



THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

St Michael & All Angels

JULY 2025

Editorial 7
Church Services 10
Village Diary 11
Church Letter 12
Family Picnic 13
Parish Council 14
Charity Barn Dance 15
A Day in the Life of... 16
History Society 20
Sugar & Bakes 22

Village Photo Competition 23
Life on the Common 24
Roses & Rosé Evening 26
Farm Life 28
Countryside Code 31
Give it a Grow 32
Ecological Living 34
Lizzie Young 36
Waverley Housing Survey 38
Elstead Foodbank 39



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EDITORIAL

By Tricia Horwood



***Life** in an English village, particularly in summer, moves to its own gentle rhythm, where time seems to slow and the charm of tradition still thrives. On a warm, sunny evening last week, the Horts Society organised a lovely Rosé & Rose evening—over 40 villagers attended, many with beautiful displays of roses, accompanied by music from Mike Roberts and his friends.*

***There** is much anticipation for the forthcoming charity barn dance on 5th July, a wonderful annual event that will bring together young and old alike in the spirit of community and fun (see p15). And later in July the Thursley Ladies (50+) will gather for their monthly lunch at the pub, celebrating the joy of companionship. Booking is essential so please contact Lisa Woods if you'd like to be included.*

***We** also welcome two new parish councillors, Sarah O'Brien and Phoebe Sullivan, and thank them in advance for their service. We owe a big debt of gratitude to our parish council for all they do on our behalf to keep Thursley such a special village. Jackie Rickenberg has unearthed a lovely article from *The Farnham Herald* describing life in Thursley in 1966, and many of the sentiments expressed still run true today (p20). The bonds between neighbours runs deep, and whether it's mowing the communal areas, giving a lift through Help in Thursley, or meeting up for a dog walk, there's a real sense of kindness and belonging. Long may it last.*

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE OF 14TH JULY 2025 FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE AUGUST 2025 ISSUE OF THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE.

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Please note: Due to building works all services held at St James', Elstead will be moving to St James' Primary School, Thursley Road, Elstead GU8 6DH from 1st May until December 2025.

JULY

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	9.45am	Communion at St Michael's, Thursley
	10.30am	Modern Service with Communion at St James' Primary School, Elstead
SUNDAY 13th Trinity 4	9.15am	Communion at St James' Primary School, Elstead
SUNDAY 20th Trinity 5	9.45am	Communion at St Michael's, Thursley
	10.30am	Family Picnic at St James' Primary School Field, Elstead
SUNDAY 27th Patronal	10.00am	Communion at St Nicholas, Pepper Harow
	10.00am	Communion at St James' Primary School, Elstead

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JULY

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VILLAGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

Saturday 5th	6.30-11pm	Charity Barn Dance. Little Cowdray Farm. See p24 for details.
Tuesday 15th	7.00pm	Thursley Parish Council Meeting. Village Hall. All welcome.
Thursday 17th	12.30pm	Thursley 50+ Ladies Lunch. Three Horseshoes Pub. Booking essential. Contact Lisa Woods on lisa&hedgefarm.co.uk
Wednesday 18th	7.30pm	A Lifetime with Roses. A Talk organised by the Horts Society. Village Hall.
Saturday 19th	10.00am	Churchyard Working Party. St Michael & All Angels Church. All help welcome.
Sunday 20th	12-2.00pm	Family Picnic organised by the joint parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford & Peper Harow. St James' Primary School Field (p13).

SAVE THE DATE

Closing date for Calendar Photo Competition

Saturday, 30th August

Horts Society Autumn Show

Saturday, 6th September

Harvest Supper

Saturday, 4th October

SUMMER FETES, REST & RESTORATION

By Revd Hannah Moore



Summer in England is a gentle celebration of warmth and light. The countryside bursts into life with wildflowers, buzzing bees, and golden fields. Parks fill with laughter, and coastal towns hum with the rhythm of waves and footsteps on pebbled shores. It's a time for picnics, cricket matches, music festivals, and long walks under the skies that stretch late into the evening.

It is also a time for summer fêtes. This tradition is now seen as a quintessential part of British village life. The idea of communal gatherings dates back to medieval fairs, which were the original marketplaces for trading goods and hiring labour. These original fairs were often linked to religious festivals or agricultural cycles.

The modern village fêtes as we know them, complete with cake stalls, tombolas, maypole dancing and games

emerged in the 1920s and 1930s. These events were often organised to raise funds for local causes such as the church, school or war veterans. These fêtes are a great way to foster community spirit.

But beyond the activities, summer invites us into a deeper rhythm—one of rest and restoration. The Bible reminds us that seasons are not just natural phenomena but divine gifts. In Ecclesiastes 3:1, we read, *“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.”* Summer, then, is not only a time for doing but also for being—for pausing, reflecting, and reconnecting with God, nature, and one another.

Jesus himself modelled rest. In Mark 6:31, He said to His disciples, *“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”* Summer offers us that quiet place—whether in a garden, by the sea, or in the stillness of a warm evening.

As we enjoy the beauty and joy of summer, may we also embrace its invitation to slow down, breathe deeply, and be renewed in body, mind, and spirit. I know this is what I am planning to do with my summer. I hope you have a wonderful summer, top up on Vitamin D and that you feel refreshed and ready to face the Autumn.

Hannah

Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford & Peper Harow

FAMILY PICNIC

Date: 20 July

Time: 12pm - 2pm

Venue: St James' Primary School Field

Everyone is welcome to join us for this years church family picnic. We will be holding it in the school grounds after the service on Sunday, 20th July. Bring your own picnic and something to sit on.



THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

By Chairman James Mendelsohn

This month, we welcomed two new Parish Councillors to join the team. Sarah O'Brien has been a resident in, or a regular visitor to, Thursley throughout her life and so she knows the village well. She is also a member of the Parochial Church Council, and will therefore provide an important and valuable link between the Parish Council and the Church.

The second new Councillor is Phoebe Sullivan. She has lived in the village for a little over a year, but she was brought up in Haslemere and so knows the area well. Interestingly, Phoebe is also a Waverley Borough Councillor, representing Witley & Milford, where she sits on the Planning Committee. Whilst this does mean that we will need to be very careful to avoid any potential conflicts of interest, we believe that it will be extremely valuable to have on the Parish Council somebody who has real knowledge and insights into the workings of Waverley.

This could be particularly helpful as Surrey moves towards becoming a Unitary Authority. Although this change is still probably some two years away, concerns are already beginning to be expressed that in the lead up to the change, and probably in the immediate aftermath of it too, the inevitable staff losses, and indeed the change of responsibilities assigned to the remaining staff, could result in a loss of focus on the provision of the specific services that we rely on Waverley to provide to us as a community.

The Village Improvement Plan, initiated by Chris McClements, has made great steps over the last couple of years to maintain our beautiful village. Benches have been restored; noticeboards replaced; litter picks arranged; sign posts cleaned etc.

More recently, following the retirement of Richard Bates from his sterling (and voluntary) mowing of the various pieces of parish land around the village, and changes to the guidance from Surrey County Council, a growing number of villagers have now taken on grass cutting on parish land near their properties – and we are extremely grateful to them. The more that we can take on ourselves, the less we have to rely on external contractors, and this obviously represents a significant cost saving to the village. We are extremely grateful to all those who have contributed to these initiatives.

On a related point, this is the prime time of year for vegetation growth and many of the footpaths around the village are becoming quite overgrown. Whilst the maintenance of the footpaths is the responsibility of Surrey County Council – and they will help with the repair, for example, of stiles and gates – I believe that we all have a duty to look after our local footpaths as much as we reasonably can.

If you are a landowner with land adjacent to a footpath, you are responsible for any growth that is coming from your land which blocks a footpath, so perhaps you could check

and do any cutting back that might be necessary. Could I also please suggest that if you are out for a walk and have some time on your hands, you go armed with a pair of secateurs and do a little bit of cutting back every now and then.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 15 July at 7.00 pm**, and not on the first Tuesday of the month, as is normally the case.

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5th JULY 2025

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN AIRLINE CAPTAIN

By Hugh Semper



As I lifted the nose of the aircraft (not plane!) at exactly 176mph my senses were smashed by the alarm bell and I was dazzled by red lights! I glance to my right and see **FIRE ENG R**, quickly followed by **HYD C** and a call from the crew saying they can see flames. Fortunately I am stationary in a simulator in the old BOAC hangar at Heathrow. But it's 6am and I have been up since 4am to drive in. Long-haul aviation is a 24 hour business. The aeroplanes are the expensive (£200m) assets and we revolve around them. Frequently having breakfast at midnight and gin and tonic (beer too expensive) in Tokyo at breakfast time! Our licences are only renewed for six months if we pass those two days of simulator training - and a medical and survival training...

To bring it back to the day in a life. We are off to Buenos Aires. I park on the Heathrow perimeter and get a bus to the terminal. It's 8pm and as usual I'm tired! We only have 90 minutes until we depart. I meet the other three pilots. One is a Captain and two First Officers; after 35 years I may know about half of our nearly 1000 Boeing 777 pilots. The Captain is under my command on the way out and we will swap for the journey home. We meet the 12 cabin crew, some will be 18 and possibly on their first long-haul trip. We brief ourselves and then talk with the crew. I usually tell them not to wear jewellery and always let someone know where they are. In Buenos Aires the hotel is great but it is obviously dangerous in town. If you turn the wrong way you are in extreme peril! The flight time is 14 hours and sadly that means burning 120 tonnes of jet fuel

which is basically paraffin. There will be some defects with the aircraft which may require more engine power or alternative procedures. We look at the weather all along the route, particularly tonight at the Azores and Cape Verde islands. Everything is on iPads these days, we use no paper at all. We then walk and take the train to the aircraft, often talking to our customers. Usually there are several VIPs, politicians, wheelchair users, guide dogs and hopefully a rock star or two! One of the great aspects of the job has been being 'friends' with Viv Richards, Bryan Adams and Victoria Beckham amongst many others. Most are delightful, some are not!! John Cleese was my favourite.

We arrive at the aeroplane with an hour to go, hopefully, and time is rarely on our side. One pilot walks round the outside checking tyres and engines,

one reads (iPad) the aircraft history, one makes the beds in the bunks and helps the crew with issues like oven failures and customers who have lost their passports or phones. I open the window in the flight deck to get the last of the humid air. We choose our meals, sometimes we eat the same thing! We prep the aircraft computers and set the radios and work out how much engine power we will need. We always use the minimum power necessary which saves on engine maintenance and fuel. I'm in charge today although half the time the First Officer will take charge, although the ultimate responsibility for the 300+ people is mine. We always brief possible emergencies and weather and what might catch us out. A cow on the runway in India, avoiding a tropical storm, laptop on fire, generator failure etc.



