 1871

May should hopefully see larger groups of us being able to meet and indulge in indoor sports or watching performances and large events. How we have missed them. However, haven't we had the space and time to enjoy in more depth the 'Force of Nature'?

St John's congregants have gathered weekly on Zoom to discuss Care for God's Creation and how we can do at least small things to tread more lightly on our beautiful world, preserving its carbon, eliminating waste and packaging, enjoying its variety and revelling in its beauty. Hasn't the bird song been amazing this year? However, not from sparrows whose population in our country is down by 95% since 1970?

We are all of us now, old and young alike, thoroughly determined to protect the natural world, creatures, flowers, trees ('Tumtum' ones of course), the 'tulgey woods' that will be gloriously full of scented bluebells and we are praying that our 'manxome foe' - COVID 19 - will be well and truly defeated soon. Meanwhile, take care, stay safe and enjoy God's World - May GOD and the FORCE OF NATURE be with you.



Wendy Hewitt, Lay Reader St John's



Christian Aid, 10-16 May

This year we have decided, restrictions permitting, to provide RED deliver-only envelopes with an invitation to drop off your donation at various points around Hurst Green. The drop-off points will be on the envelopes and will anyway include The Vicarage at 14 Oast Road.

We would be really pleased if you could deliver envelopes during your daily walk. They will be in a plastic box on the steps of St John's. There is a list of roads, with the number each road requires and a pencil to confirm that road has been done. The box will be available from Monday 3 May and envelopes can be delivered from 3 to 16 May.

Any queries, please contact us:



Debbi/Phil Harris
730364 or
harris540@btinternet.com
Thank You

This poem 'Simply' has been forwarded to us by one of our readers and the author, Simon Richey, has given us permission to include it. The poem, in a mindful way, opens our eyes - and ears - to the wonders of the world around us.



Simply

There are small birds
at the end of the garden
that early in the morning
start up their singing.

I think of their song
as coming straight out
of the present, untouched
by what happens
afterwards or before
so that simply to hear them
is to hear them and nothing more.

Simon Richey

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

St John's is open for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm. From the end of April there will be a 9am service of Holy Communion in the church and a 10.30am outdoor service for all ages (weather permitting). For updates and the latest information on all services and events, please check church websites given below.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road
(day off - Monday)

Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 715675, 11 Home Park

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Monica Fenton, 715769
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted - 627762

St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham

Parish Priest Fr Stephen, 713776

www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

METHODIST CHURCH, HURSTLANDS

Minister Stephen Mares - 020 3719 4644

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 712017, Pastor@hgec.org.uk
www.hgec.org.uk

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God

21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 730406

oxtedurc@gmail.com

Minister: Graham Dadd, 07894 507467

www.oxtedurc.org.uk

St Agatha's Hall has joined the Tandridge Together Lottery



supporting

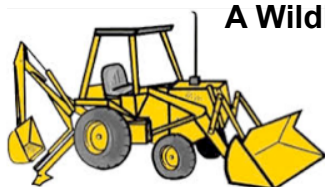


St Agatha's Hall has joined the Tandridge Together Lottery as a good cause that you can support. We need your help so we can continue to offer and even expand our service!

Tickets cost £1 per week and each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000. 50% of tickets sold via our page go to St Agatha's Hall to help us continue to support our community in our 126th Year. Please do support and share with your friends. You can purchase tickets via our page:

www.tandridgelottery.co.uk/support/st-agathas-church-hall

Thank you for your support and good luck!



A Wildlife Garden (Part 2)

By 2008 my garden wasn't so much a wildlife garden, but a wild one! The grass had to be strimmed as no mower would cope and the very long privet hedge was in dire need of some TLC!

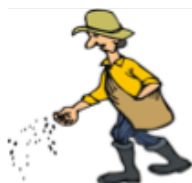
The solution arrived in the sturdy form of John, an old mate of my late husband. He came in the back way through the jungle and said 'This needs some work!' Very much an understatement! He offered to help, although how I wasn't sure: 'Give me a free hand' - and I agreed.

