



St Peter's
Parish Church
LIMPSFIELD

PARISH NEWS

WINTER 2022

online at stpeterslimpsfield.org/parish-news

Christmas Services at St Peter's Limpsfield

Sunday 18 December

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
by Candlelight * followed by mulled wine and
mince pies in St Peter's Hall

Wednesday 21 December

5pm Carol singing outside the church -
a time for children and adults

Christmas Eve

3.30 & 5pm Christingle services - children may
come dressed as one of the Nativity characters.

11.15pm Midnight Mass*

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion

10am Festive Eucharist*

*these services will also be live streamed
on the St Peter's YouTube channel.

For more details visit www.stpeterslimpsfield.org



Dear Friends,

Once again we find ourselves in the season of Advent, this is perhaps one of my favourite times of year both in church and also at home. The fun of preparations; how early is too early to put up the decorations? How many trees should we have in the Rectory? Who's going to be eating with us this year? Then there's the joy of our Carol Concerts, we're having three this year an Advent carol Service at 6.30pm on 27th November, Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm on the 18th December and a Community Carol Service (with lanterns for the children) at 5pm on the 21st December. Do come to any or better still all of them!

The week before Christmas the church will be full each morning of excited children, all dressed as characters from the Nativity, singing and narrating the Christmas story as their parents look on with pride. What a joy it is for me to welcome them in and then wave them out with shouts of, 'Happy Christmas, have a great holiday'! Then on Christmas Eve the church will be filled again with families joining us for our two services of Christingle at 3.30pm and 5pm. In this service we will remind ourselves that Jesus came to bring his light and love to the world.

Advent should also be a time of spiritual preparation, I always like to re-read the Nativity stories in the gospels, if we read them carefully, we will find that Matthew, Mark and Luke are full of little details and wonderful characters. If you join us on Christmas Day at 10am you will find that it is the gospel of St. John which takes centre stage beginning with the grand announcement that – 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the word was God' and ending with the assurance that – 'The Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth'. (John 1.1:14). In these words, we find that at the heart of Christmas is a gift, the gift from God of God's own self in a baby laid in a manger.

Wherever you find yourself this Christmas, may I wish you one of joy and peace and assure you of my prayers for you and with you.

Rev. Helen

Front cover by **Olivia Monk**, a 14 year old pupil at Oxted School whose interests include working towards her D of E bronze award, martial arts and drumming.



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The Parish Office at the Rectory is open on Tuesday to Thursday from 09:00am-5:00pm. The office can be reached on 01883 712512 or e-mail via: stpeterschurch.lttm@gmail.com

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CHURCH NEWS

SUNDAY SERVICES

St Peter's has a regular pattern of Sunday morning worship: a quiet **8am Holy Communion service** and a main **10am Parish Eucharist**. On the first Sunday of the month there is a shorter, more informal **All Age Family service at 10am**. Everyone is always welcome.

LIVE STREAM

The 10am service is live streamed on the St Peter's YouTube channel every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. Visit YouTube and search 'St Peter's Limpsfield' or find details at www.stpeterslimpsfield.org.

MESSY CHURCH

There will not be a Messy Church in December, however we hope children will join us in the New Year when we'll have activities based around Baptism (**Sunday 15 January, 3pm**) and Lent (**Sunday 19 February, 3pm**).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 21 December
5pm Community Carol Singing

Wednesday 22 February
8pm Ash Wednesday service

Saturday 4 March
7.30pm Quiz night with fish and chips

LIMPSFIELD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREES

St Peter's is once again planning on a Christmas Tree welcome with trees on the bank leading up to the church lych gate sponsored by local businesses and organisations. The trees will be going up from **Monday 5 December** and will be decorated that week for everyone to enjoy over the festive period.



COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

Join us outside St Peter's at **5pm** on **Wednesday 21 December** for some carol singing. Children will be leading a selection of readings and there will be mulled wine for the adults. Everyone is welcome.

CHURCH DIARY: DEC 2022 - FEB 2023

The church is open every day during daylight hours.



Date	Services Dec-Feb
Sun 4 Dec	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am ALL AGE SERVICE
Wed 7 Dec	11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 11 Dec	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *
Mon 12- Weds 14 Dec	10am LIMPSFIELD INFANT SCHOOL Christmas services
Wed 14 Dec	11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Thurs 15 Dec	9.30am LIMPSFIELD GRANGE Nativity Service
Fri 16 Dec	3.30pm Panda Nursery Christmas Carols
Sun 18 Dec	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * 6.30pm SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS * followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall

Date	Services Dec-Feb
Wed 21 Dec	11am MUSICAL MEMORIES in the Millennium Room 5pm COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING by the church with mulled wine - a time for children and adults
Sat 24 Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE 3.30 & 5pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICES - children may come dressed as a character from the Nativity 11.15pm MIDNIGHT MASS *
Sat 25 Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am FESTIVE EUCHARIST *
Sun 1 Jan	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 10am NEW YEAR'S DAY EUCHARIST
Wed 4 Jan	11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 8 Jan	EPIPHANY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *
Wed 11 Jan	11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room

Date	Services Dec-Feb
Sun 15 Jan	SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * 3pm MESSY CHURCH
Wed 18 Jan	11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 22 Jan	THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *
Wed 25 Jan	11am MUSICAL MEMORIES in the Millennium Room
Sun 29 Jan	THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS) 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *
Wed 1 Feb	11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 5 Feb	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am ALL AGE SERVICE
Wed 8 Feb	11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 12 Feb	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *

Date	Services Dec-Feb
Wed 15 Feb	11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 19 Feb	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * 3pm MESSY CHURCH
Wed 22 Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY 11am MUSICAL MEMORIES in the Millennium Room 8pm ASH WEDNESDAY Eucharist
Sun 26 Feb	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *
Fri 3 Mar	7.30pm World Day of Prayer Service

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS & THANKSGIVING SERVICES

27 September David Ollington
8 October Stella Maude
12 October John 'Murrie' King

*Services live streamed

'Tis the Season

As I write, it is a late Autumnal day, but Winter is fast approaching, as is the season of all sorts of wonderful and inspiring musical selections. It has been nearly a year since I started working with the choir at St Peter's with challenges, successes and triumphs in all shapes and sizes. Perhaps the most pertinent thing in my thinking is trying to select music which reflects the modern worship experience at St Peter's while celebrating the history and culture of our church and its choir.

The music you will hear the choir sing this Advent and Christmas combines this historic power as well as contemporary and lively music. In our Advent Carol Service, we will sing O Thou the Central Orb by the Irish composer Charles Wood, a member of the inaugural class of the Royal College of Music and former Professor of Music at Cambridge. This is paired with Elizabeth Poston's Jesus Christ the Apple Tree, a moving intimate motet by a composer, teacher, broadcaster and (allegedly) one time spy for the British government...

