

The Bridge

MARCH & APRIL 2024

- **Munstead Wood**
- **Godalming Minster Launch**
- **Old Godhelmians**



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FROM THE EDITOR

In this Edition we bring news of Munstead Wood - a property new to the National Trust within the area covered by this magazine. Further articles will follow as the property is prepared for opening to the public. We also have coverage from the launch of Godalming Minster in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Payne who is leaving the Editorial Team - many thanks for all the articles and photos over the last 15 years!

David Brockman

Copy date for next edition is April 17th 2024

editor.atthebridge@gmail.com

Contents

- 4 Godalming Minster Launch
- 6 Lent Reflection
- 8 Walk with the Bridge - Shamley Green
- 10 Old Godhelmians
- 10 Parish Register
- 12 Munstead Wood
- 16 Recipe - Easter Biscuits
- 18 Prime Time
- 20 Church Calendar
- 23 Merry Harriers - Review
- 31 Nexus News
- 39 Godalming Museum

GODALMING

MINSTER

Front cover: ©National Trust Images/Laurence Perry

This Page (top): Chris Payne

The Launch of Godalming Minster

Sunday 14 January witnessed a historic moment for the Godalming area as Bishop Andrew Watson led a service at the new Godalming Minster on Godalming's Church Street.

Local police, school leaders, voluntary group leaders, MP for Southwest Surrey Jeremy Hunt, the Mayors of Waverley and Godalming, local councillors and the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Michael Molyneux joined Rector Simon Taylor, the Bishops of Guildford and Dorking and the clergy team in a procession from the Pepperpot to the church before the service started.

Associate Vicar Sheila Samuels opened the service and there followed an hour of worship with a diversity of styles. From roof-raising choral anthems and rousing hymns led by the choir, to foot-tapping worship songs led by Rev Simon Willetts and the band, the music provided the lift-off.

While the children left for some lively and engaging prayer activity, Bishop Andrew gave a sermon sharing about the sacrifice and risk undertaken by the parishes involved in forming Godalming Minster and the need for us

to centre our lives around Jesus. Community leaders were invited to welcome the Minster to Godalming and shared their commitment to work together for the good of the community.

The Mayor of Godalming, Adam Duce, commented that he'd not been in a service quite like it! The children returned to let off 50 giant party poppers (see picture, right) and enjoy the cake.

The Minster Launch service took place in one of the oldest, and certainly largest buildings in Godalming. St Peter & St Paul's is a historic landmark which will inevitably be the flagship for Godalming Minster. But the Minster is not about one building or even the four churches that it unites.

The adage that "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" is fitting, as each church, hosting multiple congregations and sharing Jesus' care





and love in the community will be just as much Godalming Minster.

St Peter's Hambledon has been at the centre of its rural community, emitting God's love and teaching to its special village for centuries; Busbridge Church Brighton Road is known for its vibrant and contemporary approach to worship and spirituality; and St Mark's Franklyn Road runs the Godalming Foodbank. St Mark's also celebrates 90 years of service this year at the heart of Ockford Ridge and Aaron's Hill.

So, Godalming Minster is a community, sharing the goal to serve the community and lead people to follow Jesus, love people and refresh what it means to be church.

What is a Minster?

For 1,000 years Minsters served wide areas with a heart for God's mission to care for all people. A Minster was a dynamic innovative community of Christian worship, rooted in Scripture and showing love and compassion. Ministers were hospitals, supported the local economy, developed pubs for safe low alcohol drinking, provided education, community support and

alleviated poverty. They preached Christ and lived it daily around a pattern of prayer and praise.

What is your Godalming Minster?

Godalming Minster is a centre of love and care, serving and creating community, well-being and hospitality, breaking down barriers; spiritual nourishment and teaching about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and God our loving Father.

Godalming Minster is a community which seeks to follow Jesus, love people and renew Christian faith in a way which makes a good difference in our lives and the lives of others. We represent people from many walks of life, backgrounds, ethnicities, political views, employment routes, incomes, places we live, where we work and what we do for hobbies. Our mission is expressed in groups and activities for every age and stage, for those with particular interests and those with particular needs, touching all areas in our wonderful community. If you are open, Godalming Minster is for you, for life.

