



# The VillageLife

**Friends of Cookham Dean Village Hall**

**Newsletter March 2024**

## **UPDATE FROM YOUR HALL**

Welcome to the March edition of The Village Life. Since the last edition, our village has been very busy with the exceptional array of events that make it such a special place to live. September saw 30 unpowered karts rumbling down Church Road in the sixteenth Gravity Grand Prix, followed by another successful Village Fete, which I believe was the forty-third of the modern era. October brought the Rugby World Cup, which we were able to watch on the big screen in the Village Hall using our new projection equipment. The annual bonfire and fireworks lit up November and at the end of the month we enjoyed mulled wine and sang at the lighting of our Village Christmas tree, again kindly donated by Henry Cripps at the White Oak. December started with our Christmas party and the premiere (and only performance) of Aladdin, whilst later in the month we had a full house for our first ever children's pantomime in the hall, a production based on Peter Pan.

All these events depend heavily on the willingness of volunteers in our community who we thank for cheerfully giving up their time and devoting their energies to making them happen. If you are not already, please do not hesitate to get involved – it really is rewarding and good fun.

As we look forward to spring and summer, the hall will host screenings of some of the key matches in the Six Nations rugby and the Euro 2024 football tournaments; we will be "Cleaning the Dean" on 16<sup>th</sup> March and reviving the village rounders competition on 7<sup>th</sup> July. We are working on plans for an Easter Egg Hunt and other social events and details will be made available on our website and through mailings to members as soon as they are finalised.

Which prompts me to remind you that the best way to keep in the know, whilst also supporting our hall and community, is to become a Friend of Cookham Dean Village Hall. We offer some tangible benefits of membership, which include priority booking for our events, discounted ticket pricing for some events, reduced hire rates for the hall and the Old Cricket Pavilion and free loan of our equipment (including tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery, outside PA system, etc.). The main reason to join, however, is simply to support the hall and our community! If

you think you are a Friend, please take the opportunity to check using the QR code on the back page of this newsletter and if not then use the other code to join us today.

Your Village Hall has been busy with a dozen or so regular users, supplemented by a good number of personal events for which the hall is ideal. We have installed new projection equipment above the stage, which allows projection of films, live television, presentations and backdrops that can fill the back wall with high-definition images linked to our existing sound system. New lighting has been installed in the kitchen and our outdoor planting has once again been well looked after by the Horticultural Society.

I look forward to seeing you out and about this spring!

*Peter Austen*

## **CLEAN THE DEAN LITTER PICK**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Please come and join your fellow residents in a village-wide litter pick of Cookham Dean on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Our 'Spring Cleaners' will meet at Cookham Dean Village Hall at 9:45am where routes, hi-vis jackets, litter sacks and pickers will be distributed. Please bring your own gloves.

This annual event has been highly effective in past years, collecting up to 70 sacks of rubbish from our roads, paths and hedgerows. We live in a beautiful place and hope that you can help us keep it that way for another year. If you need further information, please contact Peter Austen on 07802 216241 or email: [chairman@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com](mailto:chairman@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com)

## **CHERRY PICKERS' COMEDY NIGHT**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

The Cherry Pickers of Cookham Dean are running the next comedy night on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April in Cookham Dean Village Hall. Tickets are £20 with an optional ham or cheese ploughman's for £7.50.

Doors open 7:00pm and the show starts 8:00pm. For tickets please contact Luke Dobson at: [lukedobson@hotmail.com](mailto:lukedobson@hotmail.com)

## SIX NATIONS AND EURO 2024

Watch live on the largest screen in Cookham Dean!

Cookham Dean Village Hall will be showing matches from the Six Nations rugby and Euro 2024 football on the huge screen in the Village Hall. A bar, snacks and drinks for all ages will be available.

Current plans are to show rugby on 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March and the key England matches in the football between 16<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July. Full details will be circulated to members and will be published on the Village Hall website.



