

Services



August 2021

NOTE We are open now for in-church services, but please confirm on our website or Facebook page.

1st	10:30am	Rev Sharon Gardner (Holy Communion)
8th	10:30am	Sharon Wright
		No SCT service in August
15th	10:30am	Karen Glossop
22nd	10:30am	Mary Elms
		We don't have film night in August
29th	10:30am	David Morgan

For (nearly) up to the minute news, visit our new website:
www.sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

If you're on Facebook—then 'like' our Facebook pages—
and join in the conversation -

Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church
And **Babes and Tots—Sandhurst**

And if you tweet, we're there too:
@SandYMethChurch

To get in touch email:

Stewards: steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Hall hire: halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Weekly notices: notices@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Multimedia: multimedia@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Musicians: musicians@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Website: siteadmin@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Anything else: info@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk



Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church Newsletter July/August 2021

June was a mixture—cold, hot, wet, dry.... But today as I take this picture it's perfect—not too hot, not too sunny, and with the promise of rain for the garden this evening :-) God is good!

The Minister writes...

Dear friends,

As I write this, we are just coming to the end of Bible Month which this year has covered all of Mark's gospel. I hope you have been able to 'fill in the gaps' by reading the various chapters of his book between each Sunday's service. Mark's style of writing has carried us apace, moving from one scene to the next, recounting for us Jesus' ministry, his passion, crucifixion and resurrection.



In his opening verse, Mark tells us that this is the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Yet, having made that declaration, he then invites us, along with those who encounter Jesus, to decide for ourselves who Jesus is. Right up to the (original) closing sentences of the final chapter, he leaves the question hanging, confident, I think, that once we have read all that he has written about Jesus we will no longer be in any doubt, but declare, with Peter, that Jesus is the Christ.

It reminds us (were such a reminder necessary!) of the preciousness of God's word. So often we take access to the Bible for granted. All of us, I'm sure, own at least one copy; many of us will have several on our shelves. Yet that is not true for everyone across the world, and I have shared elsewhere in this newsletter the story of Mary Jones and her yearning to possess her own Bible, of how her story inspired the formation of the Bible Society.

It is not only the gospel stories about Jesus which make the Bible so precious. The whole of the Bible speaks of the greatest love story ever: the love of God for his creation, for all of humanity – for **us**. Sometimes that is too much for us to take in. We agree that God must indeed love what he has made – but love us? *Each* of us? *You? Me?* Who are we in the grand scheme of things we ask ourselves? God might love generally but surely not so specifically. But he does: he loves youand he loves me. It is there in his Holy Word.

It seems to me that during these summer months, as we relax in the sunshine and enjoy the lifting of Covid restrictions and a lightening of the anxiety that has been part of our lives for the last 18 months, we would do well to spend time reading it.

As it says in 2 Timothy 3:15-17:

Since childhood, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and showing people how to live so that the one who serves God may be fully equipped to do every kind of good deed.

So, friends, I wish you a summer of reading, of soul rest and spiritual restoration. May you take time to be with God, to bask in his presence and find yourselves uplifted by his love.

With every blessing,
Sharon

Services



July 2021

NOTE We are open now for in-church services, but please confirm on our website or Facebook page.

4th	10:30am	Kim Tame
11th	10:30am	Rev Sharon Gardner (Holy Communion)
	6:30pm	Sandhurst Churches Together service hosted by St George's Church
18th	Mike Bowstead	Mike Bowstead
27th	10:30am	Rev Catherine Bowstead
	18:30pm	Really—The return of Film Night! (we hope)

For (nearly) up to the minute news, visit our new website:
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Anything else: info@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

July/August 2021 Rotas

Flowers

We're using the silk flowers for now, but hope to have real flowers in church again, restrictions allowing, from 25th July.

Funtime Worship

No separate provision for Funtime worship this month. Please feel free to bring children, but they will have to stay with you in church.

Cleaning

w/c 26/7/21 Alison F and Alison B
w/c 16/8/21 Sandra W and Wendy H

Welcome

We hope to have a welcome person again from 25th July, depending on the restrictions being relaxed

Coffee

We hope to be able to have coffee after the service from 25th July :-)

Lifts to Church on Sunday morning

If you require a lift to church and you live in Sandhurst or Yateley, please ring through the listed names. They are happy to give lifts if they are available. Please alternate between the names if using the service regularly.

