



Shepperton News



In this month's edition:

Memories of The Rev Peter Ball
and of Tom Greenwood
Shepperton Waterways Walk

February 2021

Hope in COVID Times

A Letter from the Bishop of Kensington



Now that we can only go out once a day, I often go out for a walk or a run early in the morning just as the sun is rising. When I leave the house it is often dark, and the prospect of that gloom continuing indefinitely would be dismal. However, soon, I begin to see the horizon light up with the prospect of the sun rising and a new day scattering the darkness. It's a reminder to me whenever I do this, of the importance of hope.

We are now well into the third lockdown of the pandemic. Many have suggested that this is the hardest of them all, with many people feeling tired and weary after a year of social restrictions, the days being short and the weather cold. It's also been a long time since we've been able to mix freely as we are used to doing, and many of us have not been able to see our friends or family in person. Of course, the one thing that keeps us going and that lightens the prospect of the future is the prospect of a vaccine. The possibility that by the summer most of us might have received inoculation against the virus, and therefore have the prospect of returning to some kind of normality keeps us going during these dark days of winter.

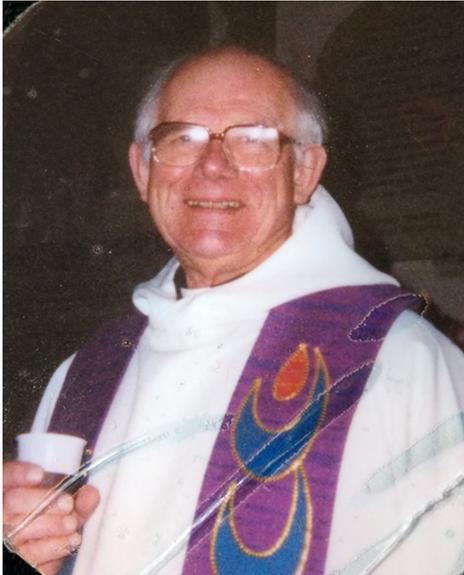
It's perhaps hard to imagine what it would be like if we were going through these dark days without that prospect. It is another reminder to us of how important hope is. We human beings were not meant to live without hope. The opposite of hope is despair. The French word for despair is *désespoir* – literally an absence of hope (*espoir*) and we cannot live for long with despair.

Going through this time of pandemic is somehow made bearable because we have the hope of a vaccine on the horizon. However, when this pandemic is over, when we have the vaccine and when we return to something like normal life, some of our more regular questions and crises will come back on our horizons: climate change, poverty, racism and other issues we face as a society, not to speak of the future of our own lives and families. Our need for hope will not be exhausted once the vaccine has come!

There is a deeper question for us as to where we place our hope, not just for the pandemic, or even our future in this life, but also beyond this life itself. St Paul says that we are to put our trust and hope in 'the God who raises the dead'. We are to place our hope not just in the vaccine that will hopefully allow us to live a few more years, but in the God who raised Jesus from the dead. This is the God who inspires and enables scientists to develop vaccines, who brings life out of nothing and who promises to walk with us when we have to walk through the valley of the shadow of death and to meet us on the other side.

The Rt Rev Graham Tomlin
Bishop of Kensington

Canon Peter Ball



We are sad to report the news of the death on 14th January of Cannon Peter Ball (*not* to be confused with Bishop Peter Ball), who became rector of St. Nicholas in 1968. Whilst here he was appointed a Prebendary (honorary canon) at St. Paul's Cathedral and left us to become a Canon there in 1985. It was at a service in St. Paul's that he celebrated 50 years in the priesthood.

Through his work in ecumenism he established St. Nicholas' very successful link with the Roman Catholic Church of St. Joseph in Enghien-les-Bain, near Paris, in 1982. This brought joy to many, from both sides of the Chancel, as they shared communion together in each other's churches.

