THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

St Michael & All Angels

JULY 2026

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EDITORIAL

By Tricia Horwood

***Over** the past few weeks the village has come together for a number of events, and it's been good to see so much community spirit. The new initiative by the village hall to meet up every Friday evening for drinks has proved very popular, and has quickly become a regular fixture, offering a relaxed and welcoming space to catch up with old neighbours and welcome newcomers to the area. Stop by this Friday from 6pm onwards to raise a glass and kickstart your weekend.*

***Our** local clubs have also been well attended, with the Horts Society's Rose & Rosé Evening, and the History Society's Churchyard Talk and Supper (for a full write-up and photos, see page 29).*

***Open** Farm Sunday at Bowlhead Green Farm was a huge success and drew a crowd of over 1200, this year, giving families a brilliant hands-on look at modern farming (see p22).*

***We** have another wonderful social gathering to look forward to. Dust off your cowboy boots and checked shirts for the forthcoming annual Barn Dance. It promises to be an evening of great fun, lively music, and excellent company. Tickets are selling fast, so make sure to secure yours soon (see p17).*

***And** finally, with no sign of the hot weather dissipating, we are currently at a high fire alert on the common. The tinder-dry grass and heathland mean that even the smallest spark could trigger a devastating wildfire. Please remain highly vigilant while out walking. If you spot any smoke or signs of a fire, do not hesitate—report any sightings directly to the emergency services by calling 999 immediately. Let's look out for our beautiful landscape and keep each other safe.*

Enjoy the sunshine, stay safe on the common, and see you at the barn dance!

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE OF 14TH JULY 2026 FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE AUGUST 2026 ISSUE OF THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE.
EDITOR: Tricia HORWOOD, Thursley House, Dye House Road, Thursley GU8 6QD.
Tel: 01252 705171 E-mail: **tricia@horwood.org**
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Jane HEPBURN (our advertising year runs from April - March)
Tel: 07768 421935 Email: **hepburnjaney@hotmail.com**
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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
peterchunter@btconnect.com

THURSLEY CRCKET 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
www.thursleyhistorysociety.org
All enquiries to website or secretary please

Chairman
Sally SCHEFFERS **:** 07887 616541
scheffers@btinternet.com

Secretary & Webmaster
David YOUNG 07879 551206
Davidjohnyoung51@hotmail.com

Correspondant
Jackie RICKENBERG 07941 433103
jackierickenberg@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Peter RICKENBERG 07774 203111
peterrickenberg5@gmail.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
lisahtcottage@gmail.com

SURREY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
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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:
Phoebe SULLIVAN
p.sullivan@thursley-pc.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Rt Hon Jeremy HUNT 01428 609416
huntj@parliament.uk

JULY SERVICES FOR THE PARISH OF THURSLEY

JULY

SUNDAY 5th	**9.45am**	**Communion at St Michael's, Thursley**
SUNDAY 19th	**9.45am**	**Communion at St Michael's, Thursley**

www.parishesofetsph.org.uk

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Help in Thursley and its volunteers who have helped me to get to where I needed to be, for several weeks, while I was unable to drive after breaking my ankle.

I don't know who's brain child it was originally but it's a goodie and a great village resource which I am sure has already been, and will be, much appreciated by many.

Roz Oxley

JULY

CHURCH CLEANING

(Please contact Sallie Roles if you can help)

Sabry DRAGONI-LONG (VOLUNTEER REQUIRED)

CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

(Please contact Caroline Mendelssohn if you can help)

5th Anne TREADWELL 19th Marion O'BRIEN

LOCAL & VILLAGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

Friday 3rd	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes/Wimbledon** Village Hall. All welcome. See p24.
Friday 10th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes/Wimbledon** Village Hall. All welcome.
Saturday 11th	6.30-11pm	**Barn Dance**. Little Cowdray Farm. Booking in advance. See p17.
Tuesday 14th	7.00pm	**Thursley Parish Council Meeting**. Village Hall. All welcome.
Friday 17th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes** Village Hall. All welcome.
Saturday 18th	10.00am	**Churchyard Working Party.** St Michael & All Angels Church. All help welcome.
	3-5.30pm	**Hymns & Pimms**. St James's Church, Elstead. See p13.
Wednesday 22nd	2.30pm	**Horts Society Visit to Shalford House,** Kingsley Green. See p30.
Friday 24th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes** Village Hall. All welcome.
Friday 31st	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes** Village Hall. All welcome.

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**

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Saturday, 5th September
Horts Society Autumn Show

Tuesday, 15th September
History Society Guided Tour of Brooklands Museum

CHURCH LETTER

By Wendy Edwards – Licensed Lay Minister

I absolutely love Creation/Nature. I love the wind, for starters.

