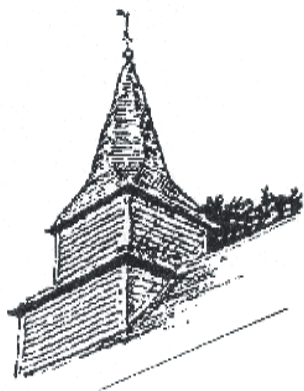




VILLAGE MAGAZINE

APRIL 2024



GREATHAM • EMPHOTT • HAWKLEY • PRIORS DEAN



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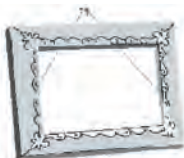
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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- 6th(Sat) Empshott & Hawkley Gardeners Club Spring Show
in Hawkley Village Hall (*see page 6*) 3.00pm
- 7th(Sun) First Sunday Fun, Hawkley (*page 4*) 10.15am
- 8th(Mon) Yewlian Meeting at Priors Dean church (*page 4*) 7.00pm
- 13th(Sat) HEN Clothes Swap & new playground opening at
Greatham Village Hall (*see pages 11 & 17*) 10am - 12 noon
- 13th(Sat) Jazz & Tapas Evening at The Hawkley Inn (*page 7*)
- 15th(Mon) Empshott & Hawkley Gardeners Club Talk (*page 6*) 7.15pm
- 15th(Mon) Greatham Village Hall Trustees meeting, village hall 7.30pm
- 16th(Tues) Talk 'The Resurrection Christ' (*page 4*) 2.00pm
- 18th-20th Winton Players production of 'Tons of Money' in
Petersfield Festival Hall (*details on page 8*)
- 20th(Sat) Hawkley Good Companions to Winton Players production

May

- 2nd(Thurs) Hawkley Good Companions to Petworth House
- 4th(Sat) Empshott & Hawkley Gardeners Club Bring & Buy Plant
Sale on Upper Green (*see page 6*) 10.00am - 11am

HAWKLEY AND EMPSHOTT EMAILING LISTS

If you would like to sign up for notification of activities and events in our parishes please send an email to:

Hawkley: maggie.johnson01@gmail.com

Empshott: empshottevents@gmail.com

ARTICLES FOR THIS MAGAZINE may be sent to the editor, Carol Ashby, at Stable Cottage, Empshott, Liss, GU33 6HS or by email to carol_ashby@hotmail.com **BEFORE the 17th of each month.**

If you want to book a whole page for an event it's best to let me know as early so as to avoid disappointment!

Greatham, Empshott and Hawkley with Priors Dean

Deputy Editor

to work alongside Carol Ashby with a view to enabling our Village Magazine flourish and expand its value in our communities.

For an informal conversation contact either
Carol Ashby (01420 538386) or Peter Sutton (01730 827459)

The Parishes of Greatham, Empshott & Hawkley with Priors Dean

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Kay Thorpe 07976 744484
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Secretary Carole Rudd 01420 538160

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David Tucker 01420 538242
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Treasurer (PD) Deirdre Green 01730 827636

Village Hall Bookings

Greatham Pat Slivkin 07876 132846 contact@greathamvillagehall.co.uk
Empshott Sarah Walker 07771 990403 empshotthut@gmail.com
Hawkley Lya Gavin 07399 143415 lilya.marischa@gmail.com

Parish Councils

Greatham Chairman Ron Lafferty 07779 136979 ron.lafferty@greatham-hants.org.uk
Greatham clerk position vacant 07873 891351 clerk@greatham-hants.org.uk
Hawkley & Empshott David Caukill 01730 827227 chair-hpc@outlook.com
Hawkley clerk Katherine Horton 07866 443350 clerk-hpc@outlook.com