Peter had the ability to get to the heart of a matter and put things across in a simple, understandable way, whilst at the same time managing not to "talk down" to people. He was also very skilful in engaging and encouraging people to become involved in the life of the church, at whatever level they felt comfortable, which led to many discovering skills in themselves that they had no idea they possessed.

On retirement he moved to Ramsbury in Wiltshire, where he held his last service on Christmas Day, alongside his son Michael. Peter died three days before his 91st birthday and his funeral was held at Holy Cross Church, Ramsbury on 26th January.

Bill Rawcliffe remembers:

Years before, when Peter was the Chaplain at ABC TV & Thames TV's studios he used to sit beside me in the various Sound Control Rooms, and he helped me and many colleagues to get over life's assorted problems, and join them in their happy and joyful experiences as well. On the day that we moved into our new house in St. Nicholas Drive, there was a wedding. Recognising Peter, we went to chat to him and started our long association with St Nicholas from then on."

TOM GREENWOOD

It is with sadness that we record the death of Thomas (Tom) Greenwood on Saturday 19th December. Tom, along with Elizabeth, was a core member of St Nicholas Church family. He played a major role in seeing our dreams of a Parish Centre realised, acting as Treasurer and Trustee of the St Nicholas Project 90 Appeal Trust. Our sincere sympathy goes to Elizabeth and Tom's family at this time. Tom's funeral took place at St. Nicholas Church on Wednesday 13th. January 2021.



The Rev Richard Truss remembers Tom:

Tom was a stalwart member of the church and I will always be grateful for his quiet dedication to Project 90. It proved to be a surprisingly controversial scheme - "Why does the church need lavatories when we've managed well enough for four hundred years without!" - but Tom never wavered in his support and in overseeing the project's finances which he did with his usual efficiency and dedication. The church, and so many people, including myself will remain indebted to him.

And a present member of the congregation remembers Tom's unobtrusive support:

I have fond memories of Tom Greenwood and often sat with him in the front pew. He talked me through the service when I first started going again and was also an interesting person to speak with on many other subjects.

Update from the Patient Participation Group

ARE YOU A PATIENT PATIENT?

I try to be, because I know that everyone in the NHS is working flat out under quite unprecedented pressures – worse than a battlefield in some cases, we hear. But I can't wait to get my vaccine! Yes, lockdown is frustrating, but sometimes the confusion and anxiety is made worse by rumour and fake news.

Amidst the dark clouds of very high infection rates and more contagious variants, we have a shaft of sunlight! Vaccines are being administered at several local sites. If you are in the current priority group (70 plus as I write) but don't have internet access you can phone Shepperton Medical Practice to book your vaccination. You may also get a letter from NHS England offering appointments further away, but please don't book more than once or the vaccine will be wasted.

Our Patient Participation Group operates to support patients and Shepperton Medical Practice (which in turn helps them to support us, of course). Helping with communication is a key part of what we do, and with that aim, Sue Bryer opened a Facebook page about a month ago, which now has nearly 700 members (Shepperton Medical Practice PPG). At our recent virtual committee meeting we decided it would be helpful to also have a Twitter presence - and within a day Sue had set it up (twitter@smpppg1). A website is on the way too.

Building on the successful work of Andy Andersons' cancer support group, we are looking into support for isolated, vulnerable and worried people by phone, Zoom or letter (some of us thought letter writing was a dying art). Let us know if you are interested in helping with this, or would like to receive help when we are up and running.

If you have ideas to share or comments about our local health provision, let us know via Facebook, Twitter or email. The committee tends to be made up of retired people (well, we have the time) but that isn't representative of all those who use the Practice. Are you a parent of young children, a sixth former perhaps, someone with IT skills? Please think about joining us. Although the PPG has been going for a number of years, we are having our first official AGM on 4th March at 2pm (using Zoom). Please let me know if you would like to attend. No obligation, we already have volunteers for the officer posts, but you might like us! I look forward to hearing from you.

