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# THE Resident



The magazine of Horsell Residents' Association

Summer 2022

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[theresidenteditor.wixsite.com/magazine](http://theresidenteditor.wixsite.com/magazine)  
[www.horsellresidents.com](http://www.horsellresidents.com)

Photo: Sue Waters

# A word from the editorial team

## Greetings...

Exactly two years from the start of the first lockdown I tested positive for Covid for the first time. This Omicron variant is tearing its way through the entire population, and it seems no-one is fully immune – not even our lovely editor, Lucy. So now that I'm fully recovered I agreed to write the Editorial for this issue.

Which got me thinking about teamwork. When Sue and I joined the Editorial team, it very quickly became clear how this would make a big difference to the production of *The Resident*. The huge amount of work involved could be shared out between the three of us – that's what a team is for!

And looking through the articles in this issue, we can see how much this village relies on, and indeed relishes, teamwork. HRA's Second Thursday Club is a case in point. The Platinum Jubilee Celebration plans were hatched and are being brought to fruition by that team. Footpaths have been cleared by a group of members, while other groups organise the Horsell Walks, Charity

Calendar, Christmas Market, Woodlanders, Litter Pickers...

The Horsell Scrubbers team, set up during lockdown, continue to help the community with their Scrub Hub. Then there's Horsell Prepared, set up years before the pandemic, who made such a difference to so many people during the lockdowns, and continue to offer help in the event of a community incident. And events like the Village Show just wouldn't happen without teamwork.

Being part of a team is so rewarding because the more you contribute, the more you get out of it. You learn new skills and new things about yourself, meet new people and make new friends or cement existing friendships, and create things that couldn't be achieved by individuals working alone. Here in Horsell our wonderful teams help make it such a vibrant and lively place to live.

*Linda*

## Horsell Residents' Association Membership

With the spring edition of *The Resident* magazine, we distributed letters to some people where we are uncertain of their membership status. If you received a letter and have not replied, could I please ask you to do so, even if you no longer wish to retain your membership. We are currently updating our membership database and this will really help us.

Should you have any questions relating to this, membership in general, or are interested in becoming a member of HRA, then please do not hesitate to contact me at [ajrolyat@gmail.com](mailto:ajrolyat@gmail.com).

You can find the HRA membership form at [horsellresidents.com/home/JoinUs](https://horsellresidents.com/home/JoinUs).

Thank you,

Alan Taylor, Chair, HRA

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

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**Advertising co-ordinator:** Ian Berry [theresidentads@gmail.com](mailto:theresidentads@gmail.com)

**NEXT ISSUE:** Autumn 2022

**Advertising deadline:** noon Sunday 17th July

**Copy deadline:** noon Sunday 24th July

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

# THE Resident

Published by **Horsell Residents' Association Limited**  
Registered charity (1162487) and limited company (05377490)

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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](http://www.horsellresidents.com) for full details of our aims and benefits.

Annual household membership is £5 by standing order or just pay £50 for lifelong household membership.

To download a membership form go to:  
[www.horsellresidents.com/home/JoinUs](http://www.horsellresidents.com/home/JoinUs)  
or email [info@horsellresidents.com](mailto:info@horsellresidents.com).

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The Printworks, St John's Lye, Woking,  
Surrey GU21 7RS. Tel: 884884  
Email: [sales@wokingprint.com](mailto:sales@wokingprint.com)

Artwork by: TBB Design.  
Tel: 829185  
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# Horsell celebrates



Alan Taylor, HRA Chair

## View from the Chair

The UK's 1968 Eurovision entry, 'Congratulations' included the lyrics: 'congratulations and jubilations'. How fitting these words are when in June we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with our own Jubilee Picnic on The Green, details of which are covered below.

'Jubilations' takes our memories back to June 2012, when Horsell village celebrated Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, and what a significant moment this turned out to be for the Horsell Residents' Association and the annual events which we currently enjoy.

I spoke to the lead organiser, Tony Kremer, who had the initial vision for a village celebration. Tony explained that following a meeting in the Village Hall in January 2012 a sub-committee was formed to plan the event, giving itself a challenging timescale of less than six months.

It was decided to close off the High Street to enable marquees to be erected with tables and chairs for a 'bring your own' (or purchase from village traders) feast. There was a hog roast and a BBQ available with teas being served from the Village Hall. There was a constant sound of music from various local groups and face painting was in demand - mostly from the children! Bunting strewn across the High Street added colour to the occasion against a very grey sky.

Tony was delighted that an estimated 3,500 residents attended and

£3,000 was raised for local charities. Given that it was a cold rainy day, this was a marvellous example of our Horsell community coming together.

So why was this a significant event for the HRA? Up to this point HRA had focused primarily on the traditions of promoting, upholding, and protecting the interests of residents in matters that affect Horsell and its environs. The Queen's Jubilation of June 2012 expanded this outlook. The enthusiasm and success of those involved, some of whom have now left the village, sparked a desire to continue to arrange events for the benefit of Horsell residents. The Second Thursday Club was established as the community events group of the HRA; it is this team that today works hard to organise many of the village events. If you would like to know more about activities or become involved, then please email [secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com](mailto:secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com).

It is disappointing to report that Tony Kremer's health now prevents him from being involved in these events, but I sincerely hope that we will see him at the Jubilee Picnic and that he will feel contentment knowing what he started back in 2012.

