

THE

Village Voice



DORMANSLAND
FEBRUARY 2022

MEMORIAL HALL

Update on the Memorial Hall and current progress

ORGAN HISTORY

The story of the 4 instruments of St John's

MOVIE NIGHTS

Bob's 2021 top 10 films



Worship at St. John's

www.stjohnsdormansland.org
Email: info@stjohnsdormansland.org

Sunday

Said Communion (1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month) In Church 8:00 am
Communion Service & Sunday Smilers (children 4-11) Every Sunday 10:00 am

Evening Service (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month) in Church 4:00 pm

Weekdays

Wednesday - Service of Compline on zoom 8:00 pm

Vicar of Lingfield and Dormansland

The Reverend Ian Whitley 01342 895564

Associate Vicar

The Reverend Nigel Hinton 832391
St John's Vicarage, The Platt, Dormansland, RH7 6QU 07756 664 743

nigelk.hinton@gmail.com

Benefice administrator - officelingfieldppchurch@gmail.com 01342 832021

Centenary Room Bookings - Benefice Office 01342 832021

Dormansland Baptist Church

www.dormanslandbaptistchurch.org.uk

Sunday Morning Service Now live at church 10:30 am

Minister

David & Mary McLachlan

St Bernard's Catholic Church, Lingfield

Sunday Morning Service 9:00 am

Father Jack Lusted 325705

Claridge House Quaker Meeting

www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk

Sunday Morning Meeting for Worship 9:45 am

Please contact Tony Franklin (barandtony@aol.com) or Lesley Evans (lesleybcevens@gmail.com) if you'd like to attend - see page 7 for details

Resident Friend 832150

Village Voice – ‘From the Vicarage’ - January



February is definitely the odd month in the year, having both the fewest number of days and uniquely adding one extra every four years. The reason for this goes back to the early attempts of the Romans to navigate the year. Originally they had only 10 months as the period between December and March was thought to be unimportant having nothing to do with ‘harvest’. Later, two ‘new’ months were added to create a 355 day ‘year’. The problem was that ‘even’ numbers were thought to be ‘unlucky’ so months were either 29 or 31 days long. Unfortunately to create a 355 day year one month had to have an even number of days so February was born and made short – just 28 days. This choice may be due to the fact that Romans honoured the dead and performed rites of purification in February. In fact, the word ‘februare’ means “to purify” in the dialect of the ancient Sabine tribe. The later ‘Julian’ calendar of 365 days maintained this number 28 but added the leap year ‘extra’ day to this shortest month. Meteorologically February is the last

month of winter. It is characterised by frosts and cold but also lengthening days and the first shoots of new growth. Snowdrops, and daffodils bring colour and renewed life to many of our gardens and the promise of better things to come.

Without the darkness and apparent sterility of winter we would not appreciate as much the new life that appears before our eyes. In the same way that many of us have learnt to appreciate more the things we lost during lockdown, so winter challenges us to reflect on the beautiful world we occupy. But it also calls us forward, to prepare for what lies ahead.

Gardens must be prepared, homes spring cleaned and perhaps – dare we hope- holiday planned.

In the Church calendar February lies partly or wholly between the great Festival of Christmas and preparations for the greater Festival of Easter.

It gives a brief respite – a time to look back and give thanks for the arrival of the Son of God in human form and a time to look forward and prepare for the

celebration of his death for the evils of the world and his resurrection with all its promise and hope for the future. Joy, despair and hope all bundled together – the reality which so many of us have observed this past two years. February may be a short month but it can still be a time for reflection and

even a time of ‘purifying’ as we catch a glimpse of the greater picture and of the God who loves us more deeply than we can ever imagine or think and of the new life that is possible.

Nigel Hinton

Dormansland Diamonds

We were very pleased to spread Christmas cheer to some families in the village when Monty's Bakehouse and some very generous villagers provided lovely hampers that we delivered in December. Another of our residents donated some gingerbread men advent calendars and chocolates that were also warmly received.

We have decided to repeat the initiative from last year of providing hand and face creams to local health and care workers.

We will be buying some in bulk but would also be grateful for any donations and these can be left at Potters Stores or The Old House at Home pub.



Anyone had a surplus in their Christmas stocking?

Do not forget - The Dormansland Diamonds are still very actively involved in helping anyone in our village community who by reason of their age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or social circumstances needs assistance and may be even just someone to chat to whilst the Covid Pandemic still remains very much a part of our daily lives

The Dormansland Diamonds

'The League of Friends AGM, Sunday 27th February, will be in the Church/Centenary Room after the 10 am service. Please add your name to the list at the back of the Church. All Welcome.'

