



ROWLEDGE Review

90p

March 2021



PLEASE
help secure
the church's
future

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**Local
Mediaeval
Bridges**

Page 39

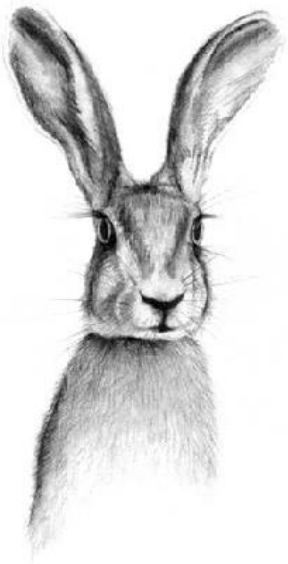
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From the Vicarage

As we have journeyed through Ash Wednesday and into Lent again this year, we have now had 12 months of living with the threat and the consequences of Covid 19. Every one of our lives has been affected to a greater or lesser extent. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with those families whose loved ones have died. I have now taken many Covid funerals and as with every death, I am reminded of the preciousness of human life.

On Ash Wednesday we usually have a service in the church building (sadly not possible this year) at which the ash from burning last year's palm crosses is marked on the foreheads of the congregation with the words:

*Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return,
turn from your sin and be faithful to Christ.*

Ashes are a forceful reminder of the fragile nature of human existence. At the conclusion of funerals held at the crematorium, all that remains of even the most 'successful' life, is a small urn of ash. If this were our final destiny, I think life would be utterly hopeless.

Sin is not a very attractive word, but it really means anything that separates us from God's love. Many have sadly chosen to live separated from, or independent of God. I get this – it was me until the age of 25. God seems irrelevant for some, but let me tell you, this is not the case when you are looking into an open grave at a funeral. The question: "is there more to life than this?" is on many minds.

For those who have discounted anything beyond what they can physically experience in this life, I can understand how challenging times such as these, would be very bleak indeed. I'm not suggesting that I don't have dark days, I certainly do, but my ultimate hope, my ultimate faith, is that death – a small urn of ash, or a coffin in a grave, is not the end. There is always hope.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of this season known as Lent (from the Old English word *lencten* which simply means "spring season"). Lent will end on Easter Day and the dramatic reminder that someone has in fact, overcome the grave. The Bible refers to Jesus as 'firstborn from the dead,' implying that others will follow after him and, as St. Paul puts it:

*"...For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."* 1 Corinthians 15: 20

Human nature is such that we will all die. Along with taxes, it is sadly a statistical certainty. However, when we chose to put our faith in Jesus Christ, who has overcome the grave, death no longer has the final say.

In light of our current sufferings, this my friends, is not just good news, but the most

earth-shattering, life-transforming, hope-giving news ever.
I pray you too might know the hope of Christ this spring season.
Blessings,



Rev. Russ Gant, Vicar

PARISH REGISTER



Funerals

John Cotton (86)
Angus Petrie (67)
John Webb (87)

BIBLE READING NOTES

As a church, St James' offer the opportunity to have daily bible readings with notes in book form, which is published three times a year, or by daily email. The full cost would be £17.95 but, by annual subscription through the church, this is reduced to £14.10.

Try before you buy!

I have some past copies of New Daylight (Bible Reading Fellowship) and would be pleased to give them to anyone who might be interested. Please call **Sue Kelly** on **01252 795433** or Email on **suekelly@madasafish.com**



IN OUR PRAYERS

If you have any specific prayer requests you are invited to email **prayer@stjamesrowledge.org.uk** (or contact Russ by phone) who will ensure the church prays for your situation.



MORNING PRAYERS

Morning Prayer is every Wednesday at 9:15am. We will continue to meet virtually for approximately half an hour. Email **vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk** to receive a Zoom invitation.



ST JAMES' CHURCH

During the pandemic, regrettably we are unable to meet as a **whole** congregation in church weekly, physically, for worship, however we are continuing with our live-streamed services each Sunday (or recorded - as restrictions dictate).

Do join us live on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/StJamesChurchRowledge>

We continue to keep the restrictions under review and will update the village as things in church change.



Two Services a Week

From Sunday 7th February, we have reverted to two services each week - albeit both still recorded for the time being.

This will mean there is a traditional service of Holy Communion with choral music, as well as a more contemporary service each week.

So, a mix of formal and contemporary services - if you don't see it live, all our videos can be found on our YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBO3bsCEfpu4Hd_IFbKX3CQ/videos



If you want to receive email invitations to any of our online resources, email vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk.



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March Sunday Services and Sermon Theme

Rediscovering Grace

During Lent, having heard about “Freedom!” and “Innocent!” in February, we continue our series of 6 sermons on:

The freedom we can know, by experiencing the grace of God.

7th March - 3rd of Lent (*inc. Holy Communion*)

2 Cor. 5: 16-21

Getting Grace – Unashamed!

14th March - 4th of Lent - Half Term. Mothering Sunday

Joshua 1: 1-9

Getting Grace – Courageous!

21st March - 5th of Lent (*inc. Holy Communion*)

John 8: 3-11

Getting Grace – Humble!

28th March - Palm Sunday

John 15: 1-8 or Mark 11: 1-11

Getting Grace – Fruitful!

4th April – Easter Sunday

John 20: 1-18 Acts 10:34-43

Easter Hope “I have seen the Lord!”

We will probably be holding an online service at Easter, but keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages.



Do you know anyone who is grieving from bereavement and needs more support or time?

Meeting weekly in Farnham, the group is supported by pastoral assistants and bereavement visitors attached to various Farnham Christian churches, and allows an opportunity for those who are bereaved and lonely to meet others who understand.

Bereavement Café meet every Monday afternoon 3 - 4:30pm for tea and chat at

The Spire Café, Farnham United Reformed Church,

South Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QU

If you would like more details please contact Mary on **07999 368128**
or info@friendstogetherbereavement.org

There are also occasional evening groups for those who need to talk and share about a bereavement. Parents, Spouses, Children, Friends... Do you know anyone who is grieving and would like support?

You are also welcome to bring someone you know who may benefit from the support group, but not want to attend on their own. Accompanying friends are also very welcome.

**Contact Mary on
07999 368128 for
details during
Covid-19**

Life Groups –Tuesday & Thursday

Russ & Jenny Gant run a group on Thursday with about 8 people. They meet weekly via Zoom.

The Tuesday group currently have 10 people accessing the group meeting via Zoom. They meet fortnightly for bible study and prayer.

In the weeks between the studies we meet socially on Zoom for a catch up and sometimes prayer if there are specific needs. Contact Russ for details.

Men's Group – First Thursday of the month

Starting with a Bible passage, discussion then moves on to ...well, anywhere and everywhere!

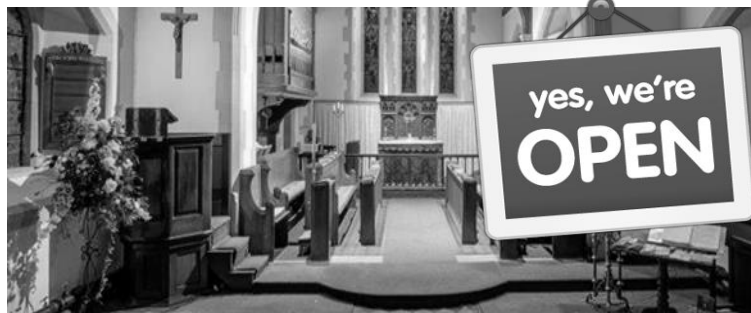
During lockdown, the Men's Group meets by Zoom - first Thursday of every month. All welcome. **To join in, contact Rob: robriscs@aol.com**

Church is OPEN!

Open: Monday - Thursday 10am-4pm.
Saturday - Sunday 8am-8pm.
Closed on Fridays.

St James' Church is now OPEN for **individual private prayers**. Individual private prayer is defined as a person or household entering the church to pray on their own, not as part of a group, and not participating in any form of led prayers or communal act. Those praying should be socially distanced from other individuals or households.

It is sacred space within the village, a refuge for quiet and reflection, and everyone is welcome to visit, or come and sit, to think, to pray, to find some space.



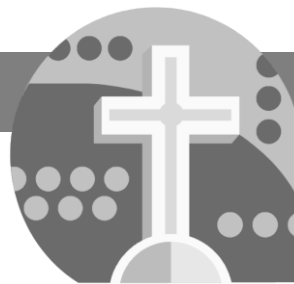
METHODIST CHURCH

Regrettably, The Methodist Church is not currently running services. When it is decided to open the Church for services, there will be posters updating our decisions at the Church.

