

Wudhus News

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

HORSLEY WOODHOUSE PC



**STARGAZERS DRAMA GROUP
PRESENTS**

ALADDIN

by Nigel Holmes

22nd-24th February at

7:15PM

24th February at

3:00PM

Tickets

ADULTS-£5

CONCESSIONS-£3

CHILDREN-£3

**At the Church Hall, Church Lane,
Horsley Woodhouse, DE7 6AS**

Call 01332 780688 to book reservations

Add our Facebook and Instagram

@Stargazers Drama Group

or

**Add us on snapchat @stargazerspanto to see
what we get up to before the show!**

Horsley Woodhouse

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 25th March



**Hunt for clues around the village
Start and finish at the scout hut
Win a chocolate Egg and other prizes!**

£2 per child 11 - 2pm

Drinks Cakes Tombola Arts & Crafts



See Facebook for full details: [1st Sitwell Scout Group](#)

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD

MEETING

MONDAY 5th MARCH

7.30 pm

CHURCH HALL

The meeting will be very informal and relaxed, with a chance for all to join in, hopefully with a few laughs along the way

Tea, coffee and cakes will also be served

OUR AREA POLICE TEAM MEMBERS WILL BE PRESENT TO HELP WITH AND TARGET PROBLEMS IN OUR COMMUNITY

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COUNCIL TO HEAR ANY VILLAGE CONCERNS

Make a date in your diary and come along and make a difference to your VILLAGE.

St Susanna's Parish Church

February 2018

4th at 6.30 pm – Evening Song
 11th at 6.30 pm – Holy Communion
 18th at 6.30 pm – Evening Song
 including Memorial Service
 25th at 10.30 pm – Morning Prayer

March 2018

4th at 6.30 pm – Evening Song
 11th at 6.30 pm – (Mothering
 Sunday) Holy Communion
 18th at 6.30 pm – Passion Sunday
 Evening Song
 25th at 10.30 am – Palm Sunday
 Morning Prayer
 30th at 7.30 pm – Good Friday
 Evening Service

April 2018

1st at 6.30 pm – Easter Day Evening
 Service

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 2nd March - Quiz in the
 Church Hall 7.15 pm - £2 per
 person.

Feel free to bring your own
 drinks and nibbles. Everyone
 welcome.

Saturday 17th March - St
 Patrick's Day HONEYPOT CAFE
 in Church Hall 10.00 am until
 12.00 pm. We will be serving
 Bacon
 Cobs!!!



Events and activities at the Church Hall - weekly programme:

Date	Activity	Contact details
Monday	7.00 to 8.15 pm Line Dancing	Megan 01159 326 217
Tuesday	5.00 to 9.30 pm United Response Disco	Michelle 07891 759 907
Thursday	5.30 & 7.30 pm Slimming World	Tracy 07821 616 372
Friday	9.15 to 10.45 am Slimming World	Tracy 07821 616 372

If you are interested in booking the Church Hall for meetings,
 parties and other functions, or on behalf of Societies and
 Clubs, please contact Sheila Cullen (the Bookings Secretary) on
 07803 158 235.

Horsley Woodhouse Methodist Church

February 2018

Sunday 4th at 6.00 pm – Service led by Revd Keith Bamford
 Sunday 11th at 6.00 pm – Service with Holy Communion led by Revd Judi Smart
 Sunday 18th – (Lent 1) at 6.00 pm – United Service at Marehay Methodist Church, led by Revd Robert Foster. *There will be no Service here on this Sunday.*
 Sunday 25th – (Lent 2) at 6.00 pm – Service led by Revd Sheila Baldock

March 2018

Sunday 4th at 6.00 pm - Service
 Sunday 11th at 6.00 pm - Service
 Sunday 18th – *Church Anniversary* - at 6.00 pm – Service led by Revd Judi Smart
 Sunday 25th at 6.00 pm – Service

Minister: Revd Judi Smart
 Tel: 01332 781 296

Church Contact: Mrs Phyllis Shaw
 Tel: 01332 880 083

EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday – 30th March at 11.00 am – Service led by Mrs Margaret Barker
Easter Sunday – 1st April at 6.00 pm – Service

