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THE *Resident*



The magazine of Horsell Residents' Association

Spring 2022

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photo special

theresidenteditor.wixsite.com/magazine
www.horsellresidents.com

Spring beauty at the canal.
Photo: Graham Barden.

A word from the editorial team

Greetings...

The days are getting longer and plans for the year are under way. Just a quick flick through this magazine shows the range of events that village volunteers, many funded and supported by Horsell Residents' Association (HRA), create for us all. Horsell's Christmas Market is a great case in point and we thank Cheryl Catton for taking photos for us (and the friends and family who provided childcare so she could go and do that!)

There was quite a lot of chatter on social media including the Horsell Village Wire on Facebook about how the market can be even better – all really useful, thank you. Road closures were one of the actions mentioned.



Photo: Susan Koh

These haven't been possible in the past and we found that a partial road closure was more stressful than none at all because some people (especially children) forgot when they moved from closed to open roads. Lucy distinctly remembers spending a fraught couple of hours one winter persuading people to move to pavements!

A complete closure would be exciting but more people are needed on the team if it is going to investigate that option. Planning starts again in August, so get in touch with HRA's Second Thursday Club if you can help secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com.

Lots of you have been out and about and are taking wonderful photos. Do send them in to us or for Horsell's Charity Calendar (see page 5). We couldn't use Susan Koh's beautiful photo because our front cover is the wrong proportions but wanted to share it with everyone anyway. Enjoy!

We hope that you enjoy this magazine. Like so much that happens in Horsell, it is made possible by HRA. If you haven't joined, then please do consider doing so. The subscription is a very reasonable £5 a year and you will be helping to make lots possible in our village. Just go to www.horsellresidents.com/home/JoinUs for the application form.

Lucy, Linda and Sue

The Resident – Horsell Residents' Association's magazine about and for our village.
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Articles and photographs about our village are welcomed from our whole community.

THE Resident

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Horsell happenings



View from the Chair

I don't know about you, but the New Year always evokes two emotions in me: a reflection on the past year and an optimism about the coming year.

Unfortunately, the focus of the past year was again dominated by the pandemic which severely constrained everyone's business and social engagements. However, since becoming Chair last year I have now had first-hand experience of the commitment of members

and residents in producing so many wonderful community events. Last year most of our Horsell Residents' Association (HRA) programme went ahead, with the only casualty being the Picnic on the Green.

In November I was touched, as I am sure were others attending the Remembrance Sunday service, when the names of those who fell in the wars were read out – and not forgotten. I kept thinking it was so many from just a small village as I laid the wreath on behalf of the HRA.

At Christmas there were fewer limitations on celebrating with family and friends and I hope that your personal celebrations made up for lost time.

I also hope you enjoyed the Horsell Christmas Market this year. It was a joyous event with an overwhelming number of people attending. There was a good selection of music and fine food provided by our local traders. We are delighted that the stallholders reported a successful day

and hope they return next year. There was an extended visit from the Woking Mayor, Liam Lyons, whom I had the pleasure of escorting around the stalls. His compliments were a reflection on Caroline Hughes and her brilliant team from HRA's Second Thursday Club for their efforts. Thanks as well to Cheryl Catton for her photos of the market which you can see on pages 6 to 9.

At Christmas I was privileged to be asked by St. Mary's Church to read a lesson in their Nine Lessons and Carols Service. It was good to take the time to reflect on what the real purpose of Christmas was about.

So, for the new year and as spring approaches with its longer days and green shoots of optimism appearing from the ground, we should reflect on what could be and not what was.

HRA members are already meeting in their various groups eagerly planning the next village event. If you are not already involved why not come and join in? Apart from benefiting the community it offers friendship to people of all ages and there really is something for everyone. Some activities may even help work off those extra couple of pounds you promised to address in your New Year's resolution!

Going forward, the HRA is always interested to learn of projects that would benefit Horsell and its residents. If you have any ideas then please email me. If it is a project that you could help deliver that would be even better.

I wish everyone a contented and successful 2022.

Alan Taylor, HRA Chair ajrolyat@gmail.com

Horsell Bowling Club open day

WHAT: Horsell Bowling Club Open Day

WHEN: Saturday 16th April 2022
9.45 to 12 noon

WHERE: Queen Elizabeth Gardens

COST: free!

Horsell Bowling Club is a thriving, friendly club first established over 100 years ago and situated in the heart of Horsell.

Come and join us for our open day. It is the ideal time for novice and experienced bowlers to try out their bowling skills. You will meet our

qualified coaches, play bowls, have a chat and see how you get on. The club is always happy to welcome and help new members.

