## SMALLFIELD and BURSTOW **PARISH NEWS** 40P APRIL 2021



# Your Village Magazine



We are committed to offering a broad range of efficient and friendly services. We will work with you, listening to your requirements, to tailor-make our services to meet all of your needs. Free initial consultations are always available.

Business         Book-keeping & accountancy         Business start up         Company secretarial & payroll         Corporate finance         Corporate tax planning         VAT	Personal         • Self assessment         • Personal tax planning         • Retirement strategies         • Trusts & executorships         • Estate planning         • Free resources & tax advice	<ul> <li>Specialist Tax Planning</li> <li>Tax planning solutions</li> <li>Corporate tax</li> <li>Personal tax</li> <li>Stamp duty planning</li> <li>Inheritance tax planning</li> <li>Capital gains tax planning</li> </ul>
--	---	---





PAC Handyman Services is your local solution to everyday building, maintenance and installation projects within the home and garden.



Tel: 01342 843348 | 07711 939370 | www.pac-handyman.co.uk

## SMALLFIELD and BURSTOW PARISH NEWS

Editing & Production:Judith Calver01342 842224Distribution:Angela Sullivan01342 843515Advertising:Val Hood01342 842038email:t.vhood@tiscali.co.uk

Copy for articles and pictures for the front cover should be sent by the 15th of the month to Judith Calver, by email to *burstownews@btinternet.com* or by hand or post to 5 The Acorns, off Redehall Rd, RH6 9QJ Please contact Angela Sullivan (*details above*) if you would like Parish News delivered to you every month This month's cover photograph was taken from The Acorns, looking over the school playing field. Every cloud has a silver lining!

## Your Village Magazine

## Parish Church of St Bartholomew, Burstow

Church Road, Burstow RH6 9RG

#### with Smallfield Church Hall

Redehall Road (opposite the parade of shops)

Website: www.windmillchurches.co.uk

**Rector:** Revd Nicholas Calver 01342 842224 (Email: nicholas.calver@btinternet.com) 5 The Acorns, Smallfield RH6 9Q Churchwardens Kay Hammond 07808 322440 David Brill 01342 305015 **Organist and Choirmaster** Roger Hind 01293 771817 **PCC Secretary** Angela Sullivan 01342 843515 Treasurer Kay Hammond 07808 322440 **Parish Safeguarding Officers** Val Butt 01342 842580 Mary Chapman 01293 784323 Smallfield Church Hall and Flamsteed Hall, Burstow **Bookings/enquiries** 07795 346675 Caroline Clancey

## THE SMALLFIELD CLUB

New Road, Smallfield

## 01342 842396

### **New Members Welcome**

Drinks at Club Prices Regular Entertainment Pool, Darts, Bingo, 2 Full Size Snooker Tables, Meat Raffles, Large Garden, Covered Smoking Area

## Chiropodist

Mrs Suzanne Gasson MSSch MBChA

Registered member of the British Chiropody & Podiatry Association

## **VISITING PRACTICE**

Tel: Smallfield (01342) 842439





Revd Nicholas Calver The Rectory 5 The Acorns Smallfield RH6 9QJ

01342 842224

## **RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS**

This year Mothering Sunday is on 14 March. It is a moveable feast because it always comes three weeks before Easter, another moveable feast. It almost always falls in March, though if Easter is

very late it can occasionally creep into April.

Last year Mothering Sunday fell on 22 March. I remember it vividly. It was the first Sunday we stopped church services and so this year's Mothering Sunday, although on a different date, feels like a year of lockdown. Last year, Mothering Sunday marked the first of our online services that have continued throughout the year. Getting them up and running was a steep learning curve – it seems hard to imagine that a year ago I'd never even heard of Zoom!

Our Gospel reading for last year's Mothering Sunday service was the passage about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and John, the beloved disciple, standing at the foot of Jesus' cross. I said in my first online sermon in that first online service that the readings that we had just listened to were the same readings that we have every Mothering Sunday but that this time I had heard them in a whole new light.

Normally on Mothering Sunday I have a short all-age talk that will have some jokes in it or something a bit different – such as making a microwave cake (which I know from what some keen bakers have said, was not really a cake at all – just a sponge pudding!). But last year felt very different. Not least because I was delivering my sermon into a microphone. It reminded me, and I hope this doesn't sound like pretensions of grandeur, of the film 'The King's Speech'. In the film King George VI, played by Colin Firth, learns to overcome his stammer with the help of a voice coach, and speaking into a microphone, he delivers his address to the nation at the outbreak of war. His speech began like this:

In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history, I send to every household of my peoples, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you, as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself.