Dormansland Carnival

Work has already started on the village carnival and the Carnival Committee would like to remind everyone to block out



Saturday, 2nd July, 2022 in your diaries.

This year's theme is "**MUSICALS**, with the '**Anything Goes Scarecrows**' re-appearing during the month of June.

We can never have enough helpers (either prior to the event or on the day) so if you can volunteer a few hours of your time please do get in touch at the email listed below.

Happy 2022

The Dormansland Carnival Committee
info@dormanslandcarnival.org



Tanzen Academy

Principal: Kathy Mackie-Clark L.I.S.T.D. Adv. DIST
CDE (Council of Dance Education Qualification) & CRB Checked
Dormansland Branch Teacher - Naomi Cobby A.I.S.T.D

Libby from our Dormansland branch successfully auditioned for Jack and the Beanstalk at Chequer Mead in East Grinstead and completed a run of 17 performances during Dec & Jan, she had a fabulous time and was a little super star.

We have now started our pre-school Ballet class on a Tuesday in the village, children from 2.5 years are welcome.

For more information about any of our classes contact us at info@tanzenacademy.co.uk





East Surrey Walkers (ESW) News & Article

Welcome to 2022. We hope you have made your resolutions and included walking more or indeed taking up walking. ESW can assist and support you. ESW will be pleased to welcome you on any of our planned walks. Our current programme is published via our website additional walks are routinely added so please do visit the site to ensure you don't miss out.

In addition to our usual circular walks we have a regular series of linear walks undertaken on long distance paths. The walks date back to 1983 when the chairman of the then East Surrey Ramblers, Edgar Frost, made the suggestion. Walks were planned by Walling Bryant a school friend of Edgars. ESW believe the first walk undertaken was the Weald Way. At least one of the current regular participants started walking the "linear routes" in 1990 at that time participants received a sheet setting out the quarters plan. Clearly the advent of e mail has made planning and coordination a much easier process.

The usual practice is to walk long distance footpaths in a series of approximately 10 mile stages on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

In principle the start/finish points are accessed by using off-peak public transport supplemented by car sharing when public transport is not possible. Another 'principle' is (whenever possible) to have a pub lunch.



1990 2

EAST SURREY GROUP, E.A.
MID-RANGE LONG-DISTANCE FOOTPATH WALKS

We continue on the North Downs Way for three walks to finish at Farnham on 2nd May. On 16th May we start on the South Downs Way, and include the new proposed extension from Winchester.

These walks are in easy stages at a very moderate pace, normally on the first and third Wednesdays in each month, and all group members and their friends are welcome to join in either regularly or occasionally. Unless otherwise indicated, lunch is at a pub where food is available. If you haven't been out regularly it is as well to contact one of the leaders shortly beforehand in case any changes have had to be made. The leaders are: Walling Bryant, 01 753 2585, and Nigel Frost, 01 660 8199.

Apr 16th	Northdown to Box Hill	11 1/2 miles
	Lunch: Picnic. Meet at Waterloo Station at 10:25	
	Train: Victoria 9.47	
	Clapham Junction 9.53	
	East Croydon 10.04	
	Box Hill 10.23	
	Return from Box Hill Station, take separate tickets.	
	Motorists could join at Borking and get 9.40 train from Deane to Box Hill.	
Apr 16th	Box Hill to Guildford	12 1/2 miles
	Lunch: Picnic. Meet at Box Hill Station at 11:04	
	Train: Waterloo 10.22	
	Clapham Junction 10.30	
	West Croydon 10.42 (change Boreham)	
	Box Hill 9.50 (change Clapham Junction)	
	Return by bus to Guildford, take day return to Guildford.	
May 2nd	Guildford to Farnham	12 miles
	Lunch: Picnic. Meet at Guildford Station at 10:18	
	Train: Waterloo 9.42	07.47
	Clapham Junction 9.49	1.10
	Box Hill 9.43	over 4.00
	East Croydon 9.52 (change Clapham Junction - but close connection!)	
	Return from Farnham, take day return to Farnham.	
May 16th	Winchester to Alresford	11 miles
	Lunch: Picnic. Meet at Winchester Station at 10:47	
	Train: Waterloo 9.43	
	Clapham Junction 9.51	
	Woking 10.43	
	Box Hill 9.50 (change Guildford and Waterloo)	
	or Box Hill 9.53 (change Clapham Junction)	
	Return by bus to Winchester, take day return to Winchester.	
Jun 6th	Guilford to West New	10 1/2 miles
	Lunch: Picnic. Meet at Waterloo Station at 9.43 for bus at 10.05	
	Train: Waterloo 9.50	
	Clapham Junction 9.51 or 9.52 (change Guildford)	
	Box Hill 9.58 (change Guildford)	
	Return by bus to Petersfield, take day return to Petersfield.	
Jun 20th	Boxton to Green Chimney Quarry Park	10 1/2 miles
	Lunch: Picnic. Meet at Waterloo Station at 10.45 for bus at 11.05	
	Train: Waterloo 9.49	
	Clapham Junction 9.49 or 9.50 (change Guildford)	
	Box Hill 9.49 (change Guildford)	
	Return bus to Petersfield, take day return to Petersfield.	
NOTE:	New routes indicated may affect times of train 16th May.	