Almost 20 years ago now I was an atheist. At a very difficult time of illness in my life, I was told I needed to find a belief in God and to trust in God to help me get well. Although I wasn't too interested in the God idea, I did not want to die and someone suggested I tried the Great Out Doors. I thought, you won't trick me, I know that spells God!

However I accepted that I needed a big change in my life and, after a while, when out and about in Creation/Nature, I reflected that maybe, just as the wind blew the trees but I couldn't see the wind, perhaps there was a loving God who I could not see but who had beneficial effects in my life if I placed my trust in God.

My life has been transformed over the last 20 odd years from one of pain, illness and unhappiness to one of health, joy and faith, though of course I occasionally have painful days. I feel so very grateful to God and to His Son Jesus Christ who said '*Freely you have received, freely give.*' So, I keep giving to our churches and communities. I really love my ministry and my colleagues and all of you in our churches and village communities. I love meeting people so if we do not know one another yet, just get in touch please (my contact details are below) and we can sort out a cuppa and chat. I will really enjoy that.

I love flowers and flower arranging too. I rarely have time or inclination to do much in our garden, however. Steve, my husband, is the gardener at our garden in Farnham and as he also volunteers in Farnham Park he is always gardening, especially in summer. He told me recently that he was about to *'move the cosmos'* which of course made us both laugh but he meant he was moving the flowering plant called cosmos from the front edge of our path, where it usually causes flowers to fall over the path, to the very back of that flower bed where they can serve as a colourful backdrop to the flower bed where most other plants are roses.

I do hope this summer that you may have time to ponder afresh the beauty and power of the wind, or of a flower or a tree in full leaf and to celebrate this greenest of simplicities, powered by that most incredible process, photosynthesis, which could not happen without the sun's light.

I hope that you will find God's sunlight in your own life. God's close care of you is confirmed by the summer wind breezing past your cheek or in the beautiful sight of the cosmos, whether it's in your garden or millions of light years away. Have a lovely July everyone.

Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford & Peper Harow

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Hymns & Pimms

18 July 2026

15:00 - 17:30

Tickets cost: £15

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Westbrook Hill
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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

The June meeting of the Parish Council, held in mid June so as to reduce the gaps between meetings caused by the tradition of not holding a meeting in August, was one of the best attended meetings in recent times.

The reason for this was the interest that had been sparked by a planning application for the multi-million pound redevelopment of Uplands Park and Uplands Stud. We were very pleased that the applicants, together with their planning advisors, asked to attend the meeting as this gave an opportunity both for Councillors to discuss certain aspects of the application and also for local residents in Bowlhead Green to learn more about the project and also raise certain potential concerns at an early stage - and before they became issues.

The resultant discussion proved to be extremely helpful both for the applicants and also for those attending the meeting. Whilst as a Council we will need to wait to receive the full planning application from Waverley Borough Council before submitting our formal comments, our initial reaction was essentially positive.

We - and others attending – were also reassured by some of the responses given by the applicants to the questions raised. Equally importantly, though, lines of communication were opened which will inevitably prove to be useful as the project progresses.

Following the Uplands Park discussion, the meeting continued and we discussed an internal audit report (which was extremely complimentary of the work done by our Clerk!) and then progressed on to discussing some real concerns held by many villagers about the unwelcome increase in dog mess in the churchyard.

The point of mentioning this now is two fold. First, the June meeting was perhaps a great example of the diversity of issues that we face as a Parish Council. But secondly, a great many people feel very strongly about our churchyard. Not only is it a beautiful and historic site which many people like to visit for a variety of reasons, but it is also maintained by a hard-working group of volunteers who simply should not have to deal with the results of dogs and their thoughtless owners.

The PCC will be discussing what can be done to alleviate this problem at their July meeting but perhaps we, as the Parish Council, could simply add our weight to whatever they decide to do moving forward.

However, the underlying message that I took away from our June meeting was the value of village participation in Parish Council meetings. Local input to the Uplands Park discussion was extremely valuable and all parties felt much better informed as a result of the discussions. Similarly, I hope that the PCC will feel reassured by the support that we are offering as they consider the problems in the churchyard.

So, please, never hesitate to raise any concerns or ideas that you may have, and do come along to a Parish Council meeting if you would be interested. It's not always internal audit reports – sometimes they can actually be quite fun!

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14 July at 7.00 pm.

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)

AN UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE THURSLEY PAVILION PROJECT

Dear Villagers,

We are pleased to provide an update on the progress of the new Thursley Pavilion project.