I really like that image. And though my sermons have been spoken into a microphone all year, they're spoken with the same depth of feeling for you as if I

were speaking to you myself. And that is true for these magazine letters as well: I have a real sense that I am speaking to *you*.

Going back to Mothering Sunday, if you look in the shops you will find it hard to find a Mothering Sunday card. They usually all say Mothers Day (or Mother's Day, or again Mothers' Day – the use of grammar varies!), which gives the day a completely different meaning. Mothering Sunday is not about being a mother. As he hung on the cross, Jesus told the beloved disciple John that Mary was now his mother and he told Mary that John was now her son. He was in effect creating new family bonds between people who weren't previously related. And that is a message we need to hear today. We are still engaged in a global crisis and we are all in it together as one human family. More than ever the present situation should show us that everyone is not just our neighbour, but that we are all members of the same family. And that's what Mothering Sunday is about:

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence

to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With love and prayers Nicholas

Nicholas.calver@btinternet.com



## HOW THE VACCINE CAME TO SMALLFIELD

#### Many of us have already benefited from the Covid vaccines being administered at Centenary Hall but it took a lot of work behind the scenes to get to this point, as Parish Clerk Jeannie Ryan reflects

Early in 2020 word began seeping out of China about a novel coronavirus in Wuhan. In all honesty, to begin with, I was somewhat nonchalant as previous unfounded doomsday predictions regarding bird flu, swine flu, SARS and MERs had left me jaded. The newly named Covid 19 unfortunately has lived up to all the hype.

New phrases such as 'social distancing' have entered comment parlance, email sign offs changed from 'kind regards' or 'best wishes' to 'stay safe' and the mental checklist of 'keys, phone, purse' expanded to include face masks.

Through a confluence of conditions such as an older age group, obesity and high density of population, the UK was well placed to be particularly badly hit. As the seriousness of the situation quickly unfolded the race to find a vaccine, before the population was decimated, was well and truly under way. Unprecedented cooperation and data sharing among scientists and the vast amount of state funding clearly shows what can be accomplished in a relatively short timeframe.

Throughout the months stretching from the first UK lockdown in March 2020, the Parish Council and an amazing team of volunteers, worked tirelessly to help the vulnerable and shielding residents in Burstow and Horne, delivering food, offering support and arranging vital home repairs. The Health Champions from Smallfield Surgery have delivered essential medication to residents in both parishes and surrounding areas, even as far as Reigate! The community was challenged by Covid and rose magnificently to the task. One silver lining in a global pandemic is how people have come together, helping those in need and showing each other kindness, care and compassion.

When news flashed around the world on a day etched in my memory, Monday 9 November, that an effective vaccine had been created, once more the parish council stepped forward to help the community and the Chairman lan Wates, contacted the NHS to offer the Centenary Hall as a vaccine centre.

A little bit of time passed and we heard nothing back until the week before Christmas. The phone rang about 2pm and a woman on the other end of the line asked if our offer still stood. The answer was an unequivocal 'yes' and followed up with reassurance from us that there was no need to worry about *Continued on page 8* 



#### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS Your village website:

## www.burstowparishcouncil.org.uk

As I write this on the 41st day of the third national lockdown and the government's announcement that it has reached its target of 15 million people receiving the first dose of one of the current vaccines, I have time to reflect on the amazing community spirit at present being shown by elected members and the general public. Our appeal for Covid Marshalls to boost the numbers of Health Champions and assist with car parking and operations within the vaccination clinic itself is oversubscribed with volunteers from all three surgeries and I should like to express our thanks to all those who have withstood sub-zero temperatures at sometimes antisocial hours to ensure the smooth operation of this massive undertaking. Our particular thanks to County Councillors Lesley Steeds and Matt Furnace for arranging the gritting of Wheelers Lane and Centenary Hall car park in the early part of February. Surely now there is a little light on the horizon for some of the necessary restrictions to be lifted.

Our Ofsted-approved day nursery for children between the ages of six months and five years 'The Gingerbread House' continues to operate as permitted by current legislation and we still have a few vacancies. Prospective parents wishing to view the excellent facilities and applications for acceptance can be obtained by contacting the nursery on 07546 376148.

Our solicitors are progressing the final searches required to agree our terms of lease with Burstow Primary School for the use of part of their playing field as a community car park and hopefully the long-awaited construction work will commence in the later part of this year.

