

Horsell Matters



The Village Magazine from your Parish Church
April/May 2021

Horsell Directory

St Mary's Church	Website: www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk	
	Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	772134
Parish Office open:	Tuesday 9am-4pm, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1.00pm	
	stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com	772134
Vicar	Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko	755618
	vicar@stmarys-horsell.org.uk	
Church Wardens	Pamela Rowe	761625
	Michael Couper	770920
Children's Worker	Marcus Brookfield	children@stmarys-horsell.org.uk
Treasurer	David Leach	823439
Cathedral Link	Gill Saville	773799
Pastoral Assistant	Margaret Johnson	762481
	Hilary Mills	772952
	Coral Colclough	747481
JAM (Jesus and Me)	Marcus Brookfield (3+) 10am most Sundays	772134
Babies and Toddlers	Angela Murphy	832943
	St Andrew's Room, Tues 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	
Twinkle Tots	Marcus Brookfield, St. Andrew's Room	772134
	Thursdays 9.30 to 11.30, term time	
Bellringers	Avril Blagbrough Tuesday evening practice— occasional. Please check	767421
Trinity Methodist Church	office@trinitywoking.org.uk	730754
Horsell Evangelical Church	Rev'd Andrew Bents	822259
To Book: Village Hall	Paul Bowyer	764047
Parish Institute	www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk	772134
Horsell Village School	Infants Head Teacher - Mrs Reeve	714804
Horsell C of E School	Junior Head Teacher—Mrs C Wand	761531
Woking High School	Head Teacher - Mrs M Walter	888447
Horsell Care	Helpline	730740
Residents Association	Robin Hoyle robin_hoyle@hotmail.com	
Scouts, Beavers, Cubs	Ali Stubbs 07734 424568 alistubbs59@gmail.com	
Explorer Scouts (14-18 Yrs)	Brian Pinto	480904
Guides & Brownies	www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/	
WI Horsell Afternoon	Alison Evans-Wyatt 765570 amevans705@gmail.com	
	Meets on 1 st Thursday at 1.45pm in the Village Hall	
WI Horsell Evening	Mrs Sheila Tickner	760783
	Meets on 4 th Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Village Hall	
Woking Police Station	dial 101 from mobile or landline	

St Mary's – A message of Hope



A year ago, my son, who was 5 at a time, asked me whether the Easter story was true. 'Well, Thomas', I said, 'that is a great question, and I would not lie to you, The Easter story is an amazing true story! It is a message of hope for all who believe, but also for those who do not. This hope is for new life, new beginning with our Heavenly Father through his Son, Jesus Christ'.

The Easter story started on Palm Sunday with Jesus entering Jerusalem on the back of a donkey and being greeted by people as their King. But just four days later, on Maundy Thursday, after having supper with his disciples he was arrested and put on trial. On Good Friday Jesus started his long and painful journey to Golgotha, where his execution took place. That day God's Son had to endure excruciating suffering as he was led to the cross, where he laid down his life for us. The Bible makes it clear that he was innocent and did not deserve such punishment. Being obedient to God's plan, he went on the cross for our sake to bear God's wrath for our sin. Three days later, on Easter Sunday, he rose to life pronouncing the victory over sin and death and bringing hope to all people.

This year, probably more than ever, we have all been living in hope for better days to come. As a nation, as well as the wider world, we have suffered long and hard with the pandemic and various lockdowns. It is only recently with the ongoing progress and success of the vaccination programme we have started to see some early, but very promising signs of recovery.

The Easter message offers us assurance for today and hope for tomorrow. Before arriving at the joy and triumph of Easter morning, first we need to travel the path that leads to the cross, the way of Christ.

The past 12 months have taken us all on a journey like no other. When our family moved to Horsell in January, we have instantly recognised that we have joined a wonderful village where people genuinely care about each other: helping with shopping, staying in touch, sending cards, messages, etc. Every week I hear and witness stories of hope. Members of our community walking alongside those who are particularly vulnerable and in need of help, bringing hope into their lives.

This year the Easter story of HOPE has a particular significance to all of us.

We bring HOPE to each other.

We look forward to the future with the HOPE of pandemic ending.

We have the ultimate HOPE of New Life in Jesus.

Happy Easter!

