

# THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF BADSHOT LEA AND HALE



*Serving the communities of Badshot Lea, Folly Hill, Hale, Heath End, Sandy Hill and Weybourne*



**The churches of St George's, St John's and St Mark's**

Issue no.  
285

**April 2025**

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## Magazine subscription and deadline

Subscriptions to the magazine are a minimum of £10 for the year, suggested price £15.

Contact 07565 422079 or email [editor@badshotleaandhale.org](mailto:editor@badshotleaandhale.org).

The deadline for the May issue of the magazine is

**Sunday 13th April.**

# Advertisers

*Below is a list of our current advertisers by category and the page numbers you can find them on. Please use their services and don't forget to say that you saw their advert in this magazine.*

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# Cartoon Family portraits from the Squirrel Collective



Have your portrait drawn by Jacqui, from the Squirrel Collective, as seen on baptism booklets in the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale.

Family groups, friendship groups, couples, children and parents... even your pets. I draw from photographs and will work with you to get a drawing you are happy with. I draw by hand and add colour with alcohol-based markers, so your picture will stay vibrant for a long time to come.

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*To order, or for more details, please see @TheSquirrelCollective on Facebook.*



# What's on in April

**Wednesday, April 2nd — 15:00 to 16:00**

### **Contemplative Prayer**

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's every Wednesday. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

**Thursday, April 3rd—10:00 to 12:00**

### **Coffee and Art at St Mark's**

Join us for art and coffee (and cake) at St Mark's on the first and third Thursday of every month. No artistic skills needed!

**Saturday April 5th—10:00 to 12:00**

### **BLVIS Easter Egg Hunt**

Badshot Lea Village Infants School Community Easter Egg Hunt from 10am.

**Saturday April 5th—19:00 to 21:00**

### **Family Quiz Night**

Come to St Mark's and join us in our Family Quiz. Form teams of up to six people or join one when you get here. £6 per person. Bring and share meal.

**Monday April 7th, 14th, 28th - Clothing Giveaway 09:00-11:00**

Our weekly clothing giveaway at St Mark's is open every Monday apart from Bank Holidays. There are free clothes for anyone who would like to come and take some and it is a

good way of recycling clothes and helping reduce waste. There is also a café serving tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. Please come and see what is going on and choose some clothes. If you want to donate clothes they will be most welcome.

**Tuesday April 8th—10:00 to 11:30**

### **Connections**

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

**Wednesday, April 9th — 15:00 to 16:00**

### **Contemplative Prayer**

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

**Thursday, April 10th—12:00 to 14:00**

### **St John's Thursday Café**

Instead of coffee drop-in, we are going to have a lunch of soup, bread and some cake. This will be from 12noon until 2.00pm. We need to know who is coming and numbers will be limited. Please can you let Pamela know as soon as possible if you are coming. Donations to be made to the St John's Tower Fund.

## Our regular church services are:

Every Sunday: 9.30am St John's;

10am St George's; *and*

Online: [www.badshotleaandhale.org](http://www.badshotleaandhale.org)

11am St Mark's.

Wednesday: 12pm St Mark's, Midweek Eucharist.

**Friday, April 11th—19:00 to 21:00**

**Friday Night Games Night**

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's. There is a meal, table tennis, games and lots of chat!

**Sunday April 13th—Palm Sunday**

Join us in any of the three churches to celebrate the start of Holy Week.

**Monday April 14th—19:30**

**Holy Week Meditation**

Join us at St John's for the first of our Holy Week meditations.

**Tuesday April 15th—10:00 to 11:30**

**FREE Craft Café**

FREE Craft Café run by Farnham Maltings at St George's. Come along and learn a new craft or bring your own. It's every fortnight and absolutely free.

**Tuesday April 15th—19:30—**

**Holy Week Meditation**

Join us at St John's for our second Holy Week meditation.

**Wednesday, April 16th—15:00 to 16:00**

**Contemplative Prayer**

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

**Wednesday April 16th—19:30—**

**Holy Week Meditation**

Join us at St John's for our third Holy Week meditation.

**Thursday, April 17th—10.30am-12pm.**

**Coffee and Art at St Mark's**

Join us for art and coffee (and cake) at St Mark's on the first and third Thursday of every month. No artistic skills needed!

**Thursday April 17th—19:30—**

**Holy Week Communion**

Join us at St John's for a Maundy Thursday Holy Communion with foot-washing, stripping the altar and vigil.

**Friday April 18th—Good Friday**

09:30 Good Friday Liturgy at St John's  
10:00 Children's crafts at St Mark's  
11:00 Good Friday informal service at St Mark's followed by hot cross buns.  
14:00 Good Friday Devotions at St George's.