We are very easy to find in Queen Elizabeth Gardens, High Street, Horsell, next to the

Village Hall and opposite The Crown.

All equipment will be provided, just wear flat shoes. For further details contact Alison on 01483 720201 or a.ferries@sky.com.

Alison Ferries



Horsell Garden Safari

WHAT: Horsell Garden Safari 2022

WHEN: Saturday 11th and
Sunday 12th June

WHERE: possibly your garden!

COST: your time

We had a resounding success in the Horsell Garden Safari 2021 as we emerged from COVID-19 restrictions. We hope we will continue in that trend this summer!

We are excited to announce the new dates for Safari 2022 on the weekend of 11th and 12th June. This Horsell event ticks all the boxes – outdoors, immersed in nature at its showiest and relaxing with friends and families, perhaps over a delicious piece of cake and a cup of tea, so come and join in.

Of course, we need gardens to open for us – so we are calling on both new and our regular

participants to offer up their wonderful range of gardens. We particularly welcome new gardens so that we can add even more diversity and interest for our visitors. I will be contacting regular garden owners shortly, but please get in touch with me by Friday 25th March, especially if you are considering opening for the first time. We aim to have about 28 gardens, so contact me now if you are considering opening – it's first come, first served!

We are always happy to pop round and visit your garden, give advice about the day and support you if you are opening. All our garden owners who have opened previously tell us how much they have enjoyed the weekend and of course we all share our experiences after the event when we get together to celebrate, usually with a BBQ party!

So, do get in touch and, even if you are not opening, make sure the 11th and 12th June is in your diary so that you can enjoy our annual safari round the gardens of Horsell.

Gail Bromley MBE FLS_bromleysglad@gmail.com



David Williams

Horsell Scouts and Guides

WHAT: Horsell Scouts and Guides
May Fayre

WHEN: Monday 2nd May 2022

WHERE: Wheatsheaf Common

Everyone is doing the 'new normal' and, after two years without our much-loved Horsell Scouts and Guides May Fayre, there is no reason why we cannot embrace some changes as well!

The organising committee took a long hard look at what makes the May Fayre such a successful community event and have designed a format which entertains all ages and meets the government safety guidelines.

The ever-popular elements of the May Fayre will be retained and adjusted to be Covid-secure. Inflatables, programme-selling, main arena events, the music tent and the hard-fought Horsell Scouts and Guides competitions for the May Fayre and John Marsden Trophies will all continue to feature.

Stalls providing food, fun, gifts and games have been reviewed to make them as sustainable and safe as possible. There may well be some changes in the line-up, opening the opportunity for outside organisations to take part. If this is something you would be



Photo: Lucy Longley

interested in, we will be providing more details shortly on how to sign up.

Horsell's very own Seymours Estate Agents are our headline sponsor, with Trident Honda and Halstead School providing much needed additional support to ensure the event can take place.

So, look out for the programme sellers coming door-to-door next April, armed with hand sanitiser and a bag to drop your money in! This will be your first opportunity to support the 2022 May Fayre which provides valuable opportunities to so many young people across Horsell.

For more information, please contact Dick Mackie dick.mackie49@gmail.com
Kathy Gilbert

HRA makes DofE possible for Horsell Girl Guides

We are excited that we will soon be able to offer our older girls (aged between 14 and 24) the opportunity to complete their Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) Award through Girl Guiding in Horsell. This award scheme mirrors and complements many of the values of our own organisation, encouraging girls to develop their independence, resilience, learn new skills and to be of service to others.

The D of E is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of activities comprising three progressively challenging levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold), each designed to develop a young person's physical fitness and skills and requiring them to volunteer and take part in an expedition.

In order to facilitate the expedition part of the award, our district needed to expand our camping equipment. Thanks to a very generous donation from the HRA, we have three more two-man tents and three Trangia stoves for girls to cook meals on. We are very grateful to the HRA for their help in funding this equipment, so making it possible to offer this amazing opportunity to our older Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders.

Sarah Gurden
Joint District Commissioner
Chobham and Horsell District Girlguiding

Volunteers needed for Rainbows!

As we have so many enthusiastic young members in Horsell Girlguiding we continue to appeal for additional volunteers to support our units!

In December, our Wednesday Rainbows Unit closed as we were unable to find a new volunteer leadership team to take over running the unit. Rainbows is very popular in Horsell and many of our girls started their Girlguiding journey there. If we can find some new

volunteers, we will be able to reopen the unit. This is a rewarding opportunity to work with our youngest members aged 5-7. Full support and training will be given and we'll manage the required safeguarding checks. We are flexible so if you can only do a couple of evenings a month, we'd still love to hear from you.