After two years of Covid restrictions I hope that everyone will embrace the spirit of the Queen's four-day Jubilee celebrations. Enjoy your Big Jubilee Lunch, Street or Garden Party with your neighbours and then please come and enjoy the unique community spirit of Horsell at our Jubilee Picnic on The Green on Sunday 5th June.

I wish everyone an enjoyable celebration.

Alan Taylor, HRA Chair



## Platinum Jubilee celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign

### The Big Jubilee Lunch 2022, June 5th (or 2nd, 3rd, 4th!)

Let's come together and celebrate in Horsell. Get together with your neighbours for a street party or garden party. Have fun and enjoy the special friendship of neighbours.

### Platinum Jubilee Picnic on the Green

**WHEN:** Sunday 5th June, 3 to 5pm

**WHERE:** The green in front of The Cricketers, Horsell Birch

**COST:** Free!

Horsell residents are invited to the Jubilee Picnic on the Green with live music, games, a parade of monarchs and a big celebration cake. Horsell Junior School has made bunting especially for the occasion. There will be an ice-cream van and The Cricketers will be selling drinks.

Join in the **Parade of Monarchs!** Children, adults and teddies are all invited to have some fun dressing up as royalty with crowns and gowns. There will be a special parade at 4.30pm. Maybe your street could have its own royal family with a whole retinue of kings, queens, princes and princesses!

Please come on foot as we cannot offer extra parking.



## DON'T MISS OUT!

3 - 4pm Adam Moloney and Lost in Surrey band

4 - 4.30pm Horsell Community Choir

4.30pm Parade of Monarchs - open to all, dressed up in crowns and gowns

5pm Cake time!

5.15 - 5.45pm Surrey Ukeaholics

6 - 7pm Bad Weather Friends

During the afternoon: paper plane challenge, children's games. Ice-cream van and drinks from The Cricketers.



## CAN YOU HELP?

Please get in touch if you can help make this a fantastic celebration for all. We need people to:

- Bake an 8" square tin Victoria Sponge cake
- Help with erecting gazebos and/or taking them down

- Be part of the team providing general assistance

- Run the children's games
- Do a stint as a first-aider

If you can help with any of these, please email: [secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com](mailto:secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com)

Thank you!

# Horsell Events

**WHAT:** Horsell Garden Safari

**WHEN:** Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June

**WHERE:** selected Horsell gardens

**COST:** £8 brochure, available from Premier, Lisa Jones, Seymours, Horsell Framing or Gail on 07759313492

We are looking forward to welcoming all our visitors back to the Horsell Garden Safari this June. Make sure that you have the dates of 11th and 12th June in your diary so that you can meet up with friends and enjoy the various gardens on offer and maybe relax with a cup of tea and cake! This is our 20th year and we are looking forward to enjoying it in this Queen's jubilee year – so come and celebrate the British love of gardens and plants (we are, of course,

renowned for being the best gardeners in the world!!) in this exciting year.

Our gardens offer a lovely mix of the new and familiar, the small and the large, and all in a range of styles. If you haven't been to the allotments, go and find them on Sunday 12th June and enjoy the amazing range of flowers, fruit and vegetables – you might well be inspired to grow your own if you haven't done so before. This year Woking High School will also open their garden on Saturday 11th to showcase what a grant from the Garden Safari can help support in terms of a garden well-being area for pupils and staff.

So, get your walking shoes on or pump up the bicycle tyres in readiness, and join us for a wonderful outdoor weekend! Brochures should be on sale mid-May.

Gail Bromley



Photo: Gail Bromley

## Horsell Village Show

**WHAT:** Horsell Village Show

**WHEN:** Saturday 23rd July 12.30 – 4.30pm

**WHERE:** Horsell Junior School

After the success of last year, plans are being put in place for this year's village show, which we hope will be as enjoyable as the one in 2021.

As usual the show will be held at the Horsell C of E Junior School in Meadway Drive, but will start earlier than before with the official opening at 12.30 pm, ending at 4.30 pm.

There will also be craft stalls, a tombola, a bottle tombola and a raffle. Visitors can enjoy a burger or other savouries for their lunch, washed down by a Thurston's beer or a refreshing Pimm's, with soft drinks available

too. Ice creams will be on sale – so let's hope the sun shines on the day!

Afternoon tea is a traditional and much looked forward to element of a village show, so come along to the tea marquee where we hope that the wonderful bakers from St Mary's Church will be providing the teas.

We hope that you and your family will consider entering one of the many classes in the show, ranging from fruit and vegetables, cookery, handicrafts, art and photography, novelty and children's classes. Schedules will be available in the village shops nearer the time or you can book online on [www.horsellvillageshow.co.uk](http://www.horsellvillageshow.co.uk). You can also book a craft stall online or you can contact me on [mepiper7@gmail.com](mailto:mepiper7@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Marion Piper – Secretary, Horsell Village Show



## Horsell Flowerpot Festival 28th May-31st August 2022

We're starting early this year to combine the Flowerpot Festival with the Jubilee celebrations!

Why not make a jubilee-themed flowerpot creation this year? Maybe a Queen, a King or a crown. (Or, of course, make whatever you like!)

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) then **Flowerpot Festival 2022**



To be included in the Flowerpot Trail Map, email: [secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com](mailto:secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com) with the name of your creation, your postcode, and permission to use those details.