The photograph, taken on 7th November 1990, is an ESW a group climbing from Birling Gap to finish the South Downs Way. It's planned to walk the South Downs Way again during spring and summer in 2022.

The route is over 100 miles and will probably be undertaken in 12 walks which includes a couple of short excursions to visit particular points of interest.

Most readers will be aware of the word “the dole” which is (now) defined as a benefit paid by the state to the unemployed. How does the dole form a link with ESW?

The term the dole is derived from the use of dole stones, tables or ledges. They were usually sited in church porches and occasionally churchyards. During medieval times through to the 17th century these sites were used as facilities where contracts were arranged, debts, bequests and church dues were settled. Significantly they were also points at which bread or money was given (doled) to the needy of the parish and on occasions to travellers. Few dole stones survive today and there are even fewer dole tables.

What is the link with ESW?

We are fortunate that one of the few surviving dole tables can be found in the churchyard of St. Johns the Baptist Church in Penshurst in Kent.

Several of our walks start or pass through Penshurst providing great opportunities to enjoy a walk in

beautiful countryside and view this fine example of an historical and rare artefact.

The routes of the Penshurst walks also often include the grounds of the nearby imposing Penshurst Place.



The Penshurst dole table is in the shape of a chest like tomb it is formed of slabs of “ashlars” a now little used term to describe squared facing stones. The Dole Table – Penshurst Church Yard

ESW wish you happy walking.

***Stephen Hanks
(ESW)***



Meeting Up

A time to gather together every **1st** & **3rd** Tuesday of the month in the Centenary Room, St John's Church.

Feel free to arrive anytime from 10.30am till Noon for light refreshments, (drinks and cake!), and an opportunity to meet and



chat informally with others from the village and church. We aim to finish about Noon.



Coming dates include:

Tuesday 1st & 15th February

Tuesday 1st & 15th March



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Dormansland Young WI

The YWI meets at the Parish Rooms in The Platt at Dormansland at 8PM, usually on the second Tuesday the month. We always welcome new members.

At our January meeting we upcycled our Christmas cards to make 3D wreaths. It was a great way to see how unwanted card can be re-purposed into something new and creative.

Thanks to Sue, one of our Committee Members for the demonstration with some amazing results.

Our Soul Sisters walking group (and their four-legged friends) made the most of a sunny Sunday in January walking the Worth Way stopping for coffee at Forest Row.

The two book groups have also met and their recommended reads can be found on our website.

At our February meeting, we will be joined by Meg from Singing Mamas Choir in Lingfield to get us all singing to improve our mood and wellbeing - just what we need this time of year!

We have a varied and interesting meeting schedule for 2022 and a vibrant collection of groups including a theatre/social group, walking, crafting and book groups.

If you are interested, would like to join a meeting or would like any further information about joining our group, please contact Sue Alfrey, our membership co-ordinator at the email address below.

If you haven't been a member before, your first meeting is free.
on behalf of YWI Dormansland

**Liz Moulard ywidormansland@outlook.com
www.ywidormansland.org.uk**

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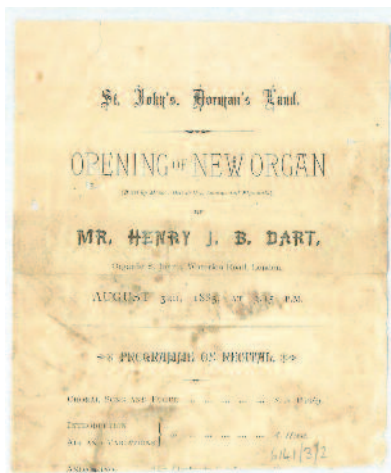
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A brief history of four instruments at St Johns Church Dormansland

Like most churches, St John's Dormansland has had a number of organs during its existence. St John's is in fact a relatively young church as churches go, with Chancel, Nave, North and South transepts and a North Aisle consecrated by the Bishop of Rochester, on 14th April 1882. The building architect was Mr Arthur W. Blomfield (later Sir Arthur) a renowned architect in the design of churches, and the restoration of a number of cathedrals.