Our caterers 'Apple and Cor' continue to work from the kitchen preparing daily takeaway meals which can be ordered by contacting them on 07808 338466 or by visiting them via the access from the gym garden at the rear of the hall. They have also been preparing weekend specials which have proved very successful.

Finally, it is hoped that subject to government legislation, to hold the annual Parish meeting in mid-May. Should this not be permitted as a 'live' session then a virtual session will be organised.

Please all continue to follow government guide lines to preserve our wellbeing, take care, stay safe

Ian Wates, Chair, Burstow Parish Council

#### Continued from page 5

other hall bookings, parking and any other admin-related obstacles. We said there was no need for her to worry about any details like that, we would take care of everything and that she could focus on organising the medical delivery side of things.

At that time the number of daily cases had risen to a frightening level; everyone I came into contact with had knowledge of relatives, friends or neighbours unwell with Covid. And very sadly there have been a number of deaths from within our area. Our thoughts are with the families of these people, the ones where the vaccine had arrived too late.

Councillors and staff pitched in to ensure the hall was ready. Bookings needed to be cancelled, rooms cleared to provide a quiet area for medication to be stored and prepared, a rest area created for staff and volunteers and, most importantly, vaccine stations and observation areas for recipients of the vaccine.

From a standing start of about a dozen Smallfield Practice Health Champions, a call for help was answered by an amazing number of people. Within a week 75 volunteers had stepped forward and within two weeks this had risen to over 100 with a waiting list of more. This gave me a wee bit of a headache on the first Monday in January when I was asked to source high viz vests for each person. But I love a challenge and collected the printed vests on my way home that afternoon!

There was a lot of uncertainty and changing of days in the run up to opening. We were initially told that the first vaccine would arrive around 28 December and so all over Christmas deliveries of fridges, face masks, syringes, Covid tests and all sorts of other medical and administrative paraphernalia arrived at random times. Luckily no deliveries arrived on Christmas Day but throughout the holiday councillors and staff were on standby, ready to rush to the hall to open it up for yet more supplies. And a last-minute disaster of a broken pump left the car park ankle deep in water, almost scuppering the entire project.

It has been the most exciting project I have ever had the privilege of being involved in, that peaked with the delivery, by armoured van, of the first box of Pfizer vaccine, carefully carried in by Dr Bosch, on 6 January.

Whilst medics are essential for the delivery of the vaccine, this couldn't take place in such and orderly and well managed way without the team of volunteers on hand for each vaccination day. Each stage is carefully planned and implemented, from the marshalls directing vehicles in the car park, ensuring people stay in their car until just before their appointment time, to *Continued on page 23* 

## Keeping the Community Gas Safe since 1997

Your local, experienced Gas Heating Repair Engineer



# Ian Crutchington 0780 353 2636

info@rapid-heating.co.uk rapid-heating.co.uk

## - All work fully insured

- Boiler Repairs & Servicing
- Boiler Replacement & Upgrades
- Tap Replacement & Repairs
- Central Heating Systems
- Hot Water & Unvented Cylinders
- Bathrooms & General Plumbing
- Radiator Replacements & Moves
- Landlord Gas Safety Certificates
- Power Flushing
- Underfloor Heating
- Smart Heating Controllers





#### **Adrian McKay**

Died of Covid in East Surrey Hospital on his 62nd birthday, 18 January 2021

#### Margaret Hobson writes:

I first met Adrian at a series of Church meetings. We learned that he had read the whole Bible from beginning to end, probably partly while on night duty at the level crossing where he worked. He then started to attend church and would often call in on us to or from work.

When his Father died he moved from Tanyard Way in Horley to his father's house in Smallfield. After he left work he was able to go on regular holidays where

he met his friends who he then arranged to meet each year in Malta (and

### Jean Ellis

died peacefully in East Surrey Hospital on Sunday 31 January, aged 93 years

#### Barbara Wakelin writes:

Mum, known as Queenie by her grandchildren, is seen here celebrating her 80th birthday with all the family at The Hedgehog, Effingham, Copthorne. Before this opened as a public house it was her home, 'Gresham House', where she was bbrought up from the age of four.

Our Mum and Dad (Arthur Ellis) loved living in Smallfield with the friends that they had made and all the good times that they had. They took part together in so many events and clubs as well as playing an active role in the carnival and made all of these good fun and successful village activities.

