

# THE HOLMWOODS *Magazine*



Distributed to Mid and South Holmwood  
December 2025

# Welcome from the editors...

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Welcome to the first issue of 'The Holmwoods', the brand new Mid and South Holmwood Magazine. We hope you find the contents of some interest to you and your family. This bi-monthly magazine replaces 'The Magazine' produced by St Mary Magdalene Church and is the result of a heartfelt collaboration between Holmwood Parish Council, the Village Club, and St Mary Magdalene Church, three pillars of village life that together reflect the warmth, richness, and resilience of Holmwood itself.

The idea for The Holmwood grew from a shared desire to bring our community even closer. Since the previous Parish Magazine was paused, many of us have expressed a longing for a single place where local news, stories, heritage, events, and voices could come together. While digital platforms connect us instantly, there is something uniquely meaningful about a magazine you can hold in your hands - a space that feels both familiar and celebratory, where our village identity can flourish.

In these pages, you'll find a blend of the old and the new, the practical and the imaginative. Our Parish Council provides updates on projects and community initiatives that shape daily life, helping us all stay informed and engaged with the decisions that affect our shared spaces. The Village Club offers a window into the many social gatherings, activities, and traditions that have long given Holmwood its sense of belonging. Meanwhile, St Mary Magdalene Church contributes reflections, histories, and moments of spiritual grounding that remind us of the enduring threads weaving our community together.

This first issue is very much a work in progress and we hope to include new articles and information as you, the readers, inform us of what you would like to see. In future editions we hope to feature contributions from residents of all ages - memories from those who have lived here for decades, fresh perspectives from newer arrivals, creative pieces, local business highlights, seasonal recipes, gardening notes, volunteer opportunities, and anything else that makes village life vibrant. This magazine belongs to all of us, and it will grow stronger with every voice that joins in.

We launch this first edition at a time when community feels more important than ever. Across Holmwood, we see neighbours helping neighbours, clubs and groups expanding their reach, and renewed appreciation for the small but significant rituals that connect us - whether it's a chat across a garden fence, a shared smile in the street or when dog walking, or gathering together for celebrations, remembrance, and everything in between. Our hope is that The Holmwoods becomes another one of those threads of connection: a gentle reminder of the wonderful people and places around us.

As we begin this journey, we want to extend sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to bringing this magazine to life - the volunteers, writers, organisers, and proofreaders, and of course those who deliver it to your door.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue, and we warmly invite your feedback, ideas, and involvement for future editions. Together, let's continue to celebrate the spirit, history, and heart of Holmwood.

With gratitude and excitement,

The Editors

Please submit articles for publication by the 11th of January 2026 for the February issue to:

**editor.holmwood@gmail.com**

Printed by The Image Company

	 07738 516748
	 julie@theimagecompany.co.uk
	 www.theimagecompany.co.uk
	 @4theimagecompany
	 #4theimageco
	

# Directory: where to find people...

## Holmwood Parish Council:

Chairman	Keith Carter	07803 260834
Vice Chairman	James Afford	883074
	Ian Fairbrother	888071
	Mary Mansell	711998
	Rachel Snook	888673
	Robert Jordan	881109
	Peter High	07958 652265
Clerk	Jan Russell	885282

## St Mary Magdalene Church:

Assistant Priest	Revd. Jane Schofield	07771 591457
Church Warden	Sally Pullen	07887 725701
Pastoral Assistants	Jamie Wood	07579050564
	Margaret King	07768 178390
	Rosalie Williams	889169
	Sue Wood	07812773629
Wedding enquiries	Penny Newstead	07779 691181
Verge	Linda Pugh	712225
PCC Secretary	Linda Popple	883087
PCC Treasurer	Vacancy	
Musical Director, Organist,	Mary Mansell	711998
Church Archivist & Electoral Roll Officer		
Mothers' Union	Gillie Obank	07939 866079
Friends of St Mary Magdalene (Sec.)	John Chiverton	888922
Church Safeguarding Officer	Khobi Vallis	07834 208637

## Other Community Groups

Holmwood Common (NT)	Judith.Ressler@nationaltrust.org.uk	
Friends of Holmwood Common	nicholasfreeborough@gmail.com	
South Holmwood Village Club	Kathryn Tupper	07748 980964
Holmwood WI	Maureen Lewington	07780 675235
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Alexandra Fairbrother	07384 451317
St Mary's Pre-School	Louise or Tina	07557 198867

*We publish these details on the understanding that they have been submitted specifically for public information and that all on the list are happy for such publication*



# What's on in Holmwood?



If you have an event, club or society you would like to be advertised (costs may apply), please email [editor.holmwood@gmail.com](mailto:editor.holmwood@gmail.com) with your contribution or for further information.