**Sunday April 20th—Easter Sunday**

09:30 Communion at St John's  
10:00 Communion at St George's  
11:00 Communion at St Mark's.

**Tuesday April 22nd —10:00 to 11:30**

**Connections**

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

**Wednesday, April 23rd—15:00 to 16:00**

**Contemplative Prayer**

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

**Thursday, April 24th —10:00 to 12:00**

**St John's Thursday Café**

Drop-in coffee morning takes place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Sumner Room at 10am. There is tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and a chance to meet and chat with other people.

**Friday, April 25th—19:00 to 21:00**

**Friday Night Games Night**

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's. There is a meal, table tennis, games and lots of chat!

## Cranky, beautiful forgiveness

Lent is a time when we are encouraged to look at those actions, thoughts and words which can come between us and other people and between us and God. I don't think there is anything that can actually come between us and God – and if you don't believe me, check what St Paul said in Romans 38-39<sup>1</sup> – but we may think that there is.

Sometimes, when pondering our shortcomings, our sins, we may feel defeated and unable to move on. We are full of recriminations and regrets. “I’ll never be able to stop...”, “I’ll never forgive myself for...”, “I’m useless at...”.

Sound familiar? I doubt I’m the only one. In fact, I know I’m not. As Morning Prayer in the *Book of Common Prayer* puts it: “We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.” The prayer goes on to describe us as ‘miserable offenders’.

It is, of course, entirely appropriate to try to turn away from sin. In the service of ashing on Ash Wednesday, we receive a cross on our foreheads while the minister says: “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return; turn away from sin and be faithful to



Christ”. But focusing entirely on what we have done, or are about to do, wrong leaves out a vital part of the story. Grace.

I read an extract from a book by Nadia Bolz-Weber the other day. It was quoted in one of the Richard Rohr daily reflections ([cac.org/daily-meditations/](http://cac.org/daily-meditations/)) and it shifted my perspective. Nadia, a writer, Lutheran minister and theologian, told the story of being on a silent retreat and finding her mind full of regrets and self-recriminations. They “(floated) in and (stayed) like toy boats in a tide pool”.

Then the words came to her: “*What if you have already been forgiven for all of that?*” She didn’t know whether they were from God or her own consciousness but it didn’t really matter what the source was because it switched her way of thinking. She started thinking

about God's grace and mercy which is total and which "throws the whole reward and punishment system out the window". We may feel unworthy, but so what? We are forgiven anyway. Those things we keep beating ourselves up about are forgiven. Of course, our past actions may still be affecting the present but God can work in that too.

God forgives, God is utterly compassionate. God can make something good out of the worst situations. That is one of the messages of Easter.

God overcomes sin, God overcomes death. You are forgiven.

I wish you a blessed Easter.

***Stella Wiseman, Curate***

<sup>1</sup> "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

<sup>2</sup> *Cranky, Beautiful Faith* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Canterbury Press.

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## Easter Lilies

We like to decorate the churches at St Mark's and St. John's with lilies for Easter and there has been a tradition that people subscribe to a lily in memory of a loved friend or family member. If you would like to order a lily at £4 each please sign the form at the back of church or contact Anne Boyman or Pamela Marsham

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## New Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll has to be completely renewed every six years and ours is due for renewal in 2025. **EVERYONE** who wishes to be on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale must complete a new enrolment form.

Forms will be emailed to all those on the current roll for whom we have email addresses. Paper copies will be available in each church for those who are not on email.

Forms are to be returned to Gemma Brown, the Electoral Roll Officer, or to a churchwarden or deputy who will pass them on. Please ensure you complete all sections, especially ticking the boxes giving your permission for us to use your email address. If you live outside the parish, please ensure you read the qualifying rules carefully. In 2B and 2C it states you must have **habitually** attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to enrolment.

## Lent in the Parish

### Lent Courses—you can still join in

This Lent we are following *Living Hope*, the Church of England's Lent course, which helps us face some of the struggles of life and offers us hope. The course offers daily reflections for individual use, but also reflections which can be used in weekly small groups. If you would like to join a small group in the parish, either in person or online, it is not too late. Let your churchwarden or a member of the ministry team know. If you would like a book of reflections for personal use, they are available for £2.20 each. There are also booklets for children and families available for £1.99 each. Again, let your churchwarden or a member of the ministry team know if you would like to have one. You can also sign up to receive emails from the course.

Visit [www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-resources-lent-2025](http://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-resources-lent-2025) to find out more.

### Wednesday Eucharist during Lent

The Wednesday Eucharist (12 noon at St Mark's) has a particular focus this year. The addresses at the service are focusing on the Nicene Creed, as the world-wide Church celebrates 17 centuries of this proclamation of the Christian faith.

