

THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

St Michael & All Angels

JUNE 2026



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EDITORIAL

By Tricia Horwood



As we say goodbye this month to Michelle and Daniel of the Three Horseshoes Pub, it truly feels like the end of an era. They have been there for over a decade and have not only hosted many of our village celebrations, but also helped keep us all sane during COVID with their delicious takeaways and memorable VE Day celebrations, when we all sat outside our gardens and were treated to free beer. Daniel's carpentry skills enabled us to mingle outside but under cover while restrictions were still in place, and we all owe them our thanks for keeping the village spirit alive and for giving many of the local youngsters their first taste of employment. We will miss their wonderful steak sandwiches, fish & chips, crispy beef salad and Daniel's famous key lime pie, but we wish them every success in their future endeavours. Do come back and visit us!

In the meantime, the village hall has launched a Friday Night Pop-Up Pub to tide us over until the pub is renovated. Their first night last Friday was a great success—come along anytime from 6 - 10pm (see p34).

Along with the sunshine, June is heating up with loads of village and local events too numerous to mention, so do check out the diary. The photo competition is back, and anyone interested in being included in next year's calendar is invited to submit photos by the end of August (see p35).

And finally, the Horts Society have come up with a great idea to encourage more participation in the Autumn Show—a neighbourhood competition, with teams of 6 from around the village competing to produce the best floral and produce displays (see p37 for how to join teams and enter).

Wishing you a green and sunny summer!

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EDITOR: Tricia HORWOOD, Thursley House, Dye House Road, Thursley GU8 6QD.

Tel: 01252 705171 E-mail: tricia@horwood.org

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VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL DIRECTORY

CHURCH: ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

VICAR

Revd Hannah Moore 01252 705941
rector@parishesofetsph.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Revd Delia Orme 01252 702217
minister@parishesofetsph.org

Louisa MASON 01252 705164
curate@parishesofetsph.org

CHURCHWARDENS

Susanna HUNTER 07833 574152
gammelby@btinternet.com

Simon TREADWELL 07799 600470
charlessimontreadwell@gmail.com

TREASURER

Rupert PERRIER 07916 294646
rupertperrier@googlemail.com

PCC CLERK OF WORKS

Simon TREADWELL 01428 687715
charlessimontreadwell@gmail.com

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILLORS

Claire DAILLY 07722 943909
claire.dailly@yahoo.com

Sarah O'BRIEN 07990 572263
sarahchristinaobrien@gmail.com

Charlotte LAYCOCK 07469 920174
Charlotte.laycock3@gmail.com

Steve CRUICKSHANK 07768 774398
Stephen.cruickshank@hotmail.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Sarah O'BRIEN 07990 572263
sarahchristinaobrien@gmail.com

ORGANIST

Robbie GOLDFINCH 01252 705151

CHURCH CLEANING

Sallie ROLES 01252 706820

CHURCH FLOWERS

Lisa WOODS 07710 070412

CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Caroline MENDELSSOHN 01252 702808
caroline.mendelssohn@yahoo.co.uk

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Mike ROBERTS 07948 243887
mike.roberts83@btinternet.com

HELP IN THURSLEY 07538 201276

Chairman:

David YOUNG 01428 607716
chairman@helpinthursley.com

Treasurer:

Peter HUNTER 01252 702165
peterhunter@btconnect.com

THURSLEY CRICKET CLUB

Chairman:

Lee SMALLBONE
chairman@thursleycricketclub.com

Secretary:

Alex MEEARS
secretary@thursleycricketclub.com

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.thursley-pc.gov.uk

Council Clerk:

Elaine FELTON 01252 703201
 The Barrows, Seale Road, Elstead GU8 6LF
clerk@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Chairman:

James MENDELSSOHN 07941 507753
 Bears Barn, Dye House Road, Thursley
 Surrey GU8 6QD
j.mendelssohn@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Vice Chairman:

Chris MCCLEMENTS 07970 204906
c.mcclements@thursley-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Michelle DE VRIES 07590 893497
m.devries@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Helen FLAVELL 07941060663

h.flavell@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Sarah O'BRIEN

s.obrien@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Phoebe SULLIVAN

p.sullivan@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Tom TAYLOR-MATHEWS

t.taylormathews@thursley-pc.gov.uk

PARISH FOOTPATH WARDENS

Contact Elaine Felton 01252 703201

COMMUNITY RECYCLER

Bruce PYWELL 07498 744 793

bruce.pywell@gmail.com

THURSLEY NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Reserve Warden:

James GILES 01428 685675

james.giles@naturalengland.org.uk

THURSLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman

Sally SCHEFFERS : 07887 616541

scheffers@btinternet.com

Secretary:

Jackie RICKENBERG 07941 433103

jackierickenberg@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Peter RICKENBERG 07774 203111

peterrickenberg5@gmail.com

Archivist:

Alison HANBURY 07980 202579

Website:

David YOUNG 07879 551206

Davidjohnyoung51@hotmail.com

THURSLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Secretary:

Pat CLAKE 01252 706869

patclake@hotmail.com

HANKLEY COMMON MILITARY ACTIVITY

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jackie MALTON 07885 147304

ThursleyNW@gmail.com

THURSLEY LADIES 50+ LUNCH

Lisa WOODS 07710 070412

lisahcottage@gmail.com

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THURSLEY VILLAGE HALL

www.thursleyvillagehall.co.uk

thursleyvillagehall@btinternet.com

Village Hall Chairman:

Clea BEECHEY 07711 183959

cleab@me.com

Village Hall Secretary:

Alison HANBURY 07980 202579

Village Hall Manager: 01252 706929

Alison HANBURY 07980 202579

thursleyvillagehall@btconnect.com

COUNCILLORS

Surrey County:

David HARMER 01428 606921

Wyanston, Tower Road, Hindhead,

Surrey GU26 6ST

david.harmer@surreycc.gov.uk

Waverley Borough:

David MUNRO 07493 200398

david.munro@waverley.gov.uk

James STAUNTON

james.staunton@waverley.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Rt Hon Jeremy HUNT 01428 609416

huntj@parliament.uk

SERVICES FOR THE PARISHES OF ELSTEAD, THURSLEY, SHACKLEFORD & PEPPER HAROW

JUNE

SUNDAY 7th Trinity 2	9.15am	Mattins Service at St James' Church, Elstead
	9.45am	Communion at St Michael's, Thursley
	10.30am	Modern Service with communion at St James' Church, Elstead
SUNDAY 14th Trinity 3	9.15am	Communion at St James' Church, Elstead
SUNDAY 21st Father's Day	9.45am	Communion at St Michael's, Thursley
	10.30am	Modern Service at St James' Church, Elstead
	11.00am	Father's Day Service of the Word at St Mary's Church, Shackleford
SUNDAY 28th Trinity 5	10.00am	Communion at St Nicholas Church, Pepper Harow

www.parishesofetsph.org.uk

JUNE

CHURCH CLEANING

(Please contact Sallie Roles if you can help)

