



## **Betchworth Annual Parish Meeting**

Betchworth Parish Council would like to thank the local organisations who have contributed to the update which follows. Each group have written their own update

Contributions by:

The Betchworth Operatic & Dramatic Society

Betchworth Parish Magazine

Betchworth Village Hall

Barley Mow Residents Association

Brockham Green Horticultural Society

Betchworth & Buckland Society

Betchworth United Charities

Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society

The Hamilton Room

Re-Betchworth

The Arts Society

The Toddler Group

The Poland Trust

The Betchworth Tennis Tournament

Pebblecombe WI

St Michaels Bellringers

JJ Franks

The Betchworth & Buckland Childrens Nursery

Betchworth Village Archives

FABB (Family Activities for Betchworth & Buckland)

The North Downs Primary School

St Michaels Church

# **Update for Betchworth Operatic and Dramatic Society for 2022**

## **History**

The society was started in 1936 by Commander Jack Hatch, his wife Norah and their neighbour on Pebblehill, Rachel Rundle. The first production in 1937 was The Ghost Train written by Arnold Ridley who went on to play Private Godfrey in the TV series, Dad's Army.

The society has been staging productions ever since apart from a gap during the second world war and Covid.

## **Progress for 2022**

- May Play – The Government Inspector by Ukrainian born author Nikolai Gogol
- In June A very talented gathering of 56 Gilbert and Sullivan enthusiasts enjoyed a fundraising Come and Sing rehearsal and performance of Trial by Jury.
- October saw us take the Brockham Teas on the Green and entertain with excerpts from our November production – The Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, The Mikado

## **Plans for 2023**

- March - Quiz
- May - Play, Murder on the Nile by Agatha Christie
- November – Musical, The Matchgirls based on the strike by the London matchgirls in 1888.

## **Contact Details:**

**Chair: Diane Mayall 07808 275291**

**Website address :**

[Home \(bodsweb.com\)](http://bodsweb.com)

## Update for Betchworth Parish Magazine

There has been a Parish Magazine in Betchworth since 1892! Beautifully bound copies of all these magazines can be viewed in the Hamilton Room. Parishioners and their helpers have always run the collating of articles, editing and publishing the magazine on a voluntary basis. Printing has always been done by an outside firm.

The magazine's aim is to give information to and about the whole village. As well as Church matters we report on village activities such as the Parish Council, WI, North Downs Primary School and the Betchworth and Buckland Society. It also embraces any local, non-political news, events and activities that it is felt might be of interest to the readers. The magazine is delivered to every house in the village by an invaluable team of 32 people headed by Susie Redburn. We are always delighted to receive articles, including photos if relevant, which would be of interest to parishioners for possible inclusion in the magazine.

Articles for the magazine now arrive exclusively by email to [betchworthmag@hotmail.com](mailto:betchworthmag@hotmail.com). We also will publish appropriate small ads from parishioners at a nominal cost for a limited number of issues, proceeds going to church funds.

Our editors, Ros Rokison, Sian Winter, Chris Humphreys and Tim Warren have the task of collating, editing and sometimes retyping all the various articles, putting everything into the correct format and font. The articles are then numbered in the correct appropriate order before sending them to the Desk Top Publishers. Their job is to put them all into the magazine template. This is a lengthy process as articles have to fit exactly into the correct number of pages and we try where possible not split articles over the page. This work is done by Ros Rokison, Alison Hedges, John Scotcher and Tim Warren.

The magazine continues to be very professional in its construction and production.

If anyone is interested in joining the team we would be delighted to hear from you. We would be particularly interested to hear from anyone who would like to join the team of desktop publishers. The more people involved in the production of the magazine the easier it is for everyone involved. Training will be given if anyone is interested in joining us. In fact if we had a few more volunteers, our hard working team might even be able to take the odd holiday now and then!