Girlguiding in Horsell can only happen if we have the adult volunteers to make our magic, fun, smiles and laughter happen. Even if you cannot logistically help weekly with Rainbows, or at one of our Brownie, Guide and Ranger units, there are various ways you can support

us to continue offering a local Girlguiding experience. Volunteering with us is rewarding and fun - we are a friendly, sociable and committed group who always welcome new volunteers into our team, assisting them and providing lots of support! Come and rediscover the enjoyment of Girlguiding!

If you would like to get involved - please get in touch via chobhamandhorsell@gmail.com.

Rhiannon Soper
Joint District Commissioner
Chobham and Horsell District Girlguiding

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Platinum Jubilee



Let's celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee

WHAT: Celebrations and community events

WHEN: Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June 2022

WHERE: Your street and then the green in front of The Cricketers

This is a once in a lifetime event!

Let's build on the growing neighbourliness that developed during the lockdowns to share friendship, food and fun and get to know each other a little better. The Queen herself wants us all to celebrate with the 'Big Lunch'.

What is Horsell planning to do? The main two events are the Jubilee 'Big Lunch' street parties and the Jubilee Picnic on the Green on Sunday 5th June. Of course, your street party could be on any of the celebration days.



Sunday 5th June morning: The 'Big Lunch': Street and garden parties

Organise your own 'Big Lunch' street party or party in the garden. Get all your neighbours to join in. If you want to close your street, contact Woking Borough Council on their website: <https://www.woking.gov.uk/community/street-parties> and fill in the online form. You must do this as soon as possible to be sure of getting permission. The website gives lots of useful tips for organising these events. Steetparty.org is another good online resource.

Sunday 5th June afternoon: Jubilee Picnic on the Green

Starting at 3pm there will be live music on the green in front of The Cricketers, a fancy dress parade of Monarchs, Princesses and Princes (which street will have the most royalty?) and regal crowns.

There will be games for the kids, ice cream and a big Jubilee cake.

Join with friends to make plans and bunting. Don't forget to take lots of photos on the day and submit them to theresidenteditor@gmail.com for this magazine.

Check www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend for more ideas and street party information packs.

Let's get cracking for this cracker of a day.

For further information and to volunteer help contact secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com Caroline Hughes for HRA's Second Thursday Club

Horsell 2023 Charity Calendar

WHAT: Horsell Charity Calendar 2023 - your photo could appear!

WHEN: deadline for submissions Friday 1st April 2022

HOW: Email to horsellcalendar@horsellresidents.com

The Horsell Charity Calendar has been issued every year since 2016 and has raised around £23,000 for local charities. The calendar team is starting work on the 2023 Horsell calendar

and we need your help!

We'd love to see your photos. What we're looking for is anything to do with Horsell. Here are some ideas:

- our village and common through the seasons or through the years
- flora or fauna from the common or elsewhere in Horsell
- shots from Horsell activities - the Village Show or Flowerpot Festival for example
- shots of beautiful houses or buildings in Horsell - or parts of them
- photos of artwork depicting Horsell - but if you are not the person who made that art you need to ask permission of the artist.

A few things to consider:

- the photos in the calendar are almost square - so photos need to look good in that shape
- if there are any identifiable people on the pictures, you'll need their permission to enter the photo for the calendar
- the full-size photos need to be taken at high resolution (a file size of at least 1Mb) so they will look good blown up to calendar size.

We are often short of pictures taken in summer (June - September) so don't forget photos you took then!

Please send your photos to horsellcalendar@horsellresidents.com by 1st April 2022.

Thanks for your help!
HRA's calendar team.

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VOLUNTEER POSITION AVAILABLE: HRA Minutes Secretary

Horsell Residents' Association (HRA) would like the support of a minutes secretary to produce formal minutes for our monthly meetings.

Perhaps you have wanted to do something for your community but felt you do not have enough time to offer. This opportunity may be perfect as all meetings are scheduled for an evening in the Horsell area and include only local residents.

In providing this assistance, you will be making a positive contribution to the effectiveness and operation of the Association's business and community events.

For more information, please contact Alan Taylor, Chair HRA at ajrolyat@googlemail.com



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Horsell Christmas Market 2021 Breaks Records!