This Christmas, joined by Jamie Naylor as guest conductor, the choir sings classic carols of the Anglican tradition including Peter Warlock's Adam Lay ybounden, and various carols with harmonisations by the famous Kings College conductor, David Willcocks. As ever, contemporary music is represented in works by Olivia Sparkhall whose All and Some (a setting of Tudor

English poetry) receives its premiere in our parish. We also present Errollyn Wallen's Peace on Earth, a jazzy and intimate reflection of the stillness of the winter season. The crunches are challenging but the work is moving!

The pleasure of leading music at St Peter's, Limpsfield, remains very much mine. We continue to see opportunities to thrive and grow in our musical ability and in its ability to enhance and inform the worship experience. We look forward to welcoming you to our performances this Christmas (and if you fancy joining, please get in touch at cjbendall@gmail.com or speak to us after a service!).

Cole Bendall

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is on Sunday 18 December at 6.30pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies over the road in St Peter's Hall.



A year in review

St Peter's has always been a busy church with a steady stream of baptisms, weddings and funerals throughout the year. 2022 seems to have been particularly busy with 13 Baptisms, 9 weddings and 18 funerals or burials in the church and churchyard to date. One weekend in early September Rev Helen had a wedding, two baptisms and a burial of ashes all in the space of two days.



One of the biggest joys of working in the Parish Office is getting to meet all the families or individuals who come to us for occasional offices. I enjoy forming a relationship with people, looking out for them and talking to them when they come into church and extending invites to them to our All Age and Messy Church services. This year we have had quite a few young families who have moved to Limpsfield and the surrounding area who, especially during the pandemic, haven't had the same opportunities to mix with other families, join groups or even come to church as

often as they hoped. Earlier this year I set up a St Peter's family WhatsApp group. The aim of this was to connect people who live nearby or with children

a similar age so they can be in touch with each other. We also use it to share invitations to social events we've organised. In September Rev Helen hosted a family drinks evening at The Rectory that lots of people attended and we're hoping to organise a meal at The Bull in the New Year. If you're interested in joining in or would like to find out more about organising a special service then do send Rev Helen or I an email and we'd be delighted to chat with you.

Caroline Campbell



A SPA goes back to school

So, I have taken a career break. I hit 2 milestones this year; I celebrated my 50th birthday and 30 years in the Pension Industry. My children are in full-time work or University. I have always wanted to go to University, but for one reason or another, I have not been able to manage it. Therefore, after a period of discernment, I started studying at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, for a Certificate of Higher Education in Theology, Ministry and Mission (CertHE, Common Awards) as an Independent Student. I am staying in the community during the week and coming home on weekends. I still have my season ticket at Crystal Palace Football Club!

I am studying an introduction to the Old and New Testaments, Church History, Christian Doctrine, Theological Reflective Practice, Pastoral Care and Sports Chaplaincy. I attend some lectures during the week, at different houses in Cambridge, with lots and lots of reading in between. There are guest lectures in between that are very interesting.

Living in a community is great. It is a modern take on monastic life, with morning prayer from 8:15 to 8:45. Evening prayer (optional) from 5:15 to 5:45. We give thanks at meals, and there are many opportunities for prayer with others. The vibe is very Christian, from various traditions with

a solid Evangelical rein. Thursday is family day, as most people are in their late twenties or early thirties with young families. Living in Halls (called staircases in Ridley) is fun; the house goes quiet from 10 pm to 7 am.



I have a bucket list whilst in Cambridge, and I want to take advantage of other opportunities to worship; stand-out moments for me are; Choral Evensong at Selwyn College, Book of Common Prayer morning service at St. Bots, and High Church at Little St. Mary's Church. I love a library like the ones at Divinity College and Westminster House. Once I got my student pass, I went to Fitzwilliam Museum and the Botanical gardens. I am a confirmed coffee snob; therefore, I have conducted detailed research into the best coffee houses in Cambridge, and my top 3 are; Hot Numbers, Espresso Library and Bould Brothers. My colleagues at work were kind

enough to contribute to my leaving gift, and I bought a bike and joined the student Gym.

I am enjoying my year in Cambridge. I have unplugged from a fast-paced career in the commercial world and decompressed. I posted my plans on the social media platform LinkedIn, I received just under 27k views, over 330 likes and 125+ comments. This tells me that many people are in my position, too young to 'retire' but older enough to build career #2. So, where does this take me? I have no idea. I trust in God's plan for me, and I would be grateful for your prayers.

Paul Budgen

Our New Ordinand, Vic

My name is Victoria Stone, but I am known as Vic. I'm so excited to be part of St. Peters Limpsfield for the next two years or so; everyone has been so friendly and welcoming; it's been such a

blessing already
and I'm
looking
forward to
getting to
know
everyone
better.

live in Oxted with my husband Jon, our 13 year old Boxer dog Roxy and 18 month old Bengal cat Milo.

Unlike most Ordinands who move churches when they start their studies, I am very local to Limpsfield. I was born in Redhill General hospital (which is now flats) and I have lived in Oxted almost all my life. I attended what was Downs Way School, then St Mary's and then Oxted County (or just Oxted School now!). As a child I attended the United Reformed Church and then Kings Church during my teenage years. I returned to the URC after



university and when I spent a few years in Kenley after meeting Jon we attended St Peter and Paul's in Chaldon and then Caterham Community Church. On returning to Oxted, just over 8 years ago, we started attending St Mary's where we got involved in helping with events, then joined the PCC and then I became church warden, which I only stood down from in August this year.

I studied TV, Film and Theatre at university in Aberystwyth and on leaving university, returning to Oxted, and thinking I was going to focus on the performing arts, I started working at The Orpheus Centre in Godstone. Little did I know that God had a different plan and that would be the start of an almost 20-year career in health and social care, mainly working with young disabled adults but most recently with older people. Being a career with much

training available to it, I have completed qualifications in many topics, including a post-grad cert. in autism, advanced Makaton (a type of sign language) and I'm a trainer in First Aid, moving and handling and administering medication.

As my degree may hint, I love going to the theatre, especially musicals – I am a bit famous for having seen Wicked 13 times... so far! Jon and I also enjoy going to see comedy gigs too. I love nature and will take any opportunity to sit in a bird-hide with my binoculars watching out for the birds, which also lends itself to my other interest of photography.

I'm studying at St Augustine's college which is based at both West Malling and Southwark and on days not at college, I might be found spending time with Helen, getting to grips with parish life.

Vic Stone

World Day of Prayer 2023

The following local services for World Day of Prayer will be taking place on **Friday 3 March:** 10am at St Andrew's Limsfield Chart and 7.30pm St Peter's Limsfield. World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The 2023 service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan.

The College of St Barnabas at Dormansland, Lingfield

The College's property for retired Anglican Clergy was built in the early years of the last century and our parish of St Peter's have had a number of connections with the staff and residents over recent years.

