

ROWLEDGE Review

90p

March 2023



**Rowledge
Village Cup
WINNERS!**

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**Special
Easter
Services
- dates
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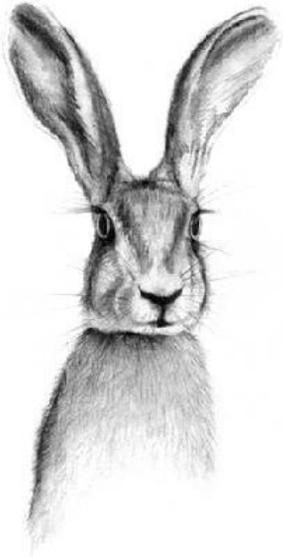
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From the Vicarage

If you're a listener to Radio Four you will be familiar with Woman's Hour. March could be seen as "Woman's Month." It is the month often associated with new birth, but also a month in which there are many celebrations of women-hood. Early in March is International Women's Day. A local ecumenical service, giving thanks for the contribution of women in our society, will be held on Friday 3rd March from 10:00am at St. Joan of Arc's Catholic Church in Farnham.



9th March celebrates the day in 1959 when a small, but very popular woman made her first public appearance on the high street. She is of course called Barbie! Thank goodness the producers of this child's toy have adjusted her proportions so that children have less confused ideals when it comes to body image.

And then 19th March is Mothering Sunday - the day on which we give thanks for our mothers and those others who have fulfilled this role in our lives. Not all of us enjoy, or have enjoyed, positive relationships with our own earthly mothers. Some of us may never have known our mothers. However, we do all have women in our lives who have been positive influences, loving and caring for us.

I give thanks for three women in my own life. The first is my own mother. She has, like so many of our mothers, nurtured, fed, nursed, counselled, and corrected me. All of this done with a deep love for my father, brother, and me. Thanks Mum!

The second woman is called Jan Bedford and she is, I suppose, my spiritual mother. She is the one who helped to bring me to 'new birth.' Jan was the one who accompanied me in my first, faltering steps towards faith. On the day that I became a Christian, she light-heartedly said, "you'll probably be a Vicar one day!" Oh, how we laughed!

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, is my wife Jenny. Jenny is God's perfect gift to me. Her greatest quality is that she loves sacrificially. She gives up so much so that others might experience blessing. This includes living in a land not of her own, spending many evenings alone when the Vicar is at a meeting, or on a house call, having breakfast, lunch and dinner interrupted when a parishioner is in need. This list goes on. I don't give thanks to God enough for Jenny, but today I do – publicly. She'll be horrified!

Perhaps during this month, you can give thanks for the woman of influence and love in your own lives and let them know what they mean to you.

With all blessings,

Rev. Russ Gant, Vicar



St. James' Church
Rowledge

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For all the latest news and information about
services and other events call us on -
(01252) 792402 or visit our website -

stjamesrowledge.org.uk





St. JAMES' CHURCH – March services

We are now meeting as a whole congregation in church weekly, physically, for worship, however we are continuing with our live-streamed services each Sunday for those who prefer that style, or are not ready to return to the church building.

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

Sunday services 9.15am and 10.45am.

See our website for details.

stjamesrowledge.org.uk

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



As we move through Lent, we are considering “Praying When God Seems Silent”.

5th March – 2nd of Lent

Romans 5: 1-5. Mark 14: 32-37

“How will I get through this?”

9.15 Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45 Morning Worship + Holy Communion

12th March – 3rd of Lent

Ephesians 6: 10-17. Mark 15: 33-41

“Why aren't my prayers working?”

9.15 Holy Communion (CW)

10.45 Morning Worship

19th March – 4th of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

Psalms 22. Mark 15: 42-47

“Where is God when heaven seems silent?”

9.15 Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45 Morning Worship + All Age

26th March – 5th of Lent

2 Corinthians 1: 3-5. John 20: 19-31

“When will my prayers be answered?”

9.15 Holy Communion (CW)

10.45 Morning Worship + Baptism

Easter Dates for your diary

It's really easy to celebrate Easter as a holiday, in passing. The chocolate eggs, the bunnies, the family gatherings, but don't miss out on the real meaning of Easter – do join us for our special April services – see **page 11!**



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.





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?

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

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 welcome.

St James' Church Website

Take a look at our website.

Full of interesting information and details of everything going on at St James'.



We'd love to hear your comments.

www.stjamesrowledge.org.uk

For all the latest information, visit us online at stjamesrowledge.org.uk



Join us for

Mothering Sunday

at St. James' Church, Rowledge on Sunday 19th March

9:15am - traditional service of Holy Communion
10:45am - informal service for all the family.

A posy of daffodils for all the ladies.



St. James' Church
Rowledge

We invite you to



**Support your local church financially,
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During these difficult times, your friends and family can still help make a difference to our Church, when they do all their online shopping through easyfundraising. Plus, every new supporter who signs up to support us using our personal referral link will **earn a bonus £5 donation* when they go on to raise £5!**

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Use the QR code to sign up.

Thank You!



Help needed – more than ever!



FARNHAM FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

At this difficult time, please do support your local Foodbank.

Donations can be made at St. James' Church, Rowledge Co-Op, Waitrose or at Anne Blackman, 12 Prospect Road or Mike Randall at Poplars, 7 The Avenue.

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.

“The Foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline.”

<https://farnham.foodbank.org.uk> info@farnham.foodbank.org.uk

The Church Office, Church Lane, Rowledge, GU10 4EN.

PHONE - 01252 792402

EMAIL - admin@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

The Foodbank would also be very grateful for any financial contributions you feel moved to make.

Foodbank Vouchers

St James' Church is now able to issue Foodbank vouchers for those in need. To be eligible for an emergency food parcel as an individual or a family, you will need to be referred with a voucher from the church office.

Your referral will be completely confidential. If you or someone you know is in need then please contact the church office on 01252 792 402.

- Foodbank need:**
- Tinned Potatoes
 - Instant Mash
 - Cooking Sauces
 - Tinned Tomatoes
 - Tinned Fruit
 - Long-life Sponge Puddings (microwavable)

If you have any queries, do contact: **Anne Blackman (01252 793344)**

Thank you for your support

PARISH REGISTER



No entries this month

Church is OPEN!

Open Daily 9am - 5pm.

St James' Church is OPEN for **individual private prayers and Sunday worship**.
If visiting, please try to 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.



Morning Prayers



St. James' Church
Rowledge

Every Wednesday via Zoom
From 9.15am for half an hour

Email Vicar for Zoom link:
vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

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St. James' Church
Rowledge

Palm Sunday -
2nd April

9:15am - Traditional Holy Communion
10:45am - Morning Worship* *(with children's groups)*

Maundy Thursday -
6th April

7:30pm - Service of Healing
(includes Holy Communion)

Good Friday -
7th April

10:00am - Family Reflections at the Cross*
(followed by Hot Cross Buns)

2:00pm - Meditations at the Cross

Easter Sunday -
9th April

10:00am - Easter Celebration*
(includes Holy Communion)



Easter Services at St. James' Church

* Services especially suitable for
children and young people



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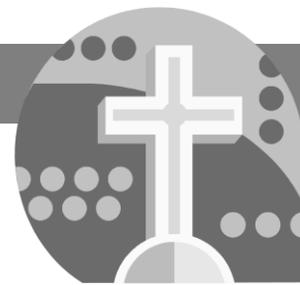
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METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church - open for worship on Sundays at 10.00am.

Preachers for March:

- Sunday 5th March** David Betts
- Sunday 12th March** Colin Gawthrop
- Sunday 19th March** Rev'd David Ashby - Holy Communion
- Sunday 26th March** Rev'd Dr Michael Hopkins

Cameo meets on Wednesdays at 2.00pm

Cameo meets at 2.00pm in the Methodist Hall for board games and tea.

- Wednesday 8th March**
- Wednesday 22nd March**

Healing Service

The healing Service this month is at 3.00pm in the Church on **Wednesday 1st March.**

House Group

Meetings at David & Aileen's home at 10.30am

- Tuesday 7th March**
- Tuesday 21st March**

01252 795438

Sunday Lunch

You are invited to Lunch at The Methodist Hall at **12.30pm on Sunday 26th March.**

Please book via Aileen Ashby 01252 795438

Our Prayer Chain

Led by Mike & Joyce, our Prayer Chain can be accessed on: **01252 793363**

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



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Shops and New Retail Venture offer exciting volunteering roles

Could you give a few hours of your time to support hospice care?

Local charity Phyllis Tuckwell is looking for more volunteers to help in its 17 wonderful shops, which are a treasure trove of good quality, low-price second-hand clothes, bags, shoes, jewellery and furniture, to name just a few of the items they stock. It also needs volunteers for its fabulous new retail venture in Farnborough, which will open in early March.

The new site will be the central hub for Phyllis Tuckwell's donated items, online shops and distribution services. Many items which have been donated to its shops will be taken there to be sorted, labelled and priced, before being sent back out to the most appropriate of its shops to be sold – furniture at their main showrooms in Farnham and Frimley, items to be upcycled to the wonderfully creative team at the high street shop in Guildford, antiques to the Farnham high street shop, and quality fashion items, footwear and accessories to their online shops on depop, vinted and eBay.