Horsell's Christmas Market 2021 was a huge success, with record numbers of people and stalls. There were crafts and Christmas gifts galore, and street food ranging from paella to turkey and cranberry baps, Chinese and Indian snacks and hamburgers and hot dogs!

The band struck up at 1pm and by the middle of the afternoon it was really bustling.

Stall holders: What an amazing lot of people who beaver away at home to make their

beautiful crafts. Many sold out! Gill and the team received many emails afterwards, thanking them for being so well organised, with the supply of gazebo, table, chairs and lighting. They even helped to unload some cars – not the case at many craft markets.

Traders: Many shops had decorated their premises, and sold fantastic street food and/or gifts. They really added to the festive feel. Shall we ever forget the queue that lasted for

four hours waiting to buy burgers? Thank you to all the businesses that sponsored Horsell Christmas Market.

Performers: A big thank you to all the performers, for singing the old favourites, for the mellow tones of the brass band playing "Silent Night", and for the lively rock music.

Volunteers: In late November around 25 people decorated the Christmas trees above the shops – and took them all down again in January.

Christmas 2022: Do you want to be part of the team to organise the next Horsell Christmas Market? Do we apply to close the High Street or not? Planning starts again in August. Contact: secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com

Our aim at **Sophie Sews** is to turn the vision you have for your interiors into a gorgeous reality. We create bespoke curtains, blinds and soft furnishings for our clients, offering a design-led and personalised service from initial idea all the way through to installation.

We have also recently launched **Sophie Sews Direct** where you can order machine made, made to measure soft furnishings delivered to you direct with no need for a home visit to complement our bespoke service.

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Setting up the market itself took four days of hard work with 50 volunteers involved. After collecting supplies on the Friday, we started at 7am on the Saturday erecting gazebos, then spent the rest of the day marshalling the crowds, before taking everything down again in the evening. The gazebos were packed away on Sunday, and on Monday the borrowed items were returned to suppliers. The event was organised by a small team of HRA's Second Thursday Club members - but what a fantastic community effort! Huge thanks to everyone who took part.

Charities: The various charity stalls raised over £4,500 - another record! These included Mind, Woking Community Hospital, the WSB

hospices, disabled riders, food parcels and more. Congratulations to those stalls for the wonderful generosity shown.



St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival



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Scenes from Horsell Christmas Market 2021





Huge thanks to local photographer Cheryl Catton of www.cherylcottonphotography.co.uk for taking photos for us. You can find out more about Cheryl on page 11.

Horsell Care



Horsell Care was formed by a group of Horsell residents in 1999 to address a simple need: getting vulnerable people to their medical appointments.

Illness, disability or mobility problems make it difficult for older residents and people with short- or long-term

disabilities to get to these important appointments. In most cases the clients don't have relatives or friends living close by, so they rely on Horsell Care.

The service is mainly for the elderly, particularly those who do not drive any more or find it difficult to use public transport. Horsell Care provides a driving service fuelled by volunteers. They pick up clients from their homes, take them to their appointments (doctor, dentist, hospital, etc.) and take them home again. Volunteers use their own cars and have full DBS checks to afford comfort and security to our clients.

Our pool of driver volunteers is stretched and we would like to appeal to Horsell residents to make themselves available to drive a fellow resident once in a while to important appointments. There is no regular commitment; you drive as and when it suits your own schedule, be that once a year or once a week.

In the last 22 years, with the help and support of many volunteers, Horsell Care has helped many hundreds of residents and, in total, performed more than 19,000 jobs in serving their immediate community.

Marjorie and David Myhill, residents of Horsell for 51+ years and clients of Horsell Care more recently, added their voices to this appeal without hesitation: "We know from personal experience and comments we received from fellow clients and the community at large that Horsell

Care makes a profound difference to the lives of many people in the Horsell community."

Volunteer David Proctor said: "I have been a duty volunteer and driver for a number of years and Horsell Care is a wonderful organisation to be involved in. It is very humbling and inspirational to regularly meet clients who rely on our services who, despite their health difficulties, always have such a positive outlook on life."

Sadly, without Horsell Care and the service its volunteers provide, many vulnerable people in our community would be severely compromised.

If you have a spare moment, every once in a while and want to make a significant difference to someone in your immediate community, please leave a message on the Horsell Care helpline 01483 730 740 or send an email to horsellcare@hotmail.co.uk.

For more information, check out: <https://www.wokinggoodneighbours.com/horsell-care>

Neels Kriek



Seymours Estate Agents, Horsell

Seymours Estate Agents, Horsell, recently made a substantial donation to HRA and, as you can read below, support many Horsell initiatives. HRA thought it right to recognise their generosity by including an article about their business provided by James Taylor, Seymour's Horsell business partner.