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## From the Parish Registers

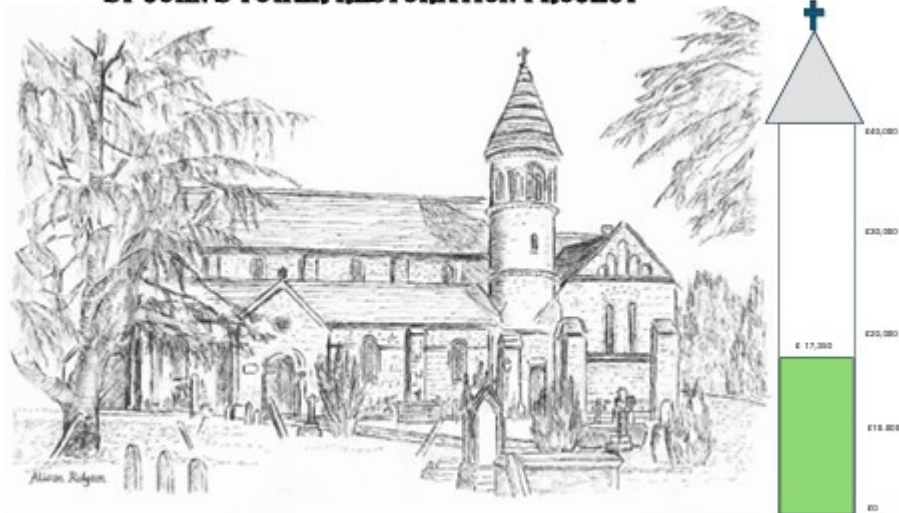
### Funerals

We commend to God those whose funerals have recently taken place:

*18th March at St Mark's Church*  
*Jenny Bull*



## ST JOHN'S TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT



LAST UPDATED:

22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2025

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Abbeyfield Pirbright & District Society



Cunningham House is the operating name of Abbeyfield Pirbright and District Society Limited, a registered society under the Co-Operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014, registration number 22478R

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St George's Church, Badshot Lea

# PLANT SALE



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***Midday Music for Christian Aid at  
St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church  
Frensham Road, Farnham GU9 8HA***

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12 noon followed by a light lunch of soup and bread

Tuesday, 18th March 2025

**Brodie Mauluka - Mayor of Farnham**

A recital of guitar music covering an eclectic mix of modern music ranging from jazz to reggae.

Tuesday, 25th March 2025

**King Edward's School Witley**

The choral and music scholars bring us a selection of songs and instrumental pieces thoughtfully chosen by their Director of Music and the Scholars.

Tuesday, 1st April 2025

**Marjorie Carrington, Mikhail Lezdkan and  
Amy Muller**

This concert will feature three professional musicians on oboe, cello and piano. With a repertoire ranging from Handel and Locatelli to an Alyssa Morris jazzy oboe number, they will entertain you with a varied selection of music.

Tuesday, 8th April 2025

**St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church Choir**

A selection of choral and keyboard music featuring current and former St Thomas-on-The Bourne choristers.

Donations welcomed to support the work of **Christian Aid**

## PARISH SOCIAL CALENDAR

	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> March – 7pm-9pm Top Ten Worship Songs	St George's	
	Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> March – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> April – time TBC Quiz	St Mark's	
	Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> May – 10am-12pm Plant sale	St George's	
	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June – 1pm-3pm Community Fete	St George's	
	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> June – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> July – time TBC Jane Austin Day	St John's	
	Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 6pm-9pm Murder Mystery Bring & Share supper	TBC	
	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 6pm-9pm Harvest Supper	St George's	
	Mon TBC – 5:30-8:30pm Christmas Light Switch on	St George's	

## FARNHAM POETRY COMPETITION—The Results are in

For the fourth year in a row, the parish has had the privilege and pleasure of putting on the Farnham Poetry Competition as part of the Farnham Literary Festival, and the results were announced at an awards ceremony and open mic on Saturday, March 15th, at St Mark's Church.

Poets as young as five and into their 90s took part, showing extraordinary creativity and talent as they tackled the subject of unity, something that is sorely lacking in the 21st-century world, but which is surely an attribute of the one God, source of creativity, unity and love.

Poets Coral Rumble and Linda Daruvala were the judges of the 16s-and-under and over-16s categories respectively and had a tough job deciding on the winners. However, decisions had to be made and the results are below.