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(Please contact Caroline Mendelssohn if you can help)

7th Jackie RICKENBERG 21st Marion O'BRIEN

LOCAL & VILLAGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

Wednesday 3rd	7.00pm	Horts Society host a “Roses & Rosé Evening”. Village Hall. All welcome. See p32.
Sunday 7th	7—5.00pm	Open Farm Sunday. Bowlhead Green Farm. All welcome. See p31.
Thursday 11th	2.30-4.30pm	Horts Society Garden visit to The Manor in Haslemere. See p40.
Sunday 14th	1—5.00pm	Big Band Jazz at the Hog’s Back Brewery. In aid of Phyllis Tuckwell. See p29.
Tuesday 16th	7.00pm	Thursley Parish Council Meeting. Village Hall. All welcome.
Thursday 18th	6.00pm	Evening Churchyard Walk & Supper. Hosted by History Society. See p15.
Friday 19th/20th/21st	7.30pm	Tilford Bach Festival. See p46.
Saturday 20th	10.00am	Churchyard Working Party. St Michael & All Angels Church. All help welcome.
Sunday 28th	11.00am	Elstead Paperboat Race. See p44.

Fired Legacies: The Ceramic World of Rich Miller will be exhibiting at
Watt’s Gallery until 18th June (see p 36).

Village Table Tennis (open to everyone) is held every Tuesday evening from 6-7pm in
the pavilion. If you’d like to come along please email Andy Hanbury in advance on
ahanbury@btinternet.com

PLEASE NOTE NEW BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR

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LOOK OUT, LOOK UP & FIND GOD

By Revd Hannah Moore



Dear Friends,

As I sit to write this note to you, I look out my window and the promised sun is shining brightly, bees, birds and other flying things are buzzing around, flowers are beginning to blossom, and life is full of hope and promise for Spring leading into summer.

Meantime many are stuck behind closed doors, working or studying and facing tests and exams in the very near future. Some of little consequence, some which will be life changing and setting the road ahead for a few years.

For others all those exams and work challenges are far behind them and the daily challenge is how to get moving in the morning, and keep a certain flexibility and mobility to be able to enjoy life.

Whatever your current circumstances I suggest you pause, look up, look out. You may see other people busy, or also stopping to look around. When we stop and look we will see that we are not alone. When

we stop and listen we may find it easier to make that spiritual connection to God; seeing God the Creator in the life around us; seeing God the Redeemer in the forgiveness and compassion we see in other people's acts of love and kindness, and then understanding that God offers that forgiveness and love to each of us too through the work of His Son Jesus Christ; and we see God the Holy Spirit in the fruits of the Spirit which flow out of us. According to St Paul: the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Now that's a good list for us to work through.

At the end of May we celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church at Pentecost and we rejoice in those gifts of the Spirit which we can all try to use in our relationships. Then the following Sunday the 31st May we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity - God is one, and is 3 persons, or 3 profiles, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This may seem complicated, but really it is our picture of God broken down into 3 pictures which enable us to approach God from wherever we are and however we are feeling. Look out, look up and find God. Find God's love and peace and hope for the bright future ahead of us.

Hannah

Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford & Peper Harow
Church in the community, community in the church

Hyems & Pimm's

18 July 2026



15:00 - 17:30



Tickets cost: £15

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We are raising funds for the Fit 4 the Future Phase
2 of the project



THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

By Chairman James Mendelssohn



With the recent elections of Councillors to our new unitary authority, which will become operational in April 2027 after a transitional year, we are absolutely delighted that we will be represented by an existing Thursley Parish Councillor, Phoebe Sullivan. Our second representative will be Keith Buchanan, who has been a regular attendee at our recent parish council meetings and is therefore already well known to us – and familiar with many of the issues that we are facing here in Thursley.

A number of local people have asked what these changes really means for us in Thursley. While the detail is still evolving, one thing is becoming increasingly clear: parish councils are likely to become more important than ever.

At present, Surrey operates under a “two-tier” system. Surrey County Council (SCC) is responsible for services such as highways, education and social care, and for us in Thursley, Waverley Borough Council (WBC) deal with planning, housing, refuse collection and local amenities. Under the unitary model, these responsibilities will be combined into the new West Surrey Council.

For some, this has raised an understandable concern that decision-making could become more distant from us here in Thursley, particularly as we have worked hard over the years to forge good relationships at both SCC and WBC. Larger authorities may be more efficient in some areas, but they could also feel less connected to the day-to-day issues affecting us in Thursley.

The role of the parish council is therefore important. We are the most local tier of government and are uniquely placed to represent issues in Thursley. We all live locally; we understand local priorities; and we are often the first point of contact for residents when they have concerns, be they about potholes, speeding traffic, footpaths, playgrounds or planning matters. As Surrey moves towards a unitary structure, we will strive to become your “local voice” within the much larger system.

In some parts of the country that have already undergone local government reorganisation, parish councils have expanded their role significantly. That will not necessarily be the case here in Thursley because there are no community buildings, public toilets, parks, open spaces etc here that would typically be owned by SCC or WBC and then passed on to the parish council.

As a parish council, we will not be replacing the principal authority, nor will volunteers suddenly be needed to manage a range of additional services. However, I think that we will need to

think more strategically about the future. Skills, training, communication and long-term planning will become increasingly important.

There should also be opportunities. As a local parish council, we should be able to act more quickly and flexibly than larger authorities, perhaps in terms of securing grants or working closely with local organisations and charities to mobilise volunteers in ways that larger councils sometimes cannot. Local accountability also remains a major strength with you,

the residents of Thursley, being able to speak directly to councillors you know personally and who understand the character of our community.

Whilst we must expect significant change, we believe that we are well placed to help ensure that our local interests, priorities and community spirit are not lost within larger administrative structures.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16 June at 7.00 pm.

EVENING CHURCHYARD WALK & SUPPER

Thursday 18th June 6pm

£15 per person to include wine & supper



Please join us for the Thursley History Society's next event which will be a midsummer evening guided walk around St. Michael & All Angels Churchyard.

Amanda Flint-Roberts and Sally Scheffers will each take a group around to tell the stories of our predecessors and friends buried in the Churchyard. Following our walk, we will then share a simple supper of quiche and salad, hopefully under the oak tree in the John Freeman Memorial Field.