Off we go! Talking to our literal friends in air traffic control. We follow yellow lines in the daytime or green lights at night. Taxiing is one of the hardest parts of the job as the wheels are 30m behind us. We have cameras on later model aircraft to help. Timing again is key as the Heathrow runways are probably amongst the most valuable real estate in the world. Line up, push the auto throttle engage, go! 300+ tonnes of aircraft from 0 to 180mph in under 90 seconds. Pull back on yoke. Yoke on Boeing, side stick on Airbus. The 777 is so powerful we might be at 6000 feet in a minute, if allowed. Whilst we have a radar we still look out of the windows. Fireworks and drones do not fly as high as people

think! All take offs are manually flown but perhaps 1% of landings in fog are automatic. That is another terrifying article entirely!

It's 10pm now and the two 'spare' pilots will retire to the comfortable beds above and behind the flight deck. Hopefully they will sleep a bit but adrenaline is not your friend here. There is 8mm of aluminium between your nose and a frozen airless atmosphere moving at 600mph! My new friend, copilot (well over 100 ladies now) and I, will fly till 4am UK time, often quite busy monitoring, talking to ATC and eating. Navigation is only complex if the route is changed. When we go to sleep the other crew fly until





an hour from destination. We are always 1000ft from other aircraft but when closing at over 1000mph the view can be intoxicating.

Approach and landing are obviously the most dangerous part of the flight after take off. Turbulence can be nasty but rarely challenges the autopilot system beyond its control. Approach is about complying with local air traffic, who often have poor English, and avoiding terrain. Weather is usually a factor. It may be mid-winter in the UK but locally mid-summer. Landings are always judged by smoothness but it is FAR more important to be in the right place at the right speed.

After the nausea of immigration, whilst trying to stay awake, we get a bus to the hotel. We talk about the awkward passengers of whom the whole crew are aware! Hopefully we will get a couple of nice steaks and some Malbec without getting into trouble. Two days later, hopefully with some sleep in the tank, the whole process is reversed. Slightly more relaxed as the other guy is in command. When we land we might have three or four days off before heading to Singapore with another massive time change!! It's the best job in the world but there is a lot of pressure, jet lag and a huge amount of regulation. Overall it is huge fun though and a privilege!

"PEACEFUL VILLAGE MEETING MODERN NEEDS"

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

The Farnham Herald is the origin of this piece on Thursley, published on June 3rd 1966, nearly 60 years ago. Of course, nowadays, you can gain access to back copies of most newspapers on line, but looking at a yellowing clip from the original newspaper from the History Society's archives is pretty special. Luckily, mostly all the archives are now available to read on our website - thursleyhistorysociety.org.

"Peaceful Village Meeting Modern Needs

The village of Thursley has charm. It lies, undisturbed by industry or new housing developments, within the designated Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The dwellings have colour and character, the narrow byways offer new vistas at every turn, tall splendid trees – elm, oak and the stately pine – claim attention. The farms look as though they haven't changed in any way in years, but in fact are highly mechanised, well-run holdings. The population does change regularly. According to one shopkeeper there seems to be a shake-up about every seven years. Residents leave, new people arrive – commuters mostly, who on weekdays glimpse a fraction of Thursley's beauty, morning and evening and then at weekends discover its spell.

Of course, for some villagers the spell never wears off. They remain to enjoy the slow pace of village life. But is it so slow or so quiet that someone once was heard to describe Thursley as "a dying village"?

Naturally being quiet and free from heavy traffic, Thursley has a fair share of old-age pensioners, but the day when they go up the hill to the very beautiful parish church for the last time is for most a long way off. They tend their gardens and maintain an interest in the village.

The following accounts of interviews with local people reveal there is more about Thursley than meets the eye; to all outward appearances it may seem changeless, but it is not sleeping.....

THURSLEY SUITS HIM

Along "The Street" which some say is the best part of Thursley, there, in a cottage just before the turn up to the church, lives Major A. Knight. Nearly 80, he is the driving force behind the effort to build a new cricket pavilion. Once a keen yachtsman, a doctor told him twenty years ago to get away from the Cornish hills (his yacht was moored in a Cornish harbour), so he came to Thursley. Life in Thursley suits him fine. He has been president of the cricket club for almost as many years as he has lived in The Street. *"We have a first-class, delightful wicket, the best wicket in the neighbourhood"* he said. Major Knight had a big hand in forming the Two Counties cricket competition for young people. Thursley has a team in the competition. The cricket ground at Thursley has one of the most beautiful settings in all Surrey, and the game has been played in the village for more than a century. It is always a joy to play on a good wicket and Mr Bert

Williams, the groundsman, is the man responsible for making so many cricketers happy. Sunday cricket is so popular that visiting teams have to book a season ahead.

Thursley would not be the attractive looking village it is if it were not for the people who love to live in properties and accept responsibility for the special care and maintenance needed to keep them sound. The Well House, which dates back to 1715, was once part of a line of cottages known as "The Ruins". The name was appropriate at that time, but now, carefully converted and slightly modernised, the cottages are a joy to behold.

WELL IN THE HALL.

The Well House has been home to Canadian-born Mrs Elizabeth Jupe for twenty years. There is a 170ft deep well in the entrance hall. People do drop in, but not in the well, since it is covered. There is a fake well outside the main door. Small lattice windows appear in odd places. There are two winding staircases and low beams. The house, with its "tenpenny nail" wall and red tiled roof, is fascinating and Mrs Jupe wouldn't live anywhere else.

Some people outside Thursley, if they know nothing else about the village, know that the Jupe family take more than an ordinary interest in its affairs. Mrs Jupe's husband, Mr Michael Jupe, after a day's work at the London Stock Exchange, often comes home to tackle parish business in his capacity as chairman of the parish council.