### **Over-16s winners**

#### **Highly commended:**

*One good foot* - Richard Lister  
*Shared Disbelief* - Lucie Rhoades  
*Rainbow* - Cosmo Goldsmith  
*ONE* - Chandra McGowan  
*Forty years on* - Liz Kendall  
*Sword Dance, Woodland Stage* - Liz Kendall  
*The twenty first century is not a friend of unity* - Chris Hunter  
*THREE YEARS ON* - Kate Young

#### **Third prize:**

*New Atlantis* - Liam Smith

#### **Second prize:**

*'direction of travel'* - Kate Kennington  
*Steer*

#### **First prize:**

*Of Touch* - Richard Lister

### **16-and-under winners**

#### **12-16s**

#### **Highly commended:**

*Unity Poem* - George Lovelock  
*Together* - Jessica Jones

#### **Third prize:**

*Timeless Duality* - Emily Peters

#### **Second prize:**

*Stars* - Andrea Domingo

#### **First prize:**

*But they still forget* - Evie Goode

#### **8-11s**

#### **Highly commended**

*Unity* - Najia Eshaal Ali  
*Unity* - Eesha Haque  
*When* - Peggy Wingham

#### **Third prize:**

*Me and You* - Imogen Clark



### **Second prize:**

*What It Means to be Together* - Alice Colombini de Mello and Penny Lockyer

### **First prize:**

*Family Brings Us Together* - Max Heath

### **Under-7s**

#### **Joint first prize:**

*Family* - Dolcie Della Jennings

*Unity "Means Humanity First"* - Naqasha Nawal Ali

### **Over-16s winners**

#### **First Prize: *Of touch* by Richard Lister**

Northern Kenya

Old Thomas treads  
carefully, senses the land  
with his toes. His eyes  
are set with white.

He's swathed in the crimson cloak  
of the Samburu tribe. Once a warrior,  
now he holds my hand. I feel  
the warmth of a culture  
unafraid of touch. We pray

and our worlds are briefly one, the words  
of brothers whispered to our King. We talk  
of last year's drought that turned  
his goats from flesh and milk  
to bone and dust.

*Such droughts were once in an elder's life,  
then every twenty years, then ten and five.*

*Have we caused this? Is God punishing us  
for fighting with the Rendille?*

*We cut down the mwangati cedars  
for charcoal, to cook. They can  
no longer trap the clouds.*



*Linda Daruvala announces the winners*

Old Thomas will never see the buzzing  
neon of Beijing  
or muffle himself against the aircon-ice of  
Miami's massive airport.  
He will never travel in a plane, sleek with  
light.  
What kind of brother am I if I am part of  
this?

Old Thomas waves me into his hut: a  
dome  
of arched sticks and stretched food bags  
with English words in UN blue.

My eyes stream from the smoke in the  
dark.

We drink sharp tea till I need to leave.  
He spits a blessing on my hand.

**Second prize: 'direction of travel' by  
Kate Kennington Steer**

foxed and dog-eared, the map got torn  
quite some time ago, wind ripped from cold  
hands,  
blown outside in, centre fraying from fold  
after refold, text blurring deep down  
under mud smears and tea stains, outdated  
details litter its surface, green turned grey,  
count the loss of public houses, count them,  
count too those country churches now des-res  
fixtures,

count them

for what has gone is much more than a mark,  
something infinitely more precious than  
the ubiquitous PH, or a cross

for what we need to notice and to grieve  
are the places where we sang together,  
where we sat silent together, where we  
roared

on our teams, snatched a lunchtime mindful  
moment in passing, sneaked in for an after-  
work

pint, there where we enacted our rituals  
and all done as more than one

a collective breathing in and out,  
a commingling of air,  
our times set apart, time out of time now,  
and we still don't understand what we've lost,  
as well as place.

the simple exchange where  
neighbours' hands  
met to share peace, where 'we  
believe' was true,  
where a nod to a regular meant  
home  
as much as welcome, marked  
time  
do we really expect  
our coffee shops to provide a re-  
placement  
for such devotion, such mutual ser-  
vice?  
where else do we now meet, week  
in  
and week out, and greet those like  
and unlike  
us? how far will we travel to find  
out?

I have a map we might use,  
let me share it...



*Coral Rumble*



### Third Prize: *New Atlantis* by Liam Smith

It starts with the chokings  
With snappers snared in six-pack rings  
As broken tanks bleed rainbow spills  
That turn the seas to darkness. The sharp taste  
Of hydrocarbons, clogging gills and lungs  
As another miracle creature gasps  
In the grasp of a polythene noose. This is truth:

A whale calf, poisoned by the milk of its mother's  
Pollution-tainted breast, lifeless body still clutched  
to that  
Wretched parent's chest. Forests of corals, bleached  
Of colour, turning reefs to crypts. Think:

If once the merfolk built their kingdoms  
Beneath these once-clear waters  
Nothing of that tragic Atlantis remains.  
Each silenced siren buried in a plastic casket  
Beneath corrupted waves. And in its place:

A citadel of waste. An island that lurks  
Beneath the Pacific surf, a thousand miles  
In girth, a curdled horror of nurdles and polymers,  
Cast-off casualties of planned obsolescence  
That oozes chemical venom into the very water  
That supports it. Our sad Atlantis:

Scrap capital of the world ocean. Are we  
Not water? Blood and salt, veins and  
Waterways, current and pulse. One world,  
One body. More than any one could muster  
The strength to alter. And yet – one community,  
One cause. A call to form a blue world order and to build

A New Atlantis.