## COOKHAM FESTIVAL

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May

Cookham Festival celebrates the arts in all its forms across our community and this year runs from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Please see: [www.cookhamfestival.co.uk](http://www.cookhamfestival.co.uk) for events and to book. The Festival needs volunteers to ensure that events run smoothly. If you can help, please contact Freddie Daniel by email: [freddie\\_daniel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:freddie_daniel@yahoo.co.uk)

## DISCOVER COOKHAM

Fun for all the family!



How observant are you? Can you identify the locations in 'Discover Cookham'? The book contains 100 photos of our lovely village and an entry form to identify each location by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024, with a top prize of £150.

Copies cost £10 and can be obtained from The Little Bookshop, Hillcrest Stores, Old Butcher's Wine Cellar and Copas Farm Shop.



## BIG COOKHAM WILDLIFE WEEKEND

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

In celebration of our tenth anniversary, WildCookham is inviting all residents to join in on the weekend of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to see how many different types of wildlife you can find in your gardens.

In preparation we are suggesting that a pond be created in as many gardens as possible – even a small one makes all the difference. A free booklet is available to help with suggestions and design from: [brian.clews@btconnect.com](mailto:brian.clews@btconnect.com)

We are also asking every garden owner to create a small wildflower patch, even if only one metre square. We are making packets of seeds available with just the amount to achieve that. These are available from Daisy Love on Station Parade and The Teapot Tea Shop in the village at £1 each.

Our traditional wildlife is struggling in our heavily worked countryside, but our gardens can be veritable nature reserves for birds, insects, mini-beasts and the like. Join us in celebrating what variety we have and be prepared to be amazed at how many you will find in your own garden. Do take part in this village-wide initiative – it will be great fun for the children too.

*It's getting wilder...*

You can also lend a hand with other projects including 'Wilding the Commons' with the National Trust, managing the Harris Woodbridge Reserve in Cookham Dean and Marsh Meadow Pond in Cookham village (look out for dates). A walk in the fabulous bluebell woods at Little Harwood beckons mid-April.

Meanwhile we call on anyone who can spare a little time to help us with our growing number of projects; whatever your availability and expertise, we have something for you. Ensuring that we have a thriving natural world for posterity is down to each of us.

For further information, please go to:

[www.wildcookham.org.uk](http://www.wildcookham.org.uk)

or contact: [wildcookham@gmail.com](mailto:wildcookham@gmail.com) – and put those June dates in your diary.

## **COOKHAM ARTS CLUB**

### **Summer Art Exhibition**

**Pinder Hall, Cookham Rise, SL6 9EH**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Open daily 10:00am – 6:00pm**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> closes at 4:45pm**

**ADMISSION FREE**

**Updates on website: [cookhamartsclub.com](http://cookhamartsclub.com)**

## **ROTARY CLUB OF COOKHAM BRIDGE**

The Rotary Club of Cookham Bridge, as the name implies, has members from both sides of the river. We organise and provide help in the organisation and running of events where people can enjoy themselves, while raising funds for charities on either side of the river and further afield.

Our next main fundraising event is a Bridge Supper to be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 6:30pm for 7:00pm, at Pinder Hall. A home-cooked hot meal is included in the price of £80 for a table of four or £20 per individual who may be combined into a table. A cash bar will be available. For further details: [bridgenight@cookhamrotary.co.uk](mailto:bridgenight@cookhamrotary.co.uk)

Planning is well underway for the second 5/10 km Cookham Run on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Further details can be obtained at:

[www.cookhamrun.co.uk](http://www.cookhamrun.co.uk).

Our weekly meetings at the Odney Club continue with various activities and speakers, and recently included an in-house auction, a Valentine's Day event and a fundraising Mad Hatter's tea party. Coming up is a 70s evening.

We are always interested in new members to enjoy our evenings and help with events. For more information: [membership@cookhamrotary.co.uk](mailto:membership@cookhamrotary.co.uk)

## **COOKHAM FUN REGATTA**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Cookham Regatta, an annual fun event for families, friends and other groups, is organised jointly by the Rotary Clubs of Cookham Bridge and Maidenhead Thames to provide funds and raise awareness for charities both at home and overseas. There are dragon boat races on the river and a wide range of land-based activities appealing to all ages.

