



HURST GREEN NEWS

March 2022

Snowdrops

Well, 2022 is Marching on as you read this News. Who knows what the year ahead will bring, but we anticipate with all our hearts that spring will unfold bringing colour and life to the world, renewing our HOPE.



I have been learning about snowdrops. These are already emerging in gardens, woods and in the countryside. The Latin name is *Galanthus nivalis* - milk flower of the snow. They originated from Europe, and it is said that there are over 2,500 different varieties, 19 wild ones. Certainly, at RHS Wisley Gardens many different types can be seen, some even flowering in autumn. Though they look fragile and humble with downturned heads, they are tough, surviving even in snow. Don't they look magical in huge white drifts like snow in our woodlands!

They are also not just insignificant little flowers. Last year a mail order company in Ipswich was paid £725 for seed of *Galanthus woronowii* 'Elizabeth Harrison'. This variety has a golden yellow ovary and yellow petal markings!

The bulbs of snowdrops are poisonous and are a good defence against hungry deer grazing on flowers or squirrels digging up bulbs. This perhaps led to superstitions of not allowing snowdrops to be cut and brought inside. However, snowdrops also have a substance in them called galantamine that helps treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. It has been used to treat memory problems since I was born in the 1950s. Perhaps I should investigate this!

More than anything, I am reminded that snowdrops are a symbol of hope and purity, the consolation of coming spring after hard winter and the promise of rebirth. Snowdrops remind us of sympathy for someone struggling. They have three pure white outer petals encircling the inner petals that are notched and usually have green marks. The church in the past has used snowdrops as a reminder that God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit three in one, surround and protect us. Wordsworth wrote a famous sonnet to the humble snowdrop including the lines 'Nor will I then thy modest grace forget, Chaste Snowdrop, venturous harbinger of spring, and pensive monitor of fleeting years.'

Time flies by, especially for those of us who are older. May we, as spring moves into summer, not forget to pause and reflect on God's beautiful creation, holding on to HOPE no matter what the weather.

Wendy Hewitt, Lay Reader St John's

Yo Yos

York Rooms Youngsters is a friendly local playgroup for parents and carers with babies through to pre-school children. Yo Yos meets in the York Rooms, St John's Church, Church Way, Hurst Green on Wednesdays in term time, 9.15 - 11.30am. There is tea, coffee and cake (for adults) plus snacks for the little ones. Discretionary donation of £1 per family.

For more information e-mail office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

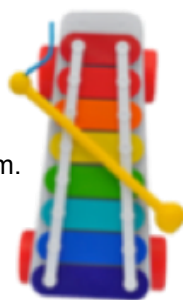
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Editor/Producer wanted for Hurst Green News

Due to a reorganisation, we have an exciting opportunity for someone to take over the production of Hurst Green News which is published each month.

This involves contacting people and organisations for articles, reviewing and editing the articles, and arranging the design and layout of each edition.

This is a paid post with an annual salary of £2,300 and four weeks paid leave.

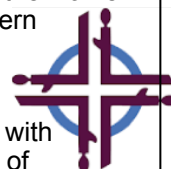
It's a lovely way to connect with and be part of the local community.

If you are interested, please email the Hurst Green News Compiler for further details including a job description hgncompiler@gmail.com Closing date for applications is 18 March 2022.

World Day of Prayer

At 10am on Friday 4 March this year's World Day of Prayer will be held at St John's Church, Hurst Green, and at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Oxted.

All are welcome to attend this ecumenical service, planned this year by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Do come!



The UK has witnessed many changes during this last year with Covid and the challenge of staying in touch with family and friends, but on Friday 4 March we unite with people throughout the world, beginning in the Pacific Islands and New Zealand, using the same service.

In 1930 the first UK service was held in Scotland, in England in 1932, in Wales in 1933 and only in 1943 in Northern Ireland, and every year since! Each year a different country plans the service to be used. It will be Taiwan next year.

Doris Wright

Family and friends of Doris Wright (1930 - 2022) will be celebrating her life on Monday 28 February.

If you would like to join us, please contact Jacqueline on 07884 110700 for details.

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's Church there are services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 8.30am (said) and 9.45am. The 9.45am service is sung (service also available via Live Stream) - you are requested to wear a mask. The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm. For updates and the latest information, please check websites below.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road (day off - Monday)
Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 715675, 11 Home Park
Curate: Lotwina Farodoeye, lotwina@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:

Monica Fenton, 715769
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
 21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 730406
oxtedurc@gmail.com
 Graham Dadd, 07894 507467
www.oxtedurc.org.uk



New Manager for The Woodhouse Centre

The Woodhouse Centre Trustees are delighted to introduce Liz Martin-Lawrence as the new Manager. The role is central to the success and community at Centre, including Men in Sheds. It involves the day-to-day running of the Centre, developing activities, recruiting and managing volunteers, and cultivating relationships with partners and supporters. Liz is enthusiastic about the role and the Centre's objectives to reduce social isolation. Most recently, Liz has been

Assistant Manager at The BRIDGES Centre, a community hub in Edenbridge. and she will begin her new role on 1 March 2022.