- **Musical Mondays** - Weekly at St Mary Magdalene Church. 2pm during winter hours.
- **W.I** - First Wednesday monthly 2-4 south Holmwood Village Hall
- **Village Hall** - Friday bingo. 8pm
- **Village Club** - Quiz night, first Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm
- **Village Club** - Saturday 20/12/2025 - Carol Singing. 6pm
- **Village Club** - Saturday 20/12/2025 - Band - Voodoo Goats. 8pm
- **Village Club** - Wednesday 31/12/2025 -New Years eve Disco - 7.30pm



**RB  
FENCING**

**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL  
AGRICULTURAL • SCHOOLS • ACOUSTIC  
HOARDING • GATES • SECURITY**

**RICHARDSON & BRADS FENCING LTD**  
**T: 01306 640 143 - 01483 414 745**  
E: [INFO@RBFENCINGLTD.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@RBFENCINGLTD.CO.UK)  
W: [WWW.RBFENCINGLTD.CO.UK](http://WWW.RBFENCINGLTD.CO.UK)  
A: 168 SOUTH STREET, DORKING, SURREY, RH4 2ES



# SOUTH HOLMWOOD VILLAGE CLUB

*Welcome to your Local*



New Year's Eve  
Disco  
Celebrate with us

From 7.30pm

The "First Wednesday of the  
month"

**Quiz  
&  
MeatRaffle**

From 7.30pm

We have a fabulous Hall available to  
hire, with kitchen and bar facilities

We are open Monday to Friday  
from 5pm Saturday from 4pm  
Sunday from 2pm

*Non members are always welcome  
Pop in for a drink or come to  
one of our events*



"Voodoo Goats"  
Band

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December

8pm

Free entry - All welcome

**Full size snooker table**



**Pool table**

**Darts**

**To check for our event details, come  
into the Club, email us, head over to our  
Facebook page, or give us a call.**

A2 Warwick Road, South Holmwood, RH5 4NP.

[Einfo@shvc.co.uk](mailto:Einfo@shvc.co.uk)

T01306 889642 / 07748 980964

[///stay.froth.drama](http://stay.froth.drama)





**EVENTS AT  
SOUTH HOLMWOOD  
CLUB**

**FRIDAY 12/12  
BINGO**

**FRIDAY 19/12  
CHRISTMAS BINGO**

**SATURDAY 20/12  
CAROL SINGING 6pm  
BAND .. VODOO GOATS 8pm**

**SUNDAY 21/12  
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

**WEDNESDAY 31/12  
NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO 7.30pm**

**WEDNESDAY 7/1  
QUIZ NIGHT**

Calling all parents and grandparents...  
Do you have a few hours a week to support  
vulnerable families in your local area?

**VOLUNTEER  
WITH US** 



**FULL TRAINING  
GIVEN.**  
OUR PREP COURSE  
STARTS WEDNESDAYS  
21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY TO  
25<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
2026  
(EXCLUDING FEB HALF TERM)



**RECRUITING NOW**

COME & JOIN OUR FRIENDLY TEAM  
PLEASE CALL US FOR A CHAT ON 01737 770220  
OR EMAIL [info@homestarteast Surrey.org.uk](mailto:info@homestarteast Surrey.org.uk)  
AN ENHANCED DBS CHECK REQUIRED  
REGISTERED CHARITY 1164164




**HOME  
START**  
East Surrey

**UNDER 5'S  
STAY AND  
PLAY**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU!**

**TERM TIME**

**EVERY  
TUESDAY MORNING  
10 AM - 11.30 AM**

Join us for a **FREE** play session with  
experienced staff & volunteers on hand  
for advice & support. Meet other local  
parents with children & babies, & enjoy  
our amazing outside play area, inside  
toys, craft activities, stories & singing!

**JUST TURN UP**

**HEALTHY SNACKS**

**MOLE VALLEY FAMILY  
CENTRE**  
GOODWYNS ROAD, RH4 2LR



FOR MORE DETAILS CALL HOME-START ON 01737 770220  
OR TEXT 07593 502232



# HOLMWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Councillors:

Mr K Carter	Chairman	07803 260834
Mr J Afford Vice	Vice Chairman	883074
Mr I Fairbrother		888071
Mrs M J E Mansell		711998
Mrs R Snook		888673
Mr R Jordan		881109
Mr P High		07958 652265
Mrs J Russell	Clerk to the Council	885527



Email: [clerk@holmwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holmwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Website: [www.holmwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.holmwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## PLAYGROUND

All the play equipment and surrounding safety surfacing in the playground are regularly inspected. Since 1963 the Parish Council has taken responsibility for the playground's upkeep and purchase of new equipment. Any problems with the playground should be notified to the Clerk on the email address.

Polite reminder to dog owners: would you please keep your dog out of the playground.

## INSTALLATION OF AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS ON A24

We have been pushing Surrey Highways to install the camera equipment along this road for many years. We hope that now it is installed you will all appreciate the added safety it has brought to all drivers who use this section of the A24. It has taken some getting used to but we hope it will avoid the worst of accidents occurring at the junction with Mill Road. This has been at the top of our concerns for improved safety and one which we are still engaged with Surrey Highways. It is hoped further amendments to turning priority can be made to prevent any further accidents..

