

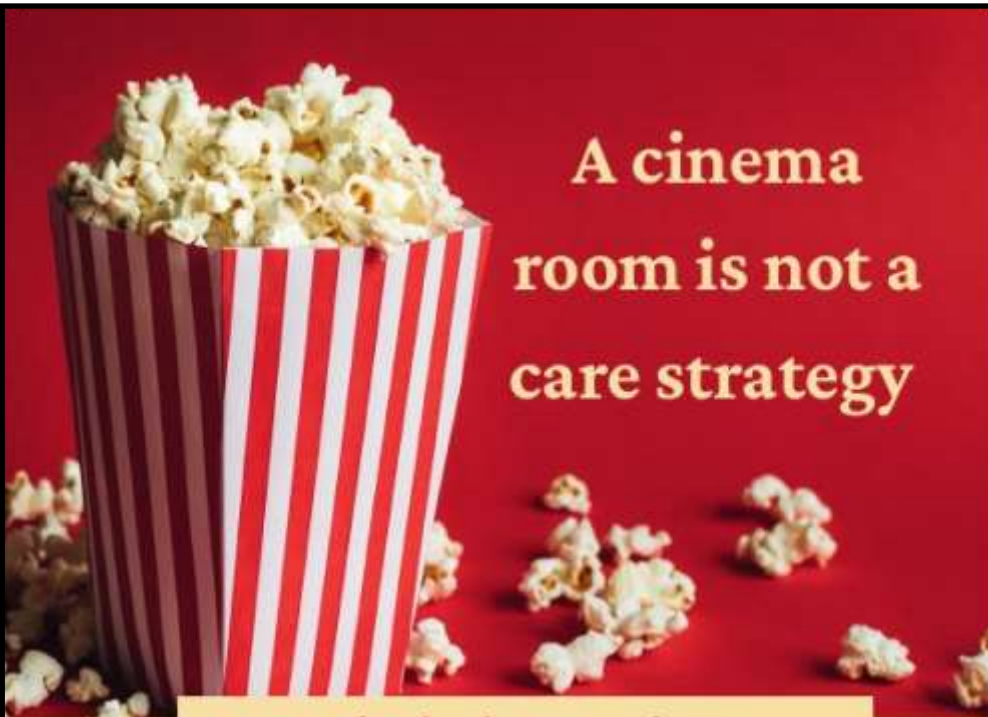
THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

St Michael & All Angels

APRIL 2026



| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Church | 10 | Thursley Pavilion | 26 |
| Village Diary | 11 | Thursley Quiz Night | 28 |
| Church Letter | 12 | Barn Dance | 29 |
| Parish Council | 14 | Calendar Winner | 30 |
| Annual Assembly | 15 | Lancaster Film Review | 31 |
| Horts Society Talk | 16 | Give it a Grow | 32 |
| Horts Society Update | 17 | Sugar & Bakes | 35 |
| A Day in the Life of... | 18 | Lizzie Young | 36 |
| Choral Concert | 23 | 2026 Recycling Update | 38 |
| Farm Life | 24 | Elstead Foodbank | 40 |



**A cinema
room is not a
care strategy**

**Award-winning care that goes
beyond hotel-like facilities...**

THE
HUNTINGTON & LANGHAM
ESTATE

Specialist trained carers and higher staffing levels for
reassuring, responsive, unrushed, resident-led care.

**"Langham Court is a remarkable place. It stands head and shoulders
above anywhere else. We feel very lucky that it is my brother's home"**

Relative of resident

**Book a visit and experience the difference
Call us today 01428 604600**

INDEPENDENT, FAMILY RUN, AWARD-WINNING



ANY PROBLEM, ANY SYSTEM

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN IT
ONSITE REPAIR OR COLLECTION
PROFESSIONAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE
RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS CUSTOMERS ARE WELCOME

- ✓ IT Support in General
- ✓ Desktop & Laptop Repairs
- ✓ Wireless & Wired Networking
- ✓ PC Upgrades & Tune Ups
- ✓ Virus & Spyware Removal

Custom Build Desktop Computers Available



01483 419468



www.TechGuy.biz



NEED HELP?

Help in Thursley is available to anyone living in the parish of Thursley.

WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

Transport to Doctors, Dentists and Hospital appointments, Shops, Post Office, Hairdresser, collecting prescriptions, your pet to the Vet, etc.

HOW IT WORKS

Phone **07538 201 276** and leave a message. The Duty Officer will listen to all messages at least once a day Mondays to Fridays and seek an appropriate volunteer to help you. The Duty Officer will contact you to discuss your request and then contact you again to give you the name of the volunteer who will help you. Please ensure you give us a few days' notice.

01252 703900

www.thUUrsley.co.uk



THE THREE HORSESHOES is owned and managed by villagers to offer delicious locally sourced produce in a warm and friendly environment (we even bake our own bread).

Always check our Specials Board to the right of the bar to try something new and amazing.

Call Michelle and her team on **01252 703900** to order a takeaway (especially our great pizzas), book a table, or to discuss hosting an event.



Opening Hours

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Monday and Tuesday | Closed (prepping, cleaning, decorating...) |
| Wednesday, Thursday and Friday | 12.00 to 15.00 and 17.00 to 22.00 |
| Saturday | 12.00 to 22.00 |
| Sunday | 12.00 to 18.00 |



Join Elstead Tennis Club

Enjoy tennis ALL year round,
not just for coaching!

- Coaching for All Ages ✓
- Free Coaching Trial ✓
- Competitive Tennis ✓
- Comfortable Clubhouse ✓
- See Website For Details ✓

**PICKLEBALL
NOW
AVAILABLE**

info@elsteadtennis.co.uk
www.elsteadtennis.co.uk



*A fusion of hot and cold dishes from Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey,
Spain and Greece*

Available for Private Chef and Event catering

Based in Thursley, Surrey Hills.

Get in touch: 0752 758 0009

mychefbruno@hotmail.com

www.mychefbruno.co.uk

Bamboo Bakery

TRADITIONAL & HOMEBAKED



We have an ever changing selection of homemade Artisan Bakes on our website that are baked to order, with free delivery within Thursley. We are also very happy to work with you to create Bespoke Orders for Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Parties and Special Occasions.

www.bamboobakery.co.uk

EDITORIAL

By Tricia Horwood



Firstly I'd like to express my thanks to all the local businesses who advertise annually and ensure that the magazine can keep going. Jane Hepburn has done a wonderful job, as always, and we now have several new advertisers, so do have a look through and support them if you can. I cannot thank you enough, Jane for all your help.

It's been wonderful to see the village buzzing with activity again this month, especially with so many volunteers turning out to help clear and tidy the pavilion. A big thank you to everyone who lent a hand.

Over at the Horticultural Society, things have been just as lively. The Spring Show promises to be a colourful highlight, showcasing the very best produce, flowers, and crafts from our talented residents. And later in April don't miss the talk on field flowers, which will explore our native blooms and how to encourage them in our own gardens — an especially timely topic as we all look to make our outdoor spaces a little more wildlife-friendly. And of course, one of the most popular fixtures of the year, the Annual Plant Sale, will return at the beginning of May, and it's always a great opportunity to pick up something new for the garden, swap cuttings, and chat with fellow gardeners.

Looking further ahead, the Annual Parish Assembly will take place on 23rd April. Representatives from the many local societies and clubs will be there to share updates, ideas, and achievements. It's also a chance for residents to raise questions or offer suggestions, with refreshments and nibbles provided, naturally! Moments like these — from community clean-ups to local shows and assemblies — remind us of the importance of staying connected and involved. The village thrives because of the people who give their time, ideas, and energy so generously. Let's keep that momentum going into the months ahead.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter!

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE OF 14TH APRIL 2026 FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE MAY 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

DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Jenny GORDON

Tel: 07796 254361 Email: thursleyparishmagazine@btinternet.com

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: £9 FOR 12 ISSUES FROM JANUARY—DECEMBER 2026

PAYABLE TO: Thursley Parish Magazine. Account No: 56674217 Sort Code: 23-05-80

Ref: House Name (or number & road). This includes both a printed copy and digital version.

CONTACT: thursleyparishmagazine@btinternet.com (& to request a digital copy)

COVER: Darford Warbler on Thursley Common, by Edward Baldwin Insta @edsnappedthis
Opinions expressed by authors and services offered by advertisers are not specifically endorsed by Thursley Parish Magazine or the Parochial Church Council.