LIKE A BIG FAMILY

"The time of day I wish I had a tape-recorder is between 11 and 12 o'clock in the morning, when it seems the post office becomes the village club", says Mrs Wonham, who, with her husband, Mr B.H. Wonham, runs the post office stores. For them, the day begins as early as 5.30am., but it is often an interesting day from the time they sort out the mail and put out the newspapers to the moment they relax over a hot toddy before going to bed.

"In Thursley we are like a big family; if anyone is in trouble or anyone is sick, we all feel personally involved", said Mrs Wonham. Mr Wonham has lived in Thursley most of his life. Before the war he had a small poultry farm at Pitch Place. He sold it during the war years to work for two county war agricultural committees. After the war, he and his wife took over the stores.

In a feature like this it is impossible to touch on every aspect of village life. For instance, it would have been nice to say something about the best-kept village competition which Thursley has won three times; about the nursing association which has been in existence in the village for almost as long as anyone can remember and about the young people, who, by delivering Christmas parcels and coal in winter and arranging a summer outing, do so much for the village's old people and the church, which, in Thursley, is by various changes, meeting modern needs."

SUGAR & BAKES

By Camilla Daubenay

ROASTED TOMATO, BASIL AND CHEESE QUICHE/FLAN



This is a great recipe for a supper with friends, its relatively quick to bake and super yummy !

Ingredients

260g of Plain Flour
130g of Cold Diced Butter
350g Cherry Tomatoes
Drizzle of Balsamic Vinegar
Drizzle of Olive Oil
150g of Grated Cheese (Parmesan or a mixture of Cheddar and Mozzarella)
2 Eggs
300ml Double Cream
Large Handful of Basil chopped

Method

1. To make the pastry, rub together your cubed cold butter with the flour until you get breadcrumbs then add 4 tablespoons of cold water and bring the pastry together into a ball. Roll out your pastry just larger than your

quiche/flan tin and then line the tin with it. Pop it into the fridge for 15 mins.

2. Heat your oven to 220C/Fan 180/ Gas 6. Chop the tomatoes in half and lay in a roasting dish, cut side up, drizzle with the balsamic vinegar and the olive oil and season with salt and pepper then pop them into the bottom of the oven.

3. Take your tart base out of the fridge, prick the base with a fork, line with greaseproof paper, fill with baking beans and blind bake it for 20 minutes. Then take your tart base out of the oven, remove the baking beans and greaseproof paper and pop back into the oven for another 9 minutes until it is a light brown colour.

4. Remove both the cooked tart base and the tomatoes from the oven.

5. Beat your eggs, add the cream, chopped basil and a bit of salt, then sprinkle half the cheese over the base of the tart, then lay on the tomatoes, then the egg & cream mixture and finally cover with the remaining cheese.

6. Pop your tart back into the oven for 25 to 30 minutes until it is golden brown and set. Then let it cool in the tin and serve with salad.

Village Calendar 2026

Photos wanted

By way of a reminder of the great shots we've received in recent years, here are a few featuring our wonderful villagers.



We've already started receiving entries for next year's calendar. It's always great to see your ideas about the heart of the village: buildings, landscapes, wildlife, VE Day, cricket matches.

For 2026, we are also hoping to attract a new theme: **village residents in their doorways**. Might a neighbour take a shot of the family (pets included) on your doorstep in gentle morning or evening light?

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 number 1167105).

Closing date: 30th August 2025

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

Dear all, I started to pen (type) these articles back in 2004, some 21 years ago. It seems a long time ago, which indeed it is. So, this is No. 111. I have not penned one for a while now since the March edition in fact. Now 21 years as reserve manager for Natural England I am still here. Well, that is the here and now, so what has been going on of late?

Spring has been and gone and as we enter the summer months, the most colourful and vibrant of the year on heathland in the south some may argue, I won't disagree.

It has been a weird year weather wise, with a very dry sunny spring, in fact the driest for a long time, about one hundred years in fact since records began, and certainly the sunniest. The very dry and sunny conditions has a profound effect on the reserve. You cannot have helped to notice how early everything is appearing this year. For those who watch BBC's Spring watch it is a much talked about subject just how out of synchronisation the natural world is becoming with the normal rhythm seasons.

For example, the iconic butterfly of southern lowland sandy heaths, the Silver Studded Blue (SSB) which normally at Thursley is on the wing around the middle of June, the 19th was the normal peak, with scattered individuals appearing from around June 12th earlier at some locations, or thereabouts, but this year they were seen on the 2nd June at Thursley with good numbers picked up on our transect. That is almost 2 weeks earlier than the recorded normal. The Bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) the larval food plant (know as the larval host plant- LHP) of the SSB's caterpillar was only just flowering, although it is the plant the caterpillar eats rather than the flower.

This beautiful butterfly has an unusual relationship with black ants, called a

symbiotic relationship. The adult after mating will lay eggs on Bell heather (the LHP), these will be found by the ants and thinking they are eggs of the ant, taken into safety in the ants' nest (for protection) from predators, where they are subsequently reared as their own are then "farmed", taken to aphids where they drink the sugary liquid produced as excess by the aphids from drinking the heathers sap, a liquid called honey dew which the ants are addicted to. So, a truly symbiotic relationship where SSB eggs are given the protection from the ants, in fact the butterflies who give off a pheromone are still protected by the ants for a while after the egg has hatched into the Imago (adult).