Lloyd Moss - Partner



James Taylor - Partner

Despite there only ever being a limited number of properties for sale in Horsell, Seymours have successfully assisted hundreds of people looking to make a move in or out of the village over the last decade, cementing themselves as the local agent of choice. Since opening to specialise in the village back in early 2012 – in addition to the Seymours Woking office in the town centre – demand has led to the Seymours Horsell team tripling in size.

The natural progression to cover similar properties in a wider area from the village has brought great results in similar neighbouring areas such as Chobham, Hook Heath and The Hockering, drawing on the expertise the team has in focusing on the premium higher value market. This coupled perfectly with the introduction of the Seymours Prestige Homes offering which came in 2015.

According to Rightmove and Zoopla, Seymours have consistently sold more properties above £1million than any other agent in Woking for the last six years in a row.

Each of the 20 Seymours Surrey offices is owned and run by a partner to ensure the highest level of service. As a local business, owners Lloyd Moss and James Taylor feel it is important to offer a personal service and support the local community, schools and other local businesses in any way they can. They said: "Our business is proud to sponsor almost all local community events including the annual Horsell Village Show, Horsell Garden Safari, Horsell Scouts & Guides May Fayre, various Horsell Schools PTA events, Woking High School vocal and instrumental competition and Horsell Village Christmas Market to name a few, as well as being a club sponsor for the Woking and Horsell Cricket Club and Horsell Village Bowling Club. Seymours are also proud supporters of the Woking Sam Beare Hospice which we have raised over £40,000 for since 2018.

"They say it's all about the best possible price in the shortest possible time. But, if you find the process difficult and stressful, you won't be coming back to us. We want to be your property partner for life. Success is not just the end game. It's about earning your respect, enjoying the journey and building trusted relationships along the way.

"If you are thinking of buying or selling, give us a call or pop in for a chat."

To find out more about the services Seymours have to offer visit them at 87 High Street, Horsell, call 01483 755222 or visit the website www.seymours-estates.co.uk

James Taylor



Meet our Horsell traders

Some of our local traders, who help make our village such a vibrant place, have told us a bit about themselves and their businesses. Make the most of them – shop local and keep Horsell special!

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

Name of Horsell business: **Kiwi & Scot**

What do you do? We sell Italian Barista coffee, home-baked cakes and a brunch menu Fri-Sun. Our lunch menu changes seasonally, featuring dishes such as Nutella® French toast, brioche bap with sausage or bacon, smashed avocado on toast and much more.

Who might I speak to if I get in touch? Me, Grace Fraser, the founder of Kiwi & Scot.

Where are you and how do I get in touch? We're on the canal in Woking, in front of Brewery Road Car Park and the WWF centre.

Website: www.kiwiandscot.com

Phone: 07940 783959

email address: info@kiwiandscot.com

Direct message on Instagram or Facebook @kiwiandscot

So, who are you and why did you set up this business? I am a Horsell resident who set up Kiwi & Scot in lockdown due to redundancy

from my hospitality marketing career, where I looked after the marketing for many London restaurants, bars and cafés. The idea of the café boat had always been in my mind, so the coffee van was a way to test the waters. Kiwi & Scot now has two sites: the café boat permanently moored in Woking, and our café trailer in front of the West End Sports Pavilion.

Why do you love your work? What are the best bits? My favourite bits about my job are all the amazing people that you meet. I absolutely love to chat and so many of our customers have now become my friends. Throughout lockdown, a lonely time for a lot of people, we managed to create a real hub that people felt they could come to and have a quick chat with us as well as grab a coffee! I absolutely love working on the water on the café boat, having spent a lot of my life on boats as my father is a keen sailor.



What are your best sellers? Our best sellers for drinks are always our special iced coffees and hot chocolates depending on the season. Different toppings make them really exciting: some of the favourites are Biscoff®, Malteser®Crunch and Salted Caramel. Best brunch sellers are the bacon and sausage brioche baps, and the Nutella® French toast served warm with berries.



Name of Horsell business:

Cheryl Catton Photography

What do you do? I am a bump-to-baby and beyond photographer, offering maternity, newborn, older baby and family sessions. My style is pure and simple – based

on minimalism, whites, light and shadows. I also offer commercial photography such as headshots and personal branding sessions for small businesses.

Who might I speak to if I get in touch? Me! Cheryl Catton.

Where are you and how do I get in touch? I have a studio in Horsell.