Phyllis Tuckwell has 17 shops, which are located throughout its catchment area of West Surrey and North-East Hampshire, so you're sure to find one close to you. By volunteering, you'll join a wonderful, welcoming team, make new friends and add to the structure of your day or week.



You'll feel needed and appreciated, with a sense of purpose, fulfilment and accomplishment that comes from working with others to help support those in the local community who really need your help. The money that Phyllis Tuckwell's shops raise goes directly towards helping fund the supportive and end of life care which it provides for local patients and families who are living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer.

“Our retail volunteers are so important to us, and each of our shops has a great team, with a really welcoming spirit,” said Julia Morpeth, Voluntary Services Manager at Phyllis Tuckwell. “Our volunteers include students, people who are unemployed, or those in employment but with some free time to give, and those who have retired. Some volunteer in memory of a loved one, others simply to make friends and do something worthwhile. We give them the support they need to develop their skills, take on fulfilling roles and really feel that they are making a difference.”

If you would like to find out more about volunteering for Phyllis Tuckwell, please contact its Voluntary Services team on **01252 729400** or email **voluntary.services@pth.org.uk**

Village Tidy-Up

Saturday 1st April

Meet at the Hare & Hounds at 10am for coffee, help clean our village until noon and then stay on for a drink and lunch in the pub

Bring the family.

We will, as usual, concentrate on the areas around the centre of the village but, the more who join in, then the wider the area that we can tidy.

We will be tidying gardens, reclaiming pavements/roads beginning to be covered up by verge creep, plus picking up litter, cleaning gutters etc.



**Just bring gardening gloves and, if possible, a broom, gardening tools and waste sacks...
...and join in the fun!**

Please encourage your friends and neighbours to also join in.

Some People from Rowledge's Past – by Roy Waight

Sir Henry George Outram Bax-Ironside

The wealthy gentry who lived around Farnham often had two properties, one in London and a retreat in the country. After the railway station was opened in Farnham, such people began to move into the area in considerable numbers. Some of them had extraordinary lives and some had extraordinary names. Sir Henry George Outram Bax-Ironside, KCMG (1859 – 1929) had both. He was, in his career, variously ambassador to Venezuela, Chile, Switzerland and Bulgaria though his most perilous assignment was in China.

Between 1921 and 1923 he and his wife were the tenants of Alice Holt Lodge. He was succeeded by another wealthy individual, Mrs. Fisher, the mother of Sir Thomas Fisher, the vice-admiral buried in Rowledge church. Bax-Ironside does not seem to have left much of a mark on Rowledge, but since he lived in the parish, albeit briefly, he merits honorary mention in the Rowledge Review. His story illustrates well the prominence of some of the men who, so to speak, passed through.



At birth, Henry George Outram's surname was only Bax. But in 1866 his father, John Henry Bax, took the surname Bax-Ironside by royal warrant. Why, I do not know but, as a result, his son became Henry Bax-Ironside. It was an appropriate name for a tough diplomat of the colonial age. Henry had the education usual for such men - Eton and Exeter College, Oxford, and he joined the Diplomatic Service at the age of 24. He served in Copenhagen, Teheran, Vienna, Cairo, and Washington, and was briefly in charge of the Central American Legation in 1897, before being appointed Secretary of the Legation at Peking in the same year. Bax-Ironside arrived in Peking at a momentous time. China had just been defeated by Japan in the First Sino-

Japanese War and an enormous movement we call the Boxer Rebellion was fermenting, intent on ejecting all foreign influence from China. It would eventually lead to the deaths of at least 100,000 people. A particular object of resentment were Christian missionaries and one of the first issues Bax-Ironside had to handle was the so-called Kwei-Chan incident.

Protestant missionaries had been working in China as part of the China Inland Mission since 1877, almost 300 years after the arrival of the Catholics. Many Catholic missionaries had been murdered over the years but now the protestants were to get their first martyr. William S Fleming, a Scot, a sailor, wrote home to his family to tell them that he had given his life to Jesus, left the navy, and was studying to be a missionary. He joined the China Mission.

Rowledge Review

With a local Chinese Christian acting as his interpreter, Fleming travelled widely among the villages around Panghai preaching the gospel. The ethnic group Fleming evangelised, called the Hmu, bitterly disliked the Chinese – the feelings were mutual – and after a dispute over when to hold market day, burned down the Chinese part of Panghai, a town a thousand miles or so south west of Peking. The atmosphere was so tense that Fleming decided to make his way to Guiyang and wait there for the trouble to blow over. He never made it. He and his interpreter were hacked to death on the orders of the local headman.

Fleming was killed because of a rumour that the missionaries were importing weapons and ammunition to support a Hmu uprising. After the two Christians were butchered, people immediately looked for evidence to confirm this suspicion, but when they searched Fleming's luggage, and ransacked his house, they found nothing but bibles. Newspapers in England gave the murder extensive coverage. Questions were asked in parliament and it was Bax-Ironside who had to try to enforce justice against the local headman.

Bax-Ironside repeatedly insisted to the Chinese administration that the headman be captured and executed, and when this demand was refused Bax-Ironside demanded the sacking of the local governor. The administration refused to do this as well. In the febrile and chaotic circumstances into which China had collapsed after the defeat by the Japanese and the rise of the Boxer movement, there was nothing Bax-Ironside could do, and his obvious ineffectiveness weakened the influence of the British in Peking with tragic consequences.

Shortly after Bax-Ironside had arrived, in June 1898, the Guangxu Emperor had launched the so-called Hundred Days' Reform in an attempt to modernise China. However the emperor was not the real power in the land which lay with the indomitable figure of the Empress Dowager Cixi. She launched a coup. The Guangxu Emperor was imprisoned, and the scholar reformers who had drawn up the proposed reforms were publicly beheaded.

At the same time, the millenarian group called the Righteous Harmony Society Movement, called the Boxers by Westerners, were demanding the expulsion of all foreign influence from China. The Empress Dowager tried to use them to curtail foreign influence and she permitted them to gather in Beijing but lost control of the situation. In June 1900, Imperial forces and the Boxers besieged the Legation Quarter in Peking, which sheltered several hundred foreign civilians and soldiers and about 3,200 Chinese Christians.

For nearly 8 weeks the occupants of the legation fought a desperate struggle to survive. On 14 August a force of 18,000 soldiers - Cossacks, Japanese infantry, Indian infantry, American marines and a French brigade - lifted the siege in what was reported back home as the Battle of Peking. Dowager Empress Cixi slipped out of Peking dressed as a peasant woman. Her prestige was shattered.

Bax-Ironside had just left Peking when the siege began and therefore he escaped likely

death, but 'Bax's house' as it was called was soon a scene of carnage. Bax-ironside's cheerful secretary, a Scots interpreter, David Oliphant, was shot through the liver and died. Dozens of inhabitants of the Legation were killed before the siege was eventually lifted.

Bax-Ironside left China for the more peaceful climes of Sweden where he met his wife to be, Märtha Hedwig Jacquette Gyldenstolpe (1874–1910). She came from a long line of Swedish aristocracy. Her father, Count August Gustaf Ferson Gyldenstolpe, was a well-known courtier. Her brother was the prominent ornithologist and explorer, Nils Carl Gustaf Fersen Gyldenstolpe. The following year the Bax-Ironsides had a daughter. After his marriage, Sir Henry was appointed Minister Resident and Consul-General at Carácas and he then served as Minister Plenipotentiary to Chile before moving to Switzerland, again as Minister Plenipotentiary. While he was in Switzerland, his wife, Märtha, died in 1910 and the King of Sweden, no less, sent a wreath to her funeral. Bax-Ironside probably hoped to stay in Switzerland and nurse his grief in a relatively peaceful place but it was not to be. Europe was moving towards war and, in 1911,



Sir Henry in 1919

Bax-Ironside was made envoy to Bulgaria, awarded his KCMG, and in 1912 "His Majesty's Special Envoy Extraordinary to attend the ceremonies to be held in commemoration of the coming of age of His Royal Highness Prince Boris, Prince of Tarnovo, Heir to the Throne of Bulgaria".

Bax-Ironside was therefore our man in Sofia during the critical pre-war period. At first Bax-Ironside was sanguine about the murder of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. *"As long as the old emperor lives, Austria will also keep quiet although the feelings against the Serbians will be at fever heat for some time."* He soon had to change his mind as War started.

It was claimed in London that Bax-Ironside was *'one of the only Englishmen who had been living in Bulgaria for several years not to have liked and appreciated the Bulgarians'*. Bax-Ironside now reported his opinion that Bulgaria was likely to join the Central Powers. This was not what London wanted to hear. The optimistic thought more could be done to keep the Bulgarians on side. Bax-Ironside was subsequently undermined by secret visits by British MPs seeking to offer territorial concessions to Bulgaria, but Greece and Serbia refused to make such concessions and, on 6 September, Bulgaria, as Bax-Ironside predicted, joined the

Central Powers. Bax-Ironside left Bulgaria. It was rumoured that he had requested to be relieved since the Foreign Office was ignoring his advice, a claim denied in parliament. Bax-Ironside seemed to have failed in Bulgaria but, in the view of Gooch and Temperley in their 1933 book, *British Documents on the Origins of the War*, after studying such documents, anyone would agree that “A high posthumous reputation is acquired by Sir Henry Bax Ironside”.