Christ is risen!!! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Revd Dmitry Lutsenko

The Vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Horsell

If you are wondering, who is this new "vicar Dmitry"?, please read an interview article in Feb-Mar issue of Horsell Matters:

www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk/horsellmattersmagazine.htm

St Mary's Church Diary April-May 2021

APRIL

Thurs 1 st	7pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion via zoom
Fri 2 nd	10am	Good Friday Morning Worship via zoom
Sat 3 rd	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 4 th	10.00am	Easter Day Celebratory Family Communion
Tues 6 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 7 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer via zoom
Sun 11 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Contemplative Meditation via zoom
Tues 13 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 14 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 18 th	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Tues 20 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 21 st	11am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 25 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 27 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 28 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer

MAY

Sun 2 nd	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 4 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 5 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer via zoom
Thurs 6 th	8.00pm	PCC Meeting via zoom
Sun 9 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Contemplative Meditation via zoom
Tues 11 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 12 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 16 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 18 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 19 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 23 rd	10.00am	Parish Communion
	11.15am	APCM
Tues 25 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 26 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 30 th	10.00am	Parish Communion

JUNE

Tues 1 st	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 2 nd	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer via zoom
Sun 6 th	10.00am	Morning Worship

For further details please look at our website: www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk

BREAKING NEWS

I am delighted to say that St Mary's Church is reopening for public worship on Easter Day with Family Communion service at 10am. Please join with us in celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as well as the church reopening on that day. You will need to book your place through the parish office.

St Mary's Church Easter Story Trail



Follow the trail from the gate on Wilson Way through the Churchyard to see our Easter scenes in St Andrew's Room

28th March - 9th April

Saint Mary the Virgin
— HORSSELL —

ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS: BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

We offer our sympathy to the families and friends of those who have died:

James Cunningham and Colin Kramer

Churchyard Cat



It's good to hear voices from the Vicarage again – there are the sounds of a real family, adult voices and young ones. No animals, I think: no cat, no dog and (though I haven't yet got close enough to be sure) no rabbit, guinea pig, gerbil, hamster – none of those tasty little treats – no stick insect. I daresay the family will correct me if I'm wrong. I'll be looking at them from my various lairs, as spring and summer pass, but of course they won't see me – not unless I have totally lost my skills since Vicarage Bella moved away.

I do hope they are happy, living by my churchyard. It can't have been an easy way to start a new job, only meeting people via phones and computers,

except when walking with one other person. Vicars, in my experience, are in and out of church all day, and as for when they're at home, it must often be hard to find a few minutes of family time. Still, with no regular stream of people coming to the Vicarage door, perhaps our new vicar has had some precious time to think, and time to explore his new patch, learning the pavements and footpaths.

He'll need some time to himself when people get back to being their normal demanding selves. I could show him a couple of ideal basking sites in the churchyard. If only he were as supple as a cat.

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Parish in the Past ... and Present

The last few months have not been the best of times, but Horsell has had difficulties before, and then as now, neighbours took care of one another. In St Mary's magazine for April 1931, Norman Pares, the Vicar of Horsell, wrote of having had to conduct the funerals of three young children, from three different families, within four days.

He wondered: 'Is there anywhere where we may find a bright side to this record of sorrow? Yes! there is, and if I who have been allowed to see it did not feel sure about it, I should not have had the courage to write these words. There is first the way in which the sorrow has been borne by those to whom it has come, a proof that God who sends it can and does give grace to bear it and there has also been the wonderful wave of sympathy which has been poured out on those so grievously tried. It is true indeed that, when trouble comes in such a flood as on these sorrowing families, we find that the world is full of kinder souls than we ever dreamed of; that we have more friends than we knew.'

Job session

As Covid vaccinations became more commonplace, Horsell Matters contributors compared their experiences.

I was pleased to be contacted for my first vaccine in January, said M. Within 24 hours I was booked in for a quick visit to the Maclaren House in Woking. Very well organised, welcoming and very efficient. I was amused about the

raffle ticket attached to the helpful list of information about possible reactions, to the vaccine. My number was 80, so I hoped that it didn't reflect my age. A delightful Ambulance Technician, doing a 12 hour shift suitable was very polite and kind. No cotton wool or sticking plaster. Just a sore arm for about 24 hours.

Looking forward to my second job.

