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THE *Resident*



The magazine of Horsell Residents' Association

Summer 2021

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returns!

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

British Woodland Walk.
Photo: Hannah Bruce.

A word from the Editor

Greetings...

As we move into what will hopefully be a time with fewer restrictions, we have an opportunity to take stock and return to our old lives. However, it's worth considering if we want the same but with differences. For example, many of us discovered our village traders during the lockdowns and so we may have changed our shopping habits for good, shifting some of our routine purchases to Horsell traders. We continue our spotlight on two local traders in this magazine. If you are a local trader who wants to be featured, just drop me an email at the below address.

We are indebted to those who volunteered through groups such as Horsell Prepared. That group is now looking forward to ensure that they make the most of the skills and spirit of the people of Horsell. Do have a think to see if you could be part of it in the 'new normal'.

Someone who topped the volunteer list for pretty much everything is Robin Hoyle. I'm sad to say that he is stepping down from this work and wish him all the best for his 'new normal'. I can personally say he has been a huge support since we moved to the village – even if I did end up volunteering by editing this magazine!! Do look at the various opportunities to get involved

in village life as a participant or a volunteer – even if you can give an hour a month that will make a difference.

Speaking of volunteers, I'm delighted to be able to thank Linda Russell who will be helping me edit this magazine in the future. Thanks also go to Manish Bhalla who is going to run the social media side of things. If you are able to join the team, please do get in touch. Perhaps you could edit some pages or help co-ordinate the advertising – this includes reminding advertisers to submit copy by the deadline and emailing invoices.

One of the aspects I want to keep in my life as I construct my 'new normal' is Horsell Common. So many of us have discovered that wonderful natural resource. I hope that the contrast between Hannah Bruce's beautiful painting of it and the photographs after the recent wild fire shock everyone as much as it did me. Please heed to the warnings and rules: any naked flame on the common is a risk to us all but especially the wildlife that live there. Please take care and help preserve it for us all as we move on with our new lives.

Lucy

HRA – Chairperson

It is with regret that I write on behalf of the Directors and Trustees of Horsell Residents' Association Limited (HRAL) to inform the members of the Association and residents of Horsell that for personal reasons Robin Hoyle has decided to step down from the HRAL Management Committee and therefore from his post as Chair of the Association. Robin is also stepping down as a director and committee member. Robin has put considerable time, effort and work into helping maintain and improve our village and its environs since he was elected Chair in 2016.

We all wish him and Amanda well for the future.

We welcome Alan Taylor to the role of Chair. Alan will be known to many villagers from his work with Horsell Prepared and Neighbourhood Watch.

Dorothy Smith
President of HRAL

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

Editor: Lucy English theresidenteditor@gmail.com

Advertising co-ordinator (*volunteer situation vacant*) theresidentads@gmail.com

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

THE Resident

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

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Horsell Events

Horsell Village Show 2021

WHAT: A GRAND DAY OUT

WHEN: Saturday 24th July 1.30 - 5.00pm

WHERE: Horsell C of E Junior School, Meadway Drive

COST: Adults £2, children free

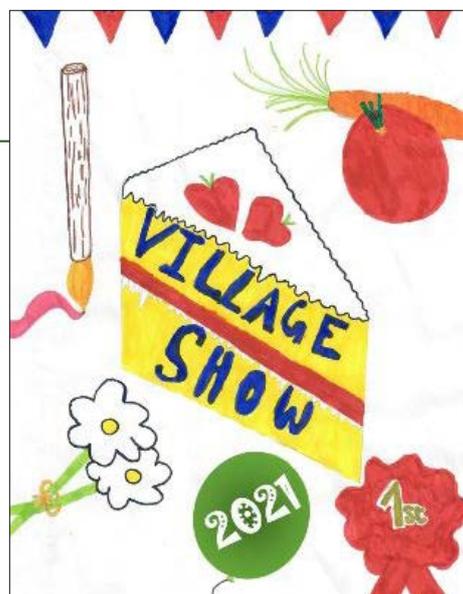
After a lot of thought, and all being well, we have reached the momentous decision to hold a REAL Horsell Village Show this year! Last year's virtual show was a huge success with over 600 entries but was not quite the same as a Grand Day Out!

People seem to be pretty keen to get out and about now that restrictions are lifting. You will be asking how we plan to do it? We can

assure visitors that all the necessary health and safety precautions will be in place. We plan no unnecessary risks to the good people of Horsell.

We aim to use some of the highlights planned for last year for many of the competitive classes such as Olympic themes for the floral art sections and for the Limerick, so think about your entries NOW. There won't be a printed schedule this year but all classes will be listed on the website. Just take a look at www.horsellvillageshow.co.uk to find the classes and how to enter. Most of the usual stallholders are keen to book a stall this year, and if you would like to book one, please contact me on the email address at the bottom of this article.

We will have lots of fun for everyone as well as the traditional competitions. There will be



fun games for all and refreshments, which will include teas, ice-creams, Pimms, beer and burgers.

You will find more to entertain you on the day of the show but as we go to press, we are still putting plans into place.

There will be regular updates on Horsell Village Wire Facebook group, the Village Show Facebook page and on the website. Please check these and place your entries by following the instructions given.

We do hope that after the lengthy lockdowns we have endured, the people of Horsell will come together to make A HUGE SUCCESS of the day!

