

# THE *Resident*



*The magazine of Horsell Residents' Association*

*Summer 2020*

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**HOPE  
in  
HORSELL**

[www.horsellresidents.com](http://www.horsellresidents.com)  
[www.hra.interests.me](http://www.hra.interests.me)

# A word from the Editor

## Greetings...



"I'm Lucy. I'm the current editor and realised too late that the downside of asking contributors to include a photo of themselves is that I've got to do it as well."

As each edition of this magazine goes to print, I write myself notes about what's going in the next one. That page of notes now stands as a list of things that have necessarily been cancelled or moved online, as we follow instructions to 'stay home, protect the NHS and save lives'. It's with a strange mix of emotions that I look at what should have been happening in Horsell during this time.

But I think that a mix of emotions is probably the right response. We are living through an emergency. Covid-19 has forced us to change our lives. It is strange and difficult. And for some among us there are huge challenges.

As we got our heads around the new normal, we also quickly saw the strengths of our village spring to life. We had the amazing Horsell Prepared team who already had plans to support us all during these times of crisis. We saw WhatsApp groups spring up in many roads and local businesses adapting where they could. We soon decided that we needed to produce a version of the magazine to reflect and celebrate some of this amazing work.

Thank you so much to the contributors who have risen to the challenge to more than fill these pages. You'll see some new names alongside regular favourites. In order to help

you put faces to those names, you'll also see some photos and information about them. I hope that you enjoy their contributions.

It is difficult, though. These pages celebrate Horsell. They show what a positive, united and caring community we are part of. But we mustn't forget that there is real sorrow and hardship in our community as well. We have to think of the bereaved and those at home with loved ones in hospital or care homes. There are also many who have lost income, jobs and even their businesses.

So, we think about that side of things as we share the positive. These pages show some of the joy and hope in Horsell. The rainbows over the village on the front cover that Graham Barden photographed have re-appeared in many forms as a sign of hope and thanks. You'll also find out more about Horsell Prepared and Horsell Scrubbers. There are things to do and exciting events coming up. Read on to find out about Horsell's virtual garden safari and the online Horsell Village Show. Even when Horsell stays at home, we do so in style.

*Lucy*

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

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

See [www.horsellresidents.com/home/JoinUs](http://www.horsellresidents.com/home/JoinUs) or email [info@horsellresidents.com](mailto:info@horsellresidents.com).

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# Stay home, protect the NHS, save lives.



*Chair of Horsell Residents' Association, Robin Hoyle can often be seen cycling round the village or helping to make things happen, especially Horsell Common Preservation Society (HCPS) and Second Thursday Club (STC) activities. He's also been filling in for this magazine, co-ordinating the advertising as a temporary measure while we've tried to get someone to do it for the last four years.*

What a wonderful village community we have. It has been heartening to see the Horsell spirit during these difficult times. We have witnessed a great solidarity in the way that residents have come forward to assist their neighbours and through this the village as a whole. Whether through support of the local shops and those that take risks to serve or embracing Horsell Prepared and looking out for each other, this community continues to pull together. We are in what is a most difficult episode in our history and we will come through this better and stronger if we continue to show the strength of this community.

We all have to adapt to the changing environment and necessarily regular events have been

cancelled like the Scout and Guides' May Fayre. Others will need to be postponed, including the HRA AGM and Picnic on the Green. Other events will need to adapt once circumstances allow including the Flowerpot Festival and Horsell's Charity Calendar. The Resident Magazine has adapted as well and the adverts at the back are to support our local businesses during this difficult time.

When we do gradually emerge from this period and return to whatever the new normal is, we'll organise a huge event to allow all parts of the Horsell community to come together to express their thanks.

Keep safe, stay well and keep smiling Horsell  
*Robin Hoyle, Chair Horsell Residents' Association*

## *A personal reflection: Our hard working Local and County Councillor Colin Kemp has recently been very ill with Covid-19. Here he tells of his experience.*

After spending two weeks in hospital with Covid-19 and just over a week at home recovering, this experience has given me a new perspective on both the virus and the NHS staff.

Much has been said about the NHS staff, from doctors and nurses through to the catering and cleaning staff on the wards. We have been told of the hardship and risk they go through every day at work as well as the long shifts they all work, and I totally support all of this.

What I witnessed during my time in hospital, and has not been spoken about as much, is the love and dedication they show to all the patients. Many of us were in pain and were very agitated. This did not stop them all treating every patient as an individual and a person. This love and attention is as important to the healing process as the medication we receive. For this personal care, I would like to thank them all. We may not always say it at the time but when you are in that situation what you do means a lot.

This experience also gave me a new awareness and respect for the disease itself.

Many people would have experienced light symptoms, the cough, a high temperature, feeling lethargic and perhaps a loss of smell or taste but this can turn very quickly. Once it gets into your lungs and starts to infect your respiratory system you go downhill very quickly.

The 101 and 999 services were great when my wife called, and an ambulance was with us within 10 minutes. The paramedics treated me with care and respect and were very supportive. They went to great lengths to explain to my wife Karen what was happening and why. This was even more important

than it might have been under different circumstances: circumstances which would have allowed Karen to accompany me in the ambulance. Under Covid-19 rules, this can't happen.

My pre-ambulance memory is very muddled - I had gone downhill very rapidly. The paramedics reminded me to take my phone and charger, without which I would have had no contact with Karen and the family. Once in hospital I was put on 60% oxygen and tested for Covid-19. Even though I was on oxygen and strong antibiotics over the next five days, I still got worse. I was transferred to the respiratory ward. In all I was in three different wards.

I am told that they considered putting me on a ventilator, but they put me on a CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) mask for 48 hours, which is a less intrusive way of delivering 100% oxygen. This was a scary and painful experience: you know that it is saving your life but it's still difficult to deal with. I experienced very muddled thinking - perhaps dreaming, perhaps hallucinating.

Although this was a very frightening experience, in some ways I was one of the lucky ones. After nine days following this, I was allowed home. Yes, this is worse for the elderly but those of us in our 50s and 60s are still in the danger zone. I watched people not that much older than me lose the battle and their lives. I watched and talked to others who had taken weeks to get off the oxygen and I saw others who gained additional illnesses that would affect the rest of their lives.

I am now home and attending a Virtual Clinic. I have a blood oxygen monitor to place on my finger to allow me to dial in, speak to a doctor and enable them to take readings to



Colin Kemp, Local and County Councillor

make sure my rate of recovery is OK. This is a great comfort. I have breathing exercises to do. There is a physiotherapist who teaches breathing methods to challenge the lungs in order to hasten the journey back to normality. I have lost weight and the loss of muscle tone is worrying.

This disease must be taken seriously: we must not become complacent. I am not the fittest or healthiest person and, although I am going to have weeks of recovery, so far it is looking good. It could have easily been a different story.

Please don't gamble with your lives and the lives of your family. Keep social distance, wash your hands regularly and stay safe.

*Colin Kemp*

Many thanks to Colin for sharing his story and to Ann Harington for helping. We wish Colin and all in recovery a speedy return to good health.

# Horsell Prepared



Alan Taylor

When Horsell Prepared appeared in the Spring edition of *The Resident* they said they had had no real incidents and therefore no operational experience. Three months on how the world has changed!

In fact, co-founder Alan Taylor recalls Horsell Prepared's very early planning days, "we looked at a number of possible incident scenarios that could impact the village. A member of the team did raise the likelihood of a pandemic outbreak but we thought that would never happen in Horsell. How wrong we were!"



Manish Bhalla

## Horsell Prepared's response to Covid-19

The current Covid-19 crisis gave Horsell Prepared the opportunity to put their plans - very quickly - into practice and they set about organising volunteers and sharing information with residents on how they could help. Manish Bhalla set up a group on Facebook - Horsell Mutual Aid - to help recruit local volunteers in Horsell and respond to requests for assistance.

From the 13th to 23rd March (right up until lockdown), a team of Horsell Prepared's volunteers led by Priya Hickey and Lexy Page leafleted the whole village so that everyone - even those without email or internet access - would get information about the helpline number.

When lockdown was announced on 24th March, Horsell Prepared had established a Duty Manager rota and had already been running its helpline for a week. The calls were starting to trickle in.



Helen Cammack

Horsell Prepared's co-founder, Helen Cammack, says: "From early on, we had a fantastic response to our call for volunteers in Horsell. We now have over 440 volunteers who have put themselves forward to help in some way. We have even had some complain that they are not being used! The fact that so many people are prepared to help is absolutely amazing and I know from talking to vulnerable residents that this gives them a tremendous sense of relief to know that there is capacity to support them in the village".