About thirty years ago a lady in our parish, Annette Threlfall decided she wanted to do something different for her church and was inspired to organize an evening out for the retired clergy at St Barnabas. Usually about five homes hosted one or two of the residents for a nice supper with plenty of interesting chat about their work often in far outposts of the world. Others volunteered to do the chauffeuring here and back. Those hosts and volunteers involved still remember them as very happy and enjoyable occasions.

Then for the last twenty years the sponsored cycle ride round the churches each September often included a visit to the College and their chapel above the main entrance.

The residents loved handing out coffee and talking about their past while the cyclists had a well earned rest.

This last Summer in their 'College of St Barnabas awareness campaign' they ventured out with a performance of Carmen given in the College grounds by Rogue Opera. It was a lovely hot evening and a number of us, including Helen our Rector, much enjoyed the show together with the College produced paella in the interval. I understand its success is encouraging them to do a repeat with another opera maybe next year. In the programme for Carmen I read the following introductory article which explains how in 1895 the idea of providing a home for retired clergy was born.

Chris Brewer



One man's vision

The College's roots and our enduring mission stretch back to the early 1890s when our founder, Canon William Cooper, first began to moot the idea of a hostel in London and a convalescent home in the country,

Back in 1895, at a time when many elderly Anglican clergy and returning Missionaries "had no refuge but the Union Infirmary or the common ward of the Workhouse"; Canon Cooper takes action. He had already spent many years as a Missionary in New Zealand, the Australian Outback and North West Canada. He now describes himself as a "Disabled Missionary", in poor health due to many years of "long and arduous journeys on horseback riding in all weather, wet saddles, sleeping on the ground, etc."

Some say the plight of other former Missionaries, who are living in atrocious conditions in Brighton's workhouse, spur the good Canon into action. Others recount him discovering an elderly Priest, scratching a living by selling matches on the streets of London. Whatever Cooper's motivation, the issue of clerical poverty becomes a national scandal. People respond generously

to his initiative and vision of a community in which poor, elderly, infirm or convalescent Clergy can have their own home and on-site medical care. Thus the Homes of St. Barnabas are born, the result of one man's drive and determination that harnesses the support of Victorian society from major philanthropists, to parishes and even to individuals around the country who are invited to "buy a brick". Canon Cooper becomes the first Warden of the Homes which, initially, are housed in rented accommodation until sufficient funds are raised to build the present College.

To this day, that mission is straightforward: to ensure that elderly, impoverished or infirm Clergy, Clergy spouses, widows and widowers benefit from the best possible care. In order to achieve this we provide sheltered accommodation, residential and domiciliary care for a maximum of 65 Residents. No-one is ever turned away on grounds of cost, but to be able to operate on that basis we do need your help.

For further information and to make an online donation visit www.st-barnabas.org.uk

FAMILY SERVICES AT ST PETER'S

MESSY CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 3PM

Crafts, activities, stories, song, tea and cake.



No Messy Church in December

Sunday 15 January

Thinking about Baptism

Sunday 19 February

Thinking about Lent

Sunday 19 March



no afternoon Messy Church in March as it falls on Mothering Sunday (but there will be Mothering Sunday Messy Church activities during the 10am service)

ALL AGE SERVICE

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 10AM

A short, informal service where families are especially welcome.

Sundays 4 December, no All Age in January as it falls on New Year's Day, 5 February, 5 March

Geography, politics and type of school aside, young people have so much in common no matter where they go to school.

My teaching career has taken me to some unexpected places, and the opportunities and experiences have been rewarding in both the UK and abroad. For students, this is what we hope to offer them, through the range of subjects taught, clubs on offer and environment created to help them find the doors they did not know existed. We naturally find ourselves comparing observations with our own experience of school, from simple activities to unique locational quirks!

Some games appear only at break time. Whether in a summer playground in an international school in Moscow or in tropical Brunei, 'four square' or 'traditional hand ball' usually involves four players bouncing a tennis ball with their palms between a painted grid on the floor. A crowd of onlookers waiting eagerly to swap in when someone misses returning the ball or it lands outside of the square. Summer time because in Moscow the snow had to be cleared in winter and the astroturf football pitch became an ice rink for PE lessons.

Outdoor pitches can be problematic, such as the upland geese grazing and fertilising (!) the field in Stanley, Falkland Islands. Sometimes we find curious things in common between schools; the landing of the search and rescue helicopter to access the hospital, was a common sight in remote Stanley but also in Exeter, where a city school had the largest clear area of field to land with its rugby and cricket pitch, the main hospital also just across the road. It is futile trying to teach a lesson with large rotors landing outside the window, however regular an occurrence it may have been.



The autumn and winter view of an international school playground in Moscow



A city school surrounded by rolling Devon Hills,

The House system was strong in the Exeter school and so too in Newbury and in Brunei. It creates an identity for students, a team to win for in music and sports, a pastoral support network and sometimes even a sense of family. Gold stars, merits or points are collected during the year and collated for House totals.

In every school, no one really ever wants to sign up to the 1500 metres and there is usually a persuasive effort from teachers, to get the most dedicated



and Stanley Harbour opposite the FI community school.



The sports facilities are extensive and popular in this international school in Brunei.

favourites? Your fieldtrip adventures? Your musical and drama performances? Your playground memories? I hope they were happy memories, for school is not easy for everyone. No matter the geographical location, between the unique systems and character of the schools, you'd be

surprised about how much they have in common.

Juliette Horsford


runners to give it a go. Cross country runs still involve mud and a group of not-so-keen walkers proudly arriving last. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is popular all around the world, and I have seen hiking on the Marlborough Downs, between the tors of Dartmoor and the jungle in Borneo. Students complain in the rain and joyfully share stories and laughter after the adventure is complete.




What were your sports day

A Christmas Quiz

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
2. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
3. In *Home Alone*, where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?
4. In which country did eggnog originate?
5. How many gifts were given in total in '*The Twelve Days of Christmas*'?
6. In what year did Mariah Carey's '*All I Want For Christmas Is You*' come out?
7. In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters?
8. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
9. In the movie *Love Actually*, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'?
10. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?
11. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
12. Which city has donated Trafalgar Square's Christmas tree every year since 1947?
13. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign?
14. What is the best-selling Christmas single of all time?
15. *Gavin and Stacey* returned to TV for a Christmas special in 2019. How many years had it been off-air before the reunion?
16. In the episode of *Friends* '*The One with the Holiday Armadillo*', who dresses up as an armadillo?

