

The background of the cover is a photograph of two black and white cows standing in a green field. The cows are behind a wooden fence with a horizontal rail and a wire. The ground in the foreground is dry and sandy with some twigs. In the distance, there is a line of trees and a blue sky with light clouds. The title 'THE HOLMWOODS' is written in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters. The word 'THE' is smaller and positioned to the left of 'HOLMWOODS'. Below the main title, the word 'Magazine' is written in a red, italicized, serif font.

THE HOLMWOODS

Magazine

Distributed to Mid and South Holmwood
June 2026

Got questions about life

Alpha is a place to explore life, faith and meaning in a friendly, open and honest space.

Alpha



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Welcome from the editors...

Dear Readers

Welcome to the Summer edition of The Holmwood magazine. As always, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed articles, photographs, news, and ideas for this issue. The magazine depends entirely on the support and enthusiasm of our local community, and we are very grateful for the continued contributions from both our regular writers and new contributors alike.

We are always delighted to receive articles for possible inclusion in future editions. Whether you have a local story, event report, historical piece, club news, photographs, or something of general interest to share, we warmly encourage you to get involved. Please remember that the deadline for copy is the 11th of the month preceding publication to allow enough time for editing and production.

The Holmwoods Magazine relies solely on advertising income to cover printing and distribution costs. We are extremely grateful to all those businesses and individuals who already support us through advertising. If you would like to advertise in the magazine and reach households throughout the villages, please do get in touch with the editorial team for further details.

Finally, if you are interested in joining our friendly team of volunteers, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Help is always welcome with writing, editing, distribution, advertising, and administration.

We hope you enjoy this Summer edition and wish all our readers a happy and relaxing season.

With warm regards,
The Editors

Please email articles for publication by the 11th of July 2026 for the August issue to: **editor.holmwood@gmail.com**

To advertise in this magazine, please contact
advertise.holmwood@gmail.com

The magazine is available on line at **theholmwoods.org.uk**

Printed by Barkers Print, Dorking



What's on in Holmwood?



If you have an event, club or society you would like to be advertised, please email editor.holmwood@gmail.com with your contribution or for further information.

- **Mondays** - Musical Monday - 2pm during winter hours - St Mary Magdalene Church
- **Tuesdays** - Alpha Course - 6.45-9.00pm - St Mary Magdalene Church - See page 19 of this magazine
- **Fridays** - Bingo - 8pm - South Holmwood Village Hall
- **Wednesday** - Quiz night, - 7.30pm - South Holmwood Village Club
- **Saturday 20th June** - Karaoke - 8pm - South Holmwood Club
- **Saturday 27th June** - Serendipity concert - 7.00pm - St Mary Magdalene Church
- **Throughout June** - Artists' Open Studios - See page 34 of this magazine
- **Tuesday 14th July** - Taxi Day



Knowing where your nearest defibrillator (AED) is located can save a life.

In a cardiac arrest, every minute without a defibrillator reduces survival chances by around 10%.

We have a defibrillator outside **Holmwood Village Hall**, 2 Warwick Road, South Holmwood, RH5 4NP.

It is accessible 24 hours a day.

Directory: where to find people...

Holmwood Parish Council:

Chairman	Keith Carter	07803 260834
Vice Chairman	Rachel Snook	888673
	Ian Fairbrother	888071
	Mary Mansell	711998
	Robert Jordan	07802 446926
	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
Verger	Linda Pugh	712225
PCC Secretary	Linda Popple	883087
PCC Treasurer	Vacancy	
Musical Director, Organist, Church Archivist & Electoral Roll Officer	Mary Mansell	711998
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
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Alexandra Fairbrother	07384 451317
St Mary's Pre-School	Louise or Tina	07557 198867
Village Hall Bookings		889642
Doctors' Surgeries - Leith Hill Practice		711105
- Brockwood Medical Practice		885802

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



The Taxi Charity For Military Veterans

Annual Outing

Tuesday 14th July 2026

The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans will be holding their annual outing for military veterans and personnel to Worthing, via South Holmwood Village on Tuesday 14th July. They first came to the village in 1948 and many friendships have been made over the years.

The Taxis start to arrive at around 8am. Refreshments are provided for the veterans and taxi drivers in Holmwood Village Hall. The veterans are partial to a nice early morning pint and the taxi drivers a nice strong cup of tea!! After being refreshed, they then all gather, and the taxis leave the village around 11.30 am to travel to Worthing. They return to the Village from 5pm for more refreshments.

Volunteers to make it a day to remember for them are greatly appreciated. If you would be interested in maybe making a cake or similar, or helping on the day please contact :

Sue Fairbrother on 01306 888071 or Kathryn Tupper on 07748 980964 for more details.

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SOUTH HOLMWOOD VILLAGE CLUB

*We are your local Village Club
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Join us for
a fun night
of Karaoke

Saturday 20th June @8pm

BINGO

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1 book & 1 flyer costs £8.10

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Thatchers

Asahi

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

A: 2 Warwick Road, South Holmwood, RH5 4NP

E: info@shvc.co.uk

T: 01306889642 / 07748980964

// stay.froth.drama



HOLMWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@holmwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.holmwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk



PLAYGROUND

We hope you are enjoying the equipment now that summer is here. We have the park and play equipment checked regularly for safety and currently all is as it should be. We have completed the repair to the bench seat which was vandalised recently and are pleased with the result. We are also investigating buying some new equipment (a zip wire, perhaps), but funds are tight and equipment expensive. We will advise in due course.

REORGANISATION/DEVOLVEMENT OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

You may have seen that our Dorking Hills Ward new East Surrey Councillors elected on 7 May are Claire Malcomson and Abhiram Magesh. We wish them good luck for what is expected to be a very busy year for them whilst they help set up the new unitary authority.

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.