Following extensive design work and consultation, we have now submitted both our Section 38 application and our planning application. As the pavilion is proposed on registered common land, Section 38 approval is required before the project can proceed. We have been encouraged by the positive and constructive feedback received during the consultation and pre-application process, which has helped shape the proposals now under consideration.

We have also been carrying out the ecological surveys required as part of the planning process. Three surveys have been completed, with one remaining to be undertaken.

Whilst we await the outcome of these applications, work continues behind the scenes to prepare for the next stages of the project.

Fundraising has also continued to make excellent progress. Thanks to the generosity of villagers, businesses, supporters and grant providers, we have secured approximately £455,000 towards the new pavilion.

As plans for the pavilion have progressed, we have listened carefully to feedback from villagers and future users of the building. This has helped shape a design that will serve not only cricket but also a wider range of community activities, providing flexible, accessible and welcoming facilities for the village for many years to come.

Reflecting these enhancements, together with the more detailed design and costing work now completed, we have a clearer understanding of the likely construction costs. Current estimates indicate that delivering the pavilion as currently designed will require funding in the region of £600,000.

We will therefore continue our fundraising efforts and applications for further grant funding whilst we await the necessary approvals.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the project so far. We look forward to sharing further updates as the project progresses.

With best wishes,

The Trustees
Thursley Pavilion Project

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11th JULY 2026

6.30PM – 11PM

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THE COTTLES OF RED LION GARAGE, THURSLEY

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

In keeping with The History Society's year of transport, this month's article is based on an adopted Thursley family, who were central to the transportation and motoring needs of the village for many decades. Our archives, to be found at:

thursleyhistorysociety.org

are full of newspaper clippings, photographs and reports of the many fatal car crashes that took place, ironically, in or around the site of the garage, before the A3 bypassed the deadly corner that is now the junction of the Old Portsmouth Rd and Dyehouse Rd.

The garage is long gone but a handful of villagers will remember the Cottles and the many scrapes that befell them and disturbed many a night's sleep. There are some tragic stories too. Like the mother and young son, killed when their car collided with a lorry, on the way to drop off the son's best friend home, after spending a day out during the school holidays. The boys were due to return to school the following day.

This tribute was written by Maureen Waters (daughter), Chalie Waters (granddaughter), John Gunner (son-in-law) and Jamie Banks (friend).

"*Reg* *and Elsie Cottle were proprietors of the Red Lion Garage on the Old Portsmouth Rd from 1934 until retirement in 1975. Previously Reg, an ex Darracq apprentice, was a partner in a small garage business in Shepherds Bush which did not really work out, so when he heard that "the old tin shed" in Thursley had been closed for some time, he jumped on his motorcycle to view and subsequently make an offer. That was the start of 41 years of being the local "Mr Fixit".*

Reg *and Elsie originally lived in "The Cottage" (later called Lilac Cottage) in Bowlhead Green and, after two years, moved to "Corner Cottage". At the outbreak of war in 1939, Reg was called up by The Royal Tank Corps; however, the local farmers made such a clamour at the loss of the one man who could keep their farm machinery running, that the authorities hastily released him. He covered a radius of twenty miles and worked very long hours mostly seven days a week. It was often difficult to obtain spares for the tractors, machinery and generators, but Reg was such a resourceful man that he would often manufacture them himself. His garage petrol pumps were commandeered for military use by the Canadian army, so he had to drive to Godalming for his own petrol. Many army tanks churned up the garage forecourt and each one had to be refuelled by manually turning the pump handle!*

Reg *was a member of the Thursley Home Guard and one evening as he drove down French Lane going on duty during an air raid, a bomb dropped in the lane and the blast blew his car up onto the bank. A piece of shrapnel went through the back*

The old A3

window and out through the front. As a reflex action when the bomb exploded, Reg ducked, which was fortunate as a straight wooden pole connecting the entry and exit points subsequently showed that the shrapnel's trajectory would otherwise have taken it through the middle of his head!

***During** the war, Elsie drove her Ford V8 as both a taxi and emergency ambulance. The Canadians were very generous to Thursley villagers, supplementing the national food rations and at Christmas-time they gave all the children a big party with toys and sweets. In those days there were three pubs in the village plus a post office, and Bernie Karn had the bakery, grocery and butcher's shops.*

***After** the war, Reg was in great demand because he would mend children's toys, bikes and pedal cars and anything metallic that villagers brought along in addition to their cars and vans. He employed and trained a number of young men in the village, including Don and Cocker Keen and the Sharland boys plus his two daughters, Maureen and Kay. He also brought in his friend Frank Luck, who had been a prisoner-of-war in Japan. The garage was open at weekends to supply fuel for the coastal traffic and Reg was often called out at all times, day and night, to recover crashed vehicles from the A3 and other roads. His breakdown truck, affectionately known as The Quad, which had a Fox armoured car workshop manual, hinting at its chassis and running*

gear origins, was immensely powerful and versatile, qualities much appreciated by the police in days when there was an emphasis on clearing roads quickly to restore traffic flow after an accident. Reg would tune in to police broadcasts on his self-made short-wave radio so that he was instantly ready to go when a local accident occurred. The single-carriageway A3 had a sorry accident record, with a high proportion of these events being serious or fatal. Some cars, and on one occasion a bus, were hauled out of the depths of the Punch Bowl by the ubiquitous recovery vehicle.