If you have any questions about activities at the Methodist Church please ring Aileen or David on 795438

Our prayer chain, led by Mike & Joyce, can be accessed on: 793363

If you would like to speak to Philip Simpkins, our Minister, his number is: 01420 83167



YOU can make a difference to a family in your community.

Many parents need help, friendship, advice or support during those early years when children are young. Your experience as a parent can help others. There are a variety of ways you can volunteer for Home-Start WeyWater.

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Support and friendship
for families

Home-Start WeyWater
Alton, Bordon & Liphook

Home Visiting Volunteer - Home-Start provides a unique service for families - recruiting and training volunteers to support parents with young children at home.

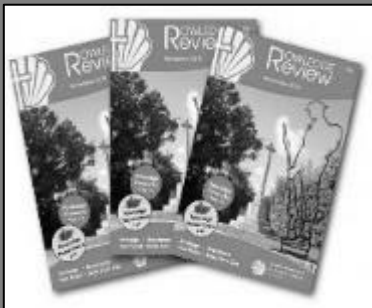
Trustee - with your skills and experience you will have an input on how our scheme runs and develops in the future.

'Friend' - you can help us raise our profile in your community and help with our ongoing fundraising.

Home-Start WeyWater, c/o Chase Children's Centre, Budds Lane, GU35 0JB
Tel - 01420 473555 E-mail - office@homestart-weywater.org.uk

ALL READERS...

Rowledge Review
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Please pay **TODAY**
(see page 31)

Thank you!

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150 not out!



At the end of January, the congregation of St. James' Church in Rowledge marked the 150th anniversary of the opening and consecration of the church with a special, virtual service.

Vicar, Russ Gant said "we had all been looking forward to celebrating this special milestone in the life of the church, but the commemorations in January were obviously somewhat low-key. We had envisaged a full church, the Bishop of Guildford had been invited to speak and we were planning a big community lunch after the service. Covid put pay to all that, although the Bishop of Guildford did record a special sermon for the occasion."

As part of the online service, Russ Gant and his colleague, Associate Minister, Russ Parker, dedicated a new altar cloth and other fabrics funded from a legacy left to the church by local surgeon, the late Dr Margaret Cothay. The new fabrics include the scallop shell, traditionally associated with St. James the fisherman, a representation of the gilded cross located above the church porch door, and the waters of holy baptism.



Russ Gant said, “we’re extremely grateful for gifts such as the legacy from Dr. Cothay. Many people don’t realise that the only funds the church receives are those which are donated by local people – there’s no central pot and we don’t get anything from the government. This money came with the specific request that it be used for the replacement of church fabrics, but donations to general funds enable our ongoing ministry to our community. At the moment, we have a focus on youth and children’s work and, in these really challenging times, supporting mental wellbeing is high on our agenda.”

See page 35 in this edition for details of the new 150 Appeal and how you can help.

Along with other churches, St. James’ is actively exploring how Christian communities can adapt in light of social distancing and other Covid restrictions. Plans are in place to upgrade audio visual systems to ensure that even when physical services can resume, acts of worship can also continue to be streamed online.

“As well as being perhaps the hardest times many of us have lived through, I continue to sense that Covid is prompting many people to reconsider some of the bigger questions of life,” said Russ. “As a church we are here for all people, those who would say they have faith, those returning to faith and those simply exploring. We have been at the heart of the community of Rowledge for 150 years and we will continue to serve, while our amazing supporters continue to donate towards our ministry and mission.”

Laptops needed for Rowledge School

In these difficult times, we have been informed about a wonderful project that the Alton Lions Club and the Alton and District Community Resilience Fund (ADC RF) have launched to ensure that, in local schools, every child who needs one is in receipt of a laptop to support home schooling, by reconditioning used laptops.

While Alton Lions will organise the logistics of the project and ADC RF will finance the cost, schools have been asked to play their part by identifying the need and appealing within their own support community for donations of used but unwanted laptops, in good condition (with associated cabling and passwords).

The requirement is that any device should have at least Windows 7 installed – this can then be updated to Windows 10.

To enable this to happen to benefit some of our pupils, we are appealing for used but unwanted good laptops.

These machines can be brought in a bag to the school office during school hours or by arrangement and we will organise for them to be reconditioned and returned.

Please do let your friends, neighbours, family and businesses know about this appeal in the hope some of our children, and those in other local schools, can benefit from this very generous scheme by these local charitable organisations.

Thank you very much for your support with this appeal.

Jo Jackson, Business Manager, Rowledge C of E Primary School.

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Racial Justice Focus Group



As a global community we were distressed and saddened at the death of George Floyd in 2020 and subsequently have been hearing the real life stories of people from different races about how they have been treated as less.

Because of the increased awareness of institutional, blatant and subtle racism, the Diocese of Guildford has put together a Racial Justice Focus Group (RJFG), chaired by the Bishop of Dorking, Jo Wells, with a diverse group of people from across the Diocese. Our Youth and Children's Minister Adèle Regan is part of this group, to offer insight on how we might educate and encourage our children and young people to be aware of history, privilege they have and how they can create positive change in the wider community.

The RJFG met for the first time this February and had a very productive discussion looking at the past, present and future. We are aware that this is an ongoing process and that racial injustice will not be solved overnight by this group of people, however we do want to make a stand as a diocese, along with the Church of England, to declare that racism in all its forms is not acceptable.

In Genesis, the first book in the Bible where we read about creation it says, 'So God created human beings in His image.' This means that God **does not** see certain races of people as better or less, God loves you as you are. Let's treat others the way God treats us, with an unending, overflowing, reckless love.

If you have been affected by racism or other forms of injustice and you would like a listening ear and support, then please get in touch with either Adèle, the Youth and Children's Minister (adele.regan@stjamesrowledge.org.uk) or Rev. Russ Gant (vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk).

The Choir that Can't Stop Singing!

It hasn't been the best time for the arts but Alton choir, Luminosa, has been keeping alive its passion for music throughout the pandemic, firstly on-line each week on Zoom and, more recently, for 8 weeks before the subsequent lockdown, at their regular rehearsal quarters of The Maltings in Alton.

Inspired by its talented and charismatic Choral Director, Rebekah Abbott, who is currently Head of Voice with the Royal Marines Band Service, and its patron, Neil Ferris, Chorus Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus, members are always motivated to excel, and Covid-19 has not diminished the Choir's ethos of singing captivating music at a high level of expertise.

The 'connectedness' of the Choir is one of the mainstays of its success. During the pandemic this has been a particular blessing, sustaining the emotional and mental health of its members, young and old, enriching self-esteem, confidence and community through singing.

The Choir was due to celebrate its 10th anniversary with a landmark concert in Odiham in March 2020 with an exciting programme of music, including an inspiring commission. Plans are being made to celebrate Luminosa's decade of choral success as soon as possible. For now, the main Choir, Luminosa Voices, are rejoicing in Haydn's *Creation*, full of unsullied optimism expressed in some of the most lovable and life-affirming music ever composed. This is in preparation for a summer concert which the Choir is optimistically planning, to include Haydn's magnificent oratorio and other positive music full of light and hope, with singing by the Chamber Choir, Luminosa Chamber Voices, along a similar theme.



Luminosa Rising Voices (ages 10-16) and Luminosa Young Voices (ages 6-11), the choirs creatively led and managed by youth music specialists, Jonathan Upfold and Josh Robinson, are working on an exciting virtual choir project in which young singers are collaborating in the composition of an original song, which they will perform on-line later in the year. They will also perform in the summer concert.

Luminosa is grateful for the sponsorship of Polestar, local pension & investment advisers.

Keen to get back to singing and donating to charity



Luminosa is always keen to hear from new members and there is a collective warm welcome waiting! Why not come and trial a rehearsal for free? For information about the work of the Choir, its ethos and how to get in touch: www.luminosamusic.com.

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**Have you taken Binsted Parish Council's 'Safer Cycling' survey yet?
Please spare five minutes to complete it:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SaferCyclingBinsted>.

The parish council is seeking evidence on the need for safer local cycling routes, especially at the A325 crossing point at Bucks Horn Oak, and access roads to Bentley Station.

Please ask your neighbours, friends, family and any local work colleagues to get involved and complete this survey.

The more that Binsted Parish Council can evidence a need for improvements, the more likely they'll be to secure investment for them.

