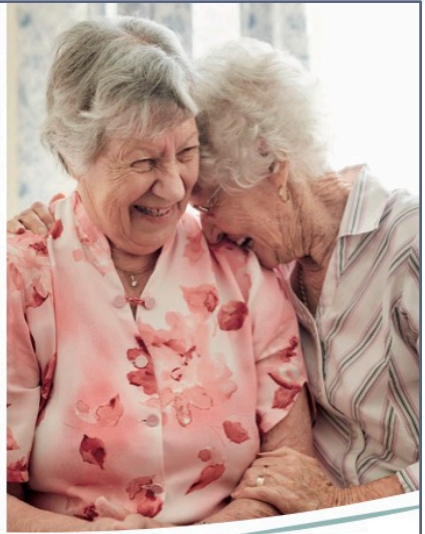
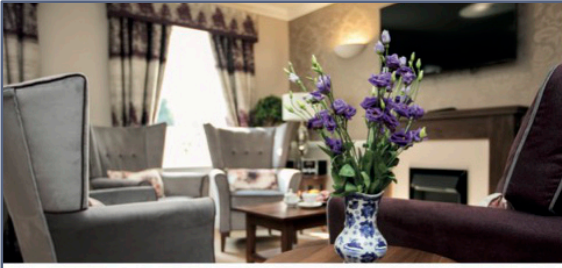


From the Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood & Forest Green

news&views

- WINTER 2021 -





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Contributions

Deadlines for contributions to the magazine are:

Spring - 1st February

Summer - 1st May

Autumn - 1st August

Winter - 1st November

Parish Office

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Ewhurst Baptist Church

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"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – Bob Hope

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News & Views is a great way for local businesses to connect with local people. From as little as £65 a year you can get a quarter page in four issues. Your advert is then sent to 1500+ local homes and up to 4,500 readers. To advertise in News & Views, please contact Peter Bennett: peterbennett@mimail.co.uk or 07976 718734. There is a variety of prices and sizes, from £65/yr for a mono ¼ page to £230/yr for a colour page. And if you don't have a print-ready ad, we can even design one for you, starting from £25.

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Front cover image: Wendy Davies plays Miss Shepherd in *The Lady In The Van*

From the editor

Merry Christmas to one and all. Personally I love Christmas, not least because of the general feeling of good will and bonhomie that permeates even the toughest humbugs. I wish it would last all year!

This issue of News & Views could be called "The Community Is Back!" So much has happened and so much is soon to be happening in the Christmas season. I hope all our readers are getting back into their stride.

Seasons greetings!



Will Shepherd | Editor
will.shepherd@mac.com



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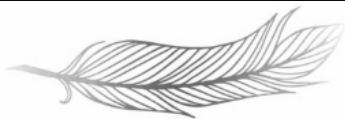


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Immanuel

REVEREND BEN SCADDEN, MINISTER AT EWHURST BAPTIST CHURCH,
BRINGS US A THOUGHT FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

God is good.
When I read words like these from the ninth Psalm that proclaim:



“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds”, I am lifted. I know that I share experience, across millennia, with the same God.

As with the psalmist, God has been good to me, and I am keen to tell the story.

I don't mean that God has made life easy. God answers prayers, I am certain. His 'wonderful deeds' however often result in personal challenges or difficult decisions.

What I refer to is something basic but infinitely deep; a truth that envelopes us and any challenges we might face.

It is that God is with me, with us... Immanuel.

God's presence with us means knowing intimately that God lives,

that we are loved, and that there is always hope.

From Jesus' first disciples and long before, until today, we have declared this goodness of God; his presence with us confirming that our deepest yearnings for a world of justice and peace are rooted in the character of God himself.

This is the ultimate goodness of God; that he comes, amidst everything we do, to walk with us and lead us towards a certain future where we, and all the world, shall be like him.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of the One named 'God with us', let us know that indeed he is, and let's rejoice in the goodness of our God, Immanuel.

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INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

Gill Neal tells us what's been going on
at Rainbow's End Pre-School



You may have seen us out and about as the children enjoyed their autumnal scavenge, before wild adventures at Forest School. This term we have started visiting a local allotment and harvested some fruit and vegetables to wash and eat. The children have also dressed up as pirates for national 'Talk like a Pirate Day' and come as their favourite nursery rhyme character during World Nursery Rhyme Week. It's been a very busy term!

Preparing for Christmas, the children are excited about the festivities with their friends. We are learning all about Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus (or 'Cheeses' as they call him!) as we learn songs and practise for our Nativity! We are still getting out and about this month, looking for Christmas decorations around the village, please say hello or give us a wave if you see us! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the staff and children at Rainbow's End.

WECARE DEMENTIA SUPPORT

WeCare, Ewhurst's Dementia Support Group, has been running for 3 years, providing activities which include exercise, singing, music and more for people with dementia and their partners. We could not do without our wonderful team of local volunteers who always provide teas and coffees with home-made cake. We meet on the **1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, from 2.30-4.30pm, in the Wilson Room beside Ewhurst Parish Church**. For further information please contact Carol on 07775 865125, carol@highedser.co.uk or Tony on 01483 267027, tony.gauvain@gmail.com.

INTRODUCING MEMORY LANE

Memory Lane provides a variety of activities and support for those suffering dementia and their carers. Memory Lane meets every **1st and 3rd Monday at 2.15 to 4.15pm in the Cranleigh Arts Centre (GU6 8AS)** and welcomes anyone experiencing dementia and their carers.

For further information just contact Michael Wild 01483 274398 mamwild@aol.com .

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Christmas Services in Ewhurst

St Peter & St Paul

9 LESSONS AND CAROLS

6pm Sunday 12th December

The story of Jesus coming to earth told through hymns and readings.

SCHOOL END OF TERM SERVICE

9.15am Friday 17th December

Open to all but welcoming the children from all the schools in our Parish.

CAROLS ROUND THE CRIB

3.30pm Friday 24th December

A crib service for families with children, with carols accompanying the story of baby Jesus.

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

11.15pm Friday 24th December

More commonly known as Midnight Mass, this is the first opportunity to celebrate Emmanuel, "God with us", on Christmas Day.

JANUARY EPIPHANY

6pm Sunday 9th January

Commemorating the Magi's (Three Wise Men) visit to the baby Jesus and the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.