## Who Can Use Horsell Prepared?

Helen says anyone self-isolating, those with health conditions, NHS and care workers, and any households where someone is symptomatic, in the Horsell area, should call Horsell Prepared if they are in any way hesitant about going out. "We would encourage anyone who would prefer to stay indoors to give us a call. You may not think that Horsell Prepared is for you, but we do have capacity, and are very happy to help."

Requests for assistance can be anything from picking up prescriptions to collecting shopping, posting letters, and even walking dogs. There have also been more serious calls to the hotline from those without food or a place to live, and those in serious medical trouble, which Horsell Prepared always do their best to help but may have to refer on to others.

## How Can Horsell Prepared Be Contacted?

The **HelpLine - 01483 380025** - is manned 7 days a week, 8am-6pm. All callers are asked to leave a message and called back by a Duty Manager within an hour or two. Those with internet access can alternatively submit an online request ([www.bit.ly/horsell-requests](https://www.bit.ly/horsell-requests)).

Liz Grindon and Nancy Randall, who head up the Duty Managers team, explain: "We have a rota of 20 Duty Managers who work (from home) in pairs to respond to around 20 calls a day."



Nancy Randall

In total Horsell Prepared have responded to around 300 requests for help and are still counting. People like Mr and Mrs S who are self-isolating: "Thank you so much everyone and particularly your volunteer who collected my prescription and delivered it to my door. It made our lives so much easier."

Ms H who lives some distance from her elderly in laws thanked us for delivering groceries to them: "I can't express how much I truly value your generosity and kindness. You're angels in disguise"

## Combatting Loneliness

There is now a **Phone Buddy** service. This matches local volunteers with Horsell villagers who would welcome hearing a friendly voice either on the telephone or on a video call. Phone Buddy Co-ordinator Julie Gillis, CB, aided by Linda Brown says: "This is a great opportunity for villagers to provide support to each other during this difficult time." If you live in Horsell and would like to know more, you can sign up for the scheme (including volunteering as a Phone Buddy) at the Horsell Prepared website (<https://bit.ly/horsell>), or call 01483 380025 if you do not have internet access.

## Street WhatsApp Groups

Horsell Prepared has also encouraged local volunteers to set up street-level **WhatsApp groups**, and now has a list of 52 street groups in Horsell, covering most of the largest streets. The idea being to encourage more straightforward requests for help to be made directly to neighbours where possible and taking the pressure off Horsell Prepared for the more demanding or serious requests.



Julie Gillis, CB

Would you like to be added to a street group? Then email [horsellprepared@gmail.com](mailto:horsellprepared@gmail.com) with your mobile phone number and address and they will put you in touch with the right street group. If one doesn't exist, then how about forming one? Or maybe you would like help to get onto WhatsApp? If so, then call their helpline on 01483 380025 and they'll see if they can talk you through it.

"It's really useful to be in contact with people on your street", says Helen. "Often, they can reduce your need for shopping trips by getting a little extra for you, and it's also great for

chatting to reduce the loneliness and isolation that many can feel. Neighbours are more likely to know those in their street who are NHS or Key Workers who would appreciate a bit of extra help as they go about their profession.

On my street, we've had people shopping and cooking for each other, and – safely – sharing things that they don't need with each other. It's also been nice to share photos with the rest of the street and get to know everyone better".

## Information on Horsell Shopping and Deliveries

One of Horsell Prepared's volunteers, Lexy Page, has developed a helpful document with information on local shops' opening times and delivery schedules relating to Horsell. This can be found at [tinyurl.com/horsell-shops-covid19](https://tinyurl.com/horsell-shops-covid19).

Horsell Prepared's volunteers have also been working with local retailers to ensure that those who can't get out can pre-order food or deliveries, and can pay over the phone where possible, avoiding payment issues.

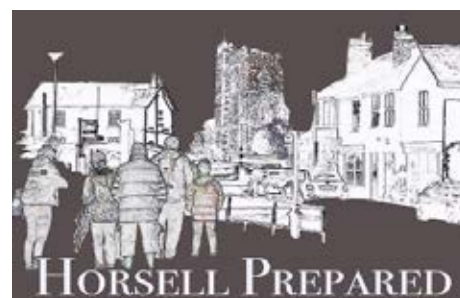
## Working with other groups

Horsell Prepared is now an official referrer for **Woking Food Bank** as well as able to refer new clients to Woking Borough Council's **community meals service**. In addition, it has taken over all requests from **Horsell Care**, the long-standing village-based volunteer group.

HP has also been working with other community support groups both locally (eg in Knaphill and other parts of Woking) and further afield (eg in Wales and the Isle of Wight) to share best practices and templates, so that groups less well prepared have been able to get up and running quickly. "We have developed detailed Volunteer Guidelines and Duty Manager guidelines which help us deal with requests, and we can share these with other groups", says Helen.

## Thank you to Horsell!

Horsell has a great community spirit generally, but Helen says she has been absolutely amazed as to how much it has pulled together in the last few weeks. "Horsell Prepared is learning all the time. We have come across all sorts of things that we have had to work through and resolve as we have gone along. The resourcefulness and commitment of Horsell people has been nothing short of amazing! We would like to thank all our volunteers. We couldn't have managed without them in the last few weeks. They have been amazing and so quick to respond to our requests for help. Our thanks also must go to our local shops and pharmacy who have worked tirelessly and in difficult circumstances to ensure that Horsell and the wider community have access to food and medicine."



Alan also echoed Helen's comments but wanted to extend his special thanks to, "all those valuable contributors who helped us in the early days to really get Horsell Prepared up and running. Residents like Nancy Randall, Nigel Longley, Councillor Beryl Hunwicks, Malcolm Jeffries, Siroil Powell-Jones and Stephen Price. Without their input we wouldn't have been quite so organised and able to hit the ground running".

To find out more about Horsell Prepared, see [www.bit.ly/horsell](http://www.bit.ly/horsell).



Alan, Helen and Nancy, in pre-social distancing days

# Joining in

I never thought, when I moved to this area 13 years ago, that I would find a village community to live in that I feel a part of as much as I did in the town where I grew up. Moving to the south to be with my partner, I knew no one. I was past 40 and my children were grown up, so I couldn't even meet people through school. It was only work where I could make friends, which I did through the various jobs I had until I found my second career in teaching. And then, last September, we moved to Horsell (and a garden so I could get a cat!)

It was a time when we were all starting to hibernate for the winter and a new term for me at school, so I didn't get the chance to meet anybody. I did try to help at the Christmas Market and took the odd walk into the village at the weekend, but ironically, since we have not been able to socialise, I have met more beautiful people than I have since I initially moved in.

I volunteered for Horsell Prepared after seeing the details on The Horsell Village Wire. From this one action, I have now met (virtually) some lovely duty managers and many genuine



Enjoying the garden

volunteers who just want to help. It is heart-warming.

We have all been thrown very quickly into a dystopian world. We now clap for our carers on a Thursday (a chance to meet the neighbours at a safe distance), have WhatsApp groups for streets in the village, social distance when using the fantastic shops in the High Street and we all work that little bit differently. We appreciate what is important, especially the underpaid workers in our society. We are also thankful for the technology in place that helps us all keep in touch with our loved ones.

Don't get me wrong, the deaths and heartache globally is heart wrenching and the worry and anxiety we all have cannot be diminished. However, looking forward, when we all get back to 'normal' (not that it will be in any stretch of the imagination the normal we once knew), I will have a variety of new friends in the village. I know absolutely, that Horsell is a friendly, welcoming and inclusive village that I am very pleased to have moved to.

Vicki De'ath



Tony Kremer was a key part of the 2012 Jubilation celebrations

## Rise of a can-do community

Eight years ago, the village of Horsell found its identity. Not just a place to commute from in the morning to the Big Smoke. Not just a place on the outskirts of a fast-growing town. We proved we are a can-do village community that can rise to any challenge.

We created a 2012 Jubilee celebration that brought us all together. We magicked up a Jubilation street party for thousands in the space of a few months. Six coordinated teams of hardworking enthusiastic all-ages Horsellites turned a vision into reality.

And on the back of that, we launched the HRA's Second Thursday Club (STC) that has gone from strength to strength. Every Resident magazine since then attests to its achievements and calls for help to meet new challenges. Now we are somewhere that cares a lot more for each other than for house prices and babysitting circles, coffee mornings and dog-walking.

Now we discover that our proudest achievement isn't the fantastic choir or the weather-defying monthly litter picks, the Woodlanders and the Weekly Walks that provide company to anybody: no, it's Horsell Prepared.

Just look at the incredible efforts of our local

traders too. Our High Street has been amazing. As we prepared the first Christmas Fair in the months after the Jubilation, someone said to us: "High streets across Britain are dying though, and there's nothing you can do about that". It's so great to see how we all - traders and shoppers - proved them wrong.