For bookings email info@shvc.co.uk, call 01306 889642 or Facebook [@southholmwoodvillageclub](https://www.facebook.com/southholmwoodvillageclub).

VACANT COUNCILLOR POSITION

James Afford has stood down and we would like to thank him for all his hard work and support over the last few years. However, James was also the vice-chair. Rachel Snook has been voted on to become the new vice-chair and we also wish her good luck taking on the extra responsibilities. As a consequence of these changes we are one short of a full Council and would like to ask anyone who would like to join the Council to let the clerk know by emailing her as above. We are a friendly bunch and if you think you may have something to bring to the table and would like to join us, please let us know. We meet once every two months and most of our work is not onerous on the individual councillors. We want your input and ideas for the good of the community.

McDONALDS

We still await a decision from MVDC on the application for a drive-in McDonalds on the A24 by Beare Green.

The results of local elections in Surrey were announced on 8th May. At Mole Valley, we were proud to see that all the existing Councillors who stood for seats on the East Surrey Shadow Authority were successful. Cllrs Stephen Cooksey and Bradley Nelson will represent Dorking and Cllrs Abhiram Magesh and Claire Malcomson will represent Dorking Hills. Now the hard work has begun – to plan for the amalgamation of all County Council, District and Borough Council services by next April. The first meeting of the East Surrey Shadow Authority took place on 20th May with Cllr Steve Wotton of Horley appointed as Leader. Two of your current Councillors, Claire and Bradley, have been appointed to the Cabinet, as has Abhiram, who will represent the expanded Ward including Holmwoods from next year. The aim of Local Government Reorganisation is to simplify and streamline services for residents, and I'm sure new Councillors and Officers from all the Councils will be working hard to achieve that aim.

Of course, Mole Valley District Council and Surrey County Council will continue to provide services until May 2027, and you can approach any of your current Councillors, Stephen (for SCC services), Claire, Bradley and me (for MVDC services), for help until then.

My Cabinet responsibilities include Waste, and I'm very pleased that from 31st March we have all been able to put more materials in our recycling bins. Did you know that you can now put **empty aerosol cans, rinsed cartons and tetrapaks, clean non-black plastic plant pots and empty toothpaste and puree tubes** in your recycling bins? If, like me, you sometimes find it hard to remember the rules, you can download a Service Guide with a helpful chart from the Mole Valley website, or ask for a copy at reception in Pippbrook Council offices.

Some more good news on local services is that the Banking Hub, currently being hosted in Pippbrook, will eventually move into the old NatWest building near Pump Corner. We don't yet have a date, but look out for developments. We know how difficult it has been for some residents to access banking services since so many local branches have closed, and I understand the Hub will have several banks offering services on different days of the week.

Rosemary

Councillor.Hobbs@molevalley.gov.uk



Surrey County Council News

About Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey

Local government in Surrey is changing to create a simpler, more connected system that can better meet local needs. From April 2027, the current county, district and borough councils will be replaced by two new unitary councils: East Surrey Council and West Surrey Council. Each will deliver all local services, including education, roads, waste collection, housing, planning, children's services, adult social care, leisure centres, play areas, and support for the countryside.

This change will reduce duplication, improve value for money, and bring services together under one organisation for each area.

Elections for the new councils took place on 7 May 2026, the elected councillors will now act as shadow authorities to oversee the transition.

Until April 2027, all services continue as normal, and residents should keep using the same council offices, websites and contact channels. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and Surrey Police continue to serve the whole county.

The reorganisation aims to strengthen local services and support sustainable finances.

Surrey is also working with government on plans for a Strategic Authority that could bring additional powers and funding to the county.

More information is available on the dedicated [Future Surrey website](#).

Over 700,000 Trees Have Now Been Planted Across the County

This tree planting season we have continued to work with partners, communities, schools, businesses and charities to plant over 49,000 trees and hedgerows, bringing the total number of trees planted in Surrey since the start of this initiative to 768, 832.

In 2019, we pledged to plant a total of 1.2 million trees by 2030, marking one for every resident. Planting trees has many benefits; trees produce oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, help regulate the water cycle, and provide habitat for wildlife, contributing to a healthier planet and improved quality of life.

With an impressive and busy tree planting season this year and five years still to go, we are on track to complete this target by 2030.

Show love for your library this year

Surrey Libraries are gearing up for an exciting year as they join the National Year of Reading 2026, a UK-wide celebration designed to help everyone rediscover the joy of reading. Led by the National Literacy Trust and supported by the Department for Education, this year's theme, "Go All In", invites communities to embrace reading in all its forms.

There are plenty of other services available. From free Wi-Fi and computer access to e-books and audiobooks, digital support sessions, and Super Access offering extended opening hours to warm, welcoming spaces. With over 2.6 million visits last year, Surrey Libraries offer a huge range of services for learning, wellbeing, and a place to be with and meet others right on your doorstep.

Throughout 2026, you can look forward to a vibrant programme of events and activities across 52 libraries. Each month, one library will take centre stage with a flagship event linked to the national campaign. While all branches will host themed workshops, family-friendly sessions and creative activities to inspire readers of every age and interest.

Whether you're into novels, comics, audiobooks, poetry, or a bit of everything, Surrey Libraries invite you to explore, connect, and celebrate reading throughout 2026.



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News From The Common



The National Trust Writes:

Early this year the National Trust launched its new ten-year strategy – you may have seen it on the news, or if you’re a National Trust member or volunteer, perhaps you have heard about it through other communications. The new strategy is the result of 18 months of consultation with over 70,000 people: members, visitors, volunteers, staff and partners.

At its core, there are three goals to achieve in the next 10 years:

- 1) to restore nature to create 250,000 hectares of nature-rich landscape;
- 2) to end unequal access to nature, beauty and history;
- 3) to inspire millions more people to care and take action to care for nature and the world around them.