In particular, Mum worked on the Burstow Junior School Cycling Proficiency test, part of the Smallfield Wives Club and the Smallfield WI and made teas for the Art Club. And Dad was involved in the Burstow Lions Junior Football Club, whist drives at Smallfield Church Hall and Smallfield Cricket Club where he was an umpire.

Together they headed the Smallfield Carnival Committee where Dad was the chairman and mum a committee member – and I was the secretary!

brought me back cigars!) and kept in touch with in between holidays.

Adrian was always willing to help people and even once went to hospital with me in an ambulance. He got home by ringing his friend George for a lift. In fact he used to help George in his allotment where he grew fruit and vegetables. More recently he used to walk round with George on a Friday evening to have a pint at the Smallfield Club.

He would often get things for me when he was shopping. He sometimes got bored with his own company and would pop round for a chat. Adrian was an enthusiastic Charlton supporter and we used to compare with my Club, Wolves He called me mate! Every time I see a red car appear on the drive I still think it is him and I miss him knocking on the back door or saying hello before coming in if it was open.

#### Angela Sullivan writes:

Adrian was a person who, if somebody wanted help, he was there. He liked helping people and listening to his extensive collection of vinyl records. He liked to jog around Smallfield and talk to people on the way. He joined in church services and functions and was a lively member of the group. He helped me with the painting of my garage wall and then brought round some flower tubs that he didn't want for me to fill up with flowers, herbs and bulbs. He will be missed by all the friends who knew him. God Bless Adrian.

#### The Lynch family write:

I remember being younger and Adrian would always make sure come over to us to chat and make us laugh, especially if we weren't talking to anyone – like at the teas and coffees after church/Sunday school. *Evie* 

Adrian was always a funny guy to talk to.As I grew up I really began to enjoy his company *Edgar* 

Adrian would always stop and talk when ever he saw us in the village, he was very chirpy, and would always remember the whole family *Michelle* 

For me, Adrian encompassed village life: ready to stop for a chat whenever we saw him out and about on his motorcycle, or if walking to the village shops. He was always interested how in the children were doing at school, and would ask after us all (particularly after the loss of our eldest disabled daughter).

In fact, a recommendation from his own holidays led to us taking a winter break in Malta. That really helped us 'regroup' as family after such a difficult time. Malta was a place he loved dearly, a place we will always associate with our kind and thoughtful neighbour Adrian. *Gary* 





**Bobtails Preschools, Horley** Where memories are made We have two **Ofsted Outstanding** preschools in Horley, Surrey for children from 2 to 4 years old. **Bobtails Preschool, Horley Infant School** 01293 784701 • hi@bobtailspreschool.com **Bobtails Preschool, St Francis Church Hall,** Balcombe Road, Horley 01293 785534 • stf@bobtailspreschool.com We are a charity run, term-time organisation welcoming families for over 30 years. Bobtails Preschools are OFSTED OUTSTANDING settings that provide welcoming, happy and stimulating learning environments. We respect every child as an individual by helping them make happy memories as we prepare them for their future, with a well-balanced session of activities, which promote and encourage all the • areas of Curriculum Learning for the Early Years Foundation • Stage. For more information, email one of our settings or call our office on 01293 784701.

### **ASHES TO ASHES**

On the National Trust land in Outwood a major programme of tree felling has been taking place, specifically of the ash trees in the woods. In 2020, the Trust suffered the worst year for 'ash dieback', the fungal disease which kills most of the ash trees it infects. One of the warmest and driest springs on record left trees more susceptible and between 75 and 95 per cent of all UK ash trees will be lost in 20-30 years. Ash dieback is a disease that causes trees to lose their leaves and the crowns to die right back leading eventually to the tree dying. The botanical name is - wait for it - Hymenoscyphus fraxineous. What a mouthful! But more to the point ash are the very best for burning and I am really tempted to take my wheelbarrow up Mary Baldock there...





Nicholas was also in Outwood Woods talking about ash trees in his talk for Ash Wednesday on 17 February. The ashes that have been cut down provide homes for insects and rodents and will gradually rot down into the soil. As the hymn 'Abide with me' says: 'Change and decay in all around I see'. But these are positive words, said Nicholas: the trees give life back to the soil allowing new life to come from it. It is all part of the cycle of life - as indeed are we. Hear the full talk here: https://youtu.be/tMBsInVfngM

## News from the 1st Burstow Scouts

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have continued to meet over Zoom.