The cost will be £15 per person and need to be pre-booked by Monday 15th June with Sally Scheffers at scheffers@btinternet.com.

Parking will be available in the John Freeman Memorial Field.

Hope you can come!

THE PSTN LANDLINE SWITCH-OFF

By Phonely.co.uk

To all residents of Thursley,

I'm writing from Phonely. You may remember us from the COVID period, when we worked with parish councils across the UK to set up free community support lines connecting elderly residents with local volunteers. Our MD Grant Hardy spoke about the initiative on ITV News at the time.

We're back in touch because we think there's another issue affecting many of you, the PSTN landline switch-off.

By January 2027, the UK's old copper phone network will be switched off, area by area. For older or vulnerable residents, particularly those with telecare alarms or no mobile phone, it can be confusing and potentially risky if they're not prepared in time.

Our free guide is available here:

www.phonely.co.uk/uk-digital-landline-switchover

For any residents who have questions, our UK team is available on freephone: **0800 112 5000**.

A little about us, for context. Through our consumer phone brand Phonely, we work closely with organisations focused on protecting older and vulnerable people.

- We ran a joint pilot with Greater Manchester Police and Friends Against Scams (National Trading Standards) to protect residents from scam calls;
- We were featured on BBC Morning Live's Scam Safe Roadshow to raise awareness of phone scams;
- We are a Neighbourhood Watch partner;
- We work alongside Age UK to support older adults;

Our aim is simply to raise awareness before residents are caught off guard, and parish councils are often the most trusted and effective way to reach the people who need this information most.

If you or someone you know relies on a home phone, particularly for a telecare alarm, medical device, or burglar alarm, it is important not to wait to be contacted.

Please see the checklist opposite which may help you in preparing for the digital switch-over in January 2027.

The PSTN Switch-Off Checklist

The UK's landline network is being switched off. Don't wait to be contacted. Here's what to do now, in plain English.

☐ **STEP 01 Don't wait. Start planning now**

Your provider should write to you before your line is switched, but letters can come late, get missed, or not arrive at all. We've heard from people whose lines stopped working with no warning. Acting early gives you choice and avoids the rush.

☐ **STEP 02 Ask your provider when your area is scheduled**

The switch-off is rolling out area by area across the UK. Call your provider and ask directly. Don't wait for a letter. Knowing your date helps you sort everything else in good time.

☐ **STEP 03 Check if your home phone will still work**

Most older corded phones that plug directly into the wall socket will not work on the new digital network without an adapter. Check with your provider. Many will supply one free of charge, or replace your handset.

☐ **STEP 04 Check any personal or medical alarm**

If you or someone in your home uses a telecare device, such as a lifeline pendant alarm, fall detector, or emergency call button, contact the alarm provider before anything changes. These devices often rely on the phone line and may need replacing or reconfiguring.

☐ **STEP 05 Check your home burglar alarm**

Many home alarm systems use the phone line to contact a monitoring centre if they're triggered. Contact your alarm company to ask if your system is switch-off ready.

☐ **STEP 06 Know what happens if the power or internet goes down**

Unlike a traditional landline, your new digital phone needs your broadband router switched on and working. If the power goes out or your internet drops, it won't work. **The Phonely app** means you can still make and receive calls from your mobile using mobile data, so you're never left without a phone.

☐ **STEP 07 Ask your broadband provider about emergency call backup**

Your broadband provider is required by Ofcom to offer you a way to call 999 during a power cut, usually a battery backup unit for your router, free of charge if you rely on your landline and don't have another device, such as a mobile phone. Contact them directly to find out more about battery backups.

☐ **STEP 08 Write down your key phone numbers today**

In case of any disruption during the switch, keep a few important numbers written down somewhere easy to find: your doctor's surgery, a family member, and your provider's customer service number.

☐ **STEP 09 Ask for help, sooner rather than later**

You don't have to figure this out alone. Your provider must offer assisted migration support, and charities like Age UK can help. The earlier you ask, the more time there is to get it right.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VETERAN FENCER

By Paul Wedge



It would be no understatement to say fencing has changed my life. It has given me life-changing experiences, direction and confidence that I would not have had, had I not discovered this wonderful sport.

Fencing was on the programme at the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896. Though it is a truly international sport, it is considered a minority sport in the UK, with only around 15,000 competitors. Compare this with France, for example, where Fencing accounts for the most Olympic medals won by them in any sport. Indeed, trying to get a ticket for Fencing at the French Olympics was the hottest ticket in the Olympics!

Though it has been modernised and popularised by the Olympics in recent years, it may still seem like a more inaccessible or class-driven sport. So how did a 14 year old boy going to a rough State-School in Manchester get into Fencing?

Well, like a lot of things in life, it was chance and good fortune.

A new teacher called Len Hill joined my school West Hill to teach Chemistry. He also happened to be a very good and respected Professor of Fencing and took it upon himself to initiate us to the sport.

I, along with 7 or 8 other boys, formed a core fencing group.

Early fencing success started almost immediately and was helped at the time by good funding from local education (remember that?!).

I became Cheshire schools' champion, one of my proudest moments, and then other successes followed both at local Northwest level then at National level. By the time I left secondary school I was twice National Under 20 champion, National Champion, won the Liverpool Open; represented Great Britain at the World Youth Championships in Istanbul and Mexico and won a team gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships in Ontario Canada.

This was a surreal world I had moved into; travelling most weekends either to

London or abroad to Europe or occasionally beyond and meeting a wide range of people from all walks of life from upper-class public-school boys, to titled individuals, diplomats and too many nationalities to mention. Quite a journey for a boy from a quiet mill town in Manchester!

The next part of my fencing journey was when I went to university. I initially went to Dundee University to do Dentistry believe it or not! This only lasted 8 months as most Thursdays I would board a train to London and return sometime Monday having fenced in London or returned from overseas. Naturally neither Dundee dental college nor I thought this was a long-term solution and I left Dundee to join Manchester University where I read Business studies and Chemistry .

At this juncture I decided I needed to concentrate on gaining a degree rather

than continue to further my fencing career.

I had just missed out on the Olympics being the reserve non travelling member and confined myself to university fencing. I became National Universities fencing champion and went to the World Student Games in Sofia Bulgaria which was great fun as it was a mini young person's Olympics.

After graduating I moved to London and joined Shell who were clearly impressed by my fencing achievements as they normally didn't recruit from red brick Universities.