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL DIRECTORY

CHURCH: ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

VICAR

Revd Hannah Moore 01252 705941

rector@parishesofetsph.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Revd Delia Orme 01252 702217

minister@parishesofetsph.org

Louisa MASON 01252 705164

curate@parishesofetsph.org

CHURCHWARDENS

Susanna HUNTER 07833 574152

gammelby@btinternet.com

Simon TREADWELL 07799 600470

charlessimontreadwell@gmail.com

TREASURER

Rupert PERRIER 07916 294646

rupertperrier@googlemail.com

PCC CLERK OF WORKS

Simon TREADWELL 01428 687715

charlessimontreadwell@gmail.com

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILLORS

Claire DAILLY 07722 943909

claire.daily@yahoo.com

Sarah O'BRIEN 07990 572263

sarahchristinaobrien@gmail.com

Jackie RICKENBERG 07941 433103

jackierickenberg@gmail.com

Steve CRUICKSHANK 07768 774398

Stephen.cruickshank@hotmail.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Sarah O'BRIEN 07990 572263

sarahchristinaobrien@gmail.com

ORGANIST

Robbie GOLDFINCH 01252 705151

CHURCH CLEANING

Sallie ROLES 01252 706820

CHURCH FLOWERS

Lisa WOODS 07710 070412

CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Caroline MENDELSSOHN 01252 702808

caroline.mendelssohn@yahoo.co.uk

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Mike ROBERTS 07948 243887

mike.roberts83@btinternet.com

HELP IN THURSLEY 07538 201276

Chairman:

David YOUNG 01428 607716

chairman@helpinthursley.com

Treasurer:

Peter HUNTER 01252 702165

peterhunter@btconnect.com

THURSLEY CRICKET CLUB

Chairman:

Lee SMALLBONE

chairman@thursleycricketclub.com

Secretary:

Alex MEEARS

secretary@thursleycricketclub.com

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.thursley-pc.gov.uk

Council Clerk:

Elaine FELTON 01252 703201

The Barrows, Seale Road, Elstead GU8 6LF

clerk@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Chairman:

James MENDELSSOHN 07941 507753

Bears Barn, Dye House Road, Thursley

Surrey GU8 6QD

j.mendelssohn@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Vice Chairman:

Chris MCCLEMENTS 07970 204906

c.mcclements@thursley-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Michelle DE VRIES 07590 893497

m.devries@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Helen FLAVELL 07941060663
h.flavell@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Sarah O'BRIEN
s.obrien@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Phoebe SULLIVAN
p.sullivan@thursley-pc.gov.uk

Tom TAYLOR-MATHEWS
t.taylormathews@thursley-pc.gov.uk

PARISH FOOTPATH WARDENS
Contact Elaine Felton 01252 703201

COMMUNITY RECYCLER
Bruce PYWELL 07498 744 793
bruce.pywell@gmail.com

THURSLEY NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
Reserve Warden:
James GILES 01428 685675
james.giles@naturalengland.org.uk

THURSLEY HISTORY SOCIETY
Chairman
Sally SCHEFFERS : 07887 616541
scheffers@btinternet.com

Secretary:
Jackie RICKENBERG 07941 433103
jackierickenberg@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Peter RICKENBERG 07774 203111
peterrickenberg5@gmail.com

Archivist:
Alison HANBURY 07980 202579

Website:
David YOUNG 07879 551206
Davidjohnyoung51@hotmail.com

THURSLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Secretary:
Pat CLAKE 01252 706869
patclake@hotmail.com

HANKLEY COMMON MILITARY ACTIVITY
24 Hour Ops Room 01420 483405

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Jackie MALTON 07885 147304
ThursleyNW@gmail.com

THURSLEY LADIES 50+ LUNCH
Lisa WOODS 07710 070412
lisahcottage@gmail.com

SURREY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
Ben ALEXANDER 07964 391882
ben.alexander@surreycc.gov.uk

BUTTERFLIES NURSERY
D ELLUL & M DHILLON 07827 786005

THE THREE HORSESHOES 01252 703900
www.threehorseshoesthursley.com

THURSLEY VILLAGE HALL
www.thursleyvillagehall.co.uk
thursleyvillagehall@btinternet.com

Village Hall Chairman:
Clea BEECHEY 07711 183959
cleab@me.com

Village Hall Secretary:
Alison HANBURY 07980 202579

Village Hall Manager: 01252 706929
Alison HANBURY 07980 202579
thursleyvillagehall@btconnect.com

COUNCILLORS
Surrey County:
David HARMER 01428 606921
Wyanston, Tower Road, Hindhead,
Surrey GU26 6ST
david.harmer@surreycc.gov.uk

Waverley Borough:
David MUNRO 07493 200398
david.munro@waverley.gov.uk
James STAUNTON
james.staunton@waverley.gov.uk

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

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

APRIL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| THURSDAY 2nd Maundy Thursley | 7.00pm | Communion at St James' Church, Elstead |
| FRIDAY 3rd Good Friday | 10.00am 2.00pm | On the Green, Elstead Final hour reflective service at St Michael & All Angels Church, Thursley |
| SUNDAY 5th Easter Day | 9.15am 9.45am 10.30am 11.00am | Communion at St James' Church, Elstead Communion at St Michael's, Thursley Easter Day Service at St James' Church, Elstead Communion at St Mary's Church, Shackleford |
| SUNDAY 12th Easter 2 | 9.15am | Communion at St James' Church, Elstead |
| SUNDAY 19th Easter 3 | 9.45am 10.30am | Communion at St Michael's, Thursley Modern Service at St James' Church, Elstead |
| SUNDAY 26th Easter 4 | 10.00am | Communion at St Nicholas Church, Peper Harow |

www.parishesofetsph.org.uk

APRIL

CHURCH CLEANING

(Please contact Sallie Roles if you can help)

Lizzie YOUNG Pam CLARKSON Susie GOODRIDGE

CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

(Please contact Caroline Mendelssohn if you can help)

5th Sabrina DRAGONI-LONG 19th Sally PAGET-BROWN

VILLAGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

| | | |
|----------------|---------|--|
| Saturday 4th | 6.00pm | Choral Concert by Ovis Cantorum Choir. St Michael & All Angels Church. All welcome. |
| Tuesday 7th | 7.00pm | Thursley Parish Council Meeting. Village Hall. All welcome. |
| Saturday 11th | 2.30pm | Horts Society Spring Show. Village Hall. All welcome. See p17. |
| Thursday 16th | 12.30pm | Thursley 50+ Ladies Lunch. Three Horseshoes Pub. Booking essential. Contact Lisa Woods. |
| Saturday 18th | 10.00am | Churchyard Working Party. St Michael & All Angels Church. All help welcome. |
| Thursday 23rd | 7.00pm | Annual Parish Assembly. All welcome. Village Hall. See p15. |
| Wednesday 29th | 7.30pm | Horts Society host a talk on 'Field Flowers'. Village Hall. All welcome. See p16. |

MAY

| | | |
|--------------|------------|---|
| Saturday 2nd | 10.30-12pm | Horts Society Plant Sale. Thurley Pavilion. All welcome. See p17. |
|--------------|------------|---|

PLEASE NOTE NEW BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR

**THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE
£9 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 12 MAGAZINES
January — December 2026**

**Payable to: Thursley Parish Magazine
Account No: 56674217 Sort Code: 23-05-80
Ref: House Name (or number & road)**

EASTER HOPE AND “THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD”

By Revd Hannah Moore



As we step into April and approach Easter once again, I've found myself reflecting on a book I've been reading recently: *The Greatest Story Ever Told* by Bear Grylls. In it, Bear talks with his characteristic honesty about faith, courage, adventure, fear, and the God who meets us not in perfection, but in the very real ups and downs of everyday life.

What struck me most is how Bear describes the Christian story not as something distant or neatly contained within the pages of Scripture, but as a living, breathing journey—one in which God walks beside us, especially when life feels uncertain or overwhelming. He reminds us that faith is not about having everything sorted; it is about holding onto a hope that is bigger than we are, trusting the One who has already walked the hardest path for us.

That message feels particularly powerful at Easter. Holy Week takes us through the full landscape of human experience: celebration, betrayal, love, suffering, silence, and finally, astonishing joy. It is a story that refuses to shy away from the reality of pain or the weight of the world's brokenness. And yet, it is also a story that insists—stubbornly, defiantly—that darkness will not have the final word.

Reading Bear's reflections alongside the Easter story made me marvel again at how God chooses to work. Not with force. Not with spectacle. But with compassion. With presence. With a love that goes to the very depths and rises again in radiant, unstoppable life.