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- 17. In *Mean Girls*, which Christmas song do The Plastics get up on stage to perform?
 - 18. At what time is the King's (formerly the Queen's) speech traditionally broadcast on Christmas Day?
 - 19. What colour are mistletoe berries?
 - 20. In *Home Alone 2*, who does Kevin run into in the hotel lobby?
 - 21. What colour suit did Santa wear until Coca Cola rebranded him in red?
 - 22. What decoration do elves traditionally have on their shoes?
 - 23. *Miracle On 34th Street* centres on what real-life department store?
 - 24. Which Christmassy song plays at the end of *Die Hard*?
 - 25. What is the opening line to Shakin' Stevens' 'Merry Christmas Everyone'?
 - 26. What was the UK Christmas number one in 2010?
 - 27. When do the Twelve days of Christmas start?
 - 28. According to Buddy the Elf, what are the four food groups elves can eat?

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- 29. What fruit is traditionally put inside a Christmas stocking?
 - 30. According to tradition, by when should you have your Christmas decorations down?
 - 31. Traditionally, when should you start making a Christmas pudding?
 - 32. Who was killed off in the 2012 *Downton Abbey* Christmas special?
 - 33. In *Elf*, what's the first rule in the Code of The Elves?
 - 34. What gift did Harry Potter receive from the Dursleys during his first Christmas at Hogwarts?
 - 35. Which US state was the first to declare Christmas Day an official holiday?
 - 36. What is *The Grinch's* dog called?
 - 37. What type of tree is most commonly used for Christmas trees?
 - 38. In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' what gift was given on the seventh day?
 - 39. In the 2008 *Gavin & Stacey* Christmas special, what gift does Nessa give to everyone?
 - 40. What is Iris' job in *The Holiday*?

Answers on page 40

A Moment in History

My husband and I got on the first train leaving Oxted on the morning of Friday 16th September to join “The Queue” as the line to see Queen Elizabeth II Lying in State had swiftly been named. We were not alone! Nearly everyone on our train was dressed for the outdoors and carrying a rucksack of supplies. We had heard that queuing time had reached 14 hours overnight but were determined to go, knowing we would regret it if we didn’t.

Finally finding the ever moving end of the queue and joining it at 6.50am, having witnessed dawn breaking over Tower Bridge, felt a significant step in our journey. Unfortunately we then didn’t move for the next 45 minutes! This did give us a chance to start chatting to the people around us. Watching the crowds continue to pour past us in search of the elusive “end” we all agreed we were lucky to be where we were.

It was 10am, having had a delicious breakfast roll and coffee en route, when we finally found ourselves back at Tower Bridge receiving the all important wristband that would grant us entry to the Lying in State. We felt a huge sense of relief knowing we would be allowed in to pay our respects, especially as we heard 15 mins later that due to it reaching capacity the queue had temporarily closed.

Over the course of the next few hours we wound our way along the river towards Westminster Abbey. The fabulous marshalls all along the route kept us moving while bins were emptied and portaloos cleaned. The sheer scale and efficiency of the organisation of the crowds was incredible. So many were volunteers, like the chaplain who spoke with us on the Southbank. He, along with the rest of the faith team, had forgone his own chance to see the coffin in order to provide support to those queuing day and night.

The sense of living through a significant historic moment as we queued was amplified by passing landmarks such as The Golden Hind, Globe Theatre, Tate Modern, and the Southbank, finally reaching the London Eye at around 3pm. Time passed remarkably quickly as we shuffled along, chatting with our

new found friends. At one point one of the ladies we were with got interviewed by a European TV station!

By the time we finally crossed Lambeth Bridge the end was in sight. Zigzagging our way through the lines we had seen on news reports and looking at the Palace of Westminster bathed in golden evening light we felt a sense of calm satisfaction, despite aching feet and backs.

Finally, just over 12 hours since joining the queue it was our turn, like David Beckham a few hours ahead of us, to enter the building, walking down steps to file past Queen Elizabeth II’s coffin. Despite the crowds there was a real sense of peace and solemnity and as we paused to pay our respects it felt like we were living in the history books.

There was an almost medieval feel to the tableau in front of us. Although we were through in minutes the chance to be there was more than worth all the timing queuing.

Then we were out. No longer part of The Queue but now part of a community lucky enough to have had the chance to experience what we had. The comradeship, patience, good humour and sheer Britishness of the queueing experience was unique. We are incredibly grateful to have been able to do this. My feet however did slightly regret not having been able to join my sister the day before. She joined the queue at the Golden Hind and was paying her respects to the Queen 6 hours later!





Quince House Recipes

Pear, mincemeat and almond tart

Serves 8

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 225g plain flour, sifted • 2tbsp icing sugar • 150g cold unsalted butter, chopped • 1 egg • Finely grated rind of 1 orange • Icing sugar for dusting 	<p>Filling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100g softened butter • 100g light brown sugar • 100g ground almonds • 2 eggs • ¼ tsp vanilla extract • 3tbsp rum or Poire William • 4tbsp mincemeat • 2 pears, peeled and cored • 2tbsp apricot jam
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1. Process the flour, icing sugar and butter together until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in the egg with the orange rind and process the mixture until it just comes together. Flatten into a disc and wrap in cling film. Chill for about 30mins.
2. Roll out the pastry on a floured surface until 5mm thick and use it to line a 24cm tart tin with a removable base. Prick lightly with a fork and then chill for 30 mins. If you are cooking on an Aga, place in the freezer.
3. For the filling beat together the butter and sugar and then add the almonds and the eggs. Pour in the rum and add the vanilla extract.
4. Spread the mincemeat over the chilled pastry base and then arrange the

pears on top. Then spread the almond mixture over the pears. Bake in the oven at 180°C/gas mark 5 for 40 minutes until golden. If using an Aga bake on the floor of the roasting oven with the cold shelf placed on the second runner.

5. When the tart has cooled, warm through the apricot glaze and brush over the tart. Serve with crème fraîche Ice Cream or a good vanilla ice cream.



Katharine Eldridge

Katharine is running a number of cookery courses over the next weeks at Quince House teaching lots of festive baking (including gluten free recipes). Find out more at quincehousecookery.co.uk

The Barn Theatre



<p>1st - 3rd December 7.30pm</p>	<p>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat - Glow Theatre Group <i>The irresistible family musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favourite son. Lyrics by Tim Rice, Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber</i></p>	<p>Tickets: £12.50 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or enquiries 07813 916105</p>
<p>8th - 9th December 7:30pm</p>	<p>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat - Glow Theatre Group Intermediates <i>A fabulous reimagining of the Biblical story of Joseph and the coat of many colours, by the Glow Theatre Intermediates</i></p>	<p>Tickets: £12.50 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or enquiries 07813 916105</p>
<p>10th December 7.45pm</p>	<p>Ultimate Elton and the Rocket Band <i>Some tribute artists look like their idol, some sound like their idol. Paul Bacon as Elton John does both! Close your eyes and you won't believe your ears, open your eyes and you won't believe them either!</i></p>	<p>Tickets: £22.00 - £25.00 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk</p>
<p>Fri December 13th (7.30pm), Sat 14th (1.30 & 5.30pm), Sun 15th (1.30 & 5.30pm), Wed 18th - Fri 20th (7.30), Saturday 21st (2.30 & 7.30)</p>	<p>Cinderella - The Oxted Players <i>Come and see Cinderella find and wed her Royal fella!</i></p>	<p>Tickets: £13.00 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk</p>
<p>4th February 2023 7.45pm</p>	<p>Cinderella'23 - Merry Opera <i>Merry Opera returns to the Barn Theatre with a delightful take on the Cinderella fairytale, with music ranging from Handel to Jerome Kern</i></p>	<p>Tickets: £20 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk and enquiries 01892 871 377)</p>