Baptist Church

ADVENT SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Every Sunday, 10.30am

Love, joy, peace and hope ring through the weeks of Advent. You are very welcome at our Sunday Advent services.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

5.15pm Sunday 19th December

Join us for tea at 5.15pm, then sing carols with us at 6.30pm at the Baptist Church in Ewhurst. (Masks to be worn when moving around). To book your place call Marian on 07523 768 810 or the office 01483 267878.

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am, Saturday 25 December

Celebrate Jesus' birth with us. Followed by a Village Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm.



You are invited to
**Ewhurst Baptist Church
Christmas Lunch**



12.30pm Saturday 25th December

(Masks to be worn when moving around)

**Book your place
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Okewood & Forest Green services are listed on p39

Shop opens at Punchbowl Pub



Open from 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm Tuesday to Sunday*

The Punchbowl Pub, Oakwood Hill has opened its doors to a new shop. Convenience goods from tea to pasta, all bathroom and laundry products, fresh eggs and local cheese, beers,

wines and soft drinks, homemade jams and chutneys... and flowers for that last-minute gift. Open from 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm Tuesday to Sunday (*closes at 4pm).

Towering adventures

ROB SQUIRRELL REPORTS ON THE NEW ACTIVITIES AT SAYERS CROFT

We are delighted to announce the completion of a brand new climb tower (top pic.) at Sayers Croft. Featuring four different climbing walls, bouldering, abseiling, zip wire and a gladiator challenge, it offers plenty of opportunity for visitors to try something new and challenge themselves.

A brand new ropes course (bottom pic.) has also been completed and this offers an aerial woodland challenge through the trees. Participants can try their hand at a number of obstacles including rope bridges and an aerial skateboard! We are so excited to welcome new and experienced thrill seekers alike to enjoy these brand new activities.

We have also recently added axe throwing and Lego robotics to our activity list so we have plenty of new activities on offer at Sayers Croft.

The Sayers Croft Trust opens up all these activities and more to the local community. There are plenty of ways to visit including community events, holiday clubs, birthday parties and school trips. Visit our website, sign up to our mailing list or contact us to find out more!



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Is Jesus the rat in the kitchen?

AFTER WATCHING RATATOUILLE, WILL SHEPHERD REFLECTS ON A PIXAR CLASSIC



Rat-tled! Will was struck by the analogy with Jesus after watching *Ratatouille* with the children at one of the Family Movie Time sessions that ran in the Wilson Room at Ewhurst Church over the summer.

What's the last thing you want in a commercial kitchen? That's right, rats! Disgusting, disease-spreading rats. They'll close you down within seconds, destroying your reputation. Your business will be in ruins.

Everyone hates rats. Shudders go up the spine just thinking about them. Their worm-like, whippy tails. Their sharp, gnawing teeth. Ugh!

In the film *Ratatouille*, Remi the rat loves food (don't all rats?) but his love is such that he dreams of becoming a chef. All of his family and friends say he is crazy. And surely they're right. Rats

don't belong in kitchens and rats certainly can't cook.

But Remi hears the voice of Auguste Gusteau, France's most famous chef, speaking to him from the pages of a recipe book. "Anyone can cook!" says Gusteau. And so begins an adventure, from Remi's humble beginnings to eventually becoming the toast of Parisian cuisine.

For me, *Ratatouille* embodies the Christian story. Remi is Jesus. Jesus was the last person anyone could conceive to be the saviour of the world - "Can anything good come from Nazareth?". For many, Jesus was ➔

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as welcome as a rat in a kitchen. He was dangerous. He was to be eradicated. But Jesus heard God's voice and broke through all the expectations of who the messiah was, bringing wonderful sustaining "food" to humanity and ultimately fulfilling his destiny.

Just as God sees us all with our unique calling and never boxes us in like humans can - with their traditions, preconceptions, small-mindedness and negativity - so the voice of Gusteau and Remi's response liberates him from the constraints of not just the society around him, but his very species. He escapes the chains of traditional

definitions and is reborn as the "little chef".

Just like there is freedom and transformation in the story of Remi, there is freedom and transformation in the life of Jesus.

I think the allegory in Ratatouille says: prepare to be surprised from where and by whom the gospel is proclaimed. It is not the divine right of the church to spread the gospel. The gospel can come from anywhere. Jesus-shaped ministry will come from those passionate about Jesus, being dedicated to learning about him and sharing him with others.



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The joy of Smee

ROBIN STRIDE REMINISCES ABOUT A PARLOUR GAME HE PLAYED AS A CHILD AT CHRISTMAS



There was no TV or central heating when we spent Christmas at the Knights – ‘Uncle’ Joe and ‘Aunty’ Edie.

Our warmth came from a roaring fire, a drop of the ‘ard stuff - homemade ginger cordial – and a crazy game called Smee.

If you drew the card labelled ‘Smee’ you told nobody. The lights were switched off and we walked around the house in pitch black.

When you bumped into someone you asked: ‘Who is it?’ ‘Smee,’ they’d say. So you knew it wasn’t the real Smee. He or she would have gone to hide and would not reply when asked their identity.

That told the finder they were in the right place so they stayed with Smee until everyone else had come and squeezed alongside as silently as

possible. The event finished when all had arrived.

We’d nearly burst our sides trying not to give the game away by laughing when someone nearly found us but walked off.

One Christmas, when I was about eight, I drew the Smee card! Oh what joy! I feigned disappointment so nobody knew it was me and hid in the outside toilet.

Ten minutes, 15 minutes passed. But nobody turned up. It transpired someone had mistaken a rolled-up mattress under a bed for Smee.

Everyone else made the same error and piled in next to him. When they realised I was missing they hastily put the lights back on and sent out a search party.



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November 13th: Ewhurst enjoyed a day of festivities, featuring an artisan street market, a wreath workshop and late night entertainment from live band The Fabulous Nobodies. All proceeds went to Ewhurst C of E Infant School.

What a festive day!

EWHURST COMMUNITY BOOSTS FUNDS FOR THE INFANT SCHOOL

Well, the weather held this year for the second annual Festive Market in Ewhurst. Stalls were set-up on driveways and lawns on The Street and from 1-4pm the traffic slowed and shoppers came out to mooch through what our local artisans had to offer. Everything from pottery to focaccia by the looks of things. This year the afternoon's shopping was complimented by a wreath workshop held in The Wilson Room by Jess Hogan-Smith and

then, in the evening, The Fabulous Nobodies took to the stage at the village hall. It was a jam-packed programme and just showed what a community can do when it pulls together.

The latest tally has proceeds from the day topping £2000, a much needed sum to plug the £70k gap that has to be raised. If you would like to donate further to the school, please fill in the leaflet that is inserted in this issue of News & Views. Thank you.



