

# Horsell Matters

A photograph of a stone church tower, likely the Horsell Church tower. The tower is made of weathered stone and features a central clock face with a dark blue face and gold hands and numbers. Above and below the clock are Gothic-style windows with pointed arches and tracery. The tower is flanked by a brick building on the left and a large green tree on the right. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

**The Village Magazine from your Parish Church  
August/September 2021**

# HORSELL DIRECTORY

<b>St Mary's Church</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk">www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk</a>	
	Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	772134
<b>Parish Office open:</b>	Tuesday 9am-4pm, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1.00pm	
	<a href="mailto:stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com">stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com</a>	772134
<b>Vicar</b>	Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko	755618
	<a href="mailto:vicar@stmarys-horsell.org.uk">vicar@stmarys-horsell.org.uk</a>	
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Brian Sheriff	474975
	Michael Couper	770920
<b>Children's Worker</b>	Marcus Brookfield	<a href="mailto:children@stmarys-horsell.org.uk">children@stmarys-horsell.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Leach	823439
<b>Cathedral Link</b>	Gill Saville	773799
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Margaret Johnson	762481
	Hilary Mills	772952
	Coral Colclough	747481
<b>JAM (Jesus and Me)</b>	Marcus Brookfield (4+) 10am most Sundays	772134
<b>Babies and Toddlers</b>	Angela Murphy	832943
	St Andrew's Room, Tues 9.30am to 11.30am, term time	
<b>Twinkle Tots</b>	Marcus Brookfield, St. Andrew's Room	772134
	Thursdays 9.30 to 11.30, term time	
<b>Bellringers</b>	Avril Blagbrough Tuesday evening practice— occasional. Please check	767421
<b>Trinity Methodist Church</b>	<a href="mailto:office@trinitywoking.org.uk">office@trinitywoking.org.uk</a>	730754
<b>Horsell Evangelical Church</b>	Revd Andrew Bents	822259
<b>To Book: Village Hall</b>	Paul Bowyer	764047
<b>Parish Institute</b>	<a href="http://www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk">www.horsell-parish-institute.org.uk</a>	772134
<b>Horsell Village School</b>	Infants Head Teacher - Mrs Reeve	714804
<b>Horsell C of E School</b>	Junior Head Teacher—Mrs C Wand	761531
<b>Woking High School</b>	Head Teacher - Mrs M Walter	888447
<b>Horsell Care</b>	Helpline	730740
<b>Residents Association</b>	Robin Hoyle	<a href="mailto:robin_hoyle@hotmail.com">robin_hoyle@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Scouts, Beavers, Cubs</b>	Ali Stubbs 07734 424568	<a href="mailto:gsl@horsellscouts.org.uk">gsl@horsellscouts.org.uk</a>
<b>Explorer Scouts (14-18 Yrs)</b>	Brian Pinto	480904
<b>Guides &amp; Brownies</b>	<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/">www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/</a>	
<b>WI Horsell Afternoon</b>	Alison Evans-Wyatt	765570 <a href="mailto:amevans705@gmail.com">amevans705@gmail.com</a>
	Meets on 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday at 1.45pm in the Village Hall	
<b>WI Horsell Evening</b>	Mrs Sheila Tickner	760783
	Meets on 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Village Hall	
<b>Woking Police Station</b>	dial 101 from mobile or landline	

# ST MARY'S CHURCH DIARY AUG – SEPT 2021

## AUGUST

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Thanksgiving Service
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	12.30pm	Church Picnic on the Junior School Field
	6.30pm	Contemplative Meditation
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	11am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	Wedding
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Prayer & Peaceful Praise
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Thanksgiving Service
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home

## SEPTEMBER

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	11am-4pm	Private Prayer
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00pm	PCC Meeting
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Worship & Baptism
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Contemplative Meditation
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	10am-5pm	Heritage Weekend & Flower Festival
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
	2.00pm-5pm	Heritage Weekend & Flower Festival
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Wedding
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Prayer & Peaceful Praise
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer

## OCTOBER

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Harvest Festival Service & Baptism
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer

*All correct at time of going to press*

For further details please look at our website: [www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk](http://www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk)

# Holidays, Holidays! And then ...

By the time this edition of 'Horsell Matters' reaches you, the holiday season will be well and truly underway. Schools and colleges are out until early September and many families and others who have the opportunity will be taking a much needed break to refresh and relax after this anxious and challenging year.