Neal Adolphus (neal.adolphus@yahoo.co.uk)

Scams Watch

Jab or Not

It's only to be expected really, that anything in the news bulletins affecting us all, will be used as material for scamming us. It could be a text or an email from the "NHS", to say that in order to progress to a jab we should click on a link (**oops!**). Doing so would take us to a web site that looks pretty much like the real NHS one. To just confirm who we are for admin reasons and complete a form to register for the vaccine. Including our DOB, NI number and our bank card information. We may even be offered the opportunity to queue jump for a fee! **Hear the warning bells ringing??** Another scam is a 'phone call to say jab can be done at home. For a fee.

Covid-19 Secure Marshals will never come to our door unannounced and do not have the right of entry, or the right to issue fines. A genuine contact from the NHS would give us a unique ID number to be used for accessing <https://contract-tracing.phe.gov.uk>. for people who have tested positive, to provide information about illness, people met and recent activities.



1st Shepperton (St Nicholas) Scout Group February Report

Well, having changed my report last month just before it went to print, to tell you that we were still able to hold face-to-face meetings and that we were planning a return to some 'mixed' meetings in January, the whole situation changed, and everything went into 'lockdown' again! The good news though is two-fold: having canvassed all our families to see which of our young members might continue in Scouting in the coming year we got a response from every family – and only 'lost' 6 young people, and one former Cub planning a return, now as a Scout. Secondly, during January, all Sections got up and running with 'virtual' meetings – although some young people are less comfortable on *Zoom* and will wait until we can begin 'real' meetings before returning to their Sections. Both the Beavers and Cubs have enjoyed their own version of an on-line 'Escape Room' with age-appropriate learning opportunities, the Beavers have been taking pictures for the Photographer Badge and the Cubs have attempted a quiz in order to select a team for the District leg of the annual County Quiz competition.

Our Census this year will show a total of 54 members and 10 Leaders/Section Assistants. Incredibly, this is only down 9 members on the 2020 Census but does now record the loss of a second Leader, Nigel Gibbins from Cubs who has finally succumbed to work pressures. Some young members have, as a matter of course, moved to the next Section as a result of reaching the age of transfer during our enforced inactivity BUT, there is some flexibility in the age ranges and some Beavers have chosen to continue in their Section for a little longer in the hope that we will be able to return face-to-face in the not-too-distant future!

We have not been able to make any headway with the Waiting List, either. We have to consider numbers in the Sections for when we can return to 'proper' Scouting – especially as the numbers in any session will almost certainly return to the 15 figure that it was previously, and the fact that Leader numbers are very low (despite the figure of 10 quoted above!). If you remove myself and an Assistant GSL, there is 'only' 1 Beaver Leader, 2 Cub Leaders (with 2 Pack Assistants) and 2 Scout Leaders (with 1 Troop Assistant). Whilst I say 'only', these 8 people are absolutely amazing in what they are able to do and it is only the constraints brought on by this terrible virus that prevents us all doing more for our young people. However, our average age is 52 and we really need some younger blood! That is why, at the close of each of my reports, I appeal for more like-minded volunteers to come forward and help us to spread the load. Leaders in Uniform are the most sought-after as, with the Uniform (free!) comes the benefit of excellent training and guidance - and full insurance cover(!) There will also be an incredible sense of achievement with the knowledge that you may have helped the young boys and girls of Shepperton develop skills and experience that will help them to meet whatever the future might throw at them.

The Census this year also asks for an assessment of our income over the past year – and we remain reasonably solvent despite the total lack of fund-raising. With some generous donations, a Community Grant and around half our families continuing to pay their fees, our income has been around 40-50% of normal and we can meet our obligations for the coming 6 months at least. By the time you read this the Group Executive Committee will have discussed a proposal to formally reduce the annual fees in the expectation that everyone on the Census this year will be able pay something towards their annual fees if they can.