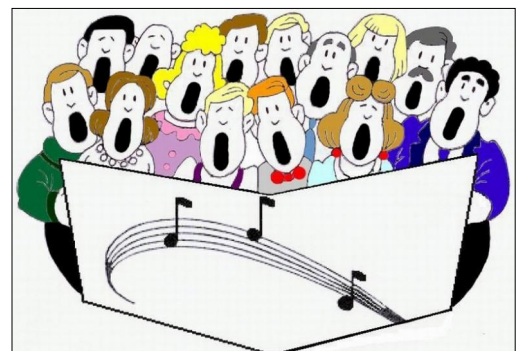
November/December 2017 fund-raisers

THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE – Saturday 25th November – as donations are still being received, the total amount raised will be in the next Wudhus News.
 THE CAROLS & BUFFET EVENING – Tuesday 12th December, raised £95 for our *Church funds*.
 CHRISTINGLE GIFT ENVELOPES – Sunday 17th December, £96 was given for the *Air Ambulance*.
 THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD raised £70. The money was divided between *Embrace the Middle East* (BibleLands) and *All We Can* (Methodist Relief and Development).

Grateful thanks are expressed to all those who supported, and gave so generously.

SOMETHING NEW – Starting on Sunday 11th February we will be having a **Café Church** from 10.30 am to 11.30 am – once a month on the 2nd Sunday of the month. It’s not a Service, not a Sunday School, there will be no Sermon, no Singing. We will be in the Schoolroom and serving coffee/tea and biscuits – no charge but donations welcome. There will be Bible-based craft for the children – and adults if wanted! You are welcome to come for all or part of the time, with your children/ grandchildren/ nieces/ nephews; or as an adult on your own.

CELEBRATION OF FAITH – Sunday 15th April at 6.00 pm. Keith Bryan has kindly agreed to form a united choir to sing at this Service. All ‘parts’ singers are welcome to join us, whether you’ve been before or not (with Cynthia Millhouse). **We will begin practices on Tuesday 6th March at 7.00 pm, meeting on the following Tuesdays until the 15th April.**



Local clubs, community groups and societies



Jog Derbyshire

Horsley Woodhouse Joggers meet every Thursday at the Church Hall at 7.00 pm. It is a group for absolute beginners or those returning to jogging after a break. For anyone who wants more details please contact Sam Draper by phone 07891 571 488 or email: samanthadraper@live.com.

Orchard Group

We meet every fortnight at the Orchard Centre on Tuesdays 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Please contact Mavis Thomson for more details on 01332 882 985.

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Scouts (10 ½-14 years) Monday – 7.00 - 8:30 pm
Cubs Scouts (8-10½ years) Wednesday – 6:30 - 8.00 pm
Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) Thursday – 6.00 - 7.00 pm

Please contact Ian Britton, GSL, 1st Sitwell Scout Group on:
Mob: 07847 207 756

Email:

gsl@1stsitwellscoutgroup.co.uk

Web: www.1stsitwellscoutgroup.co.uk

Whist Drive

Meet every Friday night at 7.00 pm at the British Legion - contact Malcolm Parkin for more details 01332 880 160.

Camera Club

Dates for your diary

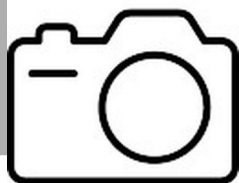
Forthcoming meetings at
The Old Oak Pub

Tuesday 13th February 2018

Tuesday 13th March 2018

Tuesday 10th April 2018
at 7.30 pm.

Come along and join in



Over 60's Club - at the British Legion

We continue to meet alternative Tuesday at the Royal British Legion Hall.

We look forward to the lighter and warmer days and our thoughts turn to Club outings for 2018. At the January 16th meeting members will be invited to put down places they would like to visit during the summer. These will be discussed by the committee and a short list produced which

members will be asked to vote on and the majority will decide the venue's to be visited. Wednesday is the preferred day for outings and providing coaches are available we will then advise firm dates and destinations.

Visitors are welcome on all these occasions.

Don Barham, Hon
Secretary

Ladies Group - at the British Legion Hall

Next meeting is on **Thursday 1st February**, when Louise Eaton will give a talk on how servants were employed in houses locally.

The following meeting is on **Thursday 1st March** which will be the Ladies Group AGM to discuss plans for the coming year.

The April meeting is on Thursday 5th and the agenda to be arranged at the Jan/Feb 2018 meetings.

All ladies from the area are welcome, young and old.

Terrina Girling, Member

Horsley Woodhouse and Smalley Royal British Legion



First branch meeting of 2018 will be Monday 5th February.