*Written in response to artist Julia Ann Field's painting Choke.*



*Max Heath with sister Esme and  
Coral Rumble.*

*Picture: Farnham Herald*

**Seven and under—Joint first prize:**

***Family* by Dolcie Della Jennings**

I have a mum her name is Jenna  
I have a dad his name is Leigh  
I have a brother his name is Kingsleigh  
And then there is me.  
That's my family.

***Unity "Means Humanity First"* by Naqasha Nawal Ali**

Unity means we all stand tall,  
Together we rise, one and all.  
No matter where we're from or who,  
Kindness and love will always come  
through.

Helping each other, hand in hand,  
Together we make a stronger land.  
When we share and care each day,  
Unity leads the peaceful way.  
So let's remember, it's easy to see,  
Unity means humanity, you and me!

**8-11s—First prize: *Family Brings Us Together* by Max Heath**

Your family loves you, always and forever  
Your family is the thing that brings you all together  
We love a family reunion, we have one once a year  
We like to play in our cousins' treehouse, while our daddies drink their beer  
My mum reads cool books with me, I always laugh or cheer  
My mum makes me feel unique, I always want her near  
I dream of being a writer, my dad's my biggest fan  
I know he really believes in me, he always says I can  
My sister says she has my back, we even talk in code  
She always reaches for my hand, when we cross the road  
My Grandma tells me stories – about our family past  
I find them ever so interesting, they should be on a podcast  
My Grandpa plays fun games with me, he always lets me win  
He sits there with a happy smile, drinking a glass of gin  
My family loves me, always and forever  
My family is the thing that brings us all together.

**8-11s—Second prize:**

***What it means to be together***

**by Alice Colombini de Mello and Penny Lockyer**

Hand in hand we get through the day  
together we are better, we're here to  
say  
Together we get lost but we are togeth-  
er  
so we will find our way.  
We share the moments,  
the smiles go on for miles and miles  
The tears drop down, together we help  
each other  
Together we conquer our fears,  
and become better peers.

**8-11s—Third prize:**

***Me and You***

**by Imogen Clark**

Me and you  
Are like daisies and buttercups  
We are friends,  
Just different clumps,  
I am like me  
You are like you  
But that's OK  
Cause you'll stay true!  
Me and you,  
are like pencils and pens,  
We do different things,  
But we're still friends.  
I am like me  
You are like you  
But that's OK  
Cause  
    you'll,  
        stay,  
            true!

**12s-16s—Second prize: *Stars* by Andrea Domingo**

An upbringing of stars, like ochre pearls,  
Above you is familiar. The motionless, gangling night Follows you, like an inky  
shadow.  
The same sky entices you to sleep,  
Even in an unfamiliar town,  
Even throughout an unknown city you'll never see,  
Outstretching across the Earth.

## 12s-16s— First prize:

### ***But they still forget by Evie Goode***

Her fingers traced the grooves in the stone,  
Smoothing through every dip of every sorrow, of every tear, of every word  
ever said.

Creased words spelled the name, carved by nothing more than a pick and  
stone:

ALBERT BAKER

Breath caught in her throat, he was but a boy; 20 years and remembered by  
whom?

The ebb-and-flow of the wind caught in hair which flew through pale wind,  
Leaves danced like tiny ballerinas, graceful, painful, regretful.

The darkened truth of joy shone vibrantly through a sun which was, in turn,  
shielded by a haze of remorse.

Solitary droplets spun and spindled,  
Maybe he felt this too.

On another occasion, a youngster approached this block, this wall of sor-  
rows,

Grasping to the names which were never remembered – Reaching for those  
who never were reached:

ROBERT EDWARD BELL

Eyes glinting towards the figures which influenced this young mind, he was  
but young as well: 20 years and remembered by who?

The deep thoughts here reflects but the depth, the tragedy of the sea in  
which he fell,

Life slipping like the grubby fingers which slip down newly cleaned stone.

Brushed away into the wind, another soul forgotten with the many,

H.M.S “Queen Mary”

They would walk past his name every day; whether this was to work, school,  
pleasure

Who was he?

The boy was taken ill- died quite soon:

JACK DURRELL GREEN

Resting, under sun and moon. He cries for his mother, his father, his future.

A future which waits, waits, waits and waits

A future in which he will chase with broken limbs,

That's what war does: 18, not a man but a boy – not free. Just the governments play toy.

