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THE *Resident*



The magazine of Horsell Residents' Association

Winter 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Horsell
events 2021**

Flowerpots

**Horsell
Prepared
update**

**Get involved:
Horsell Winter
Wanderland**

theresidenteditor.wixsite.com/magazine
www.horsellresidents.com
www.hra.interests.me

Horsell Christmas.
Photo: Lucy English.



A word from the Editor

Greetings...

Sadly, I am writing as Covid-19 is still the dominant force directing our lives. Restrictions and ever-changing safety measures mean that we've all had to adjust to different rules and expectations and I'm sure we will have to keep on doing so for some time. We've had to cancel many traditional Horsell events but I'm delighted so many residents joined in with the joy that is the Flowerpot Festival. I've tried to include as many photos of your fabulous creations as possible.

You'll see on page 3 that we are challenging you to follow on from the success of that event to create a 'Horsell Winter Wonderland'. The idea is we all decorate our front gardens or windows with something festive. You might draw a picture or make a flowerpot Christmas tree - you might even decorate with lights! It doesn't have to be big, but it will make Horsell a wonderful place to wander around during December.

HRA's Second Thursday Club (STC) always brighten our High Street with Christmas trees during December. They have worked out how

to maintain this tradition this year. They are looking into the possibility of holding a Horsell Christmas Market-type event spread over the village but this will obviously depend on what is possible. Keep an eye on the Horsell Village Wire on Facebook for details.

Whether we manage a special Christmas shopping event or not, our local traders are still there for us. Many shoppers depended on them during lockdown but have now returned to the national chains. Do have a think about what you could do to help and support them through these difficult times. Perhaps you could buy a gift voucher from a Horsell trader as a Christmas present this year? Even if you shift just one purchase to our local High Street, you will be making a difference.

So, on that note. Thank you to all our traders, whether on the High Street or working from their homes. Thank you, as well, to all the volunteers such as Horsell Prepared and Horsell Scrubbers. May we all have a peaceful and safe winter.

Lucy



Anthony Saunders

The Resident - Horsell Residents' Association's magazine about and for our village.

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NEXT ISSUE: Spring 2020

Advertising deadline: noon Sunday 31st January

Copy deadline: noon Sunday 7th February

Articles and photographs about our village are welcomed from our whole community.

THE Resident

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Why not support the association that supports you?

Become a member of HRA and help to support our village projects.
See www.horsellresidents.com for full details of our aims and benefits.

Annual household membership is £5 by standing order (£6 pa cash or cheque). Or just pay £50 for lifelong household membership.

See www.horsellresidents.com/home/JoinUs or email info@horsellresidents.com.

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Horsell Life

Horsell's Winter Wonderland!

WHAT: A new way to enjoy wandering around Horsell this winter
WHEN: During December
WHERE: Horsell front gardens and windows

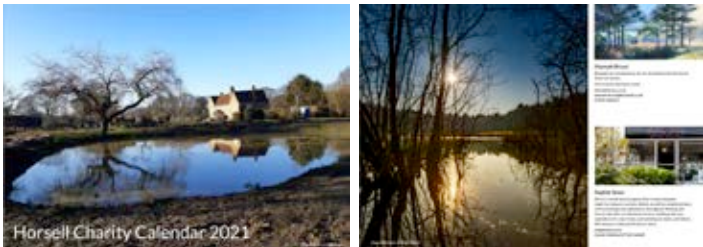
We don't really know what the next few months will bring, but we know that Horsell residents are creative and full of fun. During December, make a wintry or Christmas flowerpot, sculpture or piece of art and display it or maybe some festive lights in your garden or front window. Let's make Horsell a fun place to wander around in small groups or households as guidelines permit. You can even post the photos on the Facebook group 'The Horsell Village Wire' so all can enjoy it.



Horsell Charity Calendar 2021

WHAT: The Horsell 2021 Charity Calendar
WHEN: Available now
WHERE: Apples & Pears, Squires, St Mary's, The Horsell Kitchen
COST: Only £7

Yes it's back, Horsell's charity calendar with beautiful Horsell scenes. This year the profits from the calendar support Linkable, the Woking and Weybridge branch of Parkinson's UK, St Mary's and Your Sanctuary.



Wanted: an editor

WHAT: Editor of The Resident (this magazine)
WHEN: Four times a year
WHERE: Your home, favourite coffee shop, wherever works for you
COST: Time

BENEFITS: Loads! I've loved editing this magazine and really appreciate all the support from so many in the village as I've edited it over the past few years. However, it's time for me to step aside and for someone else to take over this role and take the magazine to where you feel it best supports the residents of our lovely village.

FIND OUT MORE: Just drop Robin a note at robin_hoyle@hotmail.com for a no-obligation chat about the role.

Horsell Residents' Association notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **15th Annual General Meeting** of the Company will be held via a ZOOM meeting on **December 11 2020 at 8pm** due to the current COVID-19 restrictions for the following purposes:-

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 14th AGM of Horsell Residents' Association Ltd
3. Matters arising.
4. Chairman's report.
5. Treasurer's report.
6. Election of Directors.
7. Election of members to the Committee.
8. Any other relevant business.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

For login information for the virtual Annual General Meeting please contact Robin Hoyle.

For a copy of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 please contact Carol Cheesman prior to the meeting.

REGISTERED OFFICE: Birch House, Horsell Birch, Horsell, Woking, Surrey GU21 4XD

Note: A member entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting is entitled to appoint one or more proxies to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

Horsell traders. We want to get to know you! If you want to be featured in this magazine, email me at theresidenteditor@gmail.com

John Craig remembered

A modest but remarkable man, John Craig died of a sudden heart attack on 14th August. John was one of those people who quietly makes our community a better place to live in.