The Branch will be represented at the Derbyshire County Conference which this year meets at Belper on Saturday 20th January when we hope to have news of our application to attend the Great Pilgrimage to Ypres (Wipers to the British Army or Eiper its modern spelling) on the Belgium/French border where the 14-18 Army stood fast for four years; thus preventing the German thrust to the sea with all its implications to our supply lines from the U.K.

This will be the Grand Finale to the 100 hundred years Remembrance occasions which have

commemorated the terrible events of 2014-18 and the countless men who lie in Flanders fields and along the line of the old Western Front. Although Remembrance will continue for years to come, gradually like Waterloo and Agincourt it will fade from memory and be swallowed up in the mists of time. Legion branches from all over the U.K. have been asked to supply two members to take part in the great parade through Ypres to the Menin Gate. It will be a proud moment for the Branch if we can get our standard in that final parade and tribute to our fathers and grandfathers who were there and passed through the gate into the Salient, which claimed so many lives.

During 2017 we lost four members and it is inevitable that we shall be forced to close and amalgamate with Heanor or Ilkeston in the not too distant future. This of course will mean the loss of the Hall which is used by several village groups, regrettable but a fact of life. We shall hold on as long as possible but HQ in London hold the deeds and will almost certainly sell the land off to developers. Anyone can join the Legion and it will help us to survive if more join, subs are £17 per year and there is no pressure to attend meetings.

Don Barham
Horsley Woodhouse and Smalley Royal British Legion

FUNNIES – IT'S NEARLY VALENTINES

Whilst Valentine shopping today I saw something through a store window that was truly stunning, beautiful and sexy. I wanted to get it for you, but then I realised it's my own reflection!

When I get close to you when you're wearing your leather mini-skirt, my heart starts beating faster, my throat gets dry, my knees get weak and I become irrational.. Why? Because the leather smells like a new car.

Me and my Valentine lived happily for twenty years.... then we met.

I love my Valentine. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.

If you want your girlfriend to listen to you, then talk to another woman; she will be all ears.

After I proposed to my Valentine I tried to do a search for marital advice on Google, it always tried to finish my sentence for me, just like my girlfriend does.

He grabbed her hand and held it tightly, and she thought, "he loves me!" He thought, "wow that beer was strong!"

When I stare at the sky, I see you. When I stare out into the ocean, I see you. When I'm looking at the moon, I see you.

Please!! Would you move, you're constantly getting in my way!

Beer is proof God Loves us and wants us to be happy.

If you wish to contact us or put an article forward:

If you are holding a fund raiser, have some community news or you need support to write an article please get in touch.

Please email Tania Pells (Editor) at editorwudhusnews@gmail.com

Publishing Deadlines:

April/May – 20th March 2018 & June/July – 20th May 2018.

All articles and information submitted will be reviewed by the Parish Council before it can be approved. Unfortunately we cannot advertise businesses within the newsletter or print personal letters.

Councillor Kevin Buttery – Keeping you Updated

The collapse of the Wolverhampton based Carillion Construction Company which has both Government and Local Authority service contracts has certainly dominated recent news. It will certainly re-open the debate on public sector contracting. In my view, a wholesale blanket approach to delivering services wholly in-house or wholly by outsourcing is not viable. There are inherent benefits and risks on both sides. The issue should be about who is best placed to provide a quality service, in a reliable, effective and efficient manner that we can all see is value for money. Neither Derbyshire County Council nor Amber Valley Borough Council has any contracts with Carillion. However, the impact to our local economy via the supply chain has yet to be realised.

Derbyshire County Council will decide in February how it will spend its £503 million budget for 2018/19. (Note Schools have a separate budget which is in excess of £600m). A total of £12 million needs to be saved this year, followed by continuing to achieve further savings of £53 million up to 2020. The Council will consider whether to raise its portion of Council Tax by 4.99%, which includes the 'adult social care precept' which is spent directly on providing care for older and vulnerable adults. The

extra 1% option to be directed towards providing much needed support towards Children's services, as we are seeing an increasing number of children in care and children in need.