My husband had already had his job so I knew a little about what was in store, said S. Personal reveal here ... I hate injections. Not exactly chirpy then! Truly though, I didn't notice it. A cheerful, smiley lady checked my name and chatted about holidays and being locked down and suddenly job done, card filled in, table wiped, and I was out. Many thanks, much laughter and huge congratulations to everyone who made it so painless.

My second job was as smoothly done and in as friendly an atmosphere as my first, said J. The person enquiring about my next of kin, allergies and recent health was, in pre-pandemic life, a restaurant manager. A full-time doctor explained what my reactions to the vaccination might be.

On I went to the vaccinator. She too was doing her pandemic job that day, a change from her career as train driver. A gentle vaccination and I was off across the room for 15 minutes recovery time, while I got on with letting the children know that, yes, their old Mum had had her job. WhatsApps all round!

Lend a hand

You may remember that in 2019 the churchyard grass became very long. It looked very attractive waving in the summer breeze but it was not really practical especially for those wanting to care for their relatives' graves. A team of volunteers from "the Woodlanders" worked alongside Church members to cut the grass and tidy round the graves. At the



Churchyard Daffadils

the same time, two other initiatives were helping to look after the churchyard. The Woodlanders were tending the former rubbish heap and bonfire site at the far end, making an area of semi wild flowers and a garden with rainbow colours and spelling out "Hope". In its first year, the alyssum spelt out "Peace" and in 2020, "NHS". The other wonderful volunteers, about 35 in all, "Adopted" graves in the sections of the churchyard near to the main path. Some adopted 3 graves others adopted a whole row. They trimmed their graves with shears and strimmers and weeded between the awkward cracks and in many cases, planted bedding plants. The work was done whenever the "Adopter" felt they had the time. Many commented on how peaceful it is working in the churchyard but also gives a huge

sense of community spirit and the chance to have a chat with one of the many people who walk around the churchyard and who use the main path. This year, there has been some heart warming feedback from people who can't look after their family graves either because they live too far away or they are not in the best of health. They have thanked the church for tending their graves and said how much they appreciate this kindness.

In 2020, we were told that SERCO and WBC would be responsible for cutting the grass. However, the grass was growing fast from March onwards. So again, The Woodlanders and church members came to the rescue until the end of May by which time some areas had been mown at least 3 times. Ah! But this was during the first Lockdown so how was that possible?

St. Mary's Churchyard and Adopt a Grave



Churchyard Snowdrops

Throughout the week, there was a rota so that only 2 or 3 people would be in the vast area at any time, rather like working at the allotments and often bringing their own tools. So we were always socially distanced. The weather was fantastic and it gave a great sense of purpose. SERCO did then arrive at the end of May, with very little work to do on that first visit.

So do we now back off and leave the work to SERCO? Definitely "No"! Individual graves still need that extra TLC and the churchyard still offers a safe and peaceful place to work. The area at the far end has been very colourful, there are lots of good pollinator friendly flowers from February to the very end of autumn. It's not park like, with serried rows of

bedding plants, but more wild and naturalistic. At present there are lots of self-seeded cerinthe which the bees really love. We have made a big change in the bonfire bed. This year, it will have lavender, Japanese anemone, heather, fuchsia and spring bulbs. We have chosen plants which will flower from spring to autumn and attract pollinators.



Churchyard Rubbish Heap Site

If you would like to adopt a grave or have time to help The Woodlanders, you are most welcome and your help would be very much appreciated.

Please contact either stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com or Caroline Hughes: c.e.hughes@ntlworld.com or 01483 767980

A Kid's Guide to Home Schooling

Lockdown is now finally over! It is nearly a distant memory – one we'll never want to re-live. It was incredibly frustrating, but we knew we had to do it to keep vulnerable people safe.

It was boring, not just because we were doing the lessons by ourselves, but we were only doing the theory and no practicals. For example, in lessons like science or drama, we couldn't do any group work or experiments because the teachers didn't know if we all had the right equipment. Even lessons like English, where there aren't any practicals, it was less fun because we couldn't discuss or share our thoughts and opinions with others. The second lockdown was better in some ways to the first lockdown, but worse in others. It was better because we could go out for a walk with our friends one at a time, and we talked to our friends on WhatsApp a lot more than before. The teachers got used to going online and started doing some live Zoom lessons, making lessons like English more fun. But, as the teachers got used to setting work, it became worse too – we had to do our regular tests again, which I don't think any of the kids were a fan of!