Please do take advantage of this service—people really do want to help.

Yateley

Pam Hardy 01252 870468
Tricia Needes 01252 658350

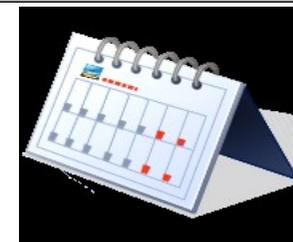
Sandhurst

Graham Fradgley 01276 36631
Barbara Rush 01252 876051
Douglas Brown 01252 655419

What's on?

July 2021

7th House group
11th SCT service
13th CJ4A
14th, 28th Organ recitals
15th Club 15 Board games
22nd House group
25th Film night (we hope)



August 2021

4th House group
11th, 25th Organ recitals
12th House group
15th Club 15 Highcliffe picnic

Sunday Coffee Rota Volunteers

We all like to have a cup of tea or coffee after the Morning Service and chat to the rest of the congregation but we have lost several volunteers for various reasons lately. This means the number of teams are getting smaller which results in your turn coming round more frequently.

Please contact me for more details if you feel you are able to help.



Alison Fradgley
01276 36631
alison@gfradgley.com

Congratulations!

To **Dennis** who has celebrated a very special milestone birthday. We haven't seen him for a while but we all send our very best wishes to him on this special occasion. We hope you have a wonderful day Dennis celebrating with your family.
Many happy returns from your Church Family here at SYMC xxxx

Congratulations **Diane**
Sending our love and very best wishes to Diane who has also celebrated a special milestone birthday this week.
Congratulations Diane and many happy returns from your church family at SYMC xxxxx

Club 15 July—Board games in the garden

Thursday 15th July

Weather permitting we are planning an evening of board games in our garden. Please can you bring your own drinks and we will provide nibbles.

If you are coming please let us know on 01344 780703 or alison.bone@btopenworld.com

Alison and Jon



Film night—upcoming ... now in July!!!!

Woohoo!—Film night returns (assuming all government restriction plans are unchanged) on the **4th Sunday in July—25th!**

Do join us for fellowship and pizza (we order in)

The film in July will be chosen by Sharon :-)

No film night in August.



Praise and Prayer and Tuesday afternoon Bible Study

Due to the uncertainty of the current situation with Covid, plus the 'rule of 6' restrictions, we are unable to recommence either of these activities for the time being. Rest assured, that as soon as they become viable, Sharon will be in touch to see how regular attenders feel about coming back into the hall.

In the meantime, some of the afternoon Bible study group are joining with the Tuesday evening Bible study group via Zoom to which anyone is welcome (whether you've been part of one of the study groups previously or not). Please check the weekly notices for the Zoom details or contact Sharon.

Christian Aid quiz—advance notice

The Christian Aid quiz will be on **Saturday October 2nd 2021**, organised by Sandhurst Churches Together, and hosted by St George's Church, Owlsmoor. Further details to follow.

Spiritual Development Group



The spiritual development group organise:

Regular Prayer meetings and evening Bible Study, every Tuesday evening

Tuesday Praise and Prayer (2nd Tuesday)

Rejoice! (4th Tuesday)

Daytime Bible Study (1st and 3rd Tuesday)

Please join us
—or speak to Keg, Sharon or Sue for more details.

The Tuesday evening prayer group and bible study will continue to be on Zoom for now.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061192040?pwd=d1p0MlVXZDRlTFdpZTlZLzc0OEdjdz09>
Meeting ID: 840 6119 2040. Password: 526263

Same link for Stewards meeting and Church Council.

Due to the latest lockdown, Tuesday afternoon Bible Study/Praise and Prayer/Rejoice won't start yet.

July

6th 7:30 pm
8:00 pm

13th

20th 7:30 pm
8:00 pm

27th 7:30 pm
8:00 pm

2021

Prayer Group
Bible Study

Local Preachers' Meeting

Prayer Group
Bible Study

Prayer Group
Bible Study

Zoom (see above
for link)

Zoom
Zoom

Zoom
Zoom

August

No Prayer and Bible Study during August

Minister

Rev Sharon Gardner
minister@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
01344 774967

Pastoral leader
Margaret Picken
pastoral@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Church Stewards—steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Karen Glossop	01344 762407	Senior Steward
Sandra Wooledge	01344 775177	
Heather Brown	01252 655419	
Matt Rowell	01344 775744	

House Fellowship groups providing a friendly platform for discussion ...