Ros Rokison

# Update for Betchworth War Memorial Village Hall

## Progress for 2022

- The village hall continued to be the venue of choice for large gatherings of people from in and around Betchworth.
- Bookings gradually returned following Covid, however, given the worsening financial climate, bookings have not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Understandably, we have had to plan for hirers becoming more tentative about committing to using the hall.
- We undertook an extensive trial of the Hallmaster booking service with the idea of adopting it fully if the scheme proved successful. This online booking service allows potential hirers to access the timetable of bookings and slot in their own requirements. This has proved very successful, leading the hall to adopt the Hallmaster system permanently.
- As usual, the hall played host to a wide variety of interests including Yoga classes, art classes, art exhibitions, table tennis sessions, Choral societies, Betchworth Operatic and Drama Society (BODS), The Arts Society plus of course the ever-popular quiz nights.
- Towards the end of Summer, the hall provided the venue for Betchworth's own Apple pressing day, organised by Re-Betchworth, where villagers were invited to bring along their apples for pressing. It turned out to be a great success with all the pressing and bottling production-line being set-up in the hall car park and managed by villagers. Inside the hall, visitors were able to enjoy a variety of interests including Forest School and face painting and to round off the morning, a Ploughman's lunch.

## Plans for 2023

- With the ever-increasing cost of Gas and electricity, the trustees of the hall are beginning to explore ways to reduce utility costs and to make the hall more sustainable for the future. The focus so far has been on insulating the roof and walls following a detailed survey of the building. However, the structure of the roof and perhaps more importantly access to it for insulation, has proved problematic. In addition, it is thought that the cost of insulation will prove unaffordable unless the hall can be considered for any grant funding during 2023.
- The sound and projector system for the hall is well used and liked, however, the set-up is somewhat complex. It is hoped that during 2023, the system will be simplified and be more user-friendly.
- Repairs and improvements to the structure of the hall will be on-going in 2023, but no major work is foreseen.
- The hall trustees will continue to ensure the competitiveness of the hall hire rates so as to attract new hirers to the hall.

**Contact Details: Paul Ellison, Mob:- 07977 439943**

**Website address : <https://www.betchworth-pc.gov.uk/village-hall>**

## **Update for Barley Mow Residents Association**

### **Progress for 2022**

- We held a Diamond Jubilee street party to celebrate the Queen's 60 years on the throne.
- Otherwise a quiet year for us.

### **Plans for 2023**

- We are planning a King's coronation BBQ in May, weather dependent of course!

**Contact Details: 07774 546034 (Julie Barella – Secretary)**

**Website address :**

# **Update for Brockham Green Horticultural Society**

## **(Betchworth, Brockham, Buckland)**

### **Progress for 2022**

- Using some of the 'Fortune Legacy' funds, we offered to help the Poland Trust with tree planting at their new social housing development, 'Poland Meadow' in Middle Street. We agreed to fund seven trees for the Platinum Jubilee, plus further mixed planting.
- Two well attended Spring meetings. In March, Paul Ritchie on 'Where the Wild Things Are' and in April Claire Bryant gave a demonstration of Spring flower arrangements.
- Very successful Plant Sale in May, with best ever profits.
- Private members only visit to Paul Ritchie's wildlife garden.
- September Flower Show, with plenty of entries despite the difficult growing season.
- Christmas Wreath Workshop.
- Sadly, the School Allotment project had to close after four successful years, which had included being awarded the Surrey Schools Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards for promoting Healthy Eating.

### **Plans for 2023**

- Poland Meadow Tree Planting. Weather conditions finally allowed us to proceed with planting of seven birch trees for the Platinum Jubilee, plus 10 mixed trees and shrubs.
- Three Spring Talks. In February, 'Keeping Bees' a talk and demonstration by Reigate Beekeepers. In March, Jim Buttress on '65 years in Horticulture'. In April, Mark Dobell on 'Propagation' including his experience with peat free composts.
- Plant Sale in May.
- Autumn Show.
- Further workshops and a private members only 'Open Garden' being planned.

### **Contact Details:**

**Ruth and Paul, membership secretaries, Brockham Horticultural Society.**

**[BGHSociety@hotmail.com](mailto:BGHSociety@hotmail.com)**

## Update for Betchworth & Buckland Society

The Betchworth & Buckland Society was formed almost 60 years ago, in order to:

- *Protect the natural and built environment in the two villages*
- *Provide financial support / advice for projects that enhance village life*
- *Encourage interest in local history, culture and character*
- *Promote social events, bringing together residents and to raise funds*

Membership costs £10 per annum and benefits include access to events throughout the year.

