



Window on Walton

November -
December 2023



▪ Parish News ▪ Community ▪ Local Events ▪ Clubs & Groups

<https://www.stpeterswoth.org>

 stpeterschurchwoth  st-peters-church-walton-on-the-hill



A decorative header featuring a close-up of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, with a soft, out-of-focus background.

Key Dates for the Diary

Note: This is not a full list of all services and activities.

November

<i>5th</i>	<i>Faure Requiem, 6pm, St Mary's</i>
<i>11th</i>	<i>Village Kitchen</i>
<i>12th</i>	<i>Remembrance Service (all churches in the Benefice)</i>
<i>17th</i>	<i>Wine Tasting, 7:30pm, Riddell Hall</i>
<i>23rd - 25th</i>	<i>Molly's Calling Play, 8pm, Riddell Hall</i>
<i>26th</i>	<i>Advent Sunday</i>
<i>28th</i>	<i>Open Group AGM</i>
<i>29th</i>	<i>Light up Tadworth, 3pm, Tadworth High Street</i>






Key Dates for the Diary

Note: This is not a full list of all services and activities.

December

2nd	Walton Primary Christmas Fayre, 2pm-5pm
3rd	All Age Christingle, 11am, St Peter's Christmas Craft, 6pm, St Mary's
8th	Light up Walton, 5pm Mereside, from 5:15pm at St Peter's Christmas Jazz Concert, "The Infant", 7:30pm, St Mary's
7th-9th	Winter Illuminations, 5pm-8pm, The Children's Trust
9th	Village Kitchen
10th	Nine Lessons & Carols, 6:30pm, St Peter's
14th	Open Group, Christmas Fun
17th	Family Nativity Service, 11am, St Peter's
17th	Nine Lessons & Carols, 6:00pm, St Mary's
24th	<u>Christmas Eve:</u> 10am - Christmas Eve Communion, St Andrew's 3pm - Crib Service, St Peter's 4pm - Crib Service, Carols & Mince Pies, St Mary's 5pm - Family Carols, St Peter's 9:30pm - Midnight in Bethlehem, St Mary's 11:30pm - Midnight Communion, St Peter's
25th	<u>Christmas Day:</u> 8am - BCP Communion, St Peter's 10am - Christmas Communion, St Peter's





St Peter's Team



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Rev'd Harry Latham
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ON SABBATICAL UNTIL
1st DECEMBER



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Editor's Note

Olivia Rowntree



When I mentioned to one fellow member of the parish that I would be taking on the role of editor of the Window on Walton (WoW), this was met with the playful response "...and what qualifies you for this role?". What indeed? I asked myself the same question more than once as I compiled this edition, grappling with unfamiliar editing software! I like a challenge though and enjoy writing and the chance to be a bit creative, which I don't often get in my 9-5.

Most importantly, I was excited to take on this role because I love the parish and being part of such a wonderful community. The opportunity to be more closely involved with St Peter's and to get to know more about WoW's regular columnists and the valuable contribution they make to the village, its residents and the surrounding area is a real privilege. Speaking of valuable contributions, a huge thanks must go to Laura who has done an amazing job as editor of WoW over the last two and a half years. I will do my best to meet the high standard you have set! Laura is still very much part of WoW and continues to feature as our "Local Chef". In this edition, she shares her festive mulled wine mince pie mix recipe with us - yum!

I'm often sad to see Summer fade away and the cold days and dark nights draw in, but there is always plenty to look forward to as Autumn arrives and Winter rolls over the horizon. For families and children in particular it's a fun time of year, with bonfires and fireworks and the eager anticipation of Christmas. You will find plenty of news here of festive events taking place in and around Walton on the Hill, from carolling and switching on the village lights to very special Christmas services for all ages at St Peter's and the wider Benefice. Personally, I love the build up to Christmas, almost as much as Christmas Day itself. But Christmas truly begins on Christmas Eve for me, with the Crib Service (which I love at St Peter's), bringing everyone together, young and old and remembering what it's all about.

We have all the usual, lovely contributors in this edition of WoW (thank you to you all) and a few new ones too: Cllr Rebecca Paul shares news of her selection as parliamentary candidate for Reigate and updates us on her key priorities; we have a second local chef for you to meet, Jaya Malani; and Sam Fountain brings us up to speed with what's currently on offer from local community interest group, The Rascal Club. Happy reading and a very joyous and peaceful festive season to you all!

If you enjoy reading Window on Walton, please support this community project by subscribing for £10 pa, guaranteeing yourself an issue every two months, hand delivered to your door!

Colour Ad Size	Price / Annum	You can also get in touch if you have news from the local community that you would like to share, or if you run a local business that you would like to promote. Please email admin@stpeterswoth.org for more info. The deadline for the January/ February edition is 15th December.
• Full Page	• £180	
• Half Page	• £100	
• Quarter Page	• £80	

All views expressed are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of St Peter's.

Prayer & Pastries

St Andrew's Box Hill

A short 20 min reflective space for prayer and quiet followed by tasty pastries, coffee and chat!

Fridays 9.15am

3 Nov -15 Dec



First Friday Coffee Mornings

in The Octagon at
St Mary's Headley



A chance to meet, chat and connect over coffee & cake.

Fridays 10.30am - 12pm

3 Nov & 1 Dec



Little Cherubs

for under 5s and their carers

**St Peter's Walton
on the Hill**



**Tuesdays
10.30 - 12pm**

31 Oct - 12 Dec

More info from karenrand@gmail.com

Healing Communion

at St Mary's Headley

A short communion service with the opportunity to receive prayer for healing and anointing with oil. All are welcome.

Wednesday 10-11am

15 Nov





Letter from our Benefice Curate



Leah Bates

I wonder if you have seen the movie 'Pay it forward'? Released in the year 2000, it's about a young boy who is given a school assignment to think of an idea that will change the world. His idea was that, if someone does you a good deed, rather than paying it back, you pay it forward to three new people. His efforts bring on something of a revolution, affecting the lives of his mother, his teacher, and an ever-widening circle of people he has never met before. (Spoiler alert, if you decide to watch it, there is quite a sad ending, but not before he has had an enormous impact on a huge number of people).

As Christians we are motivated to give; to bring some of what God has blessed us with to bless others. We look for ways to pay God's blessings and love forward; to make the world a better place, and bring his light in the dark places.

Last month we celebrated Harvest in our churches and gathered food donations for local charities, The Meeting Room and LeatherHEAD START. The students at Walton Primary School also gathered a generous amount of food to donate to the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank.

It is so good to find ways to share from our abundance with those who don't have as much as we do.

Soon it will be Christmas, when we celebrate the ultimate gift, Jesus Christ, who was born into the mess and struggle of our world to show us that God is not distant and uncaring but loving and present with us. It is an extraordinary gift of hope. This year, as we receive and give thanks for that gift, let's also look for ways to 'pay it forward', bringing hope to others this Christmas.