Born to run

STEPHEN ROOT REVEALS HOW HE HAS BECOME AN ULTRA RUNNER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF STEPPING INTO HIS TRAINERS.

N&V: How did this all start?

SR: It all began on 29th July 2020. We'd gone on holiday to Brook on the Isle of White. A couple of days in I saw somebody running on the headland and thought, "Wow, what a beautiful place to run." I had some trainers with me and the first day I ran a mile very gently. I was okay. So I did a little bit more each day until by day six I was up to 10k. It felt natural. I enjoyed it.

But I thought, "Hang on, am I overdoing it? Should you run six days in a row?" A quick search of the internet said new runners should really be running one day on, one day off. I'd better bone up a bit more, I thought.

When I got back I said to myself, "Now, which friends run? Where can I get some advice?" So I had a chat with a friend Karen Bryant and she advised immediately to get some decent running shoes. I also went out locally with a friend and discovered some beautiful local routes. That was my stepping stone to starting.

N&V: And where are you now?

SR: So if we now fast forward all the way to November 2021, I've increased my mileage, technique, understanding, got a coach along the way, and now the

longest distance I've run this September is 50 miles - an ultra marathon in the Peak District which was 11 hours, very hard but rewarding.

N&V: When did you realise you needed a coach?

SR: Talking to other runners locally and researching the internet, I began to work out what running was all about. I soon discovered the key to improving was a plan - and a goal. It might be a certain race or event, but serious runners map out a weekly schedule that will get them to their goal.

So here I thought, hang on, I need some professional advice. I fancied the idea of trail running: adventuring over long distances and in beautiful places like The Lake District. It was clear I needed a coach. After asking around I was recommended an England Athletics certified coach called Jude Palmer. She is a trail and fell running specialist. We met in November 2020 and together we worked out a plan to run an ultra marathon (any footrace over 42.2km). The theory was I'd achieve that in a year. The reality was a little different.

N&V: What did a weekly running plan consist of?

SR: The plan varied but basically →



From zero to hero: In just 12 months Stephen Root, at 53, has completed The Limestone 50m Peak District Ultra Trail Run (11h 33m, pictured above at the start), won the Surrey Hills Challenge Half Marathon (1:55.47,) and has achieved impressive personal records for the 10k (42:21) and 5k (21:04). He's completed over 185 runs averaging 27 miles a week.



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I'd run four to five times a week. Three or four short runs of 45-60 mins Monday to Friday and then a long run at the weekend, between 2 to 3 hours - varying paces and distances. The key was to build a base of fitness, both cardio and muscle in order to handle the long distances. I also had to concentrate on running at a lowish heart rate, about 138bpm. This is amazingly difficult, but the more you build that base, the easier it is to keep your heart rate low, especially during hard ascents.

N&V: Was there a tip that stood out?

SR: Yes, posture. I'm tall and Jude helped me use my height to an advantage. The danger is that tall people hunch over. I learned to "run tall", as though I had an imaginary piece of string attached to my head, pulling me up. It helped transfer effort into power efficiently. Not always easy to do. I always wanted to look at the floor.

N&V: Did you have to change your diet?

SR: Day to day, no. I eat a decent balanced diet at home. But I did learn to eat while running. You need fuel to complete long distance. Moreover you need it in the tank before your body draws on it. Anticipatory eating is critical. And the type of food varies. You

need sweet, you need salt and you need carbs. Real food works for me; brown bread ham sandwiches, cut into chunks for easy access. Mini cheddars are fantastic for carbs and salt, bananas brilliant for slow release.

It makes me think of another thing I learned: how to make the ascents your friends. Basically use the uphill to plan: to eat, to check navigation, check your route, conserve energy and to get your head in the right place for what's next.

N&V: What are the key milestones so far?

SR: In January 2021 I remember going out and doing 30k. I hadn't meant to. I made a navigation mistake. But I just felt good and kept going. It was significant because I knew I could run that far if I had to.

Then, in April 2021 we were going up to The Lakes as a family and I had an inkling I might give an ultra run a go. I'd planned out a route and when I got there I went for it, and did it: a run from Ambleside to Grange-over-Sands, 31.31 miles (50k) and 3,388ft of elevation in 5h 34m.

The next milestone was in May when I did my first event: the Jigsaw Race. It's a 10k and I was amongst some ➔




Winning without knowing: Stephen finished the Surrey Hills Half, only to be told he'd won it.



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proper runners. I managed to keep a pace of 6m 50s per mile and my official time was 42m 29s which I was very happy with. And I guess I learned I had some speed.

My next event was in Haslemere: a half marathon in the Spring Trail Series. I came first in my age category and sixteenth overall, clocking a time of 1h 56m and 1952ft of ascent. It was this event that made me realise I had an ability to nurture.

For the rest of this year, my training was really focused on the ultimate goal of running a serious ultra. I found an event called The Peak District Ultra Limestone 50, a circular 50-mile event from Castleton, via Baslow, Darley Bridge and Little Longstone. I did that this September and came 14th overall. It was incredibly tough: hard, slippery limestone. I was challenged, exhausted and by, the next day, unable to walk.

N&V: So what's next?

SR: Well, I'll keep going out on the trails for sure. It's great for my mental well-being and my creativity. It's my church and my solace.

As for a new goal in 2022, I've just got into a 50-mile event called Lakes In A Day, a route from Caldbeck to Cartmel, via the Hellvellyn Ridge. There's over 4000m of elevation. It's going to be brutal but spectacular. That's in October. So I'd better get my plan together!

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Fruits of a good spirit



Flooding in Jakarta, Indonesia. As a result of heat-trapping pollution from human activities, rising sea levels could within three decades push chronic floods higher than land currently home to 300 million people. Tearfund, as well as many other charities, apply their funding to tackling the immediate and long-term effects of climate change.

In the run-up to Christmas we collect different fruits for free and get busy making jams, chutneys and crumbles.

We sell them to raise money for the Christian charity Tearfund, which works in needy and forgotten countries to bring physical, spiritual and psychological help to the needy.

People are helped to support themselves through a small business and given goats, chickens and seeds to grow produce.

Tearfund, working with local churches

and partners, also supports traumatised families who have witnessed and experienced horror. Some have said to me: 'What's it got to do with anything? We have so many needy in this country!'

But it has to do with everyone. I believe it is right to support a charity helping people in desperate situations and giving them hope and a reason to continue. Many find a special hope in God through Tearfund's work. And hope is part of our Christmas story.