The 2023 Regatta was well supported and the proceeds, around £13,000, have been donated to charities.

Information: [www.cookhamregatta.org.uk](http://www.cookhamregatta.org.uk)

## **THE GRAVITY GRAND PRIX**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

The 2024 Gravity Grand Prix will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September and will be the 17<sup>th</sup> annual event. Organised by the Cherry Pickers of Cookham Dean, last year's event raised over £17,000 for the Air Ambulance and other local charities, with around 3,500 cheering the amazing karts that rocketed downhill. Racing starts at 1:00pm.

Start to plan your 2024 entry now!

Go to: [www.gravitygrandprix.co.uk](http://www.gravitygrandprix.co.uk)

or contact: [info@gravitygrandprix.co.uk](mailto:info@gravitygrandprix.co.uk)



## **COOKHAM DEAN VILLAGE FETE**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

Join in the fun at this year's Cookham Dean Village Fete, which will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. There will be stalls and sideshows, the ever-popular dog show, tombola, silent auction, craft tent, mobile farm and children's entertainment to suit all ages.

A wide range of food and drink stalls will be available – as well as the Cherry Pickers' beer tent – and our celebrated Cookham Cluckers' ukulele band will provide toe-tapping music.

**The annual Flower & Produce Show** will take place in the Village Hall. For details contact: [helenphilip@hotmail.com](mailto:helenphilip@hotmail.com) or see the Cookham Horticultural Society section at Cookham.com.

Also in the Village Hall will be a display of artwork by Cookham Arts Club members, while teas will be provided by Elizabeth House in the WI Hall.

All profits raised by the fete go to local charities. Beneficiaries from last year's fete included Number 22 Community Counselling Services, Family Action Young Carers Windsor and Maidenhead, People to Places, The Brett Foundation, The Luca Foundation, Maidenhead Foodshare, Cookham Dean CE Primary School, Cookham Community Allotments, Cookham.com and Elizabeth House.

If you would like to be involved in the fete preparations or offer help on the day, please email: [pamelaforrester@aol.com](mailto:pamelaforrester@aol.com)



## COOKHAM AND COOKHAM DEAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Spring Show: Classes for your Society daffodils, bulbs, spring flowers, floral displays and baking

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** – How to Plant, Grow and Propagate Peonies by Alec White, Primrose Hall Peonies

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May** – The Year-Round Container Gardener by Chris Day, Buckingham Nursery

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** – Visit to 21 Amersham Road, High Wycombe, £7.50 pp including refreshments

**July Visit** – to be confirmed

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** – Cookham Dean Village Fete and Flower & Produce Show

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September** – The Art of the Autumn Border by Petra Hoyer Millar, The Oxonian Garden

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October** – The Development of an Arts and Craft Country House and Garden by Katharine Woods, The Tea-Break Gardener

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** – What Not to Do at a Flower Show and Other Stories by Graham Talbot, Lecturer, BCA

More information: [family.downes@gmail.com](mailto:family.downes@gmail.com)



## ELIZABETH HOUSE NEWS

Elizabeth House would like to say thank you for your very kind and generous donations for their Christmas Tombola, which raised over £500. This is greatly appreciated by Elizabeth House, which could not operate without your support.

Elizabeth House is looking for lovely new volunteers to entertain their members. This could involve anything from singing or playing music, a craft of any type, a quiz or just a fun hour of chatting and laughter. For more information, please call Dawn Sweeney on 01628 527621.

## MAIDENHEAD AND DISTRICT TALKING NEWSPAPER

Visual impairment may make reading the *Maidenhead Advertiser* difficult. Maidenhead Talking Newspaper is here to help. If you would like to receive audio versions of the Maidenhead Advertiser, please telephone 01628 631259 for further information. This service is free to all visually impaired residents in the SL6 postcode.