Outgoing Manager, Dee Graham, at the helm for 30 years, announced her decision to retire in September but agreed to stay on until the end of March, to help with the transition of a new Manager. Plans are in hand to celebrate Dee's contribution to The Woodhouse Centre.



The Centre is a 'workshop' for people living in Oxted and surrounding areas, where men and women participate in a variety of handicraft and woodworking activities. The cheerful, busy environment inspires creativity, enables productivity, and encourages social companionship. It was founded by Mrs Betty Woodhouse in 1971. From small beginnings in an old school, the Centre is now housed in Hoskins Road, Oxted, in a large purpose-built building opposite Tandridge Leisure Pool. Mrs Woodhouse, who died in 1995, was awarded the MBE in 1981 in recognition of her untiring work in setting up the Centre and other local projects. For further information, contact Dee Graham, the Manager at thewoodhousecentre@gmail.com or call 01883 715189.

www.thewoodhousecentre.org.uk

The Woodhouse Centre

Hoskins Road Oxted
 opposite the Leisure Centre



SPRING SALE

Thursday 24 March, 10am - 12 noon
 cakes, collectables, raffle, books, fancy goods, tea/coffee, woodwork, new products
 Open to all - we look forward to seeing you

Hurst Green Gardening Club

*Thrusting from below
 Everywhere, like tips of spears
 Spring bulbs surfacing*



This Haiku poem may seem a bit late by the time you read it, but even spring bulbs don't all come out at the same time. It may depend where they are in your garden, and yours will not necessarily be the same as those of your neighbours. To learn more about planting for a long season, come along to our meeting on 9 March when Fergus Garrett from Dixters will share his knowledge on that subject.

We are now back to regular meetings and events with a full programme for 2022. Well, almost full, with a few speakers yet to fit in later this year. If there are any topics you would like covered, please let me know. Our February meeting was well attended, and included several new faces. Membership at £10 per year is a bargain and it is always a pleasure to share a common interest, whatever the size of your own bit of garden.

Fairtrade Fortnight, 21 February - 6 March 2022

During Fairtrade Fortnight, individuals and groups join to celebrate the people in developing countries who grow our food, but are often underpaid and exploited. This year's focus is climate change, which poses growing problems to farmers and workers in countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Honduras, who have contributed least to its causes. Droughts, crop disease, floods, heatwaves and shrinking harvests are among the challenges they face. Choosing to buy fair trade, ethical food and drink, is everyday activism, and the simplest way to change the world. It helps farmers and growers earn enough to feed their families, send their children to school and provide a future for their local community.

Please visit the Fairtrade stall in the York Rooms at St John's Church on:

Friday 4 March After the 10am World Day of Prayer service (see p. 1)
Saturday 5 March 6-8pm Cheese and Wine evening with Fairtrade Wine and local cheese - all welcome!
Sunday 6 March Following the 9.45am communion service

Traidcraft Sale Friday, 4 March, 2 - 4pm, to mark Fairtrade Fortnight Oxted United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane



Sale with tea, coffee and cakes. We hope you can join us for a chance to catch up with friends and to buy some Fairtrade goodies. In accordance with current church protocols, you will be asked to wear a mask when moving around the building, and to use antibacterial gel on arrival.

Lent Lunches at St John's

There will be a mid week Eucharist at

**St John's Church
 on Wednesdays at 12 noon
 beginning on 2 March 2022.**

From 9 March until 13 April, this will be followed by a simple lunch of delicious home made soup and rolls in St John's Room.



Everyone is very welcome to come along.

Dates for your Diary 2022

- 4 Mar ...and every Friday, Oxted Country Market, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted, 9.30-11.30am cakes & savouries, vegetables, eggs, crafts. To order in advance, call 01883 623273
- 9 Mar Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm Contact: Brian Parrott 723916
- 10 Mar Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, from 7.45pm: 'O for a slice of naughty but nice', Kate McBain More information from Jan Ward, 01883 712143
- 14 Mar Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2.45- 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church: Music, Movement and Fun, Jill Fortune Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031
- 28 Mar Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, Alix Lewer and The Include Choir

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator:

07769 001796

or aggieshall@gmail.com

or complete the form on the website:

**stagathashall.weebly.com/
contact.html**



East Surrey Walkers - a Smuggler's Tale

I have on a number of occasions stated that walking provides not only health benefits but also the opportunity to learn a little local and social history. Please check our walks on our website: www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk; you may discover some gems.