Website: www.cherylcattontphotography.co.uk

Mobile: 0777 436 2547

Email: admin@cherylcattontphotography.co.uk

Instagram: [#cherylcattontphotography](https://www.instagram.com/cherylcattontphotography)

Facebook: [@cherylcattontphotography](https://www.facebook.com/cherylcattontphotography)

So, who are you and why did you set up this business? I am a Horsell mum and a photographer. I have always had a passion for photography and after having children my husband encouraged me to look into photography as a business. It was quite a scary jump after working in the corporate world of HR for 19 years, but I haven't looked back since! I feel extremely lucky to be doing something I absolutely love.

Why do you love your work? It's such an honour to be a part of the most precious moments of people's lives and to be able to capture and freeze these special memories for them. I meet the most amazing people in this job!

What are the best bits of your job? Definitely the baby cuddles! I also love being a part of making women feel great about their beautiful bodies during maternity sessions and being able to watch families grow as they come back for more sessions.



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Natural Horsell



Our Amazing Heathlands



Spring on the heath

Although it's likely that I'm contractually obliged to sing the praises of heathland, I genuinely do think it is amazing! On every single visit, regardless of time of year, I always discover something that amazes me. And the closer I look, the more I discover.

I am so lucky that I get lots of opportunities to share the wonders of wildlife with others as part of my job.

Connecting with nature is good for you... and nature!

It turns out, I'm onto something with this sharing. Recent research has demonstrated a causal relationship between nature connectedness and pro-environmental behaviours. This means that the more someone actively engages with nature, the more they will take actions to benefit the environment. This can only be a good thing – for the environment and people.

Stop, look, listen and improve your nature connectedness

On your walks, have you ever thought about just slowing right down, picking a spot and then stopping, looking, listening and smelling? In the interest of health and safety, I'd draw the line at tasting!

It might take a while to get your eye in, but, in time, you'll be amazed at all the little things you notice... That mini spider whizzing across a leaf, that teeny tiny mushroom growing out of a pine cone or the different types of lichen growing on a fencepost.



Leaf miner caterpillar.
Photo: Michael Jones

If you hadn't taken the time to look, you would have missed a tiny world of wonder unfolding everywhere around you. The closer you look, the more you notice.

Take a closer look...

On your next walk, look out for the following...

- Tiny fungi
- Mini forests of lichen on a fencepost
- A ladybird patiently waiting for spring to arrive
- A caterpillar's life story on a leaf

I'm currently a bit obsessed with looking at leaf miner caterpillar trails on bramble leaves – each one unique, documenting the life decisions of a tiny caterpillar as it moves from emergence from an egg to making it to an adult moth!

Ground-nesting birds

As the calendar ticks into March, we enter bird nesting season once again. It is an important time for some rare heathland birds, like the woodlark, nightjar and other, more common species, like stonechat and chiffchaff, seeking to breed. These birds nest on the ground, so please give them space by keeping to main footpaths, keeping dogs out of vegetation and preventing fires. Your help with this is very much appreciated.

If you ever see me or one of the wardens on a local heath (we're the ones wearing burgundy polo shirts and I'm often lying down somewhere getting a bee's-eye-view of the world!), please do stop and say hello. And, if you know of a group (school class, Brownies, U3A, natural history society... anyone, basically!) who would like to connect with nature, please get in touch.

Michael Jones

Education Officer, Thames Basin Heaths Partnership

tbhschools@naturalengland.org.uk www.tbhpartnership.org.uk



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

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Horsell Gardens



Chimonanthus praecox is a less susceptible species. Photo: Pam Barden.

As dutiful gardeners we keep our plants healthy by checking for pests and diseases, but how do you keep them safe from problems you can't see? Honey Fungus, *Armillaria*, is one such hidden concern. It is the most destructive fungus in the UK and many gardeners will turn white at the mere mention of it, but should we be terrified of this silent killer?

There are seven types of Honey Fungus in Britain, three of which are found in gardens. Most pathogenic is *Armillaria mellea*. *A. ostoyae* and *A. gallica* less-so. Vast colonies of rhizomorphs, unseen underground, network through the soil, making it the planet's largest organism. With the ability to travel up to a metre per year it is easy to see how it has spread.