BinBenFro's Sewing Bee Scheme.

This new scheme aims to give a 'shop front' to anyone who would like to supplement their income by undertaking a sewing task for someone who lacks the skills, time or the tools to carry out repairs and alterations themselves.

Anyone willing to carry out sewing work in Bentley, Binsted or Froyle is invited to contact the Bentley and Binsted Parish Magazine, summarising the sewing work they can carry out, and their contact details. For example, they may offer to repair, alter or remodel trousers, jeans, skirts, T-shirts, curtains, cushion covers, etc. Repairers' details will be advertised in the Bentley and Binsted Parish Magazine, free of charge, for the whole of 2021.

If you'd like to take part, email your details to: **benbinfrosewingbee@gmail.com**.

Check whether your seeds from last year are still any good.

Vital Seeds has a useful video on its YouTube channel, which shows how easy it is to check the germination rate of your old seeds, using what they call the 'Roll Up Sausage Method'.

All you need are your seeds, tissue paper, water and a small plastic bag.



Moisten the tissue paper, then place 25 seeds across the paper. Leave 1cm space from the top and two from the sides.

Fold the tissue paper over the seeds, roll into a sausage, put into a small plastic bag and leave, upright, in a warm place.

After about a week, unroll and count the sprouted seeds. Multiply by four and you have the percentage of germination!

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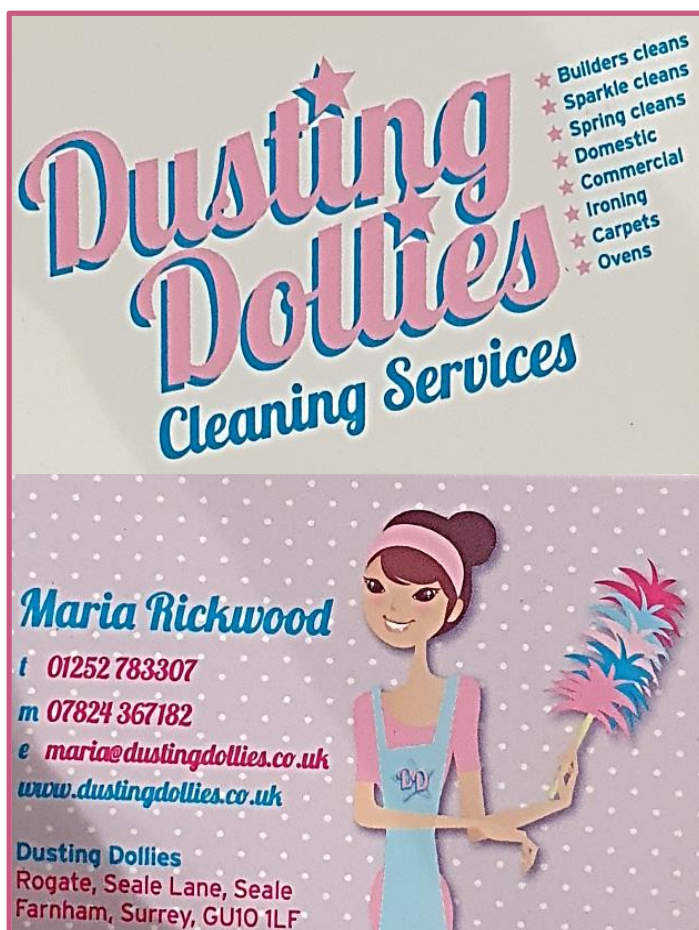
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Youth and Kids News

Magical Mayhem!

On 1st February St James' put on two online magic shows for children and young people in our community and beyond! Paul Brown from Magical Mayhem wowed us all with spectacular and mind-blowing illusions that excited and baffled us all!

We were also all given the opportunity to think about how much God loves us through magic.

Paul from Magical Mayhem has been doing Zoom magic shows for hundreds of churches and other organisations over the last year, due to Covid, but has been an in-person magician for over 30 years. If you are looking for something different for any age then head to www.magical-mayhem.com.



Taskmaster night

At the end of January our youth group #hungry had a fantastic Taskmaster night on Zoom! We were rock stars, on a beach and generally caused chaos in our houses! The money that we paid to get the official Taskmaster at Home video was donated to the charity Homeless Link and the young people were encouraged to donate to this charity too.

Please do keep our young people in your thoughts and prayers as they struggle with the restrictions on them due to the pandemic. They are missing out on developing their independence and healthy relationships and this is becoming a real strain on their mental wellbeing.



Collective Worship!

Adele, Russ and Beth are continuing to support Rowledge Primary School offering Collective Worship on a regular basis. One of our latest Collective Worship videos was about the start of Lent and is all about being prepared and getting ourselves spiritually ready for Easter.

If you would like to see this video then scan the QR code here, which will take you directly to the video or search for St James, Rowledge on YouTube.



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**Are you baking a
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It'll be held on

Saturday 10th July 2021

and will be open to anyone (except professionals) who lives locally.

Judging will be by a local award-winning cook and there'll be a

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prize** for the winner
of each
category.

Please register your interest and find out more by sending an email to
mark.westcott@btconnect.com

Charles Wentworth Dilke, 'The Lost Prime Minister'

In writing about past residents of Rowledge, I have occasionally written about people who were associated with Rowledge, rather than resident there. But where the individual is sufficiently noteworthy, I feel justified, even if I'm stretching a point. One such noteworthy 'resident of Rowledge' who never actually resided here, but was associated with Rowledge, was Charles Wentworth Dilke, second baronet, known to history as the 'lost prime minister'. Both his father and grandfather had the same name which can be confusing. The Lodge, built by 1819 (the old one had been demolished when the post of Ranger of the Alice Holt was abolished in 1812) was first occupied by forestry officials. But it was decided to rent the lodge out to a series of private individuals. In 1860, it was let to Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke (the grandfather), editor of the Athenaeum Magazine and a prominent figure in Victorian society. His public activities had to be fitted in with a great deal of shooting and other sport at Alice Holt, described by him as 'a small house in Hampshire, with adjacent preserves, which became the family's country home'.



**Charles Wentworth Dilke, painted by
George Frederick Watts**

'The lost prime minister' was very close to his grandfather, closer than he was to his own father, who was annoyed that his son did not participate in the shooting parties which took place regularly at the Alice Holt Lodge. The son found them tedious and the company uncongenial. He wrote: *'One of the difficulties between my father and myself about this period arose from his vexation at my refusing to take part in the shooting-parties at Alice Holt. He was passionately fond of shooting; ... I had now but little sympathy with the amusement, and had shown my dislike for it in many ways.'*

Yet despite these differences in taste, the father was immensely proud of his brilliant son. That 'the lost prime minister' often stayed at the Lodge is attested by a letter available in the archives of Melbourne

University (of all places!) sent from the Lodge in 1867 to a correspondent in Victoria. It was at the Lodge that Charles Wentworth Dilke (the grandfather) died in 1864. A letter from the grandson has been preserved:

'August 8th, Monday. I received a telegram from my father at noon: "You had better

come here." I left by the 1.30 train, and reached Alice Holt at half-past six. My Father met me on the lawn: he was crying bitterly, and said, "He lives only to see you." I went upstairs and sat down by the sofa, on which lay the Grand., looking haggard, but still a noble wreck. I took his hand, and he began to talk of very trivial matters--of Cambridge everyday life--his favourite theme of old. He seemed to be testing his strength, for at last he said: "I shall be able to talk to-morrow; I may last some weeks; but were it not for the pang that all of you would feel, I should prefer that it should end at once. I have had a good time of it." 'He had been saying all that morning: "Is that a carriage I hear?" or "I shall live to see him."'

'Tuesday. When I went in to him, he sent away the others, and told me to look for an envelope and a key. I failed to find it, and fetched Morris, who after a careful search found the key, but no envelope. We had both passed over my last letter (August 6th), which lay on the table. He made us both leave the room, but recalled me directly, and when I entered had banknotes in his hand, which he must have taken from the envelope of my letter. (This involved rising.) He said: "I cannot live, I fear, to your birthday--I want to make you a present—I think I have heard you say that you should like a stop-watch--I have made careful inquiries as to the price--and have saved--as I believe--sufficient." He then gave me notes, and the key of a desk in London, in the secret drawer of which I should find the remaining money. He then gave me the disposition of his papers and manuscripts, directing that what I did not want should go to the British Museum. He then said: "I have nothing more to say but that you have fulfilled—my every hope--beyond all measure--and--I am deeply--grateful." 'He died in my presence on Wednesday, 10th, at half-past one, in perfect peace.'