So, once again, if you feel you could join our team of Leaders to help enhance the provision of Scouting in Shepperton for the future - and have some fun along the way - please get in touch. Bear in mind that, nowadays, volunteering can be more flexible and it is not necessarily a 30-year commitment! Additionally if you have young people wanting to be Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts or Scouts - please contact the Group Scout Leader at stnicksscouts@btinternet.com or phone us on 08450 946236. We hope to be able to welcome new members again very soon.

Stay safe, and please consider if (and how) you could help our 110-year old Scout Group to continue successfully.

David Fern
Group Scout Leader

Shepperton District Girlguiding

1st Ashford Common Rainbows enjoyed playing games at their mini Christmas party for their last actual meeting in December. Although Santa couldn't visit in person this year (pesky Covid!) he left letters and presents for all the Rainbows just outside their meeting hall whilst they were all inside. The Rainbows were making so much noise that no one heard the reindeer bells! Since then, a couple of the Rainbows completed their *Countdown to Christmas* badge challenge at home. Virtual meetings recommenced in the New Year.

1st Halliford Rainbows and Brownies have also Zoomed into the New Year. Both units are working towards a *Mindfulness & Well-being Challenge Badge*, alongside a *Take Action Skills-BUILDER: Make Change.1* for the **Rainbows** and *Influence.2* for the **Brownies**. So far, the Rainbows have practised how to calm themselves by slowing down their teddy's breathing, and made a breathing wand for their own use, as well as planting anemones to be given away in *Cups of Kindness* when grown. The Brownies discovered lots of things that they are grateful for in a gratitude Scavenger Hunt (one brought her mum). Since then they have been practising how to change the outcome of a story by changing just one of the characters, thus realising how simple changes to attitude and behaviour can influence events significantly. They produced some brilliantly inventive upside-down masks too! Next week will see all things Scottish as they celebrate *Burns Night*.

1st Littleton Rainbows have begun working on the *Squirrel and Fox Pawprint Challenge Badges* whilst **1st Littleton Guides** are working on the *Labradorable Pawprint Challenge Badge*. They have had great fun making scones together online, enjoying a cardiovascular workout as they shook cream to make butter, whilst their scones were baking. As well as providing good eating, that went towards their *Skills for my Future* theme awards. For the *Know Myself* theme the girls discussed what they believe and designed symbols to communicate those beliefs.

1st Shepperton Rainbows have begun working for their *Be Well - First Aid.1 Skills Builder* on Zoom whilst **Brownies** are working on *Be Well - Feel Good.2*. The **Guides** are working on *Know Myself - Reflect.3* whilst the **Rangers** are tackling *Express Myself - Innovate.6*. All sections are trying lots of Interest Badges, such as *Baking* for the **Brownies**, *Upcycling*, *Confectionery* and *Geocaching* for the **Guides**, and *Cooking*, *Self-Care* and *Genealogy*, for the **Rangers**.

The re-opening of the Nightingale Hospital in London made this a most appropriate time for **2nd Shepperton Rainbows and Brownies** to work on their *Florence Nightingale Badge*, taking part on Zoom in a variety of games and activities based on her life. The girls have thought about the importance of hand washing - something Florence Nightingale was adamant about. **2nd Shepperton Guides** celebrated Christmas in their last actual meeting in December, by playing bell-plates, taking part in reindeer racing as well as the tights and bottle game - all suitably distanced and masked of course! Three of them gained the *Countdown to Christmas* badge over the holidays. They were back to Zoom in the New Year with plans for games, cooking and crafts - some programme related, others just for fun!



February sees *Thinking Day*, the birthday of Scouts and Girlguiding and members will be celebrating online. We look forward to reporting back how one of the potential advantages of our present online world is the way in which it enables real direct contact between members of the global Girlguiding family, bringing us closer together just when we are all obliged to keep separate and apart.