This has been a tough year for all of us, especially for many people who live alone. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to take a break. After the lock downs and other restrictions on our freedoms of this year many of us need a holiday more than ever this year to have a change of activity, a change of pace, and a change of scene.

And one of the nice things about going away is when you come back afterwards - and see home with fresh eyes!

In the 3,000 year old story of creation, as it is told in the first book in the Bible, Genesis (Chapter 1), we read that God created the earth and the universe around it in six days. But on the seventh day God rested - telling us that time for rest and relaxation has always been part of God's plan. The Bible calls this seventh day the 'sabbath', the word comes from an ancient Hebrew word meaning 'rest'. We all need times to rest and relax.

In our busy modern world, many public servants and others sometimes need to work on Sundays - but taking time to rest on another day instead is still important.

For Christians Sunday is the sabbath day. It is a day to rest from work and also, importantly, a special or holy day



to worship God and give thanks for the wonderful creation that we are part of. (The other main Judeo-Christian faiths observe a sabbath too; Jews on Saturdays and Muslims on Fridays.)

Looking beyond the holiday season, here is a date for your diary. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will visit the Guildford Diocese to lead a mission on 24-27 September. Of particular interest for Woking is the event being held at Woking Football Club on Sunday 26th September at 3pm, with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby leading a Guildford diocese-wide mission. Check out our website

nearer the time for more details of this and other events. At St Mary's we plan to follow this up with an Alpha course. Come along and bring a friend if you know someone who might be interested in either or both of these.

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Alpha is a popular and successful course that has been enjoyed all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. It can help us to engage with, and discuss the Big Questions with other enquirers who are exploring faith, and learn more about how the Christian faith can enrich our lives. Bring your doubts and questions and discuss them with a friendly and supportive group of people like yourself. It will be fun and it's free!

Come and see!

Roy Wernham

Lay Minister

# Churchyard Cat

Sometimes the summer gets to me. If it's a hot year, then all I require is to be left alone to think and sleep, stretching out in a sunny spot for a time, to be followed by stretching out in the shade. If it's a cool year, then I'll do my thinking and sleeping curled up in the cosiest place I can find. Just as long as I'm not required to make any effort.



My people seem to be reacting in the same way. Perhaps all those months they've spent having to avoid each other have affected them, but they are definitely lacking in initiative at the moment. They all seem tired; they would usually be saying 'We need a holiday'; but they're just lolling about, whenever they can. They usually go off somewhere about this time of year: no sign of any suitcases, so far. Perhaps I'll be lucky and I shan't be abandoned to the care of the neighbours, or placed in a cattery for endless weeks. ('Poor old Samuel! But it won't be for very long,' I'm falsely told.)

Perhaps I'll just be able to get on with my summer of thinking and sleeping - only I reckon I shan't bother with the thinking, this year.



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# St Mary's Flower Festival Craft Workshop

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24th August 10.30am – 12.30pm



**Come join us to  
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our trees**

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Saint Mary the Virgin  
Horsell

## Grave Matters

Besides the monument to Edward Edenborough, the only other figurative memorial in Horsell churchyard is to Francis Copson Peake and his wife, Alice Julia. It is in the form of an angel, on the far side, near the shed.

Francis Copson Peake was born in Penkridge, Staffordshire, the son of an ironmaster in 1856 and having married Alice Julia Bradshaw in 1886 he came to live in Horsell Grange, Kettlewell Hill, in 1891. By that time he was a colliery agent, had two children William and Gwendoline and four servants. They moved to Horsell Lodge in 1894, but unfortunately Francis was admitted to Holloway Sanatorium on 23 Oct 1899 and died there the following year, aged only 50. His widow, with Gwendoline and one servant, had moved to 'The Howdah' in Castle Road by 1901, William being at Wellington College. Still on the move, Alice and Gwendoline moved out of the parish to 'Locksley', Mount Hermon Road, and then to Horsell Park moving to 'Locksley' in Shalford Road, Guildford, in 1930: Alice died there in 1936 and Gwendoline remained, in the company of four other ladies including and organist and an opera singer, until moving to Shalford, dying there on 28 January 1972, Both Alice and Gwendoline are buried in Horsell churchyard, Alice with her



husband and Gwendoline in a simple grave nearby.