Bax-Ironside may not have enjoyed his frustrating and ultimately unsuccessful spell in Bulgaria, but while there, in 1913, he married his second wife, Fanny Agnes (Effie) Jardine, a widow. He retired with her to London. He subsequently decided to rent the peaceful hunting lodge at Alice Holt and it was between 1921 and 1923 that he joined, albeit briefly, the surprisingly long list of prominent people who have been residents of Rowledge parish.

Henry Bax-Ironside died in 1929 at St George Hanover Square and was buried at Putney Vale Cemetery. He left the surprisingly modest sum of £9,820. His wife, Effie, Lady Bax-Ironside, died in 1931 in her London residence, Wyndham House, in Sloane Square. She had long suffered from rheumatism and gout and was found drowned in her bath. She was, incidentally, a fine artist and her paintings adorned the walls of the house where she died.

Rowledge Village Fayre

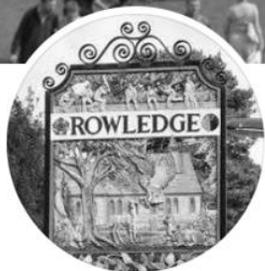


**Please note
NEW DATE**

APOLOGIES:

Date in previous issues of the Rowledge Review were incorrect...this year's Fayre will be on:

Monday 29th May 2023



New Maths Markings on the Playground



Achievement
for All

Rowledge Primary School are excited to show our new Maths markings on the playground to continue Mr Bellenger's hard work on learning Maths.

We have a new multiplication square, number square and hopscotch to continue helping children learn these important number facts. We love these and know they will be valuable in the children's learning.



When in Rome...

Year 3 from Rowledge School had an incredible time at Fishbourne Palace, where they deepened their learning on Ancient Rome.

They participated in several activities to learn more about the way Ancient Romans lived, including: ...



...writing their names using the Roman alphabet...



Rowledge Review

...grinding flour in a Roman kitchen...



...created Roman bridges and roads...



...explored Roman herbs and how they were used ...



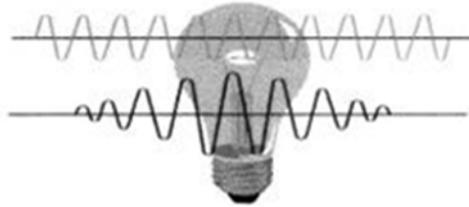
... participated in Ancient Roman games...



...making mosaics...



...It was a packed day full of smiles and learning!
Well done Year 3!



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Action Stations

Prepare seed beds for sowing broad beans, sugar loaf chicory, lettuce, peas, summer spinach and turnips. Choose a mild spell when the soil is crumbly and frost isn't forecast.

Sow tomatoes in a heated propagator for planting in a cold greenhouse in May, or outdoors in June.

Cheer gloomy rooms with Boston ladder ferns, Begonia metallica or B. rex, aspidistra or Swiss cheese plant.

Plant of the month: Clematis *Rhododendron* 'Chink'

You must grow it. Just a couple of feet high and across, its drooping, bell-shaped chartreuse-green blooms command attention. Indeed, it's ideal for Wrecclesham gardens which are mostly acid.

A cross between two robust species – keiskei and trichocladum – it enchants us early this month. Introduced in 1961, when it also won a coveted RHS Award of Merit, it associates appealingly with Pulmonaria 'Sissinghurst White'.

As for encouraging it to excel, it's happiest in dappled shade well way from icy winds. Provided you mulch it annually in spring with a generous depth of composted manure, augmented monthly until September with a granular ericaceous fertiliser, such as that stocked by Green Gardener: tel: 01493 750061, www.greengardener.co.uk, it should please you for many years.

For peat's sake!

Repeatedly, we are told how beneficial peat bogs are to the environment, of how they capture carbon dioxide responsible for warming our planet and limiting life. The question, then, is how important is this product for growing quality plants? Some experts, including gardeners at Barnsdale, once home of TV horticultural guru Geoff Hamilton, now run by his son, Nick, decree that we don't need it. Indeed, for the past 30 years, Nick and his team have been growing splendid plants organically without this ingredient.

All you have to remember, Nick says, is to feed a little more. And remember, if the compost dries out it is much easier to re-wet than a peat-based blend. If you would like to know more about gardening in an organic and sustainable manner, contact the Barnsdale Gardens Advisory Service (<https://barnsdalegardens.co.uk/barnsdale-advisory-service.html>)

Sage thoughts

It's the simple but meaningful philosophy of that wonderful lady, Princess Grace of Monaco, who was so much in our minds around the middle of the 20th century, that I want to share with you this month.

"When at last I took time to look into the heart of a flower, it revealed a whole new

world...as if a window had been opened to let in the sun.”

Top Tips

Ever encouraging, our gardening enthusiast, Mike Guy, asks: Have you thought of growing antirrhinums? He has raised them from seed for several years and they make a lovely summer border. They are a magnet for bees.

Perilous pursuits

For some time a gardener at Kew, then a nurseryman at Cheadle in Staffordshire, R. W. Plant – what more apposite a name could one have – sailed for Natal in 1850 to study natural history and explore Zulu land.

“We crossed the Umgoa river and found the country more thickly wooded than before, with trees of gigantic size. Epiphytic orchids are decidedly on the increase and if we can push 50 miles further I think it probable some new forms must result. Unfortunately, our oxen show unmistakable symptoms of wearing out. Elephants seem in great plenty all over this district, but there are few inhabitants, which argues but little for its healthiness. Fortunately, sea breezes seem to temper the extreme heat. Some very handsome shells have rewarded two days toil on the sea-coast. Somehow it seems impossible to keep a correct reckoning of time. I have lost every idea of what day it is.”



Patrons
Max Egremont
Dame Zandra Rhodes
Sir Barry Cunliffe
Sir Andrew Motion
Sir Daniel Day-Lewis
Martin Drury
Celia Birtwell

7th March – 3rd June 2023

Catherine Knight: Long Shadows

The first solo exhibition of paintings by Catherine Knight based on her trip to Oslo and Åsgårdstrand, Norway, to visit the landscape that inspired Norwegian artist Edvard Munch.

We would welcome reviews of the exhibition. If you would be interested in reviewing Catherine's artwork and seeing the show alongside our Head of Exhibitions and Collections, Louise Weller, please don't hesitate to contact:



Telephone: 01730 262601 | **Web:** www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk

The Coffee Mug is a year old! Karen Fewster and Jan Clarke

How could we have missed this important milestone!

Probably because we have cake and lots of it every month!

The Coffee Mug Community Café at St. James' Church Centre, first opened its doors in February 2022. Not without a little trepidation because Covid still hovered - but having delayed several times, everyone needed the normality of sitting and chatting while drinking coffee together.

So we took a leap of faith and welcomed everyone (including well behaved dogs) through the door.

Coffee Mug has not looked back.

With the help of a team of volunteers, coffee, tea and cake are served between 10am and 12 noon on the second Saturday of every month (except August).

There is no charge for the coffee and cake - all we ask is, that if visitors are able to, they donate to our chosen charity of the month.

Since that first February morning, we have raised over £5,000 together for charities

including DEC Ukraine, Samaritans, Christian Aid, Homestart Hampshire, Slupsk, Foodbank, Farnham Assist, Shooting Star Children's Hospice, MND Association, MIND, Parkinson's UK and St James' Church.





If you have not visited Coffee Mug before, do come and join us on 11th March when we will be supporting DEC Turkey, to help the desperate situation after the earthquakes.

A big thank you to all who support Coffee Mug each month - we could not have done it without you!



THE COFFEE MUG

Monthly pop-up community café at St. James' Church Centre

Saturday 11th March from 10am - 12noon



All donations
this month
go to:
**DEC Turkey
(Earthquake
Appeal)**

A place to meet, and chat
with family, friends and
neighbours.

Open on the second
Saturday of each month.



St. James' Church
Rowledge

27

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and cakes all freely
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Well-behaved dogs
welcome.