We have had a busy month. The Beavers had an evening on Road Safety, as part of their My Adventure Challenge. Baloo, our resident Road Safety Expert and retired Lollypop Lady, did a brilliant job ensuring all the Beavers understood how to cross a road safely. The Cubs built the Scout Logo out of Lego (*right*). The Scouts completed the Crystal Maze, although unfortunately failed to win in the Crystal Dome. This included a number of challenges from building playing card houses, to solving riddles and moving items from one bowl to another using only their feet!



The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts went virtually to Antarctica on a research project about Emperor Penguins. They had to prepare for the trip, by choosing

items to take based on Need and not Wants. We looked at how our needs changed depending on our destination. We found we had room in our bags for just one special item we wanted to take. Most of us chose a teddy or a photo of their family.

On Monday 25 January, we had a visit from Rob Trent. Rob is a talented Mouth Painter and is a member of the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. This is a group of disabled artists who are unable to use their hands. Rob paints beautiful pictures by holding his paintbrush in his teeth. He spoke about his life and how at school he learnt to hold a pencil in his mouth to write, draw and paint. He told us about his career at Ordnance Survey before his retirement. He now drives a special car with no steering wheel, and people often stare at him while he is driving. We all had a go painting holding the paint brush in our teeth (*right*).You can see Rob's work at https://www. mfpa.uk/the-artists/robert-trent/.

On Monday 8 February we had Steve Glynn visit our Zoom meeting to help us build our own Scouts from NewPlast, a special type of Plasticine. This is exactly the same material used to create Wallace and Gromit, Morph and the Chicken Run characters. We followed Steve's instructions to build our little Scout figures. This was an excellent evening and everyone who took part had fun building their figure. All the little



Scout figures have their own personalities (below).

Our 110th Birthday Badge is still available for just  $\pounds 1.50$  (inc p&p). To order, and for payment details, please email *gsl@burstowscouts.org* or call 01342 718862. If you used to be a member and have any stories or memorabilia which you would like to share with the Scout Group, please contact with us.

If you want more details, including joining or volunteering with the Scout Group, or are able to provide a one off activity or skill session please email me at sgsl@burstowscouts.org or call 01342 718862.

#### Rowenna Woodward BEM





Helgaz Flowers Modern and traditional floristry Flowers to suit all budgets Weddings, funerals and all other occasions

> 1b Wheelers Lane, Smallfield, Surrey RH6 9PT 01342 843777 helgazflowers@gmail.com www.helgazflowers.co.uk Like us on

#### Village heroes (by Sue Wates)

I wake up and stand at the window to gaze on the landscape beyond,

A scene so familiar and treasured that I feel a palpable bond, A single magpie stands in the snow and scratches behind his ear, Hmm, not many worms for breakfast wriggling around down here, For today it is freezing and snowing, the only sound an icy crunch, Horizontals adorned with seasonal white, touched by the artist's brush, And I begin to think ...

Despite having good reason to stay at home safe and warm, Our village heroes are out working and braving the storm, Farmers to break ice on water and tend steaming livestock in barns, Shopworkers begin another long day, still weary from the last, they forge on, Teachers in real and virtual classrooms guide learning and motivate skills, Police on the beat and in cars on hand to help and protect us from perils, Workers in social and health care leave their homes to care for us instead, Posties on the rounds in woolly hat and shorts with hours of deliveries ahead, Waste collectors turning out in all weathers with a cheery wave and a grin, These and many more workers are our heroes, our community's linchpin, They have no late morning lie-in and leisurely breakfast ignoring the alarm, I send them all thanks in abundance as I gaze at the snow and stay warm.



## ANTIQUE FURNITURE RESTORATION

ALL ASPECTS OF FURNITURE REPAIRS AND POLISHING UNDERTAKEN

INCLUDING MODERN FURNITURE

**30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE** 

FREE ADVICE AND ESTIMATES GIVEN-CALL

STEVE PEACOCK 01883 743879

## **NEWS FROM CLAIRE COUTINHO MP**

## In her latest regular update for the Parish News, our local MP outlines what she has been involved in recently

It's certainly been a busy start to 2021. The rollout of the vaccine is continuing at pace. Cases locally are coming down. And after many weeks of discussions, I am delighted that a new Youth Hub for East Surrey and a Gatwick Response Hub will be opening. This means there will be dedicated teams to help our young people and aviation workers, who have been among the hardest hit by the pandemic, access training and skills opportunities and find jobs. It's been a pleasure to support this work from my East of Surrey Local Economic Taskforce with leaders and officials across the county.