### **Activities & progress for 2022**

- The Society kicked off the year with our **Annual Quiz** in January. It was extremely well supported, with over one hundred enthusiastic attendees & was run jointly with our friends from Re Betchworth - there was a real buzz around this event.
- This has just been repeated in January 2023 with again over one hundred attendees, a 'half time' dinner & a superb friendly atmosphere.
- We then held our **AGM** in May, where we were lucky to have a fascinating talk by Martin Clipperton & Joosje Hamilton on the workings of the Betchworth Estate & Farm.
- In July we held our **BBQ event** - which was held on Buckland Green with our friends from FABB. This was an event with great food, entertainment provided in the form of a children's magician & a super group of musicians. To add to that, we had absolutely fantastic weather.
- In the autumn, we ran our first **guided walk**, run by our professional walk leader Mandy Cooper. On these walks Mandy highlights the history of the area & on our first walk we had a look round the church at Reigate Heath Windmill. On the second walk in October, we saw the inside of the Buckland Saw Mill & believe it or not, a crayfish in the Buckland Shag Brook stream! Our final walk of the year was a Christmas special, which avoided the mud & went around Reigate, passing a number of interesting historical sites including the Castle & the Priory. The cold weather was thankfully offset by some mulled wine & mince pies!
- In October, we held our **Wine Tasting event** which was run by the professionals from the Vine King. This well attended event covered the whole spectrum of white, red & sparkling wine.
- In late November we held our **Annual Christmas Dinner** at the Hartsfield Manor Hotel where approximately seventy people enjoyed the Christmas spirit.
- Finally, we held our **pre-Christmas drinks** at the Reading Room in Buckland on Sunday 18th Dec. This was a very relaxed way to ease our way into the Christmas period.

These are the social events & activities that have taken place over 2022, but our purpose is not just to engender a great community spirit, but provide some **funding for worthy causes** in our villages.

Our members attendance at these events, together with their membership fee, they have ....

- Supported the children's celebrations at both the Betchworth & Buckland village Jubilee events.
- Funded the full hire cost for the apple scrapper for the very successful Re Betchworth apple pressing day, which took place in Betchworth village hall.
- Supported Buckland church, providing a donation towards their Organ Fund
- Made donations to support both the award winning Betchworth & Buckland village magazines
- Finally, making a donation to help repair the bus stop roof in Buckland - a facility is used by countless walkers.



# Update for Betchworth United Charities

## **Progress for 2022**

- We have continued to support 20 beneficiaries
- We have provided Christmas vouchers to our 2 nursing homes
- We were successful in a further bid to the Henry Smith Foundation in light of the cost of living crisis

## **Plans for 2023**

- In 2023 we are working with the North Downs Primary School to identify and support young families in need due to the cost-of-living crisis. Funding will be provided twice a year.
- We will continue to network with other agencies so that those in need can be put in contact with us.
- We will explore the potential to work across parish boundaries with other Henry Smith Foundation funded charities, so that we can maximize our impact.

## **Contact Details:**

The Clerk to the Trustees, Betchworth United Charities 15 Nutwood Avenue, Brockham ,  
Betchworth RH3 7LT

## **Update for Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society**

Last April's music for the Leith Hill Music Festival was Bob Chilcott's 'A Little Jazz Mass', songs from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess and John Rutter's 'Feel the Spirit' with the choirs of Beare Green and Newdigate, Holmbury St. Mary, Bookham, Horsley and Mickleham. An uplifting repertoire!

In the summer term we collaborated with Bookham Choral Society and put on a concert of 'Music for an English Summer Evening' at St. Paul's Church, Dorking.

At our November concert at St. Mark's Church in Reigate, we sang Haydn, Elgar, Mendelssohn, Mozart and John Rutter's moving 'Prayer for Ukraine'. The December Carol Concert took place at St Michael's, Betchworth. Both concerts were very well attended by locals and families and friends of the singers. The Carol Concert raised over £400 for The Brigitte Trust charity in Dorking. We are very grateful for all the local support.