Vic Hicks

Lent Reflection

Lent has come early this year, a season which coincides with springtime, the rebirth of nature and new life and precedes Easter

When Easter is later we might be irritated to see the New year displays in shops appear with eggs. But this year no sooner have we celebrated Christmas and New year we are thrown into pancakes, Valentine's day, chocolate eggs and rabbits.

As though this was not enough to remind us that seasons have changed quickly, we have delivery vans as a common feature in our everyday. They remind us that we live in an 'instant world' where we can order anything we require at the touch of a button and it can be on our doorstep by 10pm the same day or the next day. The season of Lent invites Christians to slow down and stay awhile with Jesus in the desert place where we take stock of our spiritual health and well-being.

Lent is a time of reflection, sacrifice, and spiritual growth. It is the period of 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday which commemorates the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During this time, Christians are encouraged to engage in practices such as fasting, prayer, and giving as a way to deepen their faith and relationship with God.

We can use this season to 'fast' and give up something that is harmful to us, or perhaps tackle a much needed lifestyle change. It is not easy to break a bad habit and takes time, will power and perseverance. Lent affords us the time to do this.

Lent often is misunderstood as 'penitential' by nature where we express deep sorrow and regret at having done something wrong, in fact its quite the contrary, Lent is a time to remind us of our need for God's grace



and of our obligation to put others before ourselves, therefore engaging in practical acts of charity can help ensure that we grow in God's grace.

Pope Francis also speaks of, '...the power of prayer and its essential place in our Lenten exercises. The problems and tragedies of the world can at times appear to overwhelm us and leave us with a sense of helplessness, but we must never underestimate the effect our prayer has before God.' and so become ever more Christ-like in this holy season now beginning.

We thank God for this time of grace and for the opportunity to grow spiritually ourselves, while being conscious of others who may need our help. Let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on Christ this Lent, both as a Church and as individuals, for in his own amazing words he is the way, the truth and the life!

With an assurance of our prayers through this season of Lent and every blessing as you celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

Patrick Samuels - Curate (Godalming Minster)



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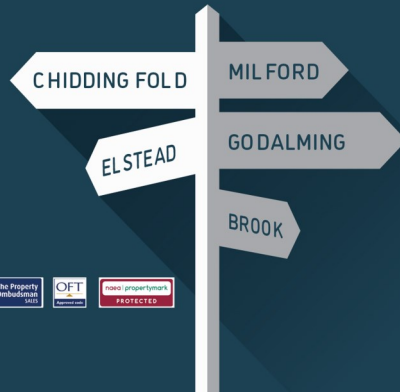
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Walk with the Bridge: Hydons Ball, Enton and Hambleton

An interesting walk through woods and sandy heath land with good views. Note this walk can be muddy, depending on the time of year and recent weather.

Length 6 miles
Ascent 228m

1. Park in Shamley Green near the crossroads by the Red Lion pub (Woodhill lane) - <https://w3w.co/freezers.boards.plump>.
2. Walk east along Woodhill lane way from the main road. Take second footpath on left (sign for "Shamley Wood Estate"). Turn right over stile onto footpath once you reach the iron gates, onto public footpath.
3. Pass through kissing gate onto narrow path with hedge on right. At junction bear left up hill on bridleway.
4. At the top turn right on bridleway between 2 wooden fences. Continue on path which follows a ridge. *After a barn if you look to the left and you can see St Martha's.* On the right there is a former sand quarry.
5. As you approach a road, turn right off bridleway past gate to the road. Cross the road and continue along the bridleway. There are drives to the right and woodland to the left.
6. Turn left at Mayor House farm - (just after wagon wheel) onto footpath with stables to right and left. Footpath takes you slightly to the right and on marked path between fields. *Note views of North Downs ahead to left.*
7. Path ends at stile partly hidden by holly bushes. Climb over stile and cross sunken lane onto footpath.
8. At road turn left then almost immediately right onto footpath. Cross