The goal to restore nature is ambitious. 250,000 hectares of nature-rich landscape is an area roughly equivalent to one and half the times the size of Greater London. This is why working in partnership with other landowners, farmers and environmental organisations will be so important. The vision of the National Trust is to create a landscape where rivers flow clean, all peatland is restored, coastal systems are robust, and landscapes are connected.

At Holmwood Common our nature restoration objectives are to maintain and expand existing habitats; enhance and diversify existing habitats and create new biodiverse habitats. We are already doing this with the removal of invasive species, managing shrubs, planting hedgerows and using different conservation techniques. A great example of this is using heavy horses on the grassland to help encourage plant diversity.

Looking to the future, plans to create more biodiverse habitats could include restore existing ponds and maintaining existing glades and rides to become more species rich.

Also, here is a link to a free talk at Leith Hill Place on Saturday 13 June. Entry to the house is free, and the talk is free, but we would ask that people book if they would like to come as spaces are limited (plus we need to know how many scones to bake!) [T-Time Talk: Holmwood Common: Uses and Abuses through the centuries with historian Kathy Atherton | National Trust](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/surrey/leith-hill/events) (or [www/https://nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/surrey/leith-hill/events](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/surrey/leith-hill/events))

FRIENDS OF HOLMWOOD COMMON

As I predicted last month the bluebells have been superb . As I write this in late April there are carpets of blue all over the Common. We had a visit from the Heavy Horses on Willow Green and, I am glad to say , will be returning. Look out for the signs that Judith will undoubtedly be posting nearer the time of their return.

By the time you read this we will have had our Spring Event in St Mary Magdelene's Church in South Holmwood. I'm hoping it went well! If you missed it I do recommend a visit to the Church where events take place quite frequently. Just a visit will be very pleasant as the interior is, in my opinion, quite beautiful.

I heard a cuckoo just a few days ago but it seems to have given up calling. Look out for publicity for our event in June which will be close to midsummer. It is likely to be on the 20th June on the old cricket pitch near the Inholms Lane car park.

Enjoy the spring/summer weather.

Nick Freeborough
Chairman of the Friends of Holmwood Common Committee



New Notice Board at St Mary Magdalene Church.

You may have spotted the beautiful new notice board in the church yard. This was brought about by a wonderful community collaboration between The Men's Shed, The Weald School, and St Mary Magdalene Church. Over several months a group of young people from school worked with volunteers from The Men's Shed, and were taught skills that they can take with them into their adult life.



The Weald Woodwork Team.

We are The Weald woodwork team - Bertie, Reece, Dennis and Solomon. We go to a weekly woodwork lesson to learn lots of new skills, such as dovetail joints, cutting, drilling, varnishing etc... This group is run by amazing volunteers from Dorking Men's Shed, Tony and Keith. We were asked by Reverend Jane to produce a new wooden notice board for St Mary Magdalene Church. We developed lots of skills while making this project. There was

a lot of measuring and sawing! We learnt how to make frames to hold the polycarbonate and how to add hinges. We also took turns varnishing the finished noticeboard. When designing it we had to think about the sizing of the wood and making sure that it was waterproof (we added a mini roof to protect it). We worked together well as a team and all took turns. It would not have been completed on time if we hadn't worked together. We were very proud when we saw the noticeboard at the Church and it made us very happy. We hope the community enjoy using it and we feel very excited to see it being used.

The woodwork project had a significant and positive impact on the pupils, both in terms of practical skills and personal development. Working on a real commission gave these skills purpose and seeing their finished noticeboard gave them a strong sense of achievement and pride. The official opening of the noticeboard reinforced the idea that their hard work matters. This kind of recognition can motivate pupils to take on future challenges with enthusiasm and resilience.



Holmwood History

In what we hope will be a regular feature, this edition's historical photograph shows the lane leading up the hill past Folly Farm at the end of Folly Lane.



It was taken in 1906, but the building behind the horse in the photo dates back several hundred years when there was first a farm on the land.

The lane pictured here – and the woodland path just in view – are still on Folly Farm land, but provide a public bridleway for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists to access and enjoy Redland Woods, Coldharbour and Leith Hill. A little further up the path and now out of sight, is the point at which the Roman road Stane Street intersected as it made its way south from London Bridge to Chichester.

If anyone has an interesting historical photograph of Holmwood they'd like us to feature, do please send it in.

HELPING LONELY AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE ON OUR DOORSTEP



The Meeting Room charity covers Leatherhead, Dorking, Ashted and Epsom areas. It provides drop-in centres, home-cooked meals, counselling and out-reach services. All kinds of invaluable help for the many homeless, vulnerable, and socially isolated adults in our community are provided. Unseen and largely unnoticed, these people can remain unsupported despite the best intentions of our local authorities and other specialist charities. The Meeting Room provides a warm welcome and a ‘family’ to be part of for people who are lonely, overwhelmed or in crisis.

As one of the Meeting Room clients - Jason, 52 – said recently:
“The Meeting Room helped me out of a very dark place. I’ve met friends who understand; I have somewhere safe to be, and kind people to help me”

Paul, chairman of trustees, explains:

The Meeting Room is often the first port of call – and an ongoing community – for many. Those who find themselves homeless, suffering with loneliness and social exclusion, or who are struggling with mental health problems, poverty, or addiction issues are welcome. A place just to ‘be’ and to get help, to be respected, where you’re not judged and can find the friendly company, signposting and support you need. It’s a simple concept but crucial for so many people – from all sorts of backgrounds - and never more so than in the current climate of hardship and division.

Lisa, The Meeting Room’s manager, tells this story:

A long-term and very regular client of ours recently died. She’d had problems with obesity, hoarding and social exclusion. After her death, we received a message from her son who we’d never met. He wrote ‘My mother was someone who found it hard to socialise or make friends in the usual ways. The Meeting Room gave her a richer life and she was so happy that she had found a community to which she could be a part of’. I think this sums up why we are here. We listen, we care, we encourage the group to support each other and individuals to thrive. We’re a family.