Thursday House Group:

Robert Godden, 11 Scotland Hill, Sandhurst. 01252 872503

Next meeting **July 22nd 1945 at Robert's**
Then August 12th (TBC)

Wednesday House Group:

at Alison and Graham Fradgley's
3 Forbes Chase, Sandhurst

Zoom meeting Wednesday 7th July at 7:30pm, led by Diana.

We hope to be able to meet physically in August.

Please contact Diana if you would like the details to join. Existing house group members will be contacted.



Newsletter and Website

newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Contributions for the **September** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 29th August 2021 or website) should be with Sue Truby by **Wednesday August 25th 2021.**

Contributions should either be:
Handed to Sue at Church,
Emailed to: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Or posted to 58 Crowthorne Road, Sandhurst GU47 9EP (01252 879236)

Coming back to church services—some guidelines

- If you are feeling unwell we request that you do not come to church.
- Each individual will need to wear a face mask/covering unless you are medically exempt.
- The Church **will open at 1020** for the service to begin at 1030.
- Please enter the Church through the entrance on Scotland Hill Road. The door at the back of the hall will be closed by the car park. You will be asked to wait outside if there are too many people in the welcome area.
- Please use one of the hand sanitisers in the welcome area.
- Then go on through into the main worship area and sit down on a chair not marked with a red cross.
- If the main worship area is full the steward will direct you to a chair in the crèche where you will be able to hear the service through a speaker.
- The Service will last 30 – 40 minutes. I'm afraid during the service there will be no communal singing.
- If you need the toilet please use the toilet in the welcome area. Please use hand sanitiser before/after and please clean the toilet/wash basin with the wipes provided.
- If you feel ill during the service please let the steward know.
- At the end of the service please remain seated until the steward asks you to leave.
- Please exit the church through the entrance onto Scotland Hill Road.
- Please can we request you do not congregate outside the entrance onto Scotland Hill Road as people are leaving.
- If you wish to talk to friends please walk round to the car park where you can have a social distance chatter there.
- There will be no refreshments.
- At all times we must try to keep a social distance of 1-2 metres while entering, leaving and being in the church.

Matt Rowell



Summer Organ Recitals - 2021



High Cross Church

Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY

Tel: 01276 66798

During the months of June, July, August and September, the 12th series of lunch time organ recitals will be hosted in the Sanctuary at High Cross on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 12.45 until 1.30 pm as follows:

Wednesday 23 th June	George de Voil	Wellington College
Wednesday 14 th July	David Markby	High Cross
Wednesday 28 th July	John Wood	High Cross
Wednesday 11 th August	Katherine Dienes-Williams	Guildford Cathedral
Wednesday 25 th August	Alan Rapley	Guildford
Wednesday 8 th September	Andrew Millington	Guildford and Exeter Cathedrals

There is no charge for admission, but a retiring collection will be taken in aid of the High Cross Organ and Student Fund. Please check for latest information on

highcrosscamberley.co.uk

For more organ recitals see www.organrecitals.com

Coffee mornings

Coffee Mornings every **second Thursday** in the month

We have started a monthly Coffee Morning at church for members and visitors. The first one was held in January and we had a dozen people attend. It was a lovely opportunity to catch up over coffee and cakes.

Do put the date in your diary and pop along if you are free between 10:30 and 12 midday.

We hope to be back to an in-church one in September. Watch this space :-)



Church picnic in the park?



We are looking at organising a church picnic in the park, probably in August, probably on a Sunday.

Further information will appear in the notices, when we've sorted out venue, date, time etc.

No Mow May



Plantlife have organised this campaign to encourage people not to mow their lawns for the month of May—to provide nectar for our bees and butterflies. Bracknell Forest announced that they would not be mowing all that they normally do—and that has indeed been the case in Sandhurst. Look at this lovely pyramidal orchid (left) flourishing where it would normally be strimmed.

My daughter, not in Sandhurst, didn't mow her lawn, and a Common Spotted Orchid (right) appeared.