On the death of the grandfather, the father kept the lodge on since he so loved shooting but, when he died in 1870, his son had little time for it (a 'mere shooting lodge' he called it) and he got rid of it as soon as he could. He also sold another home, Hawkley in Hampshire, keeping only the family's London house, at 76, Sloane Street, in which he had been born, and which was to be his home till he died there.

On the death of his father, Charles Wentworth Dilke (the son), inherited enough property, much of it in the form of two literary publications, *The Athenaeum* and *Notes and Queries*, as well as more specialized publications, including the *Gardeners' Chronicle* and the *Agricultural Gazette*, to bring him an annual income of around £7,000 (equivalent to more than a million pounds a year today).

This third Charles Wentworth Dilke proved to be one of the most prominent of Victorian statesmen – sufficiently prominent for Roy Jenkins to write about him in a fine biography entitled "*Sir Charles Dilke: A Victorian Tragedy*" published by Collins in 1958 and revised in 1965. True, he stayed at Alice Holt infrequently and sold up as soon as he could, but he is sufficiently interesting to merit mention.

He was born in 1843. He was educated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he was President of the Cambridge Union Society. His wealthy background, family contacts with the highest in the land, and his rare abilities, marked him out early for a

prominent role in politics. He was a radical and Liberal and at about the time he got rid of the Lodge in Alice Holt, he announced that he was a republican, quite unusual at that time. He caused a sensation when he complained about the cost of the royal family and suggested that the country should get rid of the monarchy. He made it clear he thought the monarchy corrupt and riddled with expensive hangers-on.

Dilke continued to make speeches critical of Queen Victoria all over England. These meetings often ended in riots. *The Spectator* reported on a meeting that took place in Bolton where "*a Conservative mob sent brickbats through the windows and afterwards swarmed into the hall*". Dilke got out unharmed, but there was afterwards a free fight among the roughs.... Queen Victoria was not amused.

He was also active in promoting the extension of the franchise and supported both the growing labour and feminist movements. He wrote prolifically on international affairs. Dilke's radical brilliance won him a seat as Liberal Member of Parliament for Chelsea in 1868, which he held until 1886. In time, reaction to his anti-monarchical speeches became so strong that he was obliged to recant. He was Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from 1880 to 1882, during Gladstone's second government, and was admitted to the Privy Council in 1882. He negotiated the passage of the Third Reform Act, he supported laws giving the municipal franchise to women, legalising labour unions, improving working conditions and limiting working hours. He was also one of the earliest campaigners for universal schooling. Soon he was being spoken of as a future prime minister, but it was not to be ... his career was derailed in 1885 after a notorious and well-publicised divorce case, the so-called Crawford divorce scandal.

Dilke's younger brother, Ashton Wentworth Dilke, had married May Eustace Smith, the eldest daughter of Liberal politician and shipowner Thomas Eustace Smith and his wife, Ellen, in 1876. Charles Dilke soon became the lover of Ellen Smith (his brother's mother-in-law), a relationship which continued after his own marriage in 1884. So far, things were kept under wraps. But then Charles started an affair with another of Ellen's daughters, a 19-year-old woman named Virginia Crawford. He was now conducting an affair with one of his lover's daughters who was also, of course, his brother's sister-in-law. Unfortunately, Virginia had recently married another MP, one Donald Crawford, a man much older than herself. Their affair went on for three years clandestinely before Crawford discovered and was very displeased. He sued for divorce and it all came out. Or did it?

The divorce case was distinctly odd. Virginia did not turn up at the court and the only evidence presented was Crawford's account of Virginia's confession. There were also some accounts by servants, which were both circumstantial and insubstantial. Dilke, aware of his vulnerability over the affair with Virginia's mother, refused to give evidence, largely on the advice of his confidant, Joseph Chamberlain. The judge found, paradoxically, that Virginia had been guilty of adultery with Dilke, but that there was no admissible evidence to show that Dilke had been guilty of adultery with Virginia. He concluded, "I cannot see any case whatsoever against Sir Charles Dilke", dismissed Dilke from the suit with costs and pronounced a decree nisi dissolving the Crawfords'

marriage.

This paradoxical finding perplexed the public and an investigative journalist William Thomas Stead launched a public campaign against Dilke. Two months later, in April, Dilke sought to reopen the case and clear his name. Unfortunately, Dilke and his legal team had badly miscalculated (his legal advice has been described as "perhaps the worst professional advice ever given"). Though they had planned to subject Virginia to a searching cross-examination, it was Dilke who was subjected to severe cross examination in the witness box by the great forensic lawyer Henry Matthews. Henry Mathews was a conservative politician and had no love for Dilke. Matthews' attack was devastating, and Dilke proved an unconvincing witness. His habit of physically cutting pieces out of his diary with scissors was held up to particular ridicule, as it created the impression that he had cut out evidence of potentially embarrassing appointments. The jury found that Virginia had presented the true version of the facts. Dilke's career was ruined and Mathews' reputation established. Queen Victoria had not forgotten Dilke's republicanism and was so pleased with Mathews' demolition of the immoral Dilke that she insisted he be made home secretary. His career was made and Dilke's ruined.

Other women then came forward to report how Dilke had approached them for a liaison. Various lurid rumours circulated about his love life, including that he had invited a maidservant to join himself and his lover in bed and that he had introduced one or more of them to "every kind of French vice", and he became a figure of fun in bawdy music-hall songs. It was not surprising that he lost his parliamentary seat (Chelsea) in the 1886 UK general election.

Dilke spent the rest of his life trying to exonerate himself and spent a fortune doing so. A new inquiry, held in the early 1880s, cast doubt on Virginia's testimony. It turned out she had hidden other affairs. She loathed her elderly husband and wanted a divorce from him. Her description of the Dilke 'love nest' in Warren Street was riddled with errors and inconsistencies. Roy Jenkins concluded that Dilke had never seduced Virginia and that she was lying. It seems possible that she was put up to making accusations by Dilke's political rivals. Jenkins reflected that Dilke was the only man to be denied prime ministerial office by the lies of a devious woman.

In 1892 Dilke became an MP again, this time for the Forest of Dean which he held until his death in 1911 of a heart attack. He proved a popular MP. Following his death in 1911, fundraising commenced to establish a local community hospital in his Forest of Dean constituency and a memorial to him, the Dilke Memorial Hospital, Cinderford, still exists.

Despite being a radical, Dilke was also an imperialist; he argued for British imperial domination in his bestselling 1868 book, *Greater Britain*. He was, incidentally, a fine writer, even if his arguments would not receive much support these days. Perhaps had he spent more time chasing deer at Alice Holt and less London ladies, we would have had a prime minister Dilke.

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The "What's happening in Rowledge...
...and who to contact?" section



ROWLEDGE VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR 2021

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

ALL ROWLEDGE Event Organisers!!!!

Please email the Editor with event dates for 2021, so we can include it in all future issues of the Rowledge Review. Email: rowledgereview@yahoo.co.uk



Contact details
are in the Village
Directory - in the
centre pages of
the Rowledge
Review.

Rowledge Activities - Weekly Calendar

Time	Group	Age	Venue
Children's Events			
Mon-Fri			
09.00-15.30	Rowledge Playgroup	2-4	Village Hall
09.00-15.00	Little Fishes Nursery School	2-4	St James Church
Tuesday			
17.00-18.15	Beavers	5-8	Village Hall
18.15-19.30	Cubs	8-10	Village Hall
19.30-21.15	Scouts	10-14	Village Hall
Wednesday			
09.15-11.00	Baby & Toddler Group (term time)	0-4	Village Hall
15.00-19.30	Ballet	3-13	Village Hall
16.45-18.00	Octave children's choir	7+	St James Church
17.00-18.00	Rainbows	5-7	Methodist Hall
18.30-20.00	Guides	10-14	Methodist Hall
19.00-20.30	#hungry (youth group)	11-16	St James Church Hall
Thursday			
18.15-19.45	Brownies	5.30-7	School Hall
Friday			
16.00-18.30	Ballet	13-adult	Village H