MARIAN COPUS

WWW.TEARFUND.ORG/CAMPAIGNS/CHRISTMAS-APPEAL

The Wise Men's Search

A poem by Mary Price

What made them do it
The long hard journey from the East?
The weary weeks of travelling through strange
and rugged lands
Discomforts facing every man and beast.

What made them leave their
velvet-silken palaces
With music, women, wine and song
To face the sun's despotic glare
The inns to share with the common throng?

Why?
It appeared one night in the inky heavens
'Twas a star, a special star
It signified a new king's birth.
It brought inspiration to men afar

Yes!
It burned like fire in their hearts
To follow it they had no choice
Its calling mattered more than life or death
The journey was begun, spurred on
by an unknown force.

Saddle-sore but with faces determined
With dust in their eyes, but hope in their souls
They pressed onward, ever onward
A bright star their guide and their goal.

Where?
Over a humble Beth'lem dwelling
The star rested, its mission complete.
Trembling, they gathered up gifts
priceless and rare
And found the new king playing
at his mother's feet

Jesus!
Worship and honour they gave to the boy
Their hearts filling with a brand new joy.

What made them come all that way? Why?
Vision was theirs, stronger than hardship,
indifference and apathy

Vision to see them to the King
Vision to spur them on in the dark times
Vision realised – to worship the King





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Christmas festivities



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HERE'S A SELECTION OF WHAT'S GOING ON

THE PARROT, FOREST GREEN

Christmas Market 3rd-5th December
Twenty, carefully selected craft stalls.
There will be variety on offer, along with
a few sips of mulled wine whilst you do
some Christmas shopping.

Children's Magical Event 4th Dec,
12-1.30pm and 2-3.30pm. activities
from gingerbread decorating to horse-
drawn carriage rides and much more.
Call 01306 775790 to book.

Carols Round The Christmas Tree
Monday 20th December, 6.30-7.30pm

Carols on the Green Friday 17th
December, 6.30-pm (Cricket Pavilion)

PUNCHBOWL PUB, OKEWOOD HILL

Carols at the Punchbowl Saturday
11th December, 7.30pm. As the festive
spirit rolls on, come and join a local
choir as they sing some favourite carols.

WALLISWOOD VILLAGE HALL

Christmas Fair 9.30-12.30, Saturday
4th December, a great time to get some
local Christmas shopping done.

EWHURST VILLAGE CLUB

Open Mic 7.30-9.30pm Monday
December 27th, come and perform your
songs (Christmas or otherwise), non-
members welcome. Call Will on 07941
248 955 to play.

Christmas Quiz 7.30p,-9.30pm,
Wednesday 29th December, teams up to
six, call Kim 07751 700 106, non-
members welcome.

CAROLS IN CHURCHES

Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm Sun 19
Dec, Ewhurst Baptist Church

9 Lessons & Carols 6pm Sun 19 Dec,
Holy Trinity, Forest Green & 6pm Sun 12
Dec, St Peter & St Paul, Ewhurst

Crib Services Friday 24 Dec
3.30pm St Peter & St Paul, Ewhurst
5.30pm St John The Baptist, Okewood

CRANLEIGH CHORAL SOCIETY

Choruses and Carols 7:30pm, Sat 18
Dec at St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh.
Tickets £12 (adult), £6 (under 16) online
www.cranleighchoralsociety.org.uk

We can...for the Van.

SIMON FRASER, CHAIRMAN OF EWHURST PLAYERS,
REFLECTS ON THE FIRST PLAY BACK AFTER THE PANDEMIC.

If you'd bumped into me at 9pm on Thursday 1st July this year, you wouldn't have found me in a very good mood. The reason? We'd just held the first auditions session for our production of *The Lady in the Van* – and it was attended by five people. Oh dear, I thought. Well, that's putting it extremely mildly. I was thinking a lot of other things, most of them unprintable, but one family-friendly thought was "Have we got this wrong? Are people not yet ready to get back involved in community activities?"

Jump forward to the beginning of November. The play is done and dusted. The interior, front façade and garden of 23 Gloucester Crescent have disappeared under a coat of white emulsion, courtesy of Rachel Edmondson's masterful brushwork. The new tiered seating is back in the cupboard. The props have all been returned to various homes around the village, except for the coffin that Cranleigh Funerals are collecting in late November; they keep having to rearrange the pick-up. Not

sure why. The village hall is back to its normal state, ready to welcome back the pre-school and the W.I. In fact, by 11am on the Sunday morning, just hours after our last performance, the van was in pieces and on its way to take on another starring role, this time with the Rickmansworth Players.

And I have an answer to my question:



The director of *The Lady In The Van* (Simon Fraser) demonstrates how to conceal a grave.

Yes, people are ready. With a cast eventually in place, we met up three times a week in September and October to bring Alan Bennett's play to life. We drank tea and coffee, we ate an awful lot of biscuits, and we had fun, enjoying the company of other people in

pursuit of a common purpose.

And then over four nights at the end of October, 400 people made their way to our village hall to watch, a clear demonstration that they are ready and willing to resume life as normal. Of course, COVID is still amongst us – and many are still fearful of it. It is therefore up to every one of us to help stop its spread. However, we are learning to live with it. We have to. ➔



Top: Alan Bennett 2 (Will Shepherd) and Alan Bennett (Barry Harrison-Fudge) wondering where Miss Shepherd will park her van next. **Bottom:** Miss Shepherd (Wendy Davies) dictates her letter to the Pope to an “accommodating” Alan Bennett.



Clockwise from top: Miss Shepherd being given a push up Albany Street; With neighbours like these... Pauline (Jay Garland) and Rufus (Mike Humphries); Mam (Meg Bray) asks another question. Probably about lavatories.



Clockwise from top left: Mam's doctor (Victoria Helstrip) ponders the benefits of antibiotics; Underwood (Ben Aveyard) comes to call; Leo Fairchild (Peter Bradley) gets a whiff; the social worker (Cat Staples) senses a little hostility; Interviewer (Amanda Jones) wonders if Alan's partners are "decked in trousers or frock"



Clockwise from top left: The priest (John Standish) and pallbearers (Daniel Williams and Felix Cuthbert) at Miss Shepherd's funeral; Alan Bennett calmly pointing out to Miss Shepherd (Wendy Davies) where her car key is; The two Alan's calmly observe Miss Shepherd's resurrection; Miss Shepherd is laid to rest, albeit briefly.