Now perhaps it is a little early to be looking ahead beyond isolation and lockdown, but I want to share one thought, one hope. That when we come out of it, we as a village will take another leap forward, just as we did in 2012. There will be a "new normal" in Horsell that takes on social inclusion as its watchword. Let's keep all those street networks going. Let's find new gaps in support that will appear in what could be a cold economic period for the country and therefore for our shops and local services, and of course for many of our residents. Let's build funds to support in practical ways. Let's be there when we are needed.

Tony Kremer



Jubilation 2012



Jubilation 2012

## Citizens Advice Woking – for everyone, for 80 years

For the past 80 years, and from humble beginnings, **Citizens Advice Woking** has provided a free, impartial, confidential advice service to Woking residents. This has supported the local community through World War 2, a recession and more personal difficulties people experience. We have given advice on housing, employment, debt, relationships, welfare benefits, immigration and many other areas that affect people's lives. The Covid-19 crisis has challenged our delivery of this normal service, but we are rising to that challenge.

Most people probably don't realise that we are a registered charity, and although we receive a generous grant from Woking Borough Council, we rely on over 80 volunteers and only 13 paid staff to deliver our service. At a time when there is a massive increase in demand for help and support, our volunteers have not let us down and continue to offer their help.

When it became clear that we could not offer face-to-face advice any longer from our offices at Provincial House in Woking town centre, due to the lockdown restrictions, we developed a new way of working.

Thanks to technology, we have managed to give our volunteers the tools to be able to offer the same confidential advice service by email and telephone from their homes. We quickly drew up a rota and have different volunteers on each day, ensuring we can cope with the demand for advice.

We are in close contact with all partner organisations and know the service they are now offering. New organisations have sprung up, so more people keen to support the community, and new opportunities for support have therefore become available to us.

One thing is sure, that in this new found situation, one that could not have even been predicted a few months ago, Citizens Advice Woking remains robust, and able to advise help and support you throughout this crisis.

**If you need to contact us please go to our website [www.wokingcab.org](http://www.wokingcab.org) and fill in the 'Get Advice' form. Or you can ring us on 0300 330 1198 or email [bureau@wokingcab.org](mailto:bureau@wokingcab.org)**

*Helen Trotter, Citizens Advice Woking*



Some of the Citizens Advice Woking team, in pre-social distancing days

## Citizens Advice Woking – view from a Horsell volunteer

What a transformation has taken place over the last few weeks! School students receiving lessons on-line; university students being taught and assessed remotely; work moving from offices to the home; restrictions on our movements – and all to try to reduce the impact of this horrid virus.

What hasn't changed is the need for impartial, independent and confidential advice on employment, housing, debt, benefits and many other issues. So those of us who volunteer at Citizens Advice Woking have been through a transformation too, swapping face-to-face interactions with clients for on-line and telephone working from home. Not that we

normally see all clients face-to-face. Clients also contact us by telephone and email, so the change to remote working has been a change of emphasis.

Fortunately, we have remote access to all the sources of information provided by national Citizens Advice which we need to advise clients, and we can send them our advice by email. We can talk to clients over the telephone if we need to ask them questions to clarify their circumstances. And we can telephone our supervisors if we have particularly knotty issues to resolve.

So, what's missing? It's the daily interactions

with colleagues and their willingness to share information, the conversations in the kitchen, the encouragement of supervisors and managers. And I do miss seeing clients face-to-face, and learning how we can help them.

We'll get back to that as soon as it is safe to do so. Although what any of us will think of as 'normal' when this is over is anybody's guess. My hunch is that after the lock-down is over, with all the disruption to personal and economic life, Citizens Advice Woking will be needed more than ever.

*Michael Hipkins, Horsell resident and Citizens Advice Woking volunteer*

# Keeping Horsell going

Many of us have always known that Horsell was a classic English village close to but far enough away from the main town.

It has its pubs, schools, churches, village show, and Christmas Market but it has also managed to attract and maintain a group of traders to maintain its beating heart.

And the current challenges have brought out the best in them, helping to keep non-panic-buying locals fed and watered while larger stores either had empty shelves or were out of bounds to us.

First to make their mark were the team at **Boz's fruit and veg** shop who always seemed to have more than enough fresh produce. Their friendly, chatty way with the socially distancing queue snaking down the road (and long hours constantly replenishing stock) won over many customers. Not for nothing did they win the first Horsell Heroes award.

Over the road, Chander Parkash has been keeping two jobs going frequently single-handedly in his usual calm, cheery way. With the **Costcutter convenience store and the Post Office** to run, he seems to have become an expert at being in two places at once – seven days a week.

Next door at **Horsell Pharmacy**, the crisis has been a baptism of fire for new pharmacist Hanif Nasser. He has been commuting from Wimbledon to succeed Paul Andrianantenaina, who retired at the end of March – around the start of the lockdown. Luckily he had assistants Emily, Louise, Kelly and Shez to help him through a manic few weeks as demand grew for prescriptions, sanitisers and other medical necessities.

Butcher Steve Prince and his staff are another group of Horsell Heroes winners. The team at **Prince and Sons Butchers** gave up their weekends and lengthened their hours to cater for us either in the shop or delivered to those unable to get out of their homes. Latterly, their queues were swelled further at the weekends by John Mintram offering **Thurston's Brewery** ales through the shop in aid of the Woking and Sam Beare Hospices.

The team at the **Co-op** have earned praise for their unflappable service that went above and beyond the norm; Jenny at **Heater's** bakery got used to arriving even earlier than usual so her shop can be ready for the queue at 7am leaving Tina to follow up in the afternoon. And, fortunately for our four-legged friends, **Pets Corner** has been able to stay open.

Many other businesses kept going despite the difficult times – the forecourt at **Startrite Autos** has always been busy – but the success of the food traders has been seen daily through the, generally, good humoured queues lining the High Street and the many paeans of praise on social media.

Pete Grieve



Prescription for service: Left to right: Kelly (and bump), Hanif, Emily and Louise. Photo: Moira Grieve.



Princes among butchers: Sam Pidduck, Richard Warner, Sam Prince and Steve Prince



Socially distant queuing



Calmness personified: Chander Parkash... where he always is



Maybe the fruit and veg keep the team from Boz full of energy



## Adapting as the world changes



Clair Stokes

*After growing up in neighbouring Woodham, I spent 10 years abroad, before returning to settle in Horsell. I am lucky enough to live on the edge of Horsell Common, yet still close to the village centre, with my husband and daughter. I enjoy getting out on the common with my family for bike rides, running and long walks.*

Many Horsell businesses were obliged to shut up shop during the lockdown. Those that could stay open found themselves pushed to the limit in their efforts to continue providing much needed goods and services.

Having only opened on 3rd February, **The Horsell Kitchen** was a welcome new addition to our High Street. Almost no sooner did the doors open, reports of Covid-19 arose. Taking advice from friends in Italy, owners Joanna and John tried to stay one step ahead of the curve by quickly implementing social distancing, contactless payments and a takeaway-only policy. They also started offering meals to be reheated at home or kept in the freezer; an idea that Joanna and John had hoped to put into action anyway, "It just started an awful lot sooner than we expected!" The meals have proved to be extremely popular, with

dishes varying from curries to pasta, tagines to traybakes, plus other Indian, Chinese, Korean, Cuban, Japanese and Mexican fare.

We have been rather spoiled for choice in Horsell with **Deli Class** also staying open for takeaway meals, coffee to go and their delicious Italian groceries. Offering classic Italian dishes on their takeaway menu, mixed platters and pizzas, the deli has proved invaluable for pasta, preserved goods, fresh bakes and – the new milled gold – flour!!

It was heartening to witness our village pull together to support local NHS frontline workers. The Horsell Kitchen started delivering free meals to local NHS staff and Joanna set up a charity page for Horsell residents to donate towards the costs incurred: "Horsell helps the NHS heroes". The money was used to fund food and support provision for NHS staff at Royal Surrey, Frimley and St Peter's. Any remaining money is being used to provide ongoing free local NHS meals from The Horsell Kitchen.

In a similar act of support for our fantastic NHS workers, Nicky Yates, founder of **Woodhaven Space Inspirational Eco-venue** and an Ambassador for the **Surrey Event Professionals**, helped to launch **@Surreydrive**. Using donated funds, Nicky and a team of volunteer caterers, venues, entertainers and organisers worked tirelessly to prepare 2000+ healthy and nutritious meals and snacks each week for NHS frontline workers at local hospitals and hospices. Funds permitting, the meal provision is expected to last until July, so please do continue to donate [<https://paypal.me/pools/c/8nISvJN5N7>].