## COOKHAM DEAN WI

Cookham Dean WI meets every second Thursday in the month and details of each meeting are displayed on the noticeboard by the WI Hall gate. Visitors and new members are always welcome, so do come along and listen to interesting speakers and enjoy a good cuppa and a slice of cake. Contact: [cookhamdeanwi@berkshirewi.co.uk](mailto:cookhamdeanwi@berkshirewi.co.uk)

A Spring Bridge Drive in aid of the WI Hall will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. For further information, please contact:

[sue@shardwick.plus.com](mailto:sue@shardwick.plus.com) marking your email 'Bridge'.

### Hire of WI Hall

Our WI Hall is available for private events and meetings: [hirecdwihall@cookhamdean.org.uk](mailto:hirecdwihall@cookhamdean.org.uk)

## ART IN THE VILLAGE

Gary Spencer's art classes on Thursdays in the Village Hall continue to be very popular. They are organised by local artist and Cookham Dean resident, Diane Large, on behalf of Maidenhead Painting Club (MPC).

Gary is an excellent teacher who holds classes at various venues and has also appeared on *Landscape Artist of the Year*.

Acrylics are the main medium used and members have a substantial space in which to paint. Membership of MPC, which offers access to other classes, demonstrations and social events, is required.

Both sessions are currently full although Diane keeps a waiting list and a substitute list for when people cannot attend a session.

If you are interested, please see Maidenhead Painting Club's website:

<https://www.maidenheadpaintingclub.co.uk>

## COOKHAM SAINT-BENOIT TWINNING

The 18 people from the Cookhams who visited Saint-Benoit last October had a great experience and were very well looked after by host families. We have now started planning the visit of Saint-Benoit to Cookham on 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October this year, with local families accommodating our visitors and a series of visits and social events being organised.

If you are interested in getting involved with this visit or with the regular Cookham Twinning activities, please contact:

[keith\\_le\\_page@hotmail.com](mailto:keith_le_page@hotmail.com)



## **Closing curtains at night could reduce draughts and energy by up to 20%**

That's an incredible figure and obviously depends on the glazing in your windows and whether the curtains or blinds have thermal linings, but it really can make an enormous difference. Once the sun has dropped there is a noticeable chill in the air and that's when everyone should dash around closing blinds and curtains. Keep in the heat and save the £££!

If you are having issues with condensation on the inside of windows, there are several ways to manage it:

- Clear up any condensation each morning to prevent mould occurring.
- Avoid drying clothes on radiators and in the house as much as possible. If you have no choice, do it in one room such as the bathroom, keeping the door shut and either open a window or use a low-energy dehumidifier.
- Always use an extractor fan or open a window when cooking or showering.
- Monitor humidity levels with a humidistat (currently about £8 on Amazon). If the level exceeds 60%, then open the window and let in some cooler and dryer air. High humidity can cause mould and has been linked to the development of asthma.

Cookhams Footprint has recently held pub talks about heat pumps with our surveyor Toby Knight, separating the fact from the fiction. With the government grant of £7,500 it's worth looking into. If you are interested come and join us at the next talk on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 8:00pm in the Jolly Farmer, Cookham Dean. Just get yourself a drink and find a seat!

To book a free thermal survey or for any other energy issues, please contact:  
[cookhamsfootprint@gmail.com](mailto:cookhamsfootprint@gmail.com) and follow us on Facebook for updates and interesting articles.

## **METRE MARKET**

**Friday mornings**

**8:30am – 1:30pm**

**Cookham Dean Village Hall**

**Fresh local produce metres from your door**

## **ROUNDERS ON THE GREEN**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

After a break of three years, we plan to resurrect the Village Rounders Tournament. Played on the Village Green, open to all and designed to be inclusive, family friendly and fun, teams of nine players (with a maximum of five males) are invited to enter.

The competition will be in a round robin format, with a prize pool to be donated to the winning team's charity of choice. There is an entry fee of £25 per team and players need to be teenagers or older. Entries must be made prior to the day.

Games will start from 12:30pm. To enter a team, join an existing team or volunteer to help on the day go to: [www.cookhamdeanvillagehall.com](http://www.cookhamdeanvillagehall.com). Spectators, picnickers and well-behaved dogs on leads are very welcome and there will be a barbecue and licenced bar available.

