

Horsell Matters



**The Village Magazine from your Parish Church
June/July 2021**

Horsell Directory

St Mary's Church	Website: www.stmarys-horsell.org.uk	
Parish Office open:	Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals	772134
	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 Assistants	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	

Message from Reverend Dmitry

What is church? Have you ever pondered this question? The answer may surprise you. The church is NOT a building. What is it then? Looking back at the past year, the church building was not in use much, but the church itself kept going.

When the church building stood redundant, we found new ways of working and ministering to those in need.

When the church building stood quiet, we carried on with doorstep visits, phone calls and other remote means of communication and support.

When the church building stood empty, our hearts were filled with joy of seeing each other via zoom for Sunday services, Lent course and other meetings.

The church is its PEOPLE. We are united by our faith in Jesus, our love for our Heavenly Father and love for one another. From the example of the early church in the book of Acts we learn that the early Christians did not have buildings to meet. They were devoted to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking the bread and prayer. They sold property and possessions to give

to anyone who had need. And above all they kept praising God (Acts 2:42-47). As a result, the Lord added to their number daily. The ministry of the first apostolic church was built on the disciples' desire to share the good news of Jesus with as many people as they

could. It is because of their spirit-filled ministry, we are here today, preaching the same good news until Jesus returns.

Here in Horsell we are blessed with a wonderful church building and you may have heard that we have exciting plans in the pipeline to extend the St Andrew's Room.



Since reopening for public worship on Sundays in early April, it has been wonderful to see everyone and worship together.

Join us every Sunday for an 8am or 10am service. We adhere to the social distancing requirements and follow all the best practices to keep everyone safe while enjoying our time together. Please book your place through the Parish Office.

Yours faithfully,

Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko

The Vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Horsell

ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS: BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

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

Richard Garner & Harold Marshall

St Mary's Church Diary June-July 2021

JUNE

Tues 1 st	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 2 nd	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Sun 6 th	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 8 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 9 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 13 th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Contemplative Meditation
Tues 15 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 16 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 20 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 22 nd	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 23 rd	11am-4pm	Private Prayer
Thurs 24 th	11.30am	Toddler Picnic
Sun 27 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Communion & Induction service of Dmitry
	6.30pm	Prayer & Peaceful Praise
Tues 29 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 30 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer

JULY

Thurs 1 st	8.00pm	PCC Meeting
Sun 4 th	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 6 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 7 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer
Sun 11 th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Contemplative Meditation
Tues 13 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 14 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 18 th	10.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 20 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 21 st	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
Sun 25 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Morning Prayer
	6.30pm	Prayer & Peaceful Praise
Tues 27 th	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm – at home
Wed 28 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer

AUGUST

Tues 3 rd	4.00pm	Prayer at 4pm
Wed 4 th	11.00am-4pm	Private Prayer
	8.00pm	Engine Room House of Prayer via zoom

All correct at time of going to press

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

Churchyard Cat



Fashions in dogs have changed.

It used to be mostly the big golden or black ones who trotted through my churchyard – ‘labs’, they are called – and there were the small brown and grey tufty terriers, on their way to collect children from school. (Those ones are indeed sometimes known as ‘school gate’ dogs.)

I still see them, but nowadays a great many dogs are furry, curly ones, with topknots, with fluffy tails. They’re pretty, all these cockapoos and their cousins, provided you like dogs. And more and more people do like dogs it seems; indeed, they appear to dote on them. I can see how dog owners old and young enjoy their pets, as companions and playfellows. I admit that a person can do more with a dog than with a cat.

But I wonder, I do wonder about some of those dogs, who now find that their people aren’t at home all the time. Are they lonely? Are their lives dull?

‘A bored dog is a daft dog,’ as my granny used to say, as she moved briskly out of the way of an enthusiastic canine.