The reaction to our production has been most encouraging – and the fact that we did it with a skeleton staff has not gone unnoticed. Even if you don't have the time, resources or expertise you normally have at your disposal, you can still get things done, and that to my mind, is more important than anything.

One person who came to our production was Pauline Surrey, our Regional Representative from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (to which the Ewhurst Players are affiliated), and she was kind enough to pen a review. Here's an edited version:

"It was a delight to see this quite challenging play performed from the back row of Ewhurst Village Hall's new tiered seating.

The two Alans, Barry Harrison-Fudge and Will Shepherd, were marvellous at creating the real Alan Bennett's character, mastering not only his accent, but also his modest, self-deprecating persona, and even his 'excuse me for breathing' gait.

Wendy Davies gave us a great Miss Shepherd, fussing about in her many layers of grubby and ill-fitting garments, but giving a hint of her previous existence with her refined accent and vocabulary. This was a lady with a past. There was a traffic accident. There were nuns. There was a time in an institution. There was

music, her love and fear of it and her lost talent. Wendy Davies excelled.

There were so many themes running through this play. Alan's trendy neighbours Pauline and Rufus, played very amusingly by Juliet Garland and Mike Humphries, living the Highgate life, in their glamorous outfits, off on their middle-class travels, yet paying lip service to the 'live and let live' of that area and era.

The social worker, played with vim and vigour by Catherine Staples, was what? Society's guilty conscience? The interference of the Nanny State? She exasperated Alan, and many in the audience too no doubt, but caused many a wry chuckle.

The van, of course, though a prop, was as good as a character in this play. Scrupulously painted in mimosa yellow paint, refusing to travel far without being pushed, it was a part of Miss Shepherd really. It emitted a pungent odour, and all kinds of 'useful' and sometimes disgusting objects were attached to the back door.

All in all, this was a fine production, well directed, well-acted, with many little episodes for one to think about later, as well as the wry humour of Alan Bennett's great writing."

Read the full version at
www.ewhurstplayers.com

The Christmas films our parish loves

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WEEK AFTERNOONS. CHECK OUT THESE GREAT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR COMMUNITY.



ELF

Raised as an over-sized elf, Buddy travels from the North Pole to NYC to meet his biological father.



LOVE ACTUALLY

Eight very different couples deal with their love lives during a frantic month before Christmas.



DIE HARD

An NYPD officer tries to save his wife and others taken hostage during a Christmas party.



MIRACLE ON 34th STREET

A mother hires a man to play Santa at Macy's. She is startled by his claim to be the genuine article.



THE HOLIDAY

Two women with guy-problems swap homes and countries, only to meet a local guy and fall in love.



DR ZHIVAGO

Russian physician and poet who, though married to another, falls in love with a political activist's wife.



CHRISTMAS VACATION

The Griswold family's plans for a big family Christmas predictably turn into a big disaster.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WERE: Trading Places, Lethal Weapon, Bad Santa, Gremlins, Jaws (as it came out on Boxing Day), Trains, Planes & Automobiles, Pay It Forward, Wizard Of Oz, Polar Express, White Christmas, All I Want For Christmas, Iron Man 3, Sleepless In Seattle, Last Christmas



MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL

The Muppets tell their version of the classic tale of a bitter miser's redemption on Christmas Eve.



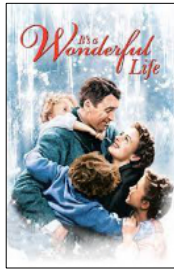
HOME ALONE

An 8-year-old protects his house from burglars when he is left alone by his family at Christmas.



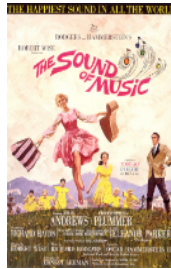
THE SNOWMAN

On Christmas Eve, a boy builds a snowman that comes to life and takes him to the North Pole.



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

An angel is sent to show George Bailey what life would have been like if he had never existed.



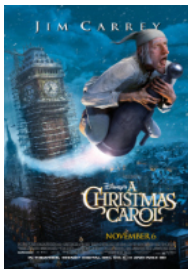
THE SOUND OF MUSIC

A trainee nun is sent by her convent to become a governess to the children of a widower.



NATIVITY

A teacher's white lie about Hollywood coming to see his school's nativity play goes viral.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A retelling of Charles Dickens' classic novel about a Victorian-era miser who changes his ways.



THE POLAR EXPRESS

A young boy embarks on a magical discovery of the North Pole and the spirit of Christmas.



WHITE CHRISTMAS

A song-and-dance team romantically hook up with a sister act to save a failing inn.

HAPPY WATCHING!

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Okewood Nursery Christmas Fair

9:30-12.30AM SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER IN WALLISWOOD VILLAGE HALL

It's all getting a bit exciting at Okewood Nursery as we plan our Christmas Fair! We have lots of stalls booked selling plenty of goodies including personalised gifts, beauty products, Christmas boxes, children's books and more! There'll be face painting and even Belgian waffles! Plus a festive raffle, tombola and lucky



dip with all proceeds going towards the completion of our musical pier in the garden. The children will also be performing a few carols and festive songs .. so it's jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way!!! We look forward to seeing you there!

Okewood Nursery
Tel 01 306 627067



Christmas Services at Okewood & Forest Green

9 LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday 19th December | 6pm

Holy Trinity, Forest Green, RH5 5SG

CRIB SERVICE

Friday 24th December | 5pm

St John the Baptist, Okewood, RH5 5QT

CHRISTMAS DAY

Morning Worship | 10.30am

St John the Baptist, Okewood, RH5 5QT

MESSY CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 2nd January | 4pm

Walliswood Village Hall, RH5 5RJ

Ewhurst services on p9 | For more information visit www.eofgparish.org.uk

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The Gift Of The Magi

IS THE GREATEST GIFT OF JESUS THE POWER TO GIVE OF OURSELVES?

In her book, *The Wisdom Of Jesus*, Cynthia Bourgeault talks about the Christian idea of kenosis; self-emptying love; the giving of oneself; giving it all away. Kenosis is the revolutionary idea that Jesus unleashed on the Western mind, when, as St Paul says, “he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are”.