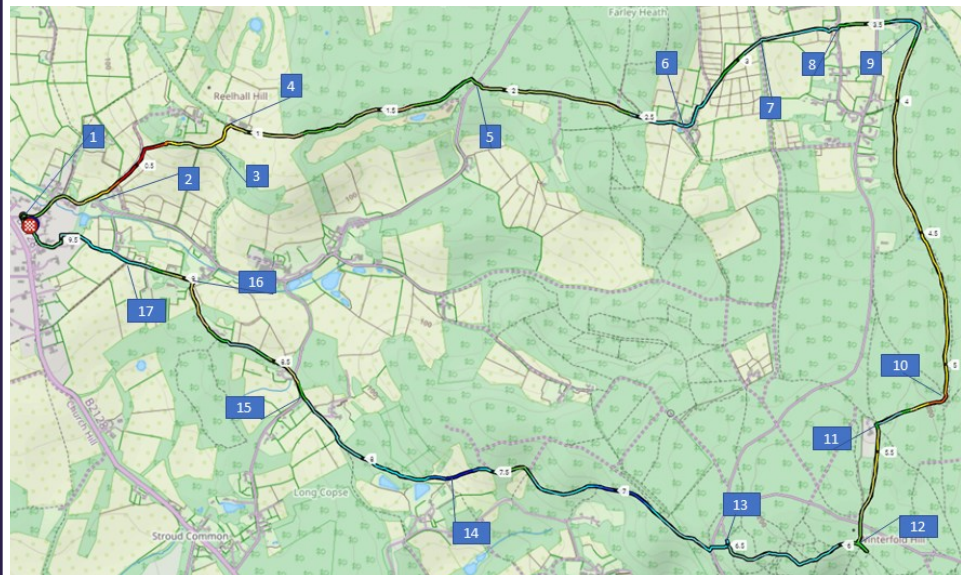


another sunken lane following footpath sign and continue downhill.

9. Cross small wooden bridge over tiny stream and turn right onto bridleway. Continue on the bridleway for about 1400m ignoring crossing paths and continue uphill eventually passing some ponds.
10. At junction where there is a sign saying private straight on, take right turn uphill following yellow footpath sign.
11. As the path then goes downhill towards a hedge in front of some houses, turn left . At next junction bear right on footpath. Follow footpath signs to road.
12. Cross the road and carry straight on through disused car park. Before turning right onto the Greensand Way by the viewpoint, take a short detour left to the small shelter (see picture, left - "A shelter of cedar shingles that captured the thoughts and memories of visitors") and then retrace your steps.
13. When entering car park, turn left and follow path down steps and across the road (left then right). Path goes gradually turn hill. Follow GW at each junction.
14. Path goes between line of gorse bushes and into a field. Continue downhill and go to the right of the lake.
15. When the path comes to a lane (Stroud Lane), turn right onto the lane and then left in 100m on footpath.
16. As you approach the road, turn left following the GW sign - there will be a line of trees on your left.
17. Where a footpath (GW) goes left, continue on the path straight ahead. This will take you through a kissing gate, between some gardens and back to Shamley Green.

We now follow the Greensand Way (marked GW) nearly all the way back to Shamley Green.

Text and photos by David Brockman



The Old Godhelmian Association Reunion

The Old Godhelmian Association (OGA) recently held their bi-annual Reunion at Godalming College

The OGA held their bi-annual Reunion on 16th October 2023. This was followed by an evening get-together at The Inn on the Lake, Godalming.

75 ex-pupils and friends attended the event which included an opportunity to explore the main building and grounds, a chance to chat with friends from across the world via Zoom, an exhibition of memorabilia and a delicious lunch catered by Orchard Catering.

Attendees also had the pleasure of hearing a very interesting talk on rare Guildford and Godalming postal history from David Muscott.

The Reunion also gave the committee the opportunity to launch the long awaited book: "Godalming County Grammar School -The School on the Hill." Introduced by Shirley Coleman, OGA President, Committee member Annette Ettorre formally launched the book with a speech outlining its evolution from a 16 page collection of ideas in 2021, to the impressive 275 full colour pages of the finished article. With a forward written by the comedian, writer and Old Godhelmian



Ben Elton, and a chapter from author Louis de Bernières, the book covers all aspects of life at school from its foundation in 1930 with just 70 pupils and four members of staff, to its transformation into a Sixth-form College in 1975.

Sales for the book have been brisk, with fewer than a dozen copies now available. Should you wish to purchase a copy for £25 including postage and packing, please email The OGA on oldgodhelmianassociation@gmail.com including your name and full postal address.