Marion Piper mepiper7@gmail.com
Secretary, Horsell Village Show



Horsell Flowerpot Festival 3rd July-29th August 2021

It's simple and free to enter, just make a flowerpot creation and display it in your front garden, shop window, forecourt.

Take a photo and post your picture on the Horsell Village Wire so others can see it too!

To post your picture:

- Open **The Horsell Village Wire Facebook** page
- Click on **Albums** (you may need to click on **Media** first) and then **Flowerpot Festival 2021**

We're compiling a map so everyone can follow the flowerpot trail. To put your handiwork on the map, send an email to:

secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com

with the name of your flowerpot creation, your postcode, and permission to use those details.



For more details including hints and tips on how to make a flowerpot creation, please go to:

www.horsellresidents.com

World Book Day 2021

Horsell Junior School made the most of World Book Day in lockdown, by organising a village book hunt. The community got together and started decorating their doors, windows and gardens around a theme of books. With the help of friends of the school, we then created a map which allowed families to go on a book hunt. It was a huge success and it was great seeing so many houses get involved and come alive with characters and fantastic displays. "It was really lovely to bring together the Horsell community and have impact beyond the school gates. Families were able to celebrate the day together which I think is really special," explained Miss Chadburn, the school's Reading Lead.

Katie Chadburn
Horsell Junior School



Rhiannon Soper



Lis Clark



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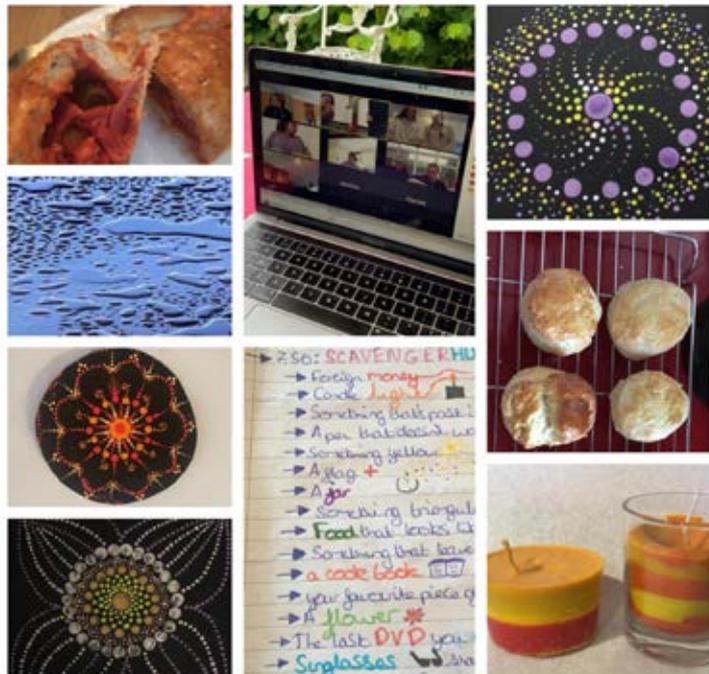
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Horsell Girlguiding

Covid-19 provided Horsell Girlguiding with new challenges and opportunities to put our promise into action!

The pandemic stopped Guiding adventures and face to face meetings – no May Fayre, Guide camp postponed, Brownie Holiday cancelled...

Our Scout Hut became Horsell Scrubbers hub – our dedicated leaders collecting, sorting, washing, ironing and distributing donated bedding



for transformation into scrubs for local hospitals and GP surgeries.

These leaders went viral on YouTube with our lockdown adaptation of a campfire song 'Pass the Neckery Noo' with props, actions and giggles! When we were not singing, our leaders were Zooming together, inspiring and motivating each other, planning activities, enjoying regular catch ups, socials and quizzes.

Always adaptable, determined to keep guiding, our innovative leaders started Zoom meetings. Instead of weekly gatherings at the hut, Rainbows created a scarecrow trail on the Common for all the village to enjoy, Brownies enjoyed scavenger hunts, invited their dads for virtual games on Fathers' Day and made chocolate brownies in a mug. Guides made Remembrance Poppies, created their own woggles, enjoyed a Mocktail Night and completed a Zoom escape room. Rangers even enjoyed a Lockdown Camp day! New members made their promise, girls completed badges and achieved Gold awards.

Determined not to miss Thinking Day on 22 February, 100 girls and leaders came together remotely to make S'mores, sing songs, renew our promise and light candles to remember our global guiding family. A rewarding occasion for our inspirational Guiding community in Horsell to celebrate together!

Restrictions are lifting so units are meeting outside, following social distancing rules. Enthusiasm for meeting face to face was huge – girls finally seeing leaders and friends in person, to play games and restart adventures. We have been busy: Guides litter-picking on the common; Rangers hiking in the woods; Brownies planting sunflower seeds and Rainbows crafting and painting.

Girlguiding in Horsell is thriving – Covid demonstrated what a committed and dedicated community we have: our young members, their supportive parents, and our Leaders who kept Girlguiding going! We experienced many new ways to put our promise into action: doing our best, being true to ourselves, serving our community and helping other people.

Rhiannon Soper – Joint District Commissioner and 1st Horsell Brownie Leader



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HRA's Second Thursday Club

What is the Horsell Residents' Association's (HRA) Second Thursday Club (STC)? The name gives little away. It is a rather tongue in cheek reference to "The Second Tuesday Club" where a bunch of London entrepreneurs and financiers met to discuss maybe matters of great import and also no doubt have a few drinks!

