



THE LINK



ISSUE 54

Vicar: Rev. Peter Hart Parish Office: 8332 1324

March, 2017

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Our first issue in full colour — and what an appropriate technicolor issue to start with!

The **Kew Community Choir's** colourful production of

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

was performed at the Barn in January, and all three performances were sold out, with standing room only.



Visit our websites:

www.stlukeskew.org.uk

www.barnchurchkew.uk

Above is the final scene, with the full cast on stage — apart from poor old Pharaoh and Potiphar and his entourage.

More photographs on page 4 — all taken by Sam Rowley, to whom we extend our grateful thanks.

The Choir is indebted to Mary Noyes, who masterminded and conducted the show to great acclaim, and to a lot of other people — Jane Corpetti (Theatre Director) and Mike Oxborrow (Set and Props) particularly spring to mind. See page 4 for full write-up!

Hello from *The Link* team

We are delighted that Hilary Sims has joined the team. She is already being an enormous help to John Elstone with the advertisements, especially in the change-over to colour. We are sure that you will enjoy the positive impact that colour printing makes to the magazine.

Link 55 will be published on 18th June. Copy — including photographs — to the Editor by email by 28th May, please.

Editor: Charlie Grace: 8876 8853 c.grace1639@gmail.com

Promotion: Sarah Ball: sjball@hotmail.com

Barn news: Anna Pannett: anna_gane1@yahoo.co.uk

St. Luke's news: Louise Frankiss: 8274 9703

Advertising: John Elstone: 8876 7054 johnelstone@gmail.com

Hilary Sims: hilary@sp-direct.co.uk

Services and Contacts

Vicar: Rev. Peter Hart

The Vicarage

70 Marksbury Avenue

Kew TW9 4JF

8392 1425

pwhart1@aol.com

Lay Reader: Richard Austen

readerkew@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrators

Guinevere Duff and Irene Stephens

St Luke's, The Avenue, Kew TW9 2AJ

Tel: 8332 1324

office@kewparishes.plus.com

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Every Thursday

10am Holy Communion

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BARN CONTACTS

Church Wardens

Robin Hancock rob@wrightbros.eu.com

Sarah Ball sjball@hotmail.com

Church Leadership Team

Felice Oxborrow, Lydia Elstone,

Alison Bantick

Treasurers

Nigel and Susan Barton 8878 8184

Organist

Alban Clarke 8878 2856

Choir Conductor

Mike Oxborrow 8876 2085

All-age Band Leader

Mair Hughes 8255 8114

Planned Giving Co-ordinator

Alison Rankin

aliwelch2007@yahoo.co.uk

Flower Rota

Ann Jeffries 8876 1746

Junior Church

contact: thebarnjuniorchurch@gmail.com

Church and Hall Bookings

Richard Wright 8878 2716

Youth Group

Judi Braddock jabraddock@sky.com

Brownies and Guides

Charlotte Kemp

girlguidinginrichmond@hotmail.co.uk

Vineyard Lunches

Clare Vollum

PCC Representative on Governing Body of Queen's School

Luci Mitchell-Fry

lucimitchellfry@yahoo.co.uk

Safeguarding Officers:

Children: Mair Crouch mairlaw@hotmail.com

Vulnerable adults: Claire Vollum 07708 064935

ST. LUKE'S CONTACTS

Church Wardens

Judi Braddock jabraddock@sky.com

Jayne Armstrong jaynewatts@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Thomas Liebers slk.treasurer@gmail.com

PCC Secretary

Liz Tippet 8940 7485

Director of Music

Mary Noyes noyesmary@hotmail.com

Planned Giving Co-ordinator

Robert McKeag 07769 830486

Junior Church

Paula Brackenridge 8940 2358

Flower Rota

Irene Stephens 8940 9614

Coffee Rota

Jayne Armstrong jaynewatts@hotmail.com

Brownie Leader

Mary Noyes 8255 6924

Traidcraft

Sue Murray 8940 0565

Vineyard Lunches

Alison Kemp 07711 747857

PCC Representative on Governing Body of Queen's School

Laura Coughtrie 8876 3202

Safeguarding Officers

Children:

Anna Whiting anna.whiting@cantab.net

Vulnerable adults:

Pamela Muirhead pcmuirhead@waitrose.com

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

It has been a while since I have written one of these, mainly because of the publication dates and my sabbatical in the autumn, but it is a joy to be involved once more in the next edition of *The Link*. Some people say that I should write about my sabbatical, share with the parish some of what I got up to. Maybe, but the major conclusion I came to at the end of my three months of study leave was that everybody ought to take a sabbatical, whatever their job, whatever the company they work for. It is necessary to take a complete break – more than a two week holiday – I would recommend at least six weeks, preferably eight, for the change of pace and subject matter to be worthwhile. I have returned to parish ministry rejuvenated, with a fresh vision and a great long list of things to do – so if anyone works in HR, make the suggestion to your bosses, and it will have a positive impact on the workforce.