A few days later he turned up with a small JCB. My heart sank at first, but John explained what he intended to do. Practically everything went - a small grove of bird cherry, shrubs, grass, turf, leaving only Kate's garden (one of our Springer Spaniels), a tiered rockery and my lovely buddleia - John would probably have taken that if I hadn't stopped him! He prepared the soil, raking it into a fine tilth and sowed a wild flower mix. I said 'That will be lovely in a few months'. John said 'It doesn't work like that, people think all you have to do is scatter the seed and up it comes. But like all plants, they need to be nurtured and happy, and gardeners need patience.'

At first it was all grass and it did look neat. Slowly different grasses began to appear and I began to count the flower species - first daisies and buttercups, red an white clover, hawkbit and speedwell. In summer 2020 I counted 25 species of wild flowers and grasses. The latest was lesser stitchwort, like tiny stars, probably blown in from the fields at the back.

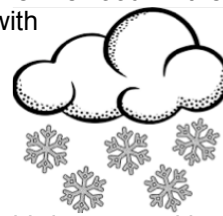
Now it was up to Michael, my new gardener to care for it, as John returned to other duties.

Next time I'll write about the fauna that live in my wildlife garden. *Suzanne Hill, Old Oxted*



Hurst Green Garden Club

Is that snow I see? Well, it is Easter, when as boys we traditionally went camping, hoping for fine weather, and ALWAYS ending up getting wet and cold (the trick was to keep some firewood in the tent). Here I am stuck indoors with an injured foot from too much planting. The unfamiliar restriction and pain serve to remind me of those for whom that is their normal situation. In the meantime the garden is bursting with life and colour, birds are seeking out nesting bits. My garden, being rather chaotic and mixed up, is a paradise for wildlife, all part of the Grand Plan of course!



The lack of rain means watering pots and newly located plants become even more important. Even when it does rain, don't rely on that alone, keep watering. Now is a good time to sort out your pots of hostas, maybe splitting them or repotting them into larger pots. Time now to deal with vine weevil in heucheras and disporopsis. If you are re-potting or moving them, do check the old soil or compost very thoroughly for the vine weevil grubs.

Being out of action for a while may be a warning of things to come, so now I have enforced time to review what I may not be able to do in the future and look at changes to the garden, before they are forced on me.

Whatever the size of your garden, there is always something to do, even if it is just being part of nature. Speaking of which, have you seen the patch of blue spring squill in Chestnut Copse?

Brian Parrott

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The month of May

Did you know that May is the modern-day English adaptation of the Latin word *Maius* which goes back to the time of the ancient Greeks who named the month after the Greek goddess of growth? May can be a wonderful month in the garden and in the countryside with the birds chirping, flowers blooming and blossom on the trees. But if you're on the other side of the world, in the southern hemisphere, then it's a time when summer is long gone and the nights are getting colder and darker. It's a time of change, no matter where in the world you are.

May Day is the first day of May and traditionally a celebration of spring and the resurrection of nature after the winter months. It is normally associated with flowers, dancing and maypoles with celebrations sometimes including the crowning of a May Queen or May King. On May Day, people would traditionally collect flowers, blossom and branches to decorate their homes. Women and girls would rise early and wash their faces in the fresh morning dew, as this was believed to make them radiant, reduce blemishes and attract their future spouse.

The Maypole was the centre of the celebrations and the dancing. Originally, this was a large tree in the forest that was decorated in situ, but later it was cut down and brought to the village (or community) and decorated with flowers, wreaths, handkerchiefs and ribbons. The dance around it was an expression of the joy of new life.



May Day was banned by the Puritans but was reinstated during the Restoration period under Charles II. It was very popular in Victorian times when there was a revival of the adornment and dancing around the Maypole by girls and still continues, albeit in a more limited way, in some parts of the country today.