Information pertaining to all the above shows can be obtained from: www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 15a High Street, Westerham. Kent. TN16 1RA. 01959 561811

The 50th Anniversary of the Woodhouse centre

In early September the Woodhouse Centre celebrated its belated 50th year anniversary with a visit from Sophie, Countess of Wessex. She was welcomed by Peter Lee, Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey and was introduced to the new manager, Liz Martin-Lawrence, and some of the Centre's trustees. The countess spent time in the Centre meeting and talking to members, while observing them as they carried out their various crafts, including knitting, caning and upholstery.

Liz Martin-Lawrence said: *"It was an honour to welcome the Countess to The Woodhouse Centre. She was so friendly and approachable, and she made our members feel very special. She unveiled a plaque and signed our visitors book at the end of the visit."*

The Woodhouse Centre provides a meeting place for people living in Oxted and surrounding areas to share companionship and to participate in creative activities. It is a Centre offering a range of creative handicraft



activities including knitting, needlework, caning and woodwork which is sold to raise funds. It is also used by local community groups for a range of different projects.



The Woodhouse Centre provides a place for people to come together for companionship and to share the spirit of a cheerful busy environment while participating in creative activities including knitting, needlework, tapestry, upholstery, caning, woodwork and other crafts.



The Centre includes a Men in Sheds which offers men and women the chance to learn woodwork and use the tools and resources to work on projects at their own pace and in a friendly and inclusive venue.

The Woodhouse Centre was founded by Mrs Betty Woodhouse in 1971. From small beginnings in an old school, the Centre is now housed in a large purpose-built building opposite Tandridge Leisure Pool and next to the Red Cross. Mrs Woodhouse, who died in 1995, was awarded the M.B.E. in 1981 in recognition of her untiring work in setting up the Centre and other local projects.

For further information on the Woodhouse Centre please contact Liz Martin-Lawrence, Manager: thewoodhousecentre.org.uk or call 01883 715189 Website – www.woodhousecentre.org.uk



Sophie, Countess of Wessex talks to members of the Woodhouse Centre

Footpaths of the Parish of Limpsfield

Limpsfield Parish Council is still working hard to improve paths in the parish. During the last few months, Parish Councillors and friends have walked the and bridleways footpaths to assess any improvements needed and undertaken a programme of renovation. We are very grateful to have the support of Tony Pearson from East Surrey Walkers who assists us in our endeavours!

The main tasks carried out recently have been to add a self-closing gate for pedestrian safety, renovate or replace some footpath posts, clear overgrown vegetation, and add aggregate to reduce the gradient of a well-used path connecting Oxted town centre to Limpsfield Village.

And of course, the Limpsfield Way and Community Cycle Route are both now officially open, and very well used already. Thank you all for your positive feedback!

Examples of improvements include:

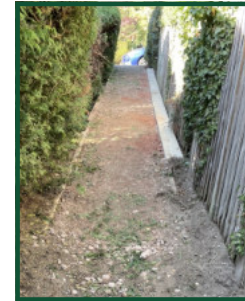
A new gate where Padbrook joins the path to Priest Hill



Residents were concerned that scooters and bikes were coming at speed down the path and causing a potential danger for pedestrians.

Aggregate on the footpath from Granville Road to The Brooke Field.

This path was very steep and improving the gradient with aggregate has made it much more accessible for everyone, especially if it is frosty or wet.



Fixing a tricky gate near Ballards Lane

The post by the field gate on Footpath 39 that leads from the A25 across the fields behind Ballards Lane has now been adjusted so that it does not stick. We had received reports that the gate either couldn't be closed or couldn't be opened as being a large and very heavy gate, many walkers were not strong enough to open it if it was properly closed.

Renovation of the three-way post down Caxton Lane.

Our contractor used the same post but

spliced a new piece of wood at the lower end and fixed the three-way sign again so that it is as good as new! Funding for this work comes from CIL money (Community Infrastructure Levy) awarded to Limpsfield Parish Council when there are new

developments in the parish. This money has to be used for infrastructure, health or recreational improvements to the local area.

Do let us know if you come across issues with footpaths when you are out walking – we will see what we can do to help.

E-mail clerk@limpsfield.org
website: www.limpsfield.org





We are delighted to be sharing our news with you in this new academic year. So much has happened in such a short space of time, and we can't believe that we are already halfway through the autumn term.

We have welcomed all our children back to Limpsfield School and have been amazed at how all the children settled back into the routines of school, or embraced school life, for the first time, so quickly. The children have accomplished so much, they are amazing!

Our Christian value this term is Peace and the children have been thinking carefully about what this means to them. *'Peace for everyone, wherever they may be or wherever they live'*, for example. They have also celebrated Diversity Week. In Collective Worship and in class time the children thought carefully about what makes each one of us unique, as well as celebrating our differences. The children enjoyed a range of diverse texts to link to this themed week. It is always so wonderful for us to be able to recognise, celeb-

rate and appreciate all our differences. We welcomed Nabhi to our school. Nabhi belongs to a Hindu Temple in South London, and he came to talk to the children about Hinduism. He told us the story of *'Rama and Sita'* and the children were thrilled to be able to dress up in the beautiful costumes he brought with him and to help re-enact the story! It was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Each of the Year groups led a very special Harvest Festival in 'The Orchard'. They have been thrilled to see Reverend Helen, who comes into school weekly to lead Collective Worship. The children are already getting excited about going to St Peter's Church in Limpsfield to participate in Nativity, Christingle and carol services.

They say *'you should learn something*

new every day', well we must say that here at Limpsfield, we certainly do! The buzz around school is wonderful to feel and the enthusiasm is fantastic!

As we move into the Christmas season, we are all very excited to be thinking about how we can help and support others at this time, whilst remembering the true meaning of this very special time.

We would like to leave you (for now) with a prayer written by our new Faith group.

A prayer written by our Faith Group

*Dear Father God,
Let us take a moment to thank you for the world.
Thank you for all the plants and the animals.
Thank you for all the different celebrations we have.
Amen*

With our very best wishes
Lenia Greenaway
and the Limpsfield school team.

75th Anniversary Season



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LIMPSFIELD GRANGE SCHOOL
'together we make a difference'

News from Limpsfield Grange

Life at Limpsfield Grange has been as busy as usual since we last appeared in the Parish Magazine!