If your daughter is interested in Rainbows (5-7), Brownies (7-10), Guides (10-14) or Rangers (14-18+) in Shepperton District, please contact Deborah Bayliss on sheppertongirlguiding@gmail.com. We also welcome enquiries from adults who would like to take part in Girlguiding as Guide Leaders or Unit Helpers (Full training offered, no previous experience necessary! You don't have to have a daughter in Girlguiding to take part yourself.)

NORTH SURREY DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service (NSDAS) is a registered Charity, managed by Citizens Advice Elmbridge West that helps men, women and children who suffer from domestic abuse. It has been widely publicised that the national lockdowns during 2020 led to an increase in reported domestic abuse. We expect rates to continue to rise during the new lockdown in 2021.

NSDAS wish to increase awareness of their service. Those being abused can often be extremely frightened and believe they do not have the confidence to live independently. We have a team of highly trained advisors that can help with a wide variety of problems caused by domestic abuse. Clients can be provided with practical help, safety planning, emotional support, all helping to rebuild the survivors' lives, to give them that strength to move on with their lives and live free of abuse.

In addition, NSDAS offers 3 programmes to help children men and women, build confidence and understanding of their situation.

This is what a client said after attending one course - Power to Change: **'When you have been a victim of abuse it is hard to know who you are anymore – this course really helped me to realise my goals, and what I want from life. It also gave me the confidence to attend job interviews, and return to college. Thank you so much!'**

Seeking help

North Surrey Domestic Abuse service is a free, confidential, independent and impartial service. The service can be contacted as follows:

On e-mail - nsdas@caew.org.uk By phone on 01932 260690 and the website is nsdas.org.uk

If you would like to support North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service you can donate at

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/NorthSurreyDomesticAbuseService>

HAPPY NEW YEAR ! I think ...

Christmas has gone ... I must say many thanks to Ahmed and his family at Thames Launderette & Dry Cleaning for keeping the BIG TREE lights glowing during the festive season. Thanks – we appreciate you Ahmed !

What are we – You – going to do ? Keep to your Bubbles – Think positively - as much as you can through the cases of sadness. Keep up the fitness regimes – WALKING in particular – and try to avoid all those clad in Lycra on two wheels Just as important – yes, you guessed it – Keep Shopping Local – in your local High Street. Boris will be happy ... We will be happy And they (the shops) will be even happier ! All the vital shops that have all kept going through these tough times deserve our loyalty.

However, don't forget the shops like BLUE (fashions) – where Donna has her Click 'n Collect service running during lockdown. Places like Shepperton Sports, John at Shepperton Carpets, Felicitations and all our Hairdressers and Beauty salons haven't been so lucky with the lockdown rules. They will be looking to us all when finally allowed to open their doors - Keep them in mind for that day !

Our thoughts go out to our hospitality businesses too, the pubs, restaurants and the cafés. We have their takeaways, but with what relish we await we wait for their re-opening!

In the meantime, Keep healthy and fit ... Walk the dog to a standstill and, above all avoid the neighbours ! Perfect (only joking)

See you in the Spring !

Carl Phillips, Shepperton Residents Association

Christmas Day at the Greeno 2020

Festive Bags at Home

As many readers will now be aware, we have delivered festive gift bags to around 130 recipients. We are pleased to advise that all of our costs were covered by donations with this project and we would like to thank the Shepperton Community for their generous support, both financially and practically, it is what makes the Shepperton community so special.

We have received so much positive feedback from both recipients and many others who have been involved with this project.

Stephen, Jon, Caroline, Sandy & Jo, the committee, would especially like to thank:

Those that give their time...

The volunteers who helped wrap presents and pack the bags and those who provided various transportation needs and the lovely drivers who delivered the bags around the community.

Those that give resources practical and financial...

The Shepperton Community, The Co-op Local Community Fund, Surrey County Council Supportive Community Fund, St. Nicholas C of E Church, St John Fisher Catholic Church, St Andrews Baptist Church, St Mary Magdalene C of E Church, Daines and Gray Butchers, Bazelys & Co Estate Agent, Angie, Gerry, Shawn, Mark and all the staff and regulars at The Bell Inn, Shepperton Dry Cleaners, Shepperton Residents Association, Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club, the Pupils & staff at St Nicholas C of E School, The Mayor Cllr Colin Barnard, The Red Lion, DMI Productions and many others who donated privately.