The Choral Society is currently deep in rehearsals for this year's Leith Hill Music Festival. We are singing Haydn's Nelson Mass and Cecilia McDowall's Laudate at 7.30 on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April at Dorking Halls. We would be very glad to see local people in the audience at the concert.

Our Wednesday evening rehearsals at the Village Hall are great fun. Singing is good for you and provides the opportunity to meet new people. The choir is non-auditioned and very welcoming to newcomers. Our conductor, Jamie Sperling, is very encouraging and we are ably accompanied by Anna Tetsuya on the piano. We hold a number of social events during the year including a quiz night. Once a month we go down to the Red Lion post rehearsals and on Festival days we have a choir lunch at a Dorking restaurant to celebrate the fact the competitions are finished for the day, and any successes achieved.

This summer term we are planning to hold a 'Festival Day' of summer madrigals at St. Michael's Betchworth with an informal performance followed by tea and 'fizz'.

As this is our centenary year we are planning a wonderful concert including Handel and Vivaldi at St. John's Church Redhill with soloists and orchestra for November 11<sup>th</sup>

# **Update for The Hamilton Room**

## **Progress for 2022**

- We were delighted to welcome back many of our regular users at various times throughout the year such as bead groups, singers, WI, church groups and the Parish Council
- Infrequent but long standing users continued to book
- Wifi was installed to increase facilities for users

## **Plans for 2023**

- We hope to increase usage by attracting new groups
- We hope that community groups will continue and plan to use this facility in view of its central location
- To maintain the high level of facilities provided at such reasonable rates

**Contact Details: Diana Fitchett**

**Email: [d.fitchett@gmail.com](mailto:d.fitchett@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 01737 201423**

# **Update for Re-Betchworth**

## **Progress for 2022**

- We launched our own village Forest School,
- Began restoration work on the Village Orchard,
- Held our first communal Apple Press Day,
- Secured commitment to plant 70 trees to mark the late Queen's Jubilee,
- Held a number of online educational talks from bio-diversity to heat pumps, sharing information later lodged on a resource-rich website,
- Produced 11 nature movies and established a YouTube channel,
- Obtained formal registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

## **Plans for 2023**

- Expand the Forest School to run monthly,
- Expand and secure a long-term future for the Apple Press Day,
- Continue to restore the Village Orchard,
- Involve villagers in the north of Betchworth in the nation-wide B-Line project and begin to establish a pollinator-friendly north-south corridor of wildflower meadows,
- Build wider involvement in all our activities from more residents, and significantly upgrade our digital comms,
- Trail a water and ponds initiative for 24/25.

**Contact Details:** email [rebetchworth@gmail.com](mailto:rebetchworth@gmail.com)

**Website address :** [www.re-betchworth.org](http://www.re-betchworth.org)

## Update for The Arts Society

### **Progress for 2022**

- The Arts Society Betchworth meets monthly for lectures at Betchworth Village Memorial Hall on a Monday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock
  - Lectures are also available via Zoom for those that are unable to come to the hall
- Our lectures cover a wide range of subjects – recent topics have included: -
  - Coventry Cathedral – Icon and Inspiration
  - Stocking Fillers from Faberge
  - Silk in England: From James 1 to Lady Zoe Hart Dyke
- Membership of our society costs just £45 for a year for which you can attend 10 excellent lectures plus the opportunity of going on day trips to a diverse range of destinations.
- We also hold 'special interest days' where we have lectures throughout the day plus lunch. Our last Special Interest Event was on Chinese Imperial Costume

### **Plans for 2023**

- Future lectures include: -
  - The Thames: Theatre of Pageantry and Pleasure
  - How to build and decorate a Greek Temple
- Planned visits include a visit to Arundel Castle in May, a trip to the Weald and Downland Living Museum in June and further visits in the Autumn.
- In recent years we have organised short visits to the UK and Europe – we are currently planning a visit in 2023. the venue has yet to be decided but possible destinations include Northumberland and Athens.