Nicky has also placed a box outside Woodhaven for passers by to donate hand cream, to help the many NHS frontline workers suffering from extremely dry hands. If you are passing Woodhaven on your daily exercise, drop some in the box!

While **Norsworthys Health & Beauty** was unable to operate during lockdown, their PPE of masks and gloves did not sit in storage. Owner and manager, Sammy Norsworthy,

donated it all to local NHS nurses, with any spare passed on to Chander Parkesh at the Horsell Post Office.

Local architectural design and structural engineering firm **BetterLivingSpace** responded to calls from Horsell residents struggling to set themselves up to work from home. Working remotely, BetterLivingSpace offers a free floor plan [[www.betterlivingspace.com/offers](http://www.betterlivingspace.com/offers)] to help people visualise the options available to create additional room. Lead designer and structural engineer, Ed Ollett, strives to provide innovative yet cost effective solutions, "An extension or conversion is not always required. Sometimes simply reconfiguring the existing space or adding a garden room can transform a home." With those of us who can stay at home, those niggles about layout and design are bound to come to the fore, so it's great we can start getting ideas now!

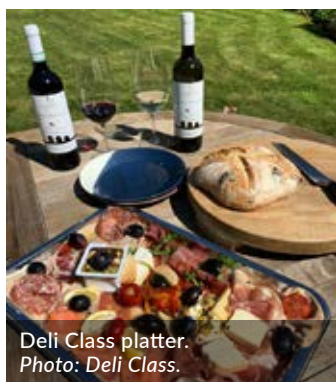
It is not only adults who have had their working lives turned upside down. With schools closed and children separated from their friends, Horsell-based magician and children's entertainer, **Tim Allen**, endeavoured to keep the magic alive for his young fans. Having had to cancel all his birthday party bookings, Tim made balloon models for children celebrating their birthday then posted photos of the models to his Mr Tim's Magic Facebook page. This surprise gift is available to any child celebrating their birthday while social distancing measures are in place. Simply contact Tim via his Facebook page to let him know your child's birth date and age and he will work his magic! It is a gesture that has been very well received by parents, who have been able to surprise their child with something different and unexpected on their special day.

Despite the many difficulties brought by Covid-19, we have witnessed some great examples of community strength and support in the village, from both our businesses and residents alike. We can be proud of our lovely village; we pulled together and showed collective resilience in the face of a testing crisis.

Clair Stokes



Norsworthys – always smiling, even behind PPE. Photo: Sammy Norsworthy.



Deli Class platter. Photo: Deli Class.



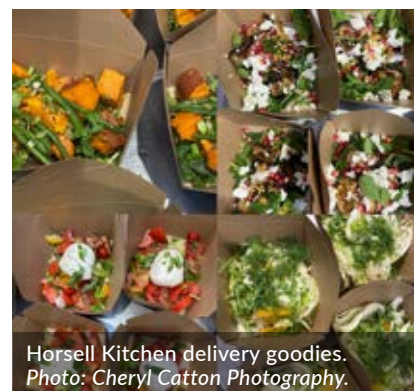
Better Living Space showing the vision. Photo: Better Living Space.



Woodhaven's Nicky Yates with some of the nutritious snacks for NHS workers. Photo: Woodhaven Space.



Tim Allen Magician. Photo: Tim Allen.



Horsell Kitchen delivery goodies. Photo: Cheryl Catton Photography.

# Horsell's Schools

## The Horsell Village School

On behalf of all the staff and governors at The Horsell Village School, I would like to wish you all well and thank you for your continued support with 'staying home and staying safe' during the Covid-19 Pandemic. These indeed have been very different times and we have all had to change the way we do things in order to keep our community and loved ones as safe as we possibly can.

At The Horsell Village School, we have continued to provide support for our school community. We are open daily, providing care for our children of key workers. Whilst on site, the children have been very busy completing the activities that teachers have planned for

all our children at home to do. Our focus has been on the emotional well-being of children and parents throughout this time. Children have been enjoying a range of activities that support their emotional well-being, as well as their academic progress. In addition, we have been providing weekly family-based activities to encourage family fun at home and to help everyone stay happy and positive.

At school, we have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather by using our forest school area. The children have been busy thinking of ways to show their appreciation of the critical jobs their parents, and others, do within our community.

The 'rainbow' has become an important picture for a lot of children in our community; it has been their way of showing that they care, as well as a picture to let their friends see that they are thinking of them. Here are a few examples created by children at school during their forest school activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the support we have received from the community.

Stay home and stay safe  
Best wishes

Mrs Jane Reeve  
Headteacher at The Horsell Village School



Rainbows of hope. Photo: Jane Reeve.



## Horsell CofE Junior School

Whilst most of the teachers and children from Horsell Junior School settle into a new routine of working from home, some have been attending Sythwood School. We have been blessed with good weather, and been making the most of the extensive outside space there. We have been made to feel extremely welcome by the staff, pupils and wildlife at the school. We have seen a fox, a hedgehog and a rather giant caterpillar all making the most of the peace and quiet to roam the grounds.

Esme, Year 3, said, 'When I first got here it was nothing like I imagined. Sythwood had one of the largest fields I have ever seen. We are based in Willow class. Everyone is really kind to us at their school.'

Yvie, year 5, added, 'It felt weird being at school with only a few other children. I am settling into a new school environment now and having lots of fun playing outside.'

Celia Wand, Headteacher

In Year 4, the pupils and teachers have been quickly learning together how to use an online platform for delivering learning. Teachers create activities based around reading, writing, maths and other subjects. These are then uploaded to a secure site called Seesaw. The pupils log in daily to access this work and virtually 'hand' their work in. Teachers give feedback on each piece of work and provide any further support that the pupils might need. Teachers have also been posting daily videos,

sometimes incorporating art work by the pupils as backgrounds! (see photo). The pupils have also worked collaboratively to create videos and pictures for two new pupils who are starting the school this summer term in order to make them feel welcome. The parents have also used this platform to communicate to the teachers. They have been very positive in the way that the whole process has provided some sense of normality in these strange times.

Nigel Penstone, year 4 teacher



Using pupils' art work as background for remote learning videos. Photo: Nigel Penstone.



Mr Goosen and Mr Lund Walter



Mrs Allen



Mrs K



Mrs Rolfe



Mr Lund Walter



Mrs Edwards



Mrs Henderson



Mr McEneaney

## Woking High School

The school has managed to stay open for vulnerable students or those students whose parents are key workers due to the incredible commitment of all our amazing staff.

Every day onsite we have Mr Wooldridge, Site Supervisor, opening up and ensuring the site is kept clean and fit for purpose, along with Mrs Barham who meets and greets everyone, checking the health of staff, students and their families, and reminding students that their parents are doing a great service! This is supported by the catering team, run by Mrs Edwards of Twelve15, providing breakfast and lunch for all onsite students and staff. Mrs Brandon and Ms Kocheff are supervising the learning of the students, and Mr Goosen and Mr Lund Walter are running daily PE activities.

Parents have been so supportive. One said: "I cannot thank you enough for the support you are offering. Whilst I think initially the children weren't overjoyed about being amongst the minority going to school, they have found the routine and support brilliant. They are focused, love the break for PE and can come home at the end of the day and relax. It has been a huge weight off my mind as we literally cannot be at home with them."

In addition, Mr Goosen, Mr Lund Walter and Mrs Allen are delivering learning packages to those who can't access the materials electronically. "I've never learnt so much - from medieval women to Blood Brothers to Atoms! We've knocked on doors, met members of people's extended families, all the time trying to keep to the rules of social distancing. Everyone has been amazing, smiling and so helpful. It makes you realise this is an amazing place to work," said Mrs Allen. Dr Downie and Mrs Coulson have also completed home visits where needed. Dr Downie said: "All were well and seemed really pleased to see us. It was lovely to have a chat (albeit from two meters away) in the sun!"

Behind the scenes, teachers are doing an excellent job preparing lessons for students to access from home, some of which are virtual classrooms with video or voice over. A Year 9 parent commented, "Today she had a Latin lesson and it was great that Dr Williams had produced a video as it was just like being in the class room."

The students are responding exceptionally well to this change to their learning; we are very proud of all of them and we are celebrating

their achievements and efforts on Twitter every day. Our IT Support Team have been crucial in ensuring we can deliver this service. Our support staff are processing payments, keeping parents up-to-date via email and website, as well as sending encouraging messages to some of our students and responding to student queries.

Another home learning parent contacted us to say: "We would like you and your staff to know that we have been really impressed by the quality of the work that has been given to our daughter, during the first two weeks of lockdown. She seems to have managed to get on with all the tasks that she has been given and this has been facilitated by all the clear explanations and resources that the teachers have prepared and made available to the students. We appreciate all the extra care and support that has gone into providing the students with valuable learning opportunities during this fortnight. We have great confidence that the School will continue to provide her with all the means to continue with her education from home until we all get through this uncertain time."