***An** event for which the Red Lion Garage gained some fame was in 1958, when the driver of a van travelling south lost control of his vehicle and it embedded itself in the roof of the garage. Fortunately, neither Reg nor Don Keen were in the building at the time, but a vice on the workbench on which the van landed suffered a broken casting, something which Reg, for some reason never repaired, perhaps mindful of the old adage that lightening never strikes in the same place twice?*

***Also**, in 1958 the Red Lion Inn closed. The proprietor, Frank Millard, stated that the pub was situated on a very dangerous*

This old postcard of The Red Lion Inn is from an amazing collection of postcards curated over many years by Kay Cottle, Reg and Elsie's daughter. The collection is remarkable in its uniqueness and sheer volume of items. We are incredibly lucky to feature them all on our website, and they have been offered to the Godalming Museum, donated by her husband John Gunner. Incidentally, it is Haslemere Museum's 100th anniversary this year and they have many Centenary events taking place. Take a look.

bend with speeding vehicles and as no parking was available except on the garage forecourt, motorists did not want to stop. The Cottles later bought the southern half of the pub which had a very large garden in which Reg would teach his 14-year-old granddaughter to drive.

***In** 1973 the Thursley by-pass was opened and passing trade at the garage was lost. However, Reg, Elsie and Kay continued to serve their local customers until he decided to retire and sell the business to Stuart Mathieson and Peter Wallace, who owned the Mathwall Engineering company. Reg had many plans for his retirement as he had a collection of vintage vehicles, motorcycles and stationary engines which were moved across the road to his garden at "Lionacre" where he was to spend many hours in a new shed enjoying their maintenance and the opportunity to display them at numerous local rallies. His 1905 Delage car was often seen throughout the village.*

***Reg** and Elsie both had generous dispositions, and would willingly offer help to those with needs where they could. Many people have had cause to be most grateful for Reg's assistance with all sorts of mechanical, and particularly car related issues. Reg once drove a new Land Rover across Europe to Istanbul with Sir Roger Stevens, the British Ambassador to Persia, who was travelling onward to his new post in that country. Sir Roger and Lady Stevens lived at Hill Farm in the village.*

***Sadly,** his cherished life in retirement ran out too quickly and Reg died in 1981 (aged 72) followed by Elsie in 1989. They are both buried at Thursley, their adopted home for half a century".*

Haslemere Herald

SECOND SECTION FOR FEATURES
NEWS · JOBS · CARS

THURSLEY'S 'MR. FIXIT' RETIRES TO HIS VINTAGE COLLECTION

BUY YOUR COOKER NOW

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE FARM THIS MONTH?

By Jo Ranson

Well, it certainly warmed up since I last wrote. None of us are hot weather people - it makes working in it 10 times harder - so we were all up early, not just the ones who milk, so that we could have the middle of the day off. "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun" - this we were not going to follow. That scorching sun was burning up the grass no end. We tried all the usual tricks to make it rain, have a BBQ, put the paddling pools out, eventually it worked and we were saved.

Before the rain we were feeding grass from the freshly cut stuff in the clamp, not ideal but it's all we had. We cut more grass silage and filled the cow clamp this time - thank goodness no more un-sheeting and sheeting up of that one to do. We left the last three loads out so we could feed that back to the cows by putting it in the trough, and to eek that out a bit we added in some of last year's haylage bales too, whilst we waited for the rain to help boost the cow paddocks grass growth. The grass is back growing again but we are still giving them some bales as another dry spell is due and we will need to conserve grass in the paddocks to make standing hay for calving cows to go on. It's an endless battle.

However, we have made so made plans that we now think we may have loads of winter feed. We were offered around 50 acres of grass which we could cut for bales as many times as we like over the summer, and when we looked at it about two months ago, we thought it was ok, nothing special but would get us out of a hole. We left it a bit longer than before we cut it -again we thought it would yield ok - but it actually yielded probably twice what we thought, so 303 bales have to be carted back to the farm which is keeping Toby amused for the week. On the ground we have for silage and swap over every three years with an arable farmer we have been allowed to have all of the farm on the swapping years. This is because of timings; when an arable crop goes in and when grass needs reseeding they don't really match up and we end up having less grass for the swapping year, which seems unfavourable then to the arable farmer, but it was his suggestion so we won't knock it and just keeping making silage so we can have more in the store cupboard for years like this.