There is a real need for more people to come forward and foster Derbyshire children, who need a stable home environment to turn their lives around. Foster care can be for long or short periods of time. Foster carers do receive training and support, as well as being paid an allowance to help meet the costs of looking after a child. **If you want to find out more about fostering, there are a number of 'Talk Fostering' events taking place around Derbyshire in February and March. Details are on the Derbyshire County website www.derbyshire.gov.uk or by calling 0800 083 7744.**

Derbyshire County Council has a fleet of 500 vehicles, which include cars, vans, lorries and gritters, which it maintains at three depots. They also service and MOT vehicles on behalf of Derbyshire Constabulary. The Council workshops have been offering MOT testing to the public for the last 25 years. **They now have the capacity that as well as the MOT, they can repair any minor faults on site. They charge £40 for MOT's for cars and light vans and £28 for motorcycles.**

The nearest depot is at Ambergate, tel no. 01629 532 100.

Heavy rain and low temperatures are having a huge impact upon the roads, causing an increase in potholes. **Please use the 'Report a Road Fault' on the Council's website under the Transport section, as it is the most efficient way to get them repaired.**

As Chair of the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service, I was proud to jointly open, with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the £25 million Police & Fire Headquarters and state of the art Training Centre. Working together not only allows both the Police and Fire services to ensure they are making best use of their assets, providing value for money with modern facilities. Working together will also make Derbyshire safer, because it is all about protecting and serving the most vulnerable in our communities and enabling staff to be trained to highest of standards.

If there is an issue I can help you with, please contact me on 01332 781 092 or kevin.buttery@derbyshire.gov.uk.



Horsley Woodhouse Parish Council

Reports from
December
2017 &
January 2018
Parish
Council
meeting

The Safer
Neighbourhood
Team provides
up to date
information on
twitter
@HeanorRuralS
NT and you can
email the team
on
ripley.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

December:

- The wooden seat by the Millennium Wall is to be refurbished.
- A copper beech low hedge around the car park at the doctors will be planted in the near future.
- The Christmas decoration competition will be judged on 22nd December 2017.

January:

- The Parish Council will be writing to Nigel Mills MP concerning the spat of anti-social behaviour which is happening in the village at the present time.
- The Church Hall be registered as a village asset.
- **There are three vacancies on Horsley Woodhouse Parish Council, posters will be put on the notice board giving details of how to apply if anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.**
- The disused telephone box opposite the Church is to be removed.

Planning – December:

AVA/2017/1189 – retention of automated teller machine
Co-op, 131 Main Street
No objections

AVA/2017/1190 – retention of illuminated logo panel
Co-op, 131 Main Street
No objections

January:

AVA/2017/1125
Rear single and two storey extensions with modifications to existing side extension
23 Church Lane
No objections

Recreation Matters - December:

Horeston Recreation Ground:

Play Equipment - Two new plans of phase 1 from two contractors have been received. These will be on display at the Co-op.

The seat will be repaired this week. It was noted that the Doctors had asked for the seat to be removed due to youths hanging around the car park and making a nuisance of themselves. However, members agreed that the seat is to be repaired and if this is damaged again, the Council will reconsider.

January:

Public consultation for the play area plans have been completed; the proposed plans have been in the Co-op and at the bonfire and members of the public have commented on the designs. The planning permission process will now commence.

**Dates of next two
HW Parish Council
meetings:**

The next two meetings will be on **Tuesday 6th February and Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 7.00 pm in the British Legion Hall**, all members of the parish are welcome to attend to observe the meeting and raise any issues.

Parish Council Contact Details:

- Cllr K Seals (Chairman) – 01332 881 983
 - Cllr S McGuinness (Vice Chairman) – 07790 849 000
 - Cllr A Nathan – 07790 730 610
 - Cllr I Ratcliffe – 01332 781 872
 - Cllr S Till – 01332 881 739
 - Cllr J Whitmore – 01332 880 203
- Mrs K Richardson (Parish Clerk) – 01332 883 404
Email: horsleywoodhouseparishcouncil@aol.com



"View from the Pavement" Christmas Lights Competition Winner

The lights throughout the Village were a grand show. The judges made their way around the Village with the difficult task of choosing the "Most Appealing" display. After lengthy discussions (in the comfort of The Oak!) a unanimous decision was eventually reached. The well-deserved winner was the Bestwick family from 10 Stainsby Avenue. Neil, Della and their family put on a beautiful display.



The following day Della was presented with their prize by Karen, the Parish Council Chairman. A very big thank you to everyone who lit and decorated their properties, the Village was certainly given a very welcome festive makeover.



What A Difference A Day Makes

This was the unhappy scene of destruction that Wood Lane awoke to on the morning of the 27th December! The planter had been emptied of its plants, bulbs, compost and drainage crocks. The planter itself had been moved to the edge of the road and its contents spread around it. Most of the plants were buried and severely damaged too. The Police were informed and Stephen and Ian from the Parish Council kindly returned the planter to its original position and cleared the road to prevent any risk to traffic.