For more details, including hints and tips on how to make a flowerpot creation, go to: [www.horsellresidents.com](http://www.horsellresidents.com)



If you would like to join the Flowerpot Festival team, please contact Lizzie at [secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com](mailto:secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com).

# Horsell Prepared

## Help Horsell be Prepared for the Unthinkable

Funny story: In 2019 (if you can remember that far back), at a Horsell Prepared meeting we were discussing what scenarios to prepare for. I suggested thinking about the risk of a flu pandemic. The team laughed at me. "That won't happen", they said. "And anyway, how would we prepare for it?"

I know, Covid was not a laughing matter. But they were right that this was difficult to prepare for. Before Covid, lockdown had been unthinkable. It certainly wasn't in the government's embarrassingly inadequate pandemic plan.

But, as it happens, we were more prepared for it than we thought. Just having a resilience organisation in existence, with decision makers, a list of volunteers, and the technology to instantly set up a virtual helpline and deal with requests, meant we could improvise and implement a plan almost immediately, providing help to residents before the Prime Minister declared a pandemic emergency.

Most people in Horsell may not realise that we existed before Covid. But we did, and we will continue to serve Horsell after Covid too.

Our original idea was to have a long list of volunteers with varied skills (or none), who could be called upon to man a response to support emergency services or utility companies managing a community incident. A small team of Virtual Coordinators would work online to call out volunteers, while Field Coordinators would meet at the incident site, liaise with the authorities, and direct volunteers in whatever tasks are useful.

We're reverting to this mode of operation to be ready for location-specific incidents, however silly or improbable they may seem. Our most recent practice was to deal with an imaginary toxic gas leak requiring evacuation of Common Close!

The Ukraine situation really brings home how rapidly a society can move from normality to emergency, and the global situation may affect us in smaller but significant ways over the coming months, with power cuts, food shortages and other disruptions all possible.

You can get involved to build our community's resilience to these risks and others such as adverse weather. We are now developing

and training volunteer Coordinators. The commitment is low (one meeting a month at most) but the responsibility and your contribution will be significant. You'll learn our IT system and key processes and practise working with other Coordinators.

Together, we can be ready for anything, even situations and incidents that we might laugh at now as unthinkable.

To find out more, go to [horsellprepared.com](http://horsellprepared.com), or email your enquiry to [horsellprepared@gmail.com](mailto:horsellprepared@gmail.com).

*Helen Cammack*



## Horsell Village Show – can you help?

Help in running this show would also be appreciated and if you would like to help with an attraction, manning the gate, helping with erecting/taking down marquees, or putting up bunting you will be very, very welcome. If you would like to help please contact the Show Chairman, Carol Cheesman, on 07836 274801.



## Yoga / Pilates

**Mondays** 10:30 Pilates  
12:00 Yoga  
18:30 Pilates  
20:00 Yoga  
**Tuesdays** 20:15 Yoga

Front entrance, Horsell Village Hall  
Free parking next to hall

117 High Street, Horsell, Woking GU21 4SS

Email: [yogabyshen@gmail.com](mailto:yogabyshen@gmail.com)

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# Horsell afternoon WI

Taking all the necessary precautions, members of Horsell's afternoon WI have been meeting in the Village Hall again. We are enjoying catching up with friends and being entertained by singers, actors and speakers.



Callum Russell and WI member Ingrid Sheers  
Photo: Alison Evans Wyatt

In January, members listened to Callum Russell explain the work of 'Sight for Surrey' and tell us about his South American wanderings. Drum playing local lad Callum spoke easily and informatively about his life, work and future plans. Sight for Surrey is a charity offering



February knitters Photo: Alison Evans Wyatt

support for people who are blind, partially sighted, deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing and you can find out more about them at [sightforsurrey.org.uk](http://sightforsurrey.org.uk).

For February, members put their crafting skills to the test either knitting, stitching or sticking. Members can choose their passion or learn new skills whilst gaining tips from others. The knitters joined the Big Knit project making tiny hats for Innocent Smoothie bottles. When sold later in the year Innocent will donate a percentage to Age UK.

We welcomed Malcolm Wells in March, to hear a talk entitled 'So Far So Good'. This was a whistle-stop tour through his charity work. In April, members learned about the Birds of Surrey from the RSPB.

Horsell Afternoon WI meet on the first Thursday each month at 1.45pm in the Village Hall. We always welcome new members. Please come along and join us, meet friends and make new ones.

Contact [horsellafternoonwi@gmail.com](mailto:horsellafternoonwi@gmail.com) or tel. 01483 765570 and speak to Alison.

Alison Evans Wyatt



I finished an ultramarathon!

## Horsell's marathon man

I'm Jonathan, 34 and I live in South Road, Horsell. In 2022 I'll be running 12 marathons. This was originally to raise money for Welcome Works, which is the community work that is done by Welcome Church, Woking. However, this changed in March as I feel I also need to raise money for Ukraine.

When I tell people I'm doing this, they generally just want to know why on Earth I am trying to run 12 marathons in 12 months.

Well, a couple of things happened for me during the pandemic which have led me to this crazy and slightly scary marathon of marathons!

1. I have always done a bit of running, but never very far. In June 2021 I actually managed my first ever marathon! I had somehow managed to become a marathon runner, and was looking

for my next challenge!