William's promising career ended on the Western Front in 1916. He had continued in his father's footsteps in the Coal Exchange, but joined the Infantry on 8 December 1914, being first in the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and serving at Gallipoli and Suez, and then in France as a lieutenant attached to the 1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He died of wounds on 7 July 1916 in Rouen, where he is buried. Rosemary & Richard Christophers

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### ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS: BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

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

Alan Bennet Richard Evans Roger Cane

# Heritage

Entering the church is through a 14th Century stone arch made of a local chalky stone known as 'clunch'. To the right, the tower entrance arch over the door is also clunch. Two memorials, a white marble plaque on a grey marble stele is above the entrance, dedicated to John and Ann Rose (1809); and one to John Greene (1651) has a black marble centre. Moving round to the original south aisle of the church the wall monument to James and Ann Fenn has white Carrara marble figures set in red-flecked marble with a marble frame (1793). Some of the memorial tablets are in brass along the south wall but a small 15thC piscina is visible, dating from the original building, made of 'clunch' and painted white. The tablet to Geraldine du Bochet is a different limestone, identified in the NADFAS survey as Portland limestone. Further along, there are several limestone memorials to the Pares family. The chancel has two beautiful steps, one in a red veined Italian marble. The other is a black limestone full of fossil corals, known as Frosterley Marble. In the sanctuary are marble mosaic tiles having been made by women prisoners at Holloway Jail in late Victorian times. In the sanctuary, the altar sits on white marble with black veins running through it. To the right are four piscina made from white marble, placed there in the 1890s. Down the nave the left hand pillar closest to the chancel is newer and of the same material as those on the right hand side – said to be Monks Park stone, built after late Victorian period, whilst on the left hand side are 15th century chalkstone. Most of the arches are limestone.

## Up the Tower

A climb to the top of the tallest building in the village has always been a popular pastime on Heritage Days in Horsell. People enjoy the view from the roof of the church tower, and for most of them, the steep, narrow, winding stair that leads there is part of the fun.

The tower is also the oldest structure in Horsell, though it is not exactly as it was when it was built some 700 years ago. Only a few years ago, a new entrance to the room where the bell ringers work was added, the latest in a long list of improvements and repairs.

Ninety years ago, St Mary's tower was in a sad state. 'A casual observer might easily think there is nothing much the matter with it,' the Vicar wrote in the parish magazine in 1931. 'The virginia creeper, especially lovely in autumn, hides some of the defects which exist. The trouble began when a bad area of stone was used not 50 years ago for covering the outside of the tower. Not only was the stone of inferior quality but the work was badly done.'

As a result, repairs costing £1000 were urgently needed. (The village rallied round and devoted the proceeds of a special fair to the needs of the tower.)

It is hoped that trips up the tower will be available again on this year's Heritage weekend. The number of people at the top at any one time is limited, and, as there's also no room for one party to pass another on the stair, visits are timed. So you may have to queue for your experience of the best view in the village – and, alas, you have to be at least 8 years old.

The picture above shows St Mary's tower in the 1920s, its deficiencies hidden by creeper. This grainy photograph is all we have.



# Heritage Weekend

## 18–19th September 2021 St. Mary The Virgin Church, Horsell

Last year was depressing for all of us and so we want to have something to make the most of – a day to celebrate the unwinding of pandemic restrictions this year. Assuming restrictions allow we would like to take the opportunity of the Heritage Weekend to cheer us all up by having a flower festival with flower displays including arrangements depicting **'The Wonders of Nature'**.

We hope to have the Tower open on both days – you will be invited to book so that the numbers will be safe. It seems unlikely that the bell chamber will be open, but we will know more nearer the date.

Denise Balmer will be giving a talk about the many different stones that have been used over the centuries to make our Parish Church so attractive. You might be surprised in the large number of stones you might not expect to find in a church.