John Craig was born in East Yorkshire in 1935 and met Margot when they both lived on the western side of Hull. They moved to Horsell over 50 years ago.

John and Margot were among Horsell Care's founder volunteers, and they both have carried out a great many jobs on behalf of the Good Neighbour scheme. John was also a Bustler driver until Parkinson's disease struck him. He tackled his growing disability with fortitude

and recently helped set up a weekly 'Dance for Parkinson's' class in Horsell.

Many people have very fond memories of John, whether erecting Liberal Democrat poster boards across Horsell, captaining Horsell's 3rd XI cricket team or playing golf at Chobham. He was a stalwart of Woking History Society and many valued his well-researched books and fascinating photos. He co-wrote with Peter Hobbs an account of the hitherto unresearched 1834 Survey of the Parish of Horsell. Before retirement he worked as a demographer/statistician where he planned, executed and analysed the decennial Census of Population. With this background he was well qualified to dig into the local archives.

John was closely involved in Trinity Methodist Church throughout his time in Woking, holding

many positions of responsibility over the years. John was a key member of the community who will be much missed.

Tony Kremer



John (centre) and Margot (far left) at the inaugural Horsell Dance for Parkinson's class in February 2020.

Horsell Prepared

Horsell Prepared paused providing community services on 1st August when those who were shielding were advised they no longer needed to do so. *But in the event Horsell is affected again by any future lockdowns our Helpline will reopen on the same number: 01483 380025.*

How many people did Horsell Prepared help during lockdown?

A look back at our call data provides some interesting statistics. We helped 232 households which is 6% of all of those in Horsell. Most of them were helped multiple times.

Together we did 750 jobs and proactively called over 200 people to check in with them that they were OK or whether they required assistance. We also organised 10 community coffee mornings or quizzes on Zoom to connect people who may have been feeling lonely or isolated.

We had 457 volunteers!

Of these, 149 volunteers were involved doing jobs or manning phones. Many more residents registered availability but were not allocated jobs as most requests were allocated on a 'first to respond basis' with most requests fulfilled in about 5 minutes – amazing! We were so encouraged by the number of volunteers so even if you were not used, please do stay registered as it is extremely helpful to have as many people on our list as possible. In fact, one of the lessons we have learned is that we did not communicate frequently or effectively with volunteers to explain

how things were progressing and this is something we will try to rectify. Perhaps due to our busyness?

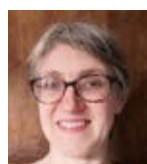
However, we want you to know that all your efforts were massively appreciated by clients and by the Horsell Prepared organising team. Without a good volunteer base, we could not have provided a service at all. THANK YOU!

What is Horsell Prepared doing now?

Our core team is meeting regularly now, on Zoom of course, to ensure readiness for any future lockdown or community emergency. We have assigned roles both now and for another lockdown. In between meetings we are carrying out actions to make sure we are ready, such as preparing a leaflet, refreshing our technology, communicating with volunteers, and tidying up all our guidelines and policies.

We still have roles to fill, so if you'd like to join us in our planning, we'd love to welcome you to our meetings – text Helen on 07790 522196 or Alan on 07896 809004 for details.

Helen Cammack and Alan Taylor



Helen Cammack and Alan Taylor. Helen Cammack is the brain behind Horsell Prepared, Alan Taylor is a co-founder who helped make it reality. Together with a team of amazing volunteers they built a network of people and processes that meant they were able to leap into action before lockdown.



Horsell food & drink heroes

Thanks to the incredible support of this community, *Surrey Life Magazine* recently announced a record six Horsell businesses as finalists in their prestigious annual Food & Drink Awards!

Covid-19 and lockdown have really impacted on small businesses across the country. But to learn of the thousands of nominations submitted for these awards this year was both heart-warming and humbling. Each of these businesses would like to extend their thanks for your support and continued custom as they proudly serve their community and represent some of the finest food and drink Surrey has to offer.

The second round of judging has now begun with the winners to be announced in December. Good luck everyone!

Meet our Horsell finalists:

Boz's Fruit and Veg

Boz, Lynsey, Ali and Avdo Ahmic

Finalist in: Best Independent Food & Drink Retailer and Customer Service Award

"We have just experienced the hardest time. As a grocery business we were extremely busy but the whole team handled the situation extremely well. A lot of our customers looked forward to their shopping experience with us and the team's customer service was outstanding."

Best seller: Mangos and soft fruits

Deli Class

Filippa Genco Russo, Domenico Minardi, Valentina, Katrynsha and Kim

Finalist in: Best Independent Food & Drink Retailer

"We are humbled to be a finalist. Authenticity, simplicity freshness, flavour in our food along with honesty and fun in all we do are our fundamental values. We are grateful, and thank Horsell and Woking communities for their custom and nominations."

Best seller: Antipasti platters and Dom's almond biscotti

Good Living Brew Co.

Brett and Danielle Becker and her dad, David

Finalist in: Sustainability Initiative Award

Good Living Brew Co. are very passionate about sustainability – so much so that they use a waste ingredient to make their delicious beer. "We are beyond thrilled that our customers voted for us in this really important category."

Best seller: Non-alcoholic Binary 0.5 table beer

Prince and Sons Family Butchers

Steve and Sam Prince, Sam Pidduck and Richard Warner

Finalist in: Butcher of the Year

Prince & Sons is a traditional family-run butchers offering top quality meats with exceptional service. "We are proud to have been serving our community for almost ten years and are delighted to be finalists in this year's awards!"

Best sellers: Horsell bangers and black garlic leg of lamb steaks

The Goldfinch Kitchen

The Goldfinch Kitchen – Esther Bullock

Finalist in: Food Producer of the Year

Known for her seriously delicious cakes featuring homegrown edible flowers and seasonal fruits, this artistic cake designer has quickly established herself as the go-to creator of naturally beautiful, bespoke wedding and celebration cakes. "I'm incredibly proud to be a finalist and thrilled that the business has been recognised in this way!"