Easter morning is the moment when everything turns. The stone is rolled away. Hope breaks through. The story opens out again. And in that moment, Jesus does not appear first to the powerful or the prominent—but to ordinary people, calling them by name, reminding them that they are known, loved, and never alone. There is such joy in that.

And perhaps that is the invitation of Easter for us this April: to rediscover joy not as a feeling we must manufacture, but as a gift that rises even in weary places; to be open to the God who meets us on our own paths, just as we are; to dare, as Bear Grylls puts it, to live with courage—not because life is easy, but because God is faithful.

As our villages bloom with spring colour and the days lengthen, may this season remind you that new beginnings are always possible. Whatever this year has brought you so far—delight, struggle, change, uncertainty—Easter proclaims that God is still at work. The story is still unfolding. And the ending is one of life, hope, and joy.

Hannah



Easter Sunday

5 APRIL

09:15 St James', Elstead
09:45 St Michael & All Angels,
Thursley
10:30 St James', Elstead
11:00 St Mary's Shackleford

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



THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

By Chairman James Mendelsohn



It was a pleasure to see three villagers at our March meeting, expressing concern about the state of the bridleway that runs from Bowlhead Green through to Cosford. This is an ancient and historic track that was the main route between Bowlhead Green and Thursley, but it is now virtually impassable for those on horses or bikes.

We had a positive discussion and although as a Parish Council we have no jurisdiction over bridleways and footpaths, we will be contacting Surrey County Council (SCC) to discuss some of the local drainage issues which impact the bridleway.

Perhaps more significantly, we are also going to undertake a survey of all the bridleways and footpaths that pass through our Parish. This will enable us to talk to SCC in a constructive way about those that we feel should be given priority for repair and restoration, while

recognising the fact that SCC are working with extremely limited resources to cover a very large area. To put matters into perspective, the small team at SCC have to manage 1,400 miles of footpaths and 700 miles of bridleways in the county!

The plans to redevelop the Cricket Pavilion are continuing apace - and the team masterminding the project are providing regular updates through various channels. And I certainly don't want to replicate those here.

However, the decision of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Committee at Waverley to recommend our proposal to the Executive for approval is a huge vindication not only of the project itself, but also the significant community involvement that was evident in our submission. This was absolutely critical because there were certain other criteria where, perhaps inevitably, we did not score so highly.

Community involvement is the glue that sticks the village together. For a village our size, we have a disproportionate number of clubs, societies, institutions and support mechanisms. The fact that they all co-exist and are well supported is evidence both of the need for them, and the enjoyment we all derive from them. As we all get busier, and more and more services, deliveries and entertainment, get beamed into our homes or dropped

off on our doorsteps, it is really important that we continue to support – and enjoy – everything going on in our village and don't take too much for granted.

Finally, although the details are published elsewhere in this magazine, could I please encourage as many as possible to come to our Annual Parish Assembly in the Village Hall on Thursday 23 April. We start at 6.30 pm with a drinks reception, hosted by the Parish Council, and the meeting itself starts at 7.00 pm.

There is a legal requirement for all Parishes to hold such an assembly, but over the years, the format that we have adopted in Thursley has proved to be popular, informative and well attended. I very much hope that we can keep this tradition going.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 7 April at 7.00 pm.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY 23rd APRIL 2026

7.00 pm

THURSLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council Chairman will be providing his Annual Report and providing updates on activities during the year.

Village organizations will be represented

ALL WELCOME

Please come along and support your village

There will be complimentary drinks and snacks available from 6.30 pm



*Thursley Horticultural
Society*

Presents

**A talk from Cate
of 'Field Flowers'
an organic Flower Farm
in Haslemere**

**on Wednesday
29th April**

**7.30pm at
Thursley Village Hall
Raffle and refreshments
Admission Free.**

All welcome

THURSLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Pat Clarke

Our Spring Show is on Saturday April 11th, and we are looking forward to receiving your entries. The details of classes are in the Schedule- daffodils and tulips always look wonderful in the hall but do look for other Spring flowers and Shrub classes. Floral Art has several possibilities including Class 42 which is simply 'an Arrangement of Flowers in a vase' (max width 45cm) This is specifically aimed at those who haven't entered or won before so do join in and bring a glorious, creative display. It can really be fun to be part of the Show.

Cookery classes include a set recipe for Cherry Cake, but we would love to see your 'Showy Cake' (think of the 'Bake Off) as highlighted in the last Parish Magazine - a cake of any size or shape with ingredients of your choice, but the main element should be the spectacular decoration with as much chocolate as you wish to use. Alongside that you, and your children or grandchildren, could enter 'My Favourite Cake'

Children's classes were detailed in the March edition of the Parish Magazine. There is still time to harness enthusiasm and get them ready for April 11th. (Entries could be brought to the Hall on Friday evening if children are busy on Saturday) The Handicraft section is attracting more entries. Do please find those items that you made when it was raining! – a hand knitted article, an item of fancy needlework, a decorated item for the bathroom, a toy) max size 45cm x 45 cm) or a Still Life (max size A3).

Our next Talk is on Wednesday 29th April at 7.30 pm It is from Cate of Field Flowers who was enthusiastically recommended by several in the Village. Cate has an organic flower farm in West End Lane, Haslemere. She grows for Weddings, sells bouquets,

runs workshops and 'pick your own' sessions. She is passionate about sustainability, seasonality and British grown flowers. Sounds fascinating. Do come and hear her explain more. All welcome. Free entry. Raffle and refreshments of soft drinks and wine.

The Plant Sale this year is on Saturday 2nd May (not 9th, for various reasons) It is at the Pavilion from 10.30 -12. This is always a very popular event and quite a social occasion too! Our thanks in advance to Tim Walsh and Tina Chant and others for sharing the results of their growing skills.

We are aiming at the Plant Sale to encourage a lifelong interest in plants and growing with the Thursley Junior Growers group. To start with, children or grandchildren of the Village will be able to collect sunflowers plants in little pots, prepared by Amanda Flint, ready to plant in the ground. The 'Kong' variety could grow to nearly 14ft! For those with smaller spaces, 'Gummy' might be more appropriate, a fluffy variety reaching up to 3 ft. (This could be kept in a pot). It will be possible to enter these in the Autumn show with a photograph maybe – or more excitingly entries could be measured in situ by a man with a ladder. Christmas Cacti will also be available as tiny plants . These are lovely cacti with beautiful pink flowers at Christmas. Amanda is also preparing Good Luck (or Mexican Hat) plants – succulents which are easy to grow and can put up with a great deal of neglect. And this plant will also give you babies! There will be some growing instructions for the children for all plants – but they will have to bear in mind that things can go wrong....

If you have not got a schedule for one reason or another, let us know and one will be made available. Contact:

thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FEMALE ELECTRICIAN

By *Sasha Plaché DeVilliers*



Toddler Sasha getting stuck in

I didn't grow up announcing, "*One day I shall be an electrician.*" I sort of... tripped over a cable and ended up here.

From primary school age, I was already poking around in my dad's electronics design and manufacturing business. Factory visits, client meetings, helping out when it was safe — electronics were just part of life. One of my earliest lightbulb moments (literally) happened at St Hilary's School in Godalming, where I built my very first lighting circuit. A simple LED, a battery, and a switch made from cardboard, foil, and wire. It felt like magic. That moment lodged itself in my brain and never really left. Turns out, that scrappy little circuit was the start of everything.

Childhood: Curiosity Encouraged (and Mildly Dangerous)

I grew up surrounded by engineering, amusement parks, and a dad whose

motto was essentially "have a go." My brother and I had total freedom to invent. We built chicken runs, rewired speakers, dismantled old tech, and rebuilt it into something "better"!

School holidays were the highlight. While other kids were watching telly, I was glued to builders, electricians, and tradespeople, firing off questions like a tiny interrogator: Why that? How does that work? What happens if you don't do it like that?

I also collected a respectable number of scars and a cracked tooth or two along the way. I was the naughty one — the one who thought she knew better and



Where to Begin

didn't always wait for adult supervision. Character building, apparently.

Becoming an Electrician (To No One's Surprise)

When I decided to train as an electrician, everyone nodded knowingly. No gasps, no raised eyebrows. I was always destined for something practical... or a life on stage singing and dancing. Either way, both involve cables and a lot of commitment!

College was refreshingly positive. I didn't experience negativity for being female — quite the opposite, actually. There was support, encouragement, and the occasional moment of surprise. I am, after all, a youthful-looking, petite 5'2", feminine-framed person in a job usually associated with someone who looks like they wrestle pythons for fun.

There's always judgment from fellow electricians and trades who often misjudge my qualification status and skill levels. Many people don't realise I've been doing it since I was 8 years old and therefore more qualified and experienced than most. Challenging the norm has become a part of my journey and fuels my drive to succeed.