November & December

Join us as we explore different creative ways to connect with God & each other

Explore + Connect is an all-age community group exploring different creative ways to connect with God and each other. A warm welcome, relaxed atmosphere and generous hospitality is part of our ethos. All are welcome to join us. For more info contact leah@hilltopbenefice.org



Sunday 5th November
Explore + Connect 'All Together'

6pm in St Mary's Headley

Faure Requiem

Sung by The Community Choir

The singing will last about 45 minutes, then drinks will be served

Following the session, **Explore + Connect Youth** will meet for their social at The Rectory in Headley for pizza & games. (For young people aged 12+).



Sunday 19th November

Explore + Connect Groups

6-7.15pm



Adults meet in The Octagon

Tea/coffee & cake served while we watch an episode of The Chosen. Then an opportunity to chat together about our thoughts and questions.

Youth meet in The Rectory

Theme: Death & dying: is there any hope?

Crisps/grapes & a drink while we chat. For young people age 12+



Sunday 3rd December

Explore + Connect 'All Together'

6pm in St Mary's Headley

Christmas Craft

Following the session, **Explore + Connect Youth** will meet for their social at The Rectory in Headley for pizza & games. (For young people aged 12+).

For more info contact: leah@hilltopbenefice.org

Sunday Service Format at St Peter's Church

We welcome you all!

8:00am 1662 Prayer Book Communion (45mins)

This is a quiet, traditional and spoken service of Communion with a short talk - a wonderful way to start the day.

11:00am Main Morning Service (60mins)

This service is our main service of the day.
Tea and coffee served from 10:30am weeks 1-4 of the month



1st Sunday - ALL-AGE Service (with craft activity)



2nd Sunday - FAMILY COMMUNION Service (less traditional)



3rd Sunday - FAMILY Service (quite lively)



4th Sunday - PARISH COMMUNION Service (more traditional)



5th Sunday - UNITED BENEFICE Service (at either St Peter's, St Mary's or St Andrew's)

SUNDAY SERVICES - NOVEMBER

ST MARY'S HEADLEY & ST ANDREW'S BOX HILL

5TH NOVEMBER

- 8.00am BCP Communion - St Mary's
9.30am Contemporary Worship - St Andrew's
10.30am Parish Communion - St Mary's
(also livestreamed on Facebook)
6.00pm Explore + Connect 'All Together'
(Faure 'Requiem sung by The Community Choir)



12TH NOVEMBER (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)

- 8.00am BCP Communion - St Mary's
10.15am Remembrance Service - St Andrew's
10.30am Remembrance Service - St Mary's
(also livestreamed on Facebook)

19TH NOVEMBER

- 8.00am BCP Communion Service - St Peter's Walton on the Hill
9.30am Informal Communion - St Andrew's
10.30am Parish Communion - St Mary's
(also livestreamed on Facebook)
6.00pm Explore + Connect Groups (Adults meet in The Octagon,
Youth meet in The Rectory, Headley)

26TH NOVEMBER (ADVENT SUNDAY)

- 8.00am BCP Communion - St Mary's
10.00am Morning Praise - St Andrew's
9.30am Family Communion - St Mary's
(also livestreamed on Facebook)



30TH NOVEMBER (THURSDAY)

- 7.00pm St Andrew's Day service - St Andrew's

SUNDAY SERVICES - DECEMBER

ST MARY'S HEADLEY AND ST ANDREW'S BOX HILL

3RD DECEMBER

- 8:00am BCP Communion - St Mary's
- 9:30am Contemporary Worship Service - St Andrew's
- 10:30am Parish Communion - St Mary's
- 6:00pm Explore + Connect - Arts & Crafts - The Octagon, Headley

10TH DECEMBER

- 8:00am BCP Communion - St Mary's
- 9:30am Joint Family Communion - St Mary's

17TH DECEMBER

- 8:00am BCP Communion - St Peter's
- 9:30am Informal Family Communion - St Andrew's
- 10:30am Parish Communion - St Mary's
- 6:00pm Nine Lessons & Carols - St Mary's

24TH DECEMBER

- 10:00am Christmas Eve Communion - St Andrew's
- 4:00pm Carols & Mince Pies/ Crib Service - St Mary's
- 9:30pm Midnight in Bethlehem - St Mary's

31ST DECEMBER

- 8:00am BCP Communion - St Mary's
- 11:00am United Benefice Service - St Peter's

**Join us at St Peter's Church
to celebrate**

Christmas

Sun 3 December

11am - All Age Christingle
(includes making a Christingle to take home)

Friday 8 December

5pm - 'Light up Walton'
(5pm at Mere Pond, then 5.15pm at St Peter's
for tree lighting, carols and refreshments)

7.30pm - Christmas Jazz Concert: 'The Infant'
(at ST MARY'S HEADLEY. Tickets £15 from
<https://jazzstmarys.eventbrite.co.uk>)

Sunday 10 December

6.30pm - Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 17 December

11am - Family Nativity Service
(children are invited to come dressed
as a character from the Nativity Story)

Christmas Eve

3pm - Crib Service
(ideal for pre-schoolers)

5pm - Family Carol Service

11.30pm - Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8am - BCP Communion

10am - Christmas Communion

Sunday 31 December

8am - BCP Communion

**11am - New Year's
Benefice Communion**



A prayer for Christmas

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.
Amen.



A prayer for Remembrance

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer for peace and safety amid unrest

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace:
let the design of your great love
lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows:
and give peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings,
and peace in our hearts:
through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.





More Christmas Prayers

A Humble Prayer

God, our Creator, we offer this humble prayer on Christmas Day. We come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

A Blessing for a Hopeful Beginning

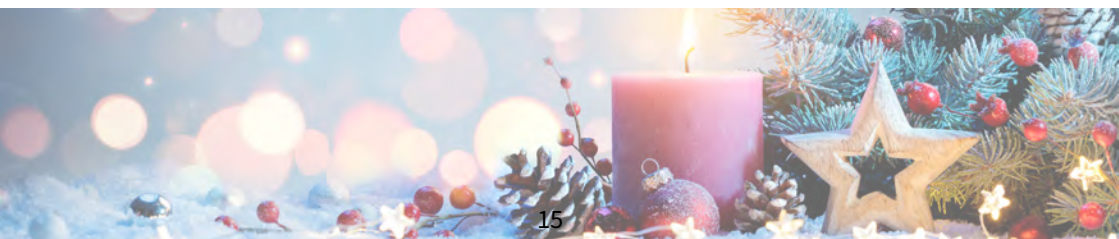
When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart. And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.

A Christmas Blessing for Love

May the blessing of joy abide within you;
May the blessing of peace rest upon you;
May the blessing of love flow out through you;
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at Christmas and in the new year.

A Christmas Blessing for a Friend

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ





Bereavement Service

A special service for everyone who has lost loved ones. You are invited to bring a single stem flower and together we will build a floral tribute in memory of our loved ones.