There will be a guide and numbered stopping points telling you the history of the church (from its beginning in the 12th century to our 21st century). There are rare, interesting photographs and sketches dating back to 1823. There is also a fascinating book put together by the researchers of NADFAS who spent many months some years ago searching, measuring

and recording anything that was available. They found out a lot of new information to be added to the various parts of the church.

Here are some of the times for your diary:-

### Saturday 18th September (10am to 5pm)

- Church open
- Trips up the Tower (remember to book a time)
- Crafts and fun for the children
- 10am – 5pm Flower Festival
- 10am – Denise Balmer talks about the stones in church, and outside
- 2.30pm – Alan Rapley will entertain you on our beautiful organ

### Sunday 19th September (12 noon to 5pm)

- Trips up the Tower (remember to book a time)
- Crafts and fun for the children
- Enjoy the beautiful flower displays
- Refreshments in St Andrew's Room – delicious home-made cakes and drinks

The church will be open to welcome visitors and stewards who will be on duty to answer questions and help you explore this wonderful building.

Frosterley Marble with rugose corals visible, Carboniferous age.  
Picture: Ivor Simpson



## Charitable Enterprises



This is the first of an occasional series of articles about charities supported by St Mary's church.

One of the charities that we support is "Engage". This is a local Christian charity taking the Gospel into schools; primary and secondary schools around Woking as well as Woking College. There is a small team of paid staff and many volunteers. Their mission is to visit the young generation, sharing God's love with 15,000 children and teenagers each year: supporting and inspiring through faith and hope. This is achieved in many ways such as Christian Unions and mentoring, leading school assemblies (usually once a term in both the Horsell Village Infant

School and Horsell Church of England Junior School) and pioneering "Open the Book" teams. The Open the Book team at St Mary's church has now been delivering weekly assemblies to the junior school for nearly eight years and also, pre-Covid, fortnightly assemblies at the infant school and termly assemblies at St Andrews School. Engage also supports year 6 pupils in their move to secondary school with a scheme called "It's Your Move", which St Mary's supports financially and St Mary's Children's Worker, Marcus Brookfield, assists with in person.

To find out more about the work of Engage please visit their web-site:

[www.engagewoking.org](http://www.engagewoking.org)

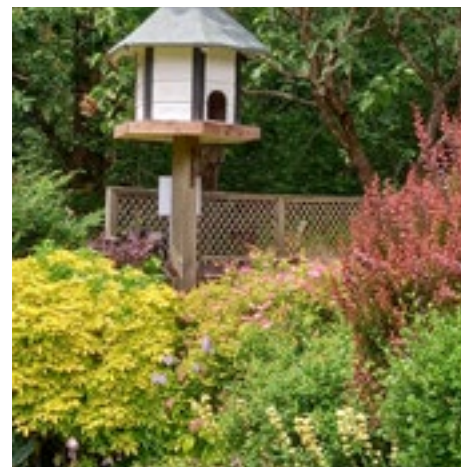
## Garden Safari

*In the secret gardens...*

It is a well-known secret that the gardeners of Horsell are constantly busy rather like the bees. Whatever the weather, whatever the day or night, they are out there; weeding, pruning, dividing, planting, they are on to it.

The annual Garden Safari is one of the highlights of the summer as kind and generous gardeners open their works of art to the rest of us. Large or small they are an inspiration to us all.

Here are some photos as a reminder of a glorious weekend and, more importantly, a huge thank you to everyone who worked so tirelessly to make it happen.



  
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## Local Heaths

Let me introduce myself: my name is Sarah Bunce and I work for a local organisation called the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership, a partnership of local councils, land managers and nature conservation bodies setup to conserve heathland by spreading the word about how special it is.

You might not think of Horsell as a hotspot for rare wildlife, but it really is. By a fluke of nature it has

the perfect geology and climate for heathland, a very special wildlife habitat. So special that in 2005 our local heaths, including Horsell Common, became part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

Much of the magic happens in the twilight. You could walk on the common everyday of your life and not see my favourite bird, the nightjar. But visit on a summer evening at dusk, and



you'll hear the strange, mechanical churring of the male birds, and maybe even catch a mesmerising glimpse of a bird in flight. Astoundingly, they come all the way from Africa to nest here in Horsell.