His design for St John's was apparently unflatteringly described as 'not one of his best.'

Records show that the first organ was installed in 1885, not long after the consecration of the church. There are few records about this organ, but from the National Pipe Organ Register we know it was provided by Hele and Co, also known as Hele and Sons. A West Country organ builder, George Hele (1836–1919) was initially someone who sold organs, pianos, and harmoniums, before emerging as an actual organ maker. The programme for the opening recital at St John's Dormansland is available from the History Centre, Surrey. The recital was given in August 1885 by a Mr. Henry J. B. Dart who was the organist at St. John's, Waterloo Road, London (opposite Waterloo Station). Research shows Mr Dart was a bit of an enthusiast when it came to Hele organs. He had only recently (1883) commissioned a large Hele organ to be installed at his church in London.



The recital programme for St John's Dormansland, helpfully describes the new organ as having two keyboards, and pedals, and some 17 speaking stops, which was an instrument of good size for the period and size of the church. It is not known if Mr Dart was involved in the original specification and recommendation to purchase the St John's organ from Hele. But if as seems likely he was, it would explain why St John's church would select an organ builder principally based in the West Country. The recital programme does state 'London and Plymouth' as constituting Hele's operating bases, but it is probable that the London address would be satellite premises to Plymouth, to reach the large organ building market in and around London.

'The Story of Dormansland' written to mark the Centenary of St John's Church, identifies an interesting exchange regarding the condition of the Hele organ by July 1930, between a Mr Foad and St John's church Council. The Hele organ was 45 years old by this date, and would certainly be in need of major renovation. Mr Lesley Foad was a local Head Master and the organist and choirmaster at St John's for a remarkable 42 years (1930 to 1972).

He reported that the Hele organ was in a bad state of repair. Minutes record him stating that 'the organ could not be patched up, and needed reconstruction, incorporating more modern methods of power (sic) and control.'

So, a second organ was purchased in 1934, funded in part by Colonel Herbert Spender-Clay (married to Pauline, the daughter of the first Viscount Astor, of Greathead Manor) and donations from the village residents.

This was a larger instrument than the Hele organ, consisting similarly of two keyboards, and pedals, but having a more comprehensive specification than the Hele organ, with 27 speaking stops controlling the various sounds of the organ. It was described in the Musical Times (Vol 76, Feb 1935), as 'a new instrument built by J.W Walker and Sons, of London, in 1934.' The opening recital was given by a Mr Leslie Smith of Croydon Parish Church.



It is worth understanding a little more about this 1934 instrument. In the 1930's Britain, and indeed the rest of the world, was suffering considerable economic turmoil, during what was described as 'the great depression.' Organ builders, like all other businesses were feeling the effects of that depression, and so Walker developed a more economically priced instrument which was aimed to be attractive in terms of its specification, and more affordable to churches. Pipe organs are to this day, extremely expensive to construct, using highly skilled hand craft techniques, and

expensive materials such as hardwoods, tin, and lead. This new economical 'model instrument' by Walker utilised a technique using complex relay switching, of sharing a limited number of pipes over a larger number of stops controls, for example making a single rank of pipes available across both keyboards and pedals.

Economies were also made for instance, by using stop tabs (similar to a cinema organ) to control the various sounds, rather than stop knobs as you would expect to see on a pipe organ. Having created an 'affordable instrument' with an attractive specification, it is believed these organs were sold to many churches around the UK, and no doubt abroad. Whilst the author has been unable to locate a photo of the Walker organ in St John's, the attached picture is of the console of an identical organ by Walker, built in the same period, located in the church of St Thomas the Martyr, Winchelsea, East Sussex. This instrument is dated as 1931, predating the St John's organ by 4 years. However, the specification at Winchelsea is broadly identical to that as was at St Johns, and clearly from the same 'model' Walker offering of that period.



The next part of this story of organs at St John's, was the terrible fire on October 26th, 1990, which badly damaged many areas of the church, particularly the chancel where the Walker organ pipework was located. With the exception of the console containing the keyboards, pedals and stops, the organ was completely destroyed.