Why not lock up your lawnmower too? And you don't actually have to mow in June, July.... if you don't want to :-)

Sue

The Methodist Diary 2022...

And much, much more, such as the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021/2022 are now available from Methodist Publishing.

The Methodist Diary
2022



A Place for All | Prayers for every day of the year

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021/2022



I also note that you can order Methodist Church face masks in Black or Navy - but let's hope we won't need them for much longer!

Newsletter contributions

Newsletter contributions are (nearly) always gratefully received, especially when received well in advance of the copy date :-)

Please only include in your contribution any contact details that you are happy to have shared with the community. A paper copy of the newsletter goes into Sandhurst library each month, and the electronic version is on the website.

Thanks

Club 15 August—Highcliffe picnic

On the **15th of August** why not pack up a picnic and head off down to the seaside at Highcliffe, to enjoy great scenery, fresh air good conversation and then a leisurely walk along the seashore for a well earned coffee/tea and cake at Highcliffe Castle.



Meeting point 5 Edwards Court, Wortley Road, Highcliffe, BH23 5DR for 1pm.

Diana

Vinyl Records Wanted

50s/
60s

70s

Thank you!
Dance Soul Rock Chart Disco Blues Punk Reggae

80s

90s

I am looking for vinyl records from pop to punk, soul to funk and reggae to dance: Singles (7 & 12") and LPs. Happy to collect, will make a donation to church funds in return.

Contact: Margaret Picken: 01252 879802 or Ian: ianpicken@yahoo.co.uk / 07737 003891

Crowthorne Foodbank



Current shortages -

Tinned carrots, tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, tomato ketchup, cup-a-soup, chocolate spread, pot noodles, long-life milk, lunchbox snacks, share pack crisps, instant packet noodles, mug shots. Handwash, kids toothbrushes, women's deodorant, nappies size 1.

Toilet paper, anti-bacterial spray, laundry pods, washing up liquid, hand wash, bleach.

Note: the foodbank update their needs weekly here:
Crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Note—they currently have plenty: soup, breakfast cereal, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, coffee, tea bags, rice, baby powder milk, soap, men's shaving gel, washing up liquid, shampoo and conditioner, bath and shower gel/wash. Please do consider the food bank when you do your food shopping. There are collection points in most of the major supermarkets. E.g. Tesco, The Meadows—please only place Tesco bought items in these bins. Co-op, the High Street, Crowthorne.

CJ4A Have your say invitation—July date



You are invited to join us for our 'Have Your Say' events on either June 9th, June 12th or July 13th.

These events consist of a 45 minute consultation hosted by CJ4A (worldmethodistcouncil.org.cj4a) in partnership with Green Agents of Change (Methodist.org.uk/greenagentsofchange).

As part of the CJ4A campaign we want to send a 'call to action' from Methodists to the UK government's COP Ambassadors. Local Methodist churches and groups

along a section of the North Downs Way, then through lovely shady woods and finally across chalk grassland on the Hog's Back. We enjoyed beautiful views over the surrounding countryside, including Guildford Cathedral, saw dragonflies, butterflies and a red-legged partridge and delighted in the colourful wildflowers on the Hog's Back, including many orchids. Thank you, Robert, for organising another lovely nature walk.

Tricia Needs



The Methodist Conference 2021

The **Methodist Church** 

Took/is taking place from 24th June to 1st July in Birmingham. The agenda, all the latest news and even live streams can be seen on the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk, together with much much more.

Club 15 June—afternoon walk



For the June Club 15 meeting a morning and afternoon walk had been organised by Robert Godden. The morning walk was from Buckler's Forest (near the old TRL site), while the afternoon walk started from the delightful village of Compton, southwest of Guildford.

A group of 6 of us set off on a

hot sunny afternoon but in view of the temperature Robert had thoughtfully shortened the route from the original 6-7 miles planned! The walk was partly



will be asked to add their names to this call to action but, before taking that step, we want to hear from Methodists across Britain.

What does climate justice look like for you? What should Britain be doing to ensure climate justice for all?

If you attend a Methodist Church or group and would like to have your voice heard then please do join us for one of these events, which are open to people of all ages (those under 18 will need a parent to book their ticket and give permission).

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-justice-for-all-have-your-say-tickets-152826206297>

For any further information please email: pugmirem@methodistchurch.org

Recycled bras

We Need YOUR Support!