I read a lot of drama during my three months off – plays about Thomas à Becket, Joan of Arc, even Luther and St Francis – as well as some delightful newer works – especially Robin Soans' *The Arab-Israeli Cookbook* – a wonderful piece, drawn from reportage across Israel and Palestine, where the actors have to cook various dishes on stage, while telling their stories – a real two-for-one experience, as you get a recipe book as well as a play.

I also visited a lot of social projects around London – drop-in centres for vulnerably housed and homeless people, food banks, emergency winter night shelters – and met some amazing people, willing volunteers and highly skilled staff who are making a big difference to the lives of those who are on the very edge of our society. From that experience I am leading soundings across the faith communities in the borough for the provision of an emergency night shelter in Richmond, possibly rotating round different church halls etc, to provide some respite for rough sleepers during the colder months of the year. Watch this space for updates.

However, the main purpose of this piece is to encourage all of us to take the opportunities offered this coming Holy Week and Easter season to re-engage with the deep issues of this world – the beauty of life, the pain of rejection and betrayal, the difference friendship makes, and the extraordinary power of God to resurrect. Hope, potential, endeavour, all flow from Easter: nothing is lost on Good Friday, all that happens there is the limits of evil are reached and left floundering in the dust as the resurrected Christ re-affirms the glory of God's creativity, God's image in us in our resurrected humanity and a delight to share with our families and neighbours all the good things with which God has filled this world – like chocolate, like Spring blossom, like human love and divine love for the unlovely. Join us this Holy Week and Easter, that we may encounter God wonderfully, together.

Peter

Baptisms

The Barn

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11 th December 2016 | Imogen Sian Webster |
| 1 st January 2017 | Luke Alan Williams |
| | Aurelia Bronwen Williams |
| 22 nd January | Nathan Robert Bishop |
| | Erica Meredith Bishop |

St. Luke's

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 30 th October 2016 | Louise Olivia Mc Gough |
| 4 th December | James Gerald Charrington |
| 22 nd January 2017 | Lewis Henry Crockford |
| 29 th January | Theodora Melanie Lilac Leicester |

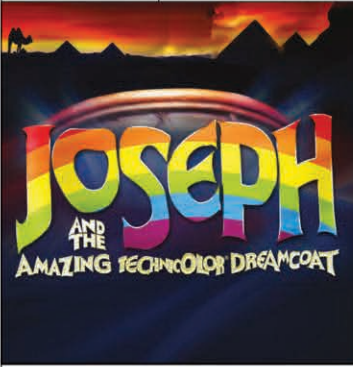
Funerals

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 16th January 2017 | Peter Moulton |
| 27th January | Amy Harrison |
| 9th February | Pamela Muirhead |
| 10th February | Phyllis Barrington |
| 16th February | James Daniels |
| 13th March | Stella Violetta Meredith |



St Luke's May Ball - Saturday 20th May

This fantastic evening starts at 7 pm with an aperitif, followed by a 3 course dinner and dancing to the renowned local band, **Frank the Cat**. All proceeds to be shared between St Luke's Church and the Kew Neighbourhood Assn. For any further information and tickets, contact Laura Coughtrie at alnac17@gmail.com



What a Show! For three Barn-storming performances in January, the crème-de-la-crème of Kew talent brought us their skills and irrepressible enthusiasm. The famous Lloyd Webber/Rice musical, was perfect for our community - an Old Testament tale turned into fabulous fun. Led by Mary Noyes, we were guaranteed inspirational direction. With former Queen's dad and professional opera singer, Ian Bloomfield, as Joseph, we were sure of a stellar performance. The sell-out audiences settled into their seats, happily expecting that this was going to be

tremendously entertaining.