## GATWICK NORTHERN RUNWAY EXPANSION

The Secretary of State for Transport has given consent for the development of Gatwick Airport. This includes a second runway which has the potential to double the number of flights that the airport can handle.

The Planning Inspectorate and all affected local councils had recommended against the expansion plan.

## VILLAGE HALL

The Council continues to act as managing agents to the Trustees of the Village Hall. As well as accommodating the Village Club, the hall is available for hire for parties, clubs and events of any kind. There is a kitchen and bar facilities are available via the Village Club. Bookings contact Kathryn Tupper on 07748 980964 or Facebook [@southholmwoodvillageclub](#).



## COUNCILLORS

The Council advertised a vacancy on the council in June of this year following the resignation of Leslie Lester on health grounds. Peter High responded with interest and as no other proposals were received (following due procedure) Peter was co-opted on to the council. The council would like to thank Leslie for his valued support and input to the council and welcome Peter as his replacement.

## GATWICK

GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign) has filed a claim for a judicial review seeking permission to overturn the Secretary of State's decision approving the expansion of Gatwick airport. See [www.gacc.org.uk](http://www.gacc.org.uk) and [cagne.org](http://cagne.org)



## Mole Valley Council News

With the announcement that a two unitary council structure has been chosen for Surrey, Leader of Mole Valley District Council, Councillor Bridget Kendrick, talks us through what this change means for the district and our residents  
[youtu.be/ZIEyI8218ZI](https://youtu.be/ZIEyI8218ZI)

MVDC has opened up their car parks with **free parking** on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December. This covers Dorking, Leatherhead, Bookham and Ashted.

Christmas Late Night Shopping Evening on Thursday 11 December 2025 until 8pm.

For more information on all services from Mole Valley District Council visit their web page on <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk>



## Surrey County Council News

The following statement has been issued by Surrey County Council referring to the reorganisation of the county council. This has arisen due to Central Government policy, which they state will make local councils more in tune with local communities together with improvements in efficiency of running the County Councils.

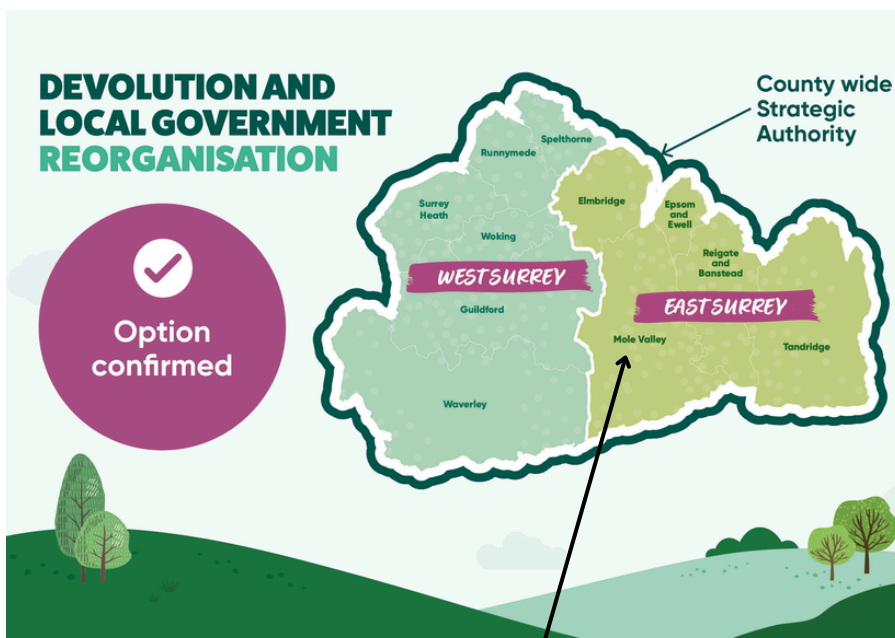
Government has confirmed plans for local government reorganisation in Surrey, announcing that two new unitary councils will replace the existing twelve councils in April 2027, creating a simpler and more efficient system for delivering services across the county.

Government is clear that this once in a generation reform will see stronger local councils in charge of all local services, equipped to drive economic growth, improve local public services, and lead and empower their communities – ultimately it will help drive up living standards.

Elections for the new councils will take place in May 2026, with the new authorities formally taking over responsibilities from 1 April 2027. Existing Councillors will remain in post until 31 March 2027. This transition period will enable detailed work for reorganisation and devolution to take place, and services will be delivered as usual throughout the process.

Government is also clear that simplifying local government ensures a strong foundation for devolution. The establishment of a strategic authority will be subject to the relevant statutory tests being met and there will be ongoing discussions between local officials and the Minister. The ambition is to have a Mayor for Surrey, and local officials will be working with Government on the timeline for this, following discussions with the Minister for Devolution.