Once in London I started to resume my fencing career joining a London club and having lessons from the GB coach. Despite all my efforts I think the effect of a new job, moving, new career and new love life were all sufficient distractions to adversely affect my fencing performance and I started to enjoy it less.



I can still clearly remember, when I was 24, fencing at my club and after a horrible training session zipping up my fencing bag and thinking “that’s it.” I promptly put my fencing bag in the attic, where it stayed for many years. It would have remained there for even longer, had it not been for the London Olympics.

The London Olympics were some 30 years after I had put my fencing bag away, but I wanted to go and watch how the sport had developed. I took my son, Alex, and we promptly joined the throng of people trying to get in. It wasn’t long before I was approached by fencers I knew from my past. Indeed, I met so many people my son asked how I knew them all — he didn’t realise I had fenced before!

Watching the fencing was a light bulb moment. Not only was it electrifying as a spectacle, but I realised how much I had missed the sport and the friendships I had previously made.

Shortly after this I decided to restart my fencing journey.

To restart, I thought it best to contact my old coach who was Ziemek Wojciechowski who was still the GB National coach. He coached at the Lansdowne club which was not too far from my place in London.

I remember going one cold February evening and watching him give a lesson to a fencer. I watched from the sidelines and when they got close to me they suddenly stopped. The fencer being taught took off his mask and promptly said “*Wedgy where the F xxx have you been?*”.

I had fenced him first as a schoolboy at 14 and throughout my fencing career to its end at 24. He had continued fencing and had competed at three Olympics.

It was as if time had stood still for my 30 year absence and the longevity of the sport continues to amaze me. I am still fencing Tony now some 50 years after we first met.



Paul & Tony World Championships 2015

It was the start of an incredible journey. I was now reconnected with fencers I had fought when I was young, who, whilst now older, were still competitive and active.

The Lansdowne had a good reputation as a strong veterans club and I was surprised to be informed there was an active, competitive fencing circuit.

I remember saying clearly that I would definitely not be competing, but that brings me to the next stage of my fencing journey.

To get match fit involves training and after 30 years of absence took me some time as the muscle groups are specific.

I have always trained generally so was fit, but fencing fit is something else. My early sessions were characterised by having to stop mid bout as I thought I would pass out—I forgot to breath and was holding my breath! Muscles would go into spasm, and I remember overtraining one session and being unable to walk for a week! It was a slow journey, but I rediscovered not only my love for the sport but my fitness, speed and flexibility.

Commencing veterans competitive fencing was a reluctant step for me. Firstly, I was scared of failure having achieved so much as a junior and secondly, I wondered if I could compete after so long. Would I have that hunger and desire I had so much of when I was much younger?

Veterans fencing is large in Europe. The level is high and at the last Worlds there were over 1000 competitors. Each country keeps upping their game with coaches, physios and masseurs in their teams.

When I first started veterans fencing success came quite quickly and unexpectedly. I qualified for my first veteran's World's in Hungary at 59 and off I went with my friends. The first issue when I arrived at the venue was equipment control. All equipment is checked to see that it is safe and has the correct Kite marks. To my surprise my equipment failed! The kit I bought when I restarted fencing was for beginners, so I had the ignominy of having to buy a new kit there and fence without my national colours on my kit! To say that was embarrassing and a schoolboy error would be an understatement and I am often teased about my preparation ahead of a major competition!

My first fight didn't go well—I lost 5-2 and I thought I would be immediately eliminated. I talked to the opponent who had beaten me easily, Fabio Maraldi, an Italian. He told me I fenced well and that I would be Ok. He then casually informed me he had won the World Championships the previous year! Whilst I got knocked out by another Italian later, my desire and competitive nature to get better kicked in. I decided I needed to apply myself far more fully.

I upped my training regime to fencing twice a week with lessons both days and started personalised gym sessions where I

would concentrate on power and speed. Flexibility would be improved with regular yoga sessions and easing muscle fatigue would be offset by regular massage. I concluded that if 30 years of absence from fencing had reduced my fencing technical competitive advantage, I should at least aim to be one of the fittest in my category.

I have been incredibly fortunate to rediscover fencing after so long. I have reconnected with old friends and made a huge number of new ones both here in the UK and overseas. When I look back at what fencing has brought me, it's the friendships and experiences with my fellow fencers that I am most proud of.

I have been fortunate to win quite a few competitions since I re-entered fencing as a veteran — four individual World Championships, three World team golds, two European Individual, two European Team, one Commonwealth individual gold, two UK National Championships, and many individual completions in both UK and Europe.

Last year I repeated what I did in my 60's which I thought I would never achieve again — UK, European, and World Champion all in the same year.

Going forward I am still undecided if I will continue to compete, but one thing is for sure, I will still train and fence with my buddies till I can't!



Paul at World Championship 2015



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WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE FARM THIS MONTH?

By Jo Ranson

Conversation in this household is purely about the weather, and how useless the weather apps are. Millions of pounds are spent on forecasting the weather and I think it all goes to one person who pulls back the curtain and changes it to what is actually happening; it's quite a source of entertainment comparing all the apps and whose will be closest to what is predicted. It is in general warmer, and yes, we have had a few showers, but they are so isolated and we are really desperate now for more. As a result we are very short of grass.

We did our first cut of silage about three weeks ago and it yielded ok, but we only did half of the area allocated for silage and this week we did the other half - again the yield was ok but the clamp for the cows is not yet full. Timing was of prime importance in order to dodge any potential showers and get a good bit of sunshine on the grass to boost the sugar levels. The wind however was a real pain. Lovely to have a bit of breeze to dry the grass (but not too much to dry it out completely) but as soon as it sees you with a plastic sheet it is out in full force. Trying to control sheets in the wind is like trying to push water uphill and no amount of helpers standing on corners (or lying on them as the wind really picked up) was any good either, but a lot more shouting and swearing helped though!! As soon as we cut, Toby was out fertilising the next day and we have put some slurry on too. It now needs plenty of rain and some sunshine to get it to grow again as

we have to fill the clamp and make some for the heifers and calves and then some bales for the beef animals.

The grazing paddocks aren't keeping up either so we are feeding what was left over (good quality bale wise from last year) but that will run out this week too so we may be feeding what is in the clamp already which will decrease our next winter's stocks before we have even started. We are selling the empty cows sooner this year too to bring down the numbers of cows we have to feed which will help a little and it won't be long before we start drying them off for their summer holidays but they still have to eat something.