Another one of the true delights of summer on Thursley is that of the flowering of the Early Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata* ssp *Puchella*), with its stunning flesh coloured spike of flowers or inflorescences. It grows on acid bog land and at Thursley it's a plant that does very well on the mire habitat. Some years thousands can be seen growing alongside the inappropriately named meadow thistle which can cause some confusion with the flower colour being very similar, and from a distance may well catch out the unwary.

As with all orchids the seeds are tiny and thus contains little to non stored food, so they must form another symbiotic partnership this time with a highly specialised fungus—this is called a mycorrhizal association. With the seeds being so small the orchid needs to start forming this relationship straight away so nutrients can be accessed immediately, this is done through the roots or rhizomes. In the early marsh orchid, they are like small fingers that lock onto the young roots and actually act like its roots from its early days, thus the part of its Latin name, *Dactylorhiza* or finger roots (actually Greek on this



Female SSB



Male SSB



Heath Spotted Orchid



Marsh Orchid

occasion from *Dactyl* meaning finger and *rhiza* meaning root).

We do also have another orchid, the Heath Spotted Orchid growing on the marsh or boggy parts of the site. Again, this plant is to be found on the poor water-logged acidic habitat. It is a much paler colour than the marsh orchids but will, along with many of the *Dactylorhiza* species of orchids, readily hybridise forming some amazing species.

Whilst we are talking about plants of the bog, there is a species that is highly specialised. Sundews (again mentioned on Spring Watch). This one though is carnivorous - due to the waterlogged and extremely low nutrient status this plant has found an ingenious solution. Eating or digesting insects which are a

reliable source of local food, the Latin name of *Drosera* actually translates to the morning dew. The lethal sticky droplets which look like water are a trap, they look like a fleshy source of food, but not all is to be believed.



Sundew



ROSES & ROSÉ EVENING IN THE VILLAGE HALL GARDEN (photos by Valerie Ferris & Pat Clarke)



THURSLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Pat Clarke



What a beautiful evening for the Rose Show! The hall was full of a wonderful display of roses – large blooms, small clusters, novelty coloured and delightfully perfumed. Members arrived with individual roses or armfuls that had miraculously survived through the heat of the previous days. Judged by Catherine and David May from Seale Rose Nurseries, Georgina Harvey won the magnificent Anderson Rose Bowl for the most points gained and Adam

Gardner the best perfumed rose, selected by Oakley Brooks and Peter Goble for its outstanding scent.

The social evening continued for about 40 members in the Village Hall garden with Rosé wine and pink lemonade and delicious refreshments prepared by Tina Chant and Teresa Goble. Mike Roberts and his friends provided just the right music to keep us entertained. Many thanks to them. We intend to repeat this event next year. Do come!

Our next meeting this year is the Talk 'A Lifetime with Roses' on Wednesday 18th July at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. As a follow up to the Rose evening, David and Catherine May will not only entertain us but also inform us about growing and showing roses, and will answer questions of course.

After that we look forward to the Autumn Show which is on Saturday 6th September. At this show there will be vegetables and fruit, cookery and floral art, children and handicraft sections as well as the flowers. If you have mislaid your schedule, get in touch. New members are welcome at any time. If you are new to Thursley do come to the Talk or Show to find out more about the Horticultural Society.

**thursleyhorticulturalsociety@
hotmail.co.uk**

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE FARM THIS MONTH?

By Jo Ranson

Hot, Hot and a bit more hot, certainly way too hot for us. We really are desperate for that rain now. We are tight for grass, so we have been topping up the cows still with last year's maize silage. That pile of maize is shrinking fast, and we would ideally like to have some left for when the cows calve again in August. Fortunately, we have been drying off cows - 80 are now on their holidays and the rest will be dried off in weekly batches with them all going on holiday before mid-July.

We have had the help of a vet student for drying off; we wouldn't normally have students now as they would come at calving time, but Alice did a very brief stint at calving time a few years ago so to come and help now gave her



experience of different jobs. When we dry off we are meticulous in the



drying off process to avoid any bacteria getting into the teats for their break. They also have their feet trimmed and a vitamin bolus to keep them in tip top condition. We have managed to save some grass paddocks, so they have some very long belly filling grass to go and lounge around in for 6 weeks or so. The milking herd have become very lazy mainly due to it being so hot, so I think they will enjoy their 6-week all-inclusive holiday.

The cubicles have now all been dismantled and the footings have been concreted. We thought they new ones may not arrive until mid-July but I had a phone call today (mid-June) to say could they deliver tomorrow, which is great news it will take a bit of time pressure off, the only downside is Nick is off on Arla meetings, Matthew is away for a few days and we are silaging tomorrow, so Toby is mowing. Beth and I will be making space for a large lorry to get in and out and find space to unload all the timber, roofing, brackets and guttering in between milkings and sheeting the clamp — never a dull moment here.

Amazingly the silage ground has grown well, it is on clay ground so holds moisture a bit better than our sandy stuff. When we looked at it a couple of weeks ago it wasn't very tall and going to seed which was a bit disappointing. When seed heads start to show it doesn't have the greatest of quality in it, so it won't be good enough for cows to have but will be good enough for the heifers. We looked at it again this week and it has shot up so there will be more than enough to fill the heifer clamp and we will

open the spare clamp and add the remainder to that one again. All good news but again there will be a downside in that it is so hot we will all be a sweaty mess pulling sheets about and lugging tyres - my farming boot camp idea keeps springing up at times like that.