The creation of two unitary councils, East Surrey and West Surrey, means that from April 2027 an East Surrey unitary authority will replace the current areas covered by Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead, and Tandridge councils. A West Surrey unitary will take over the areas of Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Woking, and Waverley.



You are here!

## Holmwood W.I

Holmwood WI has entertained and educated the ladies of the Holmwoods and surrounding villages for more than 100 years.

On the first Wednesday of every month from 2-4pm South Holmwood village hall is the venue for a fun-packed afternoon with speakers and a traditional afternoon tea. Excellent speakers have given us an insight into the changing fashions of the 20th Century, polar bears in Alaska, the history of pantomime and many more varied talks.

We've learnt to belly dance, listened to local singing groups and taken part in a Victorian Christmas with songs, jokes and games.

During the year we enjoy a fish and chip lunch followed by a games afternoon, a community lunch to thank everyone who helps our group during the year and fundraising fairs.

To find out more contact secretary Maureen Lewington  
07780 675235 or email [maureen.lewington@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.lewington@btinternet.com)



### **Becky's Professional Dog Grooming**



'City & Guilds Qualified'

Handstripping, clipping, bathing  
and nails - also see web page on  
[www.doggroomingdorking.co.uk](http://www.doggroomingdorking.co.uk),  
Becky Robinson 07739 263 244 -  
Beare Green, Dorking

## Holmwood Good Neighbours?

Poor public transport links and cuts in hospital transport mean that many, mainly older, people have great difficulty travelling to and from their medical appointments. A Good Neighbours scheme could fill this gap for our older residents, with a friendly team of volunteers. Could you be one such volunteer?

Other schemes in the area, notably in Capel and Dorking use their volunteer drivers (male or female) for this very rewarding work which is much appreciated by the passengers. Drivers can choose how often they drive - usually once a week. There is no obligation to be available at any special time and they can choose whether to accept each assignment or not. Petrol and parking expenses are reimbursed and a contributory charge is made to the passenger to help cover costs. You obviously need to reside in the area with your own car and be a good, reliable and careful driver who is patient and understanding. A DBS check is required (organised by the organisation), and you will need to check on your car insurance to ensure you are specifically covered for volunteer work. How do we know? One of the editors of this magazine has been a volunteer driver with the Dorking based Good Neighbours for over 9 years and is still going! If you have some spare time, please consider getting involved to help your neighbours in need. You never know when it may be your turn to request a lift! Please email [editor.holmwood@gmail.com](mailto:editor.holmwood@gmail.com) to let us know if you would be willing to help a neighbour in this way. If we get sufficient response to make it a go we can arrange help and support to set up a suitable scheme.

### **Sherlock Funeral Service**

**130-year-old, independent, family run  
Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons**

**Trellis House  
190 South Street  
Dorking  
Surrey  
RH4 2ES  
T: 01306 882266  
E: [office@sherlockandsons.co.uk](mailto:office@sherlockandsons.co.uk)**



## **Friends of Holmwood Common**

As this is a report to a new local magazine I think a quick explanation of what The Friends of Holmwood Common as a group are. The Friends are an independent group, with a constitution, committee and bank account which comes under the wing of the National Trust Supporters Group organisation. We are funded by membership subscriptions and donations received for activities we have organised such as fungus walks or evening meetings with outside speakers. We issue a regular newsletter. Our main purpose is to support the work of the National Trust on Holmwood Common.

During the year we have given financial support to the visit by a team of Heavy Horses which have tended Willow Green and Brook Valley meadows by raking, mowing and collecting grass using equipment towed by a pair of Clydesdale Horses. The occasions they visited have been highlights of the year. We are currently supporting an application by the National Trust ranger for the Common, Judith Ressler, for a grant from Surrey County Council for funds to support a regular visit by heavy horses and other activities.

The current subscription for a family is £7 annually. Further information can be obtained by contacting me by email at [nicholasfreeborough@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasfreeborough@gmail.com)

Nicholas Freeborough     Chair of the Friends of Holmwood Common

# **A-STAR TAXIS**



## **01306 882299**

**ALL OCCASIONS ANY LOCATION**

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESS • AIRPORTS • HOTELS • PUBS  
CLUBS • RESIDENTIAL • 8 SEATER • 6 SEATER  
ESTATE • SALOON • PRESTIGE**

# SENIORS ACTIVITY SESSIONS

SOUTH HOLMWOOD VILLAGE HALL



**TUESDAYS 10-11**  
**FREE OF CHARGE**



Would you like to advertise  
with us?

If so please contact us:

[advertiser.holmwood@gmail.com](mailto:advertiser.holmwood@gmail.com)

# AV

Brickwork



Experienced Bricklayer / Builder

- Property Maintenance
- Patios
- Pointing
- Paths
- Extensions
- Steps
- Drives
- Fencing

Telephone Andy: 07811 668696 / 01306 631086

Free Estimates & Advice

# EMMA MINTER

*Available to prepare accounts  
to Profit & Loss with completion of  
Self Assessment for HMRC.*

For reasonable rates call:

**01306 889792 OR 07958 510053**



## **THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, HOLMWOOD.**

Come join the Friends.....