Another reason for selling the empty cows sooner is to reduce the amount of litres of milk we are producing. Hopefully I explain this ok as it does get a bit complicated. During the months of March, April and May there is a spring flush (worldwide) so we will only get paid full price for the milk we would averagely produce at this time of year; anything above that (on a percentage grading) we will only get half the price. Therefore, it is beneficial for us to reduce the litres we sell as the lower price is less than what it costs us to make it. And we are producing more milk than we would normally at this time of year. Although I have said we don't have the grass to feed them, what grass we do have is of good quality so the cows have loved this and milked better as is the case with the majority of dairy farmers around the country - basically you

are damned if you do and damned if you don't. As farmers we are constantly told to become more efficient with cows' management, emissions and genetics to help be more profitable, environmentally friendly and sustainable which has also produced more money but also milk.

We got the maize in on a very dry day - you could just about see Toby if you followed the dust cloud - and sprayed for any weeds that might think about coming early (dodging windy bouts) and it is all up within days. I always find maize impressive. Wheat, you plant in the autumn, and it takes until the following summer to get knee high, but maize goes in in the spring and is way above head height at the end of the summer - you could watch it grow. It will need another spray for weeds soon before the maize leaves get too big; weeds love sandy maize ground, but the quality of the maize suffers as does the forager when he harvests it as they block the header.

In-between all this drilling, spraying and silaging we managed to get the solar panels cleaned. I had asked for a company to come and do it, they asked for areas and heights and number of panels then gave me a lengthy form to fill in, and then we never heard from them again (don't think I made it sound that bad a job) so we bought a telescopic broom with hose attachments (£40 well spent) and used the JCB and in a day we had it done ourselves and now have the equipment and know how to do it as when required.

The cows had all been behaving well until one got mastitis, not badly, but she has to come out of the herd and kept separate so there can be no

accidents of the wrong milk going in the tank. She, however, didn't like being on her own and jumped out of the field, so we gave her a friend (an older one that would be happy to help). Again, this was not what the mastitis one wanted so we put both in the barn and she escaped again, so it was imprisonment in the loose box which has a sheeted door. She was still not happy and she tried jumping that (never had one before do that) and cut her leg. So now the mastitis is the least of her troubles, swabs and bandaging are needed for her too; she has now given in to the fact we are trying to help and is now making a good recovery. Hope she has learned her lesson.

It's never a dull moment here and we are now on full planning for Open Farm Sunday if you would like to come, please book a ticket following this code:

www.trybooking.com/uk/6JTIQ

It's all free - just gives us an idea of numbers. The cows will soon be dried off so planning the groups for that. Then it will be planning for a wedding as Toby and Beth got engaged last week so it is all go.



COMMUNAL MEETING PLACES IN THURSLEY

By Jackie Rickenberg (from the archives of The History Society)

Change is afoot! As we approach, what will hopefully be a long, hot summer, it's a very exciting and unique time to be a Thursleyite. For what is effectively, a rather small village, we have all the essentials to complete the idyllic English village tick boxes – church, pub, village hall and cricket/multipurpose pavilion. Communal meeting places like these are where we congregate to swap news, ideas, hold social occasions and share mutual beliefs. They bring people together, giving them places to meet, connect and helping to create a stronger sense of belonging, making communities healthier and more welcoming.

The Three Horseshoes

There's a lot of talk and discussion in the media at the moment surrounding the Great British Pub, and how, as they are closing at a rate of two a day, they can be saved for the sake of local communities. We are extremely fortunate, as thanks to a few locals who got together and bought the building twenty-three years ago, we are not at the whim of a brewery or institution. The shareholders are, or were in the past, all villagers with the best intentions at their core. Our pub is undergoing a transitional period, where a much-needed renovation is about to begin, but the knowledge that it will be safe, secure and updated for future generations is fantastic news. We look forward to watching progress and

having our pub back later on in the year. If you go onto our website;

thursleyhistorysociety.org

there is an amazing collection of photographs of the pub through the ages. Just type The Three Horseshoes into the search bar. I've chosen to include here my two particular favourites, the first of Val, a notorious landlord from the 1960's-1980's, who some people will remember and about whom so many hilarious tales have been told. They don't make them like him any more and I suppose customer relations are all the better for it!

The second, is a black and white photograph, undated, of a film shoot hunt meet, with the old village hall in the left background. Whatever your views on hunting, this quintessentially English country scene marks a bygone



Val and his broom

era - and just look how patiently the hounds are gathered. Here is a little history from the website:

"In 1892, a return of Licensed Houses to Guildford Petty Sessions, show the pub as a free house. The Licensee was an Arthur Steed, and the second owner was Miss Rushbrooke, of Cosford House. Listed under Thursley Public Houses were The Railway Hotel, The Crown and Cushion and other Haslemere pubs, as well as The Red Lion and The Half Moon in Thursley. This shows they were in Thursley Parish at the time. In the early part of World War 1, the publican of The Three Horseshoes, Arthur Ford and his wife, were dismissed by the brewery for procuring girls for the soldiers".

St Michael and All Angels

As many may know, our beautiful ancient church is approaching it's 1,000th year. This Millennial occurs in 2030 and already initial planning is

underway to mark this historic occasion. The churchyard contains many interesting graves, tombstones and monuments and Thursley History Society are reviving the Churchyard Walk, initially written and illustrated by Amanda Flint and Sean Edwards in 2018. This updated and extended walk and talk, followed by supper and wine, will be on Thursday 18th June at 6.30pm and will be hosted by Amanda and Sally Scheffers. See the advert in this magazine for more details, but rest assured it will be one not to miss!

For more details on the church and it's previous 996 years, please visit the website.

Cricket Pavilion

Thursley Cricket Club was formed in 1860 and was hugely popular and successful through the years. This photo illustrates how popular, as the number of cars parked on the rec and the volume of spectators - at a time



where many people will have walked to the ground - tells its own story.

Sadly, for many reasons, the ground and club have fallen into disrepair, but a band of locals have done an amazing job of donating, volunteering, planning and generally enthusing the village to completely transform the cricket pavilion into a multi-purpose community space.

A little more detail from their website:

“The Thursley Pavilion Project will transform the existing pavilion into a flexible, inclusive, year-round community hub. It will provide accessible space for sport, wellbeing, social and community activities, helping to increase participation, reduce isolation and support healthier lifestyles for residents of all ages. Developed through local consultation,

the project will maximise the use of an existing village asset, strengthen community connections and ensure the long-term sustainability of the recreation ground for future generations”.

And I’m sure to revive the cricket ground and the club back to its former glory. See their website for more details;

thursleypavilion.co.uk

So, it’s an unprecedented time of planning and change in the village. However, by summer 2027, we will have a newly refurbished village pub and pavilion, planning for our church celebrations will be well underway, and no-one can argue that they will not be hugely beneficial and transformative for our village. Lucky us!