Adults' Events

Monday			
08.30-09.00	Morning Prayers		St James Church
14.00-16.00	Steady Steps		Village Hall
19.30-21.00	Bruce Yoga		Village Hall
19.30-21.30	Pilates		Village Hall
Tuesday			
09.30-11.30	Ballroom Dancing		Village Hall
09.30-10.30	Zumba Gold (term time only)		Village Club
10.40-11.40	Pilates		Rowledge Club
14.00-17.00	Quilters (fortnightly)		Methodist Hall
19.00-20.00	Pilates		St James Church Hall
19.30-21.15	Community Choir		Frensham Heights School
19.45- 22.00	Womens Institute (3 rd T		The Rowledge Club
20.00-22.30	After 8 ladies group (r	ay)	Homes
Wednesday			
08.30-09.00	Morning Prayers		St James Church
10.30- 12.00	Mother's Unio		St James Church
14.00-15.00	Nordic Wal'		Forest (St James gate)
14.00-16.00	Cameo s	up (2 nd &4 th Wed)	Methodist Hall
15.00-16.00	Healin'	(1st Wed)	Methodist Church
19.00-22.15	Brid'		Village Club
19.00-20.00	P	ingers	St James Church
19.45-22.30	on Club		Village Hall
Thursday			
09.00-16.00	chers		Methodist Hall
10.00-12	rt Club		Village Hall
12.30-1	Luncheon Club (last Thursday)		Methodist Hall
14.30	Steady Steps		Village Hall
18	Boot Camp		Village Hall
18.00	Gardening Club (2 nd Thursday)		Village Hall
18.00-19.15	Bootcamp		
20.30-23.00	Men's Group (3 rd Thursday)		Hare and Hounds
Friday			
08.30-09.00	Morning Prayers		St James Church
09.00-12.00	Coffee Spot		Village Hall
16.00-18.30	Ballet		Village Hall
19.00-20.00	Choir practice		St James' Church
Sunday			
19.45-20.45	Ballroom Dancing		Village Hall

ROWLEDGE DIRECTORY – 2021



ST JAMES' CHURCH – Church Lane, Rowledge, GU10 4EN

Vicar	Revd Russ Gant	01252 792402	vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk
Churchwarden	Karen Fewster	01252 795169	karenfew@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Clive Jourdain	01252 794171	clive@clivejourdain.plus.com
PARISH ADMIN		01252 792402	admin@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

Pastoral Assistants

Parish Friends Coordinator	Elaine Andrews	07928 208 590	daveandelaine@hotmail.com
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Youth Work

Children's Minister	Adele Regan	07791 103 895	Adele.regan@stjamesrowledge.org.uk
Little Fishes Nursery	Judith Parish	01252 794617	littlefishesnursery@gmail.com

Church Officers and Group Leaders

PCC Secretary	TBA		
Hon Treasurer	Andrew Fewster	01252 795169	andrew.fewster@gmail.com
Director of Music/Organist	Vacant		
Planned Giving (M'ship)	Mike Randall	01252 792007	randallm_e@msn.com
Planned Giving (Admin)	Andrew Fewster	01252 795169	andrew.fewster@gmail.com
Electoral Roll Officer	David Pennington		david@dpcon.eu
Cathedral Link	Colin Honey	01252 794317	
Church Cleaning Team	Maria Doland	01252 793984	
Coffee Rota	Jan Clarke	01252 793661	jan.8@btinternet.com



Rowledge Review

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SEND ARTICLES TO:	Editor	-	rowledgereview@yahoo.co.uk
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Distribution	Church Office	01252 792402	admin@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

Church Charities

Children's Society	Vacant		
Christian Aid, Rowledge	Elaine Andrews	07928 208 590	daveandelaine@hotmail.com
USPG	Janet Cunningham-Christie	01428 609290	





METHODIST CHURCH, Chapel Road, Rowledge. GU10 4AP

Minister	Rev'd Philip Simpkins	01420 83167	
Office	-	-	aileen.m.ashby@gmail.com
Church Steward	Aileen Ashby	01252 795438	aileen.m.ashby@gmail.com
Church Steward	Anne Chuter	01252 792685	
Church Steward	Paul Fry	01252 794748	Paul.fry@btinternet.com
Church Steward	Alison Morrice	01252 794471	
Lettings / Hall Bookings	Lynda Godfrey	01252 792479	
Luncheon Club	Aileen Ashby	01252 795438	aileen.m.ashby@gmail.com
Healing Service	Joyce Williamson	01252 793363	jm.williamson@homecall.co.uk

Activities for Children

Little Fishes Nursery School	Judith Parish	01252 794617	littlefishesnursery@gmail.com
Baby & Toddler Group	Miranda Billowes	07977 539 315	rowledge toddlergroup@gmail.com
Rowledge Playgroup Pre-School	April Pegler	07751 366392 or 07806 784035	rowledgeplaygrp@aol.com
Ballet	Maureen Hamilton	01428 656402	maureen@almondndance.com
Playball	Nicola Stubberfield	07919 123008	playballsurrey@gmail.com
Beavers	Rachel Mason	01252 794195	rkmason1904@gmail.com
Cubs	Richard Baines-Walker	07968 587642	richard.banes-walker@struttandparker.com
Scouts	Colette Grist	07879 406 926	colette.grist@yahoo.co.uk
Brownies	-	-	rowledgebrownies@gmail.com
Rainbows and Guides	Rachel Britton	01252 591631	rachel_vasey@yahoo.com
Rowledge After School Club	School Office	01252 792346	
Bootcamp	Olivia Gardner		olivia_g@hotmail.com
Roller skate club	Adam Collis		rowledge@skateclubs.org
Rowledge Football Club	Catherine Greenwood	01252 781785	catherine.greenwood@tribalgroup.com

Schools

Rowledge C of E Primary School Head Teacher	Sarah Oliver	01252 792346	admin@ rowledge.hants.sch.uk
Co-Chair of Governors	Helen Davies		
Co-Chair of Governors	Tom Nixon		
Friends of, Chair	Caroline Eaton	07710 463311	caroline_eaton@me.com
Frensham Heights School	Rick Clarke - Head	01252 792561	admin@frensham-heights.org.uk

Village

Residents' Association	Jeff Ward	01252 795773	wardjeff99@btinternet.com
Village Fayre Chairman	Kelly Taylor	07940 549102 01252 790722	Les_taylors@yahoo.co.uk
Tree Warden	Brian Greig	01252 793762	

Village Hall

Chairman	Richard Baines-Walker	07968587642	
Treasurer	John Phipps		treasurer@rowledgevillagehall.com
Secretary	Karen Fewster	01252 795169	karenfew@gmail.com
Bookings	Susie Duffy		bookings@rowledgevillagehall.com

Police

Surrey	101	Hampshire	101
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Rowledge Review

2021 Subscriptions Due

Clearly, it has been a difficult year and, due to the pandemic, we have been unable to deliver paper copies of the Rowledge Review to your door or collect this year's subscriptions.

However, we continue to publish monthly and each issue is available to read or download on the St James' Church website:

<https://stjamesrowledge.org.uk/whatson/rowledge-review-magazine/>

If you like to flick through the pages, you can also pick up a paper copy at the back of church.

When Covid restrictions lift, we will return to delivering your paper copy to your door.

So, as with most other things this past year, we're hoping we can take advantage of technology to take subscriptions by card/online. The cost is £10 for the year (slight increase on last year, to allow for additional administration and online payment fees).



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IMPORTANT:

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON BACK OF CHEQUE

Thank You!