Jude Baker

Busbridge Parish Register

Funerals

16th January – David Fishlock
(crematorium service)

2nd February - Elizabeth Outram
(crematorium service)

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Munstead Wood

In April 2023 the National Trust purchased Munstead Wood - the Grade-I listed home and garden of garden designer Gertrude Jekyll located between Brighton Road, Munstead Heath Road and Heath Lane.

The National Trust is keen to get the views of local people on how to make best use of this historic house and garden, and to keep us informed of developments. Consequently, I was invited along with a number of other local people to one of a series of events held in January.

Gertrude Jekyll's house and garden occupied 15 acres, and the National Trust has now been able to buy 11 acres of the original estate. Unusually, not only is the house grade 1 listed, but the garden is a grade 1 registered landscape. This, combined with the importance of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens made the purchase a fantastic opportunity for the National Trust. Even in January, the garden is a quiet and beautiful oasis and will be a wonderful place to visit.

Gertrude Jekyll (buried in the graveyard of Busbridge Church) is one of Godalming's most famous residents and has been featured several times in *The Bridge* magazine - see for example Katy Bennett's article in the May / June 2023 edition. Jekyll is best known now for her influence on garden design in Britain and worldwide in the late Victorian and Edwardian period, but she was also a successful business woman and artist. She wrote 14 books and more than 1000 articles. Munstead Wood was also her first collaboration with Edwin Lutyens, who was also local having grown up in Thursley. Lutyens designed the War memorial and also the chancel screen in Busbridge church.

The house design was greatly influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement and retains many of the original features (though none of the furniture).

In the garden some of Gertrude Jekyll's original design had been lost, but work had been undertaken by the previous owners to restore the original design which had been meticulously documented by Gertrude Jekyll. Some of our readers will remember visiting Munstead Wood in the late 1990s when it was open to the public as part of the



©National Trust Images/Hugh Mothersole

Munstead Wood

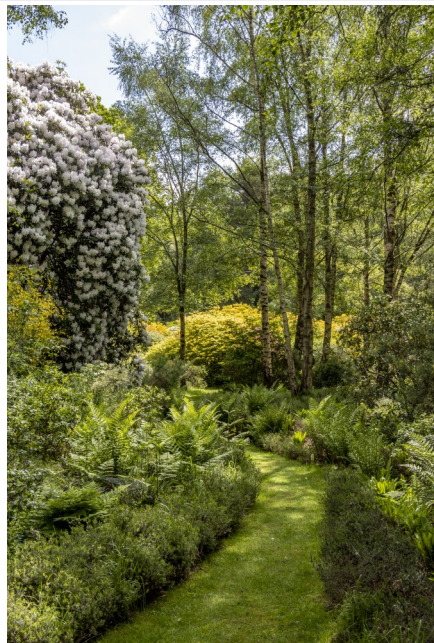


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National Garden Scheme. The formal paths, walls and pond near the house, designed for Jekyll by Edwin Lutyens, remain largely intact, and Jekyll's innovative rock garden was discovered in the 1990s buried under layers of garden debris.

Work now continues on the garden and the National Trust are working with Munstead Wood's neighbours to work out how to manage access for visitors to this beautiful and unique site.

There is no date yet for when it will be open to the public, but in time the Trust will be recruiting staff and volunteers. Further updates will



©National Trust Images/Hugh Mothersole

appear in The Bridge from time to time. Until then see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/surrey/munstead-wood-project-updates> (or use QR code below). See also P39 for details of exhibition at Godalming museum.

The day I visited was grey and drizzly so the National Trust have kindly provided the images used here and on the front page.

David Brockman



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alumna 2014, Amazon

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Easter Biscuits by Elizabeth Silver

These classic Easter biscuits originate from Somerset in the West Country and were given as gifts at Easter time.

Traditionally flavoured with Cassia oil, which was thought to have been the oil used to embalm Christ's body before he was laid in the tomb and which has a flavour similar to cinnamon (used here) they are delightfully crisp with a delicate spicy taste and a warm, golden glow from the saffron.