Parish Magazine Editor Carol Ashby 01420 538386 carol_ashby@hotmail.com

Clubs & Societies & other useful numbers

Hawkley Cricket Club Chairman Simon Dixon 01730 827731
Greatham Flower & Produce Shows Tricia Porter 01420 538447
Empshott & Hawkley Gardeners' Club Sue Atkins - chair 01730 827106
Membership Secretary Allen Horton alhort@outlook.com
Hawkley Good Companions Mary Edwards 01730 827330
Hawkley Handbells Mary Edwards 01730 827330
Greatham TotsStop Kat Kripena 07842 289664
Greatham Village Allotment Association Linda Carr (chairman) 01420 538702
Greatham Amicable Charity Trust Secretary Sarah Bettin 07721 646831
sarahbettin70@gmail.com
clerk@greatham-hants.org.uk
Greatham Village Playground clerk@greatham-hants.org.uk
Greatham Nursery School 01420 538893 Greatham Primary School 01420 538224
Citizens Advice Bureau 01730 710281 admin@easthantscab.org.uk
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From the Vicar

Happy Easter! I wonder what you mean when you say those words to someone? Have you ever thought about what the words actually mean? Are they just words of good wishes that the person to whom you are talking has a good, happy and perhaps even restful few days away from the normality of life? Wishing someone happiness is easy but what does it really mean to link those wishes to the Christian celebration of Easter?

If you research the word 'Easter' you'll find Anglo-Saxon origins relating to a pre-Christian Spring festival and references to the Greek word 'pascha' which takes us back to the ancient story of Hebrew origin, of the Passover. To wish someone a Happy Easter is to connect them and their lives to historic faith events and the central Christian tenet that God overcomes death. These are big words indeed!

Easter is of course the celebration of Christ's resurrection and the services of Holy Week and Easter remind us of the story and the meaning of God's love for humanity.

How much thought do you give to what comes next – and to the idea of resurrection in particular? This Easter season we have the opportunity to explore the resurrection of Christ in greater depth with Bishop Ian Brackley. Bishop Ian will speak about this central mystery that lies at the heart of the Christian faith. What exactly do we mean by it? Must Christians believe in the Resurrection at all? This is a look at what the New Testament has to say about it. Come and share in an afternoon with Bishop Ian at 2pm on Tuesday 16th April in the Church Room at Greatham.

Come and celebrate and explore the meaning of those words with us if you can. All are welcome.

Happy Easter!

Peter Sutton
01730 827459

peter.sutton@portsmouth.anglican.org

YEWLIAN MEETING The next Yewlian Meeting in Priors Dean church will be at 7pm on **Monday 8th April**. A short reading followed by 30 minutes of silence. Silence to meditate, to pray, to think. All are welcome.

THE RESURRECTION CHRIST

2pm Tuesday 16th April in the Church Room at Greatham

Bishop Ian Brackley will speak about this central mystery that lies at the heart of the Christian faith. What exactly do we mean by it? Must Christians believe in the Resurrection at all? Come and hear what the New Testament has to say about it. All are welcome.

Bishop Ian

‘FIRST SUNDAY FUN’

From **Sunday 7 April** there is First Sunday Fun at Hawkley - something new for families with young children. At the 10.15am service, children will be especially welcomed at the start of the service, sometimes with a song, before going across to the Village Hall for a time of fun, craft and exploration. The service in church will be streamed to the village hall to help keep worship in Church and fun in the hall connected.

Until the group is established, we would like (for safety in crossing the road and safeguarding reasons) for one parent from families to accompany their child or children. First Sunday Fun will last for about 25 – 30 minutes and the children will come back to church in time for the distribution of communion and to tell us before the service ends what they have been up to! All are welcome.

APCMs Its is the time of year for Annual Parochial Meetings – the formal occasion to receive annual reports and elect Church Wardens and members of the PCC. If you would like to know more about joining a PCC please talk to a Church Warden or to Peter Sutton. Dates of Annual Meetings :

Empshott 14th April

Hawkley 21st April

Greatham 5th May

For details of times, annual reports and accounts please contact Peter Sutton or see Church News.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

9th March

Hawkley

Poppy Wilks

PORTSMOUTH FAMILY WELFARE has updated its requirements.

Tinned meat and fish, tinned vegetables including potatoes, packets of potato mash, pasta, cartons of long-life milk, toiletries for men and women, biscuits- savoury and sweet.

Kettles, irons, microwaves and sandwich toasters.

They will also accept furniture, beds, mattresses [fireproof], and other items necessary for setting up home.

GREATHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

The next meeting of Greatham Village Hall Trustees will be held on Monday **15th April** at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

If you have any issues you would like the Trustees to discuss please leave a letter in the village hall letter box.

Carole Rudd, Trustee

HAWKLEY GOOD COMPANIONS

The Good Companions enjoyed a very good lunch at the Hawkley Inn for their March meeting. We shall be seeing the Winton Players production of 'Tons of Money' on the 20th April at Petersfield Festival Hall, and on May 2nd we are going to Petworth House.

Mary Edwards

CHANGE IN DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THIS MAGAZINE

The new printing company requires 3 to 5 days to turn around the magazine so in order to make sure the copies are delivered before the end of each month I need to change the deadline to the **17th of the month** so I can email the completed magazine to them before the 20th. Early articles are always very welcome!

The double issues are Aug/Sept and Dec/Jan.

A DIGITAL COPY OF THIS MAGAZINE will now be put onto the village websites each month. So, if you have mislaid your copy and need to look something up or check out the adverts this is where to find it.

www.greatham-hants.org.uk **www.hawkley.org**

Empshott is included on the Hawkley website which is currently in the process of being re-designed.

EMPSHOTT & HAWKLEY GARDENERS CLUB

The Empshott and Hawkley Gardeners' Club is holding two events in April, to which non-members are also most welcome.

The Spring Show will be held on Saturday **April 6** in Hawkley Village Hall. This is a lovely celebration of Spring, with over 40 classes of Spring flowers, flowering shrubs or trees, pot plants and flower arrangements. Copies of the show schedule and entry form have been sent to members but anyone wanting another copy should contact the Secretary, Isy Large, on ehortsoc@gmail.com or the Chair, Sue Atkins on 01730 827106.

The children's classes this time are My Spring Garden for children under 7 and My Spring Garden in a Cup for children over 7. The entries from children, whose family or friends do not need to be members, are usually a highlight. Please contact Isy Large or Sue Atkins as above for an entry form. Children's entries are free.

All entry forms must be delivered (with fees as appropriate) to Orchard Cottage, Hawkley, GU33 6NF by noon on Friday, 5 April. Hawkley Village Hall will be open for entries on Saturday 6 April, between 8.45 and 9.45am, after which the hall will be cleared for judging.

The show is open to all. Doors open at 3pm, with prizes presented at 4pm. We hope everyone, competitors and visitors, will participate in our fund raising for Marie Curie, by bringing along just one daffodil. A donor has pledged to give £1 for every daffodil brought on the day. Please come along between 3pm and 4pm on April 6 with your daffodil and help us beat the sum raised last year for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Challenge.

Our second talk of the year on **Monday 15 April** is entitled, **From Transylvania to the South Downs: Reviving Traditional Meadow Skills**. Based on her extensive local experience and research in Transylvania, **Rachel Remnant of Land Lore Consulting and Ambassador for the Floodplain Meadows Partnership** will give an illustrated talk and practical guidance on creating wildflower meadows. This talk, in Hawkley Village Hall, will be free to members of the Hangers Environmental Network and open to non-members for a small £3 charge. Doors open at 7.15pm and the talk will start at 7.40pm.

Bring and Buy Plant Sale Saturday 4 May, 10-11am, Upper Green Hawkley

A great opportunity to get plants, seedlings etc, at very reasonable prices plus a cake stall, refreshments and a raffle. Whether you are a member or not please drop by and bag some bargains.

THE HAWKLEY INN

Weathering the weather has felt like an Olympic sport recently, but hopefully we're on the up as spring has now officially arrived!

All busy at the pub as we head into the new season. Some wonderful news to share with you all - our much anticipated, newly appointed chef, Louis Yates, will be joining us in April. Louis is joining us from the incredible Pulpo Negro in Alresford and will be working alongside Sandor and Stella. Huge thank you to Simon for all his ongoing support and we wish him the very best. You can read more about Louis on our website, found in our new journal section shortly as it is still under construction. Moving forwards, the journal will have lots of interesting content for you to chew on - from local inspo, to recipes, to interviews with our suppliers and lots more.

In other news!