Another one of my local priorities is improving our roads, so thank you again to the almost 100 residents from Smallfield, Burstow, Horne and Outwood who joined my HGVs public meeting on Zoom at the beginning of February. I was joined by several local leaders and we agreed that residents and Parish Councils will work together to agree on a set of solutions that provides a better balance between businesses and residents and that protects our roads. At a national level, I will be pressing the Government to devolve more traffic enforcement powers to local authorities, as well as stressing the need for Traffic Commissioner reform to make sure our regulator has the teeth it needs to operate.

The Government has also announced an additional £1.9 million for Surrey County Council to provide support for victims of domestic abuse and their children. This will help to ensure victims and their children are able to access life-saving support such as therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation, including refuges – a key part of the Government's landmark Domestic Abuse Bill. Throughout the pandemic, the East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service and the Reigate and Banstead Women's Aid have continued their crucial work of local outreach and support, despite facing new challenges. On behalf of all residents of Easy Surrey, I would like to pay tribute to Michelle, Charlotte and their staff for all that they do.

Since before my time as a Member of Parliament, I've long worked across political parties to encourage more women and people from different backgrounds to stand for positions in public life. Whether that's standing for Parliament, local government or community leadership roles. Whatever your political persuasion or background, I have always passionately believed that positions in public life should feel open to everyone. For International Women's Day on 8 March, I've decided to host a virtual event to discuss what *Continued on page 23* 

## Claire Coutinho MP MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR EAST SURREY

Prior to the pandemic, I had been holding regular surgeries, with a plan to visit each town and village across East Surrey. Because of the current situation, I am holding remote surgeries by telephone, so if you need any help please don't hesitate to email or call me. I am also visiting local businesses in a Covid-secure way, and I am continuing my work with the East of Surrey Local Economic Taskforce that I set up to support the local economy. Thank you all for your patience and community spirit throughout this time.

#### 📎 0207 <mark>219 5972</mark>

- 💮 clairecoutinho.com
- claire.coutinho.mp @parliament.uk
- f claire4eastsurrey
- 🏏 @clairecoutinho



Claire



**07766 256 323** Or **01342 844 125** Aaron.the.arborist@gmail.com

## **AVIATION GROUP**

Even though many of us will have had or are getting our jabs, the situation hasn't changed much with regard to resuming our lecture evenings. In any case the Centenary Hall will be an NHS vaccination centre for some months.

In previous issues I've written about the women who ferried Spitfires and many other aircraft during the war. Towards the

end of the war the evolutionary jet powered Gloster Meteor fighters appeared on the scene and needed to be ferried from the factory at Morton Vallence, south of Gloucester, to wherever they were needed. It was the responsibility of the Ferry Pool based at Whitchurch Airport on the southern edge of Bristol. It had always been an all-male Pool and in 1945 they were disgusted when three women were seconded there. The girls were ignored until it was discovered that a couple of them were red hot bridge players and they were then grudgingly accepted. One of the girls was Veronica Volkersz née Innes who had over 1,000 hours in her log book. In 1942 she had married Gerry Volkersz,



a Royal Netherlands Naval Air Service pilot, who was now in the RAF.

Veronica was keen to fly the Meteor but the Head of the Pool refused to allow it. One day when the Boss was away, his Deputy without saying a word handed Veronica a delivery chit to take a Meteor to Molesworth in Cambridgeshire. He also gave her the post-card sized insert for her file of Ferry Pilots Notes which on one side showed the essential numbers and information on the other the emergency procedures. Veronica just had time to study the card during the

short 'taxi' flight to the Moreton Vallance. Another pilot showed her the cockpit essentials and warned her about the Meteor's high fuel consumption. With that the ground crew started it up and she taxied out and took off for Molesworth, having to stay low to remain clear of cloud. She said later it was straightforward and easy to fly and no different from any other ferry. When she landed and taxied it was lunch time and no one was about to witness the milestone event of the first British woman to fly a jet, except for the man in the watch office who just routinely signed her delivery chit. The 'taxi' Anson to take her back to Whitchurch was already there with the engines ticking over so she was bundled in and off they went back to base. No fuss, no fanfare, it was all in a day's work – a true celebrity!