Formed in 2008 we have been working in the community of for the last 17years to raise money to help support the Church in its role as the centre of the village. The money we raise goes directly towards the maintenance of the church building and infrastructure to ensure it is available at all times for use by the community in both its role as the religious centre of the village and to ensure its can be used for many other community events.

In those 17 years we have raised over £125,000, to help repair the roof, install a new heating system, new lighting; and most recently to help upgrade the sound systems in the Church

Those funds come from you in the form of subscriptions and donations. We also put on regular fund raising events and concerts in the Church, which together with raffles and coffee mornings raise funds to support our objective to “keep the Church alive“ for the Community as a whole.

You can become a member of the friends for a £15 annual subscription or become a life member for a one time donation of £100. Or of course you can make a donation in any amount. We are a registered charity so any contribution you make is tax efficient!

Of course we would love everyone in the village to be a member of the “Friends”. But if you are not or don’t want to be, please feel free to come to one of our events and or make a donation to help support our cause.

For information please do not hesitate to contact us

John Morris - Chair.  
[john.a.morris@aol.co.uk](mailto:john.a.morris@aol.co.uk)

Pam Chiverton - membership secretary.  
[pam.chiverton@btinternet.-com](mailto:pam.chiverton@btinternet.-com)





## Jane's Jottings

Although the official New Year falls on 1st January, the Church calendar worldwide begins on Advent Sunday, which this year is on 30th November. It feels particularly fitting, therefore, that we embark on something new together—the launch of this community magazine—at the very start of Advent.

***Revd Jane Schofield***

Within these pages, you'll discover details of all our regular services, as well as information about the many additional events we're hosting.

Many of you will already know that we have recently installed a new sound system, and we're looking forward to welcoming even more Community events into our church building.

In some respects, our church is a bit tucked away—not immediately visible from the main road (unless, of course, you're not concentrating on driving!). I've spoken to several local residents who admit they've never ventured inside. Please remember, St Mary Magdalene is YOUR parish church, and everyone is warmly invited to attend any of our events, or simply to drop in and savour the peace and tranquillity of our beautiful building, which is open daily until dusk.

If you're interested in learning more, you'll find laminated guides to the tablets and stained glass windows on the table directly in front of you as you enter.

We hope this magazine helps you feel more connected to your parish and encourages you to explore all that St Mary Magdalene has to offer.

As we approach Christmas may you look with excitement towards the Reason for the Season.



May the true spirit of Christmas be with us all this Christmastide;  
The spirit of joy that overflows from the heart and makes neighbours rejoice,  
The spirit of peace that harmonises differences and makes music of our common  
life,

The spirit of love that sings the mind of God to the world.  
May the true spirit of Christmas be with us all this Christmastide, and forever.

Amen

# **CHURCH SERVICES FOR THE PARISH OF HOLMWOOD INCLUDING BEARE GREEN At St Mary Magdalene Church**

Sundays 10 a.m Parish Eucharist.

Wednesdays 9.30- Midweek informal communion EXCEPT first Wednesday monthly  
11.30 with lunch

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Carols by Candlelight a service of readings and carols

Christmas Eve - Crib Service -

4 p.m - sing your favourite carols and enjoy the  
Christmas story

7 p.m. Christmas Communion

11.30 — Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - 10 a.m informal family celebration

As we gather to mark this special season may the warmth of our community and the hope of Christmas bring peace and joy to all. Whether you are a regular member of the congregation or visiting for the first time, your presence will make these celebrations truly memorable. Let's come to together in fellowship, reflect on the meaning of Christmas. and carry its message of love and peace into the New Year



Worried about  
Aircraft  
Noise,  
Emissions,  
Airspace  
Changes, Climate Change and  
Gatwick Airport expansion plans?



**CAGNE**  
COMMUNITIES  
AGAINST  
GATWICK  
NOISE  
EMISSIONS

Then join Communities  
Against Gatwick Noise  
Emission at [www.cagne.org](http://www.cagne.org)

You can trust CAGNE to be  
fair to all communities of  
Sussex, Surrey and Kent.



Est Feb 2014

Email - [cagnegatwick@gmail.com](mailto:cagnegatwick@gmail.com)

Instagram LinkedIn

Leith Hill Plant Ltd  
Stane St, Ockley RH5 5LX  
[www.lhpl.co.uk](http://www.lhpl.co.uk)  
[info@lhpl.co.uk](mailto:info@lhpl.co.uk)



Groundwork and Drainage Engineers

- Larger landscaping projects including excavations, ponds & lakes, earthmoving, grass paving, access roads & tracks etc
- Sewage treatment plants, septic tanks & soakaways
- Foundations, concreting, surface & foul drainage
- Agricultural & equestrian buildings
- Established 1992 & fully insured

See our website for more details

Free advice & estimates

**01306 628412**

**RIDBA**  
Roofing & Building  
Design & Building Regulations



# EDE BROS

• REMOVALS • STORAGE • SHIPPING •

- Since 1926, Capel-based and family owned
- For STRESS-FREE, local, national and worldwide moves
- Contact us for a **FREE** estimate...