The damaged planter



The following day, Ann who looks after the planter cleared the mess, replaced the crocks and filled it with fresh compost. She rescued as many of the plants as was possible, together with bulbs too. She then raided her own garden for bits to complete a good display again. We thank you Ann and applaud your kind and generous nature. It's down to you and your spirit of goodwill that the Village will still have its spring display down Wood Lane.

Looking lovely again

We Have a New Officer on our Safer Neighbourhood Team!

We welcome PC 2605 Garry Statham to our area. He joined Derbyshire Police on 8th April 2002 and was posted to Bolsover Police Station where he has spent most of his career. He has spent two and a half years policing Creswell. Another two and a half years Garry spent at Shirebrook village as their 'Beat Officer' and as part of a Beat Team. Recently he has moved to the Amber Valley Section working as a Response Officer. He has also been a Derbyshire Police Wildlife Officer for the past few years.

Garry assures me he will be at our Safer Neighbourhood meeting on 5th March, it will be good to meet him.



THE SOZEIN TRUST

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 17th March, 10.00 am onwards

WARM DRINKS and CAKES

With a raffle, books and a cake stall

**Join us for a morning of gentle companionship,
conversation and laughter.**

(The Sozein Trust is a registered charity)



Horsley Woodhouse Walking Group

February 2018

Wed 7th Feb – Erewash Canal from Shipley Garden Centre/Shipley Lock (3.25 miles), meet at Shipley Garden Centre at 9.45 am.

Wed 14th Feb – Denby Village & back (2.5 miles), meet at Denby Pottery at 9.45 am.

Wed 21st Feb – Ripley Greenway (2.25 miles), meet at Marehay Village Inn at 9.45 am to include travel by bus.

Wed 28th Feb – Smalley Dam (2.25 miles), meet at Smalley car park at 9.45 am.

March 2018

Wed 7th Mar – Lumb Farm/Greenway (2.5 miles), meet at Denby Pottery at 9.45 am.

Wed 14th Mar – Broomfield Hall (2.75 miles), meet at Morley layby at 9.45 am.

Wed 21st Mar – Breadsall (2.5 miles), meet at the Meteor Centre at 9.45 am.

Wed 28th Mar – Blue Mountain (2.75 miles), meet at Little Eaton car park at 9.45 am.

April 2018

Wed 4th Apr – Gypsy Brook (2.5 miles), meet at Smalley car park at 9.45 am.

Wed 11th Apr – Bargate & Booth Wood (3 miles), meet at Kilburn car park at 9.45 am.

For more information contact:
Amanda Gowing 01773 841 428,
Phil Brown 07854 132 612,
Gordon McNeil 07740 243 825,
Owen Marshall 07800 542 689.

If the weather conditions are bad the routes may be changed and the walk will only be cancelled if there is any ice.

Scouts, Cubs & Beavers



I am pleased to announce that after the District Executive meeting a few days ago it was confirmed that we can start-up a District Explorer unit at Sitwell. This is for the young people of 14-18 years of age and is great news for us and for the District. It's been hard work but we are now there. The next big job is to get some District Explorer Leaders.

So are you interested in helping to set up a District Explorer unit at Sitwell? Looks to be running on a Tuesday (time TBC). We hope it will be as outgoing and as youth-shaped as Sitwell is and not only will you have the support from Sitwell but from the District team too.

If you are interested as a youth member or as a leader please 'pm' me or email me via my groups email gsl@1stsitwellscoutgroup.co.uk.



Beavers had a sleepover at the end of last year, what fun and they did sleep – a little. They did the egg Drop Challenge, this is where the Beavers make something that allows the egg to remain unbroken when dropped from a height. The egg is to be thrown – sorry dropped onto the floor by a leader and the winning team is the first one to complete the challenge successfully.

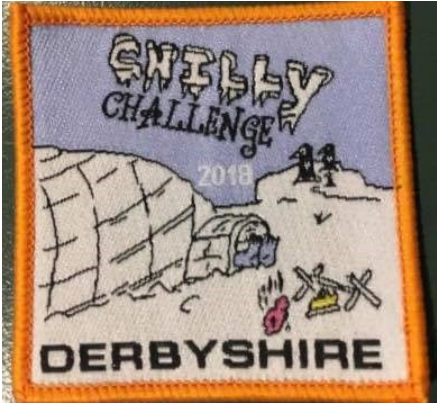


One egg did break however, it wasn't via the Beaver Scouts but by a leader dropping it by mistake. Again thanks to the leader for giving up their time for free.