Following the fire in 1990, a new organ was ordered from Harrison and Harrison organ builders of Durham, one of the UK's pre-eminent builders. However, the waiting list for the proposed organ was more than 2 years, and inflation in the meantime had the effect of increasing the quoted price. This together with rising church restoration costs, eventually led to insufficient funds being available for an adequate instrument, and so the Harrison organ was never progressed.

Plans for organ number 4 in this story were developed, aimed at producing an adequate high quality instrument at a significantly lower cost than a pipe organ. Electronic organs had by the 1980's made very significant inroads into copying the sound of a pipe organ. This was through the medium of early digital computing, and in particular work done at Bradford University, by Dr Peter Comerford, a Senior Lecturer, and church organist. Comerford's work resulted by the 1990's in a commercially available system, known as 'the Bradford system' representing a step change in musical instrument sound reproduction. Discussions commenced with Copeman Hart & Co, a UK builder of high quality 'pipe less' organs, utilising the Bradford system, to a specification drawn up by the author, in consultation with the Diocesan Organ Advisor, Harry Brama. The instrument was finally installed and commissioned in 1992, in time for the

recommissioning of the church, by the Bishop Croydon. *Front Cover Photo*

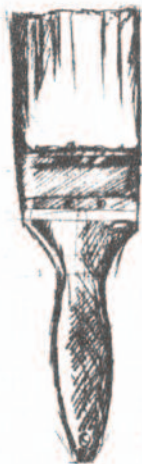
The instrument has 3 keyboards and pedals together with 57 speaking stops, plus couplers, operated by 3 Bradford computer systems, and 14 audio channels. An organ of this size is extremely flexible, and capable of reproducing music from a wide range of musical periods.

As the organ was built at the same time as the church was being repaired, advantage was taken to ensure acoustically, a good quality sound could be achieved. The ceiling coverings between the timbers were made of plaster coated boards, and minimal carpeting was undertaken, both actions to make the building acoustically alive. To ensure the very low notes of the organ on the pedal department could speak clearly, a (speaker) tunnel was constructed which runs underneath the organ console by the Vicar's vestry, from an entry next to the chancel rail, down to the North Isle of the church. This acts as a large enclosure for the deep bass sounds to develop. Similarly, a further 12 channels are located above the chancel arch, and a further two channels are located in the Lady Chapel. The opening recital was played by Timothy Farrell, organist of The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, London, who played a wide programme of modern and traditional music.

The organ is still in regular use, and is now 29 years old, beyond the usual life of a pipe organ before it needs rebuilding, yet only shows limited signs of ageing – how many people can say they have a 29 year old computer that still works well?

Richard Williams
January 2022

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JOHN JUPP, 1934-2021

John Jupp had a remarkable life and a very long association with many aspects of the working River Thames. Although he did not come from a traditional river family – his father was a master plumber from Ilford, Essex – John spent most of his working life afloat as a Thames lighterman, moving cargoes to and from ships and wharves. Working on London tugs and cargo carrying lighters (barges), between 1949 and 1980, John came to make the tidal Thames and its associated vast network of enclosed docks his own. He not only got to know every stretch of the river and the set of its tides in intimate detail, but also the whereabouts of practically every riverside wharf, factory and brewery.

John's lifelong interest in the river and Port of London began when his father took him, as a very young boy, for trips on the old Woolwich Ferry steam paddle vessels.

John's father also took him to watch the Cunard-White Star Line's huge new passenger liner RMS Mauretania come up to the King George V Dock Entrance Lock in 1939, after her initial Atlantic crossing.

The sight and sound of this great event remained with him throughout his life.

John's working life began in August 1949, aged fifteen, when he was apprenticed as a Licenced Waterman and Lighterman through the Thames Steam Tug and Lighterage Company. After a very short initial stint as a messenger boy – running papers to shipping companies, the Port of London Authority Head Office, the docks and the Custom House – John began his river career at the Thames Steam Tug and Lighterage Company's Millwall moorings. His initial job was as a 'deck boy' on the Company's diesel tug Wortha. Tug crews then usually worked 16 hour shifts for 3 alternative days a week, which involved

John getting up at 4.30 AM to be at Millwall for 6.00 AM. On the Wortha, John quickly became familiar with river and port facilities from Brentford upriver down to the oil refineries at Coryton and Shell Haven in the Thames Estuary.

After a year, John was assigned to gain more experience by working directly on lighters, initially between London Bridge and Greenwich. At this time there were around 6,000 lighters on the river and some 350 tugs. Of these, Thames Steam Tug had around 600 craft, five large river tugs and numerous smaller ones.