Commercial Work: Behind the Curtain

I was lucky early in my career to have family support, which meant getting into the trade was relatively easy. I started out in commercial electrical work, focusing on visitor attractions such as theme parks, museums, zoos, and family entertainment centres. The fun stuff. The big stuff!



Everything was custom-built, which meant I often carried projects from design and manufacturing right through to final installation. I loved it. There's nothing quite like seeing how the magic works behind the scenes. I worked on projects for Universal Studios, Merlin Entertainments, and alongside Adrian Fisher MBE, the world's premier maze designer. Disney remains the one place I never got behind the scenes — and honestly, I'm okay with that. That magic is now reserved for experiencing it through my boys' eyes.

Domestic Life (With Fewer Rollercoasters)

Eventually, I swapped commercial work for domestic electrics. The reason? I wanted to start a family and be in control of my time - the holy grail!

Once I'd made that decision, I had to embark on further qualifications, including my domestic installer certification, which took around three months. And that was just the beginning. Training never stops in this industry. Every two to three years, the Wiring Regulations (BS7671 — the 18th Edition, for those in the know) are updated. We're heading into the fourth amendment in April 2026. Each update means training courses, new books (so many books), and time off the tools. On top of that, I'm assessed every year by NAPIT, my competent persons' scheme. Paperwork, proof of qualifications, insurance checks, a full on-site assessment day — all to make sure I can legally sign off work. Glamorous? No. Essential? Absolutely.

The Good, the Bad, and the Itchy
Favourite jobs? Full garden and landscape lighting projects. Watching an outdoor space transform is deeply satisfying. I also love quick-win jobs — changing a light fitting and hearing a homeowner walk back in and say, "Wow." Those are very happy days.

Worst jobs have to be fibreglass lofts. Full PPE. Head to toe. In summer. Imagine a hazmat suit... but itchy.

There's too many scary electric stories to list. Poorly terminated wires, exposed live cables hidden in dusty lint-filled spaces. I'm honestly amazed that more houses haven't caught fire before I've been called out!

Animals in lofts are a weekly event — mostly rodents and birds. Spiders and I

have a mutual agreement: as long as we know where each other are, we're fine. Surprise appearances may result in dramatic arm flailing and an abrupt end to negotiations.

Shocks, Literally

My first shock? An electric fence when I was about eight. That definitely counts. Professionally, I somehow avoided one until my mid-thirties — while pregnant. Baby-brain is real, people. I grabbed an unexpected live wire whilst changing a light fitting and zap — a neat little burn on my palm. It was minor, but I've never Googled anything so intensely in my life. Looking back, that probably explains why my son and I have crazy Einstein hair!

Working in People's Homes

Working in people's homes means you occasionally see things you wish you hadn't — but I've developed excellent



tunnel vision. People often apologise for the “state” of their houses. I always laugh. Trust me, I live with three boys! Some of the best moments I’ve experienced are being the first person into a loft for years and finding mysterious old boxes, or opening up walls and discovering newspapers stuffed in nooks and crannies for insulation. History, but dusty.

A Typical Morning (Chaos, But Organised Chaos)

My alarm goes off at 6:30am — unless the kids beat me to it. I’ve perfected the art of pretending to be asleep so I can steal an extra half hour. First job of the day: mum. Breakfast at 7am. The boys have drawers labelled for each day of the week, and they race to get dressed pretending to be jet planes, racing cars, or motorbikes. Highly effective.

School drop-off is stop one. Then it’s off to start my second job. I often joke that I’m the only tradie who chooses their work vehicle not just based on ladders, tools, and parts — but also on how many child car seats I can fit in at the same time.

Family, Music, and Balance

My life simply wouldn’t work without my husband and biggest cheerleader, Leroux — a personal trainer specialising in fitness and nutrition. We met at the gym in Godalming (and also went to school together at Frensham Heights), so he truly gets me. Having multi-generational family support right on our doorstep is priceless and nothing beats seeing my



children skipping off with my parents and having the space and freedom to explore the world and learn how things work - just like I did.

When I’m not working, it’s all about family time, holidays, camping, and experiences. Music is a huge part of my life too. I perform, sing in choirs, and act as lead electrician for ChoirBlast and ATOM Festivals charity events. My work playlist depends on my mood, but it’s usually something I can sing along to — swing jazz, country blues, or easy pop rock.

My most treasured tools? My Wera screwdriver kit, Knipex combi cutters, and 5-in-1 pliers. They have become extensions of my own arms - a kind of Sasha Scissor Hands, if you like!

Why I Do It

I love solving problems that no one else has managed to crack. Those are my proudest days. I love making a difference to people's lives, however big or small. My biggest career achievement isn't a specific job or project — it's empowering the next generation, especially women, to give the trade a go. If I can challenge expectations simply by doing my job well, that feels like a win.

The future of domestic electricians is green. Sustainability, renewables, and smarter homes are where things are heading, and it's an exciting time to be an electrician and to be part of that shift. No two days are ever the same, and that's one of the things I love most. One day I might find myself at a vast manor house with stables and out buildings, the next in an open-plan modern apartment. I easily move between brand-new builds and Grade II historical homes where you genuinely never know what you're going to uncover once you open a wall or climb

into a loft. Some days are wonderfully hospitable — unlimited cuppas, biscuits or even cake (it's impossible to say 'no')! Other days, I'm grateful I remembered to grab some of last night's left overs as I dashed out the door because once the tools are out and the head-torch is on, there's no time to stop for tea-breaks.

This isn't a fair-weather job. I work indoors and outdoors, come rain, snow, or heatwaves — if the electrics need doing, I'm there. I've been soaked through, sunburnt, frozen, and everything in between, sometimes all in the same week.

And of course, like most self-employed tradies, the job doesn't end when I pack up my DeWalt boxes, load the car and say goodbye. Once dinner is eaten (thanks Leroux) and bedtime stories have been read, then it's on to organising and packing the right kit for the next day, ordering parts, replying to emails, juggling the diary and creating quotes and invoices. After a full-on physical day, the admin is brutal. My New Year's resolution remains the same every year: remember to get paid!

As for tomorrow - another location, another client to meet, another challenge, but always the same goal: making a difference, one connection at a time. And honestly? I wouldn't change a thing.

Get in touch with me at hello@sassydoesit.com or follow me on Facebook [@sassydoesit](#) or Instagram [@sassy_does_it](#)





The WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY *of*
WOOLMEN



MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

OVIS CANTORUM

DIRECTED *by* DAVID SWINSON

ORGANIST LUKE SAINT

KEYBOARDIST ROBERT GOLDFINCH

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL, 6PM

St Michael and All Angels, Thursley

PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

Highlights from Godspell and
Jesus Christ Superstar, Allegri Miserere
and Durufle Requiem



WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE FARM THIS MONTH?

By Jo Ranson

At last, some warm sunny days, not every day but it really has helped us get lots of jobs done. The waterproofs have finally dried out - it's not quite shorts weather but we aren't far away if next weeks forecast is to be believed.

The cows are now going out for a few hours at night. It is still a bit chilly for all night, and the grass growth isn't quite at full power yet, but it is helping as the silage is running out fast. Now that we have sold the angus and some baby calves there is some from their stash we have been using for grass silage. The maize we hoped to keep for when the cows calve next Autumn has had to be sacrificed but needs must. We are growing more maize this year anyway which will help. We have taken on a new field which has only ever grazed horses so is very weed burdened; to help alleviate that problem we will grow maize this year to give it a break and then grass seed it for the following year, as the new field follows on to existing cow grazing paddocks so will be handy for the milking cows.

We have got some fertiliser on the silage ground and on the grazing paddocks which aren't a herbal ley (herbs don't need it they are good at producing their own nutrients) on the first dry spell available and it is already showing good results. We also had fertiliser in stock as with the war that is going on fertiliser prices have gone silly again - thank goodness for forward buying procedures.

Another break in the wet weather allowed us to get the lagoon emptied. Nick and Toby did another spell of getting out as much liquid as we could with our new umbilical system (it is paying for itself brilliantly) and the muck was incredibly dry and the whole job was done in two days. Once the wind has dropped, we will get the maize ground sprayed for weeds and then the muck will be spread and ploughed in. It is starting to feel like we are getting somewhere, which is great as we are already mid-March (time flies when you are having fun - or that it has been so wet things have been delayed!!)