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To post your picture:

- Open **The Horsell Village Wire Facebook** page
- Click on **Albums** (you may need to click on **Media** first) and then **Flowerpot Festival 2021**

We're compiling a map so everyone can follow the flowerpot trail. To put your handiwork on the map, send an email to: secondthursdayclub@horsellresidents.com

with the name of your flowerpot creation, your postcode, and permission to use those details.



For more details including hints and tips on how to make a flower pot creation, please go to: <http://www.horsellresidents.com/>



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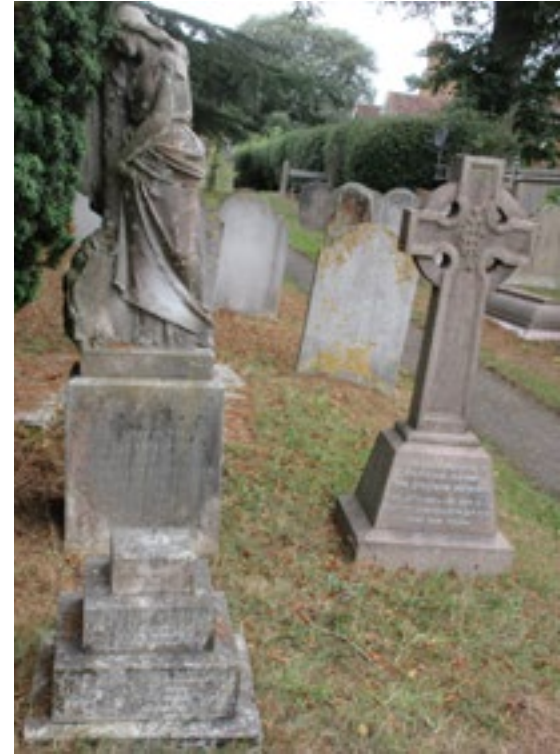


HALSTEAD

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Grave News

Horsell burial registers start in 1653 although no graves can be confidently traced earlier than 1679. The churchyard has expanded over the years but has had very few elaborate monuments: only two have large carved figures, one of which is that of Edward Ernest Edenborough, known as Tim. It is almost opposite the back gate to the vicarage. The figure is of a weeping woman and was erected by Edward's mother Florence at his death from tubercular meningitis at the age of 31 in 1905. Tim was the youngest of the twelve children born to Florence and Horatio, who had died in 1881. An articled clerk at the age of 17, he supported himself until his death. Also in the grave, is his sister Florence, the eldest of Fanny's children (1852-1909), her husband John Henry Merriman (1847-1920), and Gladys their ten month old daughter. Florence's and Tim's deaths caused Fanny insuperable grief. John and Florence lived in Cranleigh but Florence died while visiting her mother in Woking, while John Henry, when widowed, moved first to West Byfleet and then to Bisley, dying in Woking Victoria Hospital. After the death of her husband Fanny moved to Whitfield Court, Littlewick Road, along with three grownup children, dying there in 1911. She and other family members are buried in the churchyard. John Henry served in the Madras Survey and Salt Department from 1868 until his retirement in 1900. Next to this memorial is the grave of John Langshaw Merriman, who died



in 1940, the son of Florence and John Henry. He had held a scholarship in Persian at UCL before joining the Indian Civil Service in 1910, serving in Bengal and Orissa. The phrase 'Terar dum prosim', of ancient but unknown origin, means 'May I be consumed in service' appearing on both graves.

Rosemary & Richard Christophers

Parish in the Past

Memories of a Tin Tabernacle

St Thomas Church stands at the end of a bumpy lane on Littlewick Common. It was built in 1901 at a cost of £103 and was the daughter church of St Marys in Horsell. The church was built principally for the nursery workers of Waterers and later Slocock nurseries who owned and worked on the area of land that is now Goldsworth Park.