Part of John's early training was in how to row and steer craft – without the aid of the usual tugs – using the traditional 26 foot long oars or 'sweeps' and he made numerous trips, 'under oars', between Millwall and the Company's large upriver barge repair yard at Lots Ait, Brentford. Working conditions were often very challenging. Apprentices had to work incredibly hard, in all weathers, to acquire the skills and knowledge that they needed to pass their demanding final test in front of the Examining Committee of the Court of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen.

After having gained his Watermen's and Lightermen's Licence, John subsequently worked with lighters everywhere along the Thames. Perhaps his most favourite place to work was the Royal Docks, with their vast expanses of water, good lock entrances, and ranks of large ocean-going liners and other merchant ships. Amongst his least favourite places were the narrow tidal river inlet of St. Saviour's Dock, Bermondsey, and the Surrey Commercial Docks, Rotherhithe, with its complex network of docks, basins and timber ponds. He had a soft spot for Brentford, where Thames Steam Tug had their repair

yard, British Railways still operated Brunel's old Brentford Dock and the Thames Lock gave access to the Grand Union Canal. Downriver, John also sometimes took lighterage craft onto the Regents Canal, along the River Lea, up the River Roding, and even down to the Medway.

During the 1960s John – who served on the Executive of the Watermen, Tugmen and Bargemen's Union – took a special interest in the many technological, economic and social changes that were beginning to impact on the Port of London and the port industry more widely. Throughout the 1970s, John championed London's lighterage fraternity and port-workers; he strongly felt that cargoes could – and should – continue to be better and more sensibly carried on water than by land.

Between 1963 and 1979 John worked for Thames Steam Tug's successor, the Thames and General Lighterage Company. In the latter year John reluctantly left the lighterage industry, coming ashore to briefly retrain as a docker at the Port of London Authority's West African Terminal at Tilbury Dock, Essex. By that time, however, most of London's upriver docks and working wharves had closed. John's favourite Royal Group of Docks were to close in 1981, by which time he had left the port transport industry to take up a front of house role working for Hill Samuel Bank in the City. John, however, continued with his commitment to the lighterage industry through his membership of the Committee of Transport on Water (TOW). He also remained a proud member of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen. At Hill Samuel Bank, John became friendly with the bank's Chairman, Sir Robert Clark – the two sharing a deep interest in naval

and maritime history.

During the course of his career and beyond, John developed a very deep understanding of the history of the Port of London, lighterage and towage, merchant shipping, and the Navy. He read widely on all of these subjects. John had an especially encyclopaedic knowledge of tugs and ships, and could identify their profiles and house flags at a glance.

John was a founder member of the Docklands History Group in 1979 and he was to serve on its Committee until 2017. He greatly loved the Group's monthly meetings and annual conferences. John became involved with the Museum of London in the 1970s and became active with its Museum in Docklands Project (now the Museum of London Docklands at West India Quay). In the 1980s and 1990s John was the Museum of London's Honorary Waterman, assisting curators with its collection of boats and rivercraft. Whenever John came afloat on one of the Museum's boats or tugs nobody could fail to be amazed by his knowledge and skill. On one occasion, he rowed single-oared against the current to retrieve a 'lost' oar, which was fast disappearing downstream. On another, we were in the process of tucking one of the Museum's Thames working skiffs behind Greenwich Pier on a fast moving tide. A young officer in a nearby Naval cutter – thinking that we were in some difficulty – asked whether we needed his crew's help? 'No thank you, Sir', John politely but firmly replied as he quickly brought the skiff alongside with what seemed to be a magical touch of the oars. 'Oh, sorry' replied the young officer, and then admiringly added that 'I can see you have done this before!' John, of course, had.

Dr. Chris Ellmers.

Help Needed

We are looking for someone to take over delivery of the Village Voice in Plough Road, Dormansland.

There are 26 properties to be delivered to once a month (excluding January and August). If you could help, know someone who might or would like more details, please contact

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A message from the Trustees

It has been a busy few months since you elected us as new Trustees for the Memorial Hall and we've been working hard to carry out the promises we made. This formidable task has been helped tremendously by the generosity and community spirit of the village. We wanted to update you all on what's been going on at the Hall and express our gratitude to everyone who has supported our efforts.