There was another bit of lorry chaos this month, because of a really nasty accident on the A3 it was shut for several hours and of course it was tanker night. I rang the tanker driver to let him know and he would have to plead with the police to be able to come in the normal way, but he had no success and had to come in the wrong way. He did amazingly make it up the hill and under the bridge but wasn't expecting to be greeted by all the cars dodging the A3 the other way. Toby, Beth and I had to do some late-night traffic control to stop anymore from coming, get the ones that had met him on the narrow road turned round and back out another way. Fortunately, everyone we spoke to was very understanding and amenable and we got it sorted relatively quickly. On normal closures there are signs out for a few days prior to it being shut and the drivers plan the time they come

in but when it is for an emergency it makes things a bit trickier for them.

The 18-month-old Angus went to market at the beginning of the month and because it's an early start to get them loaded and on their way, we get things set up the night before. They came in as good as gold in the dark and loaded fairly well. The lorry can't get to the barn as it is too big, so we load them into the cattle trailer and then meet the lorry on the road and transfer ramp to ramp. Always a slightly nerve-wracking experience but one we have practiced many times and have got it down to a fine art now and they got to Thame in good time and sold at really good prices so we were very happy. Last week we took 43 of our 6-month-old Belgium Blue calves. Again, another early start but all well organised and they sold for amazing prices (even the auctioneer was surprised), it was almost tempting to go back and get the rest. Toby has done an excellent job at rearing them and they did look an absolute picture, both him and the calves deserved those excellent prices.

Tomorrow we will be getting the training paddock ready to start turning out the rest of the calves; more pressure of the silage stocks.

The vet audit had to be cancelled (not sure if that's a good or bad thing, we were already to go cow and paperwork wise) due to other meetings coming up, so we will have to wait for a new date to get that audit done. This week though we have the European Dairy Farmers (UK members) coming to visit us; they will have a tour round us and two other farms locally to see some

different systems, but they are very much a costings driven group, so we have been busy finalising our costs of production. Which is actually a very valuable process to do any way, and we were pleased with the outcome - hopefully the visiting farmers will be as impressed as we are by the figures.

More exciting news this month - Matthew and Keri had a baby boy on 18th February, Archie, a new addition to the farm. Time has raced by and he is nearly a month old already and all are doing very well - who knows but he could be the next generation for farming.

Next month we will be busy getting the maize ground ready for drilling and hopefully all the cows and calves will be out.



THURSLEY PAVILION – COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP & PROGRESS UPDATE

By The Thursley Pavilion Trustees

On Saturday 14 March, members of the community gathered at the pavilion site for a morning of clearing and an update on the progress of the Thursley Pavilion project. It was fantastic to see a near 40 strong turnout with volunteers giving their time to help tidy and prepare the pavilion for the coming cricket season. After clearing up we had an update of the latest developments.

The clean-up session made a real difference to the pavilion and demonstrated once again the enthusiasm and commitment within the village to see this project succeed. Many thanks to everyone who came along, whether for the whole morning or just a short time — your support and effort are hugely appreciated.

During the morning we also shared an update on progress since our last public meeting in November. One of the most exciting developments is that Waverley Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund has agreed £100,000 in funding for the project, subject to final formal ratification. This represents a significant milestone and a major step forward for the pavilion.

With this commitment, total pledged funding now stands at approximately £430,000 thanks to our generous donors. Our target is £500,000 to ensure the building can be fully completed and equipped to serve the needs of the community.

We have also successfully completed the planning pre-application stage, which has provided valuable feedback and several helpful suggestions for refining the design. Community-proposed layout changes were presented and have been agreed in principle, and we are exploring the possibility of relocating the building outside the Special Protection Area (SPA). This could also allow for additional improvements, including space for a machine store and a slightly larger event area within the pavilion design.

Alongside these developments, the project website has now been launched and the pavilion is also active on Facebook and Instagram. These channels will help us share regular updates and provide more opportunities for villagers to stay involved as the project progresses.

It remains very important to us that the pavilion project is open, inclusive and shaped by the community. The pavilion is for the whole community and we encourage everyone to stay involved, share ideas and help shape its future.

Finally, a sincere thank you to everyone who continues to support the project — from those who donate or volunteer their time, to those who share ideas and keep the positive word spreading throughout the community. Your encouragement and involvement are what make this project possible.



THE THURSLEY QUIZ IS BACK!

With our host



FRIDAY MAY 15TH

7PM FOR A 7.30 START.

£20/PERSON

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES A FISH & CHIP SUPPER.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A BAR AND RAFFLE.

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR A FUN
EVENING.**

FOR TICKETS CONTACT: - thursleyevents@gmail.com



BARN DANCE

11th JULY 2026

6.30PM - 11PM

**MOSEY ON DOWN
FOR AN EVENING OF LIVE
FOLK MUSIC WITH
DANCING, HOG ROAST,
BAR & RAFFLE**

For tickets contact:
littlecowdray@gmail.com

Or

Message: 07775810869

**LITTLE COWDRAY FARM
SURREY GUS 6QJ**

**£18 ADULTS
£12 CHILDREN
UNDER 5'S FREE**

**HOG ROAST
INCLUDED**

**ALL
PROCEEDS
TO GO TO
CHARITY!**

☆
☆



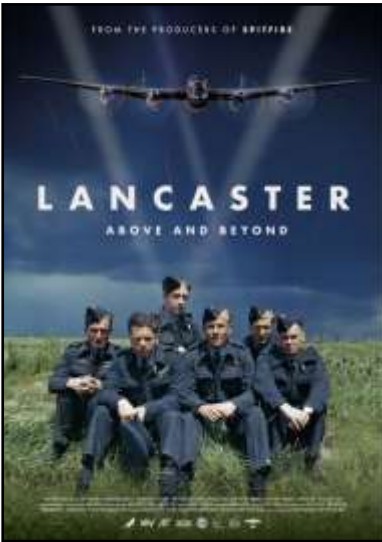


And the winner is The 2026 village calendar was compiled from a fabulous selection of photo entries and the 13 that could be published made for a really challenging editorial choice. Well done to everyone who made a contribution. From that shortlist, the village hall committee selected the January photograph as the winner of this year's competition. Tamsin Taylor Mathews' delightful picture of the boardwalk in low light is worthy of the accolade.



REVIEW OF LANCASTER FILM

By Lizzie Young



To the village hall, for the Thursley History Society's very special showing of Lancaster, the 2022 documentary about the Avro Lancaster, the iconic British plane. It proved to be a fascinating evening, and a captivating film. We were incredibly lucky, too, to have one of the film's directors, and local man, David Fairhead, with us for a Q&A afterwards. David described himself as both film maker, and aviation enthusiast, and that combination of passions was very obvious – the film was full of stunning ariel footage of a surviving plane, cut alongside tremendously poignant and affecting first-hand accounts from some thirty surviving members of Bomber Command,

while Charles Dance's narration was informative and fascinating.

The vast Lancaster bomber first saw service in 1942, and played a decisive, even pivotal role in the war. From flying over 156,000 sorties over enemy territory in night raids, through the Dambusters raids where Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs decimated the Ruhr Valley dams that were powering the German weapons and munitions factories, to the almost obliteration of Dresden as the conflict drew to a close, the impact of the plane on the course of the war cannot be underestimated. Nor can the human cost – more than 55,000 men out of a total of 125,000 wartime members of Bomber Command were killed. Another 8,403 were wounded, while 9,838 became prisoners of war.

It felt like a privilege to hear the pin sharp recollection of the survivors David had quite brilliantly interviewed for the film, all in their nineties. And a further privilege to hear David speak afterwards. Spitfire was the first of a trilogy of films, of which Lancaster was the second. David and his partner are finishing Mosquito next. I think the History Society should start a petition for a world premiere of that one in the village hall.

GIVE IT A GROW

By Debbie Spencer



HERB YOUR ENTHUSIASM!

Herbs have a long and fascinating history. In ancient times they were valued not only for flavour but also for their healing properties. The ancient Egyptians grew herbs such as coriander, dill and mint, using them in medicine, cooking and even in religious ceremonies. In ancient Greece and Rome, herbs played an important role in daily life. Greek physicians wrote about the healing qualities of herbs, while Roman cooks used herbs generously to flavour their food. During the Middle Ages, herbs were commonly grown in monastery gardens across Europe. Monks carefully cultivated plants such as sage, rosemary, thyme and fennel for both cooking and medicine. Many early hospitals and healing houses relied on

herbal remedies, and knowledge of herbs was passed down through generations.