We're proud to introduce a lovely new brand to you all courtesy of Cocktails at Home. Authentic premixed cocktails and mocktails that really are amazing. Come and give them a try and I hope you love them!

We're also introducing more variety to our non boozy drinks, with our new caffeine free, gluten free, dairy free latte range. Utilising beetroot, matcha, chai and turmeric and all made using raw crystallised coconut nectar. If you prefer an old fashioned coffee, we've got our brand new San Remo coffee machine installed and ready to go!

Dates for the diary...

Our Jazz & Tapas evening is fast approaching - keep the 13th April free for a fabulous ensemble of food and music. £35 for a delicious Tapas menu and a wonderful Jazz Duo 'Remedy' playing 7pm-8pm then again from 9pm-10.30pm.

Plans are well underway for our first ever Beer Festival. We've got a great line up of bands and of course plenty of beers on offer. Pop the dates in your diary - evening of 14th June and the afternoon/evening on the 15th. Tickets on sale £6 shortly, all proceeds to The Rosemary Foundation.

Lastly, have you seen the revamped snug area? Freshened up with some lovely new wallpaper - ready and waiting for you to join us!

Zoe, Nicola and the Hawkley Inn team x

WINTON PLAYERS 'Tons of Money' - April 18th - 20th

The 1920's saw the birth of the famous Aldwych farces which had audiences rolling in the aisles with laughter. In the 1980s that master of modern comedy, Alan Ayckbourn, cleverly adapted this classic, hilarious, fast moving comedy for modern-day audiences.

The story revolves around, Aubrey, an unsuccessful inventor, who inherits a life interest in a fortune that, in the event of his death, reverts to his cousin George. Since George is thought to have died in Mexico, a plan is hatched by his wife Louise with the brilliant idea of Aubrey "dying" so that he can resurrect himself as George and avoid paying his enormous debts.

As with most farces, the cast of ten eccentric characters spend much of their time dashing in and out of the sitting room through double doors and French Windows. There is the slightly dotty Aunt Benito, who is always in search of her knitting and Giles the gruff gardener, who is forever popping in and out from the garden via the French Windows. Sprules the dodgy butler, his brother Henry and the parlour maid, Simpson, use their special sign language to create chaos. On top of this, Jean, a friend of Aubrey and Louise, arrives to stay and adds more confusion by having some sort of connection to anyone named George.

Meantime, Chesterman, a solicitor, manfully tries to unravel the estate when yet another man enters the scene. Could he be the real George? Confused? You won't be if you come along to see how all this mayhem unfolds and have a jolly good laugh along the way!

Tickets from One Tree Books & The Town Visitor Centre, Festival Hall
www.wintonplayers.co.uk

CPR and Defibrillator Training by Saving Lives Together

Hawkley Village Hall Monday 3rd June 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Drinks kindly sponsored by Promedica24 West Sussex

Learn how to recognise a cardiac arrest, carry out effective CPR and use a publicly accessible defibrillator. The session will last approximately one hour and cover the "Chain of Survival" and aim to simplify the skills needed to boost confidence and ensure people know what to do if faced with this life threatening emergency. Saving Lives Together makes no charge and relies on voluntary donations.