From the opening number, we were transported into biblical times by the secure and beautifully-sung narration - take yet another bow, Jane Corpetti and Alison Rowley. Cute kids and the Kew Community Choir took to the stage with great presence and musicality. [KCC - you're more confident with every performance, such a joy to listen to.] The Brothers - a splendid bunch of chaps from Kew and beyond - were hacked



off with

dad Jacob [our magnificent Charlie Grace, indispensable to any local production]. His excessively-soft spot for Joseph, symbolised by the OTT coat of many colours, prompted the bro's to sell their irritating sibling, which conveniently allowed their own exuberant performing talents [and those of the wonderful Wives] to shine. In Egypt, Potiphar [thank you Hugh Cox] purchased Joseph but behind his back the dancing women shamelessly strutted

their stuff - was that really the Queen's Chair of Governors shimmying in her feather boa? Laura, and Helen - such girl power, respect. They helped lure the enslaved Joseph into a compromising position. He struggled to resist - bit of a challenge as Mrs Potiphar was his lovely real-life wife, Kim, the inspirational music teacher at Darell School. Jail was probably a welcome relief - Chloe and Imogen played the butler and baker brilliantly, Jim and Dave were the Egyptian



guards [lovely legs, gentlemen]. Ian then slipped effortlessly [ok, professionally] from comedy into the truly-geese-bumps emotional hit "Close Every Door". Joseph's ability to interpret dreams impressed Pharaoh [Andrew Cox, having a ball], who for reasons lost in the mists of showbiz time relived his dreams in an Elvis sequence that rocked the delighted audience.

Contd. on p 5

The Brothers showed up again as starving refugees - a great excuse for more lusty singing and hoofing - with riotous applause for Mike Oxborrow, Jean Utshudiema and Leo Copland who gave confident, hilarious, and moving performances, as did their stunning siblings; Carsten, John, Tim, Nelson, Penny, James, Evan and Rohan. What a team.

It all ended happily, of course. Joseph revealed himself to, and forgave, the sleazy Brothers. For the grand climax, Joseph was towed down the aisle



in his golden chariot by a giggling gaggle of tiny child stars, a splendidly blinged-up shopping trolley. Thanks again, Mike - best prop of the night. The cast saved their ultimate musical welly for the final big number, to bring the show to a triumphant close. The audience went appropriately wild, and showed their huge appreciation for a very, very special event.

Everyone knew someone who was in the show, and this community enterprise allowed so many people to relax and develop their own skills and imagination. Mary, with Alison and Jane, led - but they created a magical world where others could take flight. Retired friends, busy professionals, helpful parents, secondary students, little kids [thanks Harriet

Turley for encouraging them!] all threw caution to the wind and had the time of their lives. Truly any dream would do. Pat Munro assembled a hugely-impressive band, to set the scene created by Mike and Derek, sound engineered and facilitated by Richard Wright, and lit by Tom Bithell. Stage management was expertly managed by Mary and Ruth. As the performers reluctantly left the stage, the partying continued [Susie and Robin had ensured that the audience - and some cast members, you know who you are - were well-refreshed at the bar] and the proceeds were totted up. After costs, £1650 was



raised for the Barn and St Luke's and £369 for REACT. Following the Barn shows, children at Queen's performed a choral version of Joseph to yet more delighted audiences at the school - Margie Marshall's musical support was greatly appreciated. So, Mary, enjoy a brief and well-earned rest. Then how do you top that - everyone can't wait for the next show!

Liz Holden Bithell





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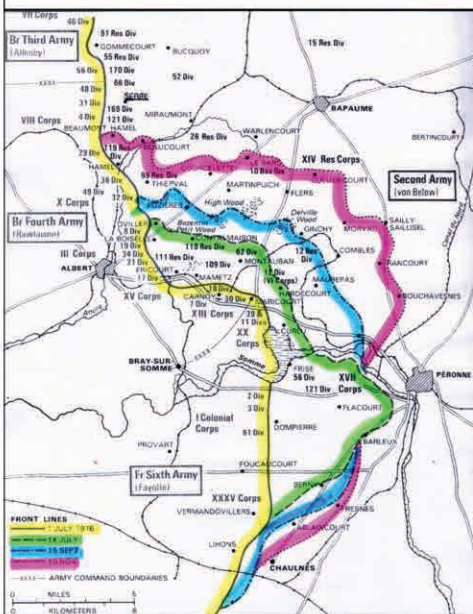


It is a surprise that no deaths are recorded on the St Luke's board this quarter and I am very grateful to Simon Fowler, who has kindly stepped into the breach to relate the story of 2nd Lieutenant Sidney Ernest Orme Rothe who died in November 1916 (his photograph appeared in the previous issue).

I have colour coded a map of the Battle of the Somme to demonstrate the progress of the front and also that Lt. Rothe was killed at the end of this horrific encounter.

John Elstone

St Luke's WW1 Roll of Honour Board: those who died Jan. — Mar. 1917



Had he really been killed?