The scientific names of many herbs also reflect their long history of practical use. In botany, the word *officinalis* often appears in plant names, such as *Salvia officinalis* (sage) or *Melissa officinalis* (lemon balm). The term comes from the Latin *officina*, meaning a workshop or storeroom, particularly the storeroom of a monastery where medicines were prepared. Plants given the name *officinalis* were those officially recognised for their medicinal, culinary, or herbal value.

Even today, many herbs are valued not only for their taste but for their traditional health benefits. Mint and chamomile are known for aiding digestion and relaxation, while thyme and sage have long been appreciated for their soothing and antibacterial qualities.

Make thyme to grow herbs

Many herbs can be grown easily from seed in April in the UK. Hardy herbs such as parsley, chives, coriander, dill and rocket can often be sown directly outdoors once the soil begins to warm. Others, including basil and sweet marjoram, prefer a little extra warmth and can be started indoors on a sunny windowsill or in a greenhouse before being moved outside later in spring. I often use polythene bags tied on to plants pots (or hotel shower caps!) to assist with germination.

Parsley is a kitchen favourite and rich in vitamins A, C and K. It grows well in both beds and pots and can be harvested regularly through the season. Chives are another easy herb, producing delicate onion-flavoured leaves that are delicious chopped into salads, eggs or baked potatoes. Their purple pom-pom flowers later in the year are also attractive to bees.

Coriander grows quickly from seed and is widely used in soups, curries and salads. Both the leaves and seeds are useful in cooking. Dill is another fast-growing herb, known for its feathery foliage and fresh flavour, which pairs beautifully with fish and new potatoes.

Mint can also be grown from seed, although many gardeners grow it from small plants. There isn't a single exact

number of mint varieties because mint plants hybridize very easily, creating many natural and cultivated varieties. But botanists generally recognise about 25-30 true species in the genus *Mentha*. The most common ones are:

Spearmint (*Mentha Spicata*)

One of the most widely used mints popular for its mild flavour and used in tea, cooking, chewing gum and Mojitos!

Peppermint (*Mentha x Piperita*)

A hybrid of water mint and spearmint. Strong cooling flavour due to menthol.

Applemint (*Mentha suaveolens*)

Sometimes called woolly mint due to its soft fuzzy leaves, light fruity aroma suitable for salads and herbal teas.

Chocolate Mint (*Mentha x Piperita*)

Peppermint variety with chocolate-like aroma, perfect in desserts, drinks and herbal tea.

NB Because it spreads enthusiastically, it is best grown in a pot as we all know how invasive it is!

Lemon balm is a lovely herb to grow from seed in spring. Its light lemon scent makes it perfect for herbal teas, and it has traditionally been used for its calming properties. Similarly, chamomile can be sown in April and produces daisy-like flowers that can be dried and used to make soothing tea.

Thyme, sage and oregano are Mediterranean herbs that enjoy sunny conditions and well-drained soil. These can be started from seed in April and will become hardy, long-lasting plants in the garden. Not only are they wonderful in cooking—especially with roasted vegetables, meats and stews—but they also produce flowers that are highly attractive to bees and other pollinators.

Herbs are also ideal plants for small spaces. A few pots placed on a patio, balcony or windowsill can provide a steady supply for the kitchen. They are relatively low maintenance, needing only sunlight, occasional watering and the regular picking of leaves, which encourages more growth. Have a great thyme!



SUGAR & BAKES

By Camilla Daubeny

ASPARAGUS TART



INGREDIENTS

For the Pastry:

280g very cold butter cut into cubes
120 g cold water
Pinch of salt
250 g plain flour

For the Asparagus Tart:

Home made Pastry (or you can buy a ready rolled sheet if you are short on time !)

500g asparagus spears, trimmed
200g crème fraîche
1 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp chopped fresh chives
Olive oil to drizzle
1 egg, lightly beaten
Salt and pepper

For the dressing:

1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
2 tbsp honey
5 tsp olive oil
1 tbsp lemon juice

METHOD

For Pastry:

1. Using your food processor, add flour and salt to the bowl, then add roughly 3/4 of the butter and pulse until butter is fully incorporated (about 12 one second

pulses), then add the remaining butter and pulse two or three times to combine, add the cold water and pulse four or five times just until the dough comes together to form a ball.

2. On a lightly floured surface place dough and knead lightly (approximately 10 times). With a lightly floured rolling-pin roll into a rectangle. Fold the dough into thirds, top down, bottom up, then fold in half, wrap in cling film and pop into the fridge for 2 hours.

For Asparagus Tart:

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. Roll out your puff pastry onto a lined baking tray.

2. Use a sharp knife to carefully score a 2cm rectangular border into the pastry. Your trimmed asparagus should neatly fit within the scored lines.

3. In a small bowl, combine the crème fraîche, lemon juice and chopped chives along with a pinch of salt and pepper. Spread the crème fraîche mixture within the borders of the pastry, taking care not to exceed the lines.

4. Arrange the asparagus spears snugly on top of the crème fraîche mixture. Drizzle some olive oil over the asparagus. Use a pastry brush to brush the border with the beaten egg.

5. Bake the tart for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the pastry is golden brown and risen at the edges.

Meanwhile, to make the dressing, whisk together the wholegrain mustard, honey, olive oil and lemon juice. When ready to serve, drizzle the dressing over the warm tart.

PUTTING DOWN NEW SHOOTS

By Lizzie Young



Proud Mumma moment – my younger daughter has just got herself a new job – she’s a primary school teacher looking to relocate for the next school year, a little bit nearer to home (at least in the Sunday lunch and a load of laundry radius), and we’ve just moved a step nearer to that becoming a reality. Bring on the flat hunting. And then the moving...oh, the endless carting of boxes! We couldn’t be happier. That sounds sarcastic, coming right after the bit about boxes, but I actually mean it. She had to teach a class as part of the interview process. Maths, generally: Improper fractions specifically. To seven-year-olds, I think. I had zero wisdom to impart on that one. Not a clue. Couldn’t even tell you what one is. My brother is a maths teacher of some 25 years standing, and they had a good old chat about them ahead of her interview (nope – me neither). He thinks maths is art, and beauty, and, well - everything. He sees maths everywhere – in tiles and grilles and

manhole covers – and still gets excited about it. He’s even written a book about it. He must have got all the family maths genes: I’m very much a words girl. But we watched a marvellous film last night called *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, about the incredibly gifted mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, who came to Trinity College, Cambridge from Madras in India in 1914, became a Fellow of the Royal Society, and whose notebooks, discovered years after his death, are still being used to help explain black holes today, and I think I almost understood. Not the maths – don’t be daft – but the beauty of the maths. Almost...

This month, we have mainly been... planting. And, in my case, learning plant names, googling plant stuff, and coming to grips with the patience required to make a garden. Patience is not my strong suit. I’ll try. We have planted *Sarcococca*, and *Hydrangea Paniculata*, and bare root roses to climb and to bush, and Iris (both bearded and...what are they called, the other ones – clean shaven?), *Astrantia* and *Geum*, *Verbascum* and *Nepeta*, *Dianthus* and *Daphne*. Pinks and whites and pale purples and soft oranges and primrosey yellows. There are Yew balls to echo the vast trees in the churchyard – the ones I have come

to love since we moved here, particularly when the sun goes down behind them in the evening. The lavender we planted in the first flush of excitement when we bought the house, and which has demonstrated its resilience and tolerance by not dying through the build and the utter neglect has apparently forgiven us and is springing back into life. The trailing rosemary is holding more of a grudge and refusing to cascade down the wall in protest at its treatment but we are doing a Prince Charles and speaking sweetly to it, so fingers crossed. Tulips in terracotta pots and the chimney stacks our lovely seller left for us, planted last autumn by David round the back are ready for their moment, and have been put out front. They are about to burst into life and try and put the Camelia to shame. They're sulky too, Camelias, I've discovered, and they can sulk for an entire growing season if you look at them funny, but this year, she's pleased with her position on the terrace, and full of blooms.

When I look out of the back windows of the upstairs, I see magnificent Magnolias in other people's gardens – people with more patience than me, who planted trees decades ago and waited, and stayed. Our Acers have gone from bare branch to leaf so fast it's like one of those time elapse documentaries. And the sheer joy of blossom on a winter flowering cherry, a plant that thrives more the colder it

gets, feels like a life lesson, not just a tree. What joy.