Sunday 29th October
3pm at St Mary's Headley



Faure Requiem

Sunday 5th
November
6pm at

St Mary's Headley

All are welcome. The singing will last about 45 minutes then drinks will be served. Free entry, with donations for the drinks welcome.



Remembrance Sunday Services

Sunday 12th November



10.15am St Andrew's Box Hill

10.30am St Mary's Headley

10.50am St Peter's Walton on the Hill

More info from leah@hilltopbenefice.org



News from our Churchwarden

by Chris Grayson



As I embark on the role of Churchwarden, I have been reflecting on those that came before me; the buildings they cared for and the challenges they had to overcome.

A succession of Churchwardens has maintained the church buildings through the centuries, perhaps adding the nave in the 15th century, giving the nave and tower a make-over in 1817, adding the north aisle mid-century and rebuilding the tower in 1895. All major challenges in their own way.

So, what will my challenges be in looking after the church buildings? It seems that most of them are going to be related to climate change and the push towards carbon neutrality. Already we are seeing wilder weather conditions impacting on the fabric of the church. The roof tiles are getting damaged by the wind and frost, and the stonework, long a problem, is also suffering from frost and water damage. But these are relatively easy things to fix.

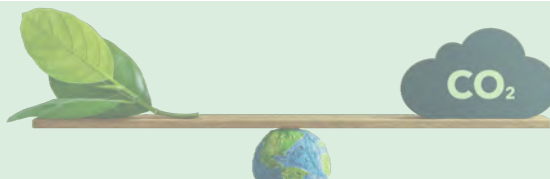
The challenge of how to heat our church in the years ahead and the cost of doing so, is a fairly significant one.

The Church of England has already adopted a policy, in support of “net zero”, that precludes the replacement of old oil and gas boilers with the same, even if they are more efficient. This means that we will have to switch to an electric source of heating when our existing, now quite old, gas boiler dies.

Notwithstanding the cost of installing an electric system, even with a highly efficient heat pump, the like-for-like running costs will be several times that of the existing gas system. This is a cost increase that will be difficult for the church to absorb, just as it may well be for all of us in our own homes.

With that in mind there's plenty of advice online about how to keep our own homes warmer. Here are a few useful resources:

- [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). “Keeping warm and well: staying safe in cold weather”
- [idealhome.co.uk](https://www.idealhome.co.uk) “How to keep your house warm in winter”
- [diy.com](https://www.diy.com) “Ideas to keep the home warmer in winter”
- If you have open fireplace flues take a look at the ‘Chimney Sheep’ website.





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Insight - I am unable to forgive

by Tom Rhind-Tutt MBE

Our 96-year-old lay minister at St Peter's shares his thoughts and experiences.

When I was about 30 years old, I became aware that I carried some seriously negative thoughts about people who had hurt me in some way in the past and who had rejected my attempts at reconciliation. I felt wounded and harboured real anger. I likened this to carrying a heavy weight with me every day, spiritually slowing me down.

As a Christian, I know that Jesus, in 'The Lord's Prayer', sets the gold standard of behaviour when He says, 'forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us'. For many years I searched for an answer to help me escape the unhappy memories, unsettling feelings, and my sense of failure to observe The Lord's Prayer. Try as hard as I may, the problem remained. The repressed anger and hurt persisted within me. I was incapable of meeting the 'gold standard' set by Jesus Christ.

One day I went to a quiet day of prayer and teaching about the Christian life. During the morning coffee break I summoned the courage to approach the guest speaker, Brother Peter. I explained how I was burdened by The Lord's Prayer because of my inability 'to forgive' everyone. He was warm and kind as he invited me to meet him in the afternoon for a chat. We met in a side room where we could talk privately without interruption.

I explained how my prayer life was disturbed by the recurring memories of two people and past events where I had been hurt. My efforts to achieve reconciliation had always been rebuffed no matter how hard I had tried.

Consequently, the sense of guilt, hurt and distress I felt just kept repeating over the years. Brother Peter was sympathetic and said that the feelings I described were common amongst those who progressed in the Christian Faith.

There was a practical solution, used by religious men and women for many centuries. The solution was to create my own "forgettery". Brother Peter smiled at my inability to understand. He explained that the concept was a simple one for those who were totally sincere in their daily prayer life and wished to move forward but were immobilised by past events, over which they have no control. It was important to realise that this was not about avoidance but instead asking Jesus Christ, for the time-being, to set matters aside while I focused on the present.



Brother Peter asked me to imagine a safe, the sort you might have in your home to store valuable or important items.



I needed to ask Jesus to bless my personal “forgettery” where the matters that had troubled me could remain. Whilst I would be able to access them at any time of my choosing, I should otherwise simply get on with the rest of my life.

I trusted in Brother Peter’s guidance and assurance that after a few months I would be free from the interruptions that had plagued my mind.

He was right.....

Within a few months I felt much happier, generally and in my prayer life, with my past worries stored securely in my “forgettery” and held by God. I know I can access them at any time and that I have not avoided judgement by Jesus Christ when I die.

I can honestly say that my spiritual development has greatly benefited, for I now live and serve God in the present. Today I live in the light of God’s promised forgiveness, even for those “forgettery” matters yet unresolved.

I have a clear conscience and, as far as I am aware, I have no outstanding matters relating to my life. It really is worth exploring anything you feel is holding you back from the creative development of your Christian life.

Your Invitation:

If you would like to talk to Tom in more detail about this topic he can be contacted at: tom@rhindtutt.com or you can speak to him at church.

Volunteer needed for annual clock-winding at St Peter’s Church



A vacancy has arisen for clock-winding at St Peter’s Church, each week in September, annually.

The clock runs for seven days and seven hours and then it stops, hence the need to wind it once a week! If you are able to help or would like further details please contact Robin at robin@parr-davies.com



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Mothers and Uthers meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 pm in St Peter's Church. Please do come and join us.

Our September meeting was a meditation on autumn, led by Christine Bailey from St Giles and St George in Ashstead. Key themes discussed included how the shedding of leaves and bare branches remind us of the need to reflect on who we are, and what we are trying to do, pointing towards new transitions and regrowth through love and trust.



Our October meeting coincided with Prisons Week as we welcomed our guest speaker, Liz Marlow, a volunteer working in Send and Downview women's prisons. Liz has been volunteering since 2019 and was introduced to the role through church friends. She is involved in running a range of training programmes to help prepare women prisoners for release. The topics we discussed included living with loss and restorative justice. Liz also mentors prisoners on a one-to-one basis in the six months leading up to release. She shared some interesting facts about women's prisons and stories of individuals, both sad and hopeful. It was a fascinating and thought-provoking evening.



Liz Marlow

Coming up on November 14th David Webb will lead us through a discussion about the interpretation of poetry and how it can enlighten our response to the gospels.

