

Thoughts on Down-sizing - by a Garston resident

Now and again some of us like to spend spare time visiting houses and gardens that have been passed down through many generations and maybe watching period dramas such as Downton Abbey. History, the way things were, seem to connect us with the past. It's hard to contemplate relinquishing our ties with our own homes after devoting years turning them into our 'castles'.



The dreams encapsulated in our own home grew through the years against an ever-changing kaleidoscope of memories and family circumstances. The years flew by, our house evolved, the garden changed direction many times, and our personal roots grew ever deeper. Eventually we reached the place where, backs aching, knees creaking and with seemingly acres of paint-work and gardening beckoning, the prospect of 'Downsizing' loomed before us. Though hard to let go, the decision became inevitable.

Happily, we are now still able to drive by "our" house without experiencing severe pangs of deprivation: just maybe the curtains don't look quite right, or the shrub border needs pruning! Yet, somehow there is a strange feeling of having deserted an old friend! To compensate, we can now look out on our neat communal garden where someone else meticulously stripes the lawn and, of course, in the case of severe withdrawal symptoms, something can always be found to gladden the heart of a compulsive weeder!

Music

Musical Concert

You are invited to a musical concert on 9 January at 7:30 p.m. Music needs no translation so you can all enjoy a journey through the centuries in the grand halls of Vienna, the beautiful countryside of Poland, the city with a white frost snow in Moscow and the warm sun of Spain. It will be a delightful evening full of passionate and exciting music played by Victoria Balan and Minyoung Bae.

Concert of Vocal Music

Paul and his friends will present a concert for all the family on 23 February at 7:30 p.m. Paul Lee is well known to viewers of Songs of Praise on television as he has appeared regularly with the London Adventist Chorale, the Adventist Vocal Ensemble and the male quartet, Teserra. Paul sang in the Classical concert at Buckingham Palace for the Queen's Golden Jubilee and has also sung for the Princess Royal.

Highlights of the Winter Season

The Toy Service has become one of those traditions that brings a warm glow to everyone who takes part. It has become a tradition for the Mayor of Watford to be represented at the Toy service to receive them



on behalf of the Social Services of Watford. This year we welcome Ian and Jan Brown Councillors of Watford Borough Council and also Richard Harrington MP for Watford. A highlight of the occasion is the procession of children bringing their gifts of toys. You are warmly invited to come to the Toy Service on Saturday 8 December at 11am.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols at 6:30 pm

Christmas Day 10:30am Christmas Day message

Soup Run - Christmas Edition

Do you know that we have a Christmas edition of the Soup Run? Volunteers hand out special bags containing a Christmas card with a personal message, roast chicken or turkey sandwiches (or veg. option), mince pie, plus some personal grooming items.



The average life expectancy of someone sleeping rough is currently 42 years and despite the efforts of governments and charitable organisations, rough sleeping is on the increase. It is sometimes seen as part of life in a big city but the reality is clear – it is a human tragedy.

Last year 3673 people were seen rough sleeping in the Capital (1 in 10 were females). The Stanborough Soup Run volunteers meet with rough sleepers on London's north and south bank every Friday evening. We still find many who need blankets, clothing and who are grateful for a hot drink and good quality food.



Stanborough News

Season's Greetings

Winter 2012

What Do You Do with Christmas?

I love Christmas time. The house filled with the smell of baking, whispers in corners and secret stashes of presents, and lights filling homes and streets where it is dark at this time of year. I love the carols and people coming together to celebrate life, love and goodness.

And yet, I sometimes feel I am too selfish at Christmas, spending time only with friends and family. What about other people, who might be lonely, who might not have enough resources for good food or presents this year? Poor people and families suffering financial problems exist here in England too and loneliness is everywhere in the world. So in the true spirit of Christmas, in the name of the one who had to be born in a stable because no one would take his parents in, why not do something for someone who could use a little help? Maybe giving toys for children who have little, or assisting at a soup kitchen, or just inviting someone you know who might not have relatives, to celebrate with you. One small thing, an invitation to a meal or the gift of a toy might mean so much to someone else. It could also show your children that Christmas is about GIVING.