Dragged myself away from bud watch on a Saturday morning to head down to the cricket pitch, in sturdy shoes, and with gloves, as advised, where the village was gathered to clean out our somewhat neglected pavilion ahead of the next steps. The gloves were a very good shout. It's tremendously life affirming to see so many people turn up voluntarily and just get stuck in to not entirely pleasant jobs. Like the Amish barn raising scene in Witness, with a soul soundtrack courtesy of an old CD we found and played on a ghetto blaster that miraculously still worked, many hands made lighter work of the task. Skips were filled with the unsalvageable, trailers packed with responsible recycling, the adage that one man's rubbish is another's treasure proven several times over by items being rescued and repurposed. Coffee and cake were the reward. A good job jobbed. A community coming together to make something we will ALL, every single one of us, be able to use and enjoy. It doesn't get better than that in these uncertain and troubled times.

You may, like me, feel pretty helpless about what is going on in the world, but we can find some solace, I think, in making our part of it better for everyone. So many thanks are due to those driving the project from the Trustees and through various other functions, and here's to keeping the momentum going.

A 2026 RECYCLING UPDATE

By Bruce Pywell

Hi everyone, it's been a while since my last article on recycling in the village. Chris and I have been busy on a major 'recycling' project of our own - bringing our house Boxalls into the 21st century. The renovation has made some significant progress but it has given us a little less time to focus on our other interests. I hope to be able to start writing again for the magazine in the near future. In the meantime I wanted to share an exciting update on recycling that you might have seen in the recent Surrey County Council update. This is that they have made some significant improvements to what local residents can recycle. You can now include the following items in your blue bins:

- Clean foil
- Empty cartons and Tetra packs (i.e. Oat Milk cartons)
- Empty tubes (i.e. toothpaste, tomato paste)
- Non-black plastic plant pots
- Empty aerosol cans

It's great to see so many commonly used items now able to be recycled. Especially tetra packs which I'm sure like us, many of you use on a daily basis. If you do have any questions about the new items, please email me at:

Bruce.pywell@gmail.com

Otherwise - happy recycling!

A FUND-RAISING PLEA FROM MARI FLINT-ROBERTS

I'll be running the Brighton Marathon this April in memory of my Taid (Grandfather in Welsh), who was supported by the incredible team at MacMillan. Any donation is greatly appreciated!

https://2026brightonmarathonweekend.enthuse.com/pf/mari-flint-roberts?utm_source=share&utm_medium=whatsapp
[utm_source=share&utm_medium=whatsapp](https://2026brightonmarathonweekend.enthuse.com/pf/mari-flint-roberts?utm_source=share&utm_medium=whatsapp)

RECYCLING BIN – NEW ITEMS



Clean foil
(in a ball)



Clean foil trays



Empty aerosol
cans



Empty, rinsed
cartons



Empty, squeezable
metal tubes



Empty, squeezable
plastic tubes



Empty, rinsed
Tetra Pak



Non-black
plant pots

If removable, please put lids in your recycling bin separately.

RECYCLE RIGHT



To find out how to dispose of any item, wherever you live in Surrey, scan the QR code to use the Surrey Recycles search tool. To get more tips on recycling right and reducing your waste, visit the Surrey Environment Partnership website surreyep.org.uk

RECYCLING CENTRES



Visit our 14 community recycling centres across the county to take a range of items which can be recycled or reused where possible. Some sites have reuse shops which sell pre-owned items for the home and garden, reducing waste and supporting local charities surreycc.gov.uk/recycling



Elstead Foodbank

Helping villagers during times of crisis

Elstead Food bank has operated out of the youth centre since Saint James church was closed last Easter. We are very grateful to have been able to use this village amenity, but are keen to go home to the newly reopened St. James church. We will be open longer on Thursday mornings so better able to help those who pop in, and those wanting to drop off donations. The donations box will also be back in the porch at St James' Church so available 24/7 for your gifts.

Elstead Food bank has been running for nearly six years and in that time many families have been helped in Elstead, Thursley, Shackelford and Peper Harow. Some need help for only a few months to get them over a short term difficulty, others need longer term support. Yet over the years we see our clientele change. Sometimes we have lots of families with only one parent, sometimes it is the singles who are struggling to find work and with physical or mental ill health. It is a joy to see people come through their difficulties and to be able to take control and support themselves



again as they move off our lists. All are assessed before they join and if suitable join our client list for as long as is needed. We are lucky to be supported by a government grant which covers the essentials of bread, milk, and some fresh meat and vegetables, but that is not enough. We aim to provide three days meals per week for each household, so that this becomes a partnership with our clients, who do not become fully dependent on us but get the support they need to get them through the week.

Your donations, both financial and with food items, are very necessary to enable us to provide good healthy food, plus something special for Christmas and Easter. We also provide more help to young families when school is closed.

We are so very grateful to our loyal team of volunteers who come out every Thursday morning to organise the food parcels to pack and deliver; a very happy and purposeful team, who have become quite efficient, each knowing their roles. We do need more volunteer drivers to cover the distribution usually at around 10:00 am on Thursday mornings, if you are able to help to do this task please get in touch, or if you would just like to know more about us pop down and see us at St James church one Thursday morning.

WHAT IS NEEDED

If you are able to donate any of the following items your generosity will make all the difference to local families.

Dry Goods:

Rice, Pasta, Tea Bags, Coffee, Biscuits, Custard, Pot noodles, Squash.

Tinned Goods:

Peas/Sweetcorn, Carrots, Corned beef/Ham, Tuna/Salmon, Baked beans, Tomatoes, Soup.

Cleaning Essentials:

Toilet rolls, Kitchen rolls, Toilet cleaner, Washing-powder, tabs or gel, Bin Bags, Washing up liquid, Shampoo, Deodorant, Soap.

The Elstead Foodbank is open every Thursday from 10 – 11am at St James' Church.

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 come to 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.

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.

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:

elsteadfoodbank@gmail.com

Many thanks for all your donations.

Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford & Peper Harow

Good Friday

3 April

10am on the Green, Elstead
2pm St Michael & All Angels Church,
Thursley

Church in the community, community in the church





HELPING YOU LIVE BETTER

Mark Ackroyd
Home Maintenance Specialist

07462 323685

HOMEPERFECTION mark@homeperfection.co.uk
www.homeperfection.co.uk

JEAN COSTA
Painter & Decorator

Plaster
Paint Sprayer
Tiles
Woodwork
Wallpaper
Slabs
Drywall
Silicone render

PHONE 07903 032563



The Sanctuary Room by Victoria Page

Hello there, I'm Victoria! The Sanctuary Room is based upstairs in the Village Hall Flat in Thursley. Here, I offer heart-centred support to help women step away from the noise, recalibrate, and feel like yourself again.

- **Restorative Wellbeing:** Release physical tension and soothe mental fatigue - treatments like aromatherapy bring you back to yourself, leaving you deeply relaxed and restored
- **Monthly Women's Gatherings:** A supportive circle for connection, seasonal wellness, and movement such as yoga - a time to set aside the demands of life and "just be"

A warm welcome awaits you to pause and find your feet again...

- Scan the QR code to find out more, or to Book Your Session
- Bookings by appointment only
- Referene **'Parish Mag'** for a small take-home bottle of "Serenity"



www.victoriapage.uk | 07789 516 517 (Whatsapp)

KEITH'S PRIVATE CAR HIRE

Let Keith take you where you want to go

Local and long distance

Heathrow and Gatwick Airports
(including pick-ups)

ELSTEAD Tel: 01252 703005

Email: lesley.tilson1955@gmail.com

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)



Nail master

Life isn't perfect but your nails can be!

Alina Karnaukh

Health/Beauty
Nail Master/Manicurist
from Ukraine



Elstead Poodle Parlour

Established since 1970

Offering bathing, nails, trimming & full grooms
for most breeds, at competitive prices

Thursley Road

Elstead

Surrey

01252 702395

Michelle Renée

A unisex salon offering a highly professional service in
classic & contemporary hair design

Consultations & fringe trims are complimentary

Visit our website for prices & services

MR **Hair by Design**

www.michellerenee.co.uk

01252 703183

Selsey Cottage, Milford Road, Elstead, Surrey GU8 6HN

MJP Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Helpful friendly plumber.

Will do all the jobs that need doing from a tap washer to
refitting your bathroom.

Servicing or replacing boilers

Just ask, no job too small!

We work with all systems – heating and plumbing.

Gas Safe registered

Contact **Mike** on 07768 844276

or email mike@mjpplumbing.com



SASSY DOES IT

Qualified, fully insured female electrician
serving Godalming and surrounding areas

CONSUMER UNITS • NEW CIRCUITS & REWIRING
SOCKETS & SWITCHES • PERIODIC INSPECTION
PART P REG • ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING
EICR's • SECURITY & CCTV • MAINTENANCE
INDOOR LIGHTING • GARDEN LIGHTING
OUTDOOR ELECTRICS • PAT TESTING

Follow sassydoesit on   

sassydoesit.com • 01483 904095 • hello@sassydoesit.com



Since 1968, Beacon Hill Cleaners have been providing the highest quality residential and commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning services.