On December 12th we welcome back the Reverend David Skitt to lead us through an Advent reflection. David's sessions have been hugely enjoyed in the past. As always, food and hot drinks are available to ensure we are nourished both in body and soul.

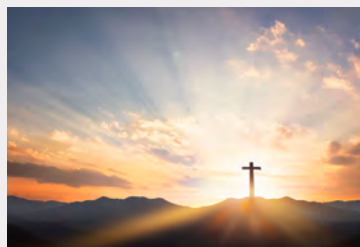


Cakes and Conversation resumed in September with an entertaining talk, by Phillip Truett, on the impact of Walton Heath Golf Club on the village. These get togethers, for the senior members of the village community, are held in the morning of the last Wednesday of the month from 10.30 to 12.00 at St Peter's and are a good opportunity to meet up with neighbours and friends. The next two meetings are 29th November (with some early festive fun) and 31st January. At the January meeting Ros Henderson will talk about Parkinson's and the charity that offers support to those affected. Please do come and join us.



Reflection

The Jewish world into which Jesus was born was not one that championed gender justice. indeed, every morning men thanked God for not making them women.



Jesus radically challenged this culture with his words and actions. He openly talked with women, met their needs and included them among his close followers. It was to a woman that he first revealed himself after the crucifixion. As history unfolded, we can look to Jesus as a perfect champion for gender justice. His example is ours to follow in attitude, action and advocacy.

Midday Prayers November 2023: Transformation of the Mind

MON	Transformation of priorities: Do not conform to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2
TUES	Transformation of values: Transform our values so they are shaped by our concern for the unloved and unlovely, and for the weak and powerless in our society.
WED	Transformation of thought: Transform our thinking so that we risk believing that all things are held together, not by the bottom financial line, but by you.
THURS	Transformation of heart: Transform our hearts so that we are filled with the desire to forgive one another and to make peace.
FRI	Transformation of faith: Jesus, Saviour and Lord, may the posture of our lives be shaped by listening to you; the goodness of our lives be shaped by love for you; and the service of our lives be shaped by a humility like yours. This we pray in your name, Amen.
SAT	Transformation of mind: Through the power of your Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds so we may recognise your presence, hear your voice, know your will, and walk in your way, Amen.

Little Cherubs

by Karen Rand, Anne Edwards and Lucasta Grayson

Little Cherubs, our group for under-fives and their carers, has restarted. It meets every Tuesday from 10.30 to 12.00 at St Peter's. We are missing our recent graduates who have now moved on to primary school. We now have spaces to welcome new children.



Little Cherubs
for under 5s and their carers

**St Peter's Walton
on the Hill**

play, learn and grow together
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**Tuesdays
10.30 - 12pm**

31 Oct - 12 Dec

More info from karenrand@gmail.com



Light Up Walton - Friday 8th December

5.00pm LIGHT UP at MERESIDE

Gather on the 'seat' side of the pond to give a big **CHEER ACROSS THE MERE** then make your way through the village to St Peter's, led by Revd Christopher Hancock, spotting the **CHRISTMAS GARLANDS** along Walton Street.

5.15pm CAROLS at ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

with **CAROLS** led by the church choir with local band 'Low Key Affair'.
Mulled wine, spiced apple juice and mince pies will be served.

Donations invited in aid of TWOAT (Tadworth & Walton Overseas Aid Trust)



Cakes and conversation

10.30am - 12pm in St Peter's Church, Breech Lane

On the last Wednesday of the month:

Nov 29th

A get together for senior members of our village community with chat, coffee, tea, cakes and sometimes more. All are welcome.



Mothers & Uthers

Mothers UNION
Solidarity - care for families



Join St Peter's Choir for our Carol Service

The Choir of St Peter's Church, Walton welcomes singers of all ages to join it for the annual carol service on Sunday 10th December.

The format of this very special service mirrors that of the Christmas Eve service of Nine Lessons and Carols held in the Chapel at King's College, Cambridge.

The ability to read music is an advantage but not a necessity. There will be two rehearsals ahead of the service.



For more details, please get in touch with the choir director, Esther Jones
esther.jones@me.com

ST PETER'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

Does your child love to sing?

St Peter's is always looking for new talent for its Junior Choir to sing at services like Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Easter and Christmas

Please contact Jenny on 07733107672 or tuttle.jenny@gmail.com if your child would like to join in.



Open to children from
Year 2 to Year 7



Walton Parochial Charities

Providing help and creating hope in Walton on the Hill

Are you struggling to make ends meet?



If you live within the parish of Walton on the Hill then the Walton Parochial Charities could help you.

This fund was created some time ago to provide relief for those 'in need,' the sick or disabled, distressed and the elderly within the Walton on the Hill parish

How can we help?

If you or anyone you know is struggling to make ends meet and could do with some help then please ask them to leave a message in confidence of course at the St Peter's Church office on 01737 668254 and someone will return their call. Alternatively email admin@stpeterswoth.org



We Want to Help.

A Note from Norma



Oh my goodness it can't be that time of year already, where has this year gone? Hopefully you have all been okay. As I write this article we are heading for a fantastic week of warm weather, what a mixture we have had this year. Just gives us plenty to talk about when we meet!

I have started selling Royal Marsden Christmas cards already so please contact me if you would like to support this charity. I will bring the cards to the November and December Village Kitchen, but I am quite happy to bring them to you if it helps.

The last few months have been taken up with numerous hospital visits for Bill (and myself supporting him). The chemotherapy treatment has been very hard for him, but he has got through it; fingers crossed it has worked. We just want to say how much we appreciate our NHS.

I know not everyone has the same experience as us, but he has had the best support from his consultant and the staff in the haematology departments at Epsom and St Helier. Family and friends have been very supportive as well, thank you.

Take care and wishing you all a happy Christmas.



GREETINGS CARDS

I have a range of greetings cards for all occasions, with beautiful designs by and in memory of Christine, who was a dear friend and former member of our parish community.

Please contact me on 01737 812639 or come and say "hello" in church if you wish to buy a card. Cards cost £1 each and the proceeds benefit St Peter's Church.

Many thanks for your support, Norma

The Gage Players

present

Molly's Calling

by Pip Rolls



Doors & Bar: 7.30 pm

Tickets: £12.50

Box Office: 01737 812703

8 pm • 23rd, 24th, 25th November 2023

The Riddell Hall, Deans Lane, Walton-on-the-Hill KT20 7UL



facebook.com/gageplayers



www.thegageplayers.co.uk



@thegageplayers

RIDDELL HALL PLAY – MOLLY'S CALLING

Molly's Calling is a comedy about a bunch of oddities who take on the world and knock some sense into it. From the outset, things are not quite what they seem. Quiet, unassuming ladies turn out to be anything but; they have a mission (or 'calling'), like Robin Hood, to help the downtrodden, and it leads them into some of the murkiest and most sophisticated activities on the planet.