**01306 711293**  
[edebros.co.uk](http://edebros.co.uk)



**EDE BROS**  
REMOVALS • STORAGE • SHIPPING •  
Dorking, Surrey, England  
**01306 711293**  
[www.edebros.co.uk](http://www.edebros.co.uk)

**EDE BROS**  
REMOVALS • STORAGE • SHIPPING •  
Dorking, Surrey, England  
**01306 711293**  
[www.edebros.co.uk](http://www.edebros.co.uk)

**EDE BROS**  
REMOVALS • STORAGE • SHIPPING •  
Dorking, Surrey, England  
**01306 711293**  
[www.edebros.co.uk](http://www.edebros.co.uk)



# **HOLMWOOD VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION**

## **Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society**



13th November 2025

Dear Member,

Having been on the Holmwood Village Produce Association committee for twenty-something years, and Chair for the last six, you would think writing to you, our members, would be easy. But this is about as far from easy as it gets.

The last few years have been extremely testing on so many fronts. Covid wiped out the show two years running. Then, just as we got back on our feet the huge diesel spill meant a last minute cancellation. As you know, that cost us dear. If it wasn't for your wonderful generosity, this years event would not have been able to happen at all. With your help, it did. And it was a lovely weekend as it always has been. However, numbers were low and resulted in a big loss, again. There are only so many times you can recover from that. Several committee members have had to stand down, for various reasons, and this leaves us with less than an ideal situation.

Without the finances, we cannot carry on staging the shows. Without a strong committee, we cannot make those shows happen. So much is done by us and our families. We have tried so hard, for years, to encourage membership and participation. It is exhausting and at times downright depressing when you try and hold something together that is becoming less and less viable. We have had many meetings, talked for hours, tried so very hard to find solutions. All to no avail.

I am genuinely struggling to write this. The show has been there my entire life. It is one of my earliest memories and every single one, for those 53 years, has been filled with happiness. And I know for many of you it has been there forever too.

So, I hope you understand how much it hurts to tell you that this years show was the last. Holmwood VPA is no more. I am so very deeply sorry. It feels very final now that it is on the screen in front of me.

To all our awesome committee members, past and present, the biggest thank you. Without all the work you put in, most unseen, none of it would have ever happened at all. We have been a great team, with a great bond that transcends the VPA boundaries. You are all truly fabulous people and I consider myself very blessed to count you as friends. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

And to you, the members, thank you for your support. This year couldn't have happened without you. Please keep growing, making and creating. Don't stop just because the show is gone. You are the heart of the villages, always.

With love and gratitude,

Sarah

(holmwoodvpa@outlook.com)



## A few things to do in the garden during the winter

**1. Empty Your Pots** Completely empty any of your outdoor planters and pots to prevent cracking and damage. Store pots upside down until you're ready to use them again in the spring.

**2. Clean Up to Keep Pests Away** Clear away any dead or dying plants and vegetables to keep pests and disease at bay. Pests and blight can still thrive in winter months.

**3. Gather Leaves for Mulch** Gather as many leaves as you can and add them to your compost pile.

**4. Remove Bulbs to Prevent Frost Damage** Dig up your bulbs and store them in a cool, dark location so they will survive the winter. You want to remove bulbs from the garden bed before frost, so no damage occurs.

**5. Till the Soil to Remove Pests** Till your soil gently; turn the top 2-3 inches to remove any pests that may be trying to winter in your garden beds.

**6. Prune Trees and Shrubs** Prune away dead and broken leaves from your ornamental trees and shrubs, cutting the branches close to the trunk. Make clean, quick cuts to avoid damage to living parts of the plant.

**7. Scrub Your Tools** Remove all debris and dirt. Cover all blades and metal parts with a thin layer of vegetable oil to prevent rust. Store all your tools properly so you can find them again in the spring.

**8. Protect Sensitive Plants** Cover saplings and shrubs that could be damaged by winter cold. Do not use plastic for this, or it will kill plants. Material like sackcloth will provide protection for young and sensitive plants. Use twine to hold the fabric in place and check on the plants to be sure they're surviving the winter.

**9. Prepare Your Perennials** After the ground has frozen for winter, cut your perennials back to about three inches above the soil and add a thick layer of mulch to keep the soil warm.

A little winter garden work will make a huge difference while also keeping you from doing a whole lot more work when it's time to plant again.

- low-cost, plastic-free, seasonal activities for families with young children... be creative, don't be too fussy about the results; just have fun!

COLLECT A FEW  
AND LET THEM DRY



# Make Acorn People



YOU NEED THIS SHAPE

about 5 cm

- GLUE OR TAPE XXX TO XXX

- CHECK THAT AN ACORN FITS IN THE HOLE

FITS IN THE HOLE

• CHECK FIT:  
DRAW ROUND  
ABOUT 13cm  
ACROSS

Go for a walk... (or a hop)  
Listen to the leaves.. 