The welcome rain boosted the youngstock paddocks also just at the right time; each group were in the last of their paddocks before they had to start their rotations again so by the time they got back to the first one it has grown amazingly. So have the weeds though. Matthew and Beth have been constantly on the ones in the cow paddocks with their weed wiper, but our youngstock paddocks, which are close to the A3, are riddled with

ragwort. It's all very well us keeping on top of it but when the neighbouring roads do nothing about it the seed just blows straight to our fields. So, when they have finished grazing those ones, we will have to spray them as there is way too much for us to pull it all.

Toby managed to find a slot to get the post emergence spray on the maize. The wind was against him this time, so he did a 3.30am start when the wind was low, the temperature wasn't too high and there was not too much leaf on the maize (sounds like goldilocks) again to protect the maize from too much weed burden.

We did our annual herd health plan and that was more positive than last year. At last year's meeting we had a lot of discussion on how to solve our high cell count problem and over the year we have got it looking so much better. It was thought we might have to treat all the cows with antibiotic at dry-off but we are now only having to treat half; this is still a bit higher than in previous years but it does show we are making progress. Fingers crossed we calve in with a good cell count - the holiday period for the cow is the best time for them to cure themselves too.

At the end of May I was lucky enough to be invited to a 20-year celebration with LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) who started off the initiative of Open Farm Sunday. There was a group of host farmers and HRH Duchess of Edinburgh - we had a farm tour, discussed different ideas for Open Farm Sunday and had an amazing lunch. One farmer I met had opened his farm every year since it started, the first year he had 10 people he now has 10,000 (that's too many for us).

As much as we were loving the rain we did hope it would stop for Open Farm Sunday and fortunately it did and we were grateful for being on sandy soil too as it dried out quickly for us to use the field for car parking. Each year our numbers have increased and this year we had 1200 people come and have a look round at what we do. The milk tanker was a real hit and Paula who brought it down did such an amazing job of talking to everyone that she almost lost her voice. We all went home with no words left in our bodies and aching cheeks from smiling all day. As always everyone was lovely – there were so many positive comments and so much support for farmers. And so many children immune to electric fencing too!! We had to keep checking it was working despite the signs not to touch it as it was live - children make a bee line for it and had no reaction, we got out a fence tester as a shock from electric fencing is a horrible feeling and sure enough it was working (note to self - don't use electricity to pen in children as it won't work).

So as drying off approaches next week Nick and I have started on the summer project, more cubicles. Not the whole shed this time, but the cubicles within it. Wooden ones are coming out and plastic flexible ones are going in, so it will be interesting to see which they prefer, last year's more spacious wooden ones or flexi ones.

‘FRIDAY NIGHT SHOES’ AT THE VILLAGE HALL – A COMMUNITY SUCCESS!

By Lynne Stewart-Brindle

We’ve been delighted by the tremendous support and enthusiasm for our temporary venture at the Village Hall while the pub undergoes refurbishment. It has been truly heartening to see so many local residents gathering each Friday evening between 6 and 10 pm — even a passing couple from Guildford joined us just before last orders!

Our opening night, featured in last month’s magazine, was a resounding success. The first six guests were treated to complimentary Prosecco served in charming vintage Babycham glasses — a small touch that set the tone for a convivial evening. Since then, we’ve hosted Friday sessions every week, each raising around £250 towards our much-needed new curtains fund. Thank you!

We’ve worked hard to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere indoors, though the recent fabulous weather has proved equally inviting, with outdoor seating often the preferred choice. The licensed bar continues to expand its range in response to popular demand, and we’re pleased to offer a good selection of non-alcoholic options too. We provide popcorn, crisps and nuts, as well as games such as chess, draughts, backgammon, cribbage, dominoes and Uno. And as always at the Hall, dogs are welcome too.

If you haven’t joined us yet, you’ve missed our themed evenings, including Cider Week, Rosé Night, and, of course, the World Cup! We’re looking forward to the two weeks of Wimbledon, where what else but Pimm's will be on ice, and Valerie is threatening another VERY French evening as well - pétanque anyone?

We very much look forward to welcoming you soon.

FRIDAY NIGHT SHOES

OPEN FARM SUNDAY AT BOWLHEAD GREEN FARM

CHURCHYARD WALK & SUPPER

By Sally Scheffers

It is always very rewarding when an audience share the interest of the people they are listening to. Amanda Flint and I were truly rewarded on our Churchyard Walk.