Molly and Pauline are aided by their thespian pal Lionel; then there's Molly's destitute brother Donald, who's only happy when big game hunting, and who takes out a contract to have Molly killed.

It's set in a retirement home but don't let that fool you. The ladies' machinations are remarkably successful, managing to keep international menace at bay through their espionage work and promising to create a country where fair play rules by forming a government to replace the current, inadequate politicians.



The Feast of St Michael and All Angels fell on 29th September, and this year, Open Group members celebrated in style!

Debbie Murray not only hosted a gathering at the enchanting Ebenezer Cottage, but also generously prepared a delicious and comforting Michaelmas Supper for twenty guests.



After preprandial drinks, autumnal chicken casserole and apple crumble were served in Debbie's capacious kitchen, amid much chatter and laughter. Many thanks to Debbie for a convivial and nourishing evening, in more ways than one!

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday, 28th November: AGM plus!

Thursday, 14th December: Christmas Fun!



Details to be confirmed in e-newsletters. If you would like further information or would like to be on the mailing list, please email Mo: moatkins5@gmail.com or call Norma on 812639.

VILLAGE KITCHEN

The Village Kitchen, in Riddell Hall, will be open on:

Saturday 11th November and Saturday 9th December: 12:00 -13:30

for light lunches, tea and coffee. ALL WELCOME!

Open Group's 2023 charity project, 'The Salvation Army', comes to a close following the AGM, so please give generously at November's Village Kitchen, the final fundraising occasion for this incredible organisation. Thank you.

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Arts Society Update

by Susan Adilz

This year, the Arts Society, Walton on the Hill awarded its £500 annual "Young Arts" grant to Walton on the Hill Primary School to purchase an outdoor easel for the younger pupils there. The easel has a sturdy wooden frame and a clear screen for painting on. Emmeline, a teaching assistant at the school, says;



"The new Cygnets absolutely loved playing with our new easel. Thank you so much for funding this, it will be so well enjoyed and environmentally friendly as no need for paper!" We are delighted that the easel has been such a great success.

The "Young Arts" grant is awarded annually to organisations as a contribution towards the purchase of equipment or towards the cost of an event that promotes the arts and creativity amongst young people, within the Walton area.

If your organisation would like to be considered for funding please contact Susan Adilz on 819458.



The Arts Society Walton on the Hill meets

Riddell Hall, Deans Lane,
Walton on the Hill, KT20 7UL
Third Thursday each month

Coffee 10.00 – 10.30 am

Lecture 11.00 – 12.00 pm

Experts on Fine & Decorative
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Study Days, Visits, Tours

Membership: Mike Roshier
01372 813196



www.theartsocietywaltononthehill.org.uk Guests welcome £5 per lecture



Walton Village Forum

by Emmeline Moore

The nights are starting to draw in, I noticed, as I arrived for our 10th October meeting at Breech Lane Community Centre in the dark. Summer does seem to have slipped by and we are well and truly closer to winter.

The Walton Village Forum (WVF) will be displaying Remembrance poppies around the village once again this year. We are seeking volunteers to help put these up on 4th November and to take them down again at a later date. If you are able to give your time, please contact us at info@waltonvillageforum.org

Unfortunately, our village clean-up had to be postponed, due to a large wasp nest being found in the trunk of a tree close to the pond area. Williams Pest Control, did an excellent job of removing the nest and of making sure the area was again safe. We will shortly announce a new date for the village clean-up and bulb planting, which the local Cubs/Scouts are keen to help us with.

Adam Langendoen, our local Cubs and Scout leader, joined us at our last meeting. He qualifies well for this role, with his main daytime job being forest leader at Painshill Park. He entertains and teaches many school groups at Painshill, one of them being our lovely local Walton Primary School. Adam explained that the groups are allowed access to Sandhill Woods behind Walton Manor, where the Scouts have been working towards their "Cooking-on-a-Campfire" badge. If any children are interested in joining Adam on his adventures, the Beavers usually meet from 4:00pm-5:00pm and the Cubs/Scouts 6:00pm-7:30pm on Thursday evenings.

Cllr Ben Green and Cllr Rebecca Paul also attended our meeting and answered many road safety questions. Rebecca announced that the Dorking Road average speed cameras are now being installed and should be operational by 2024.



Welcomed by parents of children attending Walton primary school, 20mph signage has also gone ahead throughout the village, down Walton Street to Mere Pond.

Increased parking enforcement has been seen around the village; there is now a maximum stay of two hours in the Meade Court car park opposite the Post Office.

Congratulations to Walton Heath Golf Club for raising a massive £25,000 locally for their charity of the year, Stripey Stork, a local baby bank helping families in Surrey. More information on the charity can be found on the following pages.



Walton Village Forum

by Emmeline Moore

The WVF has organised three sessions of VETS (Volunteer Emergency Telephone System) recruitment, first aid and defibrillator awareness for our village residents, with training provided by Sam Hinton of Aqua Safe Surrey. Our thanks to Sam. The VETS system is being implemented to provide assistance to lone responders in an emergency. Fourteen local volunteers have been recruited to staff the VETS system and, after a final session with the Community Heartbeat Trust, we now await a 'go live' date.

Our 2024 meetings will be 27th February, 25th June and 29th October. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Stripey Stork

Stripey Stork is one of the UK's biggest baby banks. Its vision is that every child in Surrey has access to the essential things they need to develop and reach their potential. The charity's mission is to alleviate the impact of childhood poverty by providing a practical way for families to help each other with kindness and purpose.

The charity accepts donations of new and pre-loved clothes, toiletries, toys and equipment for children aged 0-16 years old which are then rehomed with families experiencing hardship. Most importantly, Stripe Stork prides itself on passing on items in great condition. They want families who receive these donations to feel like they are receiving a gift and not a handout. They work with referral partners across Surrey to ensure that every family receives the support they need.

At this time of year, Stripey Stork is soon to launch its "Santa Stork" campaign which brings the community together to ensure items are gifted and memories made for local children in need. Nicola, Stripey Stork's founder and chief executive, says:

"With many families struggling as the cost-of-living crisis continues to impact, we know that, for them, delivering even a simple family Christmas will be more difficult than ever. At Stripey Stork we have seen demand for our services increase significantly. We know times are tough for families and, with Christmas looming, the pressure on families increases. Every Christmas our Santa Stork campaign helps to ensure local children receive a new gift to open on Christmas morning. In some cases, this gift will be the main or only present these children will receive. This year, more than ever, we want to bring a bit of joy to children on Christmas morning. This festive campaign is set to be our biggest yet. We expect a record number of requests this year, but the number of gifts we distribute will depend on how much support we receive from the community."