My family history is intertwined with St Thomas'; my mother used to worship there and as a small child I attended Sunday school along with the other children who lived on Littlewick Common. The Sunday school was run by Mr and Mrs Peacock who lived further along Littlewick Road . He was a big bear of a man and slightly scary to an eight year old and she was warm and crafty and taught me to knit, a skill I really value today. My abiding memory of Sunday school was unfortunately not the bible stories we told but the smell of burning polystyrene as we used hot tools to cut polystyrene sheets into biblical figures. St Thomas' had its own bell ringer , Mrs Robinson who lived in Jasmine cottage and rang the bell for Sunday services. Even now, all these years later when we ring the bell to announce the start of nursery school I think of Mrs Robinson, especially if I get the rhythm just right. Miss Robertson owned Myrtle cottage and " Interviewed " my parents before she would sell them the piece of land on which my father built our house, she



was a retired Head teacher and always had a jar of sweets to offer us children. Eric Dean was the common warden and terrified the life out of us , we were always doing things he did not approve of. Felicity Evers lived next door and was the life and soul of the party ,she helped my mother, Jean Mintram run Peter Pan Nursery. These were the people who populated my childhood and who worshiped at St Thomas'. There were clergy that shone in the memory too, Clive the curate who allowed us children to have a pets service, the church filled with animals

Parish in the Past

of all kinds and John Fowles who used to come in his Morris Minor to lead services and doggedly supported my mum later on to move the nursery school from her home into the church. St Thomas never had a funeral but there were several Christenings, three of which were each of my daughters and there was one wedding , the daughter of Paul and Mary who lived in Champetere was married in St Thomas'in the 1980's.

Up until the mid 1970's the church was lit by paraffin lamps but then the congregation got together and formed a restoration working party, electricity was put in, repairs were made and the building painted. Although my Dad, Fred Mintram never worshiped in the church he was always there for projects such as this one. St Thomas' had a new lease of life for awhile and services continued once a month with Helen Hinder now playing the old organ for services and new residents to the common joining the congregation. However sadly by the end of the 1980's the congregation had diminished to about three each month and the decision was made to no longer use St Thomas' for services and to find a new use for the building rather than let it fall into disrepair.

My mother Jean ran Peter Pan Nursery in her home on Littlewick common. The nursery had used the church each Christmas to put on a Nativity for

parents and in a conversation between John Fowles the vicar of St Mary's and my Mum it was thought St Thomas would make a lovely home for Peter Pan Nursery. Martin Slocock who owned the land the building stood on agreed and a plan was hatched. However there were a few barriers to overcome; the building had no toilet or kitchen facilities and it was not heated. The appropriate planning permission was sought and the parents and staff of Peter Pan set about raising funds. With Fred's building expertise and help, working parties were formed to do the works and fence an area for the nursery to use as outdoor space. In April of 1994 Peter Pan Nursery moved into St Thomas and have been its custodians ever since having a lease agreement with the Slocock family. Martin Slocock, and since his death his son Tom, have always been very supportive of Peter Pan Nursery allowing us to add a small office eleven years ago and a log cabin in 2016.

St Thomas is a lovely home for the nursery and we have since had many many children through our doors. I feel we are held safe and secure by the generations of the Littlewick community and worshipers of St Thomas' that went before us.

Please note that these are my memories and there may be some inaccuracies as memories are fallable.

Sue Lewis

Light at the End of the Rainbow...

Village School

As I write this article, the warmth of Spring sunshine is pouring through the windows here at The Horsell Village School and reflecting an array of colours onto the floor from our giant stained-glass rainbow decoration created during the first lockdown. A buzz of excitement fills the air alongside children's voices, full of awe and wonder at their learning. The rainbow has very much become the symbol of hope and peace and often appears when the sun follows heavy rain- a reminder of light even after dark times. This symbol is very much something we have held onto here at The Horsell Village School and has been used to celebrate the achievements made by all of the school community during these difficult times, and to act as a reminder that out of change can come hope. Periods of lockdown have only heightened the importance of emotional well-being. The ability to express, validate and regulate our emotions regardless of age is essential in supporting the development of our own mental health and well-being. Developing the whole child has always been of great importance to us here at The Horsell Village school and lockdown has only increased its importance. Providing children with the time to talk about their experiences, teaching and modelling emotions and strategies to support children to self-regulate has

been key in bringing us all back together. Our school motto, 'Kindness to Yourself, Kindness to Others and Kindness to the World' has formed an essential part of our return to the school curriculum after lockdown. Showing kindness allows us to connect with other people and build meaningful relationships, as well as bringing us together as a community again.