There are some things that we will miss though, like working with a cat on our lap and eating a lot of cake and chocolate! We are so happy we are going back to school, and excited that we can see our friends again and be in lessons with other people. We are very grateful to our teachers for trying to make lessons interesting when



lots of the fun in lessons come from being with other people. We think that lockdown made us realise just how much we enjoy normality, like the freedom to go out and see our friends, meet up at the park, and even go to school.

Isobel & Laurie Brooks

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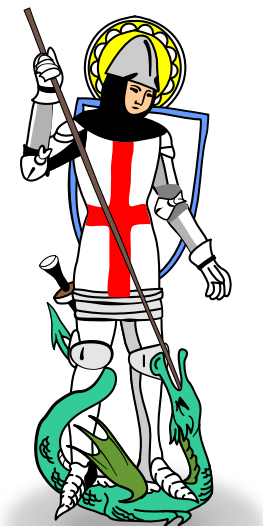
St George

St George's Day is celebrated in England on April 23rd. He was of Greek parentage and became a soldier in the Roman army. Although an excellent soldier, he fell foul of the Emperor Diocletian's anti-Christian policy and was martyred for his religious beliefs. Witnessing his death had a profound effect on the Empress Alexandra of Rome who was converted to Christianity and subsequently martyred. The centre of the worship of George was in Lydda but spread throughout the Byzantine empire. He was extremely popular in the Middle East but by 494AD he was celebrated in Rome. He was canonised by the Pope at that time.

St George is the patron saint of England and his red cross on a white background is familiar to us all, but such is his popularity that he is also the patron saint of Georgia, Portugal, Malta and Aragon in Spain, Ethiopia amongst others. Indeed, the rallying cry of the Portuguese army is Portugal and St George. These are not the only places where he is venerated but it gives a flavour of just how widespread are the celebrations.

An interesting part of the St George story is that he is also important to Muslims who regard him highly. Far from being distinctively Christian, his appeal unites two religious faiths showing how much they may have in common. In a modern world, St George has a modern appeal to many parts of the English community.

Often a question that is asked about our patron saint is why he is not English or even British. To be honest, there is no definitive answer to this but his prowess as a soldier endeared him



soldiers everywhere and in the reign of Edward III, he was made the patron saint of England and the Order of the Garter whose home is the Chapel of St George at Windsor Castle. He is often depicted as a knight in the Crusades and, of course, there is the dragon! I guess whether you believe in the dragon story depends on whether you believe in dragons. The point of it, however, is that St George risked his own life to protect others. Such an act of heroism is one that can be applauded and even if it was not a dragon, he may have done something similar.

St George was canonised in AD 494 by Pope Gelasius, who claimed he was one of those 'whose names are justly revered among men but whose acts are known only to God'.

A fitting thought to hold by us all.

Susan Rowlatt

Congratulations! A 100th Celebration

Sam was born in Vilnius, Lithuania, to a Lithuanian father and French mother in 1921.

He met his wife Meta (Liz) in Germany, after they both had been moved from their home country by the warmongers of the time.

Meta, who is also Lithuanian, is 96 years old now!

They married in Germany after being moved around eventually moving to the UK as refugees.

They worked on the land in and around Surrey and eventually they moved to Horsell and have been residing in the same house since 1952. The couple will celebrate 75 years of marriage later this year.

Sam, who worked for a furniture manufacturer in Byfleet, has many skills and continued to work until he was 94. Meta, his wife, also worked for many years, mainly at the Lion Works in Woking, she also worked into her eighties.

They had two sons, George and Peter, one grandson Julian and a great-grandson Frankie.

Sam's hobby has always been a love of classic American cars and playing the accordion, which he still enjoys to this day.

Because of COVID restrictions Sam and Meta celebrated at home with a glass of Champagne and a slice of birthday cake, in their front garden. An accordion player attended and played some of his favourite tunes, socially distanced in the garden of course.



Horsell Matters – next edition June/July 2021

Copy to be sent by **Monday 3rd May** by email please to stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com

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Bird Watch – Strolling in the Cause of Science

It was quite a pleasant winter afternoon, the time of day when birds can be expected to be feeding before the long January night comes down, when two of us met to carry out a Big Garden Birdwatch in the churchyard.