Stripey Stork is delighted that Walton Heath Golf Club has chosen it as the club's charity of the year. The Golf Club has raised over £25,000 through a number of fundraising activities, including the Captain's Charity Day and golf pro, Sam, running the Richmond half marathon. This incredible support is vital for ensuring Stripey Stork is there for every family in need in Surrey.
<https://stripeystork.org.uk/>

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

LIGHT UP WALTON



The Christmas trees for St Peter's and for Mere Pond have been ordered and the date for the big village "light up" is set for **Friday 8th December**. All are welcome, timings as follows:

5:00pm: LIGHT UP MERESIDE

The 'House on the Pond' will switch on its customary, colourful display of Christmas lights. Many thanks to David and Val Larner. Gather safely on the 'seat-side' of the pond to give a big CHEER ACROSS THE MERE and appreciate the beautiful reflections on the water. Then, led by Revd. Christopher Hancock, wend your way carolling through the village, en route to St. Peter's Churchyard. Admire the Christmas Garlands, dotted along Walton Street, courtesy of the Village Forum.

From 5:15pm GATHER IN ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD

Join us for this short but fun tree-lighting ceremony with carols led by the church choir and local band, 'Low Key Affair'. Mulled wine, spiced apple juice and mince pies will be served. Donations invited in aid of TWOAT (Tadworth & Walton Overseas Aid Trust). Please give as generously as you can. For further information please contact Mo: 07799136894.



TADWORTH LIGHTS

The Tadworth & Walton Residents Association (TWRA) Christmas Lighting Event takes place in Tadworth High Street from 3pm, Wednesday 29th November. All welcome.



The Children's Trust, Tadworth

An evening of lights, music, and winter celebrations 5pm- 8pm on 7th - 9th December.

See the mansion and gardens as you have never seen them before, with lights and joy lining your route.

There will be hot chocolate and mulled wine to warm your hands as you enjoy festive songs and roasting marshmallows to warm the tummies of all.

Tickets: £11 adult £7 child <https://www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/events>

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Tadworth Overseas Aid Trust

by Mike Fox

TWOAT is a local charity which helps provide funds to communities in poor countries for small scale projects that can create a long-lasting benefit. Typically, these include the provision of medical, educational and community facilities and the promotion of new techniques for irrigation, education and organic farming.

2022-2023 has been a challenging year for TWOAT, with the cost-of-living crisis in the UK and throughout the world, and the war in Ukraine having a knock-on effect on funding for a number of our projects. We had to adopt a cautious approach at the beginning of the year, in some cases making difficult choices about the initiatives we were able to support. For example, we identified an opportunity to fund the manufacture and shipment of solar powered hearing aids to St John's School in Gambia, but in order to meet this commitment we had to reduce the contribution we normally make towards the provision of their school bus. Similarly we had to reduce the level of general support we provide to the The Epilepsy Clinic at the hospital and orphanage in Berega in order to provide funding for their epilepsy clinician to make journeys to outlying villages.

Fortunately, by the end of our financial year we had received three large, unexpected donations which totalled £10,000 and more than made up for the potential shortfall. As a result, we were in a position to provide additional funding of £500 to Berega Hospital to purchase much needed dental equipment and allocated an extra £500 to St John's School for the deaf. In addition, we were able to provide funding for a new project, initiated by Sally Nethercott (a member of our committee) during a trip to Ghana to visit her son, who works for the British High Commission. Sally identified a need for eye tests and prescription spectacles for poorer Ghanaians and some High Commission staff who had no access to professional eye care.

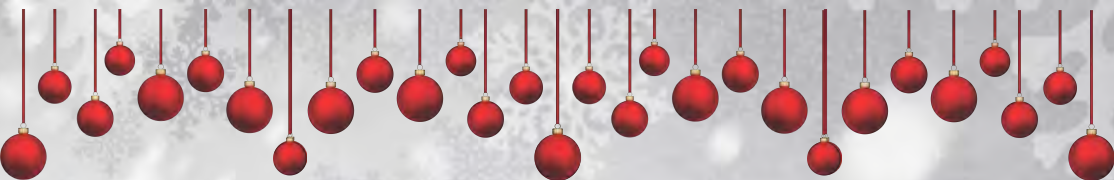
Sally's speech about her experiences in Ghana during TWOAT's Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 7th was met with a very well-deserved round of applause. Donations from those attending the event and from other supporters, helped us to raise over £1200, including Gift Aid. This was a very good result, but we need to raise a similar amount every fortnight for the rest of this year in order to meet the financial commitments we have made to all our projects.



If you would like to support us, donations to TWOAT can be made by bank transfer to NatWest Epsom Branch; Account No. 42988667, Sort Code 60-08-01 or by sending a cheque made out to TWOAT to our Treasurer Antony Hawker at The Holt, Alcock's Lane, KT20 6BB, or, <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/22337>

We are hoping to organise some Zoom sessions with representatives from our projects – please see www.TWOAT.org for information.

Mike Fox, Chair, TWOAT,
mike.fox2@ntlworld.com 01737 350452



Christmas Trees

Order a Beautiful Nordmann Fir Christmas Tree from Walton On The Hill Primary School. Get a wonderful tree and help raise money for your school. Pick up or local delivery for £5 on Friday 1st December. Scan The QR Code below or follow this link to buy online: <https://friends-of-walton-on-the-hill-primary-school-148.sumupstore.com>.

Alternatively, pick up an order form and pay with cash at the school office. **All orders must be placed by midday on Friday 17th November.**

3-4ft £29

4-5ft £35

5-6ft £40

6-7ft £47

7-8ft £56





News from Walton-on-the-Hill Primary

by Headmaster, Richard Laing



For those of you have followed this column in previous editions you may notice a change. Following the recent alliance between Kingswood Primary and Walton on the Hill, Mr Samuel has taken on the role of Executive Head and is splitting his time between the two sites. I have taken on the role of Head of School at WOTH.

I should probably introduce myself; my name is Richard Laing and for the last 15 years I have been a teacher, and more recently, Deputy Headteacher at Walton school. I have tended to teach the slightly older children and, over the years, have become a bit of a Year 6 specialist. The final year of primary is a really special time and I enjoy nothing more than co-ordinating a big summer production, taking the children away on a residential trip and even guiding them through the dreaded SATS tests. I'm very excited about my new role but also thankful that I will still be spending some of my time in the classroom, teaching the current Year 6 cohort on a Friday.

Walton-on-the-Hill Primary is such a special place to work and I feel very privileged to be given this latest opportunity.

At the start of the school year, we discussed how we were all feeling (both staff and children). For many in school, starting a new class (or a new job) can be a very daunting experience. We talked about how this year, as a school community, we were going to make a real effort to talk more freely about our feelings and emotions.

I think we all recognise how important it is to safeguard and protect our mental health and talking openly about how we are feeling is a vital step in the right direction. I know that hasn't always come naturally to me so I'm making a concerted effort to try and lead by example. In school we introduced colour zones to enable children to better articulate their feelings. In very simple terms, green is calm and content, blue – tired or less than 100%, yellow – anxious or unsettled and red is angry or upset.