27

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



ROWLEDGE VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

Dates for
your diary

**Rowledge Village Fayre –
Monday 29th May 2023
- CORRECT DATE!!**

**All ROWLEDGE
Event Organisers!!!!**

Please email the Editor with event dates for 2023, 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 Preschool	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	7-10	School Hall
18.30-19.30	Thirsty (yrs 5-6) - term time only	9-11	St James' Church Hall

Many group times
changing - check,
organisers (overleaf)

Adults' Events

Monday			
08.30-09.00	Morning Prayers		St James' Church
19.30-21.30	Pilates		Village Hall
Tuesday			
09.30-10.30	Zumba Gold (term time only)		Village Hall
09.00-11.15	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	Women's Institute (3 rd Tuesday)		The Rowledge Club
20.00-22.30	After 8 ladies group (2 nd Tuesday)		Homes
Wednesday			
08.30-09.00	Morning Prayers		St James' Church
10.30- 12.00	Mother's Union		St James' Church
14.00-15.00	Nordic Walking		Forest (St James gate)
14.00-16.00	Cameo social group (2 nd &4 th Wed)		Methodist Hall
15.00-16.00	Healing Service (1st Wed)		Methodist Church
19.00-22.00	Bridge		Village Club
18.30-19.30	Handbell ringers		St James' Church
19.45-22.30	Badminton Club		Village Hall
Thursday			
09.00-16.00	Patchers		Methodist Hall
10.00-12.00	Art Club		Village Hall
12.30-14.00	Luncheon Club (last Thursday)		Methodist Hall
19.30-22.00	Gardening Club (2 nd Thursday)		Village Hall
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
19.00-20.00	Choir practice		St James' Church
Saturday (second Saturday of month)			
10.00 - 12.00	The Coffee Mug		St James' Church

ROWLEDGE DIRECTORY – 2023



ST JAMES' CHURCH – Church Lane, Rowledge, GUI0 4EN

Vicar	Revd Russ Gant	01252 792402	vicar@stjamesrowledge.org.uk
Associate Minister	Revd Dr Russ Parker	07919 335291	russparker7@icloud.com
Churchwarden	Karen Fewster	01252 795169	karenfew@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Clive Jourdain	01252 794171	clive@clivejourdain.plus.com
CHURCH OFFICE	Rosie Dray	01252 792402	admin@stjamesrowledge.org.uk

Parish Friends

Parish Friends Coordinator	Elaine Andrews		admin@stjamesrowledge.org.uk
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Children's & Youth Work

Youth & Children's Minister	Adele Regan	07791 103 895	adele.regan@stjamesrowledge.org.uk
Little Fishes Nursery	Amber Delves	01252 794617	manager@littlefishesrowledge.org.uk

Church Officers and Group Leaders

PCC Secretary	Karen Fewster	01252 795169	karenfew@gmail.com
Hon Treasurer	Andrew Fewster	01252 795169	andrew.fewster@gmail.com
Safeguarding Lead	Becky Porter	07885 591806	safeguarding@stjamesrowledge.org.uk
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
Church Cleaning Team	Suzanne Kimber	01428 641998	j.a.Kimber@btinternet.com
Coffee Rota	Jan Clarke	01252 793661	jan.8@btinternet.com

Rowledge Review

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Distribution	Phil Durbridge	07885 272545	pdurbridge@live.co.uk

Church Charities

Christian Aid, Rowledge	Elaine Andrews	07928 208 590	daveandelaine@hotmail.com
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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	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	Amber Delves	01252 794617	manager@littlefishesrowledge.org.uk
Rowledge Preschool	Hazel Cottrell	07977 892694	hazel.Cottrell @ntlworld.com
Baby & Toddler Group	Hazel Cottrell	07977 892694	hazel.Cottrell @ntlworld.com
Ballet	Demeric School of Dance	01483 813348	info@demicdance.co.uk
Playball	Nicola Stubberfield	07919 123008	playballsurrey@gmail.com
Beavers	Rachel Mason	01252 794195	rkmason1904@gmail.com
Cubs	Richard Banes-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	admin@rowledge.hants.sch.uk
Rowledge Football Club	Catherine Greenwood	01252 781785	catherine.greenwood@tribalgrou.com

Schools

Rowledge C of E Primary School Head Teacher	Sarah Oliver	01252 792346	admin@rowledge.hants.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Tom Nixon		tcwnixon@gmail.com
Friends of, Co Chair	Jo Long / Sam Gillard	07703725980	david_sam@sky.com
Frensham Heights School	Rick Clarke - Head	01252 792561	admin@frensham-heights.org.uk

Village

Residents' Association	www.rowledgevillage.uk		RowledgeResidents@gmail.com
Village Fayre Chairman	Kelly Taylor	07940 549102 01252 794271	Les_taylors@yahoo.co.uk
Tree Warden	Brian Greig	01252 793762	

Village Hall

Chairman	Richard Baines-Walker	07968587642	
Treasurer/sec	John Phipps		treasurer@rowledgevillagehall.com
Bookings	Susie Duffy		bookings@rowledgevillagehall.com

Police

Surrey	101	Hampshire	101
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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

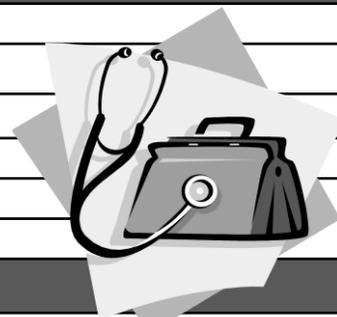
After 8 Group for Women	Sue Gardner	01252 793903	susan@gatec.co.uk
Alice Holt Women's Institute	Freja Halliday	07957 383033	frejahalliday@hotmail.co.uk
Art Club	Roger Warburton	01252 793813	rwarburton@btinternet.com
Coffee Spot	Helen Mortimer	01252 792191	
Community Choir	Edwin Rolles	01420 541966	edwinrolles@hotmail.co.uk
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	Michael Ng	01252 794353	lyn_mikeng@hotmail.com
Bowling Club Captain	Martin Gerhold	01252 793685	captain@rowledgebowlingclub.co.uk
Bowling Club Chairman	Robert Green	01252 794860	chairman@rowledgebowlingclub.co.uk
Bowling Club Secretary	Liz Thomas	01252 793802	secretary@rowledgebowlingclub.co.uk
Bridge Club	Bev S-Evans	07766685584	Occasionally in Rowledge Review
Cricket Club Chairman	Carl Baker	07768 325701	carl@carlbaker.co.uk
Cricket Club Club Administrator	Haidee Goodwin	07850 351271	information@rowledgecricketclub.com
Nordic Walking	Sue Gardner	01252 793903	susan@gate.co.uk
Pilates/Yoga/Zumba	Hannah Epps	07855 291833	hannah@farnhampilates.com
Pilates	Linda Johansson	07756 969755	lindsit@hotmail.com
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	Moira Davies	07960 656376	moirad366@gmail.com

Welfare

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	Michaela Martin	07899 844674	michaela.martin@surreycc.gov.uk
Hants County Council	Mark Kemp-Gee	01420 563923	mark.kemp-gee@hants.gov.uk
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]	Lisa Spindler	07483 310631	clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Binsted Parish Coun. [Vice Chair]	Ryan France		ryanfrancemoore@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk www.binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Binsted Parish Coun. [Chair]	Alison Melvin		A.Melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

Rowledge Village Competition Champions – Run Fit Mum

On Saturday 4th February, 10 local village organisations battled it out over the prestigious Rowledge Village Cup in the Village Hall.

Started in 2011, the competition was postponed during Covid, missing two years' competition, but returned in 2023.

After a hard-fought competition over 13 rounds of quizzes, games and brain teasers, the team from **Run Fit Mum** triumphed with a magnificent score of 112...best ever in the competition's history – the previous best score being the Brownies team in 2019 with 103.

Runners-Up were the current cup holders, the

Tennis Club, with the Cricket Club and St James' Church equal third. The team of the Community Choir picked up the wooden spoons.



ROWLEDGE VILLAGE COMPETITION 2023

TEAMS	Joker	1 sport	2 A/Ding	3 F&D	4 Lit	5 G Know	6 Shove	7 Hi/Lp	8 Beans	9 Hoop	10 Cup	11 Dice	12 Shut	13 Pic	TOTAL	Posn
Bowling	☺	3	3	10	1	20	1	10	1	3	3	3	2	3	63	
Bridge	☺	3	2	16	2	6	4	2	2	10	8	8	4	3	70	
Choir	☺	1	1	5	4	2	8	3	4	1	1	10	5	4	49	
Cricket	☺	20	4	3	4	6	8	7	6	10	8	6	6	5	93	3=
FORS	☺	6	10	14	6	3	3	1	8	3	4	3	9	1	71	
Run Fit Mum	☺	10	18	2	8	7	9	5	10	8	8	10	8	9	112	1
Scouts	☺	6	14	5	7	4	6	4	9	4	3	7	3	7	79	
St James' Church	☺	4	16	9	9	9	2	6	7	7	10	3	1	10	93	3=
Tennis	☺	8	6	1	20	8	5	8	5	7	8	4	10	8	98	2
Village Fayre	☺	8	5	12	6	3	10	9	3	7	9	6	8	6	92	

BBC at Guildford Cathedral – all invited!

Tuesday 7th March - recording a special service at 5.30pm to be broadcast on Mothering Sunday. The service will last an hour and we would welcome people to come along to be part of the congregation. **Please arrive at 5pm to be seated by 5.15pm.**

Wednesday 8th March - BBC will broadcast Evensong live from the Cathedral on BBC Radio 3 at 4pm. The service will last an hour and, once again, we are looking for people to come along to be part of the congregation. **Please arrive at 3.30pm and be seated by 3.45pm.**

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NEWS FROM THE NURSERY

Hello from Little Fishes.

The start of the Spring term has seen us celebrating Chinese New Year and exploring our learning topics of *Winter* and *Superheroes*.