Over the last weekend in January, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds encourages everyone to give up an hour to enjoying, and listing, the birds that they see in their own gardens or in public parks. St. Mary's church yard seemed a good enough local park to us, and we were all ready to record the birds which might be frequenting it while we were there – reminding ourselves that if, say, we spotted one robin at the start of the hour, and saw a robin again later on, that would count only as one robin for our records.

Of course, this scientific survey was taking place during Lockdown, and, though we could legitimately, walk together, properly distanced, round the churchyard or anywhere else, conducting a survey sitting down, perhaps protected by a warming rug, to watch a small area consistently, was not permitted. So, we wandered, enjoying some snowdrops and early crocuses, and we came across other people passing through the church yard on their daily exercise, and we all exchanged greetings at a distance, together, it must be said, with items of local news. But we never forgot our purpose.

Horsell churchyard has lost trees over the years and the resulting open grassland with outcrops of rock

was not very attractive to birds that day, though larger ones perched on grave-stones occasionally, rather than foraging seriously on the ground – three woodpigeons, a carrion crow, a jackdaw, two magpies, two collared doves stopped off while we were walking about.

We saw smaller birds nearer the church, where there are more trees and stretches of hedge at the edge of the site. There was a smart great tit, and two bluetits and, though they were hidden by evergreen leaves, we heard a robin, and a backbird. And then the goldfinches twittered in, finally getting together high in a tree, where we could count them. There were 15 of them.

So, we saw or heard ten species, and we had a whole hour of friendly, properly distanced, social-exchange; not bad for an afternoon in Lockdown.



Goldfinch Image by David Reed: www.pixabay.com

Flower Pot

Celebrate Spring with a cheerful pot for your front outside space.

This is not a planted pot, but your creation.

If you decide to make a pot similar to the one in the picture you will need:

A flowerpot or container

Damp earth

Twigs with blossom or leaves

Flowers (I bought a £1 bunch of daffodils)

A small container for water if you use soft stemmed flowers, you can sink this into the earth.

Alternative ideas:

- A bunch of flowers in a container of water (Flowers last longer outside!)
- You could make flowers out of coloured plastic wrapping/bags.
- Add a plastic toy - a duck, and dinosaur!...



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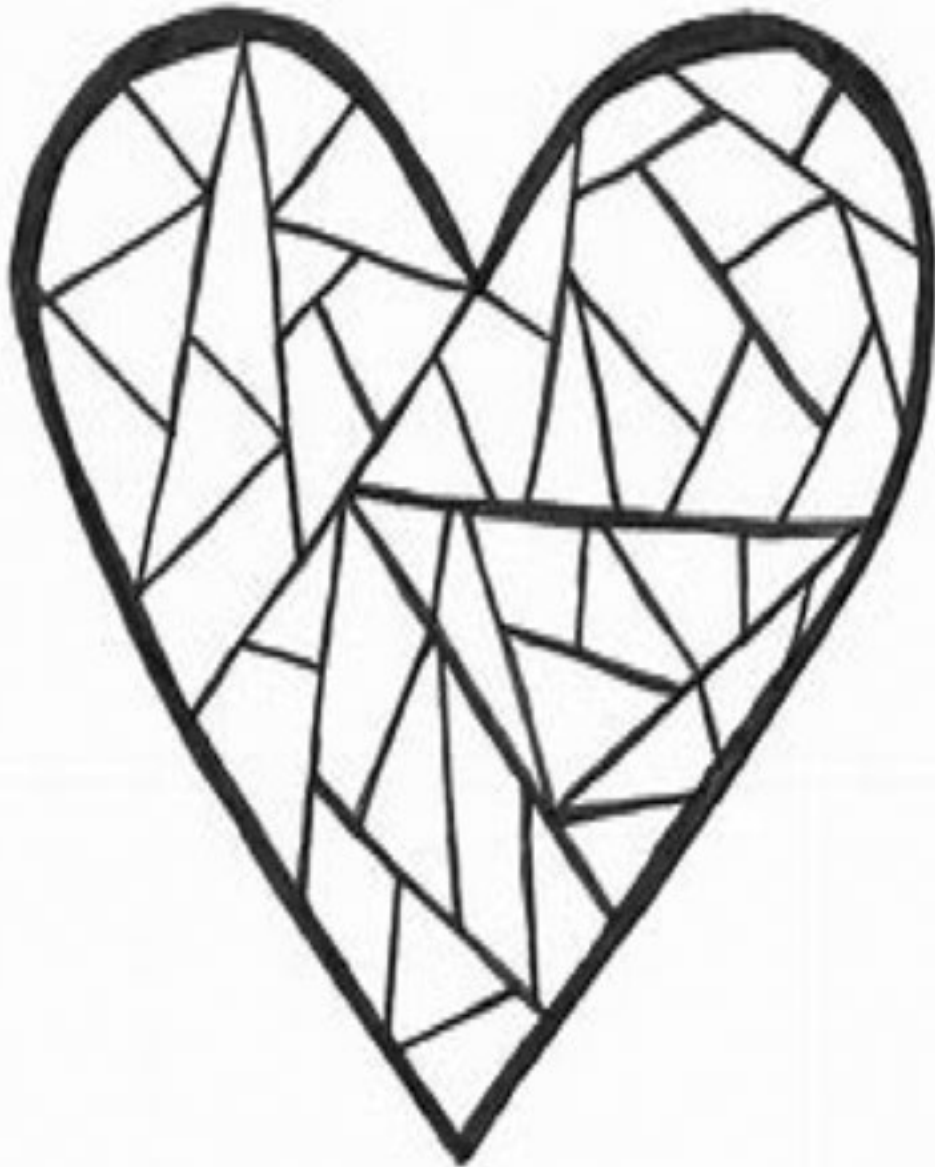
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Family Activities