Emma, a client support worker, adds:

I’ve joined The Meeting Room fairly recently and it has surprised me how many people need our help, but how much we CAN help them, simply by welcoming them into our group. We listen without judging, provide a hot home-cooked meal, and have the skills, contact and patience, to make things better for them. Some of our clients have been coming to us for years. Others might only be with

us for a short time while they are in crisis, but everyone is welcome and everyone benefits, including us. We believe in helping the most vulnerable in society – no questions asked – and that’s what we strive to do.

VOLUNTEERING

The Meeting Room Charity relies on a small group of passionate volunteers, who attend drop-ins to chat to clients, organize activities, assist with admin issues, come on walks or cook lunches and puddings.

Long-standing volunteer cook Mary explains why she enjoys volunteering: I love cooking for The Meeting Room. Being part of the team, getting to know the clients. And the joy on the faces of everyone as they tuck into a home-cooked lunch around the table is priceless! It’s great that I can choose my days to suit my diary – and cook everything in advance in my own kitchen.

The Meeting Room charity

- Meets weekly at Leatherhead Football Club (Monday), Ashted Baptist Church (Tuesday) & Kings Church Epsom (Thursday)
- Provides a hot, home-cooked, two-course lunch and limitless hot drinks and biscuits at every drop-in
- Provides help with counselling, benefits, personal and health issues, finance, food and accommodation challenges
- Offers activities both at the drop-ins – games, quizzes and crafting - and out and about – theatre trips, walks, table tennis, camping breaks and visits to London and the sea-side. Christmas parties, birthday celebrations and summer BBQs are regular events in the calendar.
- Works closely with Leatherhead Start night hostel, the Community Fridge and Foodbank, Mary Francis mental health charity, MVDC, Surrey County Council and all our local churches and GP practices

The charity relies solely on donations, grants and volunteer support. It needs regular help to keep it going and to meet its goals of helping more people and helping people more.

Please visit the website www.meetingroom.org to see how you can support THE MEETING ROOM in the future, financially or by becoming a volunteer. Also, please do refer anyone you think could be helped by support from The Meeting Room.

Jane's Jottings



Revd Jane Schofield

Dear friends,

As I write this, my heart is still full of joy from our Easter celebrations here in The Holmwoods. It was a wonderful sight to see the church so full as we gathered to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is something profoundly uplifting about being together in such numbers, voices raised in song, sharing in the hope

and life that Easter proclaims. After the quiet reflection of Lent, the brightness and energy of Easter morning felt all the more powerful.

That sense of joy and community carried beautifully into our recent “Swing into Spring” concert. What a fabulous evening it was! The Leith Hill Big Band brought such energy and flair, filling the space with music that had toes tapping and spirits soaring, even dancing in the aisles! It was fantastic. Events like this remind us that our churches are not only places of worship, but also places of gathering, creativity, and shared celebration. Thank you to everyone who helped organise and support the evening - it truly was a delight.

And as spring unfolds around us, with blossom on the trees and longer, lighter days, we look ahead to summer with excitement to all that is to come. There are many events planned in the months ahead - services, community gatherings, concerts, and opportunities to connect. Whether you are a regular or someone who hasn't been to church for a while, you will find a warm welcome. These moments of coming together matter more than ever; they build friendships, strengthen our community, and remind us that we do not journey alone.

The Bible is full of encouragement to rejoice and celebrate, and one verse feels especially fitting at this time of year: “Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.” (Psalm 149:3) There is something wonderfully freeing about that image - people praising God not just with words, but with movement, music, and joy. It captures the spirit of Easter and of this season: a time to celebrate life, hope, and new beginnings with all that we are.

Of course, the joy we celebrate at Easter has a deeper source. It springs from the good news of Jesus Christ - his love, his sacrifice, and his promise of new life for all. If you find yourself wondering about the reason for this joy, or if you

have questions about the Christian faith, you might consider joining our next Alpha course. Alpha is a relaxed and friendly space where we explore life, faith, and meaning together, with plenty of opportunity to ask questions and share perspectives. There is no pressure, no expectation - just conversation and discovery.

As we move further into this hopeful season, my prayer is that each of us may find moments of joy, connection, and peace. Whether through music, friendship, worship, or simply the beauty of the natural world around us, may we be reminded of the goodness of life and the love that sustains us. With every blessing,

Yours warmly,
Jane



Alpha Course at St Mary Magdalene Church

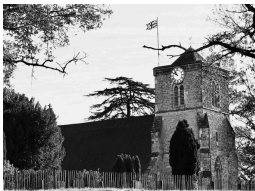
Are you curious about life, faith, and meaning? Join us for the Alpha Course at St Mary Magdalene Church, where you'll find a welcoming space to explore big questions and engage in honest conversations. No matter your background or beliefs, Alpha is designed for everyone - whether you're just interested or looking to reconnect.

The course kicks off on Tuesday, 2nd June, running every Tuesday evening from 6.45pm to around 9.00pm. Each session includes a meal, a short film, and plenty of time for open discussion in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. It's entirely free and there's no pressure - just an opportunity to meet new people and share your thoughts.

Bring a friend or come on your own; you'll be made to feel right at home. Don't miss this chance to explore faith in a fresh, informal way. For more information or to register, contact Revjane@stmmh.org.uk or call 07771591457, or just turn up.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR THE PARISH OF HOLMWOOD INCLUDING BEARE GREEN

At St Mary Magdalene Church



Sundays	10 am Parish Eucharist.
Wednesdays	9.30 am - Midweek informal communion EXCEPT first Wednesday monthly 11.30 am with lunch.



THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, HOLMWOOD.