Big Band Jazz at The Hogs Back Brewery



Starring
'The Barnes Big Band'
in aid of
Phyllis Tuckwell, Hospice Care

Kindly sponsored by



Sunday 14th June, 2026, 1pm-5.30pm

The Hangar, The Hogs Back Brewery, Tongham, Surrey, GU10 1DE

Join us for an afternoon of live music from 'The Barnes Big Band', a 16-piece jazz orchestra. Enjoy locally brewed Hogs Back beer and help us celebrate your new Hospice, which will open in 2026

Open - 1pm ~ Jazz concert - 2pm-4.30pm with a short interval ~ Food available to purchase
Event closes at 5.30pm ~ 100% proceeds to Phyllis Tuckwell

EARLY BIRD TICKETS £25, including a welcome drink*

*To purchase tickets or for more information:



pth.org.uk/jazz-at-the-hbb



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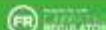


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Find us on:



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LEAF Open Farm Sunday

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Free Entry

Sunday 7th June 2026

7am- 5pm

Bowlhead Green Farm, Rurton Hill Road

Bowlhead Green, GU8 6NW

Refreshinents available

Things to see

Cows being milked

Farm Machinery

See the cows grazing

See where your milk comes from



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LEAF Open Farm Sunday is managed by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming). Charity no 1047881

Rose Competition | Wine Tasting | Music



Please join us for an evening of

Roses

& ROSÉ

Thursley Horticultural Society hosts an evening
of Roses and Rosé in the Village Hall Garden.

All welcome. Non-Members: £2 entry.

WEDNESDAY | 3 JUNE | 7.00pm start

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY UPDATE

By Pat Clarke

The Horticultural Society Plant Sale went well and was an enjoyable social occasion. Using the area outside the cricket pavilion is proving to be popular, and again we had very fine weather. Many thanks to those who grew and donated plants, especially to Tim and Margaret Walsh, and Tina Chant. Thanks to Teresa Goble for bringing honey. Thanks too to those who supported the Horticultural Society by buying plants.

Amanda Flint had for weeks nurtured sunflower seedlings and gave out 40 little plants to children, parents and grandparents to encourage little green fingers. Photographs of the tall 'Kong' variety and the multiheaded 'Gummy Bear' can be sent to us eventually. The Nursery school children were also given sunflower plants or seeds. The Thursley Junior Growers Group has made a good start! Thanks Amanda. The Village Hall profited too from books donated by Sandra Hannauer. Altogether, a very good morning.

Our next event is the Roses and Rosé Wine Evening on Wednesday 3rd June – a celebration of roses! Raid your garden and bring roses if you would like to enter the Rose Show – it was very impressive last year. The evening will begin 7pm.

As well as Rosé wine and soft drinks there will be refreshments and live music

from Mike Roberts. David and Catherine May from Seale Rose Nursery will be there too with ideas and advice about Roses. All welcome. Non members £2. To enter the Rose classes bring your entries between 6.30 and 7pm. Tables and vases will be set out and you will be given an entry card to fill in. If you are concerned about which class to enter, help will be at hand. You could enter any or several classes, or none.

Judging will take place between 7.30 and 8pm while we sample the Rosé, soft drinks and delicious refreshments. Cups will be awarded.

ROSE CLASSES

- One single stem with one large bloom.
- Three stems with one large bloom on each. These may be three of the same or different varieties.
- Three stems with cluster/clusters of small flowered roses. These could be from patio, ground cover or rambler style roses. Three of the same or different varieties.
- Two stems with clusters/clusters of medium to large style blooms.
- One stem of a "novelty" rose. e.g. striped or with splashes of colour.
- One perfumed rose.

We look forward to seeing you.

VILLAGE HALL TO THE RESCUE!

By Clea Beechey



Our beloved Three Horseshoes may be closed for the summer, but there is an opportunity to catch up with your friends between 6 and 10pm every Friday in the village hall! You will receive a warm welcome, and we'll try our best to offer some choice at the licensed bar (as well as crisps and nuts) - all funds raised will go towards our next village hall project - namely new curtains and a paint job for the main hall. We look forward to seeing you every Friday from 22nd May til the pub reopens!

In other news, we've got a really exciting save the date ... on Saturday 3rd October, Thursley's very own superstar Dave Rowntree will be at the hall talking about "Blur on Mars". Not to be missed! To reserve a spot, please email Valerie on ferrisvalerie@aol.com - we advise that you get in quick as this one will be popular!

The village hall has a new trustee - Lynne Stewart Brindle has come on board. Lynne lives in Smallbrook Farm, and brings boundless enthusiasm and masses of experience to the

committee! We are always keen to welcome new trustees, so please contact any of us (Clea Beechey, Valerie Ferris, Amanda Hall, Alison Hanbury, Lynette Lawson-Tyers or Lynne) if you'd like to join us. We are also looking for a couple of people to take on the organisation of the Scarecrow Trail around Halloween, which we'd love to reinstate as it was such a fabulous village event. Can you help?

And finally ... two reminders:

Don't forget about the clothes bank in the village hall car park - it takes (all bagged up, please, not loose) clothes, paired shoes, blankets, handbags, belts, towels and household linens, and the village hall gets paid by weight for what you donate.

And now is the perfect time to capture our beautiful village in all its spring/summer glory for the 2027 village calendar! Landscape photos preferred, please email your entries at their best resolution, before the end of September, to Neil McIntyre on:

neil90south@gmail.com

It's that time again!



No sooner have you turned the page to June in your 2026 village calendar and it's time to think about the 2027 edition!

Photos wanted please.

It's always great to see your favourite shots of village life: buildings, landscapes, wildlife, events, gatherings, neighbours,

There will again be a prize of £50 for the judges' favourite shot and entries are welcomed from all ages and abilities. All funds raised will go to the Village Hall extension (charity 1167105).

Closing date: 30th August 2026

Please submit entries to Neil McIntyre (neil90south@gmail.com) with a short description or title and your details and age (if under 18)

FIRED LEGACIES: THE CERAMIC WORLD OF RICH MILLER

By Sally Scheffers



Rich Miller's Solo Show 16th April — 18th June 2026

At the Watts Gallery in Compton is an exciting first solo show from our very own Rich Miller which is on until 28th June in the studio space above the shop (entrance is free).

Rich and his wife, Anna Hutton-Potts a very talented and well respected equestrian, lived here in Thursley for many years before moving to Beacon Hill. When Rich lived here he was the owner of Froyle Tiles which produced specialist handmade tiles much sought after by architects and galleries.