Each topic presented loads of exciting learning experiences. Highlights included ice-painting and making an igloo, creating a superhero cityscape and making superhero masks, and using teamwork to become a Chinese dragon.



Little Fishes
Nursery School



Rowledge School Houses – Perry Mitchell.

The four 'houses' of Rowledge School are called Charrington, Hallifax, Parker and Rennie. I think their use was started about 1990. I thought it would make an interesting article to look at the men who invoked these names. I will take them in alphabetical order.

Charles Edward Nicholas Charrington

In Roy Waight's history of Rowledge, he relates the story of Charles Edward Nicholas Charrington buying Frensham Hill house in 1897 and then rebuilding the property as the splendid mansion that later became Frensham Heights School. He also tells the tale of Charrington's 'racy' first wife Monica Lilly Ducarel. and how she left him for a Scottish Lord. They divorced in 1903 and Charrington remarried.

To 'chase the money' we need to go back to John Charrington, the son of a vicar in Aldenham, Hertfordshire. He became a brewer and joined some other partners in 1766. By 1783 they had retired and



John and his brother Henry (Harry) were in complete control of what was now Charrington Brewery. The business passed down successive generations of Charrington male relatives who all seem to have some involvement, at least as Board Members. I am not sure exactly what status Charles E N Charrington's father (also Charles) had in the company but in 1871 they lived in a large house in St Pancras, Marylebone where they employed 8 live-in servants. In the 1871 Census Charles calls himself a 'Brewer' so he was clearly involved in some manner.

The sheer size and wealth of the company, and thus the family can be seen by the story of one of Charles Edward's first cousins, one Frederick Nicholas Charrington. Frederick N was son and heir to Frederick Charrington, Charles senior's brother who one assumes had a similar status. In 1871 they lived in an equally large house in Wandsworth getting by with just the 7 live-in servants! One has to assume that both brothers were partners in the family firm. (Frederick also calls himself a 'brewer' in the Census return.) So, in his teens, Frederick junior underwent a conversion to become an evangelical Christian. A year or so later, he encountered an incident in Whitechapel where a young mother and her children in rags were begging money from their father who was drinking away his wages in a Charrington public house. The father came out in anger and knocked the wife to the ground. Charrington tried to intervene but was also floored. The whole incident became his 'Road to Damascus' moment and it changed his life. From that moment he vowed to give up any involvement in the company (he became a devout abolitionist) and he devoted the

rest of his life in good works to 'clean-up' London's East End. He became famous for his decision, and it was widely publicised that in this process he had given up 'a million and a quarter pounds'! Now it is very difficult to equate this to a modern sum. In sheer monetary terms, £1,250,000 in 1880 is now worth about £200,000,000 but in terms of buying power in the day it was worth far more.

Suffice to say, that assuming that Charles Edward (as son and heir to his father) was in a similar financial position to his cousin then he was a very rich man indeed. (His father died in 1877) We could already know this of course by the way he spent his money on Frensham Hill! As Roy relates, the Farnham Herald reported that the building of Frensham Hill cost Charrington £250,000, and while this may have been an exaggeration it did clearly take a significant part of his fortune.

So, he married Daisy Dean, daughter of a Captain Dean of the Metropolitan Police in 1903 and they lived for just 8 years at Frensham Hill before he sold it (for a pittance) and moved on. In that time, he spent prodigiously on all manner of additions such as cricket and golf courses, and he and his new wife were generous with their entertaining and benefits to the village although he had little directly to do with the school. He died in 1936.

Captain Oswald Hallifax RN

Captain Hallifax (as he was universally known) had been a submarine commander in the Royal Navy. He came from a very distinguished Navy family; his father was a Rear Admiral and he had two older brothers who were Rear and Vice Admirals (who both died in WW2). He was a descendent of the Bishop of Gloucester but most of his more recent ancestors had been military men.

Oswald Ernest Hallifax was born in 1889, and in the 1911 Census he was a Lieutenant aboard HMS St Vincent, a Flagship Battleship based at Portland, Dorset. The following year he entered the Submarine Service that had only been in operation since 1901. He served during WW1 as an officer on several submarines.

He had action all around UK and at one period during 1915 in the Dardanelles. In one operation to destroy a Turkish merchant ship by arson Hallifax was badly burnt. He was also suffering badly from dysentery. Probably



during the subsequent leave Hallifax married Margaret Huleatt from Chatham. He was awarded the DSO for extreme gallantry for an action in 1917 (as commander) to sink a German U-boat in the Irish Sea.

After promotion in 1924 he was given the command of a flotilla of submarines and their support ship in 1930. Hallifax was placed on the Retired List at his own request with the rank of Captain on 1 November, 1935. He then became a director in the Admiralty.

He had two children with Margaret, a son Derek also joined the Royal Navy and rose to Lt Commander. Captain Halifax retired to Rowledge, buying 'Ashmore' next to Porter's Store on the Square. He took an active part in village life and he donated a plot of land that is now known as Halifax Garden.

He died in 1984 aged 95 and is remembered by many as a dignified and generous man of wide interests and understanding.



The Rev Arthur William Parker

The Rev Parker probably owed his appointment as Rowledge's first vicar in 1870, to the fact that in 1868 he married Harriet Emily Julius, one of nine daughters of Rev Henry Richard Julius who was the vicar of Wrecclesham. Henry was a man of considerable influence and it seems financial resources. It was his idea and plan to open a new Anglican church along with a school in Rowledge to serve the expanding population and counter the competition from the new Methodist Chapel. He contributed



handsomely towards the church building and the associated school from his own funds and it seems probable that the appointment of the vicar for St James was in his hands, and he chose his son-in-law the Rev Parker.

This proved a propitious choice since Parker served the village for 43 years until retiring in 1914 suffering symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

Arthur William Parker was born in 1841, at Shirley (near Southampton) to a medical practitioner father of comfortable means. He would have only been recently ordained when he married Harriet, so St James was his first (and only) residence.

He had previously been a curate in London's East End. The couple had their first child, a daughter called Florence just before he took up his appointment.

The family had to wait a while for the vicarage to be financed and built. Florence became a stalwart supporter of her father's ministry, and she assisted him in giving religious lessons in the school of which he was designated 'The Manager'. Parker's wife Harriet joined them, giving instruction in sewing and music. Florence also started a diary of church and village events which is invaluable for recalling the history of the times. Parker and his family gave up direct involvement in the school in 1913 and he then retired from the ministry in 1914. He was already showing some symptoms of the Alzheimer's that he succumbed to 4 years later.

William Rennie

We start this story with John Keith Rennie who developed Frensham Vale house in

Rowledge Review

1857. He was the grandson of Sir John Rennie, the Elder, FRSE FRS who amongst many other things built Waterloo Bridge, combining stone with new cast-iron techniques to create previously unheard-of low, wide, elliptical arches. John Keith was also an engineer but more relevant to his Rowledge life he was also a Justice of the Peace. He lived at Frensham Vale with his family until 1892 when his wife died on The Isle of Wight. This prompted a move back to Kensington and they let the house for many years.



One of John Keith's 5 sons was William Rennie (b1867).

He trained as a Barrister but seems to have almost immediately joined WD & HO Wills Tobacco Company where he worked his way to becoming the Managing Director. At some point around WW1 William returned to Frensham Vale where he lived with a Gardener and a single servant. He remained unmarried for the whole of his life.

William had started giving generous gifts to both the church and the school before the family moved. In 1891 he started giving an annual treat to the school children. Upon his return to Frensham Vale, he expanded his generosity and became actively involved in village life. He was for instance president of the bowling club.

William died in 1938. In his will he left a bequest of £3000 to be used to continue the supply of an annual treat for the children of Rowledge School. It is still known as 'The Rennie Bequest Fund'. He left the rather staggering sum of nearly three quarters of a million pounds!

Frensham Vale passed to William's younger brother Francis, but he died in 1946. A rather obscure relative called James Rennie Maudslay then moved in – his maternal grandmother was a second cousin to William. James was by no means obscure though, he was a retired soldier (Major) who rose through the ranks of the Civil Service to become the 'Keeper of the Queen's Purse', picking up a Knighthood and a few gongs on the way. His full title at this time was thus Major Sir James Rennie Maudslay, GCVO, KCB, MBE!

Unfortunately, he is probably best known by a quote from a letter written to him by the Duke of Edinburgh as a *"silly little Whitehall twit"*.

He chose to continue William's generosity to the village, giving the school children, seen here en route, a grand fete in his grounds every year and a box of books at Christmas time. In 1951 he married an American lady from Arkansas called Jane Anne McCarty. They had three



children together, all registered in Marylebone, so perhaps they only used Frensham Vale as a country retreat. Frensham Vale House was broken up and sold off in 1980. In fact, my sister-in-law moved into the smaller part of the main house (maybe ex kitchen and servant's quarters) c1985 so I know it well. The garden had the most splendid array of Azaleas. Sir James died in 1988.

(Note – Some information was taken from Roy Waight's 'History of Rowledge School', which is not published but was presented to some of the children to commemorate the 150th anniversary. Some additional research by Neil Pittaway.)

