

Activities and ideas ...

Spring in Solitude

If you haven't already seen the lovely pictures Jacky sent us, do take the time to look at them – they're on the activities page of the web site and are so cheerful and uplifting!



Graham contacted us to say that, although it wasn't possible for Purley Horticultural Society to hold its Spring Show this year, there was a Virtual Spring Show instead! Several "exhibitors" submitted pictures, one sent in a video, and all entries have been turned into a video which can now be seen on the [PHS website](#).

Perhaps you too could create a floral tribute – or, with friends, family or neighbours, you could hold your own virtual flower show. If you do, please send us pictures for the web site. This is such a beautiful time of year, it would be a wonderful way to share the blossoms and blooms in your garden with others.

ACTIVE-ities!

If you're looking for more energetic suggestions, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has some fun things to do. See [here](#) for short videos which give ideas anyone – including families with young children! – can enjoy!

Social-distance socialising

If you usually enjoy meeting friends for a pint and a catch up, here's something you might like!

There are quite a few craft beer companies in this area, simply look them up, agree with your friends which beers you'd like to try and order the same ones. Once they've been delivered, agree a time to "get together" and have a beer tasting! It's a win-win situation - you have a fun, sociable evening with friends, you all discover new beers, AND you all give much-needed support to local small business!



Don't forget, if you send us your beer reviews, we'll happily include them on this page.

Create your own cartoon!

If your children like cartoons, they might well enjoy the story-telling app Toontastic 3D – it's free animation software which enables them to draw, animate, narrate and record their own cartoons on a tablet, phone or Chromebook. It could be a fun cartoon or perhaps a way of creating a memento of their own lockdown experience.

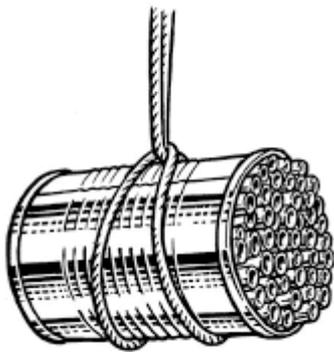
For more information and to download the app, see the web site <https://toontastic.withgoogle.com/>

Make a Bee hotel

Although honeybees live together in hives, other bees are solitary and make nests on their own and lay their eggs in tunnels in dead wood or hard soil. These bees are important garden visitors and pollinators, and this is a fun, easy way to make a hotel for them, and help with the conservation of native bees.

All you need is a clean, empty tin can (or an empty plastic bottle would do as well), string, tape, twigs, some hollow plant stems, bamboo canes or thin card or paper.

First, the tin can needs to be opened at both ends, you can decorate the outside at this stage if you'd like! Thread the string through – this'll be used to hang the finished hotel in your garden – and you have the frame of your bee hotel.



Next, put the hollow stems or bamboo canes in lengthways until they fill the frame (you should be able to see through to the other side through the hollow centres). If you don't have either of those you can use thin card or a few sheets of paper, wrap them around a pencil and tape the edge in place – the paper rolls will need to be shorter than the can so as to have protection from rain.

Last but not least, hang your new bee hotel in your garden. Good locations are open, sunny spots with plenty of bee-friendly plants around and some protection from being blown about.

There are other larger, more complicated designs for bee B&Bs but this is a nice simple starter home.

The Great Indoors

Thank you to Richard for letting us know that the Scouts have published over 250 activities as part of a newly-launched initiative, “the great indoors”.

You don't need to be involved with Scouts to take part and benefit from the wide range ideas, just see the web site - <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>

Sunflowers!

There are still a few seeds so, if you'd like to grow your own sunflowers, just let us know.



Don't forget to send us a picture or two of your flowers – alternatively, you could simply draw or paint a cheerful sunflower to help brighten everyone's day!



If you try any of the ideas suggested, have new ideas to add, or pictures or photographs you'd like to share, please let us know by contacting asstclerk@purleyonthames.net