The maize is loving this hot weather and has really grown well. It will need a good drop of rain before long as too long a spell will make it stressed but at the moment it is looking ok and fortunately fairly weed free. We would perhaps have liked to have given the weeds a spray off, but the wind hampered that and now it's too tall to drive through. The weeds in the grass fields however are growing well. Unfortunately, now we have our own weed wiper Matthew is out and about regularly trying to spoil their day and it is working but it is a constant battle, but one I am sure we will win in time.

Open Farm Sunday went extremely well; we had around 800 visitors throughout the day. Seventy of those were before 8.30 am (quite a few grandparents and grandchildren who were up early) Yet again everyone was lovely, all truly interested in what we do and how we do it. Afternoon milking is always popular, so we milk the cows on one side of the parlour so visitors can stand and watch safely on the other side. Nick, Matthew and Beth had all the questions you can imagine in the parlour. I was in charge of herding visitors in batches in and out of the parlour for when a side of cows was done. It is easier to herd 300 cows on your own than eager visitors to



watch the milking, but we survived and yes, we will be doing it again next year.

Nick and I did our swim and survived. We travelled up to the lake district in lovely weather however on the day of our swim we had thunder, lightning and biblical amounts of rain (which we would



have liked to have sent home). It was touch and go as to whether we would be allowed to swim. The group before us all go pulled out halfway through due to lightning and the risk of striking the lake. After an emergency meeting of the organisers and an improvement in the weather they carried on, we swam about half an hour later than we should have. We completed our mile in 1 hour 4 minutes which we were both pleased with as an hour was our aim. We also raised about £1,300 for FCN, the charity I volunteer for, which is amazing so thank you to all those who donated.



Next month we will be making more silage, all the cows will be being dried off and off on their holidays and we will be builders getting the cubicle done (think that means we can have more tea breaks - unlikely we are true farmers and will be working our socks off to get it done) and doing lots of rain dances too.



The Countryside Code

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways are clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



GIVE IT A GROW

By Debbie Spencer

'HERE COMES THE SUN'

In the words of George Harrison 'it's been a long cold, lonely winter' and 'it feels like years since it's been here' which may have been true in 1969 when he wrote the lyrics. Our last winter was described as below average in terms of rainfall and sunshine but above average in terms of temperature. So what happens in the garden in July is down to weather - we could be weeding or watering so it's a case of being 'Here, There and Everywhere'.

Eight days a Week

Pick sweet peas regularly for cut flowers and remove any seed pods as they appear. Water regularly and feed weekly with a high potassium feed like tomato food.

Pick leafy herbs so they produce more fresh foliage. Dry or freeze leaves for use during winter.

Pick courgettes so they keep producing more fruit and don't become marrows.

Lift alliums- harvest garlic, shallots and onions once the leaves have gone yellow and started to die back. Lift the bulbs with a fork on a dry day and leave in a sunny spot on a rack to dry and ripen.

Fruit trees may have set more fruit than needed, (even after their natural urge to drop fruit in June) so it may be

necessary to thin fruitlets on apple, pear and plum trees to improve the size and quality of the remaining fruit.

All You Need is Love

Keep tomato compost constantly moist and fertilise to prevent fruits suffering from blossom end rot and splitting.

Established shrubs, trees and lawns shouldn't need watering but greenhouse plants, pots and new plants do- use water wisely choose the evening to reduce water loss from evaporation.

Blackbird

Keep bird baths topped up to encourage birds and other wildlife- they can prevent unwanted pests in the garden.

Peas Peas Me

If you have harvested all your pea plants you can leave roots in the ground to benefit the soil which adds nitrogen, beneficial for future crops. Or if you need the space and have removed the pea plants now is the time to sow spring cabbage, turnips, oriental vegetables, chicory, fennel, and salads for winter cropping.

Keep sowing spinach, and pop in a late crop of French beans for a late summer harvest. Carrots can be still sown but be careful of carrot fly when thinning. Check climbing vegetables are securely tied to supports.

Hippy Hippy Shake

Use a hoe to remove weeds in dry weather - never in wet weather because they easily reseed.

Continue to remove any side shoots on cordon tomato plants and once approx 4-5 trusses have formed (4 trusses for outdoor tomato plants) stop the main shoot growing further by removing the main shoot above the fourth or fifth truss, this should mean the fruits have time to ripen. You can remove any leaves below the first truss. Bush tomatoes can be left to their own devices as they have smaller fruit.

Come Together

Take cuttings of Mediterranean plants such as lavender, rosemary, mint and sage from this season's non flowering stems. Pop the cutting in moist compost and put in a bright spot but not direct sunlight.

Take hydrangea cuttings - choose 8-10cm long non flowering shoots, just below a pair of leaves. Removing the unwanted lower leaves, put the main stem into a pot of gritty compost, water and cover with a polythene bag place in a shady spot for 4 weeks.

Trim evergreen plants like bay (*Laurus nobilis*) removing any suckers from the base.

Cut bearded Iris leaves into a fan shape (15cm) and if you want to increase stocks divide the rhizomes choosing the healthiest for replanting.

All You Need Is Love

To keep a punchy display and second round of colour keep deadheading roses, zinnia, cosmos, marigolds, delphiniums, marguerite daisies, petunias, snapdragons, salvias etc. After you have done all that - Let it be! With a little help from my friends.

PS. You may remember we had a family wedding on 7th June and my aim was to grow as many of the flowers as possible. Whilst my purple alliums were mostly over by this date and I had only a modest success with sweet peas, friends in the village came to my rescue! More than 20 buckets of Thursley sweet peas, nigella, cornflowers, roses (and many more) were used to decorate the church, table flowers and bouquets. A truly wonderful community effort - thank you to all that helped.