"Thy will be done"

So you see, as her finger traces, through every nook, every cranny, every crack and crumble,

As it dances, through butter soft wind, as they walk,

Through the nights welcoming sins:

You see them there, shell shocked, skinned, scared and rearranged, mutilated and poor, stripped of rights which didn't quite feel there before.

Watch their ghost eyes. Faces. Tears.

3 of a kind, 3 dead in millions, not forgotten in words. A war to end, but still cause more.

### **12s-16s—Third prize: *Timeless Duality* by Emily Peters**

Tell me dreams of starlight Of hell and raging fire

Tell me your love, your hopes, your wants Come show me your desire

Run deep beneath the boughs with me Trip and fall on rocks

We'll look at clouds and sing to them About tears, your blood, your shock Let the sea become our medic

As the crimson stops its run Push and drown us in its body As its always done

Then surface, as we breath The sweetness of the air Wind will shove us upwards It'll ruin and pull at our hair

But we're hand in hand in the forest

And we're breathless and smiling just because We both love these sides of nature

We both love that it's just like us.

# Family



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## Prayer Page

Risen Lord Jesus,  
I know I do not have  
the patience of a saint  
and I may not meet any dragons today:  
but with your love to guide me,  
help me to show kindness  
in all I do today  
Amen





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## The Badshot Leader

### The Community Garden

Members of the Community Garden, who meet on Sundays and Wednesdays, are pictured below planning their new season's work. Already, new seedlings are coming along in the greenhouse, and plug plants, such as geraniums and petunias are on order. The aim is to have plants for sale at forthcoming village fetes. A good start has been made on the two large communal vegetable patches, from which all members can obtain produce by donation.



In addition, there are six raised beds which are let to individual families, which is an ideal way to introduce children to the pleasures of gardening, and learning about healthy diets.

With the help of a recent grant of £2,500, it is planned to construct a hard path suitable for wheelchairs, and possibly construct a higher raised

bed for the use of disabled members.

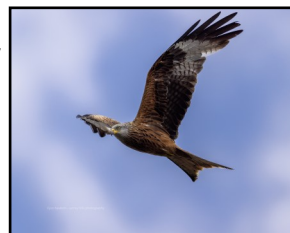
As in previous years the gardeners are taking part in the Easter Egg Hunt around the village organised by Badshot Lea Infant School on 5<sup>th</sup> April, which will end at the garden. There will also be the final opportunity enter the "Grow the Tallest Sunflower Competition", which is part of Farnham in Bloom.

New members are always welcome to join our friendly group of garden lovers.

**Brian Drew**

### Red Kites

The reintroduction of red kites to England and Scotland has been one of the most significant conservation success stories of recent years. Historically widespread across the UK, due to persecution by man, in the early 1930s there were thought to be only two remaining breeding pairs, both in Wales. Careful protection of these birds, along with reintroductions in the Chilterns starting in 1989, have led to an estimated 4,500 pairs breeding in the UK in recent years.



The first red kite was recorded at Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve in March 2009 by John Hunt, with the second following in June of 2009. 2010 saw four records, 2011 nine, 2012 eleven, 2013 twenty-one, and 2014 twenty. From 2015 onwards, red kites have become a common sight at the nature reserve, now recorded on a daily basis.

This photo of a red kite over Tices Meadow was taken by Jon Hawkins.

**Mark Elsoffer**

## Badshot Lea Working Men's Club

The club is one of the oldest institutions in the village, and was established as a Conservative Club, before the Great War. Over the August Bank Holiday before war was declared, the members were repainting the single-storey corrugated iron building. The president at the time was Col Allatt, a Farnham councillor, who lived in Runfold. By 1918, the club was the main secular organisation in Badshot Lea, and the *Farnham Herald* reported that the membership held their New Year entertainment as usual. It was one of the few occasions when "they had



the privilege of bringing their lady friends; the Secretary, Mr W. Davis, expressed seasonal greetings". There were songs by Mrs Windibank, Miss Walker and Miss Fostekew. Sgt Casterton and Corporals Bennett and Simkiss ASC also sang, as did Special Constable Gibbs.

In May 1919 the members held a smoking concert, when "Mr Davis voiced the welcome to those who had safely returned, and hoped they might be spared many years to enjoy the comforts of the club". Thirty-six members of the club had served in the forces and all had returned except for six who had volunteered for further service.

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 1922, The club affiliated to the C.I.U. (Chartered Institute Union), which is probably when it first became licensed. The building, which was used for children's and Darby and Joan events was altered several times, and an upper story was added in 1982. Today the club is thriving, with a friendly atmosphere, a two-table snooker room and a large comfortable lounge with a well-stocked bar. There is live music on some evenings. New members are welcome. The annual subscription is £15.