THE ENTERTAINMENT JUST KEEPS ON COMING AND COMING

The Friends are very proud to present for our next concert “THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC”, a farewell concert by Serendipity, on Saturday 27th June at 7.00pm in the Church. Tickets are £15.00 with refreshments included.

This is a must see event, although tinged with a little hint of sadness. Because this is Serendipity’s farewell concert with the band ending after over 25 years of entertaining, with their own particular style of music and presentation. Over the years Serendipity have performed at the Church on numerous occasions including summer and xmas concerts and have helped us raise many thousands of pounds to help with the upkeep of our magnificent Church.

But this is the last one! So we must all join together to celebrate and give the band a right royal send off! So get that date in the dairy.

So far this year we have raised over £2000 from concerts and membership subscriptions. Many of you who attended “Swing into Spring” in April have told me how enjoyable that event was. The dancing in the aisles was a sight to see!. At the time of writing we are eagerly anticipating the performance by TJ MAC on Sunday 17th May, which we hope will continue to help us raise money for the church.

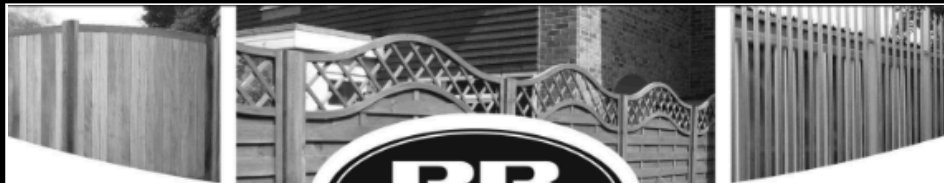
If you are not a member and want to become one, or you simply want to make a donation either contact myself (John.a.morris@aol.co.uk) or Pam Chiverton (pam.chiverton @btinternet.-com) and we will be only too happy to “take your money”!!

In the meantime get our Serendipity concert in the diary and lets look forward to a great summer!

All the very best

John

John Morris - Chair of the Friends.



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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 regularly review their professional practice, adapting and updating 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').

** Our annual open day for prospective parents will take place on Wednesday 17th June 2026 9am until 10:30am, no appointment necessary **

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 has been an eventful term at The Weald. As always, it has been very busy! Our children have continued to experience a range of different

learning experiences this term. These have included our year 5 children visiting the Sky broadcasting studios in London. They had an opportunity to go behind the scenes and learn how programmes are made. The pupils also made their own films. As always, it is one of the highlights of the year for the children.

Other recent highlights include our year 3 and 4 children experiencing a recent school enquiry called –‘How can we protect our oceans?’ This involved planning a really successful green awareness week. They worked very closely with our Forest School leader, Victoria. Our outdoor forest school area is nearing completion thanks to Victoria’s hard work. We have even built platforms for children to sit and use binoculars to watch the birds!

One of my personal highlights has been developing a formula 1 racing team called ‘The Weald Raptors’. The team have built their own racing car and are currently travelling around the racing tracks of Surrey competing against other schools and teams. Our first resulted in the team finishing second out of 18 teams. I was so proud of them all. A huge thank you to Jon Harris and his team of parent helpers, who are supporting the pupils. They are doing a superb job. We are heading to the Goodwood Festival of Speed in the near future, hopefully to meet Lewis Hamilton!

We also had a former British and Olympic sprinter recently visit the school. James Dasaolu gave a series of motivational presentations to our children, as well as engaging them in a range of physical activities. A great day was had by all.

As always, we had a wonderful Easter Pause Day at St Mary Magdalene church. It was an absolute joy to celebrate Easter alongside Reverend Jane and our wonderful ‘Open The Book’ volunteers. Thank you to all the volunteers involved.

In late February our year 5 and 6 pupils visited The Spike in Guildford. This formed part of the enquiry ‘How can science help the vulnerable?’ This provided opportunities to become historians and learn about how people slept rough in Victorian Britain.

Our athletes, as always, represented the school superbly. This was typified by our year 5 and 6 girls finishing third in a rugby tournament which included all schools across Dorking and the surrounding area.

And finally, our year 6 pupils recently attended the annual Junior Citizenship event in Surrey. This provided them with an opportunity to learn about how to be a good citizen. They learnt about rail and water safety, whilst also deepening their understanding about basic first aid.

James Baguley
Headteacher



**This absolutely beautiful poem was written by year 6 pupil, Soren, from
The Weald school**

LIFE

by Soren

When honour is unleashed upon fairness
Be the load which balances the best of the sides
When conflict is struck upon the hearts of others
Be the glimmering light which shields the good of the world.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass
Its about learning to dance in the rain
When life isn't the best move on
Away from the hideous past.

When foes or friends look down upon you
Stand tall and guide your virtue into the light
Be bold
Don't hide in the shadow of bullies.

When disrespect seeks your attention, go on past it
What's stopping you
When the doom of the world requires you
Resist the resistible!

As you move through life, time speeds by
So appreciate the rights and privileges of life
Wealth does not buy you love
But spending time with others does.