Keep a box of old magazines, fabric, wool, wrapping paper, thin card, egg-boxes ...



Bring some dry leaves home.

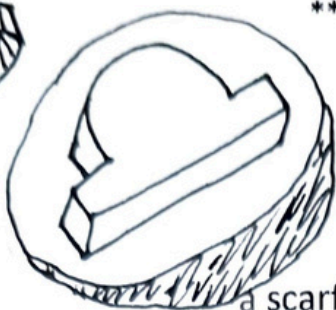
Turn one upside-down and put some paper over the top. Hold it steady while you rub the paper with chalk or wax crayons





Use old magazines or wrapping paper or make your own drawings.  
Glue or tape or staple one piece to make a circle.  
Then add more links to make a chain....

Cut strips of paper this size.



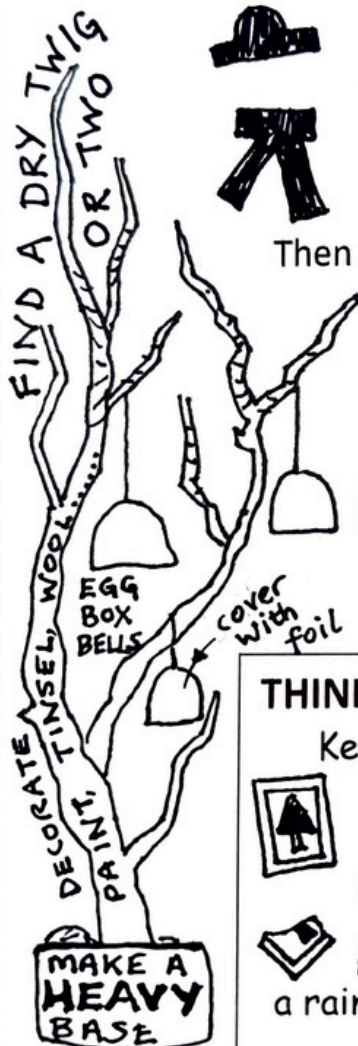
**\*\*Ask an adult to help.**  
Draw a hat on  
half a potato.  
Cut away around  
the hat.  
Do the same for  
a scarf on the other half.



Use paint  
to print  
a hat and scarf.  
Let the paint dry.  
Then draw a snowman!



Practise...  
then make cards!



## THINKING AHEAD ...

Keep some pictures  
from Christmas  
cards: make  
simple



jigsaws on  
a rainy day in January



# DORKING CONCERTGOERS SOCIETY

DCS has arranged a series of concerts in Dorking Halls, comprising its 2025/26 season:

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 3.00pm in the Grand Hall -  
**Grimethorpe Colliery Band.**

Formed over a century ago in a Yorkshire mining village, and now one of Britain's finest and world-famous brassbands, the Grimethorpe will play both classics and festive favourites.

Tickets £20, £25, £28, £30; Under 18's Free, 18-30's £10

Saturday 17th. January, 7.30pm in the Martineau Hall -  
**Thomas Carroll (Cello) and Nigel Hutchison (Piano)**

Internationally renowned performers, and Yehudi Menuhin School coaches, Thomas and Nigel will present pieces by Beethoven and Boccherini.

Tickets £25 Under 18's free, 18-30's £10

Tickets and further information about these and future concerts to be presented by Dorking Concertgoers are available from the Ticket Secretary, Pam Chiverton  
E. [pam.chiverton@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.chiverton@btinternet.com) or Tel. 01306 740619



## Carters Car Care



For that personal service call

**01306 711614**

[garage@carterscarcare.co.uk](mailto:garage@carterscarcare.co.uk)

[www.carterscarcare.co.uk](http://www.carterscarcare.co.uk)

Servicing & Repairs

Bosch, Delphi & Autologic Diagnostics

Air Conditioning Service

Brake Discs skim on vehicle

Laser Four Wheel Alignment

MOT Test Centre Class 4, 5L & 7

Vicarage Lane, Capel, RH5 5LL





## DORKING MUSEUM IN DECEMBER-JANUARY

**To the Last Man – the Dorking Home Guard:** The Museum's autumn exhibition tells the story of the men of Dorking and the villages who responded to the call by Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for War, to enlist in the 'People's Army' – later, the Home Guard – in 1940 to defend the nation. Five hundred men living in the town and immediate neighbourhood offered their services – many without any military experience, often in full-time work, and many volunteering for other home front organisations. The 7th (Dorking) Battalion, Surrey Home Guard, commanded by Major Geoffrey Lane, a veteran of the Boer War and First World War, was initially headquartered at the Old Fire Station on West Street (later at the Drill Hall).