Maintaining a sense of belonging, through well-being phone and video calls, online class stories, mindfulness activities, regular newsletters, daily written communication with children, whole school art projects (jigsaw pieces), teachers' stories, videos and jokes and well-being packs have enabled us to maintain a strong sense of the 'togetherness' of the school community which has aided a smooth transition for our children and families upon their return.

My message to the community would be to keep talking and sharing how you are feeling. Communication is key to staying connected.

Mrs Reeve
Headteacher



Our Horsell Patch

Almost 44 years ago, we moved into our present house and became the possessors of a neglected 1/3 acre of garden.

Gradually, over time, the garden was brought under control. We didn't plant lots of new things, or have a garden makeover, but worked with what was already there and collected cuttings, seeds and divisions from friends and family. We found that, with persistence, invasive weeds could be dealt with - it only takes about 30 years.

The basic layout of our plot is still very much the same, the most notable feature being a full-size mature oak tree, probably at least 200 years old. There are some changes with the pond and patio. We also planted a yew hedge which was hard to source but 'our' nurseryman had some old plants. They were a real mess, but yew responds well to being pruned hard and 20 years later we had a splendid hedge. Only three original fruit trees remain but we have added 'Nan's plum' and 'Dan's apple' and stepover and cordon apples around the vegetables. We still have two gooseberry bushes which were here when we moved in! Along the drive there are several trees and shrubs which we inherited, amongst them a deep pink camellia which is prolific with flowers. A change of use transformed the children's sandpit into a herb garden.

In recent years we have become quite keen on lilies and among our pots in summer are several lilies which reappear each year. We have a small



orange tree given as a present by our son. This stands on the patio all summer, bearing flowers and fruit simultaneously.

Spring is always a joy; watching the snowdrops, crocuses, narcissus, grape hyacinths and leucojums reappearing is wonderful. Hellebores seed themselves around the garden.

Looking ahead, we have fruit blossom and flowering trees to look forward to, as well as paeonies, irises, roses.

Gill & Barry Squibb

A Helping Hand, Thank You

On the 16th March 2020 I was prepared to go back to work after 9 months off from maternity leave but the UK started a national lockdown, and the office was shut". This kicked off a very strange, sad and lonely year for all of us.

I was stuck at home trying to work and look after 9 month old twin boys at the same time.

I felt more than ever I needed to find different ways to socialise. I created a what's app group for Lych Way, and got to know my neighbours very well. We'd walk through the village shopping more locality than ever before. I personally feel the Horsell community became closer, more friendly and kinder to each other.

On the 23rd February 2021 – the worst possible event happened that changed our lives forever. One of my twins, James, died of a sudden asthma attack in the night. For days and weeks, the grief was unbearable but we had to get up and stay strong for his twin brother Edward. They hadn't seen their grandparents in nearly a year, so the blow to the whole family was made worse due to Covid.



You don't really know how people will respond when you lose a child but one thing I didn't expect was the kindness and support the community gave us. Our neighbours became like family, always being there. We received hampers from Boz's, Thurston's, Prince and Sons, and Deli Class who also catered for the funeral. Dawn sourced bumblebees at Poppies and Peonies for the floral arrangements, and St Mary's new Vicar and his wife, plus Helen, suggested hosting a special memorial service later in the year when social distancing restrictions are eased.

Before James died, I took for granted where I lived and the people around me and I will never do that again. I will always remember the kindness the village has shown me and my family. I don't know how I would have got through the first month being in lockdown without this special community of people.

Now we are coming out of lockdown, it's important more than ever, as many of us have lost friends and family, that we keep this incredibly strong Horsell community spirit going. We live in such an amazing village which we shouldn't take for granted again.

