

# PUTTENHAM BARN BUNKHOUSE

## Newsletter – Autumn 2023



Hazel and Dave ready to welcome the next visitors on Heritage Open Day, now an annual feature in the barn calendar. On-and-off drizzle did not dampen enthusiasm and a number of visitors arrived by bike. We are so pleased to have Dave Williamson back with us, albeit taking on lighter duties for the foreseeable future. In fact, the event turned out to be a bit of a social gathering for volunteers past and present too!

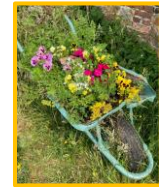


Our hurdle fencing was literally falling apart and needed urgent replacement. In addition to funding our new fingerposts, as featured in our Spring newsletter, the Gatliff Trust also kindly enabled us to replace the entire fence with ten new panels, made sustainably by Simon Farndon at Country Hurdles in Basingstoke. We thank the Gatliff Trust for their continued generous support.



The barnyard flowers have bloomed their little hearts out this summer.

Thank you to Tish, Hazel and neighbour Ruth who provided the various containers and Hazel and team for maintaining this blaze of colour!



### Review of the 2023 season

Another busy season is coming to an end, with the close-down work party scheduled for 11 November - see diary dates overleaf. Bookings have been maintained at a reasonable level though we continue to strive to make our presence more broadly known though wider publicity as well as by participating in local events such as the Godalming Green Gala. Following training days in both August and September, we welcomed several new volunteer wardens and were also delighted that some new YHA-trained wardens have joined our team of regulars. We are indebted to all for looking after our visitors so ably and maintaining our own very special warm welcome to all. Needless to say, we are always keen to chat to more people interested in this highly rewarding role!

If you are unable to warden, then perhaps some administrative work would suit you. We are looking for someone to support the Wardens & Bookings Coordinator. Tasks include: responding to booking queries and emails from guests, liaising with wardens and scheduling cover during the season, maintaining and updating warden and guest documents and communications. To have a no-obligation chat about any volunteering opportunities, please initially email us at [support@puttenhambarn.uk](mailto:support@puttenhambarn.uk)

**Appreciation...** to all our wonderful volunteers for their ongoing commitment to our Project. Recent years have seen the retirement of several wardens such as Carol Grant and John Summers who have brilliantly served us from back in the mists of time and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged. John also found it possible to support us in other ways: for example, donating our picnic table and by helping us financially at the time of Coronavirus when we faced a huge challenge. To all of you who continue to support our small charity with donations, *thank you*.

**Our Project Trustees...** With Keith Chesterton's retirement as Trustee, we record warm thanks for Keith's enormous contribution to POND in innumerable ways, including – importantly – as our Hon Treasurer for a number of years. However, we are very pleased that Keith is still willing to help us in other ways when he can.



At the same time, we extend a warm welcome to **Morag Warrack** as our new Trustee. Morag warden for us at Puttenham as well as having experience of managing YHA Hostels and has considerable positive involvement in the environmental movement.

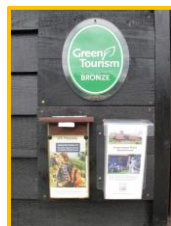


### Who remembers this?



A reflection of just how much our lovely barn has been transformed over the years.

### Practical tasks continued throughout the summer months.....



The Green Tourism Plaque was installed in August



A long-term project for Eric, what commitment!



Eric W and Martin B working on the motor that draws up the surplus rainwater from our underground tanks - a protracted issue that we think has been finally fixed.

All photos: Dave Williamson

**Entomologists' delight** – rare beetle spotted in the barnyard!



Our apple tree 'Joybells' was so laden with fruit this year that as a temporary measure the garden bench had to be borrowed as a support. Tish brought a juicer in and fresh apple juice was sampled from the fallen apples. Verdict: 'A bit sour but quite tasty.'  
Both our apple trees have now been carefully pruned by Hazel.

2013...  
what a difference  
10 years make!



Volunteer Hazel, knowledgeable in all things flora and fauna, was delighted to spot this Tawny Longhorn Beetle (*Paracorymbia fulva*) munching on wild carrot in the barnyard back in July. Hazel sent the details to the Surrey Wildlife Trust, who confirmed this is a rarity in Surrey.