Cut out and colour in the heart. Alternatively, scan it, resize and print out. Share your beautiful heart with others by displaying it in your window. Send a photo to the vicarage. Let it be a reminder to show kindness and care for each other.



Family Activities

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Please ensure that children are closely supervised and the Countryside Code is obeyed as well as the current Covid rules.

Do not allow children to eat anything they find and wash hands thoroughly once at home and/or before eating. Children may wish to take a carrier bag to collect their findings and could later make a collage with them at home. Can you find something natural that...

- is green
- is round
- is spikey
- is wet
- is white
- is tiny
- is long
- is fuzzy
- is flat
- has veins
- is smooth
- is cone-shaped
- is red
- has seeds
- is yellow
- came from a bird
- is shaped like a 'Y'
- is evergreen
- is brown
- will grow into a tree

What can you spot as physical evidence of animals, birds and insects? For example, footprints, mole hills, fur on branches, droppings, worm casts, spider's web, partly eaten nuts or berries.

Listen to the sounds of nature. Can you hear the wind in the trees? Two or three different birds? Any other animal noises?

Look up at the sky – perhaps even lie down if you can. What can you see in the sky? What shapes can you see in the clouds?

As a challenge....

Can you find something surprising? How many different kinds of tree can you spot? You could even hug a tree! Above all, keep safe, enjoy being outdoors and have fun!





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Recipe

Chocolate Nests



This is a quick, no bake recipe that is child friendly. It's also a perfect spring or Easter "bake".

Ingredients

Makes 7 – 10 chocolate nests depending on the size of your cake cases and how generous you are.

- 150 g chocolate of your choice (milk or dark), finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons golden syrup
- 50 g butter
- 100 g shredded wheat cereal
- Mini eggs to decorate

Method

Put 10 paper cake cases on a baking tray.

Crumble the shredded wheat into a bowl.

Add butter and golden syrup to a saucepan and heat gently, stirring until all the butter has melted. Remove from heat and add in the finely chopped chocolate. Stir until it has melted into the syrup/butter mix.

Pour over the crumbled shredded wheat in the bowl and mix until combined.

Using two spoons scoop into paper cases and top with mini eggs.

Chill in fridge until set.

Recipe

Salmon en Croute

This is a real family favourite, delicious hot or cold. The secret to really crisp pastry is to pre-cook the base.

Ingredients

Serves 4

- 500g salmon fillet skinned
- Approx. 160g spinach, washed
- 2tbls tartare sauce
- One sheet of ready rolled puff pastry
- One egg, beaten for glaze
- One tsp. olive oil
- Pepper to season.