During the long hot summer term we were so grateful for our wonderful grounds (with lots of fabulous shady trees!) and also for our new outdoor eating areas which got plenty of use, especially as our dining hall is too small to accommodate the whole school!



The end of summer term saw a flurry of activities and visitors to the school including, much to everyone's excitement, BBC TV presenter Chris Packham who was filming a documentary to be aired on national TV soon.



In August we were delighted to welcome back our Year 11 students who collected their well deserved exam results – we are so proud of their achievements especially having studied through a really challenging period during lockdown.

At the start of the new academic year in September we were excited to relocate our art classroom from a static portacabin to a wonderful new creative space generously funded by the Combe Bank Educational Trust. A previously (rather dated) residential bungalow is now transformed into a new light and airy classroom (which also serves as a tutor room) and is a

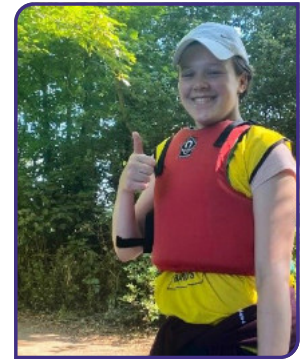


huge hit with all the girls. We were delighted to welcome trustees from the Trust to the school recently to thank them for their help and to see first-hand what an amazing facility their funding has provided for our talented students.

The new art room also has the benefit of a wonderful outdoor learning space and thanks to generous donations from past ladies' captains – Nuala Watts and Amanda Marnham – from Limpsfield Chart Golf Club we have been able to purchase all-weather furniture for the patio so students can enjoy sitting outside and capturing the nature around them.

As always, the timetable at the Grange is jam packed full – whether

our students are in the classroom, learning new life skills or exploring the great outdoors with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards or the adventurous and fun, Surrey Outdoor Learning.



We've also been busy relaunching our website www.limpsfield-grange.co.uk and are delighted



to have a new short film which gives a taste of life at the Grange – just hop on to our web-site and click on the link on the home page to view.

Unfortunately, like everyone, the cost-of-living crisis is hitting the school hard and currently a £100,000 budget deficit weighs heavy on our shoulders. This means that fundraising is more important than ever so we are again running our highly popular



Christmas Draw which will take place on the 8th December. We are also, for the first time, selling Christmas Cards designed by some of our talented students.

Raffle tickets cost £1 each or £5 per book and the greetings cards come in an assorted pack of 5 and cost just £3 per pack. If you would like to purchase either of these please contact:

Kerry Munroe

– Fundraising Lead

by email at mrs.munroe@limpsfield-grange.sch.uk

or phone 07798 780533.

Thank you for your support!

And finally, all the students and team at Limpsfield Grange School send their very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Oxted Band

Christmas Concert

*Featuring all your favourite carols
and Christmas music*

Saturday 10th December 2022 3pm

**St John's Church, Hurst Green,
Surrey, RH8 9EA**

Tickets £10 each (children under 15 £5)

Available on the door

**For any more details, please visit
www.oxtedband.co.uk or email
secretary@oxtedband.co.uk**

August Rodin & 19th Century Sculpture

David Worthington, himself a sculptor, gave a lively illustrated lecture to The Arts Society Limpsfield on August Rodin and 19th Century Sculpture.

Rodin (1840-1917) was a leading figure in 19th Century Art History and celebrated in his lifetime. His career took sculpture on a revolutionary path, equivalent to what the Impressionists did for painting. Although not very academic, Rodin showed drawing ability and sculpted an early (1860) bronze bust of his father. After his studies, he started work for Carrier-Beleuse in 1864 and lived with Rosa Beuret from 1864 for the rest of his life.

Rodin set up his own business in 1874, sculpting 'The Age of Bronze' in 1875. Visiting Italy in 1877, he loved the work of Michelangelo. Rodin carved a bust of 'John the Baptist' in 1879 and started working at Sevres in 1880. One of his greatest artworks, 'The Gates of Hell' was completed in 1890. His artworks, 'The Thinker', 'The Kiss' and 'Crouching Woman' gradually became more abstract. He



is also famous for his monuments to Victor Hugo and Balzac, his 'Burghers of Calais' sculpture and his own pavilion at the 1901 Paris Exhibition.

The lecture followed The Arts Society Limpsfield's AGM where a traumatic time was recorded because of Covid. Elected at the AGM were John Holmes, Christine Doney, Christina Wilton, Seanne Giddy, Wendy Collett, Irene Elsey, Liz Cherill, Rosemary Dalziel and Susan Warren.

The next lecture of the Society will be on Wednesday, 25 January, when Mark Hill will speak on 'Medina Glass & Isle of Wight Studio Glass'.

Details of the Society are on www.theartsocietylimpsfield.org.uk. Those interested in attending lectures or joining visits should contact John Holmes on chair.limpsfield@theartsociety.org or the Membership Secretary on membership.limpsfield@theartsociety.org
Stuart Paterson

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Accompanist: Alec Crowe

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Organ, harp and percussion

Tickets £15

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any choir member or at the door

www.hurstgreensingers.co.uk



A Limpsfield Mystery

An enjoyable walk in fresh air provides a perfect antidote to the excesses that many of us will indulge in during the festive season and can lead to some surprising finds. Please see our web site where you will find a walk suitable for your ability and maybe help keep you fit.

www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

In the course of walks I often learn gems of local history or points of interest. On a recent walk in Limpsfield I noticed a small plaque on the front of the house. The inscription indicated that Sergey Stepnyak-Kravchinsky had lived in the premises for a short while prior to his death in London in 1895. I confess that the name meant nothing to me. However research revealed a story of revolution and the

answer to a puzzle: *What is the connection between Stepniak, a tortoise, a Roman General, Limpsfield and Scotland Yard?*

Sergey Stepnyak-Kravchinsky was born on July 1, 1851 in what is now Ukraine. At the time the area was part of The Russian Empire. He was the son of an army doctor and a noblewoman. Although of a privileged family his boyhood was spent in

the country mixing with peasants amongst whom he developed a sense of democracy and sympathy for the restricted life the peasants led.

Upon leaving school he followed a typical route, attended a military academy and joined the Russian Army. Sergey began to form revolutionary leanings and in 1871 resigned his commission.

Together with other men of high birth and education he joined a revolutionary group (the Circle of Tchaikovsky) the group began to secretly sow seeds of democracy amongst the peasants. His revolutionary work was soon discovered and in 1874 he was arrested and imprisoned. The brutality towards prisoners and the measures which the government of Tsar Alexander II adopted towards repressing the peasants revolutionary movements hardened Sergey's views.

He escaped prison and fled to the Balkans where he joined the rising against the Turks in Bosnia and later a small rebellion in Italy. He honed his experience as a guerrilla and wrote a manual on such warfare.