The mention of the commemoration of 2/Lt Sidney Rothe on the war memorial at St Luke's intrigued me. So I ordered up his Army service record and checked out the Battalion war diary when I went to The National Archives recently. Rothe and his young family lived just minutes away at 61 Defoe Avenue.

Before the war Sidney had been a shipping clerk in the City. At the age of 33 he joined the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps in July 1915, before being assigned to the 17th Middlesex Regiment in April the following year. By the time of his death on 13 November 1916 he and the battalion as a whole were very experienced in trench warfare. But this experience did not save him.

The bloody and futile Battle of the Somme finally limped to an end in November 1916. In one of the last actions the 17th Middlesex was ordered over the top near Serre Road at exactly 5.51 am on the 13th. It was a misty morning.

According to the war diary "all ranks were extremely cheerful and success seemed inevitable. Two of the companies...went over playing mouth organs." It is likely that the Regiment was decimated by German machine gun fire. Matters were not helped by thick fog which led to many men becoming lost in No Man's Land between the British and German lines. In addition, many men became entangled on the thick enemy barbed wire that the British artillery had failed to destroy. Stragglers made their way back to holding trenches which in turn became targets for German artillery. Three officers and 15 other ranks were killed, and eight officers and 133 men were reported missing, most of whom had been swallowed up by the mud.

All this was kept from Rothe's widow Frances, and presumably the widows of the other men who had lost their lives. It was not uncommon for the families of men reported missing to try to determine the circumstances of their disappearance. There was always the hope that he might have been taken prisoner by the Germans, and in the confusion reports of his capture had not made their way back home. Unfortunately the Red Cross were clear that Rothe had not become a POW.

Mrs Rothe then tried to contact men who served with her husband. Lance Corporal Tucker wrote to her that '2nd Lt Rothe was in charge of my platoon. He went over with us at Serre on Nov 13th and got hit close up at the German wire. The stretcher bearers saw him there and spoke about it to me when we were in rest. They couldn't get near enough to the wire to bring down stretcher cases, and they said that the Germans were coming out and taking in our cases. But the War Office brusquely told her that Tucker had had "no personal knowledge of the fate of the officer", although it took them five months to do so.

Perhaps worse of all Private W. Taylor had reported to the War office on 19 April 1917 that "Lt Rothe was in charge of my company during the attack...When about half a mile from the village [Serre] he dropped saying he had two bullets in the chest. He died about five mins afterwards." But this information was not sent to Mrs Rothe until 14 November, nearly six months later. Frances then asked for "a systematic search" to be carried out in the cemeteries near Serre "in case her husband's grave had been registered there". Thereafter the correspondence tails off. Presumably she had finally come to terms with her husband's death.

No body however was ever found, and Sidney is now commemorated on the massive memorial to the missing at Thiepval as well as at St Luke's.

Simon Fowler

SIMON FOWLER is a freelance researcher and writer specialising in the two World Wars. He is also vice-chairman of Richmond Local History Society.

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AVENUE CLUB NEWS

At last the days are getting longer and it's all change at the Avenue Club. Our Centre Director, David Polya, is moving on at the end of April, so we wish him well.



The building works for the new room are progressing, and are due for completion early summer. The new room will give us much more scope for activities and events, and we'd really like to get an idea of what the wider community of Richmond and Kew would like to see happening at the Club. To this end we have devised **an on-line survey**, which we'd like to encourage you to fill in. Do tell your friends and neighbours as well, the more input we have the better. The web address is:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PB3PMXT

If you'd be happy to do the survey but don't have access to a computer or need some help do give us a call. There'll be volunteers at the Club to give you a hand. Many many thanks for participating.

Creative Writing - Mondays – 11.00 am - 12.30 pm & 1.00 – 2.30 pm - £6.00 per class – Pay as You Go.

We're sure there must be writers out there who are just waiting for the opportunity to come out! Here's what some of our writers say about the class:

"It's an opportunity to let your imagination run freely on paper, learn about writers and poets, and all in a non-judgmental, no pressure atmosphere. A highlight of my week".

"Why do I enjoy the class? It's an opportunity to think, talk, write about different ideas and improve my ability to express them in both poetry and prose. It's a pleasure and a challenge".

"I came to the Club when Nichola left my last writing class and I missed her. The Avenue is a great club and very friendly. I don't mind travelling 8 miles from the sticks of New Malden "

Mindfulness – Wednesdays – 1.30 – 3.00 p.m. - £5.00 per session – Pay as You Go.