Bourgeault says: “Kenosis does not lend itself to spiritual theorising. By far its most moving enactments have come in the form of story. One of the most precise descriptions of kenosis is the story *The Gift Of The Magi* by the American writer O. Henry. You may remember the tale. Della and James are newly weds. They are madly in love with each other. They are also poor as church mice and their first Christmas together finds them without sufficient funds to buy each other gifts. But, each of these lovers does have one prized possession. James owns a gold watch which was given to him by his grandfather. Della



In O Henry's reinterpretation of *The Gift Of The Magi*, it is the very act of “giving it all”; the sacrificial love that becomes, in itself, the ultimate gift.

has stunning auburn hair falling all the way to her waist. Unbeknownst to Della, James pawns his gold watch in order to buy beautiful silver combs for her hair. Unbeknownst to James, Della cuts and sells her hair in order to buy him a gold watch chain. On Christmas Eve the two of them stare bewilderedly at their completely useless gifts. It has been a pointless sacrifice. Pointless, that is, unless love itself is *The Gift Of The Magi*. And of course, this is exactly what O. Henry is getting at. In ➔

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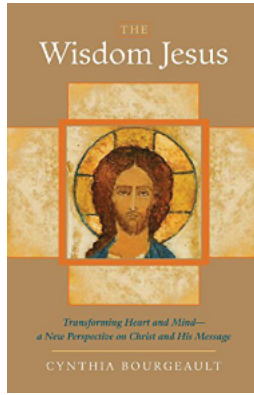
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the voluntary relinquishing of their most cherished possessions they make manifest what love really looks like. They give tangible shape to the bond that holds them together. That’s what kenosis is all about.”

Often, our Western minds are conditioned to “performance”. Even love



The Wisdom Jesus: Cynthia Bourgeault looks afresh at Christ and his message

requires a result: desire fulfilled, progress made, attention reciprocated. But in Christian thought it is the act of sacrificial and unconditional love that makes the perfect, even divine, gift. And the mystery is this: it tends to be the most fulfilling kind of love.

New Church Service Schedule

AS OF OCTOBER 2021, THERE IS A NEW LOOK TO CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Parish Churches Service Schedule



SUNDAY	9 am	11 am	4 pm	6 pm
FIRST	OKEWOOD Holy Communion	EWHRUST Morning Worship	MESSY CHURCH Walliswood Village Hall	
SECOND	EWHRUST Book of Common Prayer	OKEWOOD Morning Worship		EWHRUST Evening Worship
THIRD	OKEWOOD Morning Worship	EWHRUST Holy Communion		
FOURTH	EWHRUST Book of Common Prayer	OKEWOOD Morning Worship		FOREST GREEN Evening Worship
FIFTH	JOINT SERVICE AT 10am For church venue check eofgparish.org.uk/calendar			

PLEASE NOTE THAT SERVICE TIMES OFTEN CHANGE FOR SEASONAL FESTIVALS. ALWAYS CHECK THE ONLINE CALENDAR
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Sister Rosetta: a risk-taking, revolutionary

PHIL SHERDWEL IS INSPIRED BY THE GODMOTHER OF ROCK 'N' ROLL



Sister Rosetta is the Godmother of rock 'n' roll, inspiring people like Elvis, Chuck Berry, Jimi Hendrix and Keith Richards. Check out her songs (many of them covered by today's stars) such as *Strange Things Happening Every Day*, *Jesus Is Here To Stay* and *Didn't It Rain*. Or just type her name into YouTube and enjoy!

On various walls of mine, for the last twenty years, has been a wonderful picture of Sister Rosetta Tharpe (see above). Her story has always been an inspiration to me. And I think it's her story, a real life story, that has something to say to the Church's mission today.

Firstly, she proclaimed the gospel, and put the many stories of Jesus to music. She also took risks, taking her songs into the white nightclubs of a predominantly segregated 1930s America. She gave her life to the proclamation of the word in song. She even continued when her own people frowned on her and rejected her. ➔

She also is a huge figure in speaking to the injustices of black oppression and racism, as well as for liberating women in a male-dominated society, in particular a business such as entertainment. History is now honouring her and, from beyond the grave, she's rewriting the genesis of rock and roll, again speaking to the injustice of a world who wanted the revolution in music to be the property of white males. But who do you think was sitting at the back of her church, watching her spirit-filled Jesus worship - and taking notes on how she sang and moved? None other than Elvis Presley.

Yes, Rosetta had her faults, from illicit affairs to a fairly queasy televised money-maker of a wedding. But she

shows us that God can use us, faults and all. Sister Rosetta tell us to do what we love, and what God made you good at. Sister Rosetta says take Jesus to the

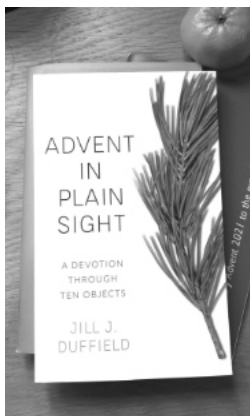
world in any way you can. Her epitaph reads: "She would sing until you cried and then she would sing until you danced for joy, she helped to keep the church alive and the saints rejoicing".

History couldn't keep Sister Rosetta quiet. History couldn't silence her revolutionary

influence on music. And now her story is an inspiration to Christians, people of colour and women alike, not to mention the rock and roll legends of the 20th century. There definitely ain't no grave that's gonna hold her body down.



7 May 1964, Sister Rosetta performed her only UK show at Whalley Range's Wilbraham Road station, recorded for Granada TV as the Blues and Gospel Train.



Join us on an Advent journey

God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see. In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation; objects we encounter in our own lives. Join local folk from our churches at 7.30pm each evening as we go through the book starting Wednesday 1st December on Facebook Live (type the URL below into your browser).