Some of you will know Rich from his role as judge on "The Great Pottery Throwdown". Rich is enthusiastic, knowledgeable and always supportive to the contestants.

Rich has, for the last few years, been exploring his mixed race heritage as well as empire and the slave trade and living with racism in a small village in West Sussex. These themes are contained in

the most meticulously crafted ceramic objects which are beautiful to look at. And profoundly thought provoking.

His use of rich honey glazes contrasting with deep grey black oxides and contrasting again with gold lustres are expert in their execution but the message startling.

Delicately decorated candle bowls have gold handles in the form of a manilla. Rich's deep interest in colonial history emphasises the manilla which were made in Birmingham of brass or bronze and were the currency of the slave traders.

Vases in the shape of upturned sugar cones topped by crowns of palm fronds are also testament to the Caribbean and the sugar plantations.

Wall art in the shape of enlarged postage stamps examines the politicalisation of a postage token as to how countries wish the rest of the world to see them. Again the themes of empire and slavery are present.

Because of the beauty of all these ceramics the message contained is subtle and nuanced. There is a potency but it is silent and therefore strengthened. The intelligence; the emotional intelligence and the deep historical knowledge of the artist is there in every piece.

Quiet, gentle Rich educated me and moved me. Please do go and I hope you will be as affected as myself and my companions have been.

GIVE IT A SHOW

Thursley Horticultural Society Autumn Show

5th September 2026

We invite members of all ages, whether experienced gardeners or budding enthusiasts, to join our neighbourhood competition showing the wonderful flowers and vegetables that we grow in our gardens.

Teams of up to 6 members will join forces to show a creative display of homegrown flowers and produce. We are looking for free-style creative displays of colour and form celebrating the beauty of our gardens and the joy they give us.

There are very few rules, but entries must meet these requirements:

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Any number of flowers (cut or growing in pots)

Any number of vegetables and fruits

All flowers, vegetables and fruits must be grown by members of the team

Entries must be displayed on a tray measuring about 60 x 90 cm (tray to be provided by the THS committee)

TEAM CAPTAINS

Bowlhead Green (Anne Treadwell)

Friends of Thursley (Tina Chant)

Pitch Place (Pat Clarke)

Thursley Village (Bruce Pywell)

JUDGING

The entries will be judged by our Floral Art Judge, Zoe.

TIMELINE

Entry notification to thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk on 3rd September by 6 PM.

Staging on 5th September from 8.30 till 10.45 in The Village Hall.

Please contact your area captain to join your local team.

We welcome more than one team from each neighbourhood and if you are not yet a member of the THS, this is a great opportunity to join us.

GIVE IT A GROW

By Debbie Spencer



GARDEN POLITICS—MANIFESTOS, MULCH & MIXED FORECASTS

June 2025 last year, will be remembered in Surrey as a month of warmth, sunshine and surprisingly little rain with only 68% of its normal average June rainfall. Two significant heatwaves occurred, dotted in between with intense local downpours of up to 40mm of rain. So what will June 2026 weather bring? Gardeners have to be ready for the extremes, hot dry days and heavy downpours.

BE CONSERVATIVE

It's all about caring for plants while conserving water where possible. One of the simplest and most effective habits is watering deeply but less often. A thorough soaking encourages roots to grow down into the soil making plants stronger rather than a daily light

sprinkling which keeps roots near the surface where they dry out quickly. Other ways to conserve water:

Mulching: layers of compost, bark, leaf mould or grass clippings spread around plants and trees helps retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Plant drought loving plants: lavender, rosemary, sedums, salvias and ornamental grasses all cope with drier conditions once established.

Collecting rainwater: the oldest and most sensible practice of all. A water butt connected to a shed or house gutter can quickly fill up during a summer shower.

Lawns are tougher than they look. A brown lawn is simply dormant and will recover when rain returns.

THE GREEN PARTY

Tomatoes: Keep pinching out the side shoots. Apply tomato feed regularly (as well as to courgettes, pumpkins and chillies). Plant outdoor tomatoes outside now the chance of frost has gone. I'm growing outdoor tomatoes in pots this year so I can move them around - sometimes against a wall and sometimes in shade (if we get a heatwave! Water regularly and feed with tomato food every 2 weeks.

SECOND BALLOT

A second chance to sow vegetable seeds.

-plant winter squash or pumpkins directly in the soil. They need plenty of room so maybe follow on from the space you used for early potatoes after adding some goodness, like manure.

Lettuce, radish, spinach, salad onions, maincrop pea varieties (eg Alderman) can be sown well into July.

Courgettes, round varieties like Tondo di Piacenza as they are a great change from the regular green variety.

Second sowings of dwarf type beans sown directly in the soil, cropping up to first frosts. Try 'purple teepee' for the colour.

Sowing baby carrots after mid-June is a great way of avoiding root fly as the female flies have completed their egg laying days. Late June will crop mid August - any variety will do if you don't intend to store them.

Spinach and chard, sow in warm, moist soil. Annual spinach will be ready in four weeks. Swiss chard and perpetual spinach are slightly slower to mature but much hardier.

Sweetcorn, harden off plants first and then plant out choosing a warm, sunny sheltered site. Plant in blocks not in rows as they rely on the wind to pollinate each other. Nb Baby corn varieties are planted in rows as they do not need pollination. Mulch around thirsty crops like beans and courgettes.



BE LIBERAL

Feed sweet peas, tomatoes and any container-grown flowers or fruits with a high potassium liquid feed.

Tie up and stake plants such as clematis, wisteria and jasmine before they need it, ready for heavy down pours and sudden wind.

ORDER, ORDER!

Thin fruit tree crops. Apples, pears, plums, peaches and nectarines often set more fruit than they can support and naturally shed some of excess fruit. If trees are still overloaded with fruit remove by hand in late June so the remainder has the best chance to ripen.

REFORM

Take back control of the borders! Cut

back early flowering perennials, oriental poppies, lupins and delphiniums to encourage new foliage and flowers.

Deadhead repeat flowering roses to encourage a good display all summer, and tie in where needed.

Prune spring flowering deciduous shrubs such as Weigela. Removing old stems soon after flowering allows time for the development and ripening of new growth for next year.

THE AYES HAVE IT!

Harvest early potatoes when the flowers open or buds drop. Tubers are ready when they are the size of hen's eggs.

And after all this hard Labour, find yourself a safe seat to relax and enjoy the garden!

