

Hi Folks,

Welcome to the first monthly newsletter of the year. Happy New Year or 'An nou fericit' as they say in..... (answer at the bottom!)

I'll try to be concise as there is so much to do at this time of year! For example, only yesterday, I spent 2 hours taking down the Christmas tree and packing it away for another year. Accordingly, I will focus on conveying information about dates and big-ticket items.

Branch Finances and Activity subsidies

The Branch has enjoyed great financial health over recent years due to the original Legacy in 2015, and other more recent generous donations. Sadly, however, our annual expenditure exceeds our annual income by a considerable amount. For 2022 our financial reserves dropped by over £10,000.

Therefore we have made the difficult decision that starting in January 2023 the subsidy we provide for all our organised activities (Exercise Classes, Dance, Pilates, Parkinsong etc.) will be slightly reduced.

The drop in subsidy will vary by activity and our contractual agreements with our providers. Members will see an increase of approx. £1.00 per week per class.

Fundraising Events

We will again be providing an interval bar at the Occam Singers' A Gathering of Friends: Music by Brahms, Schubert and Elgar' concert at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford on the evening of Saturday 4th March. All funds raised will go to the Branch. This promises to be a great evening for lovers of Classical music, so pencil the date in your diary. Tickets are on sale on the [Occam Singers website](#).

If you would like to volunteer to assist on the bar please contact your Treasurer, Steve Heron at sheron@guildfordparkinsons.org.uk

Key Dates

- Please note the Shalford Monthly Meeting is the last Tuesday of the month – Tuesday 31st January @ 2.00 pm
- The AGM will be held as part of the Shalford Meeting on Tuesday 28th February
- The Friendship Group monthly get-together is on the third Wednesday at The Squirrel, Hurtmore (<https://the-squirrel.co.uk/>).

Now I have been in post for a year, you will know that there is no way I can stay focused on being concise for this long. Something always amuses or entertains me. My interest this month has been pricked by various predictions made in 1923 of what the world would look like in 2023.

Two predictions that most amuse me:

- Dr Charles P. Steinmetz believes that the time is coming when there will be no long drudgery, and the people will toil no more than four hours a day.
- Hairstyles - women will probably be shaving their heads, and men will be wearing curls

I'm not sure which seems the most unlikely – but on reflection having curly locks seems a long way away from reality.

Finally, to answer the question of who says 'An nou fericit', according to Wikipedia, the answer is Moldovians (and Romanians)