Recycle Your Bras and help Raise money for your local counselling charity 'Connect', and the developing world

What?
Connect is a counselling service based in Camberley offering help and support to individuals, couples and families. Connect, in association with BCR Global Textiles, intend to raise funds through 'bra bank' recycling.

More information at www.connectcounselling.org and www.bcrglobaltextiles.com

What?
All you need to do is pop unwanted bras into your local bra bank recycling bin. Please ensure bras are clean, wearable and in plastic bags. Your contribution will not only 'uplift' people in third world countries, but also help raise money for 'Connect', your local counselling charity.

So when support fails you, support someone else instead!!

Where?
Bra banks' located at:

BRAS SHOULD BE IN REASONABLE TO GOOD CONDITION & LEFT IN A COLLECTION POINT IN THE HALL

Connect - Counselling Service, 11 Folesbury Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3TA
Tel: 01278 242111 www.connectcounselling.org Registered Charity No: 1042852

Pop unwanted bras into your local bra bank recycling bin. Please ensure bras are clean, wearable and in plastic bags. Your contribution will not only 'uplift' people in third world countries, but also help raise money for 'Connect', your local counselling charity.

So when support fails you, support someone else instead. Bras should be in reasonable to good condition and left in the collection point in the vestibule.

The story of Mary Jones and her Bible

This is a story that will be very familiar to a lot of you, indeed I believe it has previously appeared in this newsletter.

In 1784 a little girl called Mary Jones was born and lived in a small grey cottage in the shadow of the Cader Idris mountain in mid Wales. Her father died when she was four years old and her mother struggled to provide for the family. There was no school in the village and no one in Mary's family could read but Mary loved to go to chapel and listen to the stories from the Bible which she would remember and longed to be able to read for herself. Eventually, when she was nine years old, a school opened in a village about six miles away and every day, Mary would walk there and back. She learned to read and a neighbour, Mrs Evans, would let Mary practise on a Saturday afternoon by reading from her Bible. Mary loved doing this and wished very much for a Bible of her own but knew there was no way her mother could afford to buy one.

So Mary worked to earn the money to buy her own Bible. Mrs. Evans gave Mary some chickens and she sold their eggs. She weeded gardens, collected firewood, she washed clothes in the river, knitted socks, and babysat for the neighbours' children. It took her six years but, finally, Mary had saved enough money to buy a Bible.

She had heard of a pastor, a Mr Thomas Charles, who had Bibles for sale in Welsh and English - but he lived in Bala which was 25 miles away! Nevertheless, determined girl that she was, she set off across the Welsh mountains for Bala. It was a long and tiring walk and when she arrived, she was dismayed to discover that Mr Charles only had one Bible left, and it was already promised to someone else. However, he took her in and gave her food and lodging for the night and the next day he gave Mary his last Bible and told her that the other person could wait a little longer. Mary was so excited that she almost ran the 25 miles home, clutching her Bible.

Mary's courage and faith had stirred Thomas Charles and in 1802, at a meeting of The Religious Tracts Society, he proposed that a group be formed to provide Bibles in Welsh. Inspired by the discussion, another minister, Joseph Hughes, cried out: "If for Wales, why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?" The British and Foreign Bible Society was created, now known as the Bible Society which works in over 200 countries and is committed to making the Bible available to all people.

News from the North

I can hardly believe that it's nearly three months since we finally took the plunge and moved up to East Yorkshire. It did feel a bit daunting as we sat in the van thinking we were moving into somewhere that we had only viewed for 15 minutes. Although we miss our friends in Sandhurst and our walks in the forest, I don't think any of us regret the move now.

Ted has settled in to his new home and has an upstairs basket for night time and a downstairs basket so he can sit in his favourite window seat in the mornings enjoying the sunshine.



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- Free bereavement advice and support
- Pre-paid inflation proof funeral plans
- Wide choice of memorials for burials

Sandhurst

337 Yorktown Road,
College Town, GU47 0QA

01276 33241



www.camberleyanddistrict.co.uk

when you lift a leaf to the light it's possible to see through tiny holes! If only I had read my Observer's Guide to Wildflowers, when younger, instead of just looking at the pictures, maybe I would be leading walks also – though there again with my sense of direction, maybe not. So it's massive thanks to Robert once again; have you the Autumnwatch walks planned?
Joan and Keith—photos from Keith



Upcoming Sandhurst Churches together services

July 11th - St George's
August—none

12th September—Sandhurst Baptist Church
10th October—Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church
21st November—St Michael's Church

In memoriam plaques

I am delighted to be able to tell you that **Camberley and District Funeral Directors** (Yorktown Road, College Town) are now sponsoring our memorial plaques.