To reserve your place, please contact Jo Humphrey

events@hawkley.org or 07825 327892

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SERVICES IN MARCH and APRIL

(BCP) Book of Common Prayer (CW) Common Worship

30th March – Holy Saturday

19.00 Priors Dean Service of Light

31st March – Easter Day *Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8*

09.15 Empshott Holy Communion (BCP)

09.30 Priors Dean Holy Communion by Extension (BCP)

10.15 Hawkley Holy Communion (CW)

11.00 Greatham Holy Communion (CW)

7th April – Easter 2 *Acts 4:32-35 John 20:19-end*

09.15 Empshott Holy Communion (BCP)

10.15 Hawkley Holy Communion (CW)

11.00 Greatham Morning Worship (CW)

14th April – Easter 3 *Acts 3:12-19 Luke 24:36b-48*

09.15 Empshott Holy Communion (BCP)

10.15 Hawkley Morning Worship (CW)

11.00 Greatham Holy Communion (CW)

17.30 Priors Dean Evensong (BCP)

21st April – Easter 4 *Acts 4:5-12 John 10:11-18*

08.45 Priors Dean Holy Communion (BCP)

09.15 Empshott Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.15 Hawkley Holy Communion (CW)

11.00 Greatham Morning Worship (CW)

28th April – Easter 5 *Acts 8:26-end John 15:1-8*

09.15 Empshott Holy Communion (BCP)

10.15 Hawkley Morning Worship (CW)

11.00 Greatham Holy Communion (CW)



HANGERS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK: HEN

HEN is continuing to progress in the scope and variety of our activities. Our event **Make Your Money Count** on March 9th gave the audience fascinatingly detailed information on **green finance and investments**. Both Greg Ford and Rowan Harding are experts in this field and gave practical, nuanced presentations enabling us to examine the choices we already make and consider new ones. If you were unable to come and would like to know more, contact us via the email below and we will forward the slides they each used and have made available to us.

Coming up:

Saturday April 13th, 10am – 12 noon, Greatham Village Hall.

Coinciding with the grand opening of the new playground, come along to our first **clothes swap!** What doesn't fit you might fit someone else! Did you know that the fashion industry is responsible for 8-10% of global carbon emissions and it takes 2,700 litres of water just to make one T-shirt and 10,000 litres to make a pair of jeans! Bring the clothes you no longer wear and take home a whole new wardrobe! All ages, all sizes welcome.

Monday April 15th, 7.30pm (doors open from 7pm), Hawkley Village Hall: we are again supporting the Hawkley Gardening Club talk, this time by Rachel Remnant, Ambassador for the Floodplain Meadows Partnership on **"From Transylvania to the South Downs: reviving Traditional Meadows Skills"**. This is sure to be a fascinating evening.

In **May** (day and time TBC) we are planning a presentation which will give us a greater understanding of the **causes and impacts of climate change**, and what we can all do to make a difference. Check the next village magazine for further details.

And we have plans for more than one event focussing on **the flora and fauna of our local natural habitats**.

hangersenvironmentnetwork@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/257330940397278>

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Saturday 6th July
Greatham Village Fields

Follow us on Facebook: GVEC events

THE SPIRIT OF MUSIC FESTIVAL presents

AFRICAN BEATS with ‘The Messengers’.

African song, dance and drumming brought to you by these exuberant musicians direct from vibrant Uganda

Saturday 11 May at 6pm in St Mary’s Church, Liss. Free Admission.

African Workshop Session - come along at 4pm to learn some songs, moves and beats for the main event in the evening. Everyone is welcome to join in!

SouthDowns Camerata

Felix Mendelssohn Octet in E-flat





Along with a supporting programme of classical favourites from the masters.

Sunday 12 May at 3.30pm in St Mary’s Church, Liss.

Admission: £10 at the door, Students: £5, Children: Free

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carol_ashby@hotmail.com

THE HAWKLEY CRICKET CLUB BATSMAN (ANON) . . .

There's one thing I haven't done yet and that's score a century. In all my 176 visits to the crease, I've still to accomplish the big three figures. A couple of seventies, an eighty or two, I've even managed ninety-nine. In fact, I've managed it twice. On both occasions we were on grounds on which there was no scoreboard to keep me informed of just how near I was to achieving the Holy Grail. And mental arithmetic was never my strong point. I became resigned to never knowing that one moment of batting ecstasy, the pump of the arms, the bat aloft, the blade presented to all points of the compass and the kiss of the cap badge. Sometimes the one thing you most want is denied you.

And yet at Hawkley on this baking afternoon in August, I find myself only three runs away. The afternoon has unfolded in a fashion I could only have dreamt of. The signs were there: a peerless track, an outfield like glass, a failing attack of paunchy barristers and crusty professors who had spent two hours in the Hawkley Inn before the commencement of the match but most importantly a scoreboard. And with even the most pitiful forward defensive stroke skimming away like a billiard ball across a marble floor, the scoreboard shows I am on ninety-seven. I'm nearly there, but I'm completely, utterly exhausted. The reason is simple. I've never batted this long before. I've been at the crease now for over two hours in baking August heat wielding one of Beefy Botham's batting swords that weighs a tonne. My legs ceased to work about twenty minutes ago, my arms are hardly capable of even patting the crease with my bat, and my feet feel as if someone has attached them to the crease with a giant staple gun. For the last quarter of an hour I've displayed all the sparkling footwork of a tailor's dummy.