*Two current members*

## Farnham in Bloom



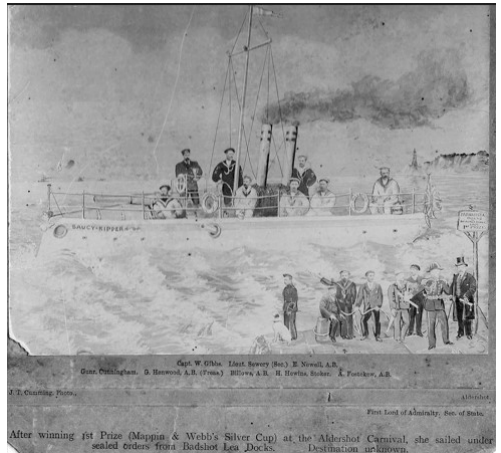
Farnham Town Council is keen for Farnham to maintain its leading place in this year's Green Flag Award and the South and South East in Bloom competitions. Badshot Lea Pond and its surrounds, as well as the cemetery are among those visited by the judges. Therefore, a volunteer working party took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March to spruce up the cemetery. A new bed of shade-tolerant plants was created, and a group of hazel trees were planted. The work included a litter-pick and,

although there was little rubbish found inside the cemetery and among the graves, two full bags were collected in the first 100 yards of Green Lane!

## The story of Badshot Lea Docks and the Saucy Kipper.

From its beginning, the Victorian village of Badshot Lea suffered from flooding, and a particular problem was a pond, situated where the garage now stands. It appeared on the tithe map of 1837 and periodically flooded the road. The villagers named it "Badshot Lea Docks" and they referred to themselves as "Dockers" and the football team as "The Dockers." On Mafeking Night, during the Boer War, a cardboard lighthouse was erected at the Docks. (See *Between Four Bridges* on The Community Associations website for more details.)

The story gathered momentum in 1904, when a carnival float from the village won the silver cup in the Aldershot Carnival. The entry consisted of a gunboat on a waggon pulled by horses owned by Humphry Gardener, John Henry Knight's tenant at Badshot Farm.



In commemoration, a painting of the Saucy Kipper was made by Arthur Cunningham.

After being a prized piece of local history for many years, it was badly damaged, before being rescued by Flo Lane. It then spent some years in my loft, until Mike Probert had it professionally restored. It now hangs in the Committee Room in the Village Hall

**Maurice Hewins**

## New Estates and their playgrounds

Further to the interesting article written by Judy Hewins in the March issue of the parish magazine under the above heading, I can perhaps shed some light on the name of Skylark Place in Badshot Lea.

To begin, just a brief outline of who I am and why I felt interested enough to respond to the above article. I have lived in Badshot Lea for 83 years. My grandfather, Frank Backhurst, took up residence in Badshot Lea in 1902 after moving from Thames Ditton. My late mother, Eva who was one of six children, was born in 1922 and resided all her life in Badshot Lea. Many older residents will be familiar with the Backhurst family.

Badshot Lea was, of course, much smaller then, with houses mainly situated along Badshot Lea Road, St George's Road and Lower Weybourne Lane, all surrounded by fields.

As a child, my friends and I would play in these fields (not perhaps always to the delight of the owners). Most of the surroundings in Badshot Lea consisted of hop fields (alongside Skylark Place), pasture and cultivated land, with the exception of the field which today is no longer a field but forms part of the housing development known as Skylark Place. This particular field was a meadow of grass which was cut once a year for its hay. We would love the long, sweet grass and would lie in wait quietly, watching the skylarks hovering overhead and then seeing them suddenly swoop down in a dive to their nests on the ground. We would then run seeking out the nests once we had a good idea of where they might be. I might add, it was not illegal during this period of time in the 1940s to take eggs from nesting birds, otherwise I would probably have had a criminal record by now!

Many years later, when reminiscing with my mother and family, I mentioned the times I would lie in the grassy meadow waiting for the skylarks to appear and, to my amazement, they said that they had all done the same thing when they were children growing up in Badshot Lea, which would have been in the 1920s.

In my opinion, therefore, Skylark Place is aptly named. I have no idea, however, how the developers came up with this name as I believe the skylarks had forsaken this site many years before the surveyors and the diggers went about their work. Perhaps one of my old friends, who lay in wait with me all those years ago, became a rich property developer!