You will doubtless have noticed that the exterior of the Hall is looking a lot tidier. Many hours of hard work have been put in by volunteers of all ages to bring this about, including strimming, weeding, hedge-trimming and rubbish clearance. Honourable mentions must go to Trustee David Birchall, Cynthia Jones, James Palmer, Mr Spoons, Ros Boyle and Adam Birchall for their efforts wrestling with rogue brambles and overgrown vegetation, as well as to the Baptist Church for supplying bacon rolls to hungry volunteers.

The intention is to paint the outside

when weather conditions improve, following a generous donation of paint by Bryan Williamson and Daughters, a local business specialising in the restoration of historic buildings. Speaking of restoration, the notice boards also had a much-needed renovation at the hands of Antonia Gallop, just in time to advertise the Christmas Fair.

The interior of the Hall has likewise not been neglected, with Danielle and Anne van Vliet, Sy Tilley and others casting out years of accumulated dust and dirt and sending spiders scuttling, with Nigel Green giving the carpets a deep clean. Colin and Conrad Jones have also given the electrics some attention, examining every nook and cranny of the Hall to identify and rectify some important safety issues. If you would like to volunteer for the Team of All Talents (no skills too big or small!) please do get in touch. A number of volunteers are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards; we welcome any young people who want to do this and can provide relevant supporting documentation for your evidence.

The Hall doors were first re-opened to the public with a commemorative event on Remembrance Sunday, which felt particularly appropriate as the original purpose of the Hall was to provide both a memorial and a place for those who returned from the wars, and their families, to socialise. Villagers and congregations from both churches turned out to pay their respects, look

around the Hall, and join Tandridge councillor and ex-serviceman Sir Nicholas White and Lindsey Bell representing the Trustees and the village in laying a wreath and observing a two-minute silence. Children from Dormansland Primary School produced the beautiful artwork which was displayed around the Hall and in the windows. It was particularly pleasing to have been able to reinstate the memorial plaques ahead of this event, which were tracked down and recovered by Christopher Halford.

Trustees Nicola O’Riordan and Phil Davy led the organisation of what I am sure we all hope will become a new Dormansland tradition – the Christmas Fair. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Clive Robinson, opened the event and villagers of all ages enjoyed browsing the trade stands, trying their luck at the tombola and raffle and bidding on the silent auction, accompanied by a hot chocolate or mulled wine tippie. Entertainment was provided by Jenny Green’s wonderful singing and Frozen princesses Anna and Elsa from HiHo Princess Parties. Nick Merrick used his contacts at the North Pole to bring Santa Claus to Dormansland for this special event. Santa listened to the Christmas wishes of children of all ages from his grotto inside the Hall before undertaking a tour of the village in his tractor-drawn sleigh, accompanied by some familiar-looking elves – the roads of Dormansland not being entirely suitable for his reindeer. The Christmas Fair raised over £1500 and we would

like to express our gratitude to everyone who supported this event. It is impossible to thank everyone individually, but particular thanks must go to Dormansland Primary School for gifting us their Christmas tree after the end of term, Pete and Alison Hutchinson for lending a generator, Cheryl Roux for the loan of the marquees, Jack O’Riordan and Joanna Readwin for stewarding in the cold all evening and Pat Johnson for organising the raffle. Thank you to everyone who donated such brilliant prizes and auction lots which meant we could raise so much money, those who generously gave their time and energy to organise, set up and steward the Fair, and of course all those who supported the Fair by attending it, buying raffle tickets, running stalls and myriad other things. We plan to use the money raised to continue carrying out essential repairs and work to make it possible to open the Hall again.

Next steps are to begin the public consultation stage where everyone in the village will have a chance to have their say about the future of the Hall. If you’d like to offer support to the Hall, volunteer your time and skills, or have questions or comments, we can be reached at dwmhtrustees@gmail.com

Happy New Year and best wishes,

David, Lindsey, Phil, Bertie, Nicky, Sarah and Tracey

The Trustees of Dormansland War Memorial Hall

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Bob the Movie Man's One's To Watch

The best of '21 and where to find them.

The start of the year is a time to look back at what's entertained and inspired me at the cinema during the last year. So here's my personal Top 10 from last year and where you can watch them via subscription streaming services on your Smart TV.

(They are often available to rent from other services: justwatch.com is a good site to find the options).

No. 10 – News of the World

(Netflix): In Paul Greengrass's alternative western, the ever-reliable Tom Hanks adopts a lost stray Johanna, played wonderfully by young Helena Zengel, who he needs to return to her only living relatives. It's very touching and has a terrific score by James Newton Howard.