During the Beaver sleep they cooked marshmallows over candles. They then dipped them in chocolate along with fruit. The Beavers had a great time and loved this activity. During the summer we do this activity over a more open fire. **Please note Beavers and the other sections are full, to save your disappointment in joining the group please get your child on our waiting/joining list asap.**





Derbyshire Scouts have a yearly Chilly Challenge. In all, about 2,000 braved the cold to camp out in January, for one or more nights. Our Scouts did it one Friday night and we think we were the 1st troop in the District to do the Chilly Challenge this year. Some Scouts said it wasn't too cold as some had double sleeping bags and followed the Scout Leader's kit list, but it wasn't like a summer camp and one night was the correct option. Many thanks for the leaders giving up there time for free.



Scouts went caving for the first time in December. The Cubs have done this a few times but the Scouts hadn't until now, they had a great time too. As normal they came back dirty, muddy, with big smiles on their faces and so did the leaders!

All sections had a great time over Christmas. The Cubs visited the Smalley Hall Residential Home just before, not only did they sing songs to the residents but they also found out what the residents wanted for Christmas. Also great to see the Cubs find out that Christmas isn't just for them. The following week we had a Christmas party to close the year off and did some traditional games. This year we had a few issues as the Cub numbers have grown and the hut hasn't.





This year we started with a joint Beaver and Cub activity and visited the NUH Pantomime “Hey Diddle Diddle” at the QMC Medical School. It was great fun – oh yes it was!! We had around 50 members go and we donated towards projects to enhance the patients experience across the Trust. Many thanks to the NUH Pantomime Society for allowing us to go.

Beaver Scouts did an experiment badge. They made Lava lamps, volcanos and much more. The Beavers and leaders enjoyed this badge.



The troop invaded Megazone in December for their Xmas event. They had a great time and so did the leaders.



The Line Dancing has certainly stood the test of time, as this year it will be "coming of age" as its 18th anniversary looms. It was started shortly after the newly restored Church Hall was officially opened in 2000.

The first teacher was Lisa Peach in the very early days and then came Ian and Megan. Megan thankfully continued the classes after the sad passing of her brother Ian and remains the much loved friend and teacher of the class to this day. There are also still several original faithful members attending each week too. It's a close knit group of friendly people who welcome new members, either experienced Line Dancers or complete beginners. If you enjoy the music with light exercise and a lot of laughs, why not come along and give it a try.



SHAKE YOUR BOOTIES!

LINE DANCING EVERY MONDAY

H.W. Church Hall

7.00 to 8.15 pm

£3.00

Music, exercise and friends

YEEE-HA!

Hire the Church Hall

FAMILY FUNCTIONS? PARTIES? AMATEUR DRAMATICS? FUNDRAISING? MEALS? BUFFETS? CLUBS & SOCIETIES? DANCES & DANCE CLASSES? CORPORATE FUNCTIONS? SEMINARS?

There are two main rooms. The **Sitwell Room** seats 80 people, has a sprung dance floor and a very good sized stage. This room is ideal for stage productions, concerts and presentations. **The Meeting Room** is well equipped with tables and chairs for meetings and smaller functions. It has a large serving hatch which accesses the kitchen. The facility has a fully equipped kitchen, is gas central heated, is wheelchair accessible and includes onsite parking. The hiring rates are reasonable and competitive.

If you'd like more details, please give Sheila a call on 07803 158 235 and she will be pleased to help you.

CRAFTING GET TOGETHERS AND CLASSES? MEETINGS? COFFEE MORNINGS? QUIZZES?

“We Will Remember Them”

In Conclusion

The account for George Nicholson completed the series of WWRT articles covering all of the men commemorated on the main village war memorial and the associated plaques within the village, a project that saw beginnings as far back as the 1980's and culminated in the publishing of the corresponding commemorative book in mid-2016.

I have to say, looking back, that it has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to enhance the memory of those who gave their all, I hope, sincerely, that I have managed to do this in a way that has done justice to the subject. Someone once said that “so little time is spent doing worthwhile things” well, I reckon in this

particular case the effort was “worth the candle” and might, hopefully, in at least some small way, help to re-ignite and maintain the flame. Certainly the work has, amongst other things, re-taught me what remembrance is all about and helped remind me, into the bargain, that these were real people caught up in extraordinary events; it also served to remind me just what a fine line we all tread in this life, hand in hand with “Lady Luck” and “Fickle Fate” at any given time.