It was a perfect summer's evening as over thirty people gathered to hear Amanda and I tell the tales of those beneath the headstones. Amanda focused on the brick arch graves and the Moorey family; the Tozer headstone, Henry Edward Spernon Tozer and his relatives; finishing with John Freeman and the National Trust's John Freeman Memorial Field.

My somewhat random choice started with the Table Tombs of Edward Lambden and the smaller one for son (presumably) George and daughter Mary. We then visited a little cast iron cross before going to the east end of the Church to meet the Moons. Round to an oak board grave marker for Una Faithfull and finally, down the coffin path to see George Forrest's tree.

My talk is on the website, **www.thursleyhistorysociety.org**, for anyone who would like to read it and Amanda's will follow shortly. Amanda worked very closely with Guy Singer when he wrote his book, " Tales from a Country Churchyard" and has spent hours of her time out there.

Following our walk we then enjoyed a simple supper under the oak tree of John Freeman's field and many thanks to Sarah Traill for getting the grass topped so we could. Jackie Rickenberg organised cooks and brought salad dressed with Peter's legendary French dressing and Peter organised all the wine which was readily consumed! It was idyllic to be sitting out with friends and it was only when dusk turned to darkness that we all decided to go home.

It is established that the Churchyard is much older than our Church and the Parochial Church Council are keen to preserve its history. The Churchwardens, Susanne and Simon, recently had a meeting with a company that can plot the Churchyard on a computer programme. We, Thursley History Society, can provide biographies for those we know or research those we don't. And all the information would be held together. This is very exciting but, as always, exciting has a price tag! It will be in the region of £6,500 - £7,000. The P.C.C. are meeting to discuss how to go forward but let's hope the money can be found and that all the research done by Sean, Amanda and Alie can be seen by everyone.

Huge thanks go to Amanda who did hours of research on her families – I did a fair few hours myself and couldn't believe what I uncovered – poor Gabriel got fed up with my gasps of incredulity!

And thank you to the Thursley History Committee; cooks Lizzie, Sallie and Sarah. Gill for the tables and chairs. Pam for the flowers. Mike for mowing our routes and David for stepping up whenever required.

We have had lots of very favourable comments and so we will try to organise another one and delve into more people's past.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY UPDATE

By Pat Clake

Despite the cool, wet weather our Rose and Rosé Evening was a great success! The display of over 50 roses was inside the Village Hall and there were some beautiful blooms, cherished and displayed in defiance of the gusty winds of the previous few days. Nearly 50 members and guests very much enjoyed the wine and refreshments and the chance to chat to friends. Tina Chant's cheese board was tasty as always. Catherine and David May from Seale Rose Nursery enjoyed judging as did Oakley Brooks who thoughtfully selected the best perfumed rose.

The Pruning Talk was very well received. As expected, Ray Broughton came with a wealth of information, including exactly when he believes it is best to cut back your hedges and how to prune wisteria. A recommendation was given to use plant feed with 13 nutrients and also instructions on how to make little parcels of goodness to feed you hedges. If you would like some further details, please get in touch via the Horticultural Society email.

Our next Garden Visit is to Shalford House in Kingsley Green, just out of Haslemere. Thursley Horticultural Society has particular connections with this garden, and we really think that you will enjoy seeing it. The visit is on Wednesday 22nd July at 2.30.

This garden is set in 40 acres, with 10 acres of very well-maintained gardens and some areas that are wilder. It has been redeveloped by a fairly new owner, Paul Morrow, so if you visited some time ago, do come again. There is walled garden, a rill meandering down to the lake, woodland with shade loving plants. The newly planted sunken garden looks magnificent and the formal terraced area round the house is striking. This is all in a peaceful setting with many seating areas. Sounds perfect!

Should you wish to picnic in the woods on the day of the visit that is possible. Please let me know and I will check with the owner.

Emails with further details will be sent to members. Prebooking is essential. To join Thursley Horticultural Society, please email: **thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk**

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.

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 Clake)
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

JULY

The Hidden Mysteries of the Dahlia

Agatha Christie was a passionate gardener and famously grew an entire border of dahlias at her holiday home at Greenway in Devon. She even featured dahlia varieties using the first letter of each flower spelling DEATH, as a riddle to uncover the murderer in her Miss Marple short story 'The Four Suspects'. There's no dahlia registered under the name Agatha Christie but a striking flame coral variety was officially named Dahlia 'Orient Express' in her honour.