Within days we saw a positive change, with children happily describing what zone they were in: "I'm feeling green today, Mr Laing!" Children are very happy to share their feelings but often lack the vocabulary to do so. We gave them a "scaffold" to do so and as a result,

What Zone Are You In?





children are more likely to open up, and as teachers we are better positioned to deal with issues before they snowball.

I think even as adults we can struggle to find the right words at times. Having someone we can trust to talk to is something we often take for granted, but ensuring we have a strong network of friends and family around us is such an important factor in protecting our wellbeing. By talking through our feelings and emotions and learning to acknowledge and safeguard our mental wellbeing, we will hopefully give children strategies to deal with, what at times, feels like a growing wave of anxiety, both in school and beyond.

Spending quality time with friends and family is increasingly difficult given the pressures and distractions of 21st century life.

Making time for each other is crucial. Showing empathy and compassion and providing a listening ear are key.

In school, we are very pleased that we are now able to invite parents back into the building for our half termly parent forums. Being a parent (I have three children myself) is a huge challenge.

At times, we can all feel isolated and overwhelmed, so providing an opportunity for parents to share their experiences and stresses will hopefully be both cathartic and supportive. We are all aiming for the green zone, but without the support of the community around us the shade of the landscape can very quickly change!



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Spotlight on The Children's Trust

Placements Team



A safe and caring environment for children with brain injury

Every year 40,000 children in the UK experience a brain injury as a result of an accident or illness. The results can be devastating.

The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury and neurodisability, based right here in Tadworth, Surrey. It supports children from across the country through specialist rehabilitation, education and community services. From the charity's specialist centre, it provides the most complex rehabilitation for children and young people with acquired brain injury outside of a hospital setting.

The services reflect the range of disabilities and needs of children with brain injuries; from those who are minimally conscious to those who may appear to have made a full physical recovery but are left with hidden problems with their cognition, memory, communication and behaviour.

A community rehabilitation service is on hand to support goal-orientated neurorehabilitation delivered in the child's own home or school environment. The team offers an intensive, hands-on therapy service to children and young people living in the southeast, alongside virtual packages of support for those further afield with online information and support for children, young people, and families nationwide.

The charity is able to provide care to support the transition from hospital to home for children and young people with complex health needs, usually following neurosurgical procedures and prolonged stays in intensive treatment units. These are often children who might otherwise be staying long-term in hospital.

The pressure of caring for someone with any illness or condition can put a family under strain. The Children's Trust offers essential respite provision for families through its short-breaks service. This includes nurse-led care with overnight stays in comfortable, accessible bedrooms set in beautiful grounds, which include sensory gardens, a nature trail, outdoor basketball court and playground.

The site is also home to The Children's Trust School, a non-maintained unique setting for children and young people with a wide range of needs including neurodisability and complex education, health, therapy and care needs.

Whatever the service provided, the goal is always to maximise the child or young person's independence and participation in everyday life.

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Your Parliamentary Candidate for Reigate

Rebecca Paul, who lives in Walton and is a County Councillor, has been selected as the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Reigate at the next general election. She will defend the seat for the Conservatives following the retirement of current MP, Crispin Blunt.

Members of Reigate & Banstead Conservative Association voted to select Cllr Paul as their candidate at a Special General Meeting held on Saturday 22nd July 2023 in Redhill.

Rebecca, who is married with three children, has lived in the constituency for eight years and has been a Surrey County Councillor representing Tadworth, Walton and Kingswood (Burgh Heath and Preston) since May 2021. She was appointed Deputy Cabinet Member for Levelling Up in November 2021.

Rebecca has been an active campaigner on issues that matter to residents. In 2022, she launched a 'fairer road funding' campaign to fix Surrey's roads, presenting a petition signed by nearly 6,000 residents to No. 10 Downing Street. She is fiercely opposed to ULEZ expansion across Greater London and has launched a campaign to address excessive noise from the concrete road surface between J8-9 on the M25.

Rebecca was a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Adviser for 20 years before her political career.



She held the role of Head of UK Tax at Diageo plc, along with other senior tax roles at PepsiCo, Jigsaw and Ernst & Young. From 2020 to 2022, she worked for Robin Millar MP in Westminster.

Speaking after her selection as candidate, Cllr Paul said:

"I am immensely honoured to be selected as the next Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Reigate. I am proud to call Reigate my home, and I'm looking forward to meeting with residents, businesses, and community groups across the constituency."



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The Rascal Club

by Sam Fountain

This article brings you wonderful news of the most recent village community interest company; The Rascal Club. Since launching in 2010, with its vision of creating a fun, family fitness initiative, for mind and body and bringing people of all ages, abilities and family types together, the club has been going from strength to strength (excuse the pun)!

The club's key initiative over the last three years has been the renovation of the local and national heritage treasure, The Windmill. Founders, Sam and Dickon Parnell of Howard Close, have worked tirelessly, for almost 365 days a year, with the support of over 120 volunteers on this renovation project. Groundworks, swimming pool refurbishment, installing utility lines, landscaping, tiling, roofing, paving and fencing, along with volunteers gaining qualifications in food hygiene, indoor cycling, swim rescue and first aid – the lists goes on! With an investment of nearly £100k, the generosity of local residents and support from village folk of all ages has been gargantuan and an amazing achievement.

Unfortunately, as so often is the case with new 'ideas' (have you watched Clarkson's Farm?!), there have been many unnecessary, often unprofessional 'stumbling blocks' along the way to developing the main club house at The Millfield. The Conservation Officer of Reigate and Banstead Planning department, issued the final, unsurmountable and, Sam and Dickon feel, unreasonable hurdle. So much so, the land owner asked the club to surrender the lease on the proposed main club house earlier this year.

Whilst this news and change of plan is a huge blow to the club's original vision, being an entrepreneur, Sam immediately redirected her energy and the company continues to grow, leveraging the continued interest and support of the volunteers and over 200 members.

Since 2011 the club supports 50+ classes a week in pop-up venues. Regular classes for the body include the main attraction, the indoor cycling studio, located in the heart of the village, just left of the Co-op, in the old dairy. There are 15 classes a week for complete beginners; and rehabilitation for those with painful knees, hips and backs, including those who have had hip and knee replacements. We have a popular, over-60s class on Wednesday mornings, where even Mike, Sam's Dad, at 81 years old, burns over 500 calories without breaking a sweat or taking his jumper off! There are also classes at 6:15am for cyclists to 'get the miles in' during the week and the most popular are our "rhythm" classes held on Friday lunchtimes, before school pick up, every evening and on Saturday mornings. The music is brilliant and the energy is addictive!

Other classes include pilates, core strength and stretch, circuits with and without weights, learn-to-jog and run groups which are also linked with Tadworth Athletics Club. Amongst regular and special classes for mums and babies to help mums restore their core, we run classes on a Tuesday and Friday for those who would like to get stronger but prefer to sit or stand. These are also very popular because, although many people may turn up in pain, they leave feeling pain free and so much stronger.