Back in the pavilion it's a picture of happiness, contentment and a degree of surprise. James seems to be decanting a jug of Pimms into some glass tumblers and I can hear the ice cubes clanking gently as he lifts the jug. Meanwhile my teammates are being roused from their siestas in readiness to witness my crowning moment. Perhaps I'm hallucinating as I resume my stance as an entire gallery of the games legends swim before my eyes, my father, Colin Milburn, Fred Trueman, Mike Brearly, Bishan Singh Bedi et al – this is my moment to join them. Fifteen seconds later I plant my driving boot straight down the pitch, swing the tree trunk in a lumbering arc and send the ball skimming across the green baize. A huge cheer goes up from the pavilion. JP is clapping his hands above his head, Barry has thrown his old floppy hat into the air while Martin and Matt are dancing what seems to be a Highland reel. Even our curmudgeonly scorer is pointing enthusiastically at the three figures he's just rattled up against my name. I decide to quit while I am ahead and return unbeaten (retired,) back to my normal position at the bar in the pavilion – mission accomplished.

Why not come and join the fun? New players (young and old) are always welcome. Nets start in April as soon as the weather permits.



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GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL

All of the Parish Councillors would like to wish you a very Happy Easter.

Village Playground

Here's hoping that the weather improves and it stops raining! It has been the wettest 18 months since records began! The ground working team for the new Playground have certainly had some challenges. They have done an amazing job, in difficult conditions. They finally finished the ground work on the 18th March, but we need the ground to dry out further before the surfacing team can start. It is hoped that they will be on site w/c 25th March, but that is only possible if we have some dry days. Once the guys are on site the surfacing work should take around 6 days. We hoped to allow the playground to be used by Easter, but this might not be possible.

We are still having our official opening on Saturday 13th April @ 10 am with the Rt Hon. Damian Hinds, MP for East Hampshire in attendance to formally open the Playground. Everyone is welcome. We will have some new projects to discuss, and HEN have a Clothes Swap as well.

Litter Picking

We are going to organise a few village litter picking sessions in the coming weeks. Please look out for dates and times on the facebook page, and do come along to help tidy our village.

The Apple Pie Depot

We were very pleased to welcome Ian Rodgers from HCD Ltd who is the chief engineer responsible for the demolition of the apple pie depot. He was very informative about all aspects of the work being carried out, and gave a thorough explanation of how the asbestos on site is being managed and disposed of. A protection fence will be erected when building commences to give some sound protection to Longmoor Lodge, New Zealand Pigmy weed was found on site and has been correctly removed, and drainage is being re-routed to reduce flooding. We will have a member of the development team at a future meeting to discuss the construction phase.

Parish Council Meeting

It was great to see so many residents in attendance, and it led to some interesting debate. Speeding was a hot topic and we are looking at where our SLR Camera's are sited this year. We definitely need to do some work on the river at the junction of Petersfield and Longmoor Road, and continue to look at options to help alleviate the parking issues in the village linked to the school drop off and collection times.

FROXFIELD CHOIR NEWS Duke Ellington – Sacred Concert at Holy Trinity, Privett on Saturday 15 June 2024

Fresh from the success of our latest concert in Lyminster, Froxfield Choir is now rehearsing for our annual summer concert in Privett. The March concert was our first away from home for some time. The summer concert is going to be another exciting departure from the norm, as we foray into the world of jazz, with Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert.

Ellington called this 'the most important thing I have ever done'. He said many times that he was not trying to compose a Mass. The critic Gary Giddins has characterised the work as Ellington bringing the Cotton Club revue to the church.

We will be singing alongside the brilliant Brass Breakout Jazz Orchestra. **Please save the date - Saturday 15 June, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Privett.** Tickets: £18 available from One Tree Books, Petersfield or Ticketsource.