There's other wildlife to celebrate too, including rare silver-studded blue and grayling butterflies, a dazzling collection of dragonflies, reptiles, carnivorous plants, super-fast beetles and so much more. Horsell Matters have kindly allowed me to share seasonal news with you, so I'll leave it there for now and bring you more in future editions. I look forward to sharing it with you.

[www.tbhpartnership.org.uk](http://www.tbhpartnership.org.uk)

Sarah Bunce

Thames Basin Heaths Partnership



## Bowling Along

On Wednesday 30 June 2021, to celebrate our 2020 Horsell Bowling Club's Centenary which was delayed for one year due to Covid-19 restrictions Club President, Peter Chowney, welcomed a Surrey Bowls Team to our bowling green at Queen Elizabeth Gardens in Horsell.

Thankfully, the weather was kind to us on the day. We had some very close

matches and some not quite so close but everyone played with great enthusiasm. Surrey Bowls ended up winning 4 out of 5 games. Well done to the Horsell team that won their game. After the match we all retired to the club house for much needed refreshments and a delicious supper.

In the coming weeks as an ongoing part of our celebrations we also have special fixtures against Bowls England, West Surrey Bowling Association, North West Surrey Bowling Association and London Welsh."

We are all very proud to represent Horsell Village Bowling Club and to be part of such a momentous occasion. 100 years of being part of the community is no mean feat. Here's to the next hundred.

Thanks to our guests and to everyone involved in making the day such a success.

Alison Ferries



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## Best Art Forward



Pupils at Horsell C of E Junior School have entered a National Royal Mail competition to honour the heroes of the pandemic. Pupils had to design a stamp featuring their chosen hero. Hero designs included Sir Captain Thomas Moore, doctors, nurses, scientists, shop workers, the army, police and postal workers to name a few. Eight designs will be chosen by the Royal Mail and will be made into stamps for circulation.

‘We were so impressed with the high quality and variety of designs from the pupils at Horsell C of E School. I was so impressed with the bold designs and use of colour. We really hope that one of our hero designs will be chosen by the Royal Mail.’ *S. Brogden, Art Leader*

‘It was great to be able to mark the heroes. I’m so proud of my design. I drew Boris Johnson standing in front of the Houses of Parliament’. *Samuel*

‘I really enjoyed being creative drawing my heroes – the NHS. I’m so proud of the NHS. I really hope that my design is chosen to be made into a stamp so that the NHS are featured on every envelope’. *Zara*

This is just one of the exciting Art projects. Horsell Junior are working towards their Gold Artsmark Award. Alongside our new Art Curriculum, we will launch a new Art Council to encourage pupil involvement. We look forward to making new links with partnership schools, hosting Art Workshops and making links within our community. If you feel that you might be able to offer your expertise as an artist or designer, or you work as an author, web developer, or in TV production, and could spare some time to discuss and share your skills with our pupils, then please contact Sophie, Art Leader on [s.brogden@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:s.brogden@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk)

## Horsell Village WI's Grand Day Out



Last year Horsell Village WI marked the 50th Anniversary of their formation but celebrations had to be put on hold until recently when they enjoyed a Grand Day Out to The Manor House, Upton Grey in Hampshire.

The garden at The Manor House was designed by Gertrude Jekyll in 1908 when at the age of 65 she was at the height of her gardening career. In just under 5 acres, Gertrude Jekyll laid out a varied and interesting garden which shows a wide spectrum of her prodigious talents. Current owners, John and Rosamund Wallinger, bought the then almost derelict property in 1984 and have spent many happy years researching and then restoring the garden into what is now one of the finest restorations of a Hampshire garden.