Charity Representatives

Cancer Research	Jenny Crawford	01252 793517	
RNLI	Nigel Cuthbert		rnli.farnham@btinternet.com
Save the Children / CHIKS	Robin Radley	01252 794212	robin.radley1@btinternet.com

Social Groups

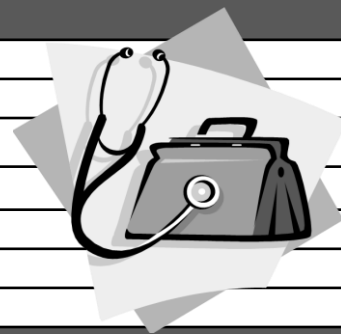
After 8 Group for Women	Sue Gardner	01252 793903	susan@gatecc.co.uk
Alice Holt Women's Institute	Grada Helsdon	01252 727824	aliceholt20@gmail.com
Art Club	Roger Warburton	01252 793813	rwarburton@btinternet.com
Coffee Spot	Liz Thomas	01252 793802	liz_thomas118@yahoo.co.uk
Community Choir	Edwin Rolles	01420 541966	edwinrolles@hotmail.co.uk
Quilters	Sue Stephens	01252 794375	suestephensuk@btinternet.com
Patchers	Sandra Bigg	01252 792082	sandratbigg@hotmail.com
Farnham Conservatives	Wyatt Ramsdale	07771 674634	Wyatt.Ramsdale@surreycc.gov.uk
Qigong	Julian Jaffe		Julian.jaffe@computer-agents.com

Sports /Activity Groups

Badminton Club	Jeff Kelly	01252 625612	jeffmkelly@virgin.net
Ballroom Dancing	Angela Cobley	07732 556170	angelaschoolofdancing@hotmail.com
Bowling Club Captain	Ken Wickenden	01252 794413	captain@rowledgebowlingclub.co.uk
Bowling Club Chairrman	Robert Green	01252 794860	chairman@rowledgebowlingclub.co.uk
Bowling Club Secretary	Sue Stephens	01252 794375	secretary@rowledgebowlingclub.co.uk
Bridge Club			Occasionally in Rowledge Review
Cricket Club Chairman	Carl Baker	07768 325701	carl@carlbaker.co.uk
Cricket Club General Secretary	Lynley Griffiths	01252 710534	lynley.griffiths@talktalk.net
Nordic Walking	Sue Gardner	01252 793903	susan@gate.co.uk
Pilates/Yoga/Zumba	Hannah Epps	07855 291833	hannah@farnhampilates.com
Yoga	Bruce Hawkins		bruceyoga@hotmail.com
Steady Steps	Louise Neave	07875 330440	louise@steadystepsphysio.co.uk
Tennis Club	Kelly Taylor	07940 549102	info@rowledgetennis.org.uk
Rowledge Gardening Club	Roy Gardner	01252 793903	chairman@rowledgegardeningclub.org.uk
Zumba	Alison Edwards	0781 397 6841	ianandalison1@tiscali.co.uk
Hand-bell Ringers	James Morrice	07854 382598	j.morrice@hotmail.com

Welfare

Care Farnham	David Ashby	01252 795438	
Care Farnham	Duty Officer	01252 716655	
Phyllis Tuckwell Support Group	Mandy Main	07904 531337	
Doctors' Surgery	Holly Tree Surgery	01252 793183	
Chiropractor	Anna Maynard	01252 793183	
Surrey Victim Support	[24 hr]	01483 770457	
Hampshire Victim Support	[24 hr]	01252 342777	



Councillors

Surrey County Council	Wyatt Ramsdale	07771 674634	wyatt.ramsdale@surreycc.gov.uk
Hants County Council	Mark Kemp-Gee	01420 563550	marknkempgee@aol.com
E Hants District Council	Ken Carter	01420 22576	Ken.Carter@easthants.gov.uk
E Hants District Council	David Ashcroft	07966 511868	David.Ashcroft@easthants.gov.uk
Farnham Town Councillor	Paula Dunsmore	01252 710009	Paula.dunsmore@farnham.gov.uk
Binsted Parish Coun. [Clerk]	Sue Hodder	07483 310631	clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Binsted Parish Coun. [Dep Clerk]	Karen Ray		depclerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk www.binstedparishcouncil.com
Binsted Par. Coun. [Interim Chair]	Alison Melvin		A.Melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

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St. James' Church
Rowledge

The 150 Appeal



Will you make a lasting contribution to help secure the future of your parish church?

Where we've come from

St. James' Church was built for the people of Rowledge and its surrounding hamlets and opened in 1871. The church has played a central part of village life ever since. The beautiful Victorian building is a special place in the hearts of many hundreds of people, whether as a place of Christian worship, celebration of significant life events, nurture of young children through our Nursery School - Little Fishes, or the pastoral care of those in need.

The mission and ministry of the church continues to be focused around being a community where people and relationships are transformed by the love of God.

The impact of Covid-19

The church has been significantly impacted by Covid 19. Many are not aware that all income at St. James' comes from local people like you. It comes through regular contributions via our Parish Giving Scheme or through collections taken during services. Of course this second stream of income has completely dried up.



Despite the reduction in regular income, many of our commitments to ministry in the village and beyond, remain. These include:

- Provision of support for children and young people (particularly in the area of mental health and wellbeing) through the employment of a Youth and Children’s Minister.
- Investing in the improvement of the church building and churchyard as resources for the whole community.
- Ongoing pastoral care for those in our village who are vulnerable and most in need.

St. James’ Church receives no external funding whatsoever. So we are asking:

Will you partner with us?

The 150 Appeal

To secure the future viability of the church as a resource for the whole community, we need your help. We need local people to commit to supporting the 150 Appeal for several years. We are seeking to attract as many new givers as possible who are willing to contribute from as little as £5 per week towards the future care of the building and churchyard as well as the development of our ministry to people of all ages in and beyond the village.

This additional funding will allow all those who consider St. James’ Church to be a valuable community asset, (whether regular church-goers or not) to make a positive and lasting impact both for the existing community of Rowledge and for future generations.

Protect the Church for the price of a pint!

For the price of a pint a week, you can make a huge difference to the future viability of the church as an irreplaceable community asset linking us with our past, the present and our future hope. At St. James’ we believe the ministry of the local church is for all people - those of all faiths and none.

Below is an example of how even small, regular contributions can make a difference.

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The Mediaeval Stone Bridges across the River Wey – Perry Mitchell

The River Wey is the longest tributary to the Thames, if we ignore the Medway which joins it in the estuary. In pre-historic times it shaped the topography for most of the land that became our neighbouring villages to the north and east. In the time around the Norman Conquest, it was crossed by fords in the dry seasons and by mostly wooden structures for crossing in wetter times. Such bridges were probably mostly limited to pedestrians and maybe packhorses. They were probably all of limited life, and the occasional but regular flooding of the Wey was a cause of repairs or replacement.

In 1233 a very major flood occurred that swept away all the existing bridges. The common view is that between Farnham and Godalming, a grand total of about a dozen replacement stone bridges were then built over the following century by Monks from Waverley Abbey. To me, this drew an image of jolly men in habits dispensing their skills to the rescue of the local villages. However, a brief look at the history of Waverley Abbey presents a completely different picture.

Waverley Abbey was founded by Bishop William Giffard in 1128. It developed to the point where at the end of the century it had 70 religious brothers and 120 'lay brothers'. It was never well endowed and the buildings and surrounding crops were severely damaged by a flood in 1201. It took most of the following century to finish building the Abbey Church. At times the monks were so poor as to resort to begging for food from other better endowed establishments. Yet in this same period they managed to build so many bridges with a level of skill and material investment that results in many of these bridges being in daily use to this day!

I suspect that the secret is in the term 'lay brothers'. Many of these men could have been skilled stonemasons. Religious buildings would have been their major undertaking in the countryside and it was the custom of the craft to be nomadic to the work in hand. My wife's grandfather came from a line of Stonemasons, and into Victorian times they could be away for a year or more with a particular job. They were the 'ex-patriots' of their day! In mediaeval times, Master Masons combined the roles of architects, builders, craftsmen, designers and engineers. A single Master Mason would need the support of many stonemasons and other artisans and labourers. In short, Waverley Abbey would have accumulated a significant building force, but with the advent of tough times they would have struggled to maintain them. The destruction of the bridges was an opportunity to put to work the building team(s) perhaps heavily sponsored by landowners who had certain obligations at the time for maintenance of bridges on their land.

At this point we have to mention 'The Bridgebuilding Brotherhood' (Fratres Pontifices) that was supposedly active from France and across Europe at this time. They had a mixture of Knights, Monks and Artisans that built some large bridges. Waverley Abbey was a Cistercian Brotherhood that originated in France – surely it all fits!

Unfortunately it appears that Fratres Pontifices is a legend that has no historic foundation at all!

Of the dozen or so bridges originally built by the ‘Monks’ in Waverley, 5 still exist in fully working condition. It has to be said that considerable maintenance and refurbishments have happened over the centuries, but the builders would still recognise the stone foundations of their original creations. The various superstructures are of much more recent construction and designed to meet the health and safety considerations of their times. I will give a brief story of each with an appropriate illustration. In order, from upstream:

1) Tilford East Bridge.

