

A Leisurely Afternoon

In a colourful garden in a quiet corner of Surrey, on a Tuesday afternoon in June, a few words by Robert Browning came to mind:

God's in his Heaven
All's right with this world.

And then I thought to check just where these words came from, in the far recesses of my mind, and was quite surprised to read they were from 'Pippa's Song' which was the tale of a little silk winder in Asolo. Whilst she thought in everybody there was good, she was badly treated by just about everyone around her and had only one day off a year.

Where was I?

Really? All's right? With this world?"

If Mother Nature is not clobbering us with her special brand of tough love, we either visit our fellow-beings with hate and violence, or helplessly watch it happen from afar. Yet for all the senseless acts of cruelty that are widely publicised by the media, *countless* acts of common kindness and decency go unremarked. We may want the world to be a better place - perhaps it's already a better one than we imagine.

It certainly was in Rose and Terry's garden.

Little by little money dribbled in to swell Charlie's coffers at The Poppy Factory. The charity day was organised by Elaine Cann, Coulsdon Court's Lady Captain: a home-made cake sold here, a favourite recipe bought there. For the price of 50p the ladies could take a guess at just how many poppies lay in a basket (358), or the weight of a beautiful cake (6lb 5oz). Almost £250 was taken for this event alone and nobody felt a thing.

For nearly 90 years, The Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey, has been making poppies, crosses and wreaths for the Royal Family and the Royal British Legion's annual Remembrance Day appeal. In recent years it's transformed itself into a thoroughly modern charity. As well as providing work for disabled veterans at its HQ in Richmond, it uses its expertise to help them find work in the big wide world. It has a vision that 'no disabled veteran who wants to work should be out of work'.

God's in his Heaven
All's right with this world.

As long as there are people like Rose, Elaine and the generosity of the ladies of Coulsdon Court organising functions to help people less fortunate it *will* be a little better, and such small acts of kindness are rarely Twittered, Blogged or recorded for posterity on Facebook. Thank you ladies.

Dot