The village of Godstone is many miles from the coast, so how does it feature in a story of piracy? The link is John Edward Trenchman, a 17th Century pirate and smuggler. Trenchman grew up London's docklands, a thriving port teeming with sailing ships and sailors, many from far off exotic lands. At the age of 12 he ran away to sea and joined the crew of Henry Morgan, the notorious Caribbean pirate. This was not by chance. Trenchman had been inspired by tales of gold and adventure on the Spanish Main. He was involved in many acts of piracy, frequently attacking Spanish ships. Political influences came to the fore and in order to avoid another war with Spain, the Crown took action to eradicate English piracy. Under such pressure Trenchman returned to England. He organised a successful smuggling network establishing a route to bring contraband, using pack horses, from the south east coast to Croydon.

In 1687 a member of Trenchman's gang was arrested after a fight in an ale house, recognised as a smuggler and sent for trial. In order to avoid death by hanging he turned King's evidence and provided information about the smuggling operation run by Trenchman. Customs men and soldiers ambushed the gang at Tilburstow Hill. Shots were fired and only Trenchman managed to escape the scene. However, he had been fatally wounded. He apparently made it to the 'Fox and Hounds' Inn where he died a few hours later.

The villagers of Godstone took pity on the pirate and buried him in an unmarked grave at the south end of the St Nicholas churchyard. It is said that shortly after the burial, two grave diggers were hotly pursued through the churchyard of St Nicholas Church by a man in seaman's clothing, who had leapt up from behind a headstone. Other reports were made by villagers of seeing a spooky figure dressed in seaman's clothing 'haunting' the churchyard. Ultimately the priest and churchwardens decided to re-bury Trenchman with a full Christian service. His grave is marked by a distinctive headstone bearing skull and crossbones carving. Following the reburial in consecrated ground, there were no more sightings of the figure in seaman's clothing.

Many of our walks begin in Godstone and pass through the churchyard on a public footpath. Trenchman's grave is adjacent to the footpath. Why not join one of the walks and see if you can spot the headstone? It's very distinctive.

ESW wish you happy walking. *Stephen Hanks*



Witch Hazel

As a child, if I sustained a bruise, a sprain or a graze, my mother would apply cotton wool soaked in witch hazel. It was comforting, but I was never convinced

that it made me better. The witch hazels are winter flowering, deciduous shrubs of the *Hamamelis* family, commonly found in gardens. The supposed therapeutic properties originate from the polyphenols extracted from one of the species, but any real benefit has always been disputed.

The plant has no connection with witches, its name comes from an Old English word 'wiche' meaning 'bendable', as their stems were often used for water divining. To me, their curious flowers are one of the delights of winter. Each one comprises four very thin, elongated petals, that have a spidery form, coloured yellow, orange or red depending on the species, and often, a spicy fragrance. *Mary Seller*

Wildlife to look out for in early spring

The loud percussion of the great spotted woodpecker is one of the first sounds of spring, hammering out its territory on a tree.

Meanwhile badger cubs are born underground. You may see fresh heaps of soil outside sett entrances,

but you won't see the cubs outside yet for a few months. In tree-holes and nest-boxes tawny owls may already be nesting.

Queen bees are among the first insects of the year to be seen on the wing, feeding on winter-flowering honey suckle, primroses and pussy willow catkins. The first butterflies of spring are small tortoiseshell, peacock and brimstone.

Look out as they flutter by exploring hedgerows and gardens for early sources of nectar.

More info at www.surreywildlifetrust.org



PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage

*We wish them every happiness
in their future lives together:*

12 February Colin William Cross and
Jane Linda Sherwood

Funerals

*Our sympathy goes to all
their relatives and friends:*

9 February Terence ('Terry')
Simpson-Smith
10 February Gavin Pedleham

St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered, please email
office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Tandridge Handicraft Society

Monday 14 March, 2pm

Woodhouse Centre
Hoskins Road car park, Oxted
'CRUISING AND QUILTING'

Talk with examples by Jan Allston
Visitors welcome, £5 entry includes
tea & biscuits More info:
Jenny Beal, 01883 620730
www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk

St John's Church MOTHERING SUNDAY 27 March, 9.45am

Family friendly all age
service with posies

Simnel cake to share afterwards



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St John's Room, St John's Church,
fortnightly: **10.30am - 12 noon**
Thursdays 10 & 24 March
For a lift, ring Barbara on 715636.



Gatton Community Theatre THE PASSION 2022

Opportunities for all ages 8+ to get involved in this large community event, as a participant or in other aspects of the production. To find out more, come along to our

FREE drama workshops at 2.30pm on

Saturday 5 and/or Sunday 6 March

All Saints Church, South Merstham, RH1 3HA.

Open air promenade performances (x 8) will take place at Gatton Park, Reigate, between 14 and 23 July. www.gattontheatre.org.uk

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