2. I started going to Welcome Church in Woking, and was blown away by their "Welcome Works". This is the social action they do to support all sorts of people in need. This includes a debt centre, a money course, a job club and lots more. I felt like I'd love to raise some money to enable Welcome Works to help even more people.

So, putting these two things together, I came up with 12 in 12 - running 12 marathons across 12 different UK towns and cities in 12 months. Obviously, it'll only help others if I get sponsorship, so please click on the QR code or go to [gofund.me/0281f863](https://gofund.me/0281f863).

So far I have run a 33-mile ultramarathon in Scotland (well, 'run' is a bit generous, but I finished it). By the time you read this I should also have completed the Brighton Marathon in April and returning there for the trail version of the marathon in June.

Thank you!

Jonathan Smith



## 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](mailto:ajrolyat@googlemail.com)

NEXT OPEN MORNING

Saturday 24th September

10am - 12noon

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# The Scrub Hub



Alan Taylor presents Claire Cummings with HRA's funding for BSL-English interpreters



All photos: Horsell Scrubbers

The first Horsell Scrubbers Hub was held on 12th March 2022 in the St Andrew's room next to St Mary's Church, Horsell. I was quite nervous, not knowing if anyone would come, but I didn't need to be – it was a great success! From 12.30pm, the room was a hive of activity with Horsell Scrubbers organising, cutting, ironing, machining and folding Ukrainian flags, which have since arrived at the front in Ukraine.

From 1.30pm there was a steady stream of local people bringing in items for repair. Requests ranged from covering a moth hole on a favourite jacket (an embroidered flower did the job), mending a jumper, re-attaching the hood to a child's beloved dinosaur onesie and repairing a frayed section of a seam on a tent ready for a family weekend away. It was lovely meeting members of the public and chatting whilst mending amongst the bright blue and yellow of the flags and the hum of sewing

machines. Tea and coffee were even on offer! More Scrub Hubs are planned this year. All are open from 1.30pm – 3.30pm for drop-in repairs. During these, we also have a programme of workshops (1.30pm – 3.30pm) planned as follows:

- 14th May – basic repairs
- 11th June – hand sewing
- 16th July – refreshing garments
- September – date TBC

All workshops are free of charge, there will be sewing machines (apart from the hand sewing workshop) set up for you to try and sewing tools will be provided. There are 12 places available per workshop. Please e-mail me at purple-porpoise@hotmail.com to book a place.

We would like to extend a very big thank you to Horsell Residents' Association for donating funds to cover the cost of British Sign Language (BSL)-English Interpreters. These enable me to lead and participate fully in meetings and to interact effectively with the public. Also, a very big thank you to Councillor Lance Spencer for his donation through the Members' Community Allocation Fund. This covers the costs of booking the room and buying the supplies that we need for the workshops.

Claire Cummings  
Horsell Scrubbers

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# Horsell Post Boxes walk

## Why a Post Box Walk?

Back in lockdown, working from home with only an hour for lunch, I was getting a bit fed up with walking round and round the same roads in Horsell so I started looking out for something new to spot each time. That's when I learnt that it is amazing how many things you walk by in everyday life and don't really see until you look properly. None more so than the humble post box. Who knew they were so varied? Then I got to thinking that a themed post box walk would be a good alternative for a rainy day when it's too wet to walk on the common - with the added bonus of plenty of iSpy opportunities for children. So here

are not one, but two post box walks and some suggestions for things to look out for.

**A few post box facts:** The first UK post box appeared in 1853 and there are now around 115,500 in the UK including pillar boxes, and wall boxes. You can tell which king's or queen's reign they were made in from the letters and numbers in the "cypher" on the front. For more on post boxes see: [lbsg.org](http://lbsg.org)

**Some iSpy suggestions:** Which monarch was on the throne when the post box was made? What are the latest posting times on the post box? Is it an NHS priority post box? Who made the post box? (This can't be seen on all of them but is usually on the bottom when you can see it).

**TIME:** Allow about 1 hour for the full walk (6 post boxes), or 25 minutes for the short version (4 post boxes).

**DISTANCE:** The full walk is about 2¼ miles, the shorter walk is just under 1 mile.

**START:** Outside the Post Office, Horsell High Street.

Words and pictures:  
Lizzie Judson



### 1 Horsell High Street to Ormonde Road and Well Lane.

Start at Horsell Post Office (where else?) in front of the first post box for Queen Elizabeth II (EIIR cypher) - you can't tell who made this one. Cross the road at the crossing, then turn right. Turn left into Ormonde Road, and continue down Well Lane to St Mary's Road.

1 Horsell Post Office

### 2 St Mary's Road to Kirby Road.

A King George VI (GVIR) post box is on the corner of Well Lane and St Mary's Road - nestled in the hedge - you can't tell who made this one either. Continue down St Mary's Road and turn left into Kirby Road.



2 St Mary's Road



3 Waldens Park Road

### 3 Waldens Park Road to Church Hill and High Street.

Across the road where Kirby Road meets Waldens Park Road is a George V (GR) post box - pictured with its hat from last year, sadly now gone. Turn right and follow the road until it joins Church Hill. Continue left past St Mary's Church to between The Horsell Framing Company and Poppies and Peonies.