Best seller: Passionfruit & white chocolate buttercream cake with flowers and macarons

Thurstons Brewery

John Mintram and Simon Hobbs

Finalist in: Drinks Producer of the Year

Since it was first established in 2013, this independent brewery's ethos has been very simply to produce some great beer for the discerning drinkers of Surrey, served through some of the county's excellent pubs. "Thank you for the nomination."

Best seller: Horsell Gold



Boz's Fruit and Veg



Deli Class



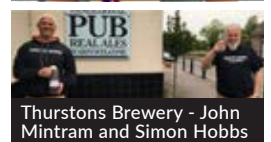
Good Living Brew Co. - Danielle



Prince and Sons Family Butcher - Steve and Sam Prince, Sam Pidduck and Richard Warner



The Goldfinch Kitchen - Esther Bullock



Thurstons Brewery - John Mintram and Simon Hobbs

Many thanks to Esther Bullock for putting this piece together. We'd like to feature more Horsell traders in the magazine. If you are a Horsell business, do email me at theresidenteditor@gmail.com.



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Horsell Flowerpot Festival 2020

Horsell Village once again embraced the quirkiness of the annual flowerpot festival and produced some fantastic flowerpot creations which were spotted around the village during the summer months.

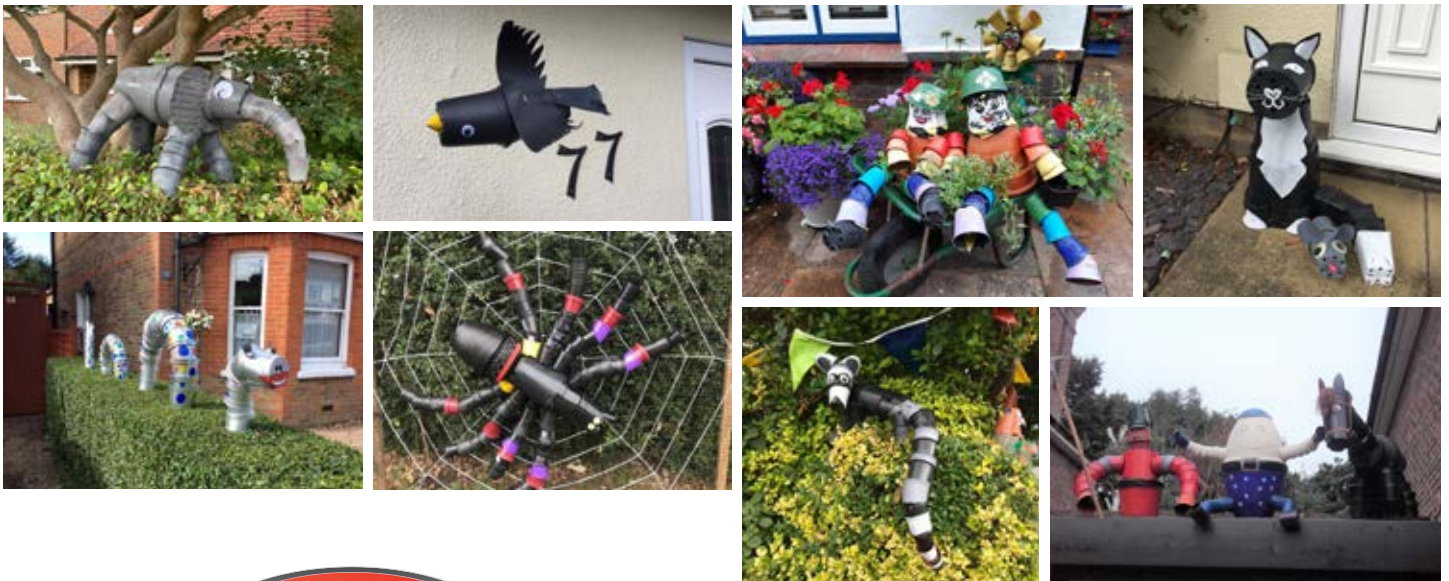
The festival, run by the HRA's Second Thursday Club (STC), is now in its third year and this year was launched with the unveiling of *The War of The Worlds*' Martian outside The Crown in the High Street. This was followed by some of our old recycled favourites who were dusted down, given a lick and polish and proudly displayed. Soon a number of new, innovative and even Covid-inspired works of art (I think we can call them that!) appeared in the front gardens, hedges and doorsteps of Horsell.

This year there was some uncertainty about the event taking place and so it took a slightly different format with a Zoom workshop. The usual

map was not produced - instead everyone was asked to take a photo of their creation and post it with the location in the Horsell Village Wire photo album set up for the Horsell Flowerpot Festival 2020. They are still there if you want to take a look.

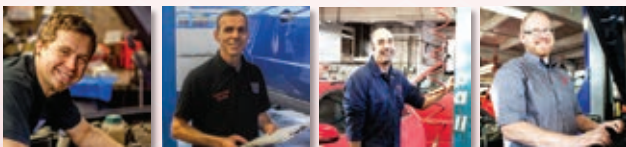
This year we had well over 40 creations so thank you to everyone who took part and we hope this now becomes an annual event. Remember, while you're tidying up your gardens over the winter, take a second look at those flowerpots before you discard them. They could be part of the Horsell Flowerpot Festival 2021!