The River Wey actually has two branches; the North or Alton Wey and the South Wey. They meet in a meadow between the two bridges located at the two north corners of Tilford Green. The West Bridge thus spans the narrower South branch, and in times of drought it is but a trickle! In World War 2 the bridge was deemed of insufficient capacity to meet the Army’s needs in the area, so in 1941 a ‘temporary’ bridge was



erected alongside the old bridge. This was actually the same year that the famous ‘Bailey Bridge’ was invented, but it was in fact of a different design. This bridge then served for the rest of the century taking southbound traffic, with northbound traffic using the old stone bridge. In 2007 the temporary structure was replaced by the current new bridge which won awards for the sympathetic design. The opportunity was taken to close the mediaeval bridge to motor traffic and to thus make traffic give way for single carriage working on the new bridge. Fortunately the council deemed a traffic light unnecessary, and in my experience it works well.

The photo is a recent one of the renovated but closed bridge. You can see how shallow the water is!

2) Tilford West or ‘Packhorse’ Bridge.

So progressing downstream, this bridge is the first over the combined branches of the river. Traditionally a ‘Packhorse’ bridge is the width of a horse with a low parapet so as not to interfere with the load panniers. In Victorian times the width of this bridge’s roadway was widened to take carts and a balustrade was added, and the bridge abutments and revetting of the river banks modified. Later a pedestrian walkway was added on the upstream side. In 2017 a driver skidded on ice and went through the

downstream balustrade, with the car landing on the island. There was no other damage to the bridge but it was overdue major refurbishment which subsequently started in 2019 and involved total closure of the bridge to motor traffic. It eventually reopened a year or so later with a brand new superstructure and carriageway, still restricted to single way working. The photo is a digital conversion of a slide taken about 1985 so before the recent rebuild.



2. Tilford West or 'Packhorse' Bridge

3) Elstead Bridge.

This bridge is the only access to the substantial village of Elstead from the West. In 1993 it was effectively strengthened and doubled in width with a new bridge added alongside the old one. The balustrades on the old bridge are now made of substantial steel railing and modern motorists would have no idea they are on a bridge about 700 years old!

This picture was originally a monochrome photo taken just after WW2 so before the above mentioned work was done. I have used an AI technique to give it some imagined colour.

3) Elstead Bridge



4) Somerset (Peper Harow) Bridge.

This is probably named after the adjacent Somerset Farm. It now has a modern brick parapet added. The picture is as per Elstead Bridge, so does not show this.



4) Somerset (Peper Harow) Bridge



5) Oxenford Bridge

5) Oxenford Bridge.

This is the only one of these bridges that is not part of a public road, since it is part of the private drive to the former Oxenford House, later replaced by Peper Harow House.

There is a much grander drive out to the A3, so this is now little used. The picture is from the Internet without a date.

6) Eashing Bridge.

This passes over two branches of the Wey so is officially Eashing Bridges. Perhaps because of the resultant length, the single carriageway is now controlled by a traffic light. The picture is again a colourised monochrome print from just after WW2.



6) Eashing Bridge



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Men on The Rowledge War Memorial

by Neil Pittaway

This month's names, Thomas Fisher and Gerald Gilbank both have their links to Rowledge from their parents' homes in Bucks Horn Oak. In Thomas's case his own links to Rowledge seem somewhat tenuous but, as for all the fallen on our Memorial, those who nominated the names for inclusion will have had good reason to do so. Gerald had likely been at school in Rowledge and before he moved to South London, had been a gardener in the district.

Both Thomas and Gerald signed up from South London addresses.

Thomas Fisher. 1882-1917.
Private. 1st/14th Battalion,
County of London Regiment.
The London Scottish. 513852.



Thomas Fisher was born in Sydenham, Kent in 1882. His parents were Thomas and Frances (née Grover) Fisher. His father Thomas was born in Bentley, Hampshire in 1846 and his mother, Frances Grover was born in Crondall in 1849. They were married in Bentley in 1867.



The 1871 census shows them living in the Bull Inn, Bentley with their first son, George and daughter Fanny, both born in Bentley. Thomas was an agricultural labourer.

Bull Inn	1	Joseph Hunt	Head	Mar	49	Licensed Victualler	Wiltshire Beckenham
		Ann. Do	Wife	Mar	34		Berks. Benham
		Alfred Upton	Labourer	Widr	50	Carpenter	Kent Deal
		Charlotte Upton	Widow	W	74	Pauper	Hants. Binsted
		William Do	Do	Unm	26	Wardwainer	Surrey Beigate
		Thomas Fisher	Head	Mar	25	Ag. Lab	Hants Bentley
		Frances Do	Wife	Mar	22		Do Crondall
		George Do	Son		3		Do Bentley
		Fanny Do	Daughter		1		Do Do

Thomas's parents at the Bull Inn, Bentley 1871.

By the April 3rd census date of 1881, the family, with no extra children, were living in Sydenham near Lewisham, father Thomas was then a coachman.

The 1891 census, also for Sydenham in S.E. London confirms that Thomas was born there. Father Thomas had become a gardener.

Thomas Fisher	Head	M	29	Gardener	X	Hants Bentley
Frances do	Wife	M	22	Laundress	X	do Crondall
Fanny do	Daughter	L	2	do Assistant	X	do Bentley
Thomas do	Son	L	9			Hants Sydenham

Thomas aged 9. Sydenham, 1891, S.E. London.

Haslemere. It could be that Thomas, who had enlisted a month earlier, was serving in the area.

Thomas Fisher’s military record was damaged by the 1940 fire, but some of it is just legible.

The first section shows the dates of enlistment and postings. His initial enlistment in December 1915 was in the Reserves with number 7980 before joining the 1st/14th Battalion of the London Scottish in May 1916, with service number 513852.

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 4900 Name Louis Fisher							
Corps	Battn. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Signature certifying of Ent.
					years	days	
General Service		Attested	Pte	10-12-15		1	[Signature]
General Service		To Army Reserve	Pte	10-12-15			[Signature]
		Mobilized	Pte	22-5-16			[Signature]
	3/14	Posted	-	22-5-16			[Signature]
	"	Awarded 14 days detention	Pte	11/2/16			[Signature]
	7/14	also	"	29 JAN 1917			[Signature]

Enlistment and posting record for Thomas Fisher.

Following 14 days in detention for some undocumented reason, Thomas Fisher sailed from Southampton to Le Havre on January 29th 1917 and eventually joined his unit in France on February 17th 1917. The battalion became involved in the Battle of Arras and the pursuit of the Germans towards their Hindenburg Line.

It was near this line that Thomas Fisher lost his life on July 1st 1917. He was 35, a husband and father of Roy, aged one.

Thomas Fisher was finally laid to rest in the Wancourt British Cemetery near Arras where his grave is marked with a memorial headstone.



Wancourt British Cemetery, N.E. France with Thomas Fisher’s memorial headstone.

For a period, Thomas's wife Jennie went to live with Thomas's parents at 'The Follies', Bucks Horn Oak before returning to Thornton Heath soon after he fell, presumably to be with her own mother. She was awarded a pension of 18s 9d (94p) per week for herself and her one child, Roy, payable six months after her husband died.

and the following number quoted.

No. 91-14 Fisher (Rev.) 5

SIR,

I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to inform you that the widow of No. 7980/513452
Ple J. Fisher
14 1/2 London Rd
has been awarded a Pension of 18/9 a week, for herself and one children with effect from the 14 Jan 1918

Pension award for Thomas's wife and child.

Jennie died in 1925, eight years after Thomas. Her son Roy was just ten. At the time of her death Jennie was still living in the Thornton Heath area, possibly with or near her mother, Louisa Glynn (née Pereira) who died there in 1941. The 1939 register shows Thomas's son, Roy aged 23 'at school' in Croydon, presumably as a teacher. Roy died in Somerset on September 15th 2003.

Thomas Fisher's mother, Frances died in Bucks Horn Oak in 1931 aged 83 and his father died in hospital in Alton in 1938, aged 92. They were both buried at St. James' in Rowledge.

Frances Fisher No. 668 F/13	Buckhorn Oak	May 13 th 1931	83 years.	G. S. Bird
-----------------------------------	--------------	------------------------------	-----------	------------

Burial records for Thomas's mother at St. James, 1931 and father, also St. James', 1938.

Double grave see No 668 Thomas Fisher No. 754 F/13	39 ^A Anstey Rd Alton (Inchamary) Coke of Buckhorn Oak	July 12 th 1938	92 years	A. J. Daint
--	--	-------------------------------	----------	-------------

The link for Thomas Fisher to Rowledge seems to be that of his parents who clearly built a relationship with both the village and with St. James' following their return to the district and specifically to 'The Follies', Bucks Horn Oak sometime between 1901 and 1911.

Gerald Gilbank. 1895-1917.