Back to Horsell's STC: the first clue is in "Second Thursday" as we meet, and have done for the past nine years, on the second Thursday of each month. So what about the "Club"? Well no, it's not really a club as such. We are a fairly random mix of Horsell residents who meet to improve Horsell community life.

We normally meet at the Horsell Parish Institute building in the High Street, although national restrictions have led us to Zoom meetings. There is no membership, no chairperson and no official protocol, though we do often go over to The Crown afterwards to whet our whistle.

We started in 2012, the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, when the HRA and lots of Horsell residents worked together to create a big street party down Horsell High Street. We had music, children's activities and a great community spirit. We realised the huge potential amongst local residents to do something for Horsell and didn't want to lose the momentum. This is how the idea of the STC came into being. It is very simple: If you have a good idea, small or big, for improving the life of the local community and making it more enjoyable, more supportive and more creative, then maybe this is the club for you. This is not political, not commercial nor a pressure group. It is practical and local.

What has been done so far? Well, over the last nine years it really is quite a lot:

We restored the woodland at the top of Pares Close and Hill Close, transforming it from a totally overgrown, dark, rubbish-laden spot to pleasant woodland with open access for all. From this, grew **The Woodlanders** who continue to care for this space and also help with the churchyard and local footpaths.

For those wanting to make music, **Horsell Community Choir** started through STC.

There is also the **monthly litter pick**, a **Horsell Charity Calendar**, the **Horsell Cook Book**, **jam making** from local surplus produce, **Adopt a grave**, **Horsell weekly walks** (3 times a week in summer!) the **Flowerpot Festival**, the **Garage Sale Trail** and, perhaps most impressively, **Snow Angels**. This initiative developed into **Horsell Prepared** - an amazing group of volunteers who did so much during the pandemic to help in so many ways. Then there are the big village events such as **Horsell Christmas Market** and **Picnic on the Green**. I've probably forgotten something, there's such a wide range of activities we've brought to life over the years.

We also work with other groups in the village such as **Horsell Garden Safari** and **HRA's Village Show**. We want to support the village and enhance the quality of the community.

Would you like to join us? You are most welcome! You might have an



idea that could be good for Horsell but need help to bring it to life. The aim in STC is to support and implement new initiatives so we also need people who want to help to make these ideas happen.

You don't have to commit to every month - all help and ideas are welcome. Maybe you could help us to set up an event or even help to promote it - off- and on-line. There is so much potential and goodwill in Horsell and we want to tap into it!

Please contact us and bring your ideas and energy. You can also keep up-to-date with our weekly activities by signing up at hra.interests.me or checking social media such as The Horsell Village Wire on Facebook.



The Second Thursday Club is the 'action wing' of Horsell Residents' Association. It aims to build on the generous spirit of this village, especially that seen during lockdown. It wants to continue with its many projects that benefit Horsell Village but it needs new members who can:

- Help to organise and manage projects e.g. Picnic on the Green, Horsell Christmas Market
- Help to publicise and create a map for the Flowerpot Festival
- Help to coordinate the monthly Horsell litter pick
- Help to make events happen e.g. put up or take down a gazebo or decorate a Christmas tree
- Join the calendar team to help with sales and publicity
- Produce and send out weekly information of STC and Horsell activities via Horsell.interests.me

Email secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com if you can help out. It might be that you can offer just a few hours or make a longer commitment - everyone is welcome!

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Woodlanders Volunteers, St Mary's Churchyard

WHAT: STC Woodlanders
WHEN: monthly
WHERE: St Mary's Churchyard
COST: your time

STC's Woodlanders help in St Mary's Churchyard. We've mowed all the paths and tidied along the old brick wall, making sure that all the memorial plaques are clear of debris and not

overgrown. We also look after the wild flower bed at the far end, now in its 4th summer. The self-seeded *Cerinth* is great for bees and other insects. Soon there will be a mass of marguerites, foxgloves and red campion. We have also planted these flowers in Pares Woodland garden and spread wood chips along the paths. Enjoy a walk in both Pares Woodland and the churchyard. They are peaceful and lovely places. All are welcome, just email secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com for more details.

WHAT: STC Litter pick – coordinator needed
WHEN: third Saturday of every month
WHERE: the village
COST: your time and a place to store Walter

Walter the Wheelbarrow has carried all the litter-picking kit (plastic bags, grabbers, hoops, gloves) for the last 12 years. He is looking for a new home and someone to take him on an outing just once a month. Could you take responsibility for Walter and coordinate the monthly Litter Pick?

Please do get in touch for more information at secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com.



Walter the Wheelbarrow, ready for the Saturday morning litter pick



WHAT: STC Adopt a Grave
WHEN: as suits you
WHERE: St Mary's Churchyard
COST: your time

Adopt a grave in St Mary's Churchyard and work at your own pace when it suits you. Tending the graves is a very caring and peaceful activity. To join in, just email secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com.

WHAT: STC Weekly Walks
WHEN: three times a week
WHERE: see page 8 for details
COST: your time

See page 8 for details of the Horsell Weekly Walks, free guided group walks that run three times a week.

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Horsell walks

WALK: Horsell High Street to The Basingstoke Canal as far as St John's and Woking Golf Club. Return via St John's and Goldsworth Park. This is a level, moderate walk, suitable for buggies.