Nancy Randall



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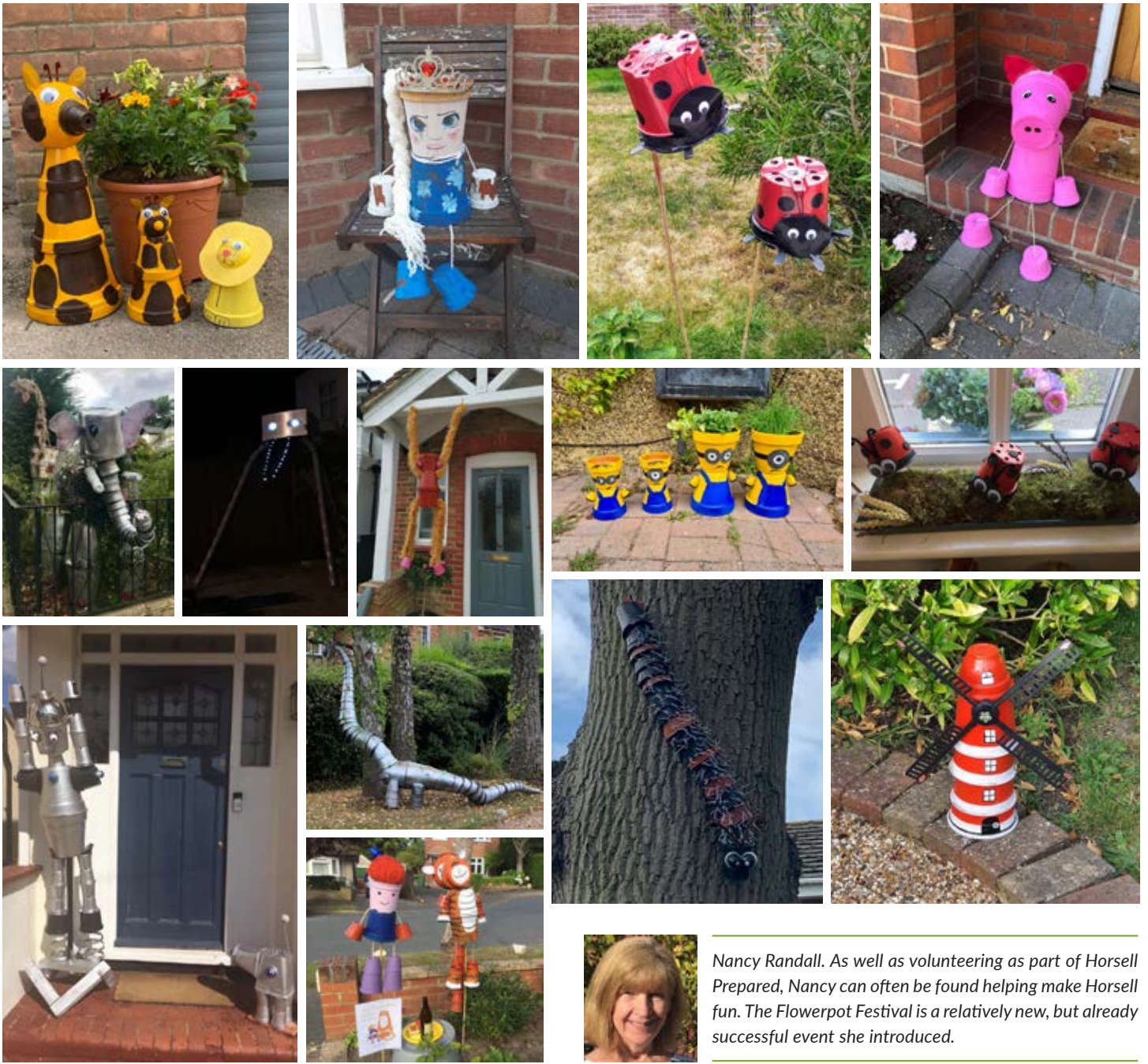
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Nancy Randall. As well as volunteering as part of Horsell Prepared, Nancy can often be found helping make Horsell fun. The Flowerpot Festival is a relatively new, but already successful event she introduced.

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Horsell walks

WALK: Goldsworth Park, Littlewick Common and Deep Pool

TIME: About 90 minutes

DISTANCE: About 3.5 miles

*Please note: Several stiles to cross.
Through farmland: cows and horses.*

We are walking again! Horsell walks restarted in July but now booking is essential. We walk on Wednesday and Friday mornings starting from outside The Cricketers. There are three groups of six walkers on both days, allowing for short, regular and long routes. Times vary but on average the short walk lasts an hour, the regular walk 90 minutes to 2 hours and the long walk 2 to 3 hours. Some of us have refreshments once back at The Cricketers (following the rule of six and any Covid-related guidelines in place).

The walks printed in The Resident are the basis for most of our walks but as we have become more and more familiar with Horsell Common, so we have varied the routes or combined different routes to make many variations.



There are several stiles like this at Carthouse Lane.

You can do the same. For example: use the Littlewick Common route by itself, or add in a circuit of Goldsworth Lake. Alternatively, at Deep Pool you can turn left and go towards Mimbridge and then cross to Mimbridge Meadows and Heather Farm. The combinations are endless! If you would like more information, find Horsell walks at <http://horsellresidents.com/Home/Walks>. For longer walks, there is a good booklet 'The Walks near Woking' by Bill Andrews.