INGREDIENTS

100g butter, softened
75g caster sugar
1 medium egg, separated
100g plain flour
Pinch of salt
1 tsp cinnamon
50g currants
Pinch of ground saffron mixed with 2 tbsps of brandy or milk
Caster sugar to dredge

Makes 12



elizabethsilverfood

1. Preheat oven to 200°C. Grease 2 baking trays.
2. Cream together the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy, beat in the egg yolk.
3. Fold in the flour, salt, spices, currants and saffron liquid to form a fairly soft dough.
4. Knead lightly on a floured surface and roll out thinly.
5. Using a 7.5cm fluted cutter, cut into rounds and re roll where necessary.
6. Place on the baking trays and bake for 8 minutes. Remove and brush each biscuit with the remaining egg white and dredge with caster sugar.
7. Bake for a further 3 minutes until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

Elizabeth Silver





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Coming up for Prime Time in March and April...



Wednesday 6th March— Make Your Own Greetings Card.

Another opportunity to unleash your creative side with Prime Time Team member Di Drudge leading one of her popular card-making sessions. Maybe you have friends or family with birthdays coming up in the spring and you'd like to create personalised cards for them, or perhaps you would just like to try your hand at making some hand-made Easter cards this year. Birthday cards, Easter cards, blank notecards – the choice is yours. Refreshments provided. There is no charge for this event, but donations on the day to help cover costs are welcomed. **10.30am—12 noon; The Old Rectory, Busbridge**

Friday 15th March—Tea & Talk: Heading into Spring & Summer.

During Lockdown, Keith Field, a former teacher at Broadwater School, took to traversing local footpaths along with his camera; documenting the landscape as it changed with the seasons. As Keith looked back over the images he had taken, his long and firmly held Christian beliefs led him to apply his knowledge of the Bible and verses from scripture to the photographs he had taken. This has culminated in a popular series of illustrated talks that Keith delivers around the local area. As we look ahead to Easter as well as warmer months and lengthening days; Keith will take us on a foray with a Biblical flavour, around the footpaths of Surrey and West Sussex. After Keith's talk, do stay and chat over tea & cake. There is no charge for this event, but donations on the day to help cover costs are welcomed. **2.30pm—4pm;**



Busbridge Church

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The free **Marvellous Movie Matinees** at Busbridge Church continue on **Saturday 23rd March** and **Saturday 27th April**.

Our March offering stars Dame Maggie Smith and follows a group of friends from Ballygar who dream of winning a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. In April we'll be showing a comedy-drama from 2014 starring Billy Connolly in which a family head to rural Scotland for Grandad's 75th birthday celebrations. The parents are separated and are hoping that the kids don't mention it; but the kids, love, talk with and will do anything for Grandad... Doors open at 2pm for a 2.30 start.



Complementary tea, biscuits and popcorn are available and we always pause for an interval! Please check the Godalming Minster website nearer the time for clues as to the title of the movies or phone the Church Office so that we can tell you!



Thursday 18th April—Quiz Afternoon & Jigsaw Puzzle Swap. A fun afternoon and workout for the little grey cells... There will be a quiz and a 'Guess the Prime Time Baby' photo competition as well as a Swap Table to exchange jigsaws that you have completed for ones that are new to you. The customary Prime Time Tea & Cake will be on offer

and there will be plenty of time to sit and chat with friends too. There is no charge for this event, but donations on the day to help cover costs are welcomed. **2.30pm –4pm; Busbridge Church**

Regular **Coffee Drop-In** sessions take place in the **Yew Tree Café** at Busbridge Church every Monday morning between 10.30 and 11.30am. No need to book ahead for these sessions, just come along and enjoy the chat and good company. A member of the Prime Time Team will always be there to welcome you.

For further details regarding Prime Time or to book onto any Prime Time event, please contact the Prime Time Team via the Church Office on 01483 421267 or email: primetime@godalmingminster.org

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Godalming Minster

Brighton Road (Busbridge)

Sunday Services

10am

Classic Service

with communion on 1st Sundays of the month

6pm

Evening Worship

1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
with youth on 1st Sundays
& communion on 4th Sundays

The **Contemporary** congregation now gathers
at Godalming Minster Church Street at
10.30am 2-5th Sundays of the month.
Children's groups take place in the Octagon.

For all Godalming Minster services see
www.godalmingminster.org/sundays



ALL
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**MUDDY
CHURCH**
10.30AM ON 1ST SUNDAYS

3 MAR HOLLOWAY HILL
RECREATION GROUND
GU7 1QD ///remain.laws.dine
NO Muddy on 7 April.

5 May JACK PHILLIPS MEMORIAL
GU7 1ES ///blaze.outfit.swept

To find Muddy, you can use the
what3words location. Download
the /// app.