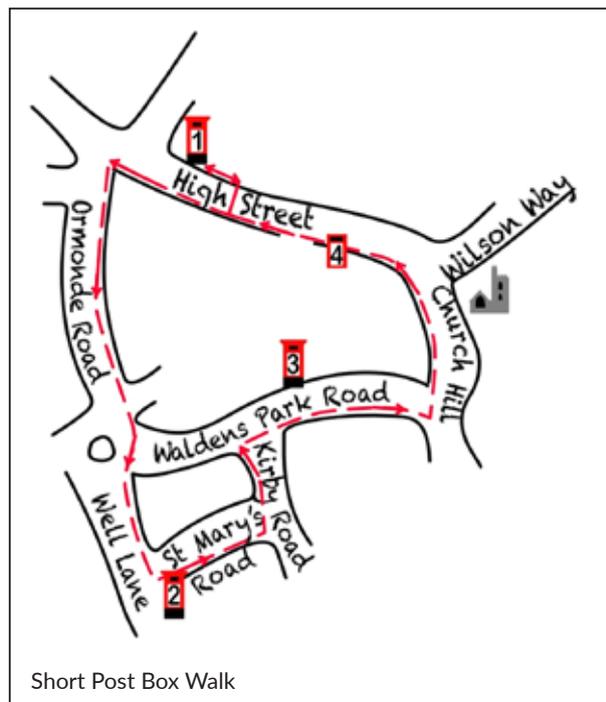
#### 4 High Street to Wilson Way and Horsell Park.

Post box number four is in the wall. This doesn't have a cypher but EVIIR – Edward VII – one of the oldest boxes on this route. The maker is written at the bottom but hard to read.

4 The Horsell Framing Company/  
Poppies & Peonies

The short walk continues from here up the High Street to finish at the Post Office. See map.

To continue the full walk, double back towards St Mary's and turn left down Wilson Way. At the end, turn right to follow the churchyard fence down the narrow footpath. Take the first right turn into another short footpath leading to Horsell Park. Walk straight on to the T junction.



Short Post Box Walk



Walk by Lizzie Judson.  
Map by Linda Russell.  
All photos © Lizzie Judson.



When not spotting post boxes, Lizzie can be found on the Horsell Charity Calendar team, the Flowerpot Festival team, helping out at events such as the Christmas market and leading some of the evening walks in summer.



#### 5 Horsell Park, Horsell Vale and Horsell Rise.

Post box number five is on the right at the T junction – another George V (GR) post box – at time of writing still wearing its hat. Turn left and straight on to the narrow footpath that leads to Horsell Vale. Turn left to the end of Horsell Vale, turn right into Church Road and at the end of Church Road turn left up the hill.

5 Horsell Park

#### 6 Horsell Rise, Ridgeway and Meadway Drive.

Post box number six is opposite the turning into Ridgeway – another Edward VII (EVIIR) box with a lovely swirly cypher.

Turn left down Ridgeway, then left again when it meets the end of Meadway Drive. Follow Meadway Drive back to Horsell Post Office.

6 Horsell Rise



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

Horsell Walks every Wednesday, starting at 10am and, from 19th May, Thursday evenings, starting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. For details, please contact Caroline at [c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com).

# Horsell Footpaths

All photos:  
Anthony and Jenny Saunders

## Our ever-decreasing footpaths Take a look at your hedges please

Horsell's footpaths are a very valuable asset to the community and we must ensure that they are looked after. However, some of our footpaths are 'shrinking' in places because they are bordered by shrubs such as holly and bramble as well as by trees. And these do not stop growing! So, every year there is less room for pedestrians. Much the same is happening where shrubs and trees grow alongside pavements. The pictures below show examples of hedging which has been allowed to grow too wide and which leaves barely enough pavement to walk along:



In recent years the council has been less active in inspecting and rectifying areas of overgrowth which are their responsibility and the pandemic has made things even worse. Meanwhile, more people have come to appreciate the freedom to walk and enjoy fresh air and exercise. Horsell's network of footpaths should be treasured. They enable us to avoid polluted roads and get safely to schools and shops. Overhanging greenery makes such journeys more difficult and it needs to be cut back regularly so that we all have more room. If we ignore these paths for too long, they will become impassable and eventually disappear. Nature will take them over and do so quickly!

HRA's Second Thursday Club (STC) in Horsell has a group of volunteers who have previously set to work on the footpaths. They reopened the Tracious Lane footpath, off Bullbeggars Lane, which was blocked by holly and brambles. They have also cut back hedges which are not on private land. But residents can also help. If you have a hedge which borders a footpath or pavement it has always been your legal responsibility to maintain it and ensure that it does not grow over the footpath or pavement. So, please can all residents look outside their property to see if their hedges are making it difficult for others to use the footpaths. Remember that people, especially those with pushchairs or wheelchairs, need at least a metre of clear width.

Below are a couple of examples of well-cut hedges which leave a full footpath width:



Most of the main footpaths in Horsell are the responsibility of the council. Each footpath, as opposed to a pavement beside a road, has an official number (for example, the footpath from Wilson Way to Church Road is Footpath 16). However, some footpaths have a "U" number (for example U5 from Thornash Road to Hammond Road). This means that although they are a 'right of way' the council does not have a duty to maintain them. You can buy a map of the footpaths, *The Pathways of Horsell*, from Apples and Pears in the village. This gives the footpath identity numbers on a lovely street map of Horsell.