We continue to encourage singers to join our amateur choir. We rehearse on Thursday evenings at Froxfield Village Hall between 7.45-9.30pm and newcomers are welcome to come along any week for a taster session. Please contact Lesley Howe at lkhowe58@gmail.com for more details.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X, formerly known as Twitter, @Froxfield Choir and on our website www.froxfieldchoir.co.uk



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ALLEN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Echoes of Iceland - this group of four professional textile artists presented a most interesting and popular exhibition in 2023. They are returning to the Gallery in April - watch the website for dates.

TALKS

George Wither, Bentworth poet - a loveable idiot?

A talk by **Barrie Lees**. George Wither was born and bred in Bentworth. He had a penchant for upsetting people with his writings, and was jailed 4 times as a result. He also surrendered Farnham Castle to the Royalists without a shot being fired. Truly an interesting subject!

Thursday 11th April at 7.30. FREE

ACTIVITIES

OUR MAJOR NEW PROGRAMME OF POTTERY WORKSHOPS for young people aged 11-17. Supported by The Murray Parish Trust, these country-wide workshops are intended to promote positive mental health and provide regular, long-term opportunities for young people in Hampshire to use creativity to build their well-being. The high-quality workshops are delivered by professional artist **Jill Maguire**. **Every Saturday 10.30 - 12.30, until 1st June.** (No session on 6/04).

For more details and booking, please see www.hampshireculture.org.uk/stepping-stones.

EASTER for children and families

Make and Take: Seasonal pottery session. Join our popular holiday clay adventure where you can make and take home your own seasonal project! Cost: £5. Please pre-book online via the gallery website. **Saturday 6th April, 10.30 - 11.15, and 11.30 - 12.15.**

Easter Trail round the Gallery and garden from **26th March to 19th April**. Can you find the Easter items hidden in our Gallery collection? Drop in and pick up a trail (There will be a trail round the Museum also.)

CURTIS MUSEUM

PRE-LOVED DOLLS HOUSE ITEMS NEEDED

The pre-loved dolls house items range is very popular with collectors of all ages at Dolls House Day. With stock now low if you have any pre-loved items relating to dolls

houses and would be happy to donate them to The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery for this year's Dolls House Weekend (27/28 July) please contact Caroline Taylor, carolineanntaylor@hotmail.co.uk. All profits from the sale of these items will contribute to supporting these venues.

MICE TO MEET YOU Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

When thinking of mice, some of the first things which spring to mind can often be negative. For millennia, humans have lived alongside them but often viewed them as pests. However, they are widely misunderstood. Mice play a key role in the natural environment; from distributing plant seeds to being prey for animals like owls and foxes. When small rodent populations are low, the number of their predators falls dramatically too.

Varying greatly in appearance, the UK is home to eighteen species of rodent, four of which are mice (dormice aren't actually mice). UK mice do not hibernate and so they must feed throughout the year, so there is potential with a pair of keen eyes to spot them at any time.

The smallest mouse, and the UK's smallest rodent, is the harvest mouse: its body length is just 7cm and weighs just 10g or the weight of a 20p piece! They have chestnut fur and a long, twisty tail that is used to grip plant stems when climbing.

The house mouse is synonymous with sharing buildings with humans. With lots of free food on offer and central heating, it is easy to see why. They are around twice the weight of harvest mice and have a uniform grey/brown coat. They look similar to rats, but are much smaller and shyer, which is why many people with house mice raiding their pantries never actually spot the culprit.

Wood, or fieldmice, can live anywhere. As long as they have safe cover and a good supply of food, they're happy. Like house mice, they will build nests in wall cavities, sheds and garages. But in a natural environment, they make their nests in the bases of trees and shrubs. Around the same size as a house mouse, wood mice are more chestnut-brown and have very large eyes and prominent ears.

Yellow-necked mice are the largest of the UK's mice. They are similar in appearance to wood mice, but around 1.5 times bigger and with a yellow/brown band across the front of their throat. They are very territorial, particularly when food supplies are limited and are dominant over wood and house mice.

For more information on our native species of mice, visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/blog/the-wildlife-trusts/mice-meet-you>
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