ECO-FRIENDLY LIVING - IT'S ECO-LOGICAL

By John Swift



Why is Coal such a problem for climate change? Coal is a non-renewable “fossil fuel” formed from plant materials about 300 million years ago and its composition has a high proportion of carbon. This means that when coal is burnt to release its energy, more carbon dioxide is produced than other fuels for the same amount of energy. Coal is predominantly used for generating electricity these days and the carbon dioxide produced from coal power stations is 820 Kg CO₂e/MWh, while gas power stations produce 490 Kg CO₂e/MWh. These are typical data and could be lower with improvements such as CCUS (see last month’s article). The equivalent data from wind or nuclear power is 12 Kg CO₂e/MWh!

Coal is still being used to generate electricity and new capacity is in development in Asia, Africa, and even Europe. China, USA and India are the major sources of carbon dioxide from coal power generation, but many other countries contribute to it too. See a good visualisation of the location of current and planned coal fired generation on the Carbonbrief link below if you are interested. Approximately 40% of the global electricity supply is from coal fired generation.

However the UK’s position is something we can be proud of. Although our electricity generation used to be based on coal, we started phasing this out in the 1990s (the “dash for gas”) and made a commitment in 2015

to eliminate coal by 2025. This was achieved on 30th September 2024 when the last coal fired power station was decommissioned. The UK has promoted the Powering Past Coal Alliance and has campaigned at recent COP meetings to get a commitment from all countries to phase out using coal. For more information see the link below.

Why is coal fired power proving to be difficult to eliminate? Basically coal is one of the cheapest sources of energy (if one ignores the hidden costs from air pollution and climate change) and it's widely dispersed, or easily shipped, so accessible. Until recently it was the cheapest source of electricity due to the low cost of coal and it also has the advantage of operating 24x7. However, the huge reduction in the cost of wind and solar generated power in the past few years means that these renewables are the cheapest source of electricity. Hopefully this will mean that most new or planned coal power stations will not go ahead. There is a problem still with the large installed base of coal power generating plants. These would typically have a lifetime of 40 years and are probably forming the baseload generating capacity of the country, so it's more difficult to

close these down with renewables.

An alternative to coal for baseload plants are natural gas fuelled plants. Gas is still a non-renewable "fossil fuel" but has a much lower carbon dioxide emission level per unit of energy. They are easy to build and relatively cheap. This is why gas is often referred to as a "transition fuel" in the path to net zero. Recently (following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the inflation in 2022/23) the price of gas has spiked and is still volatile, making it difficult to choose gas replacement for coal plants.

If you want more information about any of these ideas or help, please contact:

jdswift@btinternet.com

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/mapped-worlds-coal-power-plants/>

<https://www.e3g.org/news/consigned-to-history-the-uk-delivers-on-its-promise-to-phase-out-coal-power/>

FIDDLING WHILE ROME BURNS

By Lizzie Young



Okay. Moving + 1 month. I'm now all calm and zen. Suffused with contentment, feeling still of mind and body, able to concentrate, think beyond my own life. Ready to write a (hopefully) entertaining and mildly diverting article for you...

Ha ha. As if. Because that is not how it works. Not if you're me, at least. Don't get me wrong...I feel beyond lucky to be here, and, personally, very happy.

But...life...it rolls on, seeming to gather speed like a boulder on a steep hill. There is still a ton to do here. It took us two hours to register our new kitchen appliances, mainly because the person whose job it is to put the tiny stickers with the serial numbers on the machines must be mean or stupid. When the lady on the helpline basically has to tell you to get another person, a torch, a magnifying glass, and employ the kind of physical dexterity that would make you a shoe

in at the Cirque du Soleil auditions to find it, they really have a problem. And switching from one streaming supplier to another seems to require a PhD in tech, and the patience of Job. David has been on the 'phone to EE this month for longer than he's been on the 'phone to his three children and two grandchildren combined. There are bits missing, and things to be hung, and things that still need to find new homes. We haven't touched the garden, which has, of course, gone crazy in the last month. One daughter is moving house, one daughter is rethinking her career choices, our son is relocating his family to Poland. Late for the optician, very late for the hygienist and dentist, and so late for the osteopath we are basically human pretzels (see above, finding serial numbers for the new oven). So much hospitality to repay after a life that was in flux for fully the first half of the year, when others kindly fed and entertained us. Harvest Festival supper being less than four months out. A novel to write...

And then there's the world beyond Thursley. And I don't mean Elstead. My goodness. I do have plenty of complete thoughts about Gaza and Israel, Iran, Trump, the Assisted Dying Bill, the change of laws around late abortions, the tv drama Adolescence and Meghan Markle's twerking Tik Tok

but you'll be thrilled and relieved to hear I'm going to keep them to myself on this occasion. Suffice to say, it's pretty scary out there at the moment. Preoccupying, darkly, don't wake up accidentally at 3am, because you'll likely stay awake scary.

So I'm not sure I'm all that zen. Perhaps, at 56, I should give up on zen. I'm supposed to be entirely self-knowing, and self-accepting at this age, aren't I? Working on that, as pleasers and worriers probably always will do. I try and major on the joy. Summer makes that much easier, I find. Is there anything lovelier than a warm breeze, and a late sunset as you potter in the garden deadheading geraniums? All the English summer traditions are there to be enjoyed vicariously – the Chelsea Flower Show (been once, more crowded than the Mona Lisa room at the Louvre, couldn't see a thing, much rather watch on the TV), Queens and Wimbledon (haven't been since Mats Wilander played, much rather watch on the TV), rowing, cricket (rained out every live ticket I had last summer bar one, an ODI that started four hours late), so this year will be watching on the TV), Royal Ascot (this one I do go to, because...hats and frocks: don't even really watch the racing when I'm there, so would never watch on the TV). Weddings in St Michaels and All Angels – is there anything more joyful than beautiful and lovely people being confetti bombed in that sunken

path? Friends, acts of kindness (performing and being a recipient of), gratitude.