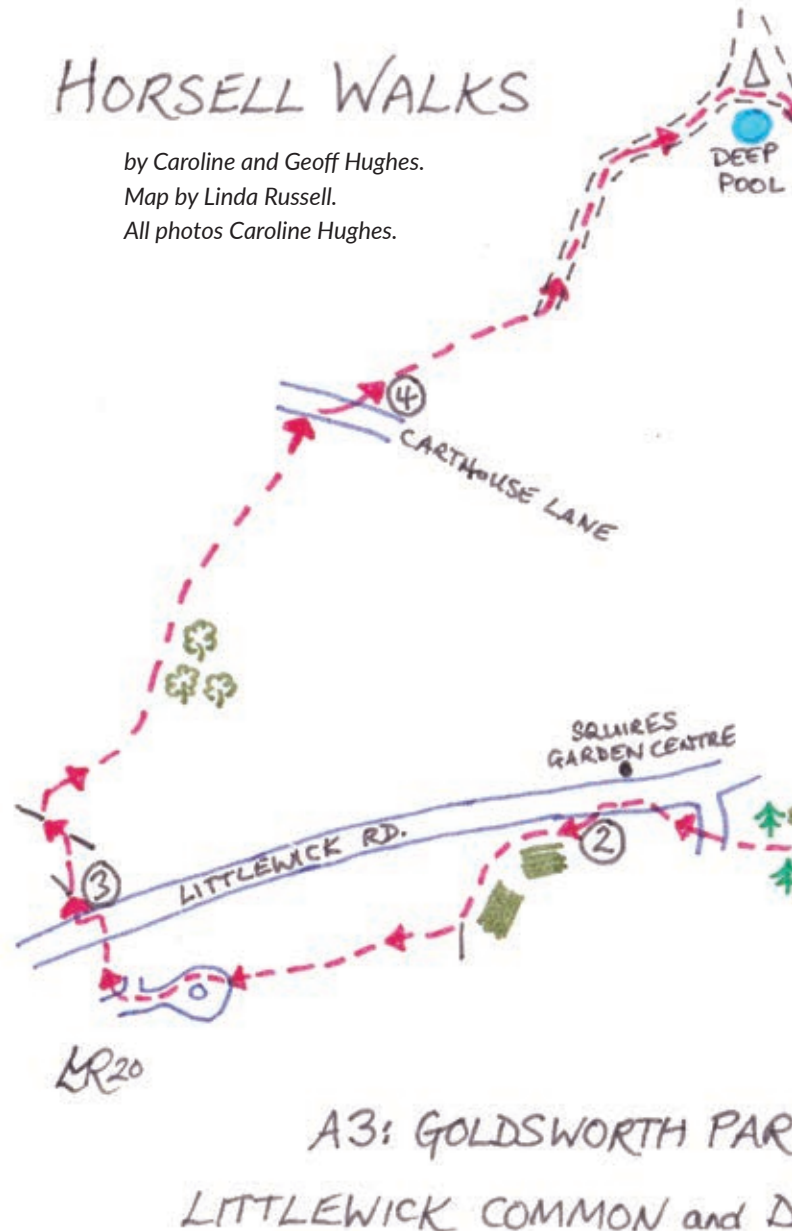
For more information contact Caroline:
c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com or 01483 767980

HORSELL WALKS

by Caroline and Geoff Hughes.

Map by Linda Russell.

All photos Caroline Hughes.



- 1 High Street to Goldsworth Park:** Start by the noticeboard, looking into Horsell High Street. Cross at the pedestrian crossing, go right and shortly after number 72A turn left into a rough track between the house and shops. Follow round to Manor Road. At the end turn right into Bury Lane. Soon cross Ormonde Road and enter Bullbeggars Lane. Continue straight on until you reach a house called Tantallon. Cross the road here onto a small area of grass with some tall silver birch trees and go across, crossing the track into the allotments and entering a tree-lined footpath. Continue for 120m then turn right at the junction. After another 100m join Horsell Birch. You will see the green in front of The Cricketers. Turn left on Horsell Birch. Soon cross Kestrel Way (take care: vehicles go fast on this road). Keep straight on following the good footpath through the woods. Cross Claydon Road and keep straight on, passing houses on your left and a small post box on your right, until you reach Littlewick Road and can see Squires Garden Centre on the other side of the road. Turn left into Littlewick Road and almost immediately left again through an offset barrier into Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground.

2 Goldsworth Park to Littlewick Common: Join the footpath and very soon turn right, taking the path on the right-hand side of the hockey pitches and parallel to the busy road. Continue, keeping to the right of the Sports Pavilion. At the far end of playing fields come to the housing development. Keep right on the footpath round the parking area and look for a blue footpath sign beyond the hedge. Follow the blue footpath sign to Littlewick Common and turn right. Arrive at Littlewick Road and cross this busy road.

3 Littlewick Common to Carthouse Lane: Join footpath for 20m and take right fork. Follow footpath until it reaches a track (200m) and turn left at track, then immediately right. Go past Woodlands and to the right side of Tanglewood. At next junction by Myrtle Cottage, follow footpath signpost with yellow arrow bearing left/ almost straight on towards the woods. Go through kissing gate, with a wire fence on your left-hand side. Go through a broken kissing gate then over a stile out of the woodland into an open meadow (still following the yellow footpath marker). Cross a wooden bridge, follow path to cross another stile and reach Carthouse Lane.

4 Carthouse Lane to Deep Pool: Turn right, keeping on grass verge for a further 50m and cross Carthouse Lane opposite Graylands Farm House (cross where the visibility is good – round the bend is best). Go through the kissing gate on left (between Graylands and Willow View farms). Follow the narrow path, with wire fence on left and ditch on right, across fields (uneven underfoot and rather muddy in wet weather). Bear left between fields towards wooden footbridge with stile at each end. Cross bridge and continue to kissing gate and onto what appears to be an ancient track between tall oak trees. Continue and pass by farm buildings to reach Deep Pool on your right. Opposite Deep Pool House, turn very sharp right, by the finger post.

5 Deep Pool to Horsell Common (Grasslands) and Viggory Lane: Follow track straight on, cross the River Bourne on wooden plank bridge and continue on track, zig zag left and right. By 7-bar metal gate, take first footpath on the right through the holly trees down a wide, dark ancient track. Straight through the double gates at the far end of this wide track, onto Horsell Common where sometimes you can see the Belted Galloway cattle grazing. Straight on through double gates to Littlewick Road and cross this busy and fast road.