Just talk to Sue Truby about the words you'd like and they will provide the plaque for free! Doug W has been attaching them to the seats once done.
Thanks Doug!
A donation to the church of £50 is suggested but not required.

Reggie and Michael, the terrapins, have a very sunny spot for their boat and don't seem too upset by the move either although they would have liked a slightly warmer May!

It took us a little while to discover the local walks but we now have several we take the dog on directly from home and of course we only have a short drive to be able to walk either in the Wolds with their beautiful hidden valleys or at the coast.

The house and garden are a work in progress. We are beginning to plan some changes to the very colourful decor we have inherited but it is lovely to see some of our old furniture in rooms that now suit it and to have some space. It's exciting to see what plants are coming up in the garden and Charles has some ideas for changes he would like to



make next year. We love our larch tree which has been here for over a hundred years.

Emily was lucky to find a new job up here before we left Sandhurst

and she has been working at the Cayton Bay Parkdean holiday resort since April. She is on their activities team and in charge of the arts and crafts hub so spends her days running sessions for anything from painting pottery to tie dying T-shirts to making soft toys. She really appreciates being part of a friendly supportive team after a less favourable experience previously. Cayton Bay has views of Scarborough castle and is surrounded by wooded cliffs where she often goes to do her running training after work.

Heather is in the throes of her final exams which started on 1st June. She has 10 in total; five chemistry and five maths. All the exams are online but the chemistry ones are for 90 minutes and the maths for 23 hours. I don't think she is expected to actually stay awake for 23 hours but it doesn't sound great to me! She has applied for a number of graduate jobs in the Lancaster area after she graduates but hasn't got anything confirmed yet. It was great to see her over Easter and I think she likes our new home.

It's good to be close to my sister again and we see each other at least once a week. We have met our new neighbours and they are all very friendly. Driffield is the kind of place where everyone seems to know everyone. Charles and I have joined the U3A but at the moment most activities are online so we have only taken part in a zoom quiz so far. I'm hoping to join a choir when they are allowed to meet again and have been attending the church in Hutton which is a short drive away from Driffield. I don't feel a stranger at church because I attended regularly with my Mum when she was alive so have met up with some old friends.

You probably know that we had our first visitors in May when Alison and Jon came to stay in a B and B in Hutton. It was good to take them to Bridlington and Scarborough and to have a proper catch up. We look forward to welcoming anyone else who is coming our way as I believe Graham and Alison might be later in the year.

With love to you all, Julia

Club 15 June morning walk

Robert organised a morning walk at Buckler's Forest, a relatively new nature reserve courtesy of the developers building the huge housing estate on the site of the old TRL. Weather was perfect, sunny but not too warm and once we'd all arrived we looked forward to a nice gentle walk in the sunshine.



When we started our walk, there were just the six of us but we had only



progressed a couple of hundred yards when we were hailed from the rear and behold there was Sharon escorted by her canine companions! A lovely surprise for us, their circuit was not as swift as usual, but the dogs ran backwards and forwards and must have attained *their* ten thousand steps in the first ten minutes.

I haven't visited this site since last year's lockdown so it was fascinating to see how the vegetation has flourished and I was impressed to see that even more new trees have been planted; indeed we met the (lone) ranger who was tending them – a mammoth and never-ending task it must be.

There are many ponds but as they're not fed by any streams most of them had all but dried up. (I'm now writing on the 19th June so after the constant rain of yesterday, they must be full to overflowing by now!) In a couple of the deeper ones, we saw damselflies flitting around *here* but never *there* where I had focussed *my* camera. Fortunately Keith has had more practice so he even managed a shot of one in flight!



The flowers were the stars of the show with dog daises and dog roses for once in recent times living up to their names and flourishing *in* the dog days of summer. As always Robert was a fount of all knowledge, damselflies, trees, flowers and showed us just why Perforated St John's Wort is so called -