SPECIAL DATES:

10th March Mothering Sunday will be celebrated in all services with a special gift for mums.
24th-31st Mar - See Easter events & services.
7th April 10am Minster Service at GM Church Street | 6pm Evensong at GM Hambleton
(No services at Busbridge)



Do keep an eye on the notices which can be found on the web site:
www.godalmingminster.org/notices
Or contact vic.hicks@godalmingminster.org to subscribe to email.
we look forward to seeing you!

**GODALMING
MINSTER**

Easter

at Godalming Minster Brighton Road GU7 1XA unless it says otherwise!

24TH MAR

PALM SUNDAY



10AM Service for Palm Sunday
6pm Evening Service + communion

25TH-30 MAR

HOLY WEEK

8pm MON-WED
HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS:
Journey to the cross
at Godalming Minster Brighton Road

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7pm Communion Service
at Godalming Minster Franklyn Road

GOOD FRIDAY

10am Good Friday Service for all the family
at Godalming Minster Church Street

11.30am
Godalming Act of Witness
Outside Wetherspoons on Godalming High Street

12 Noon An Hour at the Cross
at Godalming Minster Hambledon

2.30pm Busbridge-2-Hambledon
Hot Cross Bun cross country adventure!
Depart from Godalming Minster Brighton Road.

HOLY SATURDAY

3pm EASTER GARDEN SERVICE + EGG HUNT in the Old Rectory garden
Please sign up to the biggest egg hunt in Busbridge!

www.godalmingminster.org

31 MAR

EASTER DAY

Clocks go forward!

6.45am Churches Together Sunrise Service
at the Ladywell Shrine, Minster field

10am Easter Day Celebration with Communion
and 10am at all other Minster locations

7th April

No services at Brighton Road
10am Minster-wide Communion Service
at Church Street (with children's holiday group)

6pm Evensong at Godalming Minster
Hambledon

15th April

Back to normal services at 10am and 6pm



See the web site
for more details



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The Merry Harriers

What a treat it was to visit The Merry Harriers in early January. Having been taken over by the culinary team behind Hilltop Kitchen in November last year, we were keen to pop along for lunch to celebrate our wedding anniversary.

Since opening Hilltop Kitchen in 2021, seasonal cooking with locally sourced, high-quality ingredients has been the cornerstone of Alex and Sam's food philosophy; and we enjoyed a glass of Sparkling Fumé from Greyfriars Vineyard in Puttenham, as we looked over the menu.

To start, I opted for the roast beetroot with candied walnuts, goat's cheese and bitter leaves (£10) whilst Mark went for a retro prawn cocktail revamped with Kennet crayfish, smoked salmon & trout roe (£14). For our main, we opted for the 'To Share' option of the chicken & ham hock pie which came with buttery greens and the most deliciously crispy potatoes I've eaten in a long time. At £45 to share, it wasn't the cheapest option on the menu (most are priced between £16-18) but it was certainly tasty and the pie itself generous.

For dessert we both chose the



Jamaican ginger sticky toffee pudding with whisky toffee sauce (£8.50). Quite often we will share a dessert; however, from the first mouthfuls, there was no regret in ordering one each; it was scrumptious, unctuous and every other hyperbole you'd expect from a sticky toffee pud in winter. With coffee, it was the perfect finish.

Eating out, even in pubs, is generally quite expensive these days and whilst The Merry Harriers is no exception, for the quality of the ingredients, great cooking and warm hospitality, we thought it was well worth it.

The Merry Harriers serves food 6-8.30pm Wednesday, 12-2.30pm & 6-8.30pm Thursday- Saturday; 12-5.30pm Sunday. Closed on Monday & Tuesday.

Gemma Taylor





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Club Room

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We're Birchgrove, an award-winning retirement living specialist, and we are delighted to be creating our next community right here in Godalming on the former home of Mole Country Stores.

The one-acre estate is being transformed to provide 52 modern, light and spacious one- and two-bedroom assisted living apartments. You've Pepperpot House, with its wonderful roof terrace embracing the views over Godalming to the Surrey Hills; just the ticket for relaxing and socialising. Stable Cottages will offer three ground-floor modern apartments and the Grade II listed Cowshed, is being exquisitely restored into two one-bedroom apartments conserving all of its architectural character and history.