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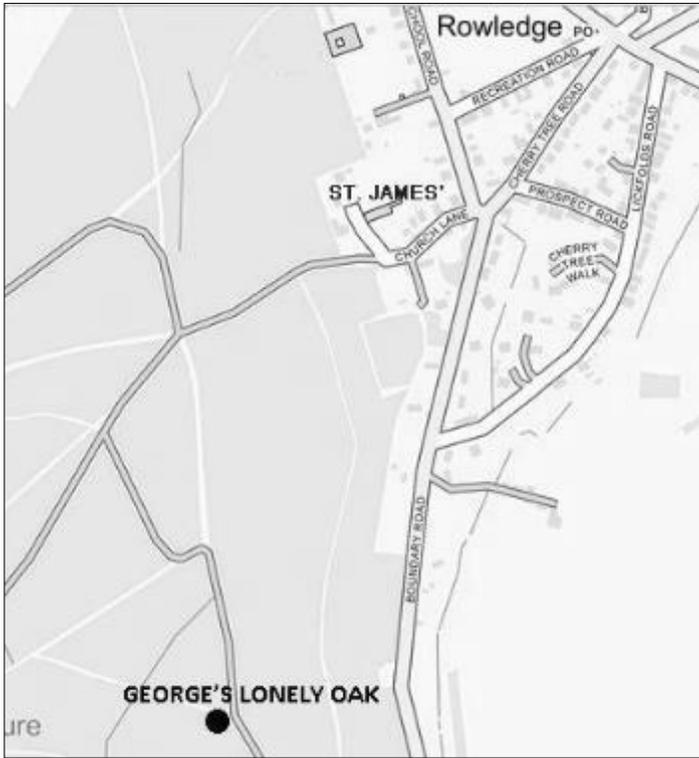
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From Jarrow to our forest by Neil Pittaway.

How many who have walked or ridden down the path that leads to Reeds Hatch on the east side of Alice Holt have stopped at 'George's Lonely Oak' to read the descriptive plaque?



Most of us who walk the forest will be familiar with the words but how many know who George Burr Hutchinson was? The horse rider seen adjacent to the plaque by the lonely oak tree (who gave me permission to use this photograph) certainly didn't and until recently, nor did I.

To remind us, this is the plaque.



A short article in the Farnham Herald in 2008 gave a brief outline of George and why the 'Lonely Oak' was re-named after him:

Lonely Oak named after forester.

A POPULAR tree within the Alice Holt woodland has finally been renamed in honour of a long-serving member of the Forestry Commission, seven years after his death. The commission promised the family of George Burr Hutchinson that The Lonely Oak landmark, one of the most popular

Rowledge Review

in the park, would be renamed George's Lonely Oak after his death in 2001. After discovering that the tree remained unchanged, George's son decided to ask the Forestry Commission about it and received an apology. The tree has received a new plaque bearing the change in name and the new title will appear on new maps of the area. "The tree was the ideal place for us to scatter my father's ashes in 2001 due to its location. It will serve as a memorial to the hard work my father George Burr Hutchinson put in to the forests and woodlands all over the South, but especially at Alice Holt, where he helped to shape the park that exists today."

It seems that at the time there was some unease within the Alice Holt management to feature just one of its team of forestry workers but never the less, they eventually kept their promise, albeit some seven years later.

So, who was George Burr Hutchinson?

His roots were in Jarrow on the banks of the River Tyne. Around the time of his birth in 1937, like many towns in the north east of England, Jarrow suffered from serious poverty and unemployment. The main ship yard had closed three years earlier in 1934.

A group of men, as seen here leaving Tyneside formed the 'Jarrow Crusade' and their 'Jarrow March' to London in October 1936 was aimed at raising the debilitating issues of the area and asking the government to re-establish industry in Tyneside and specifically, Jarrow.

The march was a defining event and was instrumental in successfully highlighting the dire issues facing the north east of England. Whether or not this eased the situation is a matter of debate.



Whilst the 2008 article in the Farnham Herald and the name on the plaque both give the name George Burr Hutchinson, the 'Burr' is a traditional family addition added to the male members of the family and in this case was added probably after George died. The 'Burr' derives from George's grandmother, Susannah Burr who married steel worker John Hutchinson in South Shields during 1907. Susannah and John had a son, George Hutchinson born in 1908 and post baptism and birth registration they gave him the name of George Burr Hutchinson, his full name given when he married Florence Scott Naylor in Jarrow, 1931.

George's (as on the plaque) father, George Burr Hutchinson was a merchant seaman stoker when he married Florence and remained a seaman until he retired. He died in the north east in 1980.

George Burr Hutchinson was born in Jarrow as George Hutchinson on 28th December 1937, as shown on the plaque. This was just fourteen months after the Jarrow March

and it is clear that George would initially have been raised in the challenging conditions of the north east that led to the march.

However, George was fortunate because sometime in the two years after his birth, his parents decided to move south to make their home in Belmont Road, Frimley. Nowadays this is behind Frimley Park Hospital. Whilst George was being raised and at school in Camberley, his father would be at sea for most of the time and the role of bringing up George was left to his mother, Florence. Maybe Florence enjoyed gardening and gave young George a taste for trees and plants.

When George Hutchinson had Burr added to his name is not clear. He was without the 'Burr' on his birth certificate, his marriage certificate and on his death registration. Maybe his son added it after his father died.

Burr or not, George took up forestry work when he left school in 1952 at the age of fifteen, soon after the death of King George VI. He worked in the forests around Bracknell and as far afield as Alice Holt. He would cycle to work, often a return trip of well over twenty miles.

At the age of thirty-one, forester George Hutchinson married factory worker twenty-nine year old Sylvia Alcorn in Camberley on 1st February 1969. At that time, he was living with his parents at Upper College Ride in the Old Dean Estate, Camberley. Sylvia, his wife to be also lived in Camberley.



After George and Sylvia's first child, a daughter was born, the Forestry Commission provided the family with one of their own properties, this one at Crowthorne. They went on to have a second child, a son.

I would imagine that George would have access to motor transport as this forester's house was much further away from Alice Holt.

Sadly, as the 'Lonely Oak' plaque shows, George died in 2001 on January 5th, just eight days after his 63rd birthday. His wife Sylvia was with him.

George's death certificate shows that he had retired, whether that was early we do not know. At the time of death, he was in the Wexham Park Hospital, Slough and he died of astrocytoma, a brain tumour.

He would likely have suffered much severe head pain, nausea and possibly seizures. No wonder he was retired.

As George's son still lives in the same Forestry Commission property as his father, I would imagine he too has followed in his father's footsteps and now works as a forester.

George's son spoke to the Farnham Herald about his father's 47 years of service:

"My father's love of forestry was also his hobby and he spent many hours after work tending his much-loved garden, something that also led him on to private gardening jobs all over the area in his spare time," he explained. "He was very fond of the woodland and after his death one of the park rangers recommended the tree to be renamed as a memorial. I honestly didn't think it was going to happen as it's now been seven years since his death and still the tree is being referred to as just The Lonely Oak, so I called the Forestry Commission and they apologised and said that it would now be changed".

When the Hutchinson family left the poverty of Jarrow, George's parents clearly would not have known what their then infant son was going to take up after he left school. However, they must have been so pleased that at such a difficult time their move south eventually allowed George to join a dedicated team of forestry workers who continue to tend the forests. George clearly loved Alice Holt, the very forest that gives us and many, many visitors so much pleasure.

At least now when you pass the 'Lonely Oak' and read the plaque, you have a very brief snapshot of who George Burr Hutchinson was and why the 'Lonely Oak' had its name changed to '**George's Lonely Oak**'.

Why was it called (and still is called) a 'Lonely Oak'? I can only imagine it is because it is in the midst of trees of other genres, such as pine.

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Pollinator Patch with Juliet from Hive Helpers

Last time I talked about the wild pollinators that come to our gardens, including bumblebees and solitary bees. Bumbles are easy to spot as they literally do ‘bumble’ about, and you will be seeing queen bumblebees now as they emerge from hibernation and look for a new nest site to raise the next generation. Like honeybees, these are social insects which live in a colony, so if you see a large bumblebee ‘quartering’ near to the ground at this time of year, she will be surveying the area for a suitable nest site. Solitary bees, as the name suggests, lay single eggs and live single lives. There are over 250 species of solitary bee, including the delightfully named hairy-footed flower bee, and many of these are early visitors to our gardens in search of nectar and pollen to feed their larvae. More about bumbles and solitary bees in a future column!



Gardening for pollinators

At this time of the year, it is tempting to start tidying (if you left the garden nice and untidy for wildlife over winter!) and indeed, the pruning regime in my garden starts in earnest on 1 March. But try not to be *too* tidy, and think what you can do with the prunings to benefit wildlife. When I cut down my grasses, I always leave them in strategic positions for the birds to use as nesting material. Birds can also be pollinators – did you know the blue tit is one of the pollinators for the showy orange crown imperial fritillary (*Fritillaria imperialis*)? I also stack shrub prunings in a pile at the bottom of the garden, some to use as pea sticks and supports, other larger branches go to make a pile for myriad insects to use as home (and food for those blue tits!). If you have the space, try to leave shrubs and climbers to do their own thing, rather than subject them to a rigorous pruning regime. Try pruning to a different level each year, or only prune out a third of the plant. Whilst it is tempting to hack back ivy, leave some to mature to the flowering stage – ivy is one of the last sources of nectar and pollen in the year and is the main food plant of the solitary Ivy bee.