No. 9 – Nobody (Virgin TV Go): Yes, it's horribly violent in the style of "Die Hard" or "Taken". But Bob Odenkirk and Christopher Lloyd are wonderfully entertaining as the kick-ass father and son team and this movie has multiple laugh-out-loud moments.

No. 8 – Dune (For rental on Amazon or Rakuten): In terms of

sci-fi spectacle, it's not got any better than "Dune". Denis Villeneuve's vision of Frank Herbert's novel looked just stunning. If you had to see any film on the BIG screen, it was this one. So I'm not sure how well it will translate to home viewing, unless you have a GI-NORMOUS TV!

No. 7 – Spider-Man: No Way Home

(Still cinemas only): A blast of a Marvel movie! I've always liked Tom Holland's take on Spider-Man, and this one topped them all in terms of surprises in the Spider-verse. As well as being thrilling and occasionally very moving it also made me laugh a lot.

No. 6 – The Mitchells vs the Machines

(Netflix/Virgin TV Go): An animation that worked both for youngsters and adults, with lots of laugh-out-loud moments. I watched this with my kids AND my grandkids, and we all loved it.

No. 5 – The Green Knight

(Amazon Prime): Some of the imagery and mysticism in David Lowery's film has stayed with me ever since seeing it. Dev Patel is spectacular in the lead role of Gawain, and the gorgeous Alicia Vikander brilliantly plays two roles in the movie.

No. 4 – Last Night in Soho (Virgin TV Go): With spooky time-travel and horror elements and the combination of my favourite young actresses, Thomasin McKenzie and Anya Taylor-Joy, Edgar Wright knocks it out of the park again. It has a stonking '60s soundtrack to boot.

No. 3 – Sound of Metal (Amazon Prime/Virgin TV Go): Rock drummer Riz Ahmed loses his hearing. It's truly touching and delivers the best ending of any film I saw in 2021. I cried.

No. 2 – No Time to Die: Daniel Craig's last Bond film perfectly blends of action and emotion. It also features an astonishingly entertaining cameo from his Knives Out co-star Ana de Armas as the kick-ass Cuban assistant Paloma. The lady deserves her own spin-off movie franchise!

No. 1 – Promising Young Woman (Sky Cinema/Now TV):

The multi-talented Emerald Fennell's debut feature is full of wit, humour, killer tunes and a fabulous Carey Mulligan. Her tale of a friend's revenge has twists that you genuinely don't see coming until they hit you straight between the eyes. I just loved it.

That's my personal choices. Happy viewing!

The author – Bob Mann – is a writer and broadcaster providing regular movie reviews online in written and video form. Search online for @one-mannsmovies.

Editors Note

Well here we are in 2022! I hope that you were all able to enjoy Christmas and meet up with family and friends where possible, the New Year arrived somewhat quieter than normal but I hope that this year is a good one for everyone.

I hope to be able to include more events in the Village Voice this year and more articles as well, so if you have an event or even fancy putting pen to paper and writing an article then please do drop me an email.

If you have any items or events to include in the March issue the next copy date is the **13th of February**.

Michael Mackie-Clark
editor@dormanslandvillagevoice.co.uk

The views, opinions and updates published in this magazine are those of the content authors and do not necessarily reflect or represent the views and opinions held by the Village Voice.

We do our best to check facts wherever possible.

Dormansland Village Activities and useful numbers

Action Research, Dormansland Committee	Vicky Bown	01732 863950
Badminton Club	Mr and Mrs Galloway	01342 832100
Baptist Church Tuesday Fellowship	Philippa Hosegood	01342 833045
CARE in East Gristled and Lingfield (transport to medical appointments is provided by volunteers for those without other means of transport - book between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm)		01342 410086
Carnival Committee	info@dormanslandcarnival.org	
College of St Barnabas www.st-barnabas.org.uk	Chaplain	01342 870260
Cricket Club	Chris Kinsville-Heyne	07787 045372
Crimestoppers		0800 555 111
Darby & Joan Club	Jean Whittaker	01342 833471
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Dormansland Baby & Toddler Group		01342 529150
Dormansland Diamonds www.facebook.com/groups/233787607761579	Lisa Felton Clive Robinson Alison Hills Sy Tilley	07710 917427 07432 140892 07846 523226 07939 055169
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Village Pre-School	Karen Burgess	01342 870546
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YWI Dormansland	Anne Robinson	07798 823 115
www.ywidormansland.org.uk		
Churchwardens at St John's		
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Clive Cobby		01342 833627
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Parish Treasurer & Envelope Scheme Recorder	Mr David Jessup	07801 741 739
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