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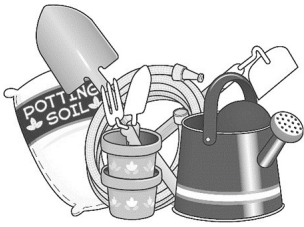
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A few things to do in the garden



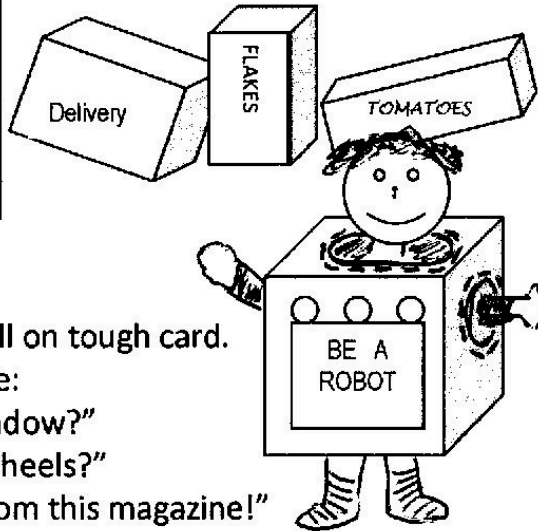
- **Train Tomatoes** Train cordon tomatoes by pinching out the side-shoots that sprout from the joints between the leaves and the main stem. With bush tomatoes, let them develop naturally by leaving the side-shoots unpruned.
- **Plant Out Sweetcorn** Promote good wind pollination by planting sweetcorn in blocks with around 40cm between plants. Early in the month direct sow two seeds per hole.
- **Be Water Wise** Re-use grey water from the kitchen, allow it to cool before giving it to your plants and avoid using softened water or any containing harsh detergents. Rain water collected in water butts is preferable to any other!
- **Harvest First Early potatoes** Wait until flowers open or buds drop, then gently scoop away some soil to check on the size of the tubers. harvest when the size of a hen's egg - cover them back over if not yet big enough.
- **Protect Fruit Crops** Birds enjoy your tasty soft fruits, so protect with netting stretched over a framework. Ensure netting is free of holes and kept taut to avoid trapping birds and other wildlife.
- **Compost Grass Clippings** Add clippings in thin layers to avoid compost becoming slimy and smelly. Aim for 30-50% green waste and 50-70% dry material, like woody prunings.
- **Sow Runner Beans** Once your supports are in, you can sow 2 seeds at the base of each cane, thinning to one plant later, or plant out seedlings raised under cover once all risk of frost has passed.



CRAFTY CORNER

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

Make use of unwanted boxes before they go in the recycling bin!



Rules

ADULTS do the cutting.

A serrated knife works well on tough card.

KIDS help design and make:

"Where shall we put a window?"

"Can you draw on some wheels?"

"Stick on some pictures from this magazine!"

BE QUICK: the best part is the imaginative play that follows.

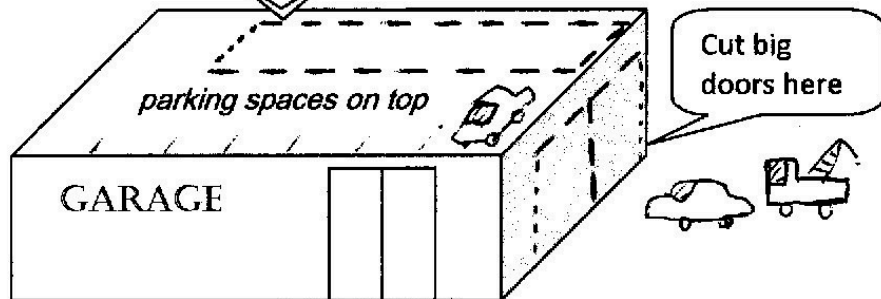
And don't expect it to last forever!

Cut a strip and fold down to make a ramp

KEY to images

--- --- --- cut lines

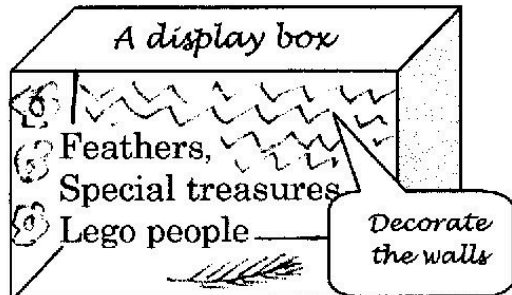
..... score lines

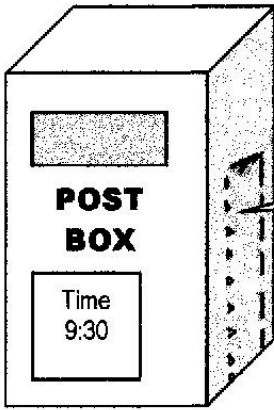


Be a squirrel:

Keep a box with some old magazines, wrapping paper, thin card, egg-boxes, fabric & wool scraps..

Scissors & glue too!



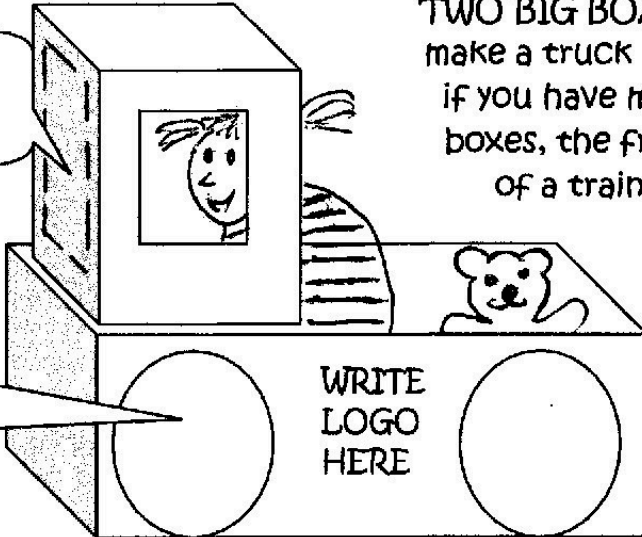


Use old envelopes or cut up some paper or card

Cut a door on the side or back so the post can be collected

Write letters, make stamps,
Post letters, cards, parcels..
Collect and deliver them.
Write replies... REPEAT!