*Angela Phipps*

## St Andrew's

### #StAndrewsAtHome

During the Easter holidays, children from St. Andrew's have been busy helping out in the local community. Edward took part in a bake sale organised by his road and won in the U10 category! His road, like so many others, have also been out in force to help one another from organising feeding pets to checking on elderly neighbours. Ella created this wonderful picture to show her support of our NHS heroes. Now at the start of the summer term, despite missing their friends and time in school, the children from St. Andrew's have been fully engaging with their remote learning whilst the children of key workers continue to be supported in school. It has been fantastic to see everyone in the local area pulling together and St. Andrew's is very proud to be part of the Horsell community.

*Jo Manly*

Ella proudly showing her NHS artwork



# Horsell Scrubbers

Photos: Horsell Scrubbers.



Claire, being awarded a Horsell Heroes prize

I learnt to sew from my mum (who, in turn, learnt from my nan, who was taught by my great-nan, going back to when Lancashire women used to make the gowns for mill workers) and I sewed most of my clothes through sixth form and university. This was the 1980s and I loved finding the brightest and

most outrageous fabric I could in the bargain bins, mainly to make leggings and sloppy tops. Then I started teaching, sustained a spinal injury, my sewing machine motor blew up and our two boys came along. Consequently, the machine lay unused for over 20 years.

When my mother passed, I found a new sewing machine (brand new with lots of new threads and supplies) whilst clearing out her home – I am sure this was a gift from her so I got back into it. And I got my lovely 1969 Singer (which I got second-hand for my 18th from my Nan) repaired and have really enjoyed home dress making again for the last couple of years.

When lock-down came I sewed and sewed and then on a Thursday evening I saw a report on BBC news about a group of ladies sewing NHS scrubs in Derbyshire. I'd been wondering how I could help and it suddenly seemed so obvious! The next day I found out about the 'For the Love of Scrubs' NW Surrey group making scrubs for St Peter's Hospital and arranged to collect some to sew. Whilst communicating with this group through their Facebook page I noticed there were several other sewers from Horsell offering to help. I thought it would make sense to collect several sets to sew and give them out locally – it would cut down on the number of car journeys made up to Staines and would make it easier for the co-ordinator there.

So, I posted on The Horsell Village Wire. And had no idea what was to come...

Within 24 hours I had responses from around 12 people all very keen to help. And donations of sheets and pillow cases suddenly started coming to our home. Fortunately, an energetic and enthusiastic young lady, Ele Pucci (you have been amazing), came forward – she has studied fashion and works in the clothing industry – we spoke on video phone and made a plan. She would source patterns and organise people to cut out different sizes. We would both take donations. I would set up a WhatsApp group (Horsell Scrubbers) to communicate amongst the sewers and make sure everyone got what they needed. I'd also collect finished items ready for delivery. Whilst waiting for the scrub patterns, the scrubbers got to work on making wash bags and tie back hats.

A day later, 12 bags and hats were collected by a local GP for herself and her colleagues working in the critical care unit at St Peter's – they had been taking their scrubs home to wash in plastic bags! Then a local nurse asked if she could have a set of pre-cut scrubs to make her own (she was doing 12 hour shifts at another hospital and didn't want to burden her colleague) so we got a set to her, all ready made up with a hat and wash bag, as quickly as we could. Then other requests started coming



Donations of duvet covers and sheets flooding in



in so Ele and I knew we had to streamline the operation.

The last week has been crazily busy and a huge learning curve. Ele and I have been astounded at the generosity of the local community and the willingness of so many to help. The WhatsApp group has got too big so we now have a Facebook group (open to public view but joining on request) and have over 100 'Scrubbers' beavering away busily - I'm sure many people must be hearing scissors snipping and sewing machines whirring at all hours.

We now have over £1,000 in our funds (thank you to Nicci Pucci for looking after this) to buy thread, interfacing, fabric as needed and other bits and bobs needed for sewing such as spare machine needles, Optichrome and WADP (the architects on Well Lane) very kindly printed off several sets of pattern masters for free and, just now, I have received a message from Sarah Gurden confirming she has organised a group of volunteers to take donations. They will sort through them and wash and iron the fabric ready for the Scrubbers to cut and sew. And she can use the Scout Hut to store donations. This will free up several Scrubbers' home spaces again (a lot of us have bags cluttering

our hallways, garages and kitchens) and save so much time by giving us ready-to-use fabric. Thank you everyone for all your help. You are fantastic.

And we now have hubs further out running or being set up! Kathryn Carr in Send has organised a small group of cutters and sewers and it looks like further hubs may be set up in Bisley and Row Town shortly. The finished scrubs, hats and bags are now coming in thick and fast!

Last Friday (a week to the day after I first asked the NW Surrey group for a set to sew), Ele and I had the honour of presenting Brewery Road surgery with nine sets of scrubs. Today samples are being taken in ready for staff to try on at the Woking Nuffield (which has been re-purposed as an NHS Covid-19 facility) and to order the sizes they need. We are delighted to be able to help in a small way. These scrubs are being made from donated duvet covers and sheets and, as Kathy Boyce-Keats (who is collecting them on behalf of the hospital) said: "It's just so wonderful. Not waiting for the government but doing it together".

We are now well set up for production - I can't

believe how quickly this has come about from one post put on the Horsell Wire a little over a week ago. If you know of any care homes, surgeries, hospices or hospitals, or individual NHS or care staff in need of a set of scrubs, the Horsell Scrubbers would be honoured to help.

A massive thank you to all the scrubbers - you are amazing.

Claire Ingham



## Ear Savers

All around the village people are doing what they can to make the lives of those saving our lives that little bit easier. Lisa made these fantastic 'ear savers' for those who have to wear face masks with elastic that goes around the ears. This makes sores very quickly. This little crocheted number allows users to hook the elastic round the buttons, not their ears. Job done. And in a really stylish way.



Ear savers



Lisa. Photo: Lisa Pendry.

# Horsell's rainbows for hope and heroes



Stephanie and Peter's bin isolation outing.  
Photo: Stephanie Ward.

Stephanie is a Horsell resident always up for fun. Inspired by reports from around the world, she and her husband, Peter, decided to make the most of important weekly outings such as taking out the bin.

Challenging times are undoubtedly when a community needs to pull together. Horsell has pulled together in style.

One way in which this can be seen is in the rainbows that have been popping up in residents' windows throughout the village. Like me, you may have been wondering why.

The social distancing rules mean that we are no longer able to meet and talk to one another. This means we rely on other gestures to express ourselves.

Rainbows are a perfect expression; they are the symbols of hope in our hearts. They help to spread cheer. They also help us to thank our wonderful heroes: our NHS, our carers, posties, bin collectors, essential shopping staff, teachers and school workers, delivery drivers, and every other hero who is looking after us and enabling the rest of us to stay at home.

I wrote a quick note on The Horsell Village Wire asking people to send me photos of their rainbows.

A constant 'ping' on my phone let me know that people were responding. The rainbows were starting to arrive!

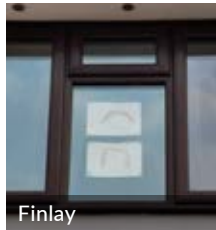
They came from children of all ages: tiny tots to teenagers to grown-ups. They were made from chalk, colouring pencils, paint, wool and one was even made of balloons. Wonderful photos of children beaming with pride (and covered in paint) were often attached!

I knew that not everyone is part of The Wire. So, with phone camera in hand, I took my essential exercise round the village. What a spectacle! There were rainbows everywhere and some bunting and flags flapping in the wind. Thank you notes for our posties were proudly stuck on some of the letterboxes. Around a few corners were 'care' bears, one stuck up a tree looking for his honey, one big bear waving at everyone who passes by. Each of them is to thank our heroes and share the hope.

My favourite 'constitutional' was when I (socially distantly) met young Zoe all dressed up in her rainbow cardigan. She posed beautifully for my camera.

We can't all get out to see the rainbows, so I hope that you enjoy the selection shared here. They are a sample of the symbols of hope and thanks for our heroes.

Stephanie Ward

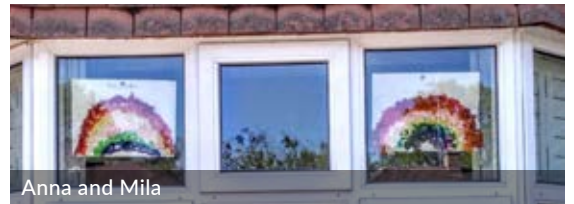


David

Finlay

Rory and Charlotte

Leila



Caylen and Ayden

Clara

Anna and Mila



Emily and Olivia

Lisa

Patrick

Thank you to all Horsell residents for sending in their rainbows and to Stephanie for the others.