This course takes you on a voyage of discovery with talks, discussions and exercises. You will explore: what is Mindfulness; body, mind and spirit; mindful movement; past, present and future; being kind to yourself; the journey to wellbeing.

Participants have enjoyed the course so far – there's room for a few more if anyone is interested.

Art Classes - Wednesdays – 1.00 – 3.00 p.m. - £6.00 per session – Pay as You Go.

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." — Pablo Picasso

It's true! Linda and Patsy, our teachers, will bring out the creative in you – you'll be amazed at what you can achieve in the right environment. It's a great way to de-stress and it is good for the soul - and as if that's not enough you'll also get tea and biscuits to keep you going. Pop along and give it a go – no obligation!

Talk by Lord Holmes of Richmond, M.B.E. – tentative date Thursday, 11th May – but do check beforehand.

Chris Holmes is Britain's most successful Paralympic swimmer with a tally of 9 golds, 5 silvers and 1 bronze. Since entering the Lords in 2013, Chris has focused his time on employment, education and skills, media and sport, and the digital opportunity. He is also a very entertaining speaker and we look forward to welcoming him to the Club to hear about his fascinating experiences. All Welcome. Do call the office on 8948 8807 to check the exact date as we are still waiting for confirmation. This talk is absolutely not to be missed.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AT THE AVENUE CLUB VERY SOON.
CALL : 020 8948 8807 FOR MORE DETAILS**

Kew for You

The Joys of Spring: Now that the days are getting longer, we can appreciate more of the spring flowers coming into bloom. Just by the entry into the gardens, near the Temple of Bellona, I was pleased to see the recent planting of several new Magnolias. These included *Magnolia biondii*, *Magnolia dawsoniana*, *Magnolia officinalis* and *Magnolia spengeri*, which should soon be in flower.

Easter at Kew: April will signal the arrival of spring, with new layers of colour spread across the gardens. Visit the Woodland Garden and enjoy the Squill (formerly called Scilla), Erythronium and Trillium flowers.

Family Fun at Kew: will include the wonderful world of the Moomins this Easter from 1 – 17 April. They will be coming out of hibernation, visiting Kew Gardens and bringing all sorts of fun and mischief with them. Families can look forward to a great deal of fun, with an amazing action packed day and an exciting interactive trail to explore the hidden depths.

Kew the Music: is returning with an amazing programme once again. From 11-16 July, there will be something for everyone. Make sure that you don't miss out and book your tickets early. People may bring their own picnics or enjoy the open air bars and street food stalls.

The Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art: 25 March - 17 September. Two new exhibitions will be opening there this spring. Joseph Hooker – Putting Plants in their Place, celebrating the bicentenary of the eminent botanist Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker. Also to add to this, there will be a showcase of British Artists from the Shirley Sherwood not to be missed. You will be rewarded with some very different yet stunning paintings in a gallery just next door, those of the amazing artist Marianne North who travelled the world on her own. There is also a short film on the life of Marianne North, well worth watching.

Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker: was the second and probably the most famous director of Kew. He was one of the most influential scientific men in the Victorian British Empire and he received many honours. Darwin described him as "impulsive and somewhat peppery in temper". A brilliant botanist, he identified more than 12,000 new plant species. He also played a considerable hand in turning botany from a naturalist's past time into a "real science".

Vanilla Pods: are now in very short supply, which is a great pity as I like to use them in cooking. The Vanilla Orchid, in the Palm House at Kew, flowers every year and is hand-pollinated in order to produce pods. Vanilla is one of the most popular flavours in the world and was first used by the Aztec people in Mexico to flavour cocoa. The prices of vanilla pods have more than tripled in the last two years, to 450 dollars per kilogramme, due to people hoarding it.

The Secret of Why We Like Chocolate: We like chocolate because it's delicious! It is made from cocoa beans which have been grown and eaten in the Americas for thousands of years. It contains some very interesting psychoactive chemicals, but only in tiny amounts. Apparently we like it because it has a creamy viscosity and it melts quickly on the tongue, giving a lingering smoothness. It also has 20-25% fat and 40-50% sugar which may well make it taste good. Actually, in nature such high levels of fat and sugar are hardly ever found.

And Finally, Now for Something Amazing: Whilst pottering around near Queen Charlotte's Cottage, I came across the new Woodland Walk. This is a 300 metre long boardwalk which gives you the chance to visit a previously inaccessible part of Kew. As I walked along, admiring the trees and reading the information boards, I thought what a super place this would be for families to enjoy: the wide smooth path would be great for wheel chairs, push chairs and toddlers. Well done Kew!