6 Viggory Lane to Horsell Birch: Almost immediately once you have crossed onto Viggory Lane, turn right through the double gates onto Horsell Birch Common and continue bearing left and emerge through double gates onto Horsell Birch. (Option: 100m before emerging, there is a short path on left to Warren Pond: look and retrace steps.)

7 Horsell Birch to Horsell High Street: You can see Horsell High Street. Turn left onto the High Street, and back to your starting point.

Avenue of oak trees approaching Deep Pool.



Deep Pool in winter. Beware of deep water.



Goldsworth Park. Follow path behind the hockey pitches and along the edge of the playing fields.



Geoff and Caroline Hughes. Stalwarts of everything Horsell, especially Horsell Residents' Association's Second Thursday Club (STC). When not devising, checking and leading walks, Caroline and Geoff can be found sorting out events such as The Picnic on the Green and Horsell Christmas Market. You'll have seen the fruits of their labour, even if you don't know it.

Horsell Events

We've not been able to have our usual Horsell events so we thought it was a good opportunity to look back and celebrate just some of the lovely things that happen in our village. Obviously, all the dates given are provisional so keep checking this magazine, the Facebook group 'The Horsell Village Wire' and www.horsellresidents.com for more details as we have them.



Horsell Christmas Market. It won't be possible to have the usual Horsell Christmas market this year - but at the time of going to press we are looking at what else we may be able to do instead. As the Covid-19 situation is constantly evolving please look on the Horsell Village Wire and www.horsellresidents.com for more information. Mark Saturday 4th December 2021 in your diary when we hope to return properly.
Photos: Bob Holmes and Caroline Hughes.



St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival is a much-loved Horsell tradition over the first weekend each December, often showing the wit and creativity of Horsell residents.



The regular **Barn Dances** in the Village Hall are energetic fun for all.
Photos: Caroline Hughes and Paulo Giardina.



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Horsell's Garden Safari went virtual this year. Gail Bromley and other Horsell gardeners quickly created a website and uploaded video tours of their gardens. They hope to open over the weekend of **12th and 13th June 2021**. Keep that date so you can see their gardens for real or even open your own.



Horsell Village Show. A traditional village show highlighting the wealth of talent in Horsell competing for the top prizes for fruit, vegetables, baking, handicrafts, floral arrangements, photography and a wide range of art. Lots of stalls, Morris Dancers, tea and cakes! Save the date of **Saturday 24th July 2021**. Photos: Caroline Hughes and Lucy English.



Horsell's chilled summer picnic on the green will hopefully return on **Sunday 4th July 2021**. Village musicians provide the free entertainment and you provide the food, drink and picnic rug. Photos: Caroline Hughes and No December.



The **Horsell Scouts and Guides' May Fayre** on Wheatsheaf Common. A BBQ and beer for the adults, games for the children, stalls and entertainment for all. A happy day out that hopes to return on **Monday 3rd May 2021**. Photos: Lucy Longley.



Welcome to the first **Horsell Winter Wonderland!** During **December**, make a wintry or Christmas flowerpot, sculpture, piece of art or put some festive lights up in your garden or front window. Post the road name on the Horsell Village Wire and wander round the village in small groups or households, as guidelines permit, to enjoy our creative and festive village.

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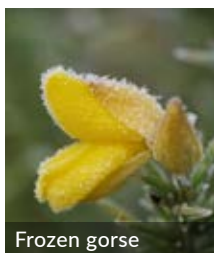
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Dartford Warbler



Wintry heathland dawn



Frozen gorse

Winter on the Heath

There's something magical about a visit to the Heath on a crisp winter's morning.

Memories of long, warm evenings full of churring nightjars, fluting woodlarks and the buzzing of little winged things may have begun to fade. However, an icy sea of glistening spiders' webs, adorning frost-encrusted heather, is a joy to behold. The orangey-glow from a low-hanging wintry sun, lighting up each web, brings a warmth to the soul, if not to chilly fingers and toes.

On these occasions, spare a thought for our Dartford warblers. These chirpy little birds, unlike most other warblers – which are sensibly sunning themselves somewhere in sub-Saharan Africa – elect to brave our winters rather than journey south to warmer climes. They seek solace in the depths of dense gorse bushes, busily foraging for the very spiders that make the shimmering webs. If the temperature drops too low for too long, they're at risk of perishing. Wish them luck!

Soggy, misty mornings, on the other hand, are a bit too Wuthering Heights for my liking – but that's another story!

Michael Jones

www.tbhpartnership.org.uk

Finding simple and free benefits during lockdown

I appreciate that I have been much luckier than most during the Covid-19 pandemic:

- I pay rent to my parents and I have a great relationship with them, so I have not had to worry about keeping a roof over my head.
- I work for the NHS in psychiatric care, so I have been employed throughout the lockdown and been allowed to leave the house.
- Both of the above mean I have not been socially isolated.

The biggest downside of my job is that I am at risk of contracting Covid-19. My job involves working with people who cannot socially distance. It also involves the possibility of restraint and this means close physical contact with people. I can be spat at or bitten. I've also had vomit thrown at me – but that's another story!

But all of this is not my point. Working in low-secure services means I work with people who were not able to move freely in the community long before the lockdown came in to effect. Personal liberty is something

that I have treasured and tried not to take for granted for almost four years now. And this leads me to something else to add to my list of why I am luckier than most: I live on the edge of Horsell Common and since travel restrictions limited me, I have taken to walking a circuit of the Common whenever possible.