## Puttenham Barn Events Calendar

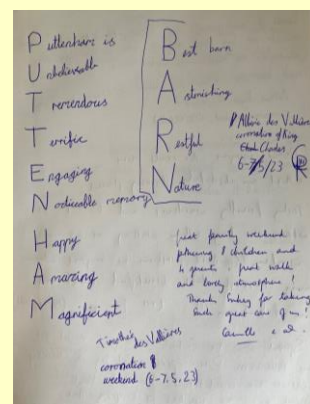
We have several forthcoming events planned for the end of the year. Do join us if you can! Most events are free to attend and open to everyone to say thank you for your support this year. Registration is ESSENTIAL, please contact [support@puttenhambarn.uk](mailto:support@puttenhambarn.uk)

Date	Time	Event	Location	Cost	Extra information
<b>Saturday</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	18:00 - 21:00	Puttenham Bonfire	Jubilee Field, Puttenham, GU3 1AS	£10 / £5	Nero's Rome theme. Tickets in advance only.
<b>Saturday</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	10:00 - 13:00	Barn Closedown Work Party	Puttenham Barn, The Street, GU3 1AR	FREE	Practical volunteers needed! Refreshments included.
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	19:30 - 21:00	Puttenham Barn Charity Quiz Night*	The Good Intent, The Street, GU3 1AR	£2	Prizes for winning team. Food served if wishing to eat.
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	17:00 - 20:00	Woodland Wonder: Surrey Hills Symposium	University of Surrey, Guildford, GU2 7XH	FREE	Speakers, live performances & debates about the future of trees.
<b>Saturday</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	11:00 - 12:30	Wellesley Woodlands Winter Tree Walk	Duke's Wood, Fleet Road, Aldershot	FREE	Guided tour identifying the trees of Wellesley Woodland.
<b>Saturday</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	19:00 - 21:00	Conservatoire Concerts: Chamber Music Festival	Godalming Baptist Church, GU7 1BA	FREE	Showcase of young musicians on piano, violin, cello & double-bass.
<b>Sunday</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10:00 - 13:00	Heathland Clearance & free Christmas tree	Yateley Common, Yateley, GU46 6BE	FREE	Help clear the common and get a free hot chocolate and fresh tree.
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	19:00 - 21:00	Christmas Wreath-making Workshop	Quaker Meeting House, Godalming, GU7 1HB	£10	Create your own festive wreath. Own gloves and tools advised.

**\*Special request:** Prize donations would be gratefully received for our above charity quiz night on 15 November. Suggestions are gift vouchers/alcohol/edible treats. Please contact Tish on [support@puttenhambarn.uk](mailto:support@puttenhambarn.uk), prizes can also be brought along on the night.

### So many lovely comments in the visitors book, hard to choose which to include here...

- Dear 'everyone who reads this' ☺ What an absolutely stunning place. Truly friendly wardens and I hope to return one day either walking or as a warden?! Best wishes to anyone who comes through this wonderful bunkhouse in Puttenham!!! Love Tim X (14.5.2023)
- Lovely overnight place to stay. Great facilities and a dedicated bike lock-up for cyclists. Warm welcome by all the volunteers and enjoyable company with fellow visitors. Pub down the road does some delicious food. Owain, 20.4.23
- It has been lovely staying here with you. Thanks a million, you're amazing people. Val, 28.6.23
- Beren F: Walking the Pilgrims Way. What a lovely stay!... Stunning location, the people here were so lovely and friendly and the atmosphere here is out of this world! Looking forward to coming back. A big thank you to "Gazza" (at the pub for suggesting here) and lovely to meet Brenda and Bob who were so welcoming. Magical... 3 September 2023.
- ...and finally, a 'Coronation weekend special' by young Timothée, whose family took advantage of our sole booking facility. A great time was had by all.



~~ Newsletter contributions welcomed by Hilary – [support@puttenhambarn.uk](mailto:support@puttenhambarn.uk) ~~

This newsletter is published by Project Oasis North Downs,  
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