I remember, as a young lad growing up in the village, poppies and crosses associated with November and a Grandad who spoke now and then of “Wipers”, “Whitesheet” and

Kemmel and gave me his service medals. Luck smiled on Len Barham and he returned home from the Western Front of WW1 to live a long and I think, contented life (always provided a Woodbine or Players No.6 was to hand of course!). I consider that Grandad passed that luck to me, certainly I have no complaints with my lot.

I could go on but I doubt I could tell it all adequately; what I choose to do therefore, is finish in terms of poetry. Poetry, by definition, uses “elevated language”, I believe the men commemorated on our village memorials and others in similar places and circumstances are deserving of such language.

Editors note:
With special thanks to Michael Barham for producing, over the last few years, this truly insightful series of Horsley Woodhouse Servicemen with known and unknown graves. Many thanks

The Two World Wars (Army, Navy and Air Force):

Dreamers



Soldiers are citizens of
 death's grey land,
 Drawing no dividend from time's tomorrows,
 In the great hour of destiny they stand,
 Each with his feuds, and jealousies, and sorrows.
 Soldiers are sworn to action; they must win
 Some flaming, fatal climax with their lives.
 Soldiers are dreamers; when the guns begin
 They think of firelit homes, clean beds and wives.

I see them in foul dug-outs, gnawed by rats,
 And in the ruined trenches lashed with rain,
 Dreaming of things they did with balls and bats,
 And mocked by hopeless longing to regain
 Bank-holidays, and picture shows and spats,
 And going to the office in the train.

(Siegfried Sassoon)

Missing



Less said the better.
 The bill unpaid, the dead letter.
 No roses at the end
 Of Smith, my friend.

Last words don't matter,
 And there are non to flatter.
 Words will not fill the post
 Of Smith, the ghost.

For Smith, our brother,
 Only son of loving mother,
 The ocean lifted, stirred,
 Leaving no word.

(John Sleigh Pudney)

Survivors



With the ship burning in their eyes,
 The white faces float like refuse
 In the darkness-the water screwing
 Oily circles where the hot steel lies.

They clutch with fingers frozen into claws,
 The lifebelts thrown from a destroyer,
 And see, between the future's doors,
 The gasping entrance of the sea.

Taken on board as many lived, who
 Had a mind left for living and the ocean,
 They open eyes running with surf,
 Heavy with the grey ghosts of explosion.

The meaning is not yet clear,
 Where daybreak died in the smile-
 And the mouth remained stiff
 And grinning, stupid for a while.

But soon they joke, easy and warm
 As men will who have died once
 Yet somehow were able to find their way-
 Muttering this was not included in their pay.

Later, sleepless at night, the brain spinning
 With cracked images, they won't forget
 The confusion and the oily dead,
 Nor yet the casual knack of living.

(Alan Ross)

**For George Nicholson – lost whilst
serving his country in peacetime:**

**Vitae Summa Brevis Spem Nos Vetat Incohare
Longam**

*(The brief sum of life forbids us the hope of
enduring long)*

They are not long, the weeping and the laughter,
Love and desire and hate:

I think they have no portion in us after
We pass the gate.

They are not long, the days of wine and roses:
Out of a misty dream

Our path emerges for a while, then closes
Within a dream.

(Ernest Dowson)



**And for them all, words from another
war:**

“If you are able,
save them a place
inside of you
and save one backward glance
when you are leaving
for the places they can
no longer go.
Be not ashamed to say
you loved them
though you may
or may not have always.
Take what they have taught you
with their dying
and keep it with your own.
And in that time
when men decide and feel safe
to call the war insane,
take one moment to embrace
those gentle heroes
you left behind.”

(Major Michael Davis O’Donnell,
Dak To, Vietnam)

“We should remember the dead and all those devastated by war”:

“And he asked him,
what is thy name?
and he answered saying,
my name is Legion,
for we are many”

(Mark chapter. 5, verse 9, King James Bible)

“The wind rustling in the trees and the waves breaking upon the beaches whisper the names of the
boys who never grew old”.

**NOT FORGOTTEN
NOT FORGOTTEN**

**Michael Barham
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