In 1878 he returned to Russia and convinced that individual acts of political terrorism would convince the Tsar to

introduce democratic reforms participated in such acts. On 4th August he stabbed to death, Nikolai Mezentsov, the Chief of the secret police known as the Gendarme Corps. Surprisingly he remained in Russia for a couple of years before fleeing to Switzerland and then London.

In London he formed various revolutionary based societies. He published numerous books on conditions and life in Russia and lectured widely in Great Britain and the USA.

Having spent so much time in guerrilla warfare and as an enemy of the Russian state it's ironic that he met his death in 1895

having been run over by a train in Chiswick. He was apparently absorbed in a book whilst walking and crossed the uncontrolled railway line without noticing the train approaching.

It is reported that at Waterloo station, thousands of working men assembled with banners representing societies and Labour Unions. Speeches were held by English, Russian, Italian, German and Armenian friends and Sergey's participation as a revolutionary trying to change the repressive system of Russian Politics was widely celebrated.



And so we come to the riddle I posed earlier. The answer is *The Fabian Society*. This is a British socialist organisation whose purpose is to advance the principles of democratic socialism it was founded in 1895 at The London School of Economics. One of the founder members was Edward Pease.

The Society was named in honour of the Roman general *Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus*. His military tactic was to win conflict by wearing down the opposition as opposed to battle confrontation hence his nickname the *Cunctator*, meaning the Delayer. This chimes with the Fabian Society principle of non revolutionary change which is exemplified by their logo, a tortoise.

In spite of his revolutionary history Stepniak joined the Fabian Society. In 1890 Stepniak founded the Society of Friends of Russian Freedom and Edward Pease became the Secretary. Pease lived in Limpsfield it appears that he was the catalyst for The Stepniaks presence in the Limpsfield area. An interesting aside is that The Garnett family were also residents of Limpsfield and members of The Fabians. Stepniak assisted Constance Garnett in her translation of Russian works into English.



Constance was the first person to translate the works of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky and Chekhov into English. The Scotland Yard connection? Robert Fabian (Bob) was a well known and successful Scotland Yard detective. On retirement he wrote a book entitled "Fabian of the Yard" this led to a TV series of the same name which dramatised the true stories in Fabian's book. Sorry for this clue I acknowledge that it may only mean something to readers of a certain age. Bob Fabian retired in 1949!

My thanks to Tony Pearson, ESW member and Limpsfield resident, for his valuable contribution to this article. Please note Tony occasionally leads interesting local history walks these are posted on the ESW web site.

ESW wish you happy walking and an enjoyable festive season.

Stephen Hanks



The Spirit of the u3a:

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

Westerham u3a has members in Oxted & Limpsfield as well as Westerham and Biggin Hill. At the November open meeting of Westerham u3a members were given an insight into Christmas in medieval times by our speaker David Drury, a London Blue Badge Tour Guide and foodie.

Boars Head and Swan Pie were served at banquets and we heard how Turkey became king of the Christmas table. Did you know that Mince Pies were traditionally oblong shaped to represent Jesus' manger? Christmas Pudding dates from medieval times, with early recipes making use of dried fruit, suet, breadcrumbs, flour, eggs and spice, along with liquid such as milk or fortified wine. Like them or hate them, those small cabbages known as Brussels Sprouts contain more vitamin C than an orange.

In December we have our usual Coffee Morning on Wednesday 7 December at 10.30am at Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue, which is a good opportunity to come along and find out what u3a is all about. Then we have our pre-booked Christmas lunch on 8 December, so the next open meeting is on Thursday 12

January, 2.00pm at Westerham Hall when Pat Bryer will be talking on the theme of *A Woman of a Certain Age*, a light-hearted look at the ups and downs of life as we mature (physically, at least!), told through comic verses and songs. These include poems and a song by the wonderful Victoria Wood, as well as humorous verse by Pam Ayres, Roald Dahl, A A Milne and Jenny Joseph.

The u3a movement has been learning, staying active and having fun for 40 years, showcasing what it means to have a positive later life for those who are no longer in full time employment. Westerham u3a has a choice of over 40 different interest groups as well as social events and outings. With over 300 members we are fulfilling the u3a motto of Learn, Laugh and Live!

Tony Pearson

ALEX'S BOOKS:

Mrs March

By Virginia Feito

This debut novel by Spanish author, Virginia Feito, is a wonderful Hitchcockian psychological thriller that centres on the upper-class world inhabited by Mrs March. In this world, appearance is everything. She is married to a successful author, George March, who has just written a hit of a novel. Mrs March has not read it (of course) but she is horrified to hear via a local shopkeeper, that the main protagonist is a whore, and an ugly, unsuccessful one at that! Her immediate thought is *“what if people think he has based this character on me?”*

What follows is the mental torture and unravelling of our storyteller as she does her best to keep up appearances and hold it all together.

There are a couple of things to note about the setting and style of this novel. Firstly, it



Virginia Feito

is never quite clear when it is set. So many aspects and attitudes make it feel like the 1950's but some readers have felt it to be more modern than that. Certainly, Mrs March's concerns about appearance, even down to how the “staff” at home perceive her, would fit with a more constrained society. Her deference to her husband and her very distanced, old-fashioned relationship with her son also reflect this.

Secondly, we go through practically the entire novel without knowing her first name. She is always Mrs March which feels terribly formal, but also reflects her seeming lack of identity. She struggles to be anything other than “George's wife” but equally she fears stepping out of that role and attracting attention to herself. However, she is definitely not a one-dimensional character. The novel is full of brilliantly dark, caustic humour because she is very quick to judge everyone else she comes across. She keeps them to herself but she has opinions on everything. She also dramatises her mundane life so well that her recounting of the day to day reads like a novel in itself. It is because of this that her world starts to feel very fluid, and we wonder what is real and what is part of her vivid imagination.

Many secrets come to light, there is a missing girl, there is a growing sense of paranoia and suspicion. As Mrs March starts to question if darker things have been happening around her, she questions her own sanity and so do we. The constraints of society and appearance are bursting at the seams as you career towards the ending.

This book isn't your everyday thriller. It is entirely character-driven and a little unusual so it may not be for anyone who likes a straight-forward story. However, Mrs March is a wonderfully challenging and unique character, and it is both a joy and terrifying to follow her through the pages. Virginia Feito is writing the screenplay for a movie adaptation starring none other than Elisabeth Moss (from TV's *The Handmaid's Tale*) as Mrs March - which will be just perfect.

Alex Wilkinson





The Merry Widow

Barn Theatre - 26-29 October

What a welcome blast of pure joy this production was! It might have been written by composer Franz Lehár back in the Summer of 1905, but this show proved an absolute tonic for these troublesome times.