If you see a lot of weeds, surface vegetation or an overgrown hedge which is blocking a footpath, please report it to Surrey County Council via [surreycc.gov.uk/highways](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/highways) (click on 'report a highways problem' then 'trees, hedges, grass and weeds'). You can also report a problem with a right of way via [surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-development](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-development). You can also just phone them on 01483 755855.

Finally, you can also report any footway with a bad surface or overgrown vegetation on [fixmystreet.com](https://www.fixmystreet.com).

Anthony and Jenny Saunders

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# Meet our Horsell traders

Our wonderful local traders help to make our village such a vibrant place. Here you can learn a bit more about them and their businesses. Make the most of them – shop local and keep Horsell special!

If you're a trader in Horsell, and you'd like appear in future issues of The Resident, just send an email to [theresidenteditor@gmail.com](mailto:theresidenteditor@gmail.com)

## GC Sport Injury

**What do you do?** I offer sports massage, physical therapy and rehabilitation for sports injuries and general complaints/pain syndromes. I have a medical and sporting background so I am able to treat a diverse range of complaints. I have a special interest in running biomechanics, back pain and adolescent pain syndromes.

**Who might I speak to if I get in touch?** I'm Greg Conlon – a one-man band.

**Where are you and how do I get in touch?** I live in the village and work exclusively mobile in the area. The best way to contact me is either by phone, WhatsApp or social media.

**Phone:** 07812197740

**Website:** [gcsportinjury.com](http://gcsportinjury.com)

**Email:** [gcsportinjury@btinternet.com](mailto:gcsportinjury@btinternet.com)

**Facebook:** Gcsportinjury

**Instagram:** Gregconlon74



**So, who are you and why did you set up this business?** After I stopped working as a street paramedic in London, I went on to work in minor injury units – I still work part time at Teddington Urgent Treatment Centre. Having had a lot of therapy in my own sporting career, I realised I could bridge the gap between conventional medical advice and holistic therapies. I started eight years ago and haven't regretted a single day.

**What's the best thing about your work?** It's ace when I genuinely make a difference to people. It doesn't have to be profound, but if someone gets a reduction in their pain or they run faster than before, it's really satisfying. Unfortunately, the NHS cannot provide everything and a lot of simple problems get very limited treatment. Oh – and the many cups of tea of course!

**Are there any things that people don't always know about you?** I'm surprisingly good at pole vaulting!

## Café Primo Horsell

**What do you offer?** Coffee, tea and speciality hot drinks, freshly-baked pastries, cakes and brownies, plus our breakfast menu, freshly-prepared baguettes and sandwiches, omelettes, jacket potatoes, paninis, salads – and our homemade weekly specials! We also offer takeaways and outside catering.

**Who might I meet if I visit?** The owners, Nuno and Siobhan, Lucy and Maria – pro baristas and sandwich makers, Fatima – our whiz in the kitchen, and Daisy and Sam on Saturdays.

**Where are you and how do I get in touch?** We're in Horsell High Street, next to Baileys Jewellers. You can call us on 01483 740191 or email [cafeprimo.horsell@outlook.com](mailto:cafeprimo.horsell@outlook.com)

**Who are you and why did you set up this business?** We're a husband and wife team, Nuno and Siobhan. We purchased the Café in March 2021, after being regular customers for

years. Nuno's mum, Maria, worked there for the last 14 years, and still plays a huge part in our business – a real family affair!

**Why do you love your work?** We love opening the café each day, to welcome the great Horsell community! We're never happier than when the café is bustling, full of our customers' happy chatter.

**What are your best sellers?** Nuno is originally from Portugal so our Portuguese delicacies, like our Pasteis de Nata (custard tarts) and our



Café Primo counter – Pasteis de Nata on top shelf



Left to right: Maria, Siobhan, Nuno, Fatima

Prego (steak sandwich) go down very well. Our breakfast menu is also very popular, particularly our full English and veggie breakfasts, and our best-selling sandwich is Chicken Milanese.

**What's your dream for your business?** We'd love the café to grow in success, and continue to be an integral part of Horsell High Street and the wider community.

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# Natural Horsell



Our Amazing Heathlands



## Summer on the heath

I absolutely love summer on our heaths. There's life everywhere and so much to see, hear, smell and learn. If you want to immerse yourself in your local wildlife, summer is the perfect time.

## Return of the Nightjars

Whilst birds, including rare Dartford Warblers and Woodlarks, busy themselves with feeding their young, late-arriving Nightjars play catch-up. They return to our heaths from Africa in late May and I love to welcome these nocturnal wonders back by spending dusk on the heath. There is nothing quite like listening to their magical churring and watching them fly around like Swallows-of-the-night as the daylight ebbs away.

If you would like to accompany me on a Nightjar experience, I will be leading free guided walks on Horsell Common from June – check out [www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/events/](http://www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/events/).

## Invertebrate dramas!

If you don't fancy spending time on the heath in the dark, I highly recommend seeking out some of the most fascinating creatures that busy themselves when the sun is shining.

My favourite way to spend a sunny summer's afternoon is to search out some bare, sandy ground – a wide footpath or bank is perfect. Once I've found a suitable spot, I'll sit down and have a front-row seat for an enthralling invertebrate soap opera.

## HeathEnders?

If you do stop and watch for a while, you'll encounter lots of different species of solitary bees and wasps as they eke out an existence in a sandy, flower-lined habitat. It's a world of intrigue, parasitism and death – a bit like EastEnders, but chirpier!