Harley Cunningham

FLORAL HORSELL



LOTS of POTS

Overflow with joy and colour

Plant a pot or hanging basket in the front garden.

Bring smiles to you and all the passers by.

What sort of flowers to plant?

Sunflowers (tall and small!), Nasturtiums, Busy Lizzy, Pansy, Bright Red Pelargonium and Lobelia, Petunia, Begonia, Dahlia, anything colourful.

Psst, don't tell but...



One of the joys of having grown up children is having the house to ourselves. No more strange music, strange breakfast companions or tripping over bodies on the sitting room floor. Luckily, we have always had enough bathrooms not to have to share!

So it came as a bit of a shock to discover that we have unexplained tenants. Not just one family but a tenement block full. Not renters, you understand, but definitely squatters all on different floors.

Nearest the ground is the smaller family. Fairly shy but can be noisy though at least the music is melodic. Next floor holds a larger, clearly well-fed couple with a tendency towards obesity. They waddle when we see them. Lots of cooing and PDA so I guess they are a couple in their first home. Above them are a much noisier and generally more assertive family. Frankly not really our sort at all but I guess it is a matter of taste. The penthouse houses the worst of them all. A very pushy, noisy anti-social element who bully the others whenever they can.

As squatters, they have to rely on outdoor washing facilities and share the bathroom. It is not a bad size but there are definitely squabbles at certain times of the day. The penthouse has been known to shove the others out of the way. The first floor is the most fastidious and will have several attempts at a thorough wash.

Life is tough for squatters these days

and in keeping with so many it seems that the top three floors rely on food parcels. There is quite a competition for the morning drop off and tempers get frayed. The penthouse and the floor below have the attitude problem and the muscle to ensure there is an uneven distribution of supplies. The first floor has given up and tend to slink away quietly. We try to help them out when the rest are not looking.

We don't want to seem unkind but Camellia Towers is full. We didn't invite them, we do our best and we understand their needs but it is an unexpected sharing. We patrol the camellia bush so no neighbourhood cats can climb the stairs, we provide a pond for washing and a stone platform for those who can't reach the taps. As for food parcels, we put out seeds and crumbs and the usual foodstuffs.

From the ground up they are families of robins, collared doves, pigeons and finally magpies. We love them dearly but, like the children, will be happy when they fly off and we can get on with the refurbishment.

Susan Rowlett

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CARING HOMES

Kitchen Secrets

Asparagus and Caramelised Leek Tallegio Tart

This tart is delicious either hot or cold. An alternative, instead of asparagus and tallegio, is to make it using sliced tomatoes, and a mixture of grated Gouda and Parmesan.

Ingredients

450g puff pastry
3 tbsp olive oil
225g leeks, sliced
3 tbsp caramelised onion chutney
300g (trimmed weight) asparagus
225g taleggio cheese
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Parsley to decorate
Beaten egg or milk to glaze



Preheat oven to 200C. Roll out the pastry into a thin rectangle measuring about 35cm x 25cm, the depth of a 10p piece, and place on baking tray. Using a sharp knife, lightly score a line around the pastry, 2cm from the edge, to create a rim, then prick the inner rectangle with a fork. Chill for 30mins.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan and gently sauté the leeks, until meltingly soft. Stir in the caramelised onion chutney. Season to taste and set aside. Trim the asparagus and then drop into a pan of boiling water and cook for 3 mins, or until al dente. Drain and spread out to cool.

Spread the sautéed leeks over the pastry, taking care not to cover the rim. Arrange the asparagus on top. Remove the rind from the cheese, slice thinly (a knife dipped in hot water helps) and dot over the asparagus. Glaze rim with beaten egg or milk and immediately place in oven for about 10 mins, then reduce the temperature to 180C for a further 10 mins or until pastry is crisp and cheese bubbling. Decorate with some chopped parsley.