TIME: Allow 2 hours 15 minutes for the full walk, less time if you miss out Goldsworth Park

DISTANCE: Full circuit is almost 6 miles. For a shorter walk, continue along the canal at section 5 as far as Well Lane (missing out Goldsworth Park)

START: Outside the Beijing Restaurant, Horsell High Street

1 **Horsell High Street to Well Lane, the Basingstoke Canal and St. John's.** From the Beijing Restaurant, Horsell High Street, cross at the pedestrian crossing, turn right, then left after 72A High Street. Follow this rough track round to Manor Road. Then turn right into Bury Lane and shortly left into Well Lane. Continue until you reach Lockfield Drive and the pedestrian crossing to the Basingstoke Canal. Turn right and keep walking until you reach St John's. Go under the canal bridge and turn right up the steps and right again.



At St John's Lye, keep the playing field and children's playground on your right

2 **St John's, St John's Lye and across the mainline railway to Woking Golf Club, Hook Heath.** Follow the road for 50 metres then turn right towards the St John's Lye car park. Cross over towards the children's playground, staying on the path to the left of the playground. Go straight ahead and cross the railway. Keep going straight ahead. You will see the golf course and, keeping left, will see the small lake. Follow the railings round to the right, on to Pond Road. Continue straight ahead, until you meet a cross path and road: Mile Path. Turn right and soon you reach the first fairway. Check there are no golfers. Continue straight, cross another fairway and through the woods, arriving soon at a road.



Keep the pond and railings on your right as you go on to Pond Road

Horsell guided summer walks

WHAT: Free local guided walks

WHEN: Morning walks - Wednesdays and Fridays, meet 9.50am.

WHEN: Evening walk - Thursdays, meet 6.20pm

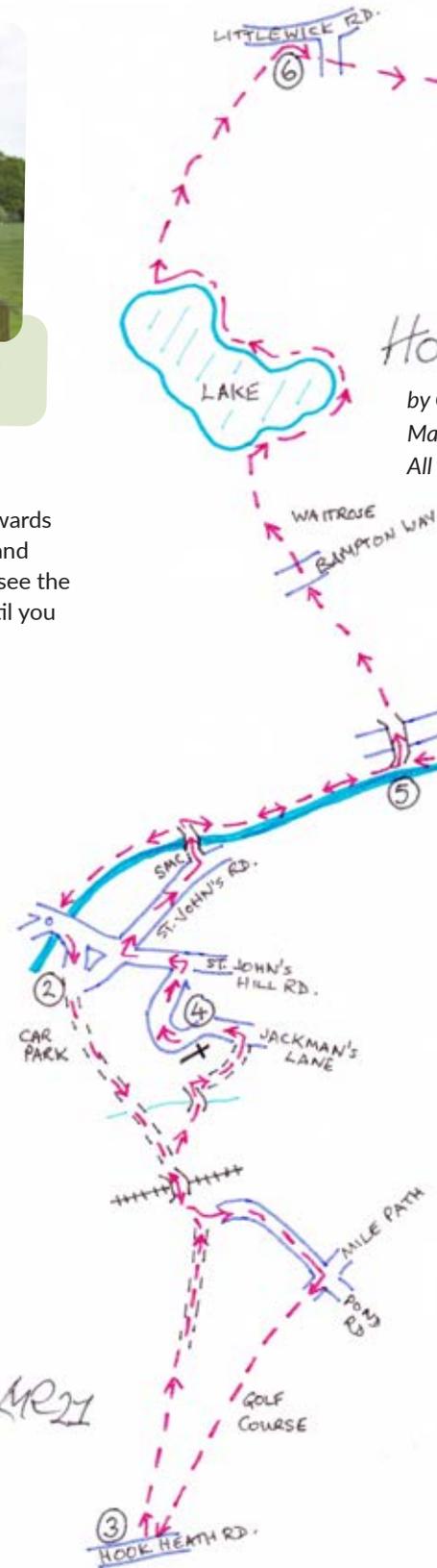
WHERE: Meet on the green in front of The Cricketers

Do come and join in a guided walk. There will be three walks a week over summer. The morning walks will split into two groups, offering a longer and shorter walk. The Thursday evening walk will be one group for a walk lasting from 90 minutes to two hours.

We usually finish at one of the village pubs so there is a chance to enjoy a chat and a drink if you want.

Everyone is welcome but booking is essential. Please email Caroline to book and join the Horsell Walks email contact list.

Caroline Hughes: c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com

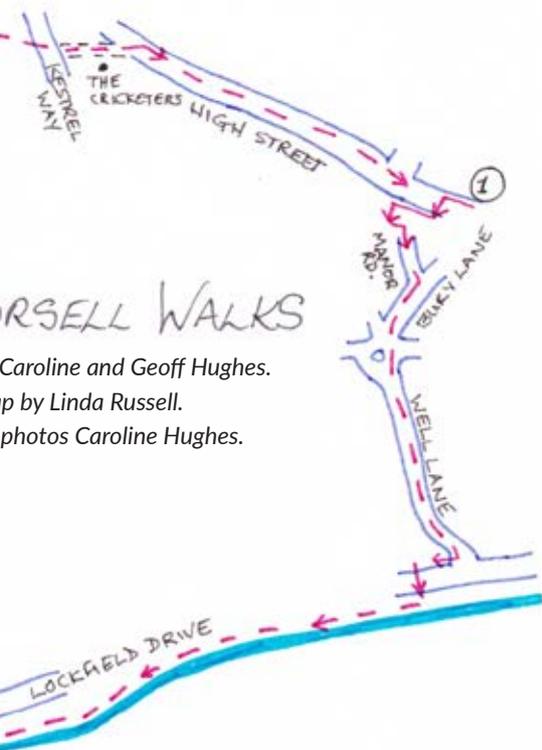


3 *To Clubhouse, back across mainline railway to St John's Church.*

Turn sharp right and follow footpath signs along a fence, past a big white building and across a couple of fairways, always checking before you cross. Follow the yellow way markers straight on and veering left soon, in sight of the white clubhouse and into the car park. Turn diagonal left on to path marked with long round timbers, through gate, turn left and cross the railway. Almost immediately, take the diagonal path (the middle path) slightly right, following the footpath sign. The path goes gently down then up: follow it to the left until you reach St John's Church.