I didn't walk on the Common much before – there were always other places to go, other things to do. After all, it's almost on my doorstep, so I'll go another time. But now I have been going there almost daily, I have had the privilege of watching it change and grow. Noticing the details and spotting the differences every time I go has become a highlight and I miss it on the days I can't visit.

Professionally, I have long known about the mental and physical benefits of time spent outside but I had never really appreciated how important this is until now. I now recognise how lucky I am to be able to freely spend time outside in such a beautiful spot. I will never take these things for granted again.

Olivia Hussey



Hi! I'm Michael and I am the Education and Engagement Officer for the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership (TBHP). If you are a teacher and want to find out how you can put places like Horsell Common at the heart of your curriculum with free sessions, please do get in touch – michael.jones3@naturalengland.org.uk



Olivia Hussey works in psychiatric care and has recently qualified as a hypnotherapist. She enjoys photography, walking on Horsell Common and writing comic poetry.

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A festive red *Cyclamen persicum*



Grevillea lanigera 'Mount Tamboritha'

If you're looking to create some garden containers to lift the spirits this winter, and I'm sure there are a lot of us who need a pick-me-up as the days darken, then don't just stick to the traditional pansies in a six-pack you find in every garden centre. Be a little bit adventurous with your choice of plant.

It's important to always choose some key plants which will add the structure to the pots and it is worth investing more in these as they can last for four seasons with other filler and spiller plants being swapped out around them. Bear in mind that plants don't put on lots of growth over the winter months so it's important to cram lots in so it looks filled out.

Your key plants could be something evergreen such as dwarf *Phormium* 'Jester' with apricot-pink and green striped, strappy leaves creating an architectural silhouette. *Pittosporum* 'Tom Thumb' would also make a striking backdrop with its near-black foliage. Australian Rosemary,

Grevillea lanigera 'Mount Tamboritha', if you can get hold of it, is a more unusual candidate. I grow one of these in my front porch. With a sunny wall behind them for shelter they will reward you with up to 10 months of blooms throughout the year.

For the smaller plants you could opt for the classic *Cyclamen persicum*, sold by most garden centres in shades of red, white and all tones in between. Just remember these aren't hardy so will need to sit in a sheltered location. *Cyclamen coum* is the hardy version, but is not always readily available. Heucheras come in a multitude of foliage colours and will help to bulk out containers. Some of the autumn flowering saxifrages, *Saxifraga fortunei* might still be flowering this month too. *S. f.* 'Black Ruby' makes for a welcome change in full shade, as does evergreen fern *Polystichum setiferum* 'Plumosum Densum'.

For the trailing plants to make up the magical trio you could use *Euonymus fortunei* 'Wolong Ghost'. Its narrow dark green leaves have pale veining. Similar to this is *Trachelospermum jasminoides* 'Waterwheel', often having red tints in the leaves in winter. *Clematis* 'Nunns Gift' is a diminutive clematis with creamy flowers. Any one of these could trail over the side of the pot. Why stop at one pot though? You could opt for a collection displayed as a little theatre and decorate with fairy lights.

To ensure your pots have good drainage over the winter, lift them off the ground slightly with pot feet. Don't water the containers once planted up until in position, otherwise you may struggle to lift them. Winter containers don't require feeding, as this only encourages fresh growth which could be frosted, but they will need regularly checking for watering as they can dry out. As long as you keep this in mind then all you have to do is sit back and enjoy.



Polystichum setiferum 'Plumosum Densum' rimmed with frost

Pamela Barden

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The Resident's regular garden columnist is garden designer and plants woman Pamela Barden, owner of Painted Fern Garden Design, based in the heart of the village."

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Horsell History – our Past Office(s)



With the retirement of Chander and Anita Parkash from running the Costcutter shop including Horsell Post Office, and the subsequent handover to Shan Selvakumar, it seems appropriate to write about postal services in Horsell. Lockdown and the fire at the shop just after the changeover have made this an unfortunate and challenging time, and it is to be hoped that soon services will be restored.

A countrywide postal service was established as long ago as 1516, when Brian Tuke, the first master of the posts, established key towns across the country for a postal network. This was for government purposes only and not opened to the public until 1635. By 1784 there was a network of mail coaches across the country which was given the still existing name of Royal Mail. By 1811, with increasing literacy and mobility there were 211 coaches crossing the country, and two years later is the first reference to the Talbot Inn at Ripley serving as a postal centre for the area, including Woking and Horsell.

In 1840 Rowland Hill's revolutionary reform of payment by the sender instead of the receiver of mail at the uniform price of one old penny for half an ounce of letter (under ½ p for 14 grammes), was marked by the issue of the renowned 'Penny Black' postage stamp. Postmarks, which had been introduced in 1660, first made their appearance in Horsell in 1847 as an undated circle. In 1865 with the growing importance of Woking station, the post town for the area, including Horsell, was transferred to 'Woking Station', renamed 'Woking' on the postmarks in 1883. Meanwhile in Horsell, there seems to have been a division of labour in providing postal services. In the 1851 census Stephen Moore, who kept the Red Lion, is described as victualler and postmaster, while Jacob Spooner is a letter carrier. Perhaps Stephen rode to Ripley to collect the mail, while Jacob delivered it around the village and may have received letters for posting.

The relationships of the many Spooner families in the village are complex and uncertain, but it appears that Jacob was born in 1815 but had left to pursue his trade as shoemaker in Addlestone by 1861. By 1855 William Spooner (probably an elder brother) was established at the post office, receiving letters from Ripley at 9 am and 3.45pm and despatching them at 5pm. Although in the 1861 census he is shown as a draper and cordwainer, it is probable that he was combining both jobs, as he certainly was in 1871. The shop and post office was in the High Street in the house now forming part of Startrite Motors and the initials W.S. can be seen on the wall over the front door in the indentation for a window. Indeed he was something of an institution in Horsell, having been vestry clerk since 1822, the sixth generation of the family to hold the post. He was presented with a portrait of himself, a timepiece and £35 at a ceremony on his retirement in 1875, when it was remarked that there were six sons to succeed him. He had a brief retirement, dying in Horsell on 3rd July 1878. By that time his widow Sarah had taken over both shop and post office, dying in November 1890, and being succeeded by her daughter Sarah Elizabeth.