Thursley Horticultural Society

2026 – The Year of Garden Visits

THURSDAY 11th June: 2.30 – 4.30pm

A visit to The Manor in Haslemere

WEDNESDAY 22nd July

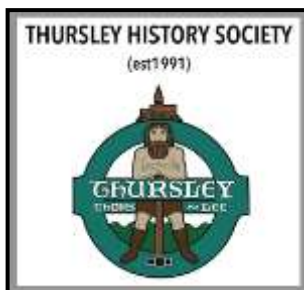
A visit to Shalford House, Kingsley Green

WEDNESDAY 23rd September: 4.30 – 7pm

A visit to Greenhills House, Tilford.

All these visits are private visits arranged especially for Thursley Horticultural Society. Pre-booking is essential.

Further details will be in the Parish Magazine and in emails to members nearer the time.



Brrroom, Brrroom, Brooklands



As part of its year of transport history, the Thursley History Society is delighted to invite you to a guided tour of Brooklands Museum in Weybridge.

2026 is the Centenary of the First British Grand Prix held at Brooklands Race Track.

**We will meet on Tuesday 15th September at 11am
at Brooklands Museum.**

We will have a guide from Brooklands Museum as well as our own Brooklands expert, Tim Wakeley, to show us round. After our tour we can then wander round and see the buses and the planes and everything else Brooklands Museum has to offer.

The cost per person is £25

**Please book with Sally Scheffers:
scheffers@btinternet.com**

CREATIVITY: A TEAM EFFORT?

By Lizzie Young



This month I've been thinking about creativity. We spent a very happy evening at Somerset House for the London Original Print Fair, which was full of wonder and whimsy and talent, and I've just booked our tickets for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition (which will have a lot of the aforementioned wonder, whimsy and talent as well as the quintessentially English and quite delicious opportunity to tut and say your mum could do it. Once, outside Moma in New York, I saw a guy selling t shirts that said 'Okay, so your mum could do it. But has she?' Fair point, thought I), and spent the week watching people marvel at the beautiful gardens of Chelsea (we retired hurt from trying to see these live several years ago – it makes the Mona Lisa room at the Louvre look deserted). Creativity and artistry everywhere.

If you've been reading along you'll know that I'm not artistic. Not even a little

bit. I can't draw or paint: I showed, as discussed here, very little aptitude for pottery. I haven't the patience for crochet or knitting (and I reserve the right to evoke the left hander defence on both of these), and although I can follow a recipe in a workmanlike fashion, there is no flamboyance or adlib action in my kitchen. When I did a flower arranging course at the adult education centre, the instructor sucked her teeth quite a lot as she approached my table, and my Mexican Day of the Dead effort (we were supposed to be doing Easter) may have caused her to have a lie down. My mother is deeply creative – she can turn her hand to anything and do it beautifully. She has made at least three wedding dresses from scratch, and made countless outfits and fancy-dress costumes for all of us over the years. All of us have examples of her creativity in our homes, from salt dough choirboys at Christmas to embroidered cushions. My sister is the same, damn it. All around me (and you – they walk amongst us, nonchalant in their magnificence) are talented women who can do things like re-upholster chairs, and knit boutique worthy sweaters, and throw vases and huge bowls, and arrange church flowers that could grace a royal wedding and produce stunning edible creations for village shows and gatherings. It makes me feel a bit

inadequate, to be honest. I just melted wax and sealed Tallulah's wedding invitations and thought we needed to stick a blue plaque on the cottage to commemorate my success (and don't tell her, but I got through quite a few of the spare envelopes in the process...). It may be a mid-life thing – it almost certainly is – that I wish I could add strings to my bow, but if I'm to become a menopausal Da Vinci, I'm yet to discover in which direction...

I'm just words. Not even many of those at this point (did I say that, or is David muttering over my shoulder?) And words are very jolly solitary. It's just you and the page (and the biscuit tin). There are writers who collaborate. With other writers, or with their editors. Some of the latter are such close relationships that they work almost paragraph by paragraph together, and I could tell you who but then I'd have to kill you.... There are even husband and wife teams who produce together – some very, very successfully. I can't imagine either scenario, most especially the second. I hold a whole novel close to my bosom throughout, and no one sees a word. I might bounce a knotty plot problem off someone, or maybe test run a scenario to gauge someone's reaction, but the whole sense of what the book is about remains a mystery to everyone but me until the very end, bar a one or two page synopsis I may be professionally obligated to produce.

Dave and I (he's definitely no good for co-writing, but absolutely excellent for co-pottering and co-outings) went to visit Helena Traill (you probably all know Helena – she's a very talented young artist who grew up in the village and still takes inspiration from our beautiful environs) at the Morris Singer Foundry near Alton. Helena has been collaborating with the jolly clever sculptor Jill Berelowitz on a show called Organics, and all of her work, as well as that of many other artists, is cast there. As well as the opportunity to watch Helena paint live (something very cool was happening with a brush on a broom handle), we were lucky enough to have a guided tour of the foundry, which was completely fascinating. At each stage – original model, rubber mould, wax casting, ceramic coating, alloy pouring, and then finishing and patina adding – an artisan had their hands on the work – the vision of the artist brought to life by a team of other humans. Beautiful, creative collaboration. Like tenors and conductors, ballerinas and orchestras, actors and directors...

Maybe that's where I'm going wrong with this very much stuck novel. Maybe I need to stop clutching it to my chest. Maybe I need collaborators. A village novel. Up for it? A chapter each? Or even a few paragraphs. I'll share the royalties (don't get too excited). We can go for team meetings at Pipasha and stomp out storylines on the common....

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200g self-raising flour
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125g caster sugar
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
3 eggs
150g natural yogurt
100g melted butter
1 tsp vanilla extract
350g strawberries chopped
25g flaked almonds

Method

1. Heat your oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line the holes of a muffin tray with 12 muffin cases.

2. Mix the flour, almonds, sugar, bicarb and a pinch of salt in a large bowl.

3. Whisk the eggs, yogurt, melted butter and vanilla in a jug.

4. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry and mix to a smooth batter, leaving no pockets of flour. Gently fold through half of the chopped strawberries.

5. Divide the mixture between the muffin cases, ensuring the cases are 3/4 full.

6. Put the remaining pieces of the strawberries on top of each muffin and then sprinkle the flaked almonds on top.

7. Bake for 25 mins until risen and golden. Leave to cool on a wire rack for 10 mins. These will keep in an airtight container for up to four days (If they last that long !).



The **Tilford Bach Festival** in 2026 is the 74th annual celebration of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach. Our Musical Director is Adrian Butterfield of the Royal College of Music. The **Tilford**

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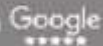
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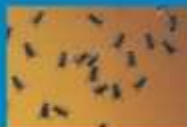


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