Walks with a view

Isn't it nice to have a walk with a view? The local walker is very blessed with some special views. If there were prizes awarded for the best local views, which would be on your list? Here is mine:

Views of Hurst Green – the footpath across Tandridge Golf Course, but better still the view from the eastern end of Pastens Lane, which is particularly fine at sunset.

Most Unexpected view – the view of Canary Wharf and the City of London from the permissive path behind Chaldons Farm, Gangers Hill.

Finest Bucolic vista – as you emerge from the woods on the footpath from Pastens Lane to Tenchleys Manor.

Houses – Titsey Place from the top path east of Pitchfont Lane. Best of all, the vantage point over Chartwell House from the path in the woods to the west. A world class view.

Greatest variety – Mariner's Hill, where a short level circular stroll encompasses views eastward along the North Downs towards Maidstone, southwards to Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough, Ashdown Forest and then westwards to Gatwick, Leith Hill and the South Downs.

Best spots for sitting and reading with a view – the seat dedicated to Sarah Mackenzie, a short distance north from the Gangers Hill car park, which has a fine view across Marden Park. Even better, the seat as you come out of the woods of Toys Hill on the Greensand Way heading towards Ide Hill.

Best view of our area – the two seats just south of the road at the top of Gangers Hill, near the car park.

Best view of all – westwards from the site of the great house of Weardale on Toys Hill, stretching to the South Downs and the Hampshire border. Truly magnificent at sunset.

Michael Harman



St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the
Booking Administrator:
07586 863079 or
aggiesshall@gmail.com
or complete the form on the website:
stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html

East Surrey Walkers

We are delighted to report that our walks will recommence from 1 May. The programme is currently being arranged and will be available, with details of how to book, at:
www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk.

Bookings will open a week before the walk and are made direct with the walk leader. In addition to Government regulations on the number of walkers, walk leaders will nominate the maximum number of participants they are prepared to lead on individual walks. Walks operate in accordance with social distancing protocols; please bring your own mask, sanitisers etc.

To give you a bit more information about East Surrey Walkers, we were formed in 1983, originally as East Surrey Ramblers. Our primary aim is to enjoy walking in the countryside with an interesting variety of scenery; we walk in Surrey, Kent, Sussex and occasionally London. Each week we offer walks on most days with a range of distances between 3 and 12 miles. There are walks for all levels of ability.

East Surrey Walkers do much more than just walk. A varied programme of social events includes walking holidays. We are also active in protecting and improving the local rights of way network. Member volunteers include path checkers and light maintenance task members. A monthly work party carries out larger tasks such as repairing or replacing 'furniture' - stiles, gates, way marks and figure posts etc.

Although our social and maintenance activities are currently subject to Covid 19 restrictions, we can still enjoy physical and mental well-being as well as companionship and friendship through walking.



PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 15 April | Janet Lyons |
| 22 April | Ian Petherick |
| 23 May | Ann Dawson |
| | (Interment of ashes) |

St John's Book of Remembrance
To have a name entered, please email
office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk



Oxted Band – plans for 2021

Unfortunately the Government's 'Roadmap' out of lockdown has meant the postponement of this year's Spring Concert for Oxted Band, but they are hopeful the other planned concerts will go ahead. They have been requested to play at Bletchingley Fair on 27 June and Godstone Fete on 30 August.

All being well, the following two concerts should take place at St John's Church, Hurst Green this year: the 'Stars of Brass' Autumn Concert with Zoe Lovatt Cooper on Saturday 23 October; and the Christmas Concert on Saturday 11 December.

The Band also hopes to arrange a local event, possibly at Holland Sports Ground, one summer evening. All these events will be subject to restrictions being lifted and Government guidance. Further details will be communicated when possible. Please check the Band's website for the latest information: **www.oxtedband.co.uk**

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