We know a bit more about the office practices in the later years: letters were received

from Woking Station three times a day, and despatched twice, later four times, daily, and once on Sundays. By 1916 we know Sarah Elizabeth was open from 8am to 8pm, with early closing on Wednesday, and even open between 8.30am and 10am on Sundays. She retired in 1919 from the post office, though retaining the draper's shop, and died in St Peter's Home in 1925. Her successor was Archie Claydon, who ran the post office from his house at Glynville, South Road, from 1919 until 1925. He had originally been a house decorator, and gardener, but his father was a postman. At the age of 42 he handed over the postal work to John Brownjohn, who had been a grocer, pork butcher, glass, hardware and earthenware dealer since 1904 and now added the postal work. He despatched telegrams but did not deliver them and by 1948 he too had surrendered the post office. The new postmaster was Ernest Herbert Rainer, with his wife Amelia, working 'Vale's Ltd', stationers, tobacconists, etc., and sub-postmaster in the parade of shops in the High Street, where Seymour's is now, and thus next door to the present post office. A year or two later Rainer moved across the road to run a dedicated post office at no 78, next to 'Elm Bank', and this was still there in Amelia's name until about 1964, changing to A. R. Wells by 1968.

We believe Jessie and Jim Harvey, with their son Michael, ran the post office next, Michael continuing after his parents' retirement until about 1993. On his leaving the post office crossed the road to the Spar convenience store run by Chander and Anita Parkash for the next 27 years, with a dedicated postal section at the rear. In 2014 the shop changed to Costcutter, and lately the postal business has moved to the front of the shop.

We have also found another post office in Horsell – at Anthony's, where in 'Abeldowne', a house two to the north of the former chapel, the Eldridge family ran a post office from about 1916 until 1957. Frank Eldridge had been a Post Office clerk in 1891, which stood him in good stead, and with his wife Minnie they moved to Woking by 1911 where they ran a grocer's in Walton Road. By 1916 Minnie is sub-postmistress at Anthony's – officially

Sophie Sews

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named Woodham. The Post Office Circular of 10 July 1935 announced that the post office had closed. The Woking directories do not show it in their postal information sections from 1937, and Minnie is described as a general shop-keeper not as postmistress in the 1939 register. However, in directories up to 1957 in the street and names sections Minnie, who died at Woking War Hospital in 1941, and then her daughter Lilian, are shown at the post office. Certainly, the shop closed on Lilian's death in 1957.

Not until 1853 was there anywhere for the public to post their letters when after an experiment in Jersey postboxes began to appear in the streets. They appear erratically on Ordnance Survey plans, and in rather more detail in directories. Certainly there was a 'pillar letter box' that was cleared twice daily in 1891, and a box by The Cricketers in 1896. In 1913 Kelly's Directory for Surrey gives what must have been the high point of post boxes in the village. It even divides them into pillar boxes and wall boxes: the former at The Birch, Horsell Common, Woodham Road, Parley, Ferndale

Road, Horsell Rise, Sixways and Waldens Park Road; wall boxes at Broomhall Road, Horsell Moor, Kettlewell, Anthony's and Knaphill Road. Collections were from three times a day at some boxes, but that at Kettlewell, and some others, had as many as eight collections from 9.30am to 11.45pm and two on Sundays - so frequent that a lady might invite a friend to tea by the morning post of the day of the meeting and receive an answer by lunchtime.

Not all these postboxes have survived and some have slightly changed locations: the oldest we have come across is the Edward VII box in the wall of Poppies and Peonies, which must date back to when the post office was at Brownjohn's, even though it was not there in Edward VII's reign. Currently 65% of the 115,000 boxes in Great Britain are from the present reign, and, surprisingly, as many as 35,000 are the simple ones on posts, such as that on Shores Road. The Ferndale Road box moved from its strange position at the very far end to the corner with Chobham Road and from the 1980s has been an example of the rare K type, produced only

from 1980 to 2000. Over the years collections from boxes have been generally just once a day and not on Sundays as letters are less popular forms of communication, but still serve a vital need within the village.

Sources: Current circumstances have not allowed us to see as many directories or issues of local newspapers as we would have liked, but we have been able to see some directories online as well as census and statistics returns on Ancestry.co.uk as well as the vital information, which we gratefully acknowledge from the Surrey Postal History Group, whose website www.britishnotes.co.uk/news_and_info/sphg/postoffices/index.php and their pages on Horsell post offices we have found essential viewing: the images of the post offices are drawn from their site by kind permission. We also thank Startrite Motors and Miss Anne Russell for permission to use pictures of the post office sites at the garage and Brownjohn's respectively. The last issue of 'The Resident' and the online Summer 2020 issue of 'Horsell Matters' have paid a deserved tribute to Chander and his work while 'The Woking News and Mail' for 30th July 2020 records the sad event of the post office fire of 24th July.

Richard and Rosemary Christophers



Photo: The Lightbox

We have lived in Horsell since 1967 and have watched the town transformed at least twice. Richard read history at Oxford and was a curator in the British Museum, later the British Library, from 1961 until formal retirement in 1995 and for the next 20 years catalogued modern literary manuscripts. He has a PhD on the 16th century Surrey clergy. Rosemary was a chartered librarian, working in public and school libraries. We are both long-standing members of Woking History Society, of which Richard is president, and have been heritage volunteers at The Lightbox for many years.

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