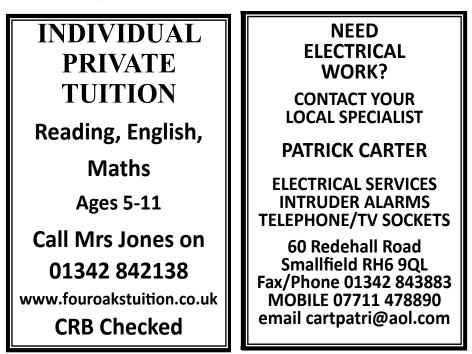
As a post script, in the 1960s, long after Whitchurch had closed, I taught my wife to drive on the deserted runway. *John Thorpe* 

#### Continued from page 18

it's been like since being elected, how I got here, and to answer your questions on how to get more involved! I want to know what more you'd like to hear about and which guest speakers you'd like to hear from. Let me know by emailing claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk.

Finally, you may have seen that an additional 1.7 million people have been added to the shielding list, which has been extended until 31 March. Those within this group who are over 70 will have already been invited to receive their first dose of the vaccine and 820,000 adults between 19 and 69 years will now be prioritised for theirs. At the time of writing this update on 17 February, over 16 million people have been vaccinated across Britain, including more than 205,000 people across Surrey Heartlands and everyone in the top four priority groups. These are fantastic achievements, and I pay tribute to all those involved across East Surrey, from the medics and volunteers to public health officials and Ministers. We are now offering the vaccine to those in the remaining priority groups, starting with group five, with the aim of reaching all over-50s and all adults with underlying health conditions by the end of April.

By the time I write my next update, I very much hope that our children will be back in classrooms, our local businesses will be reopening, and we will be on the road to normality.



#### Continued from page 8

those checking the health and appointment status and managing and reassuring people post vaccination. Volunteers work a 1.5 hour shift – not particularly onerous you might think but with the recent bitterly cold weather somewhat challenging and a test of endurance. I counted up and reckon that over 100 people are needed at the hall for every single vaccination day.

At the time of writing this, I 6 million of the most vulnerable people in the country have received their first vaccination. It has been so heartwarming to see old friends arrive for their first dose, having spent most of the last year isolated from friends, family and their community, in an effort to avoid catching the disease.

I hope that in the months to come all adults will have been offered a vaccination, freeing people and allowing them to resume relatively normal lives. In the meantime we stand together, helping each other and those most vulnerable and in need



## **Burstow Friends of St Catherine's Hospice Annual General Meeting**

Monday 8 March at 8pm via Zoom If you wish attend please contact Angie for Zoom link at: challis668@btinternet.com

**Summer Bring and Buy** Following on from the success of last year's Outwood Bring & Buy Stall, we have decided to hold similar sales again this Summer. Our big sellers were home grown fruit, vegetables and salads as well as home baked goods.

So, if you would like support the Hospice by planting a few extra seeds or encourage a few more seedlings along, we would be delighted and grateful to receive the fruits of your labours onto the stall during the Summer.

> Full details of sales dates will be published nearer the time. Angie Challis

## FUNERAL PLANS FROM



Independent Family Funeral Directors

One of the few remaining family-owned, truly independent funeral directors in the area

Peace of mind for you and your family Specify your wishes in advance Protection against rising funeral costs A range of flexible payment options Arrange the send off you want

Alex Jones Funeral Directors 1 East Grinstead Road Lingfield RH7 6EP

01342 832534 www.alexjonesfuneraldirectors.co.uk

We also have funeral homes in:

Forest Row: 01342 822399 Oxted: 01883 730383 Edenbridge: 01732 860047



Vouchers distributed 30 days after your plan is taken out - contact us for full details.



### FROM THE WINDMILL UNITED BENEFICE REGISTERS

#### St Bartholomew, Burstow

Funerals

9 February Mary Sims Cockerill, aged 99 18 February Adrian Peter McKay, aged 62

#### St John the Baptist, Outwood

Funerals 26 January Roger Gregory Messenger, aged 62 27 January Derek Charles Walter Gough, aged 92

## **HEAR HERE!**

While she cannot see people at the church hall, if you need free, basic maintenance for your hearing aid and free batteries, funded by the NHS, audiology-trained volunteer Helen is happy to bring items and advice to your home. Ring her on 01342 843550 or send her a text on 07762 632 620.

# SMALLFIELD COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

In the year ended December 2019 your Speedwatch team reported to Surrey Police:

2,960 offenders

Amongst these were: 259 2nd time offenders and 43 3rd time offenders

The Team comprises 16 regular police-trained community members who are able to commit to an hour or more a month at various approved locations around the village.