Private. 1st Battalion, City of London Regiment. The Royal Fusiliers. 1937-200388.



Gerald Gilbank was born in late 1895 in the Curragh Camp, County Kildare, Ireland. This was a British military training camp in the days before the separation of Ireland.



Gerald's parents were Thomas and Sarah (née Dick) Gilbank. Father Thomas, who at the time of his marriage was a valet, was born in Yorkshire in 1863 and mother, Sarah Eleanor Dick (Sara), was born in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland in about 1870. Sarah had moved to Chester with her parents by the time she was four.

Thomas Gilbank and Sarah Eleanor Dick were married in Chester in 1890:

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
216	Feb. 19. 1890	Thomas Gilbank	28	Bachelor	Valet	6 Newgate St	William Gilbank	Farmer
		Sarah Eleanor Dick	22	Spinster	—	Newgate St	James Dick	Blacksmith

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church; by Thomas Cochran or after James by me, J. Graham Cox (Curate)

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Thomas Gilbank and Sarah Eleanor Dick in the presence of us, Thomas Cochran and Miss Maude Thorne

Marriage of Gerald's parents in Chester, 1890.

A year later in 1891 Thomas and Sarah were living in Sheffield and their first child, Agnes was born there around Christmas time 1890.

25 Newgate St	Thomas Gilbank	Head	M	28	25 Newgate St	1	25 Newgate St
	Sarah E. G.	Wife	M				25 Newgate St
	Agnes G.	Daughter					25 Newgate St

Gerald's parents in Sheffield 1891.

There is no obvious census record for the family in 1901 but from other records it is clear the family had moved to Chester by 1893 as their second daughter, Prudence, was born there in 1893. Their first son, Leonard was born there in late 1894 and can be seen in a Chester School record for October 1897, aged just three.

29/10/97	Gilbank	Leonard	19-10-94	8/94
----------	---------	---------	----------	------

Gerald's brother, Leonard at school in Chester 1897.

Maybe this was a boarding school whilst Leonard's parents were in Ireland?

As Gerald was born in County Kildare in late 1895, his parents must have gone to Ireland between late 1894 and possibly mid-1897. It is not clear why Gerald's parents were living in the Curragh Camp at the time of Gerald's birth. It is possibly that his father Thomas was, or had become, an army officers' valet.

Rowledge Review

After Gerald's parents returned to Chester, their next child, daughter Gladys, was born late in 1897. (See 1911 census). Their last child, Norman was born in late 1901 and his birth registered in Farnham. He died in 1903, aged just 17 months and was buried at St. James' on May 14th. The family had clearly moved south, possibly to Holt Pound, sometime before 1901. There do not appear to be any census or electoral roll records for the Gilbank family from 1891 up to the 1911 census (shown here) by which time they were living in Bucks Horn Oak. Gerald's father was by then working as a drains man. Gerald could have been at school in Rowledge and by the age of 15, was a domestic gardener.

Thomas Gilbank Head 48	Married 21	0	3	1	Tradesman Building	Government Worker	gibb, thomas
Sarah Gilbank Wife 46	Married 21	1	2	1			Scott, thomas
Agnes Gilbank Daughter 20	Single				Housemaid Domestic		York, Sheffield
Gerald Gilbank Sons 15	Single				Gardener Domestic		Widmore, Lutterworth
Gladys Gilbank Daughter 13					School		Cheshire Chester

Signature: Thomas Gilbank
Place: Bucks Horn Oak Farnham

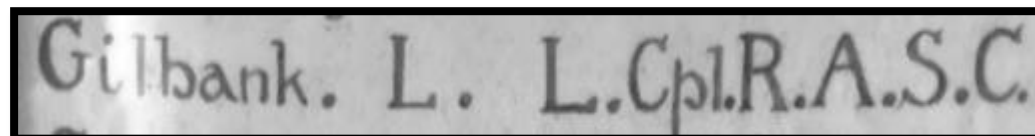
Gerald with his parents in Bucks Horn Oak 1911.

By the 1911 census date, Gerald's brother, Leonard had left the family home and joined the young army Trainees. He is shown here resident as a single man with his unit in Aldershot.

Gerald's brother Leonard with his trainee unit in Aldershot 1911.

Leonard Gilbank	Age	15	single		Unit	Cheshire Chester
-----------------	-----	----	--------	--	------	------------------

Leonard served in WW1 and entered France on August 12th 1914. He survived and is remembered on the St. James' porch Memorial to 'Those Who Served'. He was Lance Corporal M/27603 in the Army Service Corps (Royal Army Service Corps from 1918).



Gerald's brother on the St. James' 'Those Who Served' porch Memorial.

Gerald Gilbank's military record is missing, presumably lost in the 1940 fire. As such his service record has to be estimated from what is available.

His death record shows that he enlisted into the 1st Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers at Handel Street in London. At that time, his residence was given as Purley, South Croydon where he had moved to at some stage before 1914. His medal card indicates that he received the 1915 Star, likely for service in France during that year.

1 st Lond R. F.C. 1914			
GILBANK			
Gerald			
Rank	Regt.	Page	Remarks
Private	* T.P. 101/15	45	6.11.14. 3/5/14
Private	do	46	
15 Star	T.P. 5 B.	23.	
Theatre of War first served in (2) Egypt.			
Date of entry theatre 30/8/15			

Gerald's medal record.

Regimental records do not seem to indicate that the 1st Battalion served in Egypt as shown as 'first served' on Gerald's medal card, so possibly this was a training exercise for Gerald, then no.1937, before his entry into France.

Gerald Gilbank's medal record, shown here, gives three significant theatre of war dates, two for no.200388:

200388	Pte. GILBANK, Gerald	1st L. and R. Pte. 1937	4(a) 30.8.15. to 17.9.15.
			2(b) 19.9.15. to 3.1.16.
			1(a) 4.12.16. to 3.5.17.

The first was a three week period and was likely Gerald's time in Egypt before entry into France with his move towards his unit in Flanders. The second from September 1915 is a three month period which included the Battle of Loos in North-east France. Between the second and third dates the 1st Battalion fought on the Somme, including the Battles of Delville Wood and Guillemont. The eleven month gap may indicate Gerald had been wounded and was recovering. The third and final dates are from December 1916 until May 1917 when Gerald had moved east from the Somme towards Arras.

It was here that Gerald Gilbank fell on May 3rd 1917, fighting in the fierce Battle for Vimy Ridge during the Battle of Arras. He was twenty one. Gerald was not recovered and has no known grave. He is remembered on course J, stone 7 of bay 9 at the Arras Memorial with many fallen 1st Battalion London Regiment comrades.



The C.W.G.C. Arras Memorial.



At some stage after the war, Gerald's parents moved from Bucks Horn Oak to London Road, Holybourne, Hampshire. His father Thomas died there in 1938 and by 1953 when she died, his mother, Sarah had moved to Mill Lane in Holybourne.



Gerald's parents, Thomas and Sarah Gilbank.



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There is a huge increase in need at the moment, especially from those families who would usually be reliant on school dinners.

To access the Foodbank should you be in need, please see contact details below.

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You can also contact St. James' Church Office to collect Foodbank vouchers.

The Church Office,

Church Lane,

Rowledge,

GU10 4EN.

PHONE - 01252 792402

EMAIL - admin@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

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Fun time



Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?
Real rocks are too heavy!

Why did the leprechaun go outside?
To sit on the paddy-o



Why shouldn't you iron a four-leaf clover?
You might press your luck!

Do people get jealous of the Irish?
Yes, they're green with envy!



Why is March the most popular month to use a trampoline?
It's spring-time.



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

Sudoku Each puzzle has a solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 9 space shape.



EDITORIAL

PLEASE NOTE: The official deadline for copy for the April issue of the Review is **FRIDAY 12th March 2021.... LATEST DATE!!**

Please either send articles through email: **rowledgereview@yahoo.co.uk** or leave your masterpieces in the pigeonhole provided in St James' Church.

We always welcome your contributions and would love to hear from anyone who think they could contribute a series of articles on a theme – any subject considered.

Please also continue to notify us of any required changes to the Directory listing.

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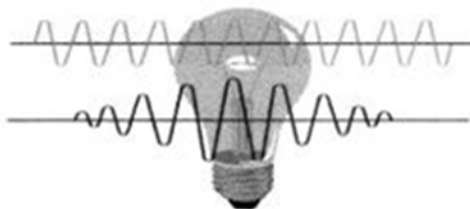
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Thanks



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