## **THAMES HOSPICE FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, in aid of Thames Hospice, the Cookhams' Thames Hospice Fundraising Group is organising a fascinating talk, followed by a two-course lunch with wine.

The speaker is Lieutenant General Philip Jones CB CBE DL, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, who will share both the obvious and the hidden aspects of life behind the walls. Coffee and tea will be served at 10:30am in the Cookham Dean WI Hall and tickets are available from Nicholas Usher on 01628 482015.

## **HALL WORKING PARTY**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Once or twice a year, we ask volunteers to help us out doing some basic housekeeping at the hall. This normally involves clearing leaves, some simple DIY tasks, sorting, fixing and cleaning our equipment and disposing of unwanted stuff.

This time we will also undertake the last phase of our loft clearance, removing items that have been "saved" for many years and are no longer of any value to the hall.

With a gang of people doing less than two hours each, we save the hall money and usually have some fun! Please do come and join us from 10:30am–12:30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

More information:

[chairman@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com](mailto:chairman@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com)

## **HIRE THE HALL**

Go to: <https://cookhamdeanvillagehall.com/HallBooking> to check availability and book.

## THE VILLAGE LIFE CALENDAR – AT A GLANCE

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Cookhams Footprint talk on heat pumps, 8:00pm, Jolly Farmer
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Cookham Bridge Rotary Club Bridge Supper, 6:30pm, Pinder Hall
9 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Six Nations screenings, Cookham Dean Village Hall
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Bridge Drive in aid of the WI Hall
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	The Cherry Pickers' Comedy Night, 7:00pm, Cookham Dean Village Hall
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Clean the Dean Litter Pick, 10:00am, Cookham Dean Village Hall
Easter	Easter Treasure Hunt, details soon at <a href="http://cookhamdeanvillagehall.com">cookhamdeanvillagehall.com</a>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Thames Hospice fundraising talk and lunch, 10:30am, WI Hall
April/May	Spring Social event, watch for details at <a href="http://cookhamdeanvillagehall.com">cookhamdeanvillagehall.com</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Cookham Festival
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Cookham Run
16 <sup>th</sup> June – 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Euro 2024 screenings, Cookham Dean Village Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Big Cookham Wildlife Weekend
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Cookham Dean CE Primary School Summer Fete, Cookham Dean School
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Cookham Dean Rounders Competition, Village Green
13 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	Cookham Arts Club Summer Art Exhibition, Pinder Hall
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Cookham Fun Regatta, 11:00am – 4:00pm, Cookham
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Gravity Grand Prix, racing starts 1:00pm, Cookham Dean
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Cookham Dean Village Fete, 1:00pm – 5:00pm, Village Green
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Annual Flower & Produce Show, Cookham Dean Village Hall
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Bonfire and Fireworks, 6:00pm, Village Green
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Lighting of Cookham Dean Christmas Tree with carol singing
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	The Cherry Pickers' Seniors' Christmas Party, Cookham Dean Village Hall
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Village Club Christmas Party and Pantomime, 7:00pm, Village Hall
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Children's Christmas Pantomime, 1:00pm, Cookham Dean Village Hall
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Boxing Day Games, Village Green

## Cookham Dean Village Hall Team

Chair - Peter Austen	<a href="mailto:Chairman@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com">Chairman@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com</a>
Vice Chair – Maurice Hancock	
Secretary – Caroline Scottow	<a href="mailto:Secretary@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com">Secretary@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com</a>
Treasurer – Peter Harvey	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com">Treasurer@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com</a>
Bookings – Anita Stonell	<a href="mailto:bookings@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com">bookings@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com</a>
Membership – Jacqueline Abel	<a href="mailto:membership@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com">membership@cookhamdeanvillagehall.com</a>
Village Life – Sue Ferguson	
Finbar Murphy, Maggie Robinson, Jeremy Byfleet, Sue Teasdale, Alex Robinson	

## Are you a Friend of the Village Hall?

Use the QR codes below to join or check if you are a member



Select this QR code to check



Use this QR code to join