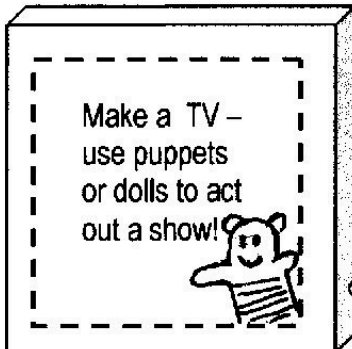
Cut out a windscreen



TWO BIG BOXES
make a truck .. or
if you have more
boxes, the front
of a train

Draw or
stick on
wheels

**WRITE
LOGO
HERE**



*Better than
the real thing*

THINKING AHEAD ...

*If you go to the beach
collect a few pebbles
or shells for some
crafty activity ideas
over the summer!*

CUBS & SCOUTS

24th Dorking Scouts: A Term Full of Adventure and Celebration

It has been another busy and exciting term for 24th Dorking Scouts, with plenty to celebrate and even more adventure along the way.

This term has been particularly special as we marked a major milestone in our history. While it is 40 years since we became 24th Dorking in 1986, our roots go all the way back to 1909 as 1st Holmwood. To celebrate, our older sections came together for a fantastic joint camp, bringing Cubs, Scouts and Explorers together to mark the occasion — and, of course, enjoy a well-deserved slice of cake (we think any excuse for cake is a good one!). The camp was a wonderful opportunity to connect across sections and try new activities, including rifle shooting.

Earlier in the term, we were also proud to take part in the Dorking St George's Day celebrations, where our young people renewed their promises to do their best as part of the worldwide Scout movement. It was an especially proud moment for our group, as our Cub Pack was awarded Cub Pack of the Year, and two of our adult volunteers, Holly and Lynne, were recognised for their exceptional service to Scouting.

Our youngest members, **The Squirrels**, have had a busy and engaging term. They have been working towards their Community Impact Badge, alongside activities for their Let It Grow and Navigator badges. They are now looking forward to an exciting end to the term, including a play camp, a group hike and, of course, an end of term party before the summer break.

The Beavers have been making great progress as they work towards their Adventure Challenge Award, alongside badgework focused on exploration and navigation. Many residents may have spotted us out in the village practising the Green Cross Code earlier this term. Since then, Beavers have moved on to learning basic navigation skills, including using compasses and simple coordinates. Their programme has been packed with outdoor adventure, from kite making and flying to den building, treasure hunts and water-based problem-solving. Looking ahead, they are excited to try orienteering, enjoy a group hike, and round off the term with a visit to High Ashurst for some adventurous activities.

It has been a fantastic term for our **Cubs**, who are delighted to have been named Cub Pack of the Year 2026. They have already enjoyed a visit to Dorking Museum and even had the chance to try skiing. The summer term is always a favourite, with plenty of time spent outdoors in South Holmwood — building dens, learning to light fires safely, and cooking over them.

The Scouts have had a packed programme full of challenge and fun. A highlight of the term was our themed “Traitors Camp”, inspired by the popular TV show, complete with a surprise visit from “Claudia Winkleman”! It was a weekend full of teamwork, problem-solving and plenty of laughter.

Scouts have also been developing important skills for life, including building survival shelters, cooking on open fires and creating survival kits, all of which help build resilience, confidence and teamwork. They are currently working hard to raise funds for an exciting international trip to Kandersteg in Switzerland, and we would like to thank everyone who supported the Capel Dine and Bingo evening — your generosity is hugely appreciated. Looking ahead, Scouts are excited to take part in the Capel Show and support the local Tennis Club by serving breakfast during their event.

Our **Explorers** have also had a busy and rewarding term. They proudly represented Scouting at the St George’s Day service and have been honing their navigation skills too alongside a creative photography project in Dorking Park — and even a very popular local chip shop survey! They joined Cubs and Scouts at Walton Firs Activity Camp, taking on challenges such as air rifle shooting, GPS navigation and team-based activities. We are especially proud to celebrate one of our Explorers achieving the Platinum Chief Scout’s Award, recognising years of dedication, community involvement and leadership.

As always, we are incredibly proud of all our young people. Their enthusiasm, kindness and determination shine through in everything they do, and we look forward to another term full of adventure.

We are currently in urgent need of additional Team Members for our Beaver Section. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in a fun, supportive team and make a real difference to young people in our local community. No prior experience is necessary — full training and support are provided — just a willingness to get involved and help deliver activities. Volunteering with Scouts is incredibly rewarding, offering the chance to build skills, make new friends and give something back. At Scouts, we believe in helping to create “better people for a better world”, and our volunteers are at the heart of making that happen.

If you would like to find out more or get involved, please contact Alex Fairbrother

Alexandra Fairbrother
Group Scout Leader
24th Dorking (Holmwood & Capel)
Mob: 07384 451 317
gsl24dorking@gmail.com

DORKING CONCERTGOERS SOCIETY



The Concertgoers 2026 – 2027 season commences with two concerts in **St. Martin’s Church, Dorking**

Saturday, 3rd. October; Elin Manahan Thomas (Soprano) and Elizabeth Kenny (Lute)

Saturday, 24th. October: JKL Duo - Kerry Lynch (Flute, Whistle, Bodhran) and Jacopo Lazzaretti (Guitar)

These concerts will take place in St. Martin’s Church because Dorking Halls will be closed until late November.

The season continues with concerts back in **Dorking Halls** in 2027 :-

English Chamber Orchestra - Saturday, 16th January

Sacconi String Quartet - Sunday, 7th February; Sunday, 28th February and Sunday 21st.March

The Cory Band - Saturday, 8th May

Further information on these and Dorking Concertgoers’ presentations from John Chiverton, john.chiverton@btinternet.com or 01306 888922



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🌱 **FREE SEED HEAD WORKSHOP:** Sat 13th June, 12pm–3pm.

All abilities welcome.

OPEN: 11am–5pm on June 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20 & 21 (closes 4pm on 21st). Part of the Around Dorking Art Trail. New members welcome!

weyceramics.co.uk | @weyceramics



POTERIE A LA CARTE

Stevie Carter, a retired teacher-turned-potter.