By July, dahlias are beginning to come into their own, bringing vibrant colour and impressive blooms to gardens across the UK. Native to Mexico, dahlias range from small pom pom varieties to spectacular dinner-plate blooms providing colour from midsummer until the first autumn frosts. July is an important month for caring for dahlias helping them produce their best display so the focus is on watering, feeding, supporting and deadheading.

'How does your garden grow?'

Once flower buds begin to appear, switch to a high potash fertiliser such as tomato feed. Feeding every week or two encourages strong stems and abundant blooms throughout the summer.

'The Big Four'

Some dahlias grow surprisingly tall and can easily become top heavy when covered in flowers. Have 4 stakes in place around the plants before they become too lanky as it's best to support before windy weather knocks them over.

'And then there were none'

Deadhead regularly, removing spent flowers is one of the most important jobs to encourage the plant to keep producing new blooms. It's sometimes hard to

Dahlia Orient Express

identify a spent bloom and a new bud - a dead flower is usually pointed, a new bud is round.

'Evil under the Sun'

Keep an eye out for slugs, snails, aphids and earwigs. Slugs love the young dahlia shoots - use organic slug deterrents or go on night patrols with a torch! Earwigs hide inside the petals and munch away at night - try applying petroleum jelly to the base of the plant or stuff a small terracotta pot with straw on a bamboo stake- they will hide there during the day so shake them out regularly! Blasting aphids with the hose pipe reduces the numbers. Plant marigolds nearby to attract ladybirds, lacewings and hover flies which eat thousands of aphids.

'Endless night'

Dahlias make excellent cut flowers. Pick blooms early in the morning when they are fully open- their buds never open in the vase. With a little care dahlias will reward us with months of spectacular colour, often reaching their peak in late summer and continuing to flower well into autumn.

'By the pricking of my thumbs'

Apart from Dahlia care it's a good time to make more Mediterranean plants like lavender, rosemary and sage by taking cuttings from the current non flowering stems. Pop four cuttings in a pot of compost with perlite added, removing the lower leaves, then water and cover with a plastic bag. In a couple of weeks you should have some roots, ready to pot on into individual pots ready for planting outside later in the year or next spring.

Debbie's Dahlias

FENNEL & GOATS CHEESE TARTE TATIN

INGREDIENTS

2 medium fennel bulbs, bases trimmed, fronds reserved
2 tsp olive oil
300g puff pastry (bought or homemade)
70g caster sugar
1/4 tsp fennel seeds, crushed in a pestle and mortar
30g salted butter
2 tbsp white wine vinegar
100g goat's cheese
28cm ovenproof frying pan

METHOD

1. Roll out your pastry on a lightly floured work surface to 5mm thick. Cut out a circle at least 30cm in diameter, then transfer to a baking tray, prick all over with a fork and chill in the fridge for one hour.

2. Heat your oven to 180°C fan/gas 6. Cut the fennel into 2cm slices and lay them on a baking tray. Drizzle with oil, then bake for 15 minutes while your oven heats up.

3. To make the caramel, put the sugar, fennel seeds and 2 tbsp water into your oven proof frying pan over a medium heat. Stir to dissolve the sugar, then remove your spoon and let the mixture bubble, swirling the pan every now and then, until the sugar syrup becomes a rich, dark caramel (but don't let it burn).

4. Add the butter and vinegar (take care – it will spit), then stir until combined and creamy. Remove from the heat.

5. Arrange the fennel in the pan on top of your caramel so the slices sit together snugly. Scatter over the goat's cheese, some black pepper, and then cover with your chilled pastry. Tuck the edges of the pastry into the pan all the way around. Bake for 25-30 minutes until the pastry is a deep golden colour.

6. Once cooked, leave to cool for 5 minutes, check that none of the pastry is stuck around the edge to the pan, then turn out (by placing your plate on top of the tarte tatin and flipping the pan upside down in one swift movement). Decorate with the reserved fennel fronds, then season with plenty of black pepper to serve. This pairs really well with a green salad for supper and will serve four people.

THURSLEY HISTORY SOCIETY
(est1991)

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

A WEEK OF BED REST & BOOKS

By Lizzie Young

We are just back from eight glorious days away. A week of rest. Bed rest, if you will. Of the sunbed variety. Thank you for all the recommendations of lovely hillside towns to wander around in the midday sun, and hilly walks with stunning views as a reward, and tapas restaurants off the beaten track. Not this time. Oh no. It's beautiful here, and we will be back to see more of what is on offer. But this week, using David's dicky hip – soon to be replaced – as the perfect medical excuse, we planned to roll more than stroll. And we succeeded.