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Advertisement Feature

Retirement living in Godalming, Surrey

Birchgrove, the award-winning retirement living specialist are creating a new retirement development – Pepperpot House at Godalming, Surrey.

This one-acre estate, formerly the home of Mole Country Stores, is being transformed to provide 52 modern, light and spacious apartments for those in later life. The Grade II listed Cowshed will be exquisitely restored into two one-bedroom apartments safeguarding its architectural and historical interest. Pepperpot House and Stable Cottages will offer a choice of modern, elegant one and two-bedroom self-contained apartments finished to its trademark high standards. The extensive communal facilities will include a club room, restaurant, bar and wellness suite – shared spaces where people can meet and be part of what will become a friendly community.

The elevation of Pepperpot House has been carefully designed, and at its highest point, you'll discover a roof terrace that truly embraces the views over Godalming to the Surrey Hills. A wonderful place to relax and socialise.

Downsizing can offer a fresh start in later life – and the benefits may astound you. However, moving from a large family home to something easier to manage, triggers some powerful emotions and raises a good many questions. The practical side of our brain tells us the earlier we do it, the better we are – physically, socially, and financially. Yet, understandably, it's not a task anyone undertakes lightly.

Birchgrove retirement apartments are offered solely for rent on an assured tenancy basis. This provides security of tenure but without the hassle of home ownership.

The UK is fast becoming a rental market – especially for retirees. Renting in retirement is becoming more and more popular because it offers all the benefits of independent living without any of the stress of owning a house.

The inclusive rent offered by Birchgrove makes it easier to manage your finances and covers all the large-ticket expenses like energy costs – electricity, heating and water – and many of the rising incidental costs that go along with owning your own home e.g. housekeeping, buildings insurance, security, broadband, window cleaning and many more.

There are no lengthy contracts or confusing small print. Nor service charges or exit fees. You simply pay the inclusive rent and a one-off joining fee.

To find out more about Pepperpot House you can get in touch with the team on 020 3929 5599 or visit www.birchgrove.life You'll find them at Hamptons Estate Agents on the High Street, Godalming. Or, if you prefer, they'd be just as happy to visit you at your own home.



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Godalming Cricket Club are welcoming new players to both their men's and ladies squads ahead of the 2024 season.

Whether you're new to the area, looking for a new challenge or just keen to get back into the game, why not come to one of our pre-season net sessions to have a bat & bowl, as well as getting to know our friendly members? Or do you have a love of cricket, afternoon teas, and a local club atmosphere?



Lots of volunteering opportunities exist at Godalming Cricket Club; in particular we are looking for Umpires for the 2024 season and beyond.

Full training & support can be provided for anyone interested in being involved in this wonderful part of our local community, with the chance to officiate at many of the stunning grounds we visit in the Surrey leagues.

For more details please contact the club - info@godalmingcc.co.uk

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Ladywell Convent is a vibrant & busy place of work, with around 70 employees. Each of which, support the Sisters, in an environment that offers varied *opportunities and personal growth.*

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BUSBRIDGE EVENING WI

Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Busbridge Village Hall at 8 p.m. New members are warmly welcomed - contact Ann Heward 01483 420360.

Tuesday 12th March 'A walk on the Wild Side in Costa Rica'. Talk given by Ian Taylor & Sue Losson - Beautiful birds, monkeys and some close up encounters.

Tuesday 9th April 'Pet Detectives' talk given by Colin Butcher. They investigate crimes against animals and every year recover more stolen and missing cats and dogs than any of the police forces in the U.K.



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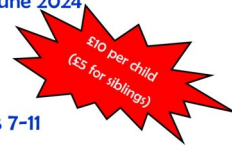


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In February, Sarah Squire, Chair of Squire's Garden Centres, and Ricky Bowness, currently Manager of Milford Squires, gave us an insightful glimpse into the Squire's family background and their family business ethos today. For example, 85% of their plants are grown in the UK, all using peat free compost. They also recycle wherever possible with recycling points for our unwanted plant pots and empty compost bags! A very enjoyable evening!