Mr Tim's Magic



Arabella and Penelope



Mackie and Lacie



Daisy and Poppy



Eliot, Austen and Conrad



Hattie and Ella



Rosie



Jonathan



Ian



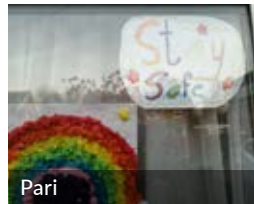
Goncalo



Molly



Tricia



Pari



Élodie



Luca



Stephanie



Mackie and Lacie



Zoe



Noor



Toby



Rebecca and Daniel



Alex and Joe

# Lack-down treats



Xenia Cobb

I originally learnt how to bake from my grandmother and continued to do so throughout my photography degree in Gloucestershire. I decided to put the two together and began shooting food photography in my university house. I was lucky enough to gain work experience with Marks and Spencer's and Waitrose on food-shoots for magazines before becoming assistant to one of the food stylists at Waitrose for 18 months. In this time, I began an occasion cake business from home doing wedding and birthday cakes, Xennbakes. I also use these skills within my childcare studies with the children of Summerfield House Nursery.

## Banoffee Cupcakes

This is a good one for getting the children involved and equally as fun for the grown-ups. This recipe is perfectly sweet but uses those overripe bananas; they deserve some loving too! These ingredients are easy to find, and those such as the carnation caramel, might be squirrelled away in the back of cupboards.

### Ingredients

- 1 large banana (riper the better)
- 110g unsalted butter (softened)
- 110g caster or soft-brown sugar
- 2 medium eggs
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 110g self-raising flour
- 60g unsalted butter (softened)
- 60g Carnation caramel filling (dulce de leche)
- 280g icing sugar (sifted)

### Method

- 1) Preheat your oven to 170°C/160°C fan/gas mark 3
- 2) Place 12 cupcake cases into a muffin tin
- 3) Get a large mixing bowl and cream the butter, sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy (3 minutes with an electric mixer, 6 by hand)
- 4) Once creamed together, add the eggs one at a time (beating each well)
- 5) Mash the banana with a fork and beat into the wet mixture until smooth
- 6) Sift the flour into the wet mixture and fold in using a spatula until the mixture has just combined
- 7) Evenly spoon the mixture into the 12 cupcake cases (around half to 3/4 full), if you find this difficult use an ice-cream scoop to make sure the cupcakes are all even
- 8) Bake in the oven till golden brown and springy to touch, this should take about 15 minutes
- 9) Meanwhile beat the butter and dulce de leche in a small bowl until smooth and light
- 10) Sift in the icing sugar and mix until smooth and desired texture. If you prefer the icing thicker add more icing sugar (around 20 grams), however the texture should be perfect for piping and smooth
- 11) Take the cupcakes out of the oven and leave to cool down completely
- 12) Once cooled, pipe or spoon the icing on top and decorate using any sprinkles

you like. If you have extra dulce de leche you can drizzle this on top too

Store in an air-tight container in the fridge for up to a week! Enjoy!



## Dark Chocolate and Raspberry Cookies



Cookies are simple and delicious, perfect for an afternoon treat or warmed up with ice-cream. We all want to avoid food waste but when only doing a weekly shop we can misjudge what we

need, especially perishables such as raspberries. I always struggle to find ways to use raspberries when they are just on the turn; this recipe is perfect and takes little effort. Feel free to mix and match the chocolate. A basic cookie recipe means that you can experiment and alter depending on what ingredients you have. Try adding meringue pieces or biscuit for a crunch, or fudge and caramel for a sweet treat.

### Ingredients

- 115g unsalted butter (softened)
- 90g brown sugar
- 50g caster sugar
- 2tsp vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 210g plain flour

- 1/2tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 150g chocolate (chopped into chunks)
- Left-over raspberries

### Method

- 1) Set your oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas mark 3
- 2) Cream the sugars and butter together with the vanilla until light, fluffy and smooth
- 3) Add the egg and beat until smooth to prevent curdling
- 4) Sift the flour and bicarbonate of soda into the mixture and mix until a dough forms
- 5) Add half the chocolate and mix until distributed evenly
- 6) Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper
- 7) Take a tablespoon of dough and form a ball, place on the baking tray and repeat until the dough is gone. Leave about 5cm between each cookie to have room to spread
- 8) Take the leftover chocolate and put chunks on the top of the dough, and then do the same with the raspberries. (This allows the cookie to have some melted chocolate chunks on top and bites of sweet raspberries)
- 9) Bake for 10-12 minutes until the cookie is just turning golden around the edges
- 10) The cookies should be soft when they come out of the oven, and slightly chewy when cooled
- 11) Allow to cool and then enjoy!



# Horsell Events

## Horsell Village Show

Sadly, in common with other events in the village, we have had to cancel the 2020 Horsell Village Show. This is very disappointing, as we had arranged a great programme for this year.

However, all is not lost: for this year we will be organising **A VIRTUAL HORSELL VILLAGE SHOW!** It is free for all Horsell residents to enter.

How will this work? We will be organising weekly competitive classes starting on 3rd May, running up until 25th July. The prize for each week's winner will be £10. On 26th July we will look at all the weekly winners to choose the **BEST IN SHOW**. The winner will be awarded the Sesquicentennial Bowl which can be kept until next year's show.

We are keeping the names of the planned classes a secret until the beginning of each week. To tantalise you we suggest you start

growing (really growing!) vegetables and planting some sunflower seeds.

Look at The Horsell Village Wire for information during the virtual show. You can enter by:



- logging onto the Horsell Village Show Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/horsellvillageshow](http://www.facebook.com/horsellvillageshow))

- checking the Village Show website [www.horsellvillageshow.co.uk](http://www.horsellvillageshow.co.uk)

- sending your entry by e-mail to [horsellvillageshow@yahoo.com](mailto:horsellvillageshow@yahoo.com).

Although there is no 2020 show we have a date for 2021. Please put Saturday 24th July in your diary. We will retain the classes we had planned for 2020 like the Limerick with an Olympic theme and the Olympic themed floral art sections. So, as well as entering this year's Show, you might like to start planning what you will enter to while away the many hours we have to spend at home at the moment.

Any queries about the show can be sent to Marion at [mepiper7@gmail.com](mailto:mepiper7@gmail.com)

Marion Piper  
Secretary - Horsell Village Show

## Horsell Garden Safari

It's nearly time for the joyful Horsell event that is the Horsell Garden Safari - and this year we are going virtual. Although you won't be able to physically travel round Horsell gardens, you will at least be able to virtually peer over some of those fences and hedges to see how the



gardens hidden behind have progressed during lockdown!

We should have, all being well, eight gardens and the Horsell allotments to take a video tour around and to listen to what the owners have been up to. The site will be available on [www.horsellgardensafari.co.uk](http://www.horsellgardensafari.co.uk) in early June as that is when the gardens will be looking their best (and the 13th and 14th June was the weekend that the Garden Safari was set to happen).

Of course, you will now be able to take a more leisurely 'stroll' through the gardens as they will be available to see for more than just the weekend! We also hope to update you with a selection of news and pictures of more gardening adventures over the year.

If anyone else is interested in offering a tour of their garden in the virtual safari do drop me a



Garden Safari website in progress

line and we will see whether we can slot you in. Just email [bromleysglad@gmail.com](mailto:bromleysglad@gmail.com).

Finally, make sure you book the weekend of 12th and 13th June 2021 in your diaries now to enjoy the Horsell 2021 Garden Safari.

Gail Bromley

## St Mary's Churchyard 2020

St Mary's Churchyard is open for you all to visit as part of your daily exercise. It is very peaceful and beautiful. The Woodlanders help church members to look after the churchyard and, in particular, the far end where there is a wild flowerbed which has been flowering since March and attracting pollinators. In May, June and July there will be plenty of colour with foxgloves, pink campion, marguerites, poppies and much more.



The former bonfire site has become a special feature. Last year, the word 'HOPE' was created with alyssum and a rainbow above using red begonia, orange and yellow French marigolds, green from the leaves, lobelia (two shades) and mauve alyssum.

This year we will be thinking of all the wonderful and dedicated work done by the NHS staff. So instead of 'Peace' or 'Hope', we will write 'NHS', with a rainbow above. This will be planted around the third week of May and it should start to look good mid-June.

My greenhouse is crammed with small plants grown from seed for the colours of the rainbow and white for NHS. I just hope they are all ready in time!