Of course it helps that it was an absolute banger from inception. When *The Merry Widow* was first performed in New York in 1907, it was so popular that a roaring industry of Merry Widow-themed merchandise sprang up to capitalise on the show's success. These items included scarves, cigars, hats, and corsets—as well as a cocktail, “The Merry Widow”. Back over here King Edward VII saw the show four times.

The New Acquarian Opera Company infamously attempted to stage this back in Autumn 2020 but the pandemic had other ideas. Two years later they were able to assemble the hugely talented musicians, soloists, chorus and dancers to do this lavish show justice. The results were wonderful and Artistic Director Melanie Vinall, Musical Director Guy Middlemiss, local Impresario Andrew Clarenbull and all the talented cast and crew should be thoroughly proud of themselves.

Ian Tolley



Distinguished embassy officials:
John Tolley, Doug Fisher
& Andrew Claringbull



A coy Nancy Fisher
with Gari Glaysher

Photos with many thanks to Doug Fisher

Muses on the Chart

With all pew seats taken at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 12 November and an enthusiastic welcome by the Rev. Paul Perkin, those present enjoyed a wonderful evening of music, poetry and song provided by The Holy Trinity Eltham Schola Ensemble.

The concert was the brainchild of Mary McGregor of St Andrew's and a truly gifted musician, Alan Wilson, who is Director of the Ensemble. Alan had been inspired to compose and arrange music by a wonderful tour he had taken around Limpsfield Chart, featuring the cultural importance of notable early 20th century residents and visitors, such as David Garnett, the Harrison family and D.H. Lawrence (Alan is the Chairman of the D.H. Lawrence Society).

Works by Purcell, John Ireland and Delius were superbly performed by a trio with readings from David Garnett and Rupert Brooke during the first half of the performance. The second half, being a prelude to Remembrance Sunday that followed the next day, gave us evocative music, sonnets by Rupert Brooke and poems by Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. To conclude the Funeral Anthem by Purcell was played, a 2 minute silence, followed by arrangements of Pie Jesu and In Paradisum by Alan Wilson and a reading from the book of Revelation.

This was a memorable evening in St Andrew's Church with its fine acoustics. Maybe more will follow - if we're lucky!

Jean Scott

Answers to Festive Quiz:

1. Germany
2. 4 – Jacob Marley and Christmas Past, Present and Future
3. Paris
4. Great Britain
5. 364
6. 1994
7. The Polar Express – he is Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa!
8. Japan
9. Billy Mack/Bill Nighy
10. 3 – Dancer, Dasher and Donner
11. A coin (a silver sixpence)
12. Oslo, Norway
13. Capricorn
14. *White Christmas* – Bing Crosby
15. 9 years
16. Ross
17. Jingle Bell Rock
18. 3pm
19. White
20. Donald Trump
21. Green
22. Bells
23. Macy's
24. Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!
25. "Snow is falling, all around me"
26. "When we collide" by Matt Cardle
27. Christmas Day
28. Candy, Candy Canes, Candy corns and Syrup
29. An orange
30. January 5th
31. Stir up Sunday – 5 weeks before Christmas
32. Matthew Crawley
33. Treat every day like Christmas day
34. 50p piece
35. Oklahoma
36. Max
37. Nordmann fir
38. 7 swans a-swimming
39. One chocolate each from a box of Celebrations
40. Journalist

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TO SHARE YOUR ART, NEWS, FEATURES OR REVIEWS

Please send contributions
by

31st January 2023

to:

PetersNews@littm.org.uk

Don't forget to include as many photos as you can!

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Around here	Greenleaves Fencing & Gates 55
Titsey Place..... 46	Greenwells Tree Surgeons..... 56
Accommodation	Groceries
David Gresham House 47	Flower Farm 53
Antiques	Memorial Stores 55
Steve Peacock - Furniture restoration.. 46	Squerries Food Hall..... 54
Bed & Breakfast	Health
Meads..... 47	Melissa Barford - Foot Health..... 56
Builders	Body control - Pilates (Tania) 58
Cameron - Building & Landscaping..... 48	Gong Sound Relaxation 59
DB Refurbishment 43	Limpsfield Lawn Tennis Association 58
Catering	Wells Barbers 58
Green Bean 48	Home Installation / Services
Cleaning Services	H2O Plumbers..... 59
Window Cleaning - Robert 49	PAC Handyman Service 60
KPN Wasp Removal/Guttering clean ... 49	Home Help
Decluttering/Vintage items purchase	ILA Life 59
Maureen Bunn 49	Interior Design
Decorating / Painting	Custom Interior Design by Morag..... 60
Brewers 50	Peter Snashfold Furnishing 60
C&C Southern 50	The Carpet Shop 57
Electrician	Information Technology
Murrell Electrical Services 51	IT Problem - Scott Harris..... 61
Engraving/Jewellery	Mr Computing 61
Sauverin Withers 51	Member of Parliament
Estate Agents	Claire Coutinho..... 62
Jackson, Stops & Staff 51	Motor Services
Event Management	Day's Garage..... 63
Daniel Lay 52	Restaurants
Funeral Services	Thai Pad 63
Alex Jones - Funeral Director/Masons . 52	Schools
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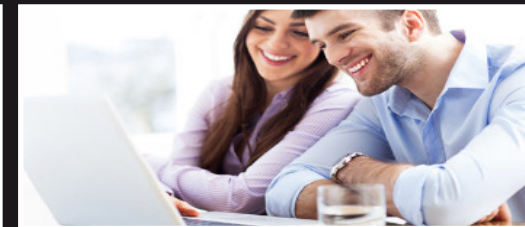
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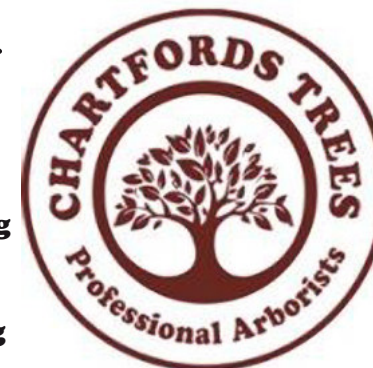


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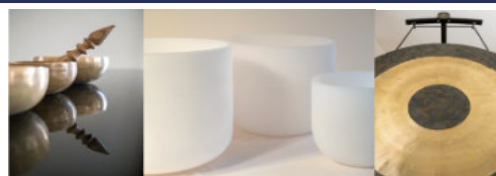
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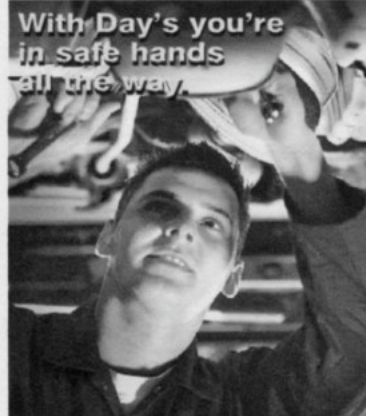
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