Weeds also start emerging at this time of year. But is it a weed – or a useful source of early nectar for pollinators? I mentioned leaving dandelions to flower last time – you can always remove the dandelion clocks afterwards if you want to stop them spreading. Or you can just embrace their lovely sunshine blooms!

March plants for pollinators

Many of our lovely native plants are coming into flower now, including the pretty common primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), the simple form so much easier for pollinators to access than the fancy double form of primula sold in the garden centres! Lungwort

(*Pulmonaria*) with tubular pink, blue or white flowers, is a valuable early plant for pollinators, including the hairy-footed flower bee I mentioned earlier – who incidentally also likes primroses and comfrey!

Spring-flowering hellebore species and hybrids also attract early pollinators, including the unattractive-sounding stinking hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*). These seed all over the place and I didn't like them very much until I realised their value to pollinators – now I tolerate them!

Useful shrubs coming into flower include the flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), skimmia (*Skimmia japonica*) and berberis. You will see native pussy willow and hazel catkins full of pollen, and wild plum, cherry and blackthorn are flowering now. Ornamental cherries in our gardens are also valuable, and if you haven't got room, try a compact variety – I have 'Kojo-no-mai' (*Prunus incisa*) in a large pot in my garden and it always blooms reliably early (and has wonderful autumn colour).

For a comprehensive list of plants for pollinators, visit the RHS website (use QR Code) and download the garden plants list.



You're welcome! - ROWLEDGE BOWLING CLUB

As the days start to lengthen Rowledge Bowling Club members thoughts are already turning to the new outdoor bowls season in April.

The green is scheduled to open with roll-up at 2.00pm on **Thursday April 13th**, weather permitting and then, at 5.00pm on **Friday April 21st** there will be a Pro-Am event when potential new bowlers have the opportunity to try their hand at bowls alongside established club members. If you would like to come along, please contact Robert Green, RBC Chairman, either by email, greenrobertj@hotmail.com or phone **07981 230093**, to register your interest. You will be very welcome.

Rowledge Bowling Club is very much community based with the majority of members living in, or very close to the village, so there is almost certain to be somebody at the club who you know.

Earlier, on **Saturday March 18th at 10.00am.**, we have our pre-season meeting in the club pavilion, which potential new members are also welcome to attend and when there is an opportunity to meet committee members and learn more about what the club has to offer.

Apart from bowling the club also runs various social events throughout the year. A year's membership currently stands at £80 for playing members - a bargain! Few other sports offer so much for so little. Coaching is also available.

All ages welcome. Why not give it a try?

Farnham Literary Festival 2023: 3rd – 12th March

There is nothing like a Dame so for 2023, the headline author will be the wonderful Dame Jacqueline Wilson who is a former Children’s Laureate and best known for her Tracy Beaker books. Dame Jacqueline will be joined by a host of local authors and internationally renowned writers.



Expect a varied programme of over 40 events taking place in venues across Farnham including talks with award winning author and broadcaster, Ian Williams, doctor turned author Dr Jim Down and crime novelist, Ava Glass. You can also enjoy an evening of literary themed song and opera from local group KT Tenuto.



The festival makes the most of its local feel through partnerships with Waterstones Farnham, Blue Bear Bookshop, Farnham Pottery, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham Library, Oxfam Books and Music and St Mark’s Church.

If you have never been to a literary festival before, now is your chance. Author talks, panel discussions and readings offer a relaxed opportunity to hear about new or popular works and to hear about writers’ motivations and interests, while at workshops you can develop your own writing skills and explore your creativity. There is also a competition for budding poets – for both adults and children.



Click on the relevant page to find out more about the events along with participating authors and speakers and how to book tickets.

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Computers and Artificial Intelligence – Roy Waight

I read with interest Perry Mitchell's article in the February edition of the Rowledge Review and thought I would add another example of artificial intelligence and computers. This is ChatGPT which can be used free by typing 'ChatGPT' into a search engine.

ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer) was developed by the company OpenAI and launched in November 2022. It provides detailed and articulate answers to questions, although it is occasionally inaccurate (see the example at the end of this article). ChatGPT can write computer programs, compose music, student essays, answer test questions at a level above the average human, write poetry and play games.

Take poetry: ChatGPT will compose whatever you direct it to compose. For example, thinking of the popular Japanese poetic form, the haiku, I told it: *Write a haiku about Rowledge*. Within two seconds it came up with:

*Nestled in green fields,
Quiet village of Rowledge,
Peaceful and serene.*

I then gave it a more demanding challenge – I said: *write a poem about Rowledge in the style of William Wordsworth*. It took it ten seconds to compose this:

The Village of Rowledge, by William Wordsworth

*In fields of emerald green, where gentle hills abound,
There lies a peaceful village, full of sights and sounds,
A place where time seems to stand still, and nature is at peace,
With rolling hills and verdant fields, and homes of tranquil ease.
The villagers of Rowledge are a friendly, simple folk,
With hearts as warm as sunshine, and laughter that evokes,
The joy of life and all its beauty, in this serene retreat,
Where the rolling hills and fields are always fresh and sweet.
The village church, with its old stone walls, stands proud and tall,
A symbol of the faith that has sustained this village through it all,
And in its shadows, as the day begins to fade,
The villagers gather, to offer up their prayers and praise.
The fields around Rowledge, in the light of dawn and dusk,
Are bathed in golden hues, and fill the heart with trust,
In the beauty and the wonder of this world so free,
And the people of this village, who are a part of thee.
So let us sing a song, for the village of Rowledge fair,
And celebrate its simple joys, and all that it will share,
For it is a place of peace, where nature and man are one,
And its beauty will forever shine, when all else is done.*

Then I imagined I was a student asked to write an essay about Farnham. So I told it to compose a single paragraph history of Farnham. This was its offering after a few seconds:

Farnham is a historic town in Surrey, England, with a rich and diverse history dating back to the Saxon era. During the Norman conquest, Farnham became a center for trade and commerce, and its castle was an important strategic stronghold. In the medieval period, the town became known for its cloth-making industry, and by the 16th century, it had developed into a prosperous market town. During the Industrial Revolution, Farnham continued to grow, becoming a hub for the brewing industry and a popular residential area for the wealthy. Today, Farnham is a charming town with a mix of historic architecture and modern development, and it continues to be a popular destination for tourists and residents alike. Its history can be seen in its numerous historic buildings, including St. Andrew's Church, the castle ruins, and the many fine Georgian and Victorian homes that still stand in the town today.

Not bad, I think. Students are already using ChatGPT to write essays. Perhaps, in the future, Tony will be able to resort to this software and get the Rowledge Review to write itself!

However, ChatGPT is not yet perfect. When I asked it to write a paragraph about More House School it told me:

More House School is an independent Catholic school for girls, located in the heart of the picturesque town of Frensham, Surrey, England. The school was founded in 1912 and has a rich history of providing excellent education to girls from diverse backgrounds. More House School is known for its nurturing and supportive environment, where girls are encouraged to reach their full potential and develop into confident, well-rounded young women. The school's curriculum is designed to be challenging and engaging, and it covers a wide range of subjects, including academic subjects, the arts, and sports. The school also places a strong emphasis on the development of the whole person, and students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities and community service projects. With its beautiful campus, talented faculty, and supportive community, More House School is a special place where girls can thrive and achieve their goals.

Mr John Hetherington, the headmaster, might be surprised to learn all this!

Nevertheless, ChatGPT will improve. It accesses billions of nuggets of information across the internet and its artificial intelligence software is already capable of some remarkable feats.

How long before we are turning to ChatGPT to do our tax return, seek medical advice and so on?

Times they are a-changing.



Eco Events and Activities in March

'To be Worn Again' Kilo Sale:

Saturday 4th March, 10:00 - 17:00; and Sunday 5th March, 11:00 - 16:00: at ZERO, 14-16 Friary St, Guildford GU1 4EH. A kilo sale is a chance to get some classic vintage clothing at low prices! Quality vintage clothing is a great way to break the fast-fashion habit, so go and see what's on offer. £2 cash entry on the door.

ZeroCarbonGuildford.org

Froyle Gardening Club Talk 'Colours of the Caribbean':

Friday 10th March, 19:30: by Carol Watson, at Froyle Village Hall - £3 per talk for non-members or free to members (join for £10 on the door). Members get local garden centre discounts and gardening advice, seed/plant swaps and private group chat.

surreyhorticulfederation.org

'Trash Mob':

From 10th - 19th March, Plastic Free Schools (a Surfers-Against-Sewage initiative) is linking up with British Science Week to encourage educational establishments (from Nurseries to Secondaries) to combat plastic pollution by participating in a nationwide 'Trash Mob' activity. Pupils will collect and analyse vital data (plastic pollution) found on their school grounds, to expose the scale of the problem. **plasticfreeschools.org.uk**

Cycle Alton's charity bicycle ride:

Saturday 18th March in aid of the Cyclists' Defence Fund. Starts from Medstead Village Hall, choice of 30 or 50 mile routes. **cyclinguk.org/campaign/cyclists-defence-fund**

Could you volunteer to help with Alice Holt Forest's Forest Runner event?

