

Schools News

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We welcome reports from all schools and other organisations working in education in the Dacorum area, send your news by email to thegazette@jpress.co.uk

School poppy displays

Hemel Hempstead Royal British Legion has been working with schools in Hemel Hempstead this year to encourage them to create poppy displays to mark Remembrance Day.

Hobletts Manor Junior School

The children at Hobletts Manor Junior School have worked together to create The Fallen Hero, made from plastic bottle bases which they recycled to create their own individual poppies. The artwork now takes pride of place in the school's memorial garden.

Hammond Academy

Every child at Hammond Academy has had the chance to make a poppy. Key Stage 1 children created beautiful paper poppies and Key Stage 2 children created amazing plastic poppies that made a wonderful outdoor display. The lovely feedback from parents showed how the project brought the school community together.

Lockers Park School

The poppies on display in the Chapel at Lockers Park School were made by Year 6 boys using felt, tissue paper and recycled red paper from old magazines. The boys enjoyed talking about the old boys and masters from Lockers Park who fell in both world wars and are commemorated on marble plaques in the Ante Chapel.

Relating the wars to boys who actually came to their school makes the



Every child at South Hill Primary School decorated a cross



Hobletts Manor pupils have created The Fallen Hero from recycled bottles

experience seem more real.

South Hill Primary School

Every child at South Hill Primary School decorated a cross for Remembrance Day. The crosses have been planted under the school flagpole,

where we gather for our Remembrance Day service.

Chambersbury Primary School

The Year 5 and 6 art club and art co-ordinator Caroline Gavin have created



Year 6 poppy display in Lockers Park School Chapel



Year 5/6 art club poppy display at Chambersbury Primary School

the poppy display at Chambersbury Primary School.

Longdean School

Longdean School has been working on a poppy display to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of

Passchendaele. Students have been creating poppies and dedicating them to soldiers who fought in the First World War.

Poppies are being made by parents, students and staff and every poppy made at home has been



Hammond Academy outdoor display



Part of Longdean's poppy display

brought in with a donation to the RBL.

The poppies are being displayed in the new school atrium and the joint project between history and art departments will culminate with a ceremony at the school on Friday, with events throughout the week.

Faith News

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Rennie Grove is holding a Light up a Life ceremony in Tring Parish Church

Light up a Life ceremony

Rennie Grove Hospice Care is holding a Light Up a Life ceremony at St Peter and St Paul's Church, High Street, Tring, at 4pm on Sunday, December 3.

This is one of a series of Light up a Life ceremonies being held across Herts and Bucks and everyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one is invited to share this time of remembrance by dedicating a light and/or attending a service.

Our Lady Queen of all Creation

Our Lady Queen of all Creation Roman Catholic church is holding a Mass for departed loved ones at 7pm on Monday, November 20.

St Leonards, Flamstead

There will be a special preview

evening of our Winter Flower Festival on Thursday November 23 at 7.30pm, with musical entertainment and readings by West End actor and Flamstead resident, Clive Hayward.

The Winter Flower Festival on the theme of Narnia, from the famous CS Lewis children's books, takes place from November 24 to 26. Walk through the wardrobe at the entrance to the church and you will enter a magical world of winter displays created by the team of designers and arrangers who worked on the acclaimed St Albans Abbey Flower Festival.

St Leonard's Flower Festival is part of a major fund-raising initiative as the church, home to rare medieval murals, is facing a bill of nearly £1 million due to water damage to the roof timbers and walls, as well as an infestation of death watch beetle. Without

urgent repair work, the church has been threatened with closure on safety grounds in two years' time.

Vicar Tom Sander said: "We are rallying as a community and are now hosting a wonderful winter flower festival on the theme of Narnia. The church will be transformed into the mystical world imagined in the novels of CS Lewis, so why not step in and see this magnificent sight for yourself."

The festival will be open from 10am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday and noon to 5pm on Sunday, with tickets for sale on the door at £5 for adults and £2.50 for under-10s. Seasonal refreshments will be available, as well as the chance to buy Christmas wreaths.

St Peter's Church, St Albans

A choir based in Leverstock Green will be singing at Rennie Grove Hospice

CHRISTIAN VIEWPOINT

I've been reading about Samuel, a Jewish prophet in the Old Testament. He heard God speaking to him about everything from lost donkeys to Kings of Israel.

I wish I heard God talking to me as clearly but, looking back, I know He has spoken to me. One notable occasion was when he told me I was to uproot my family from Birmingham, move to Hemel and commute into London to work. That was nearly 40 years ago and the whole family has been blessed as a result, although there have been some knocks along the way.

Do you give God the chance to talk to you, or are you always talking to him so he can't get a word in edgeways?

Robin Oakes
South Hill Church

Care's first Christmas Carol Concert on Thursday, December 7 at St Peters Church, St Albans.

The Chiltern Ladies Choir have been singing together for about 27 years. Songs on the night will include Let it Snow, Silent Night and Walking in the Air, and there will be the opportunity to join in and sing along to some favourite carols.

The evening will be hosted by TV presenter Pam Rhodes, whose new book of Christmas stories, Tidings of Comfort and Joy, will be on sale on the night.

Doors open at 6.30pm, and the concert will start at 7pm.

Tickets for the concert are £15, to include a drink and a mince pie, under-fives free. See www.renniegrove.org/whats-on/detail/carolconcert or call 01727 731028.

EGERTON ROTHESAY SCHOOL

Councillor learns all about school's work



Headteacher Colin Parker with County Councillor Terry Douris

Egerton Rothesay School, in Berkhamsted, received a visit last week from Bridgewater, County Councillor Terry Douris, cabinet minister for education, libraries and localism.

Mr Douris was given a tour by headteacher Colin Parker, who told him about the school's work with pupils with special needs.

Mr Douris also spoke to some of the children about their work and aspirations for the future.

Mr Douris showed particular interest in the specialist support given at the school, the research work being undertaken in lessons using technology, and the wide variety of courses and qualifications on offer to enable pupils to continue further education.

He also visited the school's therapist department and spent time talking to the speech and language department about its 'readiness for life' programme.