Method

Pre-heat oven to 190C

Cook the spinach until just wilted, drain and remove as much water as possible. Put into a small bowl, stir in the tartare sauce and season with pepper. Allow to cool completely.

Cut the puff pastry sheet into two, widthways, one piece slightly larger than the other. Roll out the smaller piece to form a rectangle approx. 180mm x 140mm. Place on a baking tray and prick all over with a fork. Cook in oven for 14 mins, remove and leave on baking tray to cool.

Cut a one third slice from the salmon, lengthways, and slice it through the middle so you have one thin piece and one thicker piece approx. the same size. Spread the spinach mixture on the thicker piece of salmon and top with the thin piece. Place in the middle of the cooked puff pastry base.

Roll out the remaining puff pastry to a size that will cover the salmon and base. Add olive oil to the beaten egg and mix well. Using a pastry brush dampen the pastry base edges and cover with the pastry top, pressing down to ensure a good seal round the base. Trim, as necessary, and score the top to make a pattern. Brush with egg mixture and put in oven (190C) for 35 – 40 mins by which time it will be golden brown.

Slice and enjoy.



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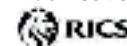
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Local Talent



My name is Nagihan Seymour, I am a Horsell based artist with a studio in Silks Yard, Church Hill specialising in ceramics as well as paintings.

Although originally a materials engineer, with a background in the automotive industry, I have been interested in art since my university years, studying and practicing traditional arts in my hometown of Istanbul. After finishing my studies in Germany, I relocated to the UK. I was lucky to have had my first solo exhibition for my paintings at the Lightbox Gallery in 2017, from that point I have become a full-time artist and have been building my business. It has been a constant whirlwind of shows and art fairs.

It was a birthday present from my husband for a one-day ceramic course that piqued my interest and started the journey I am currently following

into ceramics. The acquisition of a Nabertherm kiln has ensured there is no looking back as I am now able to produce and fire my own creations.

For my ceramics I am drawn to the naturalistic patterns and symmetry of William Morris, as well as more contemporary ceramicists such as Grayson Perry.

Drawing inspiration for my own works from nature, one of the more challenging aspects is to simplify and stylise the infinite complexity of the natural world and apply that in my patterns and designs.

For me, ceramics have become a new passion that compliments my paintings.

Having a materials science background allows me to appreciate and understand what is happening on the chemical level as well as artistically. This is allowing me to start to experiment with glazes using the raw minerals and chemicals to produce my own unique colours and effects.

Finished pieces are available for purchase on my webpage www.nagihanseymourceramics.com, please contact me if you would like to discuss commissions.



Book Review

The Left-Handed Booksellers of London

by Garth Nix

In “The Left-Handed Booksellers of London” we see Garth Nix back at his Old Kingdom series best. The book is set in a slightly altered 1983 and opens with the attractive and intelligent Susan Arkshaw about to meet Frank Thringley, a crime boss who may be able to help her find her father, a man whom she has never met, when Frank abruptly disintegrates and turns to dust having been pricked by a magic pin wielded by a handsome young man (or woman – it is not clear at this stage) who introduces himself as Merlin.

We soon find that Merlin is a member of an extended family of wizards who police the mythic and legendary creatures and societies of the Old World when they interfere with the modern human world. Merlin is a left-handed bookseller, which makes him one of the active fighting wizards. The right-handed ones are the intellectuals who research. In between times they sell books.

Both Merlin and Susan are following their own quests. Susan wants to find her father. She starts with little

to go on but a cloakroom ticket, a silver cigarette case, and her mother’s possibly garbled memory of a surname. Merlin’s quest is, with his sister Vivien, to find the Old World being which

used ordinary criminals to kill his mother. The two quests rapidly become intertwined and interdependent.

The alternative London depicted has a real and plausible feel to it. There is more than a nod in the direction of Ben Aaronovitch’s Rivers of London series. Susan and Merlin draw on the resources of the booksellers and of conventional law enforcement as they try

to find out who or what was Susan’s father? Why was Merlin’s mother killed and on whose orders? And whether and how the death of Merlin’s mother is connected to Susan’s father. The story is action-packed, at times funny, and a good bit of escapism which is welcome when a diversion from current difficulties is needed.

Roger King





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