Exit the golf club car park via the footpath marked with long poles

Approach the clubhouse which is on your right



Caroline and Geoff Hughes.
Map by Linda Russell.
Photos Caroline Hughes.

4 *St John's to Basingstoke Canal.* You will pass some Victorian houses in St John's.

Go past the church and follow the road as it goes down to the right. After the youth centre turn right on to Church Road. At the end of Church Road turn left and then cross St John's Hill Road to Phipps Auto garage. Cross the road ahead at the refuge, turn right. Pass The Rowbarge pub. At SMC Used Car centre, turn left, cross the canal bridge and turn right, along the canal.

Pass several locks before leaving the canal taking the signed footpath left towards Goldsworth Park



5 *Canal to Goldsworth Park Centre.* You pass several locks. When you reach the lock just before a bridge, turn left, following a sign (rather high up!) to Goldsworth Park Centre, Dione Trail. The footpath crosses a bridge across Lockfield Drive. Ignore path on right and soon you will see the Fox and Flowerpot and Goldsworth Shopping Centre. Cross using traffic refuge, pass Waitrose and go towards Goldsworth Lake. We walked to the right and at the opposite end, after the playground turned right towards the football playing fields. Go to the fields and follow path to the right, keeping right. When you reach a path turn sharp left, with fields and hockey pitches on your left and the backs of bungalows and fences on your right. Keep ahead to Littlewick Road and turn right through the barrier.

6 *Littlewick Road to The Cricketers and Horsell High Street.* Take the first right, soon cross Claydon Road, and walk ahead on a long straight path through woodland. Cross Kestrel Way carefully and soon arrive at The Cricketers on Horsell Birch. You soon reach Horsell High Street, cross and turn right and in 400 metres you are back at the start of the walk.

For more walks go to horsellresidents.com and click on 'walks' or look in the past issues of The Resident online at theresidenteditor.wixsite.com/magazine.

Caroline and Geoff Hughes

A5: HORSELL HIGH STREET,
BASINGSTOKE CANAL TO
ST. JOHN'S, AND RETURN
THROUGH GOLDSWORTH PARK.



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 Prepared

With a return to the “new normal” Horsell Prepared have once again pressed pause on their response to Covid and are starting to turn their thoughts to how they can help the village respond to local crises more generally.

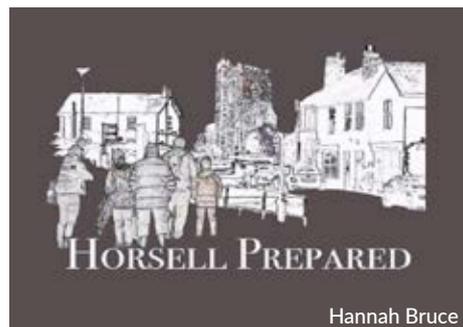
Maria Papadacos, Horsell Prepared Committee member said: “Over the last 12 months, with the help of our amazing volunteers we have been able to respond to around 1,000 calls for help. This is a magnificent achievement. We could not have done this without the support of fellow villagers. So, a massive thank you.”

Horsell Prepared Committee are now turning their attention to how they can help Horsell cope with emergencies and crises on a community level or even projects which would benefit the area. Founder, Helen Cammack, said: “The response to Covid showed what we could achieve together as a community. We in Horsell Prepared would like to build on that

resilience so we can respond quickly to local crises whether this is flooding, heavy snow, further pandemics etc. To do this we once again need the support of local villagers.

“As a start we would like to update and expand our current volunteer list to understand more about the wide range of skills we have available in Horsell. This in turn will ensure we can better coordinate a response in the event of a local emergency. If you would like to volunteer or are currently on our volunteer list, then we would be grateful if you could complete a short questionnaire which you can find on our website bit.ly/Horsell.”

Helen added: “We want to work with Horsell to build on the community response we developed during Covid. So, we will be organising regular opportunities for our volunteers to meet and work with other local groups in Horsell and we will be arranging



training activities too. All with the idea of building an effective response team.”

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of or have an idea for how Horsell Prepared could provide resilience support, then please email horsellprepared@gmail.com.

Sarah Davidson

Horsell Common Fire

In April, our common was again struck by fire. This was likely caused by human action and means death and devastation for some of our wildlife. Please remember the dangers of fire. It is NOT OK to light fires anywhere on Horsell Common. The risk is just too great. And please be mindful that this risk is not only from fires, BBQs, fire lanterns and cigarettes, a fire can be caused by a piece of glass or tinfoil wrapper from your chocolate bar. We extend our grateful thanks, as always, to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.



Photo: Paul Rimmer.