And I organise. I heard someone on a phone in on the radio the other day describing his OCD as debilitating. I have no wish to trivialise what I am sure I don't fully understand, and easily believe can be entirely wretched for a person. My little tiny touch of something like it brings me great comfort in the chaos, domestic, international, cerebral. Ironing all done and put away? Spice jars alphabetised? Taking a 'phone call from David while I'm out asking for that silicon envelope thingamajig you put a cheese sandwich into so you can toast it and being able to immediately say 'second drawer down under the hob, far right section' (yes, that actually happened, the week we moved)? Contents of loft (see earlier articles to remember that these have all already been carefully edited and curated) documented? Being two thirds of the way through my book club book with a week to go before the meeting? All little things, no question. All making me feel that returning to the imaginary novel may only be weeks away, and that, my friends, is a good thought. All making me feel better and calmer in tiny increments. It may be the ultimate fiddling while Rome burns, but I'm not in Rome, and I don't have a hose. And I'm not ignoring it, I'm just stilling it in my own brain.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON AFFORDABLE HOMES



Waverley Borough Council has launched a public consultation on its Affordable Homes Delivery Strategy for 2025–2028, Healthy Homes, and we are very keen to hear from our stakeholders. We are committed to working in new and innovative ways with our partners, to deliver the affordable homes our residents need to lead healthy lives.

Many households in housing need are using a range of different public services. By working more closely together, we provide our customers with a better experience, avoiding gaps and duplication. This makes services more efficient and provides savings to the public purse. That means your insight is vital to shaping a housing strategy that reflects real local needs.

The strategy sets out plans to deliver high-quality, affordable and energy-efficient homes that meet the diverse needs of residents, support the local economy, and build strong, sustainable communities.

The consultation focuses on three key objectives:

- A healthy supply of decent and affordable homes
- Healthy communities, healthy environments
- A healthy economy, a more prosperous borough

The consultation is open until **Monday 21 July 2025** at:

**Have Your Say Today - Affordable Homes Delivery Strategy 2025-28
Survey - Waverley Housing**

For more information

Contact alice.lean@waverley.gov.uk or esther.lyons@waverley.gov.uk

Thank you for helping shape Waverley's future housing approach.



Elstead Foodbank

Helping villagers during times of crisis

Elstead foodbank has moved temporarily. As the building works move into St James Church the Foodbank has moved into the Youth Centre next to the Elstead Village Hall. We will be open for drop ins every Thursday morning from 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

We continue to support those in greatest need of food and household consumables on a regular basis. We are currently supporting 22 households, a mixture of families with children, single mums, couples, pensioners and singles. It is such a joy to see people who come to us in need and are gradually able to retake control and come off our regulars list. For that we are able to draw on a small grant from the Household Support Grant managed by Surrey County Council. We are also dependent upon the generosity of our donors both in finances and the many food gifts which often come to us anonymously as they simply appear in our collection boxes in the church porch.

If you are struggling to purchase sufficient food whilst paying all your other bills, do please get in touch and we will try to help you, either with an emergency food parcel or to work with you for longer. We have contacts to be able to signpost you to Citizens Advice and other agencies that might also be able to help.

The Elstead Foodbank is open every Thursday from 10am - 11am at Elstead Youth Centre GU8 6DG. We are here to help villagers through difficult times, and to make sure that no one ever goes hungry. If you need help call Revd Delia on 0735 9098 655 or visit us on Thursday morning and we will have a food parcel ready for you.

If you cannot come to the Foodbank but are in need of food, we can arrange a home delivery, subject to volunteer availability. We are very grateful for all your donations throughout the year. All food donations can be taken to St Michael and All Angels Thursley where there is a donation box in the porch for non-perishable food and toiletries. At this time of year we particularly would like donations of:

- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned meats and fish
- Custard (packet or tinned)
- Tea bags
- Instant coffee jar or hot chocolate
- Pot noodles
- Tinned rice pudding
- Jam or Honey or Peanut butter
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shower gel



If you would like to know more about the Foodbank and how you can help, please contact Rev Delia on 0735 9098 655 or email:

minister@parishesofetsph.org

Thursley Village Hall

- a beautiful, welcoming and versatile space.

If you are holding an event, need a space for classes, rehearsals or performances, getting married or throwing a party (and all points inbetween) get in touch with us to see if Thursley Village Hall suits your purpose.

We'll help you to put on something memorable in a much-loved historic building. After all, you are Thursley and it's your hall. It's available to everyone and it doesn't cost much.

There is already lots going on - everyone is welcome, so get involved, join one of the village societies or start one of your own.

Call us on 01252 706929 or visit
www.thursleyvillagehall.co.uk



Hi all! I'm Alina, a nail master / manicurist .
I offer different kinds of manicure and
pedicure: hygienic, polish or gel-polish.
I work only with sterile or disposable tools.
I provide safe dry manicures and pedicures.
I work at Thursley Village Hall.

phone number: 07456580995(WhatsApp)



Alina Karnaukh

Health/Beauty
Nail Master/Manicurist
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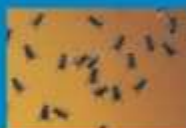
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