The Rascal Club

The newest, exciting additions to the club bring people together for fun, family fitness of the body and mind. The club has opened two small pools: the Cold Pool and a colder pool for therapy which includes mental health and anxiety support, weight loss and pain management. Did you watch the BBC's Wim Hof series? Those who have used the pools or who are practised in open and wild water dipping, floating and swimming will love the open water adventures near-by and further afield.

The club has started ad hoc "craft and chat" groups from pumpkin painting, to doodling for the mind, to seasonal specials. Finally, children's parties are on offer, focussing on football for younger girls (and boys), cycling with ramps, tricks and games for up to 13-year-olds and Rascal Routes Challenges, which are awesome treasure hunt type adventures where the children/ families use their smart phones (eye roll!) to find the treasure. Think Anneka Rice (for those who are old enough to remember her!). It's THE best way to get children and even Dads and Nanas moving without them realising!

Sam and Dickon would love you to keep up to date with the club's growth and development; their plan is for the club to be around for 50+ years and more. To sign up to their newsletter which will be issued once a month, go to

Reception@TheRascalClub.co.uk, or scan the QR code on the flyer over the page. The link will allow you to either view the website, sign up to the newsletter, view the timetable or follow the club on social media.

In the meantime, they invite you to join them for a regular class or on one of the club's community walks, chats and socials. The next one will most likely be on New Year's Day for a local walk or perhaps even a visit to the ocean for a new year feet paddle or dip! Brrrrrrr!

The club recognises that often finance is a barrier to participation, so if this is a concern for you, please get in touch as there are volunteer opportunities and grants available. There are also some free events and sessions and the club hopes to have social prescribing soon too.

The club welcomes EVERYONE. It has an electric tug to transport a wheelchair, strong volunteers to hold hands, and a plan to increase the use of support equipment so everyone can join in.

www.TheRascalClub.co.uk
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JOIN US!

Local Chef - Mulled Wine Mince Pie Mix

by Laura Palmer

This isn't really mincemeat as there's no suet in it, vegetarian or otherwise. It's quite a jammy mince pie filling, packed with vine fruit, plums, orange, and apple, and of course a large glass of red wine! Add to that some traditional Christmas spices, get it underway and you'll understand the name as it leaves the house smelling like all the best parts of Christmas rolled into one. In fact, since I started making it, I haven't gone back to buying mincemeat in jars at all. Just spoon into good quality shortcrust pastry (homemade or otherwise, no-one's judging), top with more pastry, poke a hole in to let the steam out, and bake. Or make a big mince pie to serve with ice cream, cream or brandy butter for a show-stopping Christmas dessert. P.S. The coconut oil adds richness and shelf life; if you don't like coconut flavour, use a refined one.

Ingredients

Fills 4 x 450g jam jars
6 plums, stoned and chopped
1 orange (unpeeled), finely chopped
1 apple, peeled, cored and chopped
1 large glass of red wine
250ml water
Juice of one lemon
250g brown sugar
200g sultanas
200g raisins
½ teaspoon ground ginger
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
A good grating of nutmeg
A big pinch of ground cloves
A small piece of fresh ginger root, peeled and chopped/grated (optional)
½ teaspoon vanilla extract or ¼ teaspoon vanilla powder (optional)
60ml brandy or sloe gin
2 tablespoons coconut oil



Method

Put everything except the oil and brandy or sloe gin into a pot with a lid, bring to a simmer and cook over a very low heat, stirring occasionally, for 1.5 to 2 hours or until all the orange rind has softened and it has a jammy rather than watery consistency. Take the lid off for the last 5 minutes to evaporate excess liquid if you need to. Turn off the heat and stir in the oil and remaining alcohol then either spoon into hot sterilised jars for gifting or keep in a box in the fridge. Use within a couple of months.



The finished product!

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Local Chef - Chicken Pakoras

by Jaya Malani

My name is Jaya and I run a home-based, Indian cookery business, "Breech Lane Curry School", right here in Walton on the Hill. Awarded best curry school of the year, 2022, at the 11th English Curry Awards, it has also won Trip Advisor's Travellers' Choice Awards for three years in a row (2021-2023). Here I share with you my Chicken Pakoras recipe for you to try at home. I hope you like it.



What you will need

Ingredients to make 15-20 pakoras

- 150 grams of boneless chicken thighs cut into 3/4th of inch (bitesized) pieces
- 4 tablespoons (tbs) besan/ chickpea flour or gram flour
- 2 tbs rice flour (to help make the pakoras crisp)
- 1 tbs full fat yogurt
- 1 tbs water (only use if needed)
- 1 to 1.5 teaspoon (tsp) of freshly grated ginger
- 1/2 small thinly sliced onion
- 1/2 tsp carom seeds (ajwain)
- Salt to taste
- 1/3 tsp turmeric powder
- 1/3 tsp red chilli powder (optional)
- 1-2 fresh green/ red chopped chillies (optional)
- 1 tsp garam masala
- 1/2 tsp cumin powder
- Dash of black pepper
- Handful of freshly chopped coriander
- Enough oil in a wok to assist with deep frying (I tend to use sunflower oil for deep frying)

Utensils

Mixing bowl, deep rounded wok for frying, slotted steel spoon for mixing and draining the oil from the pakoras.



Local Chef - Chicken Pakoras

by Jaya Malani

Method

Mix the besan/ chickpea flour or gram flour and rice flour with the dry spices, then add the other ingredients except for the water. The batter should be relatively thick and not wet; just wet enough to coat the chicken with the batter. You may not need any water so check the consistency before you add it.

Heat the oil in a deep wok. To test whether the oil has reached the right temperature, drop a small ball of batter into the wok (the size of an orange seed for example) and it should rise up quickly. Keep the heat at medium to high.

Now start gently dropping in one chicken piece at a time. After dropping one into the oil, add the next within seconds and carry on until most of the oil surface is covered with the chicken batter. Do not over-crowd the wok otherwise the pakoras will not cook properly.

After dropping the last of the chicken pieces into the oil, let them cook for approximately two minutes before turning them over gently. Cook on a medium to high flame for approx 12-15 minutes, turning the pakoras occasionally until golden brown on both sides.

Now, take them out and place them on a plate covered with kitchen paper to absorb any excess oil. The chicken pakoras should come out fully cooked and crispy. Check one by slicing it through the middle.

Note that if the oil is not hot enough to start with, the pakoras will remain uncooked inside. If the oil is too hot, the pakoras will appear cooked from the outside but remain uncooked inside.

Once cooked, pair with a tangy sweet tamarind chutney... and **ENJOY!**

For more information about Breech Lane Curry School, please visit:
<https://breechlanecurryschool.com/>

Breech Lane Curry School

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KT20 7SN

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A moving experience...

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