Burnt grass snake. Photo: Michael Jones.



Photo: Paul Rimmer.

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We are so fortunate to have our thriving village with local businesses. Hopefully this will help us to get to know them and to make the most of them. Remember: shop locally and you'll help to keep Horsell special!

Horsell traders: if you want to be featured in future issues of The Resident, just drop an email to theresidenteditor@gmail.com.



Name of Horsell business: BetterLivingSpace Architectural Design & Structural Engineering

What do you do? We provide architectural design and structural engineering services for property development and improvement. The majority of our work is to help people gain additional space at home, be it through an extension, conversion, or redesigning within the existing footprint. We also undertake commercial projects, such as warehouses, industrial units and, currently, a large equine stabling facility!

How do I get in touch? Call Ed: 07949 946188 or email: enquiries@betterlivingspace.com.

Why did you set up this business? Ed Ollett founded BetterLivingSpace after several years working in Australia. As a Chartered Engineer and Designer, Ed wanted to bridge the gap between high-end architecture and practical engineering solutions. Ed's team now includes Kevin, Kwesi, Paul and Clair.

What is your ethos? Being structural engineers as well as architectural designers, our main ethos is to keep the process simple. We design with the supporting structure in mind to offer practical, cost effective solutions that still provide the wow factor.

What is the best part of your work? Seeing our clients reap the practical and financial benefits of improving their home. We love a challenging project – be it a large development or trying to maximise a small footprint. You can see examples of our work at www.betterlivingspace.com.

Where are you based? Our main office is at Tannery Lane Studios in Send, where we offer Virtual Reality property modelling. This allows our clients to 'walk through' their project during the design phase and accurately visualise the development before submitting for planning approval. Ed also has a home office in Horsell for local meetings.

Any tips for Horsell residents? Undertaking building work can be daunting, so our door is always open for advice. If you are thinking of modifying your home, or are stuck for ideas, please get in touch for an informal chat about how we can help. Horsell residents and businesses benefit from a 10% reduction on BetterLivingSpace services.



Name of Horsell business: The Art House

What do you do? I run art classes for adults and children.

Who might I meet if I get in touch? Geeta Bhana

Where are you? My studio is in Horsell Village. Phone: 07954369402, email: geeta@theartshouse.co or find me online: www.theartshouse.co

Who are you? I'm Geeta. Originally from Cape Town, I have lived in Horsell for ten years and set up The Art House in 2017.

I studied Fine Arts and have done all sorts of things from curation, managing galleries to running my own gallery in London.

Why did you set up this business? I want art to be accessible and to change people's perceptions about it. Everyone can draw or paint if given the knowledge, techniques and confidence. The Art House is a place all can come to (no experience necessary) and try various classes – sometimes with a glass of Prosecco (obviously in the adult classes only!).

What do you offer? I offer art classes and tuition for all ages - you can join a group, have an art party or private tuition.

Why do you love your work? It is so rewarding to see my students improve over time. Not just in their ability but in confidence. It's also very rewarding when students receive art awards and art scholarships - it makes the hours of planning well worth it.

What are the best bits of your job? I get to meet such wonderful people! I love chatting, so it's great to be able to do this every day. It's also so satisfying seeing kids and adults proud with what they are able to create.

What's new or interesting? During lockdown I had to move my private students to Zoom sessions. During this time I renovated my studio – it is now a dedicated space that can accommodate more students. My shelves also have paint bottles in rainbow order, which is very satisfying to see.



Geeta

Photo: Cheryl Catton Photography

Summer on the Heath



The heaths are amazing places all year, but there is something extra special about the summer.

The magical churr of the nightjar and the squeaking of a fly-by woodcock make a twilight visit in summertime an absolute must. During the daytime, there are joys to be found in watching dragonflies and damselflies patrolling the skies on the look-out for dinner. Wonderful butterflies flutter in a slightly lower airspace. These include graylings – whose magical ability to disappear right in front of your eyes is almost unrivalled in the natural world – and the beautiful silver-studded blue – a rare little butterfly that is of conservation concern.

If you'd like to help us monitor the silver-studded blue (and we'd be very grateful if you did!), we are encouraging heathland visitors to submit sightings in June and July to build up a picture of how this species is faring. For more information, visit www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/citizen-science. They can be found on our local heaths (including Horsell Common), but you might spot a new colony. All sightings are important!

Time to repay the favour?

It goes without saying that we should always look after our precious nature spaces, but there is an additional need for taking care in the summer period. These places have been here for us throughout recent difficult times, providing much-needed boosts to our mental health and wellbeing and opportunities for exercise. We certainly have an obligation to all play our part in looking after them.

Our special ground-nesting birds continue to need us to give them space to breed by keeping to main footpaths and dogs out of the vegetation as they raise their families. For some, like woodlark and Dartford warbler, it will likely be the second attempt of the season, but for the late-arriving nightjar, it will be the first.



Silver-studded blue (male) at Horsell Common. Photo: Michael Jones.

Wildfire alert!

During the warmer, drier months, the threat of destructive wildfire on our heaths is a constant threat. This year, there have already been fires, including one at Horsell Common and I am still troubled by the horrific fire at Chobham Common last year.

Fires can spread quickly, causing widespread damage to the landscape. Many animals, including reptiles, invertebrates and young birds, cannot escape the advancing flames and are killed and those who do manage to get away, return to a vastly changed habitat, unsuitable for them to survive in. It can take years for the area to recover and sometimes isolated populations of animals are wiped out for good.