Rosamund greeted us and talked about the history of the house and garden. We were immediately delighted by the

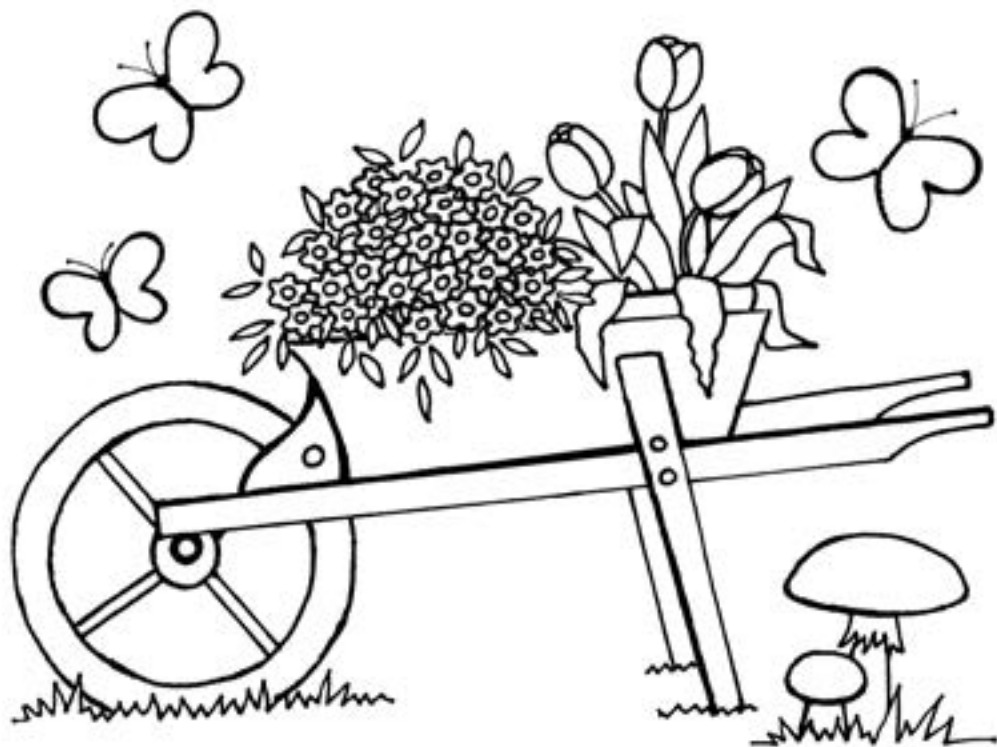
wonderful, scented roses, the Formal Gardens, Wild Garden, Kitchen Garden, Orchard and much more. We walked around the garden trying to identify the wide range of plants whilst enjoying the calm and peaceful setting.

St Mary’s Church, Upton Grey, dating from the 12th Century was a short walk from the garden so we had a quick tour round the church before heading off for lunch at a local farm shop. The staff were expecting us and served us lunch and cake and then we indulged in a little retail therapy before heading back home.

After so long apart it was lovely to catch up with WI friends and enjoy such an interesting and happy day out. Horsell Village WI is a friendly group and new members are always welcome. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm. Our contact details are at the front of this magazine.

# Children's Centre

Colour this picture below



## WHAT CAN YOU SPOT IN HORSELL THIS SUMMER?

### LOOK UP



Red kites use their triangular tails to steer through the air. They can stay in the air for hours at a time looking for prey.



Everyone knows that magpies are black and white. But if you look carefully, you will notice green-blue shine on their wing and tail feathers.



Fun fact: baby bats are called pups! Bats are nocturnal, they fly at night.



### LOOK DOWN



They spend 4 - 6 years underground as larvae and only few weeks in the summer as adult stag beetles.



Worms eat soil. They do not have eyes but can sense whether it's light or dark.



Ants can be found on every continent except Antarctica (ANTarctica, but no ants!)



### LOOK ALL AROUND



Here in Horsell we have grey squirrels. If you travel to Scotland you may see red squirrels.



There are so many hanging baskets all around the village! How many can you count on your street?



Roses come in many different colours and varieties. Can you spot a climbing rose? Can you find one with a fragrant scent?



Tick this box when you've seen it



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## Kitchen Secrets

### Baked Peaches with Vanilla

#### Ingredients

- 4 ripe peaches
- 40g butter, softened
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp soft brown/demerara sugar
- 1 tbsp runny honey
- 4 sprigs of thyme
- To serve: crème fraiche, amaretti biscuits and mint leaves

#### Method

1. Pre-heat oven to 180C
2. Halve the peaches and remove the stone. Lay the peach halves, cut side up in an ovenproof dish.
3. Put the softened butter into a bowl. Add the vanilla extract and brown sugar and mix well. Dot a little of this sweet vanilla butter on each peach half, drizzle over the honey and top with the sprigs of thyme.
4. Bake in oven for 20 minutes.
5. Remove from oven, discard the thyme and allow to cool slightly before serving. Garnish with some mint leaves and serve with a dollop of crème fraiche and some amaretti biscuits.