Nexus
linking church & community

On **Thursday 7th March**, **James Giles** will tell us about life as Reserve Manager for **Thursley Common National Nature Reserve**. With its diverse areas of dry heathland, woodlands, and varied wetlands, it is abundant in wonderful wildlife. We are very lucky to have such a gem on our doorstep and it will be fascinating to hear about his management of this great open space.

Do come along to find out about '**Life on the Common**' and bring a friend!

For our event on **Thursday 4th April**, **Debby Flack**, a Quaker and Witley Parish councillor, will tell us about her experiences of **Human Rights Monitoring on the West Bank**, part of occupied Palestine. She went with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), run by the World Council of Churches internationally, and by Quaker Peace and Social Witness in the UK and Ireland.

Debby will talk about her work alongside Palestinian and Israeli peace groups, providing a protective presence to communities at risk, including, for example, farmers trying to access their farmland to work, and children trying to get to school. Fascinating and so relevant in these troubled times in Israel and Palestine.

A date for your diary: on **Thursday 2nd May**, **Helen McCann** will update us on her life as a Registered blind Guide Dog owner, marathon runner, triathlete and now a published author of '**Running Blind**' .

For all these events, we'll meet in the **Busbridge Old Rectory** at **8.00pm**, starting with a drink and nibbles and chance to socialise before handing over to our speakers for their presentations.

All are welcome – including men! We look forward to seeing you!

2024 Annual Subscription £20
Guests: £5.00 contribution towards speaker costs

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Saturday 16th March 10 am - 12:30 pm
 Care companion at end of life. A talk by Daphne Bleach.

Thursday 25th April
 Friendship lunch and community coach outing to Arundel and Littlehampton

Saturday 27th April 10 am - 12:30 pm
 Forgiveness- a talk by Revd Tim Carter on all aspects of forgiveness.

For more details on all events see <https://www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk/events> or contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Conservatoire Concerts

Conservatoire Concerts have the pleasure of presenting one of the UK's most promising young chamber ensembles for their next concert. Wind quintet, **Ensemble Renard** will be performing at Godalming Baptist Church on **Saturday 9th March** at 7.00pm. Their programme includes works by Mozart, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Bartok and more. Free admission with a retiring collection towards musicians' fees and expenses. Booking on www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk or by emailing suzanne.cacciottolo@gmail.com.



FARNCOMBE MORNING TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD meet in St John's church room, St John's Church, Farncombe GU7 3EH on the second Wednesday morning of each month. The next meetings will be on March 13th and April 10th 2024, from 10.00 – 12.00. You are very welcome to attend as a visitor (small charge). We are a friendly group - just turn up and you will be made very welcome or for further details phone Dot Pullen on 01483 422753.






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Gemma Taylor

Contact the Editor:
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bridgetreasurer@godalmingminster.org

**Copy Date for next edition:
Wed 17th April**

Write to us:
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Godalming MUSEUM



A Glimpse over the Garden Wall: Opening the door to Munstead Wood Tuesday 5th - Saturday 30th March. This exhibition will reveal the significance of garden designer Gertrude Jekyll's home and creative sanctuary in Busbridge.

Mayford Art Group's exhibition runs from Tuesday 2nd to Saturday 21st April. Work in a wide range of styles, subjects and media will be displayed by local artists, with pictures and cards available for purchase.

Surrey Guild of Craftsmen members are selected professional craftsmen and designer-makers of contemporary and traditional applied arts. A rotating display of works by members of the guild will be on display throughout the year, and are available to purchase.



A rotating display of works by members of the guild will be on display throughout the year, and are available to purchase.

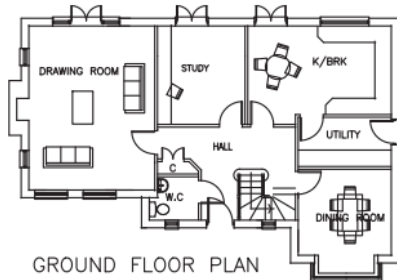


Godalming Museum Coffee Club meets from **11am to 1pm on the 3rd Monday of each month.** Would you like to connect with other people in Godalming to share memories, have interesting conversations, and build new friendships in our relaxed and friendly group? Everyone is welcome, just come along.

Godalming Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm. Please check the website www.godalmingmuseum.org.uk or ring 01483 426510 in opening hours for further details.



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