In the wild, it rarely causes problems as other fungi add competition and keep it in check. In gardens it has managed to gain the upper hand, causing the death of many garden stalwarts such as lilac, viburnum and privet, attacking and killing off the root systems, especially of mature specimens. In 2019 and 2020 Honey Fungus was the most enquired about garden disease at the RHS so it is definitely a problem that is troubling UK gardeners. I'm seeing more signs of it in my clients' gardens in Horsell too. Often, the initial signs of branch die-back (especially in hot weather), pale

foliage or lack of flowering are discounted as other causes. Not having signs of the mushrooms themselves, does not mean it is not within your soil. These only appear after the rhizomorphs have been active for a few years, often after the death of a plant. It is at this point those gardeners might go looking for the characteristic black bootlaces in the soil. The mushrooms don't determine which strain of Honey Fungus you have, nor do they increase the spread as the spores play no part in its lifecycle.

If you are certain the Honey Fungus has already taken hold in your garden, then all is not lost. While there are no chemicals available for its control, the infected roots and stump material should be destroyed. A physical barrier such as a butyl liner or removal of the infected soil can help to stop the fungus spreading further. Any new plant acquisitions can be chosen from a long list of less susceptible species such as *Calycanthus*, *Chimonanthus* and *Salvia*. Adding beneficial Mycorrhizal fungi, which naturally occurs in the soil, to the planting holes of new plants will mean the symbiotic relationship they have can begin instantly. These microscopic organisms partner with the root systems of around 95% of the plants on Earth. They form a secondary root system for the plant which absorbs water and nutrients from the soil. The Mycorrhizal fungi will also act as competition for the Honey Fungus, reducing its vigour.

The most important thing you can do is to grow your plants as healthily as you can by ensuring they have sufficient water, nutrients, drainage and are free of pests. Healthy plants are less open to attack, especially by the lesser strains of *Armillaria gallica*. Planting that is too deep and soils with stagnant water are more susceptible to Honey Fungus, as are plants with mulches piled against the woody stems. Mulching with woodchip or bark chip may also increase the risk slightly, so opting for compost or gravel may prove safer choices. Ultimately, it is perfectly possible to have a beautiful garden that has come out of the destruction of Honey Fungus.



Salvias planted in a garden with Honey Fungus. Photo: Pam 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.

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A visitor to Horsell: Robert Baden-Powell

While researching Scouts and Guides in Woking for a display at The Lightbox we came across a fascinating item in the British Newspaper Archive.

On the evening of 26th July 1901 General Baden-Powell arrived at Southampton on the steamer 'Saxon'. He had become a popular if controversial hero in Britain due to his exploits at the siege of Mafeking during the Second Boer War. A large crowd greeted him, and he was welcomed at the ship's gangway by Southampton's Mayor of Corporation.

Previously, on the 23rd July, Baden-Powell had sent a telegram to a Captain McLaren of Horsell at the Colonial Office. It read: 'Could you put me up Friday night incognito?' and was signed 'Bloater', McLaren's name for Baden-Powell, who called him 'Boy'.

However, the rumours circulated in Woking. On 27th July, Captain McLaren and his wife were seen leaving their Horsell home to board a train to Southampton. The McLarens were known to be good friends of Baden-Powell, who was their daughter Eilean's godfather. The servants were excited, and Eilean was seen in a mailcart wearing a red, white and blue rosette and a portrait of Baden-Powell; the nurse and dog were similarly attired.

Woking station received a telegram in the late afternoon to 'Expect B-P and party at Woking. Will send time of despatch later' and then another telegram 'B-P has left Southampton at 5.52'. He had a special carriage attached to the rear of the mail train. News spread quickly through Woking and caused much excitement. Captain Sherlock of the Fire Brigade hastily arranged for the station to be decorated with portraits, union flags, even royal standards. Many residents hung flags from their windows and streamers flew in Chertsey Road, Chobham Road and The Grove.

The train arrived early at 7.06pm, by which time a large crowd had assembled at the station and were happy to stand in the rain to see their hero on his first day back in Britain. The Fire Brigade formed a guard of honour. Removing the horse from the front of the carriage specially decorated with Baden-Powell's portrait, the firemen pulled it along Chertsey Road and Chobham Road, over Wheatsheaf Bridge and into The Grove, to 'Glengarry', the McLaren home.

On arrival at The Grove Baden-Powell was cheered enthusiastically. He gave Captain Sherlock money 'for the brigade to drink my health' and it is reputed they spent the evening enjoying their present at the Railway Hotel (now The Sovereigns). The 'West Surrey Times' reported some overheard local rivalry: a Woking resident said to a Horsell resident 'This is a great honour for Woking, isn't it?', but the reply came 'Please remember that Baden-Powell is staying in Horsell to-night, and Horsell is very proud of the honour'. The Woking resident is said to have apologised.