I was on my knees. (No tiny violins required, just saying). I've just masterminded (yes, I said it) a three day long gathering featuring my entire immediate family – 20 strong now, with fiancés and life partners, to celebrate my parent's 60th wedding anniversary, with vats of chilli and tins of cakes, with games, and sports tournaments and photographers and caterers and performances (we are a kind of temu Von Trapp family). With that, the ever present 'wedmin' (four months and counting), and both daughters moving – one buying her first home, one relocating and renting, life has felt a wee bit chaotic – a week of nothingness beckoned – just us, a tube of Factor 50, and a huge pile of books.

So I thought I'd give you a page of book reviews –

First up – **The Palace Papers** – 500 odd pages of salacious royal gossip by Tina Brown. I once rode David's coattails to a swanky Park Avenue apartment to celebrate his publishing Sir Harold Evans's autobiography – the fascinating My Paper Chase – and met his wife Tina there. I had a terrible bout of imposter syndrome that night – but he was an extraordinarily kind and gracious man who made you feel absolutely as if you belonged, and as if you were interesting. Tina's book cover promised it was up to date, and I was furious to discover it wasn't – it was a 2023 reprint, and we all know a lot has happened in the royal family since then, which I obviously turn out to have quite big feelings about. I was gripped, nonetheless. Ignored David for the first two days, and had to be nagged to shower for dinner. Scrolling on phone time minimal…

Next was my Book Club choice for the month – Florence Knapp's **The Names**. I'd done that thing where you start something three, four, five times and then fall asleep, so I'd been looking forward to a longer run at it ahead of next Saturday's meeting. It's a strange book – beautifully written but ultimately miserable and sad and a bit frustrating. I know something about nominative determinism – I called my first baby Tallulah, remember, and often think the teenage years might have been a bit more peaceful if I'd gone with something a bit less Bugsy-Bankhead….

Robert Harris's **Pompeii** came off the pile next. I've always felt a bit guilty about Pompeii – I eschewed a trip to the place as a a teenager on holiday with my family, since I was working on my tan and fancied a boy at the pool. Idiot. I blistered and never even found out his name, while the rest of my family had a mind-expanding excursion and a gelato on the way home. If this novel is a penance for that ancient crime, I'm not giving it my all. I'm not sure what I was expecting, but there was a lot of stuff about water management in ancient Italy. Scrolled so much my phone overheated and had to go inside for a time out. Flicked through the women's magazines I only ever buy at airports in their dinky formats, and caught up with all my missed messages of the last few weeks. Deleted 374 photos when my phone had cooled down. Spoiler. Vesuvius erupted. The End.

David stole my next book – John Nicholls **The Unknown Soldier**, part research for the imaginary novel, part genuine interest. He's been reading all the saddest bits out to me. I don't think that counts. Horrific stories about poor young men knee deep in mud make you feel a bit weird about lying by a pool with a drink that has an umbrella in it, to be honest, and put you off vacuous scrolling too. For my tomorrows, and all that…

Similarly Claire Keegan's exquisite sliver of a novel **Small Things Like These** (soon to be a film with Cillian Murphy). It's an odd sensation to lose yourself in such a wretched world while you are luxuriating in such a comfortable one. Not a single word is wasted in 128 pages about a Magdalen laundry in 1980s (not, that's not a typo) Ireland, and it wrings you out to read each one. I read it in less than two hours. Barely looked up. Burnt the back of my neck. Worth it.

And finally, **Yesteryear** is a zeitgeist choice – I'd been seeing it everywhere but resisted buying it in hardback form, and was rewarded with an airside paperback edition at Heathrow. If you have any awareness of or opinion on the world of influencers, this one is for you. It's essentially a take down of the trad wife God fearing rural myth. Haven't finished it yet, and back to real life and the 5 minute bedtime read, but I'll definitely keep going…

"It's not what you say…"

At our after-lunch talk on Friday 21 August, members of Milford Probus Club and visitors (always welcome to come and try us out) will learn of the limitations of speech. Most of us form an opinion about someone within a few seconds, and we rarely change our minds. Why do we feel at ease with some people and prefer to avoid others?

Our speaker Alan Jones is a retired BBC journalist and former state registered nurse. He has entertained and informed us before and we are delighted to welcome him back. He will explain the subliminal signals of behaviour, gestures, and facial expressions that we all use to communicate with each other, showing that " it's not what you say" that matters most.

Come and join us. Lunch and talk are just £34. *Milford Probus is a club for retired and semi-retired business and professional men and women who enjoy comradeship, informative talks and wider activities. If you are interested, visit www.milfordprobus.com or book lunch (book eight days before please) with Miranda O'Brien:*

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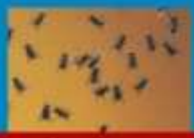

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