This sandy habitat is perfect for these solitary bees and wasps and their presence is often given away by a multitude of little holes in the ground. You've probably walked past them lots of times without even noticing!

You'll be able to spot the fascinating Beewolf – a wasp that paralyses Honeybees to take back to the one-metre-long tunnel it's excavated. It'll lay an egg in a chamber and the not-yet-dead bee



Green-eyed Flower Bee  
Photo: Michael Jones



Beewolf  
Photo: Michael Jones

will be a fresh first meal for the emerging grub. Hopefully, you'll also encounter the super cute Green-eyed Flower Bee. Impossible to get a good look at as it endlessly whizzes around when charged by the energy of the sun, but easy to get close to late in the day, when it finds a flower-head or piece of grass to snooze on – kept securely in place by clamping its tiny jaws around its chosen pillow.

## Schools and the heath

It's really rewarding spending time with local school children and introducing them to the wonders of heathland. Nature connections made when young are really important in fostering life-long interests, and spending time outside is great for wellbeing.

I recently visited a school to speak to the Year 4s, and they were fascinated by tales of speedy beetles, carnivorous plants and nocturnal birds steeped in folklore – all living on the heaths near the school. They designed some amazing posters about what they'd learned.

If you'd like to connect your children with their local wildlife, please get in touch as we offer a variety of fun sessions for schools and uniformed groups – both inside and out on the heath.

Michael Jones

Education Officer – Thames Basin Heaths Partnership  
[tbhschools@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:tbhschools@naturalengland.org.uk) [www.tbhpartnership.org.uk](http://www.tbhpartnership.org.uk)



I'm Michael and I am the Education Officer for the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership. I love to help connect people with their local heaths and nature, so if you are a teacher, group leader or an individual wanting to find out more, get in touch.

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# Horsell Gardens

To mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee the tree planting initiative, The Queen's Green Canopy, is encouraging as many of us as possible to plant a tree. Summer is not the obvious time to plant new trees, but it's an ideal time to visit public gardens to choose varieties.

Sadly, trees don't last forever and recently we've seen the loss in the village of the much-loved Cedar tree from St Mary's Church due to disease. It's now more important than ever to continually plant new specimens for future generations to enjoy. Trees are likely to become



*Cercis chinensis 'Avondale' flowers*

more and more subjected to new pests, diseases and to be affected by climate change.

So, what to plant? I've chosen six trees below:

**Acer davidii 'Viper'** with its white and green striated bark can be as stunning as any silver birch and would look lovely in a border to add winter interest. I've planted one in my own garden.

Ideal for hay fever sufferers with its lower levels of pollen is **Crataegus laevigata 'Paul's Scarlet'** (hawthorn). Bright-pink, double flowers start appearing from March onwards.

To withstand climate change why not plant **Koelreuteria paniculata 'Coral Sun'**. Also known as the golden rain tree, this has multiple seasons of interest. Bright red, new-shoots are followed by yellow flower panicles, autumn foliage colour and colourful stems.

The unusual blooms of **Cercis chinensis 'Avondale'** make a welcome change from the cherry blossom we see in spring. The flowers are far more prominent than on popular **Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'**.

Good for urban gardens and pollution and able to fit in a pocket size garden is dwarf **Ginkgo biloba 'Mariken'**. This will happily grow in a container.

For something that little bit different then why



*Striated bark of Acer davidii 'Viper'*

not opt for **Halesia carolina** with its pure-white, bell shaped flowers in spring. Autumn turns the foliage to buttery shades.

Always check your soil conditions, aspect and sizes of trees before making your selections as it's much easier to plant a tree than it is to take one out.

To find out more information you can go to: [queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/individuals/](http://queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/individuals/) where you will find advice on how to get involved, tree planting best practices and aftercare.

Pamela Barden

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

## Horsell Junior School plant trees for the Queen's Green Canopy

Florence and Feizen did a great job at Horsell Junior School, planting an apple, a pear and a plum tree as part of the Jubilee initiative for The Queen's Green Canopy. This was organised by Volunteer Woking and the trees donated by The Clink Charity.



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# Benstead Cottage and the Bensteads of Horsell

Benstead Cottage, opposite Queen Elizabeth Gardens in Horsell, has had an eventful existence from the time it was built around 1831, starting as Horsell's first Post Office in 1851 and later operating as a petrol station, eventually becoming the car repair garage we know now. This article looks at some of the many people who have lived and worked in Benstead Cottage over nearly 200 years, particularly the Benstead family.

## The cottage and the Victorian postal service

Until 1840, the cost of a letter was calculated according to weight and distance sent, was expensive and paid by the receiver. Rowland Hill, a member of the public, conceived the idea of a uniform national postage rate for letters. The 'Penny Black' appeared. For the standard cost of one penny (one old penny was about ½ hour's wages in 1840) the sender bought an adhesive stamp. You could send a letter weighing up to half an ounce (14 grammes) almost anywhere in mainland Britain. As we were the first country to issue postage stamps ours alone do not have our place of origin on them.

Post Offices sprang up in towns and villages everywhere. At this time William Spooner lived in the cottage and saw an opportunity. His home became the Post Office and villagers would have to knock on William's door to buy a stamp or post a letter. In about 1853 the first pillar boxes appeared, which perhaps allowed William to get some sleep!