During the visit, a local photographer, Alfred Wildman, took a photograph of Baden-Powell standing in the porch of his hosts' home, (now known as the Bright Horizons' Teddies Woking Day Nursery). It was published in 'The Sphere' on 3 August 1901.

After his night in Horsell Baden-Powell caught the 2.31pm train to Godalming on the way to his old school, Charterhouse. He had a good send-off with cheers at Woking station and spoke to the ticket collector, Mr Phelps.

Robert Baden-Powell's life is well documented, but what happened to Captain McLaren? From Harrow School and Sandhurst, his first military career had been spent in Afghanistan and then Africa where he became one of Baden-Powell's best friends. Here he was taken prisoner and held for six months, earning the DSO.

He was a keen polo player and an umpire in the polo matches at the 1908 London Olympic Games.



Captain Kenneth McLaren on his polo pony. Courtesy of Dix Noonan Webb, who sold his campaign medals at auction in 2020

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Remembrance Day 2021

The new vicar of St Mary's Church welcomed a congregation of around 300 to his first Remembrance Sunday service in Horsell.

Dmitry Lutsenko walked with parishioners from morning service at the church down the High Street to the war memorial.

There he led a crowd of young and old to join together in prayer, hymns and singing of the National Anthem as the village remembered those who gave their lives during military conflicts.

The names of villagers who died in the two world wars were read out by Ciaran Osgerby, a retired captain in the Light Dragoons, and retired Royal Navy Commander Ashley Carter.

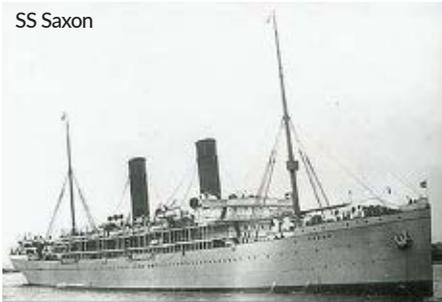
The Last Post and Reveille was performed by 14-year-old Gregorio Dotta, a pupil at Woking High School who has played the bugle for about five years and is a member of West Surrey Wind Band.

And, after a perfectly observed two-minute silence, wreaths were laid firstly by members of the Horsell Scouts and Guides and then on behalf of the Women's Institute, Woking Lions and Horsell Residents' Association.

Pete Grieve

Photos: Pete Grieve





SS Saxon

When Baden-Powell conducted his first experiments in scouting for boys at the camp on Brownsea Island in 1907, McLaren was one of the two 'Scout Masters' there and served as secretary once the Scout movement was under way. But there were

disagreements with Arthur Pearson, the publisher, who was Baden-Powell's backer, and he left after three months.

Kenneth McLaren's residence in Horsell was brief, probably only from 1900 to 1904, by which time he had left for Kensington where his wife died of multiple sclerosis aged only 29. Kenneth re-married Ethel Mary Wilson in 1910. This caused a permanent rift between him and Baden-Powell, who took exception to her and did not attend his old friend's wedding. Olave, whom Robert met and married in 1912 also felt Ethel was beneath Kenneth as the daughter of a 'struggling Yorkshire farmer' (the family farm was an extensive 160 acres). But she also disliked Baden-Powell's friendship with McLaren, as well as his other former friends. Kenneth was not invited to their wedding. Baden-Powell did however keep in contact with Kenneth's daughter Eilean.

McLaren re-joined the army at the outbreak of the First World War, but was discharged due to 'softening of the brain', a violent depression which Baden-Powell had detected some years earlier. He spent his final years in mental health institutions, mostly in Camberwell, where he died in 1924.

The next occupants of 'Glangarry' were the Farquharson family, again with a military background. The names of two sons appear on Horsell War Memorial, but that is another story...

References: British Newspaper Archive (the Wildman photo can be seen there); Ancestry.co.uk; 'Daily Mail' article 7 Dec 2018, online. Note that Kenneth's name is variously spelled MacLaren and McLaren but he signed his marriage certificate McLaren so we have used that form throughout.

Richard and
Rosemary Christophers



Baden-Powell in the uniform of the 13th Hussars. Reproduced with the kind permission of Stephen Luscombe



Photo: The Lightbox

We have lived in Horsell since 1967 and have watched the town transformed at least twice. Richard was a curator in the British Museum, later the British Library. His PhD is on the 16th century Surrey clergy. Rosemary was a chartered librarian, working in public and school libraries. We are members of Woking History Society, and heritage volunteers at The Lightbox.

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