**Contact Details: Debbie Jones [tasbtours@gmail.com](mailto:tasbtours@gmail.com)**

**Website address : [The Arts Society Betchworth](#)**

# **Update for Betchworth and Buckland Toddler Group for** **2022**

## **Progress for 2022**

- The group is on a Tuesday morning 10 - 12 at £2 per family in the Buckland Reading Room.
- All are welcome including mums, dads, grandparents, and childminders.
- We have a different craft activity every week - these have included painting, colouring, gluing, sticking stickers, and seasonal card making.
- We finish with a story and songs.
- At Christmas the church wardens came and told us the nativity story and lead the singing (we would normally have gone into the church but St Mary's was closed due to the work on the organ).
- We have a small but loyal following. The children particularly like that we are a bit smaller (and friendlier) than many other groups.

## **Plans for 2023**

- We intend to renew our equipment with a grant from the Betchworth Parish Council
- Otherwise, we plan to continue to be a much-needed contact point and social activity for parents and carers.
- 

**Contact Details: Debbie Jones, email [jones13aldersroad@yahooo.com](mailto:jones13aldersroad@yahooo.com)**

## **Update for The Poland Trust**

### **Progress for 2022**

- 1 – 4 Poland Meadow, a block of 4 one bed flats, was completed in early September 2022 and all flats were occupied from the end of September.
- 10 – 17 Poland Meadow, is a terrace of 8 homes with a mix of one bed, two bed and one 3 beds. Homes became completed from September to the end of the year with occupations commencing from the beginning of October with the final resident moving in during February 2023.
- All homes have been let as Almshouses to those from the MVDC housing list who have satisfied the local connection test.
- All the self build plots were sold during 2022 with two now occupied, two nearly complete and one about to start building Spring 2023.
- A resident from Atkinson House who was having issues with other residents was rehoused in Poland House during the year.

### **Plans for 2023**

- Due to the very wet weather at the end of last year it was not possible to complete ground works and landscaping, including forming gardens for 10 to 17 Poland Meadow which will be done as soon as weather conditions allow.

**Contact Details: Tim Kenny [tjkgk@icloud.com](mailto:tjkgk@icloud.com)**

**Website address :**

# Update for Betchworth Village Tennis Tournament

## **Progress for 2022**

- Success in that we managed to get enough players to make the tournament viable.
- Ploughman's lunch held at the Redburns. This is always a popular event and a good chance to chat to the other players.
- The Hardy Family hosted the BBQ. Some new families joined in which is what we always hope for.

## **Plans for 2023**

- Setting up a new Tennis Tournament WhatsApp to try and improve communications. I really hope it works. ...
- NEW date for next year SEPTEMBER 9/10
- We've had to change our date because Wimbledon has moved their dates!!!
- We plan to include more players from other villages but do not want to lose the Betchworth Village atmosphere.

**Contact Details:** Eiluned Slot 01737 842010      07419 140461

[meslot@aol.com](mailto:meslot@aol.com)



## **Update for Pebblecombe WI**

**Also K/A Betchworth's Evening WI**

### **Progress for 2022:**

We were able to resume meetings in February, some members deciding not to continue, leaving us as a very small WI. However, interest from a group of ladies in Box Hill has added to our numbers. We concentrated on having local Speakers to our meeting, which has included a number of members, enlightening us on the production of the TV show Bargain Hunt, an insight into a family's history tracing it back to Italy, and a visit to Bermuda, also, an introduction to the propagating difficulties of producing new clematis varieties.

We continue our monthly Craft afternoons, helping each other with knitting difficulties, while contributing to the Alternative Christmas Tree in St Michael's Church.

### **Plans for 2023**

We will be discussing the National Federation Annual Resolution at a special Coronation Meeting in May. Members have the opportunity to attend craft sessions, educational talks and out-door activities, run by Surrey Federation. We also attend the SFWI Council Meeting in Dorking Halls, with speakers such as Esme Young of the Great British Sewing Bee, and the National WI President, Ann Jones .