#### We ARE making a difference. So much more could be achieved with more members.

Should you wish to join the team please contact the Parish Clerk, Jeannie Ryan (01342 841880, *burstowparishcouncil@gmail.com*) *Visit: http://www.burstowparishcouncil.org.uk/community\_speed\_watch.asp* 

## SOME LOCAL SERVICES

- Smallfield Surgery, Wheelers Lane 01342 843822 Website: www.smallfieldsurgery.nhs.uk
- Smallfield Pharmacy, 2 Redehall Road 01342 844424 Email: info@smallfieldpharmacy.co.uk

Burstow Primary School, Wheelers Lane 01342 842010

### **Burstow Parish Council**

Parish Clerk: Jeannie Ryan (Centenary Hall, Wheelers Lane) Email: burstowparishcouncil@gmail.com or ring 01342 841880 Office core hours: 9.30am-2.00pm weekdays during school term Website: www.burstowparishcouncil.org.uk

### Tandridge District Council 01823 722000

## Tandridge District Councillors

- Kevin Bourne (07963 833154; email: Cllr.kevin.bourne@tandridgedc.gov.uk)
- Harry Fitzgerald (01342 832475; email: dlr.barry fitzgerald@tandride
- email: cllr.harry.fitzgerald@tandridgedc.gov.uk)
  Colin White (email: Cllr.Colin.White@tandridge.gov.uk)

## Surrey County Councillor

Lesley Steeds (07973 872 614; email: lesley.steeds@surreycc.gov.uk)

## Police contacts:

- In an emergency dial 999
- If not an emergency dial 101 for Surrey Police Crime Stoppers (independent anonymous phone line): 0800 555111

### Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Team

email: tandridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk

## Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

PC Kevin Stimson (tel: 101 or mobile 07720 061363; email: kevin.stimson@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

## Neighbourhood Police Smallfield, Burstow, Horne and Outwood

- PCSO Conrad Cheeseman (tel: 101; email: Cheeseman 12437@surrey.pnn.police.uk)
   PCSO Stuart Wren (tel: 101 or mobile 07720 050768;
- email: stuart.wren@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

### Bus Companies:

- Southdown (bus 424) 01342 719619
- Cruisers (bus 315) 01737 770036
- Metrobus 01293 449191

## Gatwick Airport Noise Complaints 01293 311568





## **Forget Me Nots**

Centenary Hall, Smallfield

## A dementia friendly club

We are a happy group providing refreshments, quizzes, entertainment and occasional outings

The club meets every Tuesday from 2.00pm until 4.00pm at Centenary Hall

If you are interested in joining us, please contact: Mrs Bobby Weekes 07703 451618 Miss Nicky Radford 07846 956140

#### Wordsworth in Lockdown (Anon, submitted by Mollie Case-Green)

I wandered lonely as a cloud, two metres from the madding crowd, when all at once my name was called to enter Waitrose hallowed hall. Now the pensionsers' special hour, I'd gone to get a bag of flour. But I forgot – when through the door – what I had gone to Waitrose for. Waitrose staff are extra kind I told them it had slipped my mind. They asked what else I had forgot -They clearly thought I'd lost the plot. I phoned my wife at home to ask She helped me with this special task: "I need some flour to bake a cake with all that cream you made me take!"

"Ah yes, of course," I had to lie, I dared not ask what flower to buy, But then I saw them at the tills... A bunch of golden daffodils!





## LEARN TO DANCE DON'T BE SHY GIVE IT A TRY

Ballroom, Latin and Sequence Lessons and social dancing on a Thursday and Friday No partner required Small, friendly classes at Smallfield Centenary Hall Contact Debbie on 07801 261150 www.DanceManiaDanceSchool.net



The Parish News is printed by: Parish Mag Printers, Salisbury (01722 324733)

## travel-pa<sub>con</sub> |

#### "A New World in Waiting"

Luxury Holidays • Cruises City Breaks • Family Holidays Golf Breaks • Weddings & Honeymoons Tailor Made Itineraries • Spa Breaks

Escorted Tours • Ski

### Donna Rowe

Direct Line: 0800 954 5216 Mobile: 07801 342309 Email: donnar@travel-pa.com Web: www.travel-pa.com/donnar

ABTA 57032/10404 'I Love Referrals, Please don't keep me a secr



## EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIANS

Contact Patrick Carter cartpatri@aol.com 01342 843883 07711 478890

PART P CERTIFIED NICEIC APPROVED

#### www.fusilierelectrical.co.uk