www.facebook.com/eofgparish/videos



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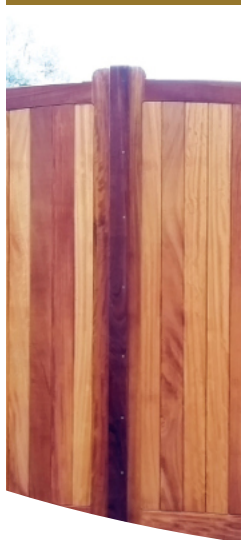
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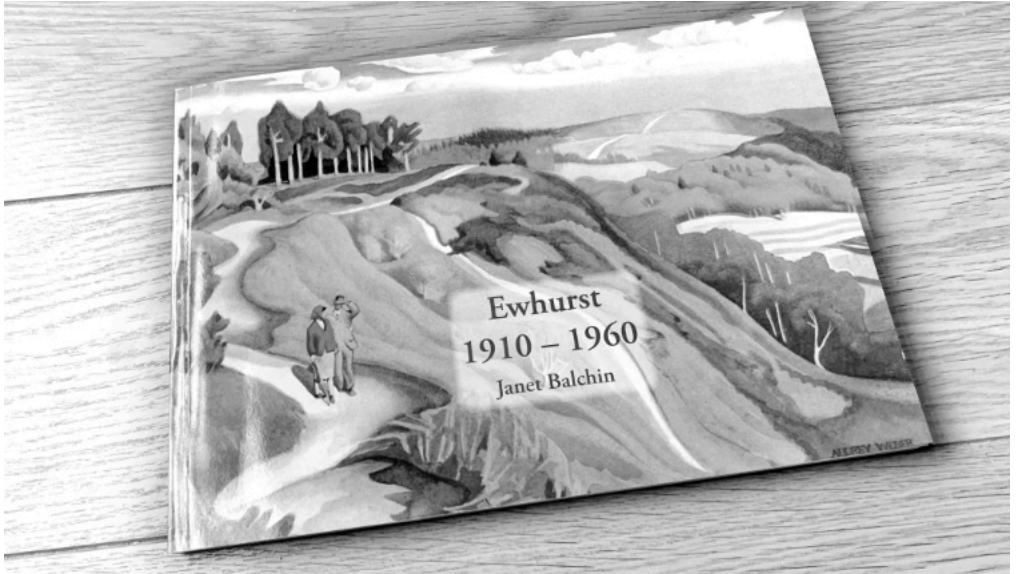
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New Local History Book

Ewhurst 1910-1960



Ewhurst History Society's new Local History Book, *Ewhurst 1910 – 1960* by Janet Balchin traces how the parish of Ewhurst, which includes Ellen's Green and Cox Green, through a momentous part of the 20th century. As well as covering the two world wars the book is also a celebration of rural life with stories about the shops and businesses, schools, churches, and clubs & societies.

The book is published in the same format as Ewhurst History Society's previous

publications and has 144 pages and over 200 illustrations (including some in full colour) and costs £10.00

SPECIAL OFFER

For those of you who are new to Ewhurst, or have not purchased any of our other books, we have a special offer: the new book AND our three previous books - 'Ewhurst Houses and People'; 'St Peter and St Paul, Ewhurst'; 'A Short History of Ewhurst School' and a set of vintage postcards for just £20.00

The book (and special offer bundle) is available to collect from Ewhurst History Society c/o Hullbrook Cottage, Cranleigh Road Ewhurst GU6 7RN. Please phone 01483 277342 or email ewhursthistory@gmail.com in advance. We can deliver free to addresses in the local area. Please pay cash or by cheque payable to 'Ewhurst History Society'. Also buy from www.ewhursthistory.com using PayPal but this will involve a delivery/postage charge (special offer bundle not available from the web)



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Saving Tiggywinkles

JULIE FRANCIS SHARES HER MEMORY OF SAVING THREE BABY HEDGEHOGS ABANDONED IN HER GARDEN

It all began in the autumn of 1987. We found three baby hedgehogs snuggled up to their mother under a bonfire in our garden. Surprise was followed by relief that we had not lit the bonfire. We moved the little family to a box with hay. On checking about an hour later, we found the mother had gone. We learned that once disturbed the mother hedgehog usually eats her babies, so it was lucky this did not happen.

It rained during the night and we woke several times, wondering if the mother had returned. But in the morning there was no sign of her. We decided the only way to save these tiny orphaned babies would be to look after them ourselves, so we brought them into the house. We weighed them, each one weighed about 3 ounces, so small they fitted into the palm of your hand.

We spoke to our local RSPCA representative and to Tiggywinkles, a charity in Buckinghamshire dedicated to wildlife care.

The advice was: 1) You must keep them warm; 2) They must be fed on goats milk; 3) After a couple of days give them small of puppy dog food mixed with vitamin powder and goats milk.



Julie holds the three baby hedgehogs she rescued back in 1987

We fed them at regular intervals, using a pipette and soon they got used to this way of feeding. They would emit a high-pitched squeak which seemed to say: “I want more”. We were also told to hold the hedgehog

with its back against your chest, then stroke their tummy; this was the method to enable them to wee after eating and drinking.

We filled a hot water bottle with warm water, covered it with a towel and they would climb onto it and fall asleep.

As warmth was vital, we made a small cage into a an incubator, covering it with a thick towel and placing the cage over a 25 watt lamp. In this way the vital 25 degree temperature was maintained. ➔

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Then - a crisis. The Great Hurricane Storm in October 1987 hit and all power was lost, not only to our village but to a great swathe of England. Kind neighbours with gas supply boiled kettles and filled thermos flasks and hot water bottles. Covering the cage with blankets we were able to maintain the vital warmth.

And so the little hedgehogs flourished. Because they knew no fear they did not raise their prickles so we could hold them easily. We had a routine called "animals playtime" when the three hedgehogs together with our pet rabbit and our Beagle called Chloe would all run around the kitchen together. I remember that we christened the largest hedgehog "Jumbo" but cannot recall the other names.

By the Spring the hedgehogs had grown considerably. In May they weighed 600 grammes and continued to put on weight. We felt confident that they could now be released but to begin with we made a large pen in the garden with a little hedgehog house, and each night we put out food for them, so that they could adapt gradually to fending for themselves.

Some years after I was invited to visit Tiggywinkles - a wonderful experience. I have never forgotten the welcome advice given in October 1987 which helped us to save the lives of our three baby hedgehogs.

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A painterly approach to decorating

HOW COVID HAD AN UNEXPECTED EFFECT ON THE CAREER OF LOCAL ARTIST PIPPA WEAVER

“When one door closes – or is slammed shut, in the case of Covid – another one opens. Usually onto something completely unexpected, but all the more fun for that.” That’s the view of Pippa Weaver, an Ockley multimedia artist who found herself picking up a different kind of paintbrush when the pandemic put her art career on hold.

For years, Pippa focused on sculpture and performing art. Following early studies in opera, she earned her Master’s in Fine Art from the University of Arts London (UAL), exhibiting in London’s Ugly Duck and Procreate Galleries and working with artist’s cooperatives such as The Mother Project and The Uncovered Collective. Pippa has also exhibited locally and was artist in residence at Leith Hill Place in 2019. But since last year she’s been busier behind closed doors, working on a range of decorating projects.

Call it part necessity, part opportunity,

and blame her perfectionist nature. While working in art Pippa also renovated several properties and found herself increasingly drawn into the practical details. “I grew slowly



Pippa in a publicity shot for her Leith Hill Art Exhibition in 2019

frustrated with the lack of considerate and tidy tradespeople,” she explains. “I didn’t want to have to get the Hoover out every time a contractor exited the building. I also realised that my idea of a high-quality finish was not met by many. In an industry traditionally dominated by men, I got a little tired of being made to feel like a fussy princess just because I wanted it done flawlessly.”

