



E-NEWS



The General Conference of the New Church News

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Rise and Shine Radio Show

Revd Jack Dunion, broadcasts his own online radio show every Sunday at 9am on Lomond Radio (formerly River Radio):

<https://lomondradio.co.uk/shows/rise-and-shine>

The link below now gives access to backdated Rise & Shine programs:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/>

Summer Houses

Revd Bruce Jarvis writes:

Fifteen years ago, in 2008, I had the great blessing of spending several months with my friend and colleague, Clifford Curry, and his wife Marion, travelling in northern Europe – by boat! That involved sailing *Emily Rudkin*, Clifford's 32ft yacht, from her home port of Christchurch in Dorset, up the English Channel into the North Sea, through the Kiel Canal into the Baltic Sea, and onwards up to Stockholm – and back to Christchurch. For us it was

an epic voyage with an endless number of memorable moments and visits.

It was towards the end of June that we arrived in Stockholm, and set about fulfilling some of our ambitions. First was 41-43 Hornsgatan on Soderholm, the location of Emanuel Swedenborg's house and garden, where we found a plaque indicating where the now demolished house had been. A nearby bust of Swedenborg was cleaned of bird droppings by Marion and Clifford using wipes and water from our bottles! During the day we found the House of Nobles where Swedenborg served in the Swedish Parliament for many years, and the former Board of Mines building. A visit to Uppsala, a short train-ride away, enabled us to visit the cathedral where the Salsta Chapel houses Swedenborg's sarcophagus. His remains were removed from the Swedish Church in London in 1908, and taken to Uppsala.

Between the day in Stockholm and the visit to Uppsala, we made sure to visit Skansen on Djurgarden. This open-air museum, founded in 1891, was, I believe, the first of its kind in the world, and was created to show what life was like in Sweden before the industrial era. Our particular reason for visiting Skansen was so that we could see Swedenborg's summer house, which had been preserved and brought from the garden of 41-43 Hornsgatan. It was in this delightful little wooden building that he did so much of his writing, and where he often entertained visitors. We found it very quickly quite close to the museum entrance, situated in a beautiful rose garden. Sadly, the building was not open to visitors, but it was so very poignant to stand beside it, and allow our imaginations to work and visualise.



What we could not know at that time was that, 15 years later, it would be possible to visit a replica of that summer house in our own country – at Purley Chase Centre! Yes, as was reported in the previous issue of *E-News*, a grand opening was held during the splendid garden party on June 17th. A goodly crowd of New Church people from around the country gathered together for its dedication in memory of the late Purley Programme Director, Revd Alison Southcombe. Now I was able to go inside for a few minutes, to smell the fresh wood, to look out at the trees and shrubs and grass, to stand outside and look - and ponder. What a lovely way to remember Alison. What a lovely experience for any of us able to visit Purley Chase, to be able to sit or stand and reflect with great gratitude the blessings we experience because of the Lord's gift of His revelation through Emanuel Swedenborg.



May we show our gratitude to the Lord and for all that we have received through our association with His New Church by living as He has shown us in His Divine Word and in the Heavenly Doctrines. Thank you, Lord, and thank you to all at Purley Chase who have worked together to bring Alison's dream to reality.

Garden Party at Purley Chase

Carolyn Kennion writes:

Like many older people, I have happy memories of attending Purley garden parties as a child in the 1950s and 60s.

We expected that this year's special garden party would be an enjoyable occasion but our expectations were surpassed by the actual event. When we arrived on Friday evening there was a whole 'village' of gazebos all round the large lawn and beyond, straw bales for extra outdoor seating, and brightly coloured bunting stretched between the trees. The chapel was full of wares for the various stalls and games. From early on Saturday morning there was a buzz of activity. I was outside at 7am hiding teddy bears around the garden for a children's teddy bear hunt and teddy bears' picnic! All was well until a couple of hours later when it started to rain. What a disappointment after a week of fine, sunny weather! It was still raining lightly when the first visitors arrived at 10am but, fortunately, it soon stopped and the sun appeared. From then on there was a steady stream of visitors – a happy mix of 'church' and local people of all ages. Activities ranged from Michael Stanley's Journey into Lower Earth Adventure game for adults to the teddy hunt and hook a duck for the youngest visitors, with all the usual summer fair stalls and games as well. Talented people had been very busy making items for the craft stalls, baking cakes etc. There were also stands advertising church organisations such as the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre and the New Church Youth Association.

Lunch was delicious and there seemed to be plenty for everyone even though the staff had no idea how many people would attend. Following lunch we gathered in front of the summerhouse for the opening ceremony by Margaret Cowie (President of Conference) and a prayer of dedication by Revd. Jack Dunion. The summerhouse has been designed and built by Chris Woodhouse, son of Wilf and Irene, who managed Purley for many years. Chris has created a beautiful replica of Swedenborg's own summerhouse in his garden in Sweden. The craftsmanship of the replica is superb and Chris has even made sure that the paint colours match those of the original.

Everyone moved back to the main lawn to be entertained by a local Morris Dancing team accompanied by their own musicians. Those watching were invited to join-in and Jack Dunion showed an unexpected flair for Morris Dancing!

Altogether the garden party was a very happy event with a lovely, friendly atmosphere and something for everyone to enjoy. Congratulations must go to Rachel Gilsenan (Purley Manager) and her team for the tremendous amount of planning and work which resulted in such a lovely occasion – a fitting tribute to Alison.

NCYA AGM and Activities Afternoon 2023

Alison Presland writes:

On 24th June, the New Church Youth Association held their annual meeting at Wellspring House in Manchester. We welcomed a number of adults to our business meeting, and then the real fun began! We were delighted to welcome 15 children from a

baby up to teenagers, plus six adults, from Bradford for some fun activities based on the Bible story from the book of Matthew of Jesus Calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee. The proceedings started with a talk about the story and then the story was dramatized by Keith and Annabeth Dunbar, and Verity Williams, with wonderful costumes and props, then we all sang 'Our God is so Great' before finishing with a prayer. Then there were various activities



including making bead 'Peace' bracelets and action pictures illustrating the story to take home, plus games with a parachute on the lawn. We all had a chance to do each activity, and it was great to see everyone working happily together at the craft activities and also working together to play with the parachute, allowing everyone whatever their size to join in and 'have a go!'



We all had a good look at the forty entries to our Creative Exhibition that were exhibited, from individual efforts to group work from the Seaburn Dene society. Well done, everyone, for your contributions – it was lovely to see all your hard work! All the children were very happy to be presented with age-appropriate prizes for their entries.

We finished the afternoon with a selection of pizzas with salad, finishing with strawberries and ice cream for dessert before the coach turned up all

too quickly to take our guests back to Bradford.

The NCYA wants to thank everyone who came, along with all the helpers who worked together to make such a great event!

To see more pictures of what people got up to, please visit:

<https://www.generalconference.org.uk/ncya-activities-afternoon-gallery/>

Thanks to Phillippa Blomfield for the photos.