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November/December 2021

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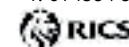
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# Lightbox Moment

With a jam-packed schedule of arts and crafts coinciding with the 2021 Summer Olympics, there is plenty happening to keep the whole family entertained.

For families, The Lightbox always offers a range of free drop-in workshops. On Friday 23 July, come along to the free Olympic Torches drop-in to celebrate the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics by making your own Olympic torches. Then, on Wednesday 28 July, design Olympic Medals from a variety of papers and recycled materials. Mini Footballers, on Wednesday 11 August, will have you create your own mini football game out of paper. To complete the set, there's a chance to make your own Cup and Ball Game on Wednesday 25 August.

This year, the popular Bubble Friday workshop returns on Friday 30 July, 13 and 27 August. Enjoy constructing a variety of bubble makers and test them out in our sunny courtyard or at home.

For 5-7 year olds, we have three different sessions. On Tuesday 27 July you will be able to make Olympic Athlete Puppets using an array of different materials. Join in our summer of sport on Tuesday 10 August to create Team Tees using fabric paints and printing ink on your own T shirt. Come and make a DIY Board Game on Tuesday 24 August by creating ways to move around the board with a story or challenges along the way.

Children aged 8-11 years old can also join in. On Thursday 29 July 2021, join

us to create your own papier mâché sports-themed sculpture on a wire frame. Next up, your own Ship in a Bottle on Thursday 12 August. And on Thursday 26 August bring along an image of someone you look up to so you can Learn to Draw Your Hero.

On Sunday 1 August you can bring the family along to our Studio Sundays to get hands-on and design colourful Sports Posters.

And that's not all, for 11 -16 year olds we are running a Young Creatives workshop where you'll be able to build your own unique cartoon character version of yourself in our Graphic Novel Masterclass. The sessions take place over two days, on Thursday 5 and Friday 6 August 2021.

For full details of the Summer Holidays programme please visit

[www.thelightbox.org.uk](http://www.thelightbox.org.uk)

# Book Shelf

## Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

*Project Hail Mary* is the third novel by Andy Weir, the author of *The Martian*. Whilst not quite back to the level of *The Martian*, this book is to me a considerable improvement on Weir's last offering. In *Project Hail Mary* Ryland Grace wakes up on a spaceship with no memory and with only the dead bodies of his two crewmates for company. Over the next few days Grace works out that he is the sole survivor of a desperate suicide mission to save life on earth from extinction resulting from the absorption of the sun's energy by billions of tiny alien life forms called in the book the astrophages.

On arrival at the star system which has been identified as the source of the astrophages Grace encounters an alien on a similar mission for its planet which, in rather typical American fashion, Grace names "Rocky". The alien is from the planet Erid where conditions are radically different from those on earth. Erid is larger and so the gravitational force is greater than on earth. The Eridians live in temperatures much higher than those on earth. Their atmosphere has a different composition to that of the earth making it inimical to human life. The Eridians relate to their world and communicate with each

other through sound rather than having the power of sight.

Rocky is also the sole survivor of his party; the others having succumbed to radiation on the journey. Whilst there are no great insights into the not unusually heroic Grace's mind,

the details of how Grace and Rocky first learn to communicate and then to cooperate in combatting a common enemy are fascinating. The story is set in the near future and the human technology described in the book either exists now or is a plausible development of current technology. For the purposes of the story, it is necessary to accept that an organism like the astrophage could exist.

The back story of the discovery of the astrophage and of the project to send a crewed spacecraft to another planetary system is told in a series of flashbacks as Grace recovers his memory.

In the same way as he did in *The Martian*, Grace moves the plot along at a good pace without allowing it to become bogged down in technical details. The result is a thoroughly readable and enjoyable book which is almost on a par with *The Martian*.

Roger King





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