We are a friendly group, welcoming any able to meet at 7.45pm in The Hamilton Room, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month

**Contact Details: Margaret Miller** (email : [jma.miller@btinternet.com](mailto:jma.miller@btinternet.com) ) or ring: 01737 842098

## **Update for St Michael's Bellringers**

### **Progress for 2022**

We have now returned to regular ringing without Covid restrictions and have been very active ringing for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and sadly for her funeral. We have become expert at fitting and removing muffles and at raising and lowering the flag in accordance with the etiquette of the day. We also rang for the Proclamation of the reign of King Charles.

Ringing continues with well attended practices and a number of regular visitors including the District Master. Social events have included a joint meal in Martin and June's garden in May and an annual outing to Sussex '...hurst' villages.

### **Plans for 2023**

We look forward to ringing for the visit of the Bishop of Croydon on 7<sup>th</sup> May and to celebrating King Charles coronation. New Ringers are being trained to "Ring for the King" and if you wish to know more please visit us in the tower on our regular Tuesday practice at 8pm. We have recently tried a new idea so don't be surprised to hear Twinkle, Twinkle coming pedantically from the tower on occasion.

**Contact Details: Hugh Frayling** [frayhugh1920@gmail.com](mailto:frayhugh1920@gmail.com)

## **Update for JJ Franks**

### **Progress for 2022**

- Landfilling on the final area north of the Old Reigate Road completed in October 2022.
- Both the quarry and landfill now finished.
- Common field continues to grow a good crop of grass

### **Plans for 2023**

- Soils to be placed over all the infilled land north of Old Reigate Road this summer when ground conditions allow.
- In the autumn the land will be grass seeded along with some tree planting to finalize restoration of the quarry.
- In 2024 the footpath/bridleway in the Common Field will be reinstated to its original position.

**Contact Details: Peter or George Crate on 01737 842311**

**Website address : [www.jandjfranks.com](http://www.jandjfranks.com)**

## **Update for The Betchworth & Buckland Nursery**

### **Achievements, Performance and report from the Chair**

Thank you to a dedicated staff, supported by the management committee and supportive parents, the nursery has had a wonderful year again this year. The nursery has welcomed some new (and old) members of staff to work alongside our wonderful team. 2 year olds have been welcomed into our nursery. There has been a positive uptake for our school leavers sessions, which began in January. This in part is due to listening to what parents wanted and will help embed skills that will help our children make successful transitions onto the next stage of their learning journeys. Our lunch sessions have been very popular again also. The Nursery has good links with the parish churches with regular visits to the church at festival times for stories and singing.

The nursery team have successfully embedded the new EYFS framework when developing an engaging curriculum for the children. The curriculum is based on child-led learning where children make their own choices and figure things out for themselves, leading to enhanced confidence, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. There is a strong emphasis on reading to children and developing and enriching children's vocabularies and nurturing a love of reading. The importance of children being able to demonstrate imagination and creativity through a range of experiences and materials is embraced with a wide emphasis on language and vocabulary development, through role play, making up stories and singing. Children are engaged in their environment and can choose activities which play to their own interests.

The nursery has undertaken some much-needed maintenance work over the year. We have had the garden resurfaced and the children's toilets have had a revamp along with a new kitchen. The

Nursery Manager and staff have done a wonderful job ensuring the pupils are receiving a broad, balanced and creative curriculum that focuses on individual children's imagination and curiosity as learners.

## Update for Betchworth Village Archives

### **Progress for 2022**

- A very generous grant from the Parish Council, enabled us to purchase a new laptop and we are now in a position to scan in our (many!) photographs.
- We have received quite a few email enquiries from people researching their family history or Betchworth history and have successfully helped the majority of them. We have also welcomed visitors who wish to look at documents and photos in the Archives and in one instance have received copies of the Tozer family documents and photographs in return.
- Cataloguing photographs and documents has continued as well as the translation of the Manor Court Rolls from Latin.