Rosalind Eagleton



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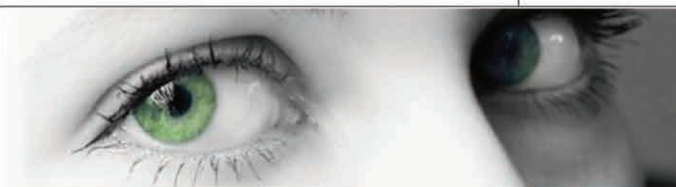
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Diary of Events & Services at St Luke's and The Barn

March

Monday 27 8.0pm Lent Lecture at The Barn

April

Monday 3rd 8.0pm Lent Lecture at The Barn

Wednesday 5th 8.0pm St Luke's PCC Meeting

Sunday 9th 11.0am Palm Sunday (starts at St Luke's with walk to The Barn)

Monday 10th 8.0pm Compline at The Barn

Tuesday 11th 8.0pm Compline at The Barn

Wednesday 12th 8.0pm Compline at The Barn

Thursday 13th 8.0pm Maundy Thursday service at The Barn

Friday 14th 10.0am Good Friday Children's Workshop at The Barn

Friday 14th 12 noon Walk of Witness (CTK) starts at St Anne's

Friday 14th 2-3pm Good Friday service at St Luke's

Sunday 16th 9.30 & 11am Easter Day

Sunday 23rd 9.30 & 11am (the APCMs previously arranged for this date have been moved)

Monday 24th 8.0pm The Barn APCM

Thursday 27th 8.30pm St Luke's APCM - **tb**

Sunday 30th 11am Barn Patronal Festival followed by Bring & Share Lunch

May

Saturday 13th Film day and evening at the Barn

Saturday 20th St Luke's May Ball

June

Sunday 11th Admission to Communion

Saturday 24th St Luke's Beetle Drive

Saturday 24th Barn Summer Fair

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PENSFORD FIELD

Saturday 10th June 2017

Summer Party Picnic

Pensford Field Environmental Trust was set up twenty five years ago, so this year we will be celebrating at the Summer Party Picnic. There will be all sorts of activities including the return visit of

Kelvin Christiane Quartet:

'An afternoon of Jazz Standards'

But the most important thing is that lots of people should come along and enjoy themselves. So mark the date in your diary and plan to come along with family and friends. More details to follow.

Any questions: please contact Mary at info@pensfordfield.co.uk



Greenpark School



Picture a sprawling slum area in an African city, the rough main road, the patches of dry scrub land with the occasional tree or sickly bush, trucks and cars driving along the road, crowds of people walking along it; rows of small square concrete houses with corrugated iron roofs or meaner dwellings; hawkers offering their wares, their cries rising above the noise of traffic and the fumes of exhausts; and lastly a young boy of about eight, who should be at school, trying to sell brooms to raise money to buy food for that day.

Imagine now, the sun rising into the same African sky and approximately 280 children of all ages walking through the early morning streets for the start of the school day at 7.30 am. They will be taught by one of the 13 full time teachers, kept safe by security guards in the school building and grounds, and cared for by women who clean the school. Lessons will finish at 3pm. They will eat bananas, rest at their bench-desks if they are tired, or sing beautiful African songs, younger children joyfully joining in with the older ones. Maybe they will have a meal cooked by Felix Sinkala or his wife Lister. One or two of the children may be at risk of violence and Felix will find space for them to stay overnight. Most of them will go home, many to 'child-headed families'. But most of these children will complete a full time education.

That boy on the roadside with his brooms was what inspired Felix Sinkala to leave his well-paid job as a teacher in a good school in Leopard Hill, a prosperous area of Lusaka, Zambia to go and live in Matero, one of the six or seven slum areas, hidden between richer neighbourhoods, and start Greenpark school. He could not bear the idea that children weren't going to school, forced to beg and/or scavenge food out of waste or rubbish heaps in order to survive. AIDS has given a path of death throughout Africa and left many children orphaned and homeless. Many families are 'child-headed', which means the eldest child in the family becomes the head. Two years ago, the youngest child-head at Greenpark was eight when she became responsible for her 5 year and 18 month old siblings. There is no state care for such children, or free education.

Ten years on and the school is established with half the children paying fees and the other half - vulnerable, child-headed or one-parent families - given financial support through sponsorships and bursaries, made possible through Umunandi, the family owned charity set up by Ruth and Mark Chitty.