I wish for you and yours a very blessed Christmas,

Karin Wieczorek

Messy Church

Messy Church is a free monthly afternoon programme for local families with children between 0 – 13. We invite you to come along and join us for messy crafts, action songs, bible stories and yummy food all based on the monthly theme. We return to start 2013 on 16 February with registration at 15:45. This year we will be looking at the Days of Creation. We would ask that those wishing to attend any of these events register your children's names and ages by sending an E-mail to stanboroughparkmessychurch@gmail.com. Future Messy Dates until the summer are 16 March, 20 April, 18 May and 15 June. For more information, you can check out our new website at stanboroughparkmessy.wix.com/messy-church



Local Couple Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

A couple who met as teenagers at a local church during World War II have just celebrated their Diamond Wedding.

Roy and Sheila Burgess, who now live in Sarratt, first met when Sheila Coppock moved to Garston with her parents and settled in First Avenue around 1940.

Coming from a Seventh-day Adventist background she became a member of the nearby Stanborough Park Church where she met Watford-born Roy Burgess. They married at Stanborough Park Church on 18 August, 1952 and Roy's vocation as a Pastor led them on a semi-nomadic journey through Ireland, Wales and finally Stanborough Park Church, Garston where he served as Senior Pastor from 1983 to 1990. Sheila worked as a primary school teacher for 30 years culminating in being Head of Stow-on-the-Wold Infant School.

They were 'absolutely delighted' to receive their Diamond Wedding card from the Queen and maintain that the secret to a happy marriage is, according to Sheila 'to take one day at a time' to which Roy adds 'and then hope it gets better' and to have shared interests, a strong faith and the love and support of their own and the church family.



Charitable Activities

Christmas Parcel Wrapping for Charity

Bring your parcels to the Stanborough Centre on Saturday 22 December to be wrapped and donate to charity. Open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be on sale and a warm welcome awaits you.

Shoe Box Appeal

Hundreds of shoe boxes filled with appropriate gifts were sent for children in Burkina Faso by ADRA-UK who is working with its local partner for the distribution of the shoeboxes.

Pat's Sales

Regular Table-Top Sales raised £4,100 for various local charities and church activities this year.

Welfare

The Welfare Room, operated by local volunteers in liaison with Watford Social Services, is very busy providing necessities such as children's and baby items, linen, clothes, and occasional kitchen utensils and toys. If you would like to become involved then phone Pat on 01923 672500.

Diary Dates

Stanborough Park Church Music

19 January, 7:30 pm Musical Concert given by violinist Victoria Balan and pianist Minyoung Bae.

23 February, 7:30 pm Paul and his Friends concert of vocal music.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols at 6:30 pm
Saturday 22 December, Family Service at 10:30am
Christmas Day 11 am Christmas Day message

The Parallel Service

15 December Speaker Ivana Mendez.

22 December Combined with Family Service.

29 December Guest speaker.

www.facebook.com/groups/61120750538/

Parallel Café will take place on 15 December - booking essential - get in touch with us via facebook and book you place now.

Senior Members Club

10 December, 7 & 21 January, 4 & 18 February.

Messy Church

16 February Registration from 3:45pm. 4pm – 6.30pm. Ages 0-13yrs.

Sunday Sale 17 February, 12 - 2 p.m. the Soup Run will benefit.

Tuesday Talks 11 December, 8 January, 12 February.

Soup Run – every Friday evening except 21 & 28 December. If you are over 16 years old and interested in joining a team then contact Pat Walton 01923 672500.

Indian Meal Saturday Saturday 26 January 7:30 p.m. Indian Meal and an auction. Funds raised will be given to STOP. To book the meal Email Pat Walton on pat@pwalton.co.uk.

Who Do You Think You Are?

Who Do You Think You Are? – do you really care? A lot of people do because a family history website called Ancestry.com has just been sold for \$1.6 billion! Ancestry.com allows its two million users to scour more than ten billion digitised records from around the world for a fee of around £20 a month. Knowing where you came from can make you happy or a bore or even change your personality. The good news of Christmas that the shepherds heard was 'Peace on earth goodwill to men' means that ultimately there is a God who is our loving Father and Ancestry.com can't beat that!