In 1871, the Post Office was expanded to include a draper's shop which was run by his two daughters. They were described as 'always dressed in taffeta which rustled, tickling our ears' (Marguerite Diboll poem). In 1891, Sarah Spooner is listed as being the village sub-postmistress. Sarah died in 1925 and the cottage was bought by Archie Benstead.

The Post Office moved along the road to Brownjohn's, where the picture-framers and Poppies and Peonies can be found today, in what was the village centre until the 1930s.

## Archie Benstead

An enterprising man, Archie started a bicycle repair shop and then one of the early petrol stations (the first filling station was opened in 1919 at Aldermaston by the AA). Before that, motorists had to buy petrol in two-gallon cans from hardware stores, service garages or have it delivered. A filling station in a small village like Horsell was quite a pioneering venture. The 1926 photo shows a sign stating the garage did not sell Russian oil. Although in the early 1900s we used to import Benzole from Russia, the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 made this unpopular with motorists.

Archie kept up his enthusiasm for cycling as a keen member of West Surrey Cyclists Touring Club, becoming its Vice President in the 1930s. By the 1950s, Archie was an active local Councillor on the Woking Urban District Council. One of the many things he did was to arrange for the Council to purchase the field next to Hart's butchers and abattoir (numbers 113/115 High Street). This became Queen Elizabeth Gardens for the recreational use of residents.

During his time at the shop, Archie (reportedly) even had the privilege of supplying royalty with petrol. In the 1930s the Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) and Wallis Simpson attended house parties at Knaphill Manor in Carthouse Lane. The nearest petrol station was of course Benstead's. His daughter-in-law, Liz, recalls Archie telling her of the visit, and a royal car arriving at the garage for a fill up—either with the chauffeur or possibly the Prince himself. Perhaps Archie should have been awarded the Royal Warrant for the supply of fuel?

Although Archie was very active in and around Woking, little has been said about his driving force – wife Alice Louisa was unfortunately confined to a wheelchair through rheumatoid arthritis in her legs. Her health was the main reason for changing the original structure of the cottage. Later, in 1948 Archie arranged for a bungalow to be built behind the cottage to provide easy access for Alice because she was unable to climb the stairs to reach the bedrooms and living quarters. Sadly, Alice spent much of her time alone in the bungalow but was looked after by daughter Audrey who lived with her husband Bob in the cottage once Archie and Alice moved into the bungalow. Despite her misfortune, Alice always had a cheerful outlook and enjoyed knitting and backing horses as well as keeping up with family issues.



Archie Benstead outside the garage in about 1926

## The next generation

When Archie was 75, business life was getting too much for him and he asked son Stanley (otherwise known as Benny, a top Racing Mechanic for Connaught's in Send) to take over the business. Benny had a more ambitious approach and around 1963 started up what remains today as Horsell Service Station.

It is interesting to note that in the 1930s Benny worked for Thomson and Taylor, a firm based at Brooklands which prepared cars for racing. An impressive list includes a number of famous Land Speed Record (LSR) cars for drivers such as John Cobb, Malcolm Campbell, and Kaye Don. One of these, John Cobb's Mobil Special, was kept in Horsell for safety during WW2 and stored at Wapshott Farm on the Common, tended by Benny and fellow mechanic Ronald Chapman. During the war Benstead's garage was the headquarters of the local Home Guard.

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forecast to go up to £1 a gallon 'the end of motoring was nigh'! But it seems people will pay almost any price for freedom of the road.

You can still see a sign on the chimney of Benstead Cottage which says 'Fill up here with Shell'. The garage continued offering fuel and service to Horsell until 1987 when Benny died, only shortly after Archie, in 1985. The garage ceased trading for about three years and was eventually sold to Pat George and the Sutton twins.

Benstead Cottage, 100 High Street, Horsell (Benstead's Garage) is now locally listed as a Building of Architectural Interest. In 1990, the new owners of the cottage and garage restored the building to its Victorian appearance but with some modern comforts. The original 1950s petrol pumps have been renovated and the cottage is looking very pretty again. The garage has been renamed Startrite, and is in the hands of Roy and Ian Sutton who very quickly and effectively maintained the tradition set up by Benny of a friendly and reliable service garage. But alas no petrol, the old pumps are empty.

Anthony Saunders, December 2021



John Cobb's Mobil Special LSR car at Thomson & Taylor's



photo Anthony Saunders

Benny quickly built up a clientele and he employed his son Roy, a qualified toolmaker, to help him maintain and develop the car servicing aspect of the business. His daughter Pam looked after the shop and petrol pumps from about 1967.

For the whole time he ran the garage, Benny sold Shell petrol under the name of 'Horsell Service Station'. The Sales Agreement between Shell and Benstead's was exclusive and confined Benny to selling only Shell petrol, which in 1973 was 8/- (39p) a gallon or 9p a litre! A few years later, we had the oil crisis and when petrol was

Some information for this article was kindly provided by Liz Benstead, who sadly died a few years ago. Thanks also for help given by Roy and Pam Sowersby – Pam being Benny's daughter – and also to Ann Harington for providing some historical documents. B&W photos courtesy of Liz Benstead.



I am Anthony Saunders, an engineer by training and an old car enthusiast. I developed a fascination for history after moving to Horsell and motoring history especially. That's me driving my old Humber car.

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We know that much of what we do is about touch and feel, so we have an extensive library of carefully curated fabrics, wallpapers, lamps, home accessories and paints in our Horsell village showroom.

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## Seymours

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