Often, wildfires are caused by carelessness, so we can all play our part in keeping our heathlands safe. When visiting, please remember: -

No BBQs or fires, ensure cigarettes are out and take all litter home. And if you see a fire, however small, report it via 999 immediately. Never assume someone else has reported it, your swift action could make all the difference... to people and wildlife.

Michael Jones
Education Officer, Thames Basin Heaths Partnership
tbhschools@naturalengland.org.uk



I'm Michael, the Education and Engagement Officer for Thames Basin Heaths Partnership (TBHP). I love nature and am fortunate enough to be able to spend time with local schools, sharing the wonders of our local heathland with them.

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Horsell Gardens

This year, HRA's Second Thursday Club is encouraging everyone in the village to brighten up their front gardens with colourful plants, whether they be big or small spaces, so let's give passers-by something to slow them in their tracks as they walk past. There are no hard and fast rules, but the aim is to try to encourage as many people as possible to grow some 'colour' in their front garden. The last year has been a real rollercoaster ride for us all and 'Floral Horsell' will give us the opportunity to all get gardening together as a community to make Horsell front gardens a rainbow of colour.

For those wanting to take part, but who are short on ideas, I've picked out some planting schemes to try in containers or a small border:

- If you are on a shoestring budget try sowing some quick return annuals, which will still flower this year, such as nasturtiums, coreopsis and night scented stock.
- For something a bit more permanent that won't break the bank, opt for a few perennials. For a shady spot, astrantias team nicely with ferns such as *Athyrium niponicum* var. *pictum*. Either pink flowered *Astrantia* 'Roma' or burgundy A. 'Star of Beauty' would work.
- For a combination for a sunnier setting try *Eryngium bourgatti* next to *Achillea*

'Pink Grapefruit' or opt for *Salvia* 'Cherry Lips', *Artemisia ludoviciana* 'Valerie Finnis' and *Verbena hastata* f. 'Rosea' for an arresting trio.

- If you can keep them in a sheltered setting over the winter then you could team up *Salvia* 'Amistad' and *Digiplexis* 'Firecracker' for a contrasting fusion. All of these perennials are sure to keep flowering for many weeks.
- Shrubs for partial shade with a long season of interest could include *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Sundae Fraise', *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki' or *Leycesteria* 'Golden Lanterns'.

With the welcome return of the Horsell Garden Safari it's the perfect opportunity for those not opening to get gardening and inject some colour into their front gardens. So, whether you opt for wildlife-friendly planting, growing herbs or even if you only have room for a window box, we hope that you join in. You might want to create a theme for your road with your neighbours to tie the front gardens together and create a connected display, such as sunflowers, bee-friendly plants or a colour scheme. You could even do a plant or seed swop. Together let's make 'Floral Horsell' a colourful kaleidoscope.

Pamela Barden



Astrantia 'Star of Beauty'



Athyrium niponicum var. *pictum*



Salvia 'Amistad' and *Digiplexis* 'Firecracker'

Photos: Pamela Barden.



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

Floral Horsell

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Horsell History

Norman Pares and his family

Canon Norman Pares



THE REV. NORMAN PARES, M.A.
(VICAR)

Canon and Mrs Pares. She is wearing her husband's FA Cup Winner's medal



St Andrew's Church, Russell Road on its last day 1984

As we welcome Dmitry Lutsenko as the new Vicar of St Mary's, Horsell, our article this issue focuses on the longest serving vicar, whose name is familiar in the village still: Canon Norman Pares.

Norman was born in 1857, the eldest son of John Pares, of Postford, Albury. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he gained a third class honours degree in 1880. Perhaps undistinguished academically, he was a sportsman, and as an undergraduate gained an FA Cup winner's medal in 1879. The final was held at Kennington Oval between Old Etonians against Clapton Rovers – a meeting of players from across social classes and won 1-0 by the Old Etonians. Norman had just turned up with 5000 other spectators to watch the match. But the Old Etonians were a man short, and Norman, who had played at Eton and Cambridge, was plucked from the crowd to play at inside-left. He had his medal made into a brooch for his wife, which she wore proudly on many occasions. Norman retained his love of football and managed to see a later cup final where he admired the players' skill but recorded that he 'would rather see a nation playing football badly than watching professionals play brilliantly'.

While teaching at Portsmouth Grammar School, with his brothers Bernard and Lancelot, Norman

founded the Sunflowers Club, which included among its players Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. As well as having played for Eton, Norman played for Portsmouth FC and the Sunflowers in goal, as a full-back and a half-back. Although the Sunflowers became defunct as the brothers moved to new posts, the club helped to establish the present Portsmouth Football Club.

In 1885, still while teaching, Norman was ordained as a curate in Portsmouth, staying there until coming to Horsell as vicar in 1897. He had married Beatrice Blackburn-Maze in 1888. His appointment to Horsell owed much to the family background of his mother Katharine, née Back, the sister of John Back, vicar of Horsell 1878-84 and builder of Church Hill House, described in our last article. John had acquired the right to present a vicar to Horsell church, which after his death passed to his family, thus providing a good opportunity for Norman to take over.

On arrival, Norman found that Church Hill House was not available and that the old vicarage next to the church was too small. Fortunately, the house on the site of Pares Close, built for a school for Ethel Isham Smith (whose daughter had just married Norman's brother Lancelot), was acquired by Norman's aunts, trustees of the Back family, who intended it to be used as a vicarage, so Norman and Beatrice moved there in 1903.