**Tony Morel**





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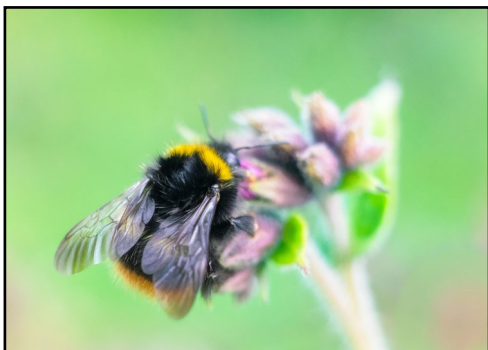
### **Rewilding – where do you draw the line?**

I last wrote about rewilding a couple of years ago, and I have been trying to garden with a light touch and letting nature take the lead. The problem is, nature is untidy, and sometimes, not beautiful. I recently visited Knepp Rewilding Project in West Sussex and, wonderful as it was to see the white storks, long horn cattle and fallow deer, I didn't think it was beautiful. OK, it was February, pouring with rain and slick with mud, but the landscape, though wooded, was flat and scrubby in parts. I had to remind myself that it *was* a project and had proved itself in so many ways, with endangered wildlife such as turtle doves, nightingales and purple emperor butterflies returning to the rewilded landscape. Beautiful, scenic landscapes are not the point of the exercise.

In my own back garden, I am allowing wild flowers to seed themselves everywhere, tolerating weeds I would previously have dug up, which I know are good for pollinators (e.g. dandelions) and even leaving the moss which has formed a lovely carpet on our patio! I can't persuade my husband to let the grass grow long, and I must say a green lawn without a weed in sight sets off a garden beautifully, bad though it is for biodiversity. So where do you draw the line? Can our gardens be both nature-friendly *and* beautiful?

Beauty, of course, is in the eye of the beholder, but I bet for many gardeners it is hard to let go of the control of nature that gardening entails, which for many years has been green lawns, perfect flowers and shrubs, all kept in check with a healthy dose of pesticides. We have made progress as people become more aware of the need to maintain habitats for nature in our gardens, but we

don't like our gardens to look uncared for and untidy. People seem to be reaching a compromise though, allowing a part of their garden to grow wild, and mowing paths through long grass, to show that they are not just 'letting the garden go'. Perhaps we will come to see untidiness as beautiful, knowing all the wonderful creatures it harbours?



### **Bee of the month – Early bumblebee**

The Early bumblebee (*Bombus pratorum*) is one of our prettiest and smallest bumblebees. As the name implies, they emerge early, the queens appearing from hibernation from March onwards, the workers about six weeks after the nest has been established, the nesting period being in May and June. They all have a bright small, pale orange-red tail, and yellow bands on the body. They have a short tongue, and feed on a range of flowers, including

blackberries, raspberries and borage - another reason to let some of those brambles grow!

### **Pollinator plant of the month – Blossom!**

Blossom on all kinds of trees really gets going in April and how the bees love it! The blossom seems to be a bit late this year – the blackthorn, which is usually one of the first to blossom, is only just coming out as I write, a valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees, and its leaves the food plant for the caterpillars of many moths and butterflies. Ornamental and fruiting apple and cherry trees will be blossoming in our parks and gardens – look out for the red mason bee, a gingery solitary bee which is a very efficient pollinator in orchards.

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# Poetry lessons

Spring has sprung. This means not only that there are plenty of little creatures snuffling and scuffling about in the undergrowth, but that it's nice enough weather for me to go out and find them. For observation purposes you understand, nothing more ~~delicious~~, sinister.

So on fine day in March, I pumped up the tyres on my trusty bicycle and set off for the countryside. I ended up at Newlands Corner, just outside Guildford, where the views are magnificent and there is plenty of undergrowth. Being a sociable sort of cat (*shurely shome mishtake, Ed*), I joined a group of fellow explorers at the Discovery Centre where, before we set off into the woodlands, we took part in a workshop.

Now, as a cat, and a grandmother one at that and therefore generally not expected, nor willing, to work, I rarely partake in such adventures, but this was interesting. We learned about different animals – owls, badgers, hedgehogs, blackbirds and the like – and then were asked to walk into the woods to write poetry about the animals.

I am used to being written about, not writing, but here's the thing. We were asked to write from the point of view of another animal. I considered this carefully. Could I see the world through the eyes of a dog? Urgh. I almost brought up a fur ball at the thought. What about a bird? My stomach rumbled.

Then, just like that, I was inspired. I would try to see the world through the

eyes of the animal which is both the bane and beauty of my life – humans.

So I padded off into the woods to climb a tree, to think and watch and write. What does the world look like to humans? Maybe I could understand them better. Or maybe not, given my conclusion, presented here in the form of a couple of haikus:

*World-greedy, humans,  
Hungry for dominion  
Destroy their bounty.*

and

*Yawning, the curate  
Wonders why we call for food.  
Cares only for tea.*

Purrs

**The Church Cat**







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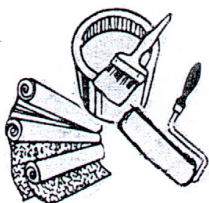
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