Would you like to help in the churchyard? There is general maintenance such as mowing and strimming. Or you can "Adopt a grave" and care for a small number of graves, maybe as part of your daily exercise?

Call Caroline 01483 767980 or email: [c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com)

Caroline Hughes

## St Mary's - Update

**VACANCY UPDATE:** Because of the restrictions as a result of Covid-19, the process for appointing a new Vicar has been put on hold. There has been a good response to the advertisement which appeared in the Church Times during March. Applicants have been informed about the decision by the Diocese to wait until the situation improves. In the meantime, we are blessed with help from other ministers in the area, helping at funerals, for example.

Our website [www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk/aboutus.htm](http://www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk/aboutus.htm) is full of helpful resources for all the family and there are copies of the Morning Prayer (with links to hymns) each Sunday. Click on 'archive' and you will find lots of interesting things to do.

Mike Couper

# Harsell gardens



Pamela Barden

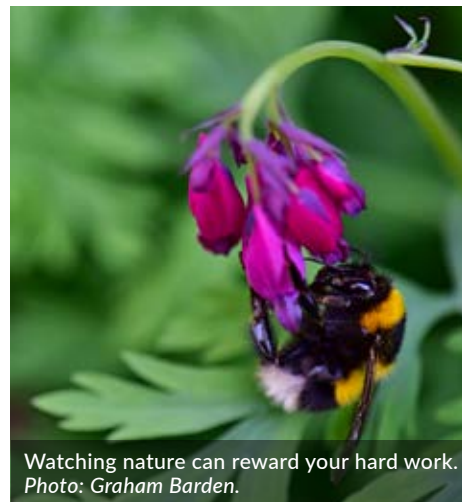
The Resident's regular garden columnist is garden designer and plants woman Pamela Barden, owner of Painted Fern Garden Design, based in the heart of the village. Having grown up locally and been gardening for over 20 years there is not much that Pamela doesn't know about plants. After a career change, she retrained in garden design and horticulture. Pamela has been part of the team in four award winning Hampton Court Flower Show gardens including the RHS Back to Nature Garden which was co-designed by HRH The Duchess of Cambridge. She has designed many gardens throughout the village.

Gardens and green spaces have become ever more important in the last few weeks and will continue to do so in the immediate future. We have always had an intrinsic connection with nature, whether we realised it or not, but it is only more recently we have put a name to it: biophilia, the desire to surround ourselves with plants and nature for positive effects on our mental wellbeing. It is something we have built up over millennia.

Of course, not everyone will have, or even want, a 'Chelsea-worthy' garden. What is important is that you try and get the most out of what you have right now. If the weather is nice then maybe you can hot-desk outside to get your office or school work done, it might just aid productivity. Or even try taking conference calls outside whilst strolling around your garden.

If you have never felt inclined to garden before then now is the time to get acquainted with what plants you have. If you are unsure then apps such as PlantSnap and Plantifier can help you out with identification and save you hours thumbing through a gardening book or clicking online. Alternatively, you could start to think about the planning stages of your dream garden. Designers, like myself, are still able to help you realise your garden's potential through lockdown. We can work remotely through video calls or in isolation onsite if the garden is able to be accessed directly.

A plus point to getting outside and dabbling in the garden, regardless of your skills, is the immersion of it all. Watching nature grow, observing every little nuance with your plants will mean you start to learn when they are flourishing and when they are not. The sound of birdsong, which in my garden is near enough constant, can have a relaxing mindfulness effect. The physical exertion involved in



Watching nature can reward your hard work. Photo: Graham Barden.

chopping stuff back and digging over the soil will improve fitness levels and the extra exposure to sunlight, albeit with sun cream, will increase vitamin D levels.

Humans are not the only ones to suffer from viruses. Since the start of the year plant passports have now come into place. Nurseries selling plants online or designers and landscapers supplying clients with plants should also be providing a plant passport so that each stage of the transportation process is tracked. This is so that any issues with serious plant health can be traced back. The olive plantations throughout Europe have been devastated by bacteria, *Xylella fastidiosa*, which is transported by sap sucking insects. This poses a serious threat worldwide due to its ability to target and kill so many other species, whilst others act as asymptomatic carriers. Imports of coffee and *Polygala myrtifolia* species are now banned, with severe restrictions on garden favourites such as olive, lavender and rosemary. The best way to



Birdsong can be relaxing. Photo: Graham Barden.



Find inspiration from videos and courses online. Photo: Graham Barden.



Could working outdoors prove popular?  
Photo: Graham Barden.

prevent this from entering the country is to buy UK sourced and grown plants.

So, what to do if you want to start growing flowers, fruit or veg, but haven't a clue where to start, or in the current climate, where to source from? The RHS have published a list of nurseries that would have been at their flower shows and can be found here: [www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/support-our-nurseries](http://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/support-our-nurseries)

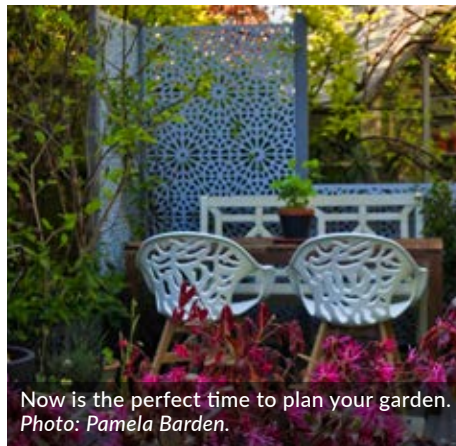
The majority will be offering mail order online, although some will be limiting the number of orders per day in order to protect their workforce. Squires Garden Centre, Longacres and Woking Garden Centre are all delivering locally, although a minimum spend may apply. Maybe if you only need a few things try and club together with your neighbours?

Quick and easy flowers to try growing from seed include nigellas, calendulas, cornflowers and nasturtiums. If you have never tried growing edibles before then now may be a good time to start as you will be able to keep a close eye on their development whilst at home more. Salad crops, peas and potatoes are

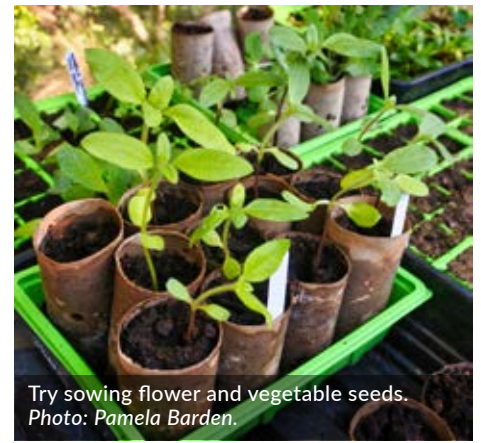
all easy starters for novice growers. It is also important to remember that you will probably make mistakes, but that is how all good gardeners learn, so don't get disheartened. For those with very limited outdoor space or no space at all, window boxes, steps and ledges all lend themselves to growing. Microgreens are perfect for sunny windowsills, being quick to crop and they can be grown on moist kitchen towel. They include basil, broccoli, wheat grass and red cabbage.

If you lack gardening equipment, please don't worry: you don't necessarily need any! Containers and seed trays can be fashioned from everyday packaging and household items such as margarine cartons and toilet roll tubes, whilst milk cartons can be repurposed as watering cans.

Encourage kids into gardening by taking part in the great sunflower challenge. They could compete with their friends. Can they grow the tallest sunflower in the UK? To find out



Now is the perfect time to plan your garden.  
Photo: Pamela Barden.



Try sowing flower and vegetable seeds.  
Photo: Pamela Barden.

more details and to obtain your free sunflower seeds go to: [www.landscapeshow.co.uk/growhappy](http://www.landscapeshow.co.uk/growhappy). They might also find this comes into play with the virtual Village Show!

The Chelsea Flower Show is also going virtual this year, paving the way nicely for Horsell's own virtual garden safari in June! If you need other sources of inspiration for your garden then there are many virtual tours online including the National Garden Scheme: [ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/](http://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/).

For more ideas on gardening projects, sowing seeds, propagating plants and pruning shrubs and to take a tour of my garden you can catch up with my 'How to Garden' video series at: [www.paintedfern.co.uk/How-to-Garden-Videos](http://www.paintedfern.co.uk/How-to-Garden-Videos).

But the most important thing, whether in a real or virtual garden, is to stop and enjoy the natural world around us. Enjoy.