A further part of the Back inheritance was the Institute, opened in the first year of Norman's ministry. While it served and continues to serve its purpose as a small meeting place, Norman felt something larger was required and purchased with his own money the land on which the Parish Hall now stands: he envisaged it as a meeting place for church societies, rather than for private events. The hall opened in 1907 and serves a multitude of village purposes, its history being recounted in Tony Noel's history of the hall.

As Horsell grew Norman also sought more space for worship. In 1901 St Thomas's Church at Littlewick was built, while a "sociable cottage" proposed by Miss Rowland of Grobars in the Russell Road area emerged as St Andrew's Church without Norman's full approval. St Mary's Church was further enlarged by the building of the north aisle and a Trinity Chapel, built anonymously in 1905 by Norman as a thanksgiving for a narrow escape by his wife from an accident when her carriage horse bolted and collided with an oak tree. A stained glass window in memory of his mother, Katharine, was placed in the south aisle in 1905.

Norman's monthly letters in the parish magazine are of encouragement to his parishioners to take part in missionary and prayer enterprises, as well as appeals for the fabric of the church. Support seemed somewhat limited: the rigours of World War I and the deprivation post-war must have taken their toll on a parish whose members were not generally well-off. Nevertheless, he began greater emphasis on Holy Communion services, and at Easter and Christmas would hold three Communion services, bringing in around 300 worshippers at each festival, reaching a peak of 470 communicants over Easter 1929.

He became an honorary canon of Winchester Cathedral, and then Guildford in 1927. He was conscientious, earnest, and well-respected, and, despite his privileged background, sought to build a real community in the village, putting much of his own money into parish activities and projects, and passing to the diocese the family's right to present a vicar.

He retired in 1935, intending to build a bungalow for himself and his wife in land he owned behind the Village Hall, but his retirement was brief and he died in the vicarage on 23 June 1936. Beatrice died in Hill Close on 13 October 1938, where she had retired with two of the former vicarage staff and a nurse. In 1941 a sculpted head of Norman by Louis Hayles was placed on a column in St Mary's Church, facing the Trinity Chapel, and in 1962 the road leading off Wilson Way was named Pares Close, marking the site of his old vicarage, where the Pares Memorial Garden now stands.

Norman and Beatrice had no children, but a very extensive family to whom they were close with many being buried in Horsell churchyard or commemorated in the church. Of Norman's nine siblings it is worth recalling:

- Sir Bernard Pares, an authority on Russian history and politics (his son, Richard, one of the leading historians of 18th century England had a career sadly cut short by illness, and his daughter Ursula married Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, the designer of Sutton Place gardens);
- John, whose son Anthony was killed in World War Two;
- Basil, a noted army doctor, whose son Basil was also killed in World War Two, and whose daughter Ethel, known as Bip, was a well-known book illustrator;
- Margaret, whose husband, Horace Rudge, unveiled the Horsell War Shrine.

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Beatrice's seven siblings included:

- Florence, widowed by her husband Charles Farmer MC being killed in action in World War One. Florence came to live in the old vicarage until her death in 1935;
- Violet, who married John Temple Fellowes Wilson. John Temple was a tea grower in India, and their son Harry came to live in Knaphill, becoming secretary of Horsell Parochial Church Council until emigrating to South Africa. It seems well established that Wilson Way is named after Harry's son who died of polio in South Africa,

aged 12 in 1954, although a plaque formerly on a seat at the entrance to Wilson Way gave the name Geoffrey Fellowes Wilson, the boy was named Ivan on his death certificate.

- Lilian married John Temple's brother: Villiers Stewart Fellowes Wilson. Villiers was the author of 'The Largest ships of the world' (1926) and their son Hugh died with great suffering just after the end of World War One. Although the family lived in Chobham, Hugh is buried with his kinsfolk at Horsell.

Sources and permissions: Ancestry, British Newspaper Archive online resources. Horsell parish magazine, service books and accounts at Surrey History Centre.

Tony Noel 'The first hundred years, 1907-2007: Horsell Parish Hall (2007).

In a short article we cannot expand much on the lives of some of Norman's relations. A Google search will find many images of Bip Pares' art, a digitised text of Sir George Back's journals and much biographical matter.

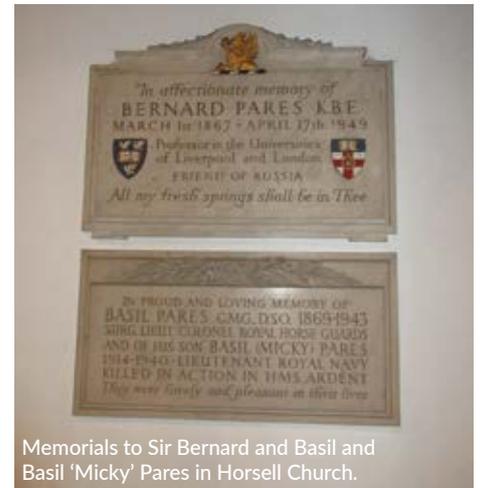
Richard and Rosemary Christophers



Graves of Norman Pares' parents, John and Katharine, in Horsell Churchyard.



The last relic of Pares Vicarage with a photograph, in the Pares Memorial Garden.



Memorials to Sir Bernard and Basil and Basil 'Micky' Pares in Horsell Church.



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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