Sunday 19th March (09:00 - 13:00). Alice Holt is staging this exciting event for the first time and 300 runners are expected, so Forestry England's delivery partner is recruiting 20 volunteers (radio marshals; course marshals; water station crew; and finish crew.) If you're interested in helping, email volunteers@eventsofthenorth.com. Volunteers will get a snood, medal and goody bag! If you are interested in running or walking the event, sign up: **www.forestryengland.uk/forest-event/events-alice-holt/forest-runner-5k-10k-running-series-alice-holt**

'How to garden for nature and the climate':

Wednesday 22nd March, from 19:30. This special talk at Buriton Village Hall will be of interest to everyone with a garden: the renowned Melanie Oxley, a local ecologist and a founder member of Plantlife (the wild plant conservation charity), will be inspiring everyone to get their gardens buzzing, with an emphasis on biodiversity. Admission is free, with a retiring collection. All welcome - no booking needed. Buriton Village Hall's postcode is GU31 5RX, but useful directions (for the last 100 yards!) are on the community website: **www.buriton.info/directions**

For newsletter email: binstedeconetwork@gmail.com



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Luminosa - *The All-Night Vigil* - Saturday March 25th

Sergei Rachmaninov's *All-Night Vigil* is a haunting cornerstone of the choral repertoire, and an overwhelming listening experience. Alton-based choir, Luminosa, is delighted to be performing this work, along with Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, and Michael Higgins' *O Salutaris Hostia* at All Saints Church, Odiham on Saturday March 25th at 7pm.

The All-Night Vigil is an incredible work, and arguably Rachmaninov's finest achievement, written within two weeks during the First World War in early 1915. He was looking to write something more introspective than usual: not for liturgical use but as a war benefit concert.

The All-Night Vigil asks the congregation to contemplate the light of the coming dawn as emblematic of Christ's resurrection. Rachmaninov followed the church's tradition of basing ten of the fifteen sections on chants, with the remaining five being more free form. In particular, the 'Kiev' chant resonates most poignantly today. The whole work is full of exquisite harmonies, ranging from top soprano to bottom bass, full of light and shade: a radiant masterpiece.

The first performance took place in March 1915, when it was warmly received by critics and audiences alike. However, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the rise of the Soviet Union, led to government condemnation of sacred music. Consequently, no other composition marks the end of an era so completely as this quiet, reflective and deeply moving work.

The concert will also feature Luminosa Chamber Voices who will perform Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. Written in 1997 following the death of his mother, this beautiful work explores music's power to preserve and remember, and the depth of human capacity to love. Lauridsen presents sacred Latin texts in five movements with luminous shifting harmonies, perfectly expressing a timeless sense of serenity.

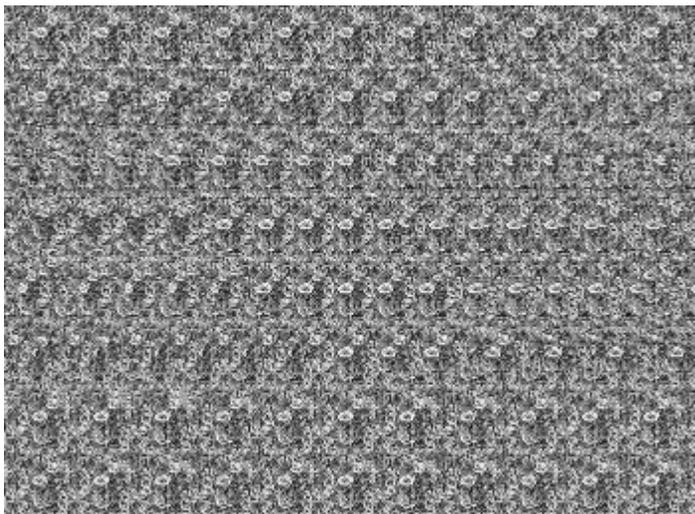
Michael Higgins will provide sensitive, atmospheric piano accompaniment. Luminosa is also honoured to be performing his exquisite *O Salutaris Hostia* (an arrangement of Elgar's *Nimrod*) which he composed during the Covid lockdown.

Conducted by their dynamic artistic director, Rebekah Abbott, Luminosa will perform this exceptional music with the textual variety and sustained luxuriance of sound for which Luminosa is now well known. There will be also a surprise addition to the concert experience which will enhance the evening's message of hope and light.

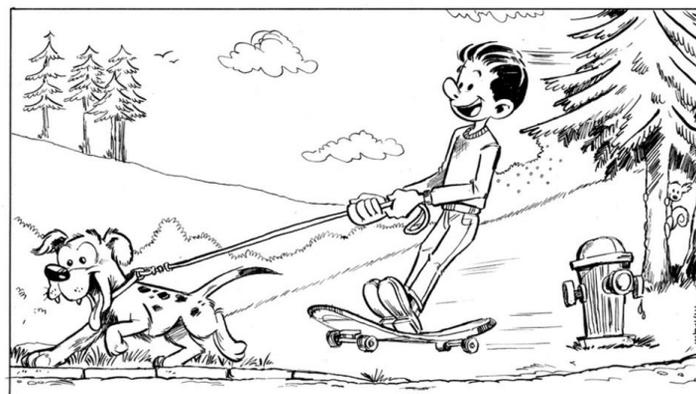
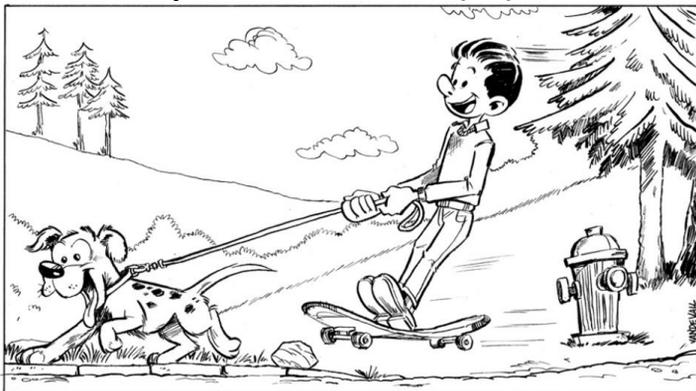
If you love choral music and appreciate compositions that lift you from the mundane, you should not miss Luminosa's spring concert at the beautiful All Saints Church, Odiham on Saturday March 25th at 7pm. Generous support from Luminosa's sponsor, Hattingley Valley Wines, allows tickets to be available at just £15 for adults (under 12s-£5), available on Ticketsource www.luminosamusic.com

Fun time

How good are you in seeing “Magic Eye” Stereograms? Stare into this image to see if you can spot the 3-D image...clue: very apt for this time of year! (answer below)



Spot the difference (10)



March jokes:

Q: Which crime fighter likes March the most?

A: Robin

Q: Why is March the most popular month to use a trampoline?

A: It's spring-time.

Q: Which type of bow can't be tied in March?

A: A rainbow.

Q: What falls during March but never gets hurt?

A: The rain.

Q: Can February March?

A: No, but April May.

Q: What March flowers grow on faces?

A: Tulips (2 lips).

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

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 3x3 space shape.

Magic Eye: a Spring - If you don't see it, try staring and focussing beyond the image



EDITORIAL

PLEASE NOTE: The official deadline for copy for the April issue of the Review is *FRIDAY 10th March 2023*.... **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.

Please send articles to **rowledgereview@yahoo.co.uk** not to Tony Carpenter's personal email account.

Thanks

ADVERTISING in the ROWLEDGE REVIEW

Margaret Mitchell now handles our advertising sales.

If you want to promote your business through these pages, you can contact Margaret on:

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Did you know Home-Start Weywater is covered by Home-Start Hampshire! It's the same staff just a new name, location, and bigger support network. Find us using the information below or online, by searching for Home-Start Hampshire!

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 Hants PO15 5TU
 E: info@hshants.org.uk
 W: www.home-starthampshire.org.uk
 T: 0330 124 2095



Many parents need help, friendship, advice or support during those early years when children are young.

There is no rulebook for raising a family, and sometimes it can seem overwhelming.

But if you can get support & help when you need it, then day-to-day family life and your child's future can be so much brighter.

If you feel isolated, suffer from post-natal depression or anxiety, Struggle with the emotional and physical demands of having children, feel Tired, unhappy and exhausted, Struggle to cope with a disability, struggle to establish a routine with your children, Overwhelmed!

If you have children 11years or younger Home-Start Hampshire CAN help.... Email family.support@hshants.org.uk to find out more.

Do you like the idea of 'giving something back' to your local community?

Would you like a flexible, adaptable, and fun volunteering opportunity that you can fit in around your life?

If so, We need volunteers who would enjoy networking and participating in promotion opportunities, fundraising events, meeting new people and spreading the word about the valuable work that we do!

Any time you can spare no matter how small is valuable, so please do not hesitate to get in touch!

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