In 2007 Ruth and Mark Chitty and their two young sons went on a road trip of Southern Africa aiming for Matero where they were to meet Robbie Kullunga, recently reprieved from death row, and with whom Ruth had been corresponding. Robbie's wife introduced them to Felix as he was starting the school and that is how they became involved and set up Umunandi. They also met the dying mother of four children who asked them to promise to educate all her children, which they did at Greenpark School; the youngest, a boy called Gift, has just completed his education to much celebration.

Many of us at the Barn Church will remember Felix's visit a few years ago, and more recently the wonderful talk given by the Chitty family last November. The school now has a nursery built and decorated in July 2016 by 10 sixth-formers from Elmfield School in Stourbridge, which means that babies and infants can be looked after, enabling the child-head of a family to attend school.

It is a wonderful privilege to sponsor a child at this extraordinary school which is so much more than a school, and I urge you to consider it. If you are interested please look on the website and/or contact Ruth Chitty: ruth@umunandi.org or info@umunandi.org

Harriet Grace



NOTICE BOARD

GENERAL

St. Luke's House

Debbie Fife **8940 2791**

The Kew Society

Conserves and enhances the ethos of Kew, environmentally and topically. New residents welcome.

Sue May **8940 8724**

membership@kewsociety.org

Kew Sinfonia

High standard chamber orchestra, 3-4 concerts p.a. at St Anne's, rehearsals at the Barn.

8876 9318

Kew Horticultural Society

Annual show August Bank Holiday Saturday. Outings and talks.

8948 7254

Kew Wind Orchestra

King's House School, King's Rd, Richmond.

All ages, Thurs, 8pm.

8876 2192

Tea & Art Club

for over 50s Thurs 11-12

Pensford Field. Pam: **07500 178578**

Kew Neighbourhood Assn

offers help with transport to medical appointments and the Avenue Club, together with befriending and shopping.

8948 8054 weekdays 10-12 for help and offers of help.

Kew Community Trust

runs **Avenue Club** - social activities for older people. David Polya

8948 8806

Rotary Club of Kew

Coach & Horses, Kew Green.

Wed, 7.30 for 8pm.

8894 9958

Richmond and Kew Quilters

every 2nd Monday of the month.

7.30—9.30pm, St Winefride's

Church Hall.

www.richmondandkewquilters.org.uk

Kew Community Choir

Thurs. 7.30

— 8.30, St Luke's in the Avenue

novesmary@hotmail.com

Q2 Players

Kew Scouts HQ, Station Ave, Presents three full-length plays each season, with performances at St Luke's. **8940 2053**

North Sheen Bowling Club

Marksbury Avenue, Kew. All levels from 12 plus. **8891 1541**

Kew Studio

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Richmond Chamber of Commerce

1-3 Richmond Rd Twickenham TW1 3AB

email@richmondchamberofcommerce.co.uk

Arts Richmond

Unit 6, Upper Deck, Phoenix Wharf, Eel Pie Island, TW1 3DY. Over 80 affiliated societies.

8892 9446

info@artsrichmond.org.uk

Kew Residents Assn.

Caring about the community environment by promoting sensitive and appropriate local development

www.savekew.org.uk

Priory Park Club

Bowls, Bridge and Tennis Forest Road, Kew

www.prioryparkclub.org.uk

Bowls **8400 1963**

St. John Ambulance

8948 8852

For events coverage:

operations@richmond.sja.org.uk

Probus Club

Third Wed monthly, lunch for retired professionals, Richmond Golf Club. **8785 6718 or 8994 0396**

Richmond Local History Society

Talks, usually 2nd Mon. monthly Oct/May, 8pm. Duke Street Church, Richmond TW9 1DH.

Elizabeth Velluet **8891 3825**;

rich.hist@yahoo.co.uk

www.richmondhistory.org.uk

Facebook and Twitter (@RLHS1985)

KIDS

Girl Guiding

Brownies (7-10 yrs)

Tuesdays: St. Paul's, Raleigh Road;

Thursdays: St. Luke's House,

Sandycombe Road and

the Barn Church.

Guides (10-14 yrs)

Thursdays: the Barn Church.

guides5thkew@gmail.com

Kew Scout Group HQ

Station Avenue by Kew Gardens Station (rear of Pether's Butchers Shop).

Beavers (6-7 yrs) Thur 6 pm

Cubs (8-10yrs) Thur 7 pm

Scouts and Explorer Scouts

(11+ yrs) Fri 7 pm

8940 2484

Kew Youth Club

Barn Church (entry Marksbury Ave);

Friday nights during term time,

secondary school years 7-9. Entry

£2.50. jabradock@sky.com

Kew Park Rangers Football

North Road Recreation Ground.