A defensive line of concrete pill boxes and anti-tank obstacles stretched across the south, especially in the Dorking area, protecting the Mole Gap route towards London and the operational headquarters of the Southern Railway, responsible for transport of troops and supplies across the south of England. The Home Guard was called upon to establish strongholds, secure sites to ensure public safety and guard aircraft crash sites.

They faced what looked like a hopeless situation, at the time, poorly armed and equipped, often having worked a full day, then staying alert, facing a very real threat and expected to hold invaders at bay for a short time. Local units were trained for hand-to-hand fighting and told to take no prisoners. In December 1940, Brockham village featured in War Office propaganda photos designed to reassure the public that the defence of the nation was in the hands of well-equipped men. They went from a poorly armed and equipped group of part-time volunteers to a trained fighting force protecting the local community and freeing up regular troops for front-line duty.

The feared invasion never came, so their skills were never fully tested. The Dorking Battalion gave a public demonstration of weapons and defensive techniques on the Nower before being stood down at the end of 1944, having proved its value throughout the war. The exhibition display includes uniforms, weaponry, medals,

incident reports, photographs and other items of the period.

**Dorking's Dinosaurs:** After a very successful and well-received dinosaur-themed family event in autumn, our first new exhibition of 2026 will explore Dorking's dinosaur connections in greater detail, with further models on loan from the University of Southampton. Look out for further details and opening date.





Museum Family Activities at Dorking Library: The Museum is pleased to continue its collaboration with Dorking Library in a series of monthly events linked to library themes. Merry Christmas Crafts: Come and make a Christmas card or join in other craft activities: Saturday 13th December, 10am-noon.



Changing Dorking: Dorking Museum gives you a warm welcome to some of its activities. Visit Dorking Library to find out how Dorking has changed by looking at old maps and photos: Saturday 24th January, 10am-noon. All free events, materials provided and children must be accompanied.

Get involved: The Museum depends on its enthusiastic team of volunteers to maintain this valuable community resource. Maybe you could spare a few hours a month, with opportunities in an interesting range of key roles with flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home. Perhaps you could help maintain our collections, recruit and train volunteers, maintain our website, train as a guide on our walking tours, organise events, welcome visitors, help with maintenance or be a trustee. See [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities) for further details. Dorking Museum, The Old Foundry, 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk). Visit [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/). 01306 876591.





Dorking  
Local  
History  
Group

## DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### DECEMBER 2025-JANUARY 2026

The DLHG continues its popular programme of both live and Zoom talks on a fascinating range of topics. These are free to members, but non-members are welcome. Upcoming dates include:

The Real Dad's Army:

A live talk by Steven Bird who can give us some idea what the Home Guard was really like, as he has researched original documents for a single Home Guard battalion in Kent, the only one for which complete records remain. Monday 1st December at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.



Salt of the Earth: the salt industry of the Adur valley: DLHG has no Zoom talk in December, but the Surrey Industrial History Group is welcoming members to a talk by Janet Pennington on the lost medieval salt industry of Sussex. Monday, 15th December. Please email [chairman@sihg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sihg.org.uk) for the Zoom registration link.



The Surrey farmland girls 1939-1950: Live talk by Neil Mach. Monday 5th January (details as above).

Ralph Vaughan Williams & Lucy Broadwood - Musical Friends and Neighbours: Zoom talk by Graham Muncy, Monday 19th January 7.30pm, <https://www.meetup.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.

For further details of talks and other activities - or to join DLHG - go to <https://dlhg.org.uk>.



Situated in the grounds of St Mary Magdalene's church, St Mary's Pre-school has been at the heart of the South Holmwood community since the 1980's providing early years education to local children and their families. Welcoming some of our former pre-schoolers own children to us has been a delight and joy in recent years.



We provide a safe, stimulating, caring, and fun environment for children to explore and grow as individuals. We have an enclosed area for outside play during good weather, an established forest school space on adjacent land, and a further outside learning area/allotment close by.



We operate during term-time and offer additional services such as, early drop-off with breakfast, and later collection at the end of the day. Our dedicated staff team have constantly evolved, adapted and updated our provision to ensure we are sending children to their school Reception class as well equipped as possible for the next steps in their learning experience and journey in life.

All our staff live locally to pre-school, and many have been with us for considerable years. We have good local connections with community services and support networks, and we will always do our best to support our families however possible.

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, we are registered with Surrey County Council and Ofsted, and are proud to have achieved three consecutive outstanding Ofsted awards (two trading as 'St Mary's Pre-school', and the latest one as 'The St Mary's Pre-school').

More information can be found on our website:

<http://southholmwoodpreschool.org.uk/>

or on our social media pages:

<https://www.instagram.com/thestmaryspreschool/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SMPS1980>





# IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR



**SOUTH HOLMWOOD  
VILLAGE CLUB  
ST MARY MAGDALENE  
CHURCH**

**JOIN  
TOGETHER  
FOR FESTIVE FUN  
AND SINGING**

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER AT 6PM  
AT THE CLUB**

**DO COME  
ALONG**