We wish you peaceful & Healthy New Year

Caroline, Jon, Stephen, Sandy and Jo – Trustees

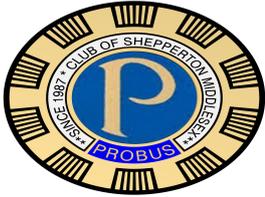
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THE PROBUS CLUB OF SHEPPERTON



We are a club for retired business and professional men who normally meet for fellowship, lunch and to hear interesting speakers, plus enjoying the occasional outing. Virtual Club Meetings are now held on the first Tuesday of each month. Our speaker in February is Ian Arthur (An Educated Yob - Anecdotes of a Retired Firearms Officer), in March we will hold our AGM and in April we will hear Neil Sadler (Gongoozling for Beginners; Life on the Canals).

The Committee continues to meet monthly using Zoom. We have kept in touch with our members by telephone and email. When conditions permit, we have in mind two possible outings: visits to the de-Havilland Museum and to Eel Pie Island.

We are pleased to welcome new members. For further information, please telephone Jim Clarke (01932 223814) or Ron Johnson (01932 225228)



The Waterways of Shepperton 10km Sponsored Walk Sunday 9 May 2021

During 2020 it was hard to raise money, so we hope that as many of you as possible will take this opportunity to join us in May, to raise as much money as you can! Join our Sponsored Walk to raise money for your own **Preferred Charity**. There is a £6 Entry Fee per person but no extra charge made by Rotary, although we will ask you to confirm how much money you have raised for your charity.

E-mail me (see below) to confirm your interest and I will send you the Sponsorship Forms & joining instructions. You can choose to raise money directly for your preferred charity online.



At the halfway mark – near Chertsey Bridge

On the day of the walk, Sunday 9 May, participants should arrive by 9.30am in Manor Park Car Park, Shepperton ready for at 10am departure. Arrangements are made with Spelthorne Council to allow free parking in the car park for participants. Shepperton & Sunbury Rotary will provide Walk Leaders and End Walkers so no-one gets separated or lost. We will also provide Marshalls around the route, to help you cross the roads, and aid people should they have any problems. We will also supply drinking water. We will, of course, ensure that the event is Covid Secure.

Should the Government or Rotary Guidelines tell us that we are unable to run the Sponsored Walk again in 2021, we will ask you all to walk a 10km Sponsored Walk yourselves - either round your garden multiple times, or by completing a guaranteed 10km within your own neighbourhood. This will allow everyone to still raise the much-needed funds for their preferred Charity.

With all best wishes

Catherine Black Waterways of Shepperton Sponsored Walk Organiser

catherineblack1@hotmail.com Mob: 07864 057760

Shepperton & Sunbury Rotary

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ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

THE CHURCH IS ONLY OPEN

for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons 2.30 – 5.00pm

**On the advice of the Bishops and the Area Dean
there will currently be no public worship in St Nicholas
due to the high incidence of Covid-19 in the Spelthorne area.**

**The 9.30am Community Eucharist & the 11.15 Alternative Worship
will be available on Zoom every Sunday**

Details are on the parish web page www.stnicholaschurch-shepperton.org
along with updates and information about the life of St. Nicholas.
You can also find the Shepperton News there.

**To enquire about any of this call the Parish Office on 01932 221621
or write to The Parish Office, St. Nicholas Parish Centre,**

Church Square, Shepperton TW17 9JY

E-mail contact details office@stnicholaschurch-shepperton.org
churchwarden@stnicholaschurch-shepperton.org
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SHEPPERTON NEWS

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Send your articles to sheppertonnews@btinternet.com or c/o The Parish Office