Ages 5-11, boys and girls.

Sat morning (training),

Sun morning (matches).

07770 755 538 or 8940 9882

Kew Young Musicians

Saturday morning music school for

5-18s. Drums, bass, electric and

classical guitar, saxophone, clarinet,

flute, recorder and singing.

kewyoungmusicians@googlemail.com

8401 6950

Toddler Groups

Barn Church Mondays 9.30—11.00

and Fri. 9.15—11. Windham Rd.

Tues 9-11 termtime

Toy Library

The Old Court House,

Sheen Lane, Mortlake.

£1 membership, plus 30p per toy

for 2 wks, plus family drop-in.

Thurs. 9.30-11.45.

8876 7294

Richmond Gymnastics Association

Townmead Rd, Kew.

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toddlers (18 mths-4 yrs).

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photography, 7 and up, Sats 11-12

Pensford Field & Studio. Pam on

07500 178578

Save the dates!

Saturday 13th May:

Film day and evening at the Barn

Saturday 17th June:

Great Get Together

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/blog/the-great-get-together>

Saturday 24th June:

Barn Summer Fair — 1100 to 1430

Lots of different stalls, things to eat, and heaps of fun for all the family!

Pilate's Diary [a Friday fragment]

I'm really what you term 'passed over' – sidelined
 To middle management of an occupying military force;
 Posted overseas [and far too far from home].
 "Don't get involved with the locals" they said
 At my briefing. But today I did. Shall I regret it?
 "They're all a bunch of raving, bloody lunatics,"
 Cried my Centurion [he's new]. "With a religious nutter," –
 In a country of religious nutters? – "Accused of heresy!"
 Why should I, charged with semi-civilian government
 Get involved in their ludicrous, more 'don't' than 'do' religion?
 I'm not a religious man. Believe in God? Which one?
 In Rome we have Gods and Goddesses to spare!
 My focus is a stable colonial government
 In an insignificant corner of a worldwide organisation.
 Sense and sensibility – peace with the force of arms.
 But today, end of a difficult week. Just before 'Passover' –
 Or some such festival important to these idiots –
 They bring me, bound and manacled, some chap
 They want us to get rid of; us, on their behalf,
 Because it wasn't 'Kosher' for them to kill on Friday!
 He wouldn't speak at first, seemed almost disinterested –
 Another religious nutter then – but harmless, blameless even.
 Claimed to be 'King of the Jews' [nothing less!], but finally
 "My kingdom is not of this world": nor would he be
 Very much longer, if the Pharisees had their way.
 He'd been roughed up by the crowds, who were turning ugly
 Unless they had their way. Let the army do their dirty work!
 "String him up! Crucify!" Why? But I compromised;
 A little light scourging, and 'on your way, Boyo'!
 But they wouldn't have it. Death before dark demanded.

Maybe I'm weak? 'But in the interests of public order
 [and a quiet life] I'll lend you two soldiers – but you decide
 Who dies and who goes free'. On your heads be it,
 I thought, not on mine. Your God – Your Way!
 And so they did, that hour, outside the city walls.
 Golgotha – a customary site for executions. Row after row
 Of crosses, stretching to Rome. But why starting here?
 On a small hill, just outside Jerusalem, with two criminals
 Conveniently condemned, awaiting execution anyway.
 Just the three of them, but it made a useful public spectacle.
 He died first – surprisingly quickly. Took the pain,
 Even spoke to his friends and family [why did they watch?].
 We had to break the others, standard procedure
 To finish them off by asphyxiation [so they can't breathe].
 All over by dusk, and a very troubled night.
 But did I have to dignify his death, enoble crucifixion
 By fixing a superscription to his cross, above his head,
 In Hebrew, Greek and Latin of course, that all should read
 How we treat Jews who step out of line. 'King' indeed!
 But somehow I feel that I missed something; that the man
 In the middle was special. My Centurion certainly thought so.

Mike Springate

6-10/1/2017

Grenada, after hearing the 1971 recording
 of Bach's St. John's Passion.



Some surprise visitors turned up at the
Parent & Toddler Group, which meets at the
 Barn church every Monday morning.
 The children were of course very excited to
 meet Mickey Mouse and Peppa Pig.
*(This took place in December and was thus too late
 for inclusion in the last Link)*

Details of timings for this well-attended
 Group are on page 14 opposite



Summer
is fast
approaching



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