Kitchen Secrets

Rhubarb and Ginger Crunch

Good Food every day...Celebrate spring and forced rhubarb season with a stalk of this bright pink vegetable to sweeten up your cakes, crumbles and savoury suppers.

Ingredients

100g butter
225g ginger nuts, finely crushed
450g rhubarb
Grated rind and juice of one orange
2 large eggs
50g caster sugar
2 tbsb cornflour
1/2 tsp ground ginger
Stem ginger to decorate (optional)



Melt the butter in a small saucepan. Add the crushed ginger nuts and stir well until all the butter is absorbed. Place mixture into a lightly greased 23cm round, loose bottomed tin and press over the bottom and up the sides.

Cut the rhubarb into 2.5cm lengths. Place in a saucepan without water and cook gently until rhubarb falls into a pulp. Add the grated orange rind and juice, eggs, sugar, cornflour and ground ginger. Cook over a gentle heat, stirring until the mixture turns thick.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared flan case and chill until set. Decorate with sliced stem ginger, if desired.

Horsell Matters – next edition

August/September 2021

Copy to be sent by **Monday 5th July** by email please to
stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com

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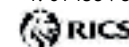
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Lions, Thank You

Steps forward

Dear Friends,

Jacque and I are now able to update you on the results of our Sponsored Walk during March to raise funds for both our local Air Ambulance and towards the UK Lions fund for Brain Tumour research set up a couple of years ago.

We are pleased to advise that against the distance of 100k which we set ourselves, to equate with the distance from Woking to Rochester, the HQ of the KSS Air Ambulance, we actually covered 175k during March, which meant we had also covered the distance back from Rochester to Redhill Airport, where the helicopters are based. What is more we continued walking until last Sunday, 11th April, by when we had covered another 50k, well over the distance home from Redhill !!

Jacque and I are also delighted to advise that to date we have received sponsorship through Virgin money of £1,350, with a further £325 direct making a total of £1,675 and are still hoping for some additional sponsorship to get us closer to the magical £2,000, to be able to give £1,000 to each good cause.

Gift Aid has been promised on a number of these donations. SO A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO SPONSOR OUR WALK.

Jacque and Roger Chamberlain



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Book Shelf

The Ruffler's Child by John Pilkington

John Pilkington was not an author of whom I had heard when his book "The Ruffler's Child" featuring the falconer Thomas Finbow popped up on my Amazon recommendations so there was a pause before I pressed the button and bought the book. I am glad the pause was only momentary as I have found the series sufficiently addictive to have moved on after finishing the first book to the second, then the third, and currently the fourth in the series.

The Ruffler's Child is set in the Armada year, shortly after the Armada had been dispersed. Thomas Finbow is a former soldier, a widowed father, and falconer to Sir Robert Vicary and his wife Lady Margaret at their manor near Wantage. Thomas is a decent man who is not unrealistically heroic but who is capable of being stubborn and courageous in defence of those he holds dear.

Early in the book Lady Margaret's loathsome brother, who had been an unwelcome guest at the manor for the past year, is found murdered. Shortly after Thomas is instructed to accompany Lady Margaret and her maid to London where he is to take delivery of four gyrfalcons. Thomas

soon realises that there is a threat to Lady Margaret's life. Thomas too is in danger as he works to uncover the secrets of the past to make sense of the present.

Thomas must find out why Lady Margaret's brother had such a hold on her. Who is threatening her and why? How is the murder of Lady Margaret's brother connected to the danger in which Lady Margaret finds herself in London? Will Thomas' growing affection for Lady Margaret, which conflicts with his loyalty to Sir Robert, be reciprocated and bring both into danger of a different sort? Thomas comes face to face with some of the most dangerous criminals in the London

of the time. As Thomas investigates, we get a vivid picture of the seamier side of Elizabethan London, of crime in the city and of the dangers of venturing into lawless areas like Southwark on the south side of the Thames.

John Pilkington captures the feel of the period well. This is a tale of murder, of courage accompanied by a hint of lust and is an entertaining and informative read.

Roger King





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