We are a family run business who pride ourselves on giving our customers a 100% satisfaction guarantee, all our work is fully insured.

The services we can provide are:

Carpet Cleaning ,Upholstery Cleaning, Curtain & Rug Cleaning
(Including professionally cleaning Persian, Chinese & Indian rugs)

07779 166 161
01428 606 486

paul@beaconhillcleaners.co.uk
Beacon Hill Road, Hindhead, GU26 6QJ



Beaconhillcleaners



Beacon Hill Cleaners

Private French Lessons

Bonjour, Je m'appelle Valérie,

I am a French native speaker, with tutoring experience,
who can offer private lessons.

Whether you need tailored lessons to achieve specific objectives
(GCSE, AS/A level, moving to France) or you just want to practice your
French over a cup of coffee, feel free to contact me.

Please call: 07838681984

Or email: ferrisvalerie@aol.com



A bientôt.

Appliance Service and Sales

- Repair of most main makes
- Built-in and Freestanding
- New appliances with installation
- * Built in and American F/F

Cooker/Oven
Dishwasher
Washing machine
Fridge/Freezer *

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

Elstead (01252) 705198

www.applianceexpert.co.uk

COLES KENNELS

Upper Ridgeway Farm, Thursley GU8 6QR

CAT BOARDING

*The very best of care in
beautiful surroundings*

Phone: (01428) 604508

DOG BOARDING

*Very spacious pens; raised
underfloor heated beds for
ultimate dog comfort;
large exercise runs.*

Phone: (01428) 609400

PROFESSIONAL CLEANING



My Oven Cleaner

All ovens, Agas, Rayburns, hobs and extractors, plus microwaves, BBQs, fridges, freezers & dishwashers

My Clean Carpet

Professional carpet, rug, and upholstery cleaning using the latest equipment and technology

Based in Thursley, call us to book:

01252 974 518

myovencleaner.co.uk / mycleancarpets.co.uk

Dusting Dollies
Cleaning Services



- ★ Established since 2000
- ★ Family run business
- ★ Same cleaner every week
- ★ Trustworthy and reliable
- ★ References available
- ★ Regular or one-off cleans
- ★ Sparkle cleans
- ★ Spring cleans
- ★ Builders cleans
- ★ Letting cleans
- ★ End of tenancy cleans
- ★ Office cleans
- ★ Oven and carpet cleaning
- ★ Ironing service

Call Maria on:

01252 783307 or 07824 367182.

Email her at: maria@dustingdollies.co.uk

www.dustingdollies.co.uk

6 WEEK

INTENT91

LONGEVITY PROGRAMME

PERSONAL TRAINING GYM IN MILFORD

Specialising in helping those over 40:

- Maintain muscle mass
- Boost energy levels
- Feel fitter for everyday life

£50 OFF!



@intent91_



info@intent91.co.uk

The Cartshed, Amberley Farm, Milford,
Godalming GU8 5EB



Scan above, book a call
and find out more!

Ironing Fairy
SAVE TIME - ENJOY LIFE



Laundry



Dry Cleaning



Ironing



Bulky Items

Fresh, Fast Laundry Delivered.
Free Collection & Delivery
Fast Turnaround



☎ 01483 428044

| 🌐 www.ironingfairy.net



•LVT •Carpet •Safety flooring •All floor prep
•Solid oak •Laminate •Vinyl •Latexing

SUPPLY AND FIT

CONTACT US:

07789 511333

01252 783307

da.flooring@outlook.com

WITH A TEAM OF HIGHLY TRAINED AND FULLY INSURED PROFESSIONALS,

AIMIS CAN HELP WITH ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK & TREE MAINTENANCE



GET IN TOUCH

info@aimistreecare.co.uk
07807 644253 | 01483 361158



FOLLOW US

f aimistreecare
@aimistreecare

Please contact us for a complimentary site visit and quotation.

The Eleventh Hour

EQUINE AND LIFESTYLE CONCERGE SERVICES

The Eleventh Hour provides discreet, high-level support for competitive riders and busy households who value precision and peace of mind. Every detail is managed seamlessly, allowing you to focus entirely on what matters most.

Founded by Rhianna Ounich, a former 5* international show groom with almost a decade of experience in elite competition yards, the business is built on trust, discretion, and exceptional standards.

Based in the UK | Services across Europe

☎ 07476 252299
✉ info@eleventh-hour.co.uk
🌐 www.eleventh-hour.co.uk
📁 eleventh_hour_concierge

Equine Concierge

- Competition & FEI entries
- Vet & farrier coordination
- EU travel & transport logistics
- Staffing & yard management support
- Vaccination & health record oversight

Lifestyle Services

- Estate & property management
- Travel & appointment bookings
- Event & private party planning
- Household staffing solutions
- Personal admin & bill management

Extensive list of services available on the website!



Subscription Packages Available!

Making it Happen.

BUTTERFLIES NURSERY, THURSLEY

Open 51 weeks of the year
8 a.m to 5.30 p.m.

Enrolment from 6 months to 4 years

Enquiries:

butterfliesnursery@live.co.uk

or call 07827786005



**SPECIALISING IN DRIVEWAYS AND PATIOS.
CALL FOR A FREE QUOTATION TODAY.**

07496810445

INFO@AR-LANDSCAPING.CO.UK

AR-LANDSCAPING.CO.UK

Luxury Spa & Beauty Treatments

Spoil yourself at our professional beauty salon in the heart of Elstead

Thalgo Face & Body · Microdermabrasion

Non Surgical Facelift · Ear Piercing

Massage · Hair Removal

Jessica & GELeration Nails · Eyelash Perm & LVL

Enhance Lash Lift · Sienna X Spray Tanning

Callus Peel Foot Treatment

Visit our website for treatments and prices

Gift Vouchers now available to buy online.
£5.00 OFF to all new clients with this ad.



1 Carlton House, Milford Road, Elstead, Surrey GU8 6HR

Tel: 01252 702980 Email: enquiries@ultimatebeautysalon.co.uk

www.ultimatebeautysalon.co.uk

Ultimate
BEAUTY

PRISM

WINDOW CLEANING

www.prismwindowcleaningltd.com

Prompt and Friendly Local Service

Phone Fran on 07768 986338

Est. since 1990

CLEAR ALL
PEST CONTROL

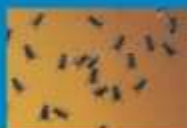
PEST CONTROL SERVICES

in Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire



For fast, professional pest control services to rid your home of damage causing pests including:

Wasps, Mice, Moles, Hornets, Rats, Squirrels, Bees, Pharaoh Ants, Ants, Rabbits, Cluster Flies & Ladybirds as well as Bird Proofing.



Call Dean 07768 986338

www.clearallpestcontrol.com



Find and follow us on Facebook for advice and help

Dejà Vu Restoration

Antique & Furniture Restoration
and French Polishing

Restoring Beautiful Furniture

Whether you want to restore a beloved heirloom, repurpose a sentimental item, revive a tired piece, or commission a new bespoke creation, my specialist craftsmanship ensures your items continue their story for years to come.



Contact **Pierre** today on
07906 064056
or email

dejavurestoration@outlook.com

Workshops in
Tongham
and
Chiddingfold

www.dejavurestoration.co.uk

Rayners of Godalming

www.raynersbuildings.co.uk

Specialists in the supply and erection of high quality Garden Buildings.
Special buildings made to customers' requirements.



Conservatories
Summerhouses
Garden Sheds
Workshops
Dog Kennels
Garden Frames
Greenhouses
Poultry Houses
Timber Garages
Dove Cotes
Studios
Home Offices

VISIT OUR SHOWGROUND TO INSPECT OUR WIDE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY GARDEN BUILDINGS.
OR ASK OUR REPRESENTATIVE TO CALL.

LLANAWAY WORKS, MEADOW (A3100), GODALMING, SURREY, GU7 3HR

Telephone (01483) 416242.

ESTABLISHED 1888

Harvest WOOD PRODUCTS

Fencing, Gates, Decking, Wire Netting, Sawn Timber,
Kiln Dried Logs, Wood Fuels, Bark, Cladding

& much more



Welcome to Surrey's largest timber yard

Grange Road, Tilford, Surrey, GU10 2DQ

www.harvestwoodproducts.co.uk email: sales@harvestwoodproducts.co.uk

 Call us on: 01252 795005 Open Monday - Friday 7.30am to 5.00pm 