- **Plans for 2023**

- An Exhibition, 'Buried in Betchworth', will be held in the Hamilton Room on 18th and 19th November 2023.
- The monuments and inscriptions survey in the churchyard will resume this summer (weather permitting!).
- Another very generous grant from the Parish Council will enable us to purchase a new external display board; more frequent displays of Parish history are planned.

### **Contact Details:**

betchworthvillagearchives@gmail.com

### **Website address :**

Parish Council link

# **Update for FABB (Family Activities for Betchworth & Buckland)**

## **Progress for 2022**

- Hiring of Magician to entertain children prior to start of B&B BBQ
- Christmas Party with disco & entertainer had to be cancelled due to poor uptake. Likely to be due to several overlapping issues:
  - World cup final clash
  - Change of day from usual Friday after school to Sunday afternoon
  - Fewer younger children moving into the villages/previous attendees mostly now over 11 plus no new 'recruits'/regulars.
  - Lock down inactivity.
  - Lack of awareness of what FABB is about.

## **Plans for 2023**

- Need to relaunch FABB & create new 'database' of regulars plus remind newcomers what FABB is about.
- Easter Egg Trails Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am in Dungaltes Lane and afterwards at The Reading Room
- Sunday afternoon family cricket and games event/BBQ at The Red Lion (tbc)
- Dorking Fire Station trip during summer holidays
- Picnic and walk in the summer holidays
- Christmas Party/Disco

**Contact Details: Katrina Rea 07803 163868 [katrinarea@ymail.com](mailto:katrinarea@ymail.com)**

**Website address : NA**

# Update for The North Downs Primary School

## North Downs Primary School

## Headteacher's Report for Betchworth AGM



*March 2023*

*Be the best you can be, every day.*

This year has been a very busy one for us all at North Downs School. Over the last few years we have all faced significant difficulties and every once in a while COVID rears its head again. However, it has been wonderful to have been able to embrace a life without restrictions...long may it continue. It has meant that our children have been able to enjoy visiting each other at the different sites; Reception had a particular enjoyable day last month at the Betchworth site to celebrate their Transport Day with buses, vintage cars and even a DeLorean stopping by!

We continue to have one Reception class at Betchworth and two single age classes at Leigh – a year 1 class and a year 2 class. We are almost full to capacity and early information indicates that our two Reception classes will be full for this coming September. We are very conscious of the challenges presented by being on three sites and seek every opportunity to ensure that the whole school spends some time on our Brockham site at least once a term. Next term Reception children will join each other for their Beach Day – let's hope for slightly warmer weather by then!

During 2020 and 2021, work was undertaken to replace all of the windows and doors at the Betchworth site, whilst very much maintaining the character of the building. There is further maintenance work which still needs to be undertaken, to repoint the chimneys, and this will occur during the school summer holidays this year.

We look forward, over the coming months, to working with the Parish Council to update our School Travel Plan in order to help support the work which has been proposed to implement traffic calming systems in order to reduce the speed on The Street, ensuring that both pedestrians and drivers are protected on this stretch of road.

Mrs Jane

Douglass

Headteacher

## Update for St Michaels Church

### **Progress for 2022**

- Obtained Charitable Grants of £12000 for the Rainwater project.
- Returned to singing in church without masks.
- Parish Meeting held to highlight dwindling church resources.
- New Musical Director found to replace our long serving organist.
- Discussions held with Arch Deacon regarding replacement of the Rector.
- Fabric funds reach £85.000 target thanks to Pillars Auction and an anonymous donation.

### **Plans for 2023**

- Complete Parish Profile and advertise for a new Rector
- Maintain Regular Services during interregnum with visiting Priests.
- Encourage new Members to strengthen the PCC.
- Welcome the Bishop of Croydon on the Coronation Week end.
- Welcome and Institute a New Rector.
- Complete Rainwater Project and Stonework replacement.

**Contact Details: Churchwardens Linda Slater** [lindamslater1@gmail.com](mailto:lindamslater1@gmail.com)

**Bernard Hawkins** [bernhawk57@btinternet.com](mailto:bernhawk57@btinternet.com)

**Website address :** [St Michael's Church Betchworth \(stmichaelsbetchworth.net\)](http://stmichaelsbetchworth.net)