Pamela Barden



Gail Bromley

*Gail was at Kew for almost 40 years. Initially a plant taxonomist, collecting and naming new plants from South America, she later built Kew's education provision and established the volunteer programme. Her MBE was awarded in 2003 for services to education. Gail is known as a national and international advisor for botanic gardens on biodiversity education. She now advises Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI), is chair of National Heritage, Trustee of the Botanic Garden Education Network and the learning service co-ordinator for Historic Houses. She set up the Horsell Garden Safari 17 years ago with Penny Kramer and Michael Charlesworth.*

## A discussion on Tomato

With the wonderful weather we are enjoying at the moment and having more incentive to get gardening, a lot of people have been begging swaps with neighbours or buying vegetable seeds and seedlings to grow on with their children. A great 'learning outside the classroom' experience for children and adults alike. But did you know about some of the exciting vegetables and fruits that you are planting up?

Take the humble tomato. In reality it is a fruit. Botanically – anything with seeds inside is technically a fruit – so the same is true of cucumbers, squashes, aubergines, peppers, avocados etc. Vegetable is really a 'culinary' term- as usually we eat these items in savoury dishes as opposed to what we term 'fruits', which are normally considered as sweet and something used in desserts.

The tomato comes from a large family of plants called the Solanaceae, with over 2,500 species – including herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees – distributed across the world. The family has some really 'good' plants and some which are, unfortunately, 'not so good!' The 'goodies' include other vegetables and fruits we eat such as peppers, chillies, potatoes, aubergines, tomatillos and cape gooseberries. We also enjoy some



Solanaceae in our flower beds – with plants like *Nicotiana* and *Petunia*. The 'baddies' include the nightshades, mandrake, angels trumpets, daturas and tobacco – all of which have toxins to a greater or lesser degree!

Tomatoes were introduced into Europe by the Spanish from South and Central America in the C16th – however for a long time they were treated with suspicion – as botanists recognised their relationship to the nightshades. So, the British people did not really embrace them until the C17th. Fortunately, we now recognise their lovely flavour, diversity and high content of vitamin C. And, interestingly, they are a rich source of umami – one of the five basic tastes along with sweetness, sourness, bitterness and saltiness.

So, keep planting and keep eating plenty of these wonderful fruits (or veg if you prefer to call it that!).

Gail Bromley

# Natural Horsell



Michael Jones

*Hi! I'm Michael and I am the Education & Engagement Officer for the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership. I have worked in conservation for six years (teaching locally before that).*

*I absolutely love nature. I am fortunate to be able to spend time with local schools and community groups, sharing the wonders of our local heathlands. From getting local groups out to places like Horsell Common, to taking assemblies or leading guided walks, every day provides an opportunity to connect someone with something magical.*

*Do get in touch if you are a teacher or group leader interested in finding out more.*



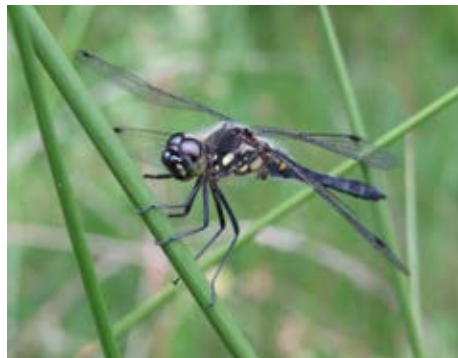
## Summer on the Heath



If you are lucky enough to live close to the heaths of Horsell Common or beyond and able to visit on your one exercise walk a day, please do let us know what you see. I hadn't managed to see a Dartford warbler before being asked to work from home and it won't be long before my favourite bird, the nightjar, returns from Africa to breed on our local heaths. I feel like I am really missing out, so staying in touch via other people might soften that particular blow somewhat!

### Heathland – What to look out for now

Summer is an amazing time on the heath and the area is a hive of activity for an array of fascinating species. Nature is most definitely not on lockdown and wildlife will be going about its normal business apace. A number of birds will be nesting on the ground (or very near to it) during this period. These include rare birds like Dartford warblers, nightjars and woodlarks, which can be easily disturbed by people and dogs walking off the path and amongst the vegetation. Excitingly, after last year's return of the breeding woodlarks to Horsell Common for the first time in over a decade, a pair was seen over Easter. Fingers-crossed they are, once again, given the space they need to breed successfully. That would be amazing news for a rare bird!



As the weather continues to warm, keep an eye out for an increase in butterfly activity. The two undoubted stars of the heath that can be found at Horsell and other local heathland areas are the silver-studded blue and grayling. Very different in their approach to life, the small silver-studded blues are easy to spot as they fly weakly over low-cropped heather, whilst bold graylings will happily charge at passers-by to defend a territory before dropping almost invisible to the ground.



Keep an eye out for dragonflies, patrolling near ponds on sunny days. They are often tricky to tell apart when hunting and duelling with invaders to their patch, but if you are patient you may find they perch somewhere for long enough to get a better look. Species like the black darter will leap out from strategic perches to grab passing dinner. Heathland is a fantastic habitat for a wide variety of dragons!





## #HeathlandatHome

The Thames Basin Heaths Partnership has launched a new campaign via social media called **#HeathlandatHome**, encouraging children (and their families!) to connect with and learn about their amazing local heathland landscapes.

Every Monday and Saturday we will be introducing a different heathland-themed challenge on our social media accounts. The activities are also available to download from [www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/activities/](http://www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/activities/) and include a range of fun arty, crafty and game-related activities.

While we can't all get out on to the heath, we can still learn about it and its amazing wildlife. The nightjars should be arriving just about now!

Horsell Common is part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. To find out what you can do to keep our heaths flourishing, visit [www.tbhpartnership.org.uk](http://www.tbhpartnership.org.uk) or look us up on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Michael Jones – Education Officer, Thames Basin Heaths Partnership



## Wildfire Alert!

As the weather warms up, our heaths experience a greater risk from wildfire. These fires can be truly devastating for wildlife and dangerous to local communities and the firefighters sent to tackle them. They can destroy valuable habitats and kill many species, spreading fast and causing long-lasting damage.

If you visit the heaths over the summer, please be very mindful of the risks and please don't light any fires, have BBQs or drop cigarettes and ensure you take all litter home with you.

If you see a fire – no matter how small – get to a safe place and ring 999. Swift action could make all the difference in preserving your valued heaths.



Caroline Hughes

Caroline really can't be said to have slowed down in retirement! From getting involved in Horsell life through the Garden Safari and the 2012 Jubilation she has been a stalwart of HRA's Second Thursday Club. She led the development of Pares Woodland Garden and Woodlanders. A keen photographer, one such image sparked the idea of a Horsell Charity Calendar. She started the

'adopt a grave' for St Mary's Churchyard and the hugely successful Weekly Walks. If that weren't enough, she helps organise the Christmas Market and the Picnic on the Green. Phew.

## Walks in and around Horsell

Many of you will have enjoyed the walks and the company on the Weekly Wednesday walks. We had around 50 walkers in January. We don't know when we can start walking in groups again but many, many people have been enjoying solo or household walks on Horsell Common during lockdown.

I will upload 12 of the Weekly Wednesday Walks to the HRA website or am happy to email all these walks to you (just email me on the below address). They all start and end in Horsell High Street, but of course you can adapt that to start and end at your home. Each walk lasts about 90 minutes to 2 hours on average. The walks have varied routes. Some go onto Horsell Common, others up to Hook Heath Golf Club and St Johns and others to the Muslim Burial Ground which is now the beautiful Peace Garden.

As well as following social distancing rules, please remember never to throw a match or cigarette onto the ground, especially when on Horsell Common. There has already been one fire this year. Take care to keep to the paths and close all gates. Please also remember that at this time of the year there are ground nesting birds and there can also be cattle around.

Caroline Hughes [c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com)



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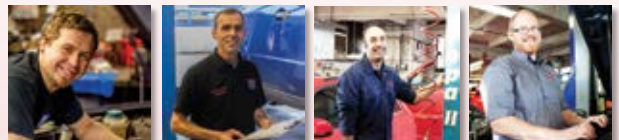
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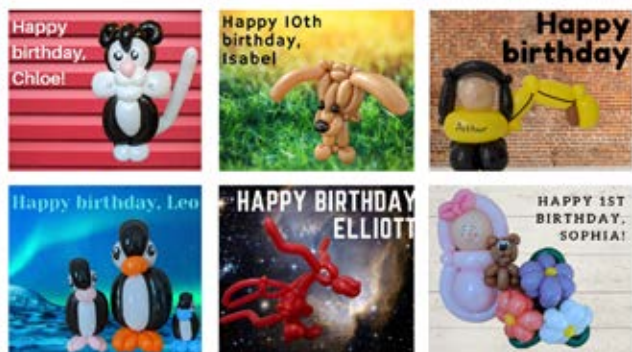
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We still need to celebrate despite the lockdown. Please get in touch if you'd like a free birthday post until I'm able to offer magic parties and balloon deliveries again.



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