So Pippa completed Dulux’s training courses in order to handle all the work herself – not just the design, styling and project management, but everything from plastering to tiling and skimming. It isn’t so different to her work in sculpture, she says: thorough preparation and careful execution are key to realising her vision. And then Covid hit.



Left: One of Pippa's favourite projects featuring a dramatic image of a dancing horse by Severine Pineaux.
Right: Pippa wallpapers a feature wall for Dulux Academy | Contact Pippa at leithhilldecorating.com

Not a roadblock, just a detour

In lockdown, the art world was one of many sectors to dry up overnight, with all exhibitions and projects put on hold indefinitely. Funding disappeared. Artists, many of whom rely on the hospitality industry for extra income, had nowhere to turn. It was an industry in crisis, and like many artists, Pippa found herself unable to tap her usual creativity amid the existential angst – to say nothing of the practical pressures of a house suddenly full, 24/7, with her mathematician husband and young boys.

Time to pivot. Pippa turned to her side gig – renovations. She completed a revamp of a two-bedroom Victorian coach house, and then suddenly, everybody needed a home office. Leith Hill Decorating was born. Demand has kept Pippa working non-stop:

a bedroom makeover, a hallway refresh, a kitchen facelift, a rejuvenated bathroom, a feature wall mural. It's a different kind of creative challenge, offering a different satisfaction.

“My favourite project this year was renovating a child's bedroom,” she says. “The walls had 60 years of old wallpaper and paint covering a cracked and crumbling wall, and the ceiling was covered with textured chipboard. The transformation was very satisfying. I found a fantastic wall mural from Severine Pineaux of a dancing horse and used the gorgeous Farrow & Ball colour Cromarty. It was lovely working with the young client and finding out what he wanted his new room to look like, and then going out to fulfil his dreams of a two-metre horse galloping across his walls!”

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USEFUL INFO: If you would like the community info sheet of useful local numbers please contact the Editor (p3) and we will send one to you.

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Friends of St Peter & St Paul



Bella Strange (right) bought her first painting from George Yates (left) whose exhibition and sale raised over £800 for The Friends of St Peter & St Paul for the repair and maintenance of Ewhurst's historic, but sadly "at risk", church.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Heritage Weekend and the Art Exhibition by George Yates. Both were times to appreciate what our village has to offer both in heritage and in talent.

If you run short of cards, we may still have some of our lovely Christmas cards available in December. You should have the choice of a Snowy Church depicted by George or his Cheeky Sheep, a snowy Street Scene or Snowman Hugs.

Our *Taste of Italy Evening* at the village hall at the end of November should have put people into a festive mood and helped the restoration funding for the for the south transept.

For next year, we are planning a joint quiz with the Charities Group on Friday 25th February to raise money for both Vaughan House and FSPSP. Then, just before Easter on Tuesday 5th April we will be back at The Parrot for a return of the Easter Market, run now by FSPSP. We plan to have the ever popular "Going for a Song" stall, so if you have any unwanted "good as new" items please put them aside until then.

For details of our events and info on what we do, contact:

Email: secretary.fspsp@gmail.com
Tel: 01483 268694

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WORKSHOP

11 Dec

Kids Crafts
Christmas Flower Pot
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D'ambrosio.



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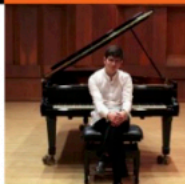


CLASSICAL

15 Dec

Ariel Lanyi (Piano)

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2021 winner in the
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5 Dec

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CLASSICAL

7 Dec

Renata Konyicska (Piano)

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FILM & PIZZA

18 Dec

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holidays with this charming
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Surrey Lieutenancy awards two Ewhurst gems

On Wednesday 10th November Ewhurst C of E Infant School had a very exciting visit. Deputy Lieutenant Tim Wates, from the Surrey Lieutenancy, popped in to present the school with an incredibly special award: The Lieutenancy Certificate of Appreciation. This was presented to the school in recognition of all the hard work Ewhurst Infants displayed throughout the pandemic. It was an honour for the staff and pupils to receive.

Tim also visited Hazelbank Stores on 1st November to award their much deserved certificate. It was in recognition of Damian and Kerry (pic. right bottom) and their team's amazing response to local needs during the pandemic. The Surrey Lieutenancy website report reads: "Hazelbank Country Stores in Ewhurst is a superb local shop which has given exemplary support to the community during the pandemic."

We couldn't agree more and are so proud to have these two vital aspects of community life in Ewhurst get the recognition they deserve.

www.surreylieutenancy.org



Pictured above from left to right: Sarah Macey, Maisie from Reception, Tim Wates and Benjamin from Year 1



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Unknown First World War casualty buried in Ewhurst churchyard

Whilst walking through the village one morning in October we spotted a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) van parked by the war memorial. We stopped to have a chat with the driver and found that he was Kevin Barnes, the Regional Operations Coordinator for the CWGC, and he was looking at the grave of William Joseph Bailey who died in 1919. He explained that they were checking records and William was entitled War Grave status.

We had not heard of William before. He is not listed on the Ewhurst War memorial, or on the plaques in both churches, or the Book of Remembrance in Ewhurst Church. Nor had I come across any reference to him in local newspapers. We did some research into his family background and found that he lived at Hurstpierpoint, where he was a butler to Admiral Sir Lewis Beaumont, and that his wife,

Elizabeth moved to Ewhurst after his death. So, initially, it appeared that he did not have a personal connection with Ewhurst.

However, when we went to look at his grave we spotted that the next grave was for William, Elizabeth and Henry Albery. His wife's maiden name was Albery, and William and Elizabeth were her parents and Henry was her brother. So, although William Bailey does not appear to have a direct link with Ewhurst his wife, Elizabeth, certainly does. Elizabeth was born in Rogate, West Sussex, but by the 1891 census the family had moved to Ewhurst and were living at Westland Farm. The CWGC are planning a plaque for William's grave to record his service. In the meantime we have asked for his name to be added to the list read out on Remembrance Sunday.

Janet and Nigel Balchin

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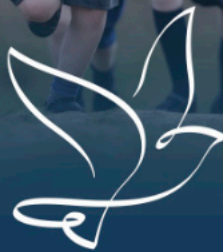
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