I work in a small studio (aka crowded shed) in my garden and make individual items of slip-decorated domestic ware. I also enjoy making small quirky pieces for the garden. Items are stoneware-fired which makes them durable. I sell my work throughout the year at various local fairs and markets and for one weekend in June, I will be opening my studio and part of the garden. There will be a display of my work and opportunities for all ages to have a go at various pottery techniques.

So come to Betchetts Green Road in South Holmwood and follow the signs: I look forward to welcoming you between **11am - 5pm** on **Sat 13th & Sun 14th June**



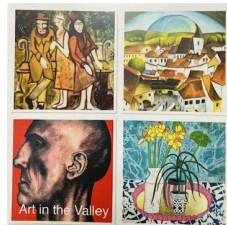
poteriealacarte.co.uk
@poteriealacarte

ART IN THE VALLEY

Art in the Valley is a group of creative artists who work either collaboratively or individually. We are Kep Nowson, Phil Randles, Jana Bowhill & Heidi Rice. Our work includes ceramics / paintings / drawings / collage / digital printing / sculpture

Our exhibition is open on the following days from 11.00am to 5pm: June 6th, 7th, 12th - 14th, 19th - 21st (However, viewing can be arranged out of these times by arrangement - please call 01306 889058 to arrange)

Our studio is at Cherry Tree Cottage, Brook Valley, Mid Holmwood, RH5 4EZ. We look forward to seeing you.





DORKING MUSEUM IN JUNE AND JULY

‘Dorking: Cycling capital of England’: Dorking Museum’s summer exhibition traces the contribution that Dorking has made, and continues to make, to the development of cycling nationally. Dorking has been at the forefront of both leisure and competitive cycling from its earliest days. Cycling clubs provided not just companionship for touring but also competition. From 1887, Dorking Cycling Club held twice weekly club runs throughout the summer and members took part in early track and road races. Cycling also gave women independence – one campaigner described it as ‘nothing short of a social revolution’. It also had a long-term influence on their dress – although in 1898 a Dorking landlord made the national papers by refusing to admit a female cyclist in ‘bloomers’.



How different that all was to the cycling events that now seem a regular part of Dorking life. The exhibition traces the story from the earlier history of cycling in Dorking to the 2012 Olympics, the Tour of Britain and the worldwide reputation of the Zig Zag. The Museum’s ‘penny-farthing’ bicycle, always a popular attraction, is now joined by an original ‘boneshaker’, the first type of true bicycle with pedals, which was called velocipede by its manufacturers. The exhibition features a wealth of information, photos and exhibits, including cycling medals and a banner from the Olympics.



Now and Then

← →

Boneshaker



Walking in Dorking: Enjoy one (or more) of our popular guided walks in and around the town.

- Dorking’s Historic Pubs: The walk includes former and current pub sites, with tales of their services, owners and customers. Saturday 6th June, 6pm.
- Hidden Dorking: Features of Dorking that you may have missed before: Sundays 14 June, 12 July, 2pm.
- Betchworth Castle with exclusive access to the Castle enclosure: Sundays 14 June, 12 July, 2pm.

- Blue plaques and statues walk featuring many of the famous people living in or associated with the town: Sunday 14th June, 2pm.
- The Deepdene Trail with exclusive access to the Hope family mausoleum: Sundays 21 June, 19 July, 2pm.
- Architecture on Dorking's main streets – four centuries of building styles: Sunday 19th July, 2pm.

Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for details and booking of scheduled walks (please book in advance). Private group bookings are also available.

South Street Caves Tours: South Street Caves tours: One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets, where a series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level. Open days are on Saturdays 6th June and 4th July, tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each lasting about 45 minutes and led by a trained guide. For details and monthly open day bookings (which sell out fast!) see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/.

Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk to arrange a date.



Family Activities at Dorking Library: Local Community History Month: Can you put the objects from the museum in age order? Can you guess what the mystery items were used for? Saturday 13th June, 10am-noon. The World Cup is here!: A football author will give a talk to families at 10.30 on Saturday 20th June, with the Museum's 'blow football' game and display about the historic Shrove Tuesday High Street football games at 1130am-2pm. 'There's a monster in the Caves!': If there was a friendly monster living in Dorking Caves, what might it look like and where would it eat, sleep, hide and have fun with friends? At Dorking Library, St. Martin's Walk. Free, 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. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities for further details.

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street. Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry, www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Visit dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/. 01306 876591.



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:

- **Chilworth's Mills:** Live talk by Colin Rumary about the Gunpowder Mills in Chilworth that were operational from the 1620s until 1920, being most extensive and productive in the 17th century and from the 1880s to the end of World War I. Monday 1st June at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **Brookwood Cemetery and The London Necropolis Railway:** Zoom talk by Nick Richmond about the largest cemetery in the UK, built at the height of Victorian cemetery design in 1854, but including tombs dating back to the 11th century. It was so large that it had its own railway line and station, "The London Necropolis Line", to carry thousands of coffins. Monday 15th June 7.30pm, <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.
- **Restoring the Art Deco Richmond Station:** Live talk by Benny O'Looney, a practicing architect and a teacher at the prestigious Architectural Association, who led the restoration of this fabulous art deco building. Monday 6th July (details as above).

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

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RECIPE PAGE

This issue's seasonal recipe is from Harriet – village resident and family cook

SUMMER SPANISH CHICKEN (Based on Jamie Oliver original - thank you Jamie!)

With tomatoes, new potatoes & chorizo

Serves 4 - 1 hour to prep and cook, can be made the day before and reheated

Simple to make & great for sharing, this colourful and tasty one-pot dish is bursting with summer flavours and perfect for lunch or supper. It's so easy to cook and looks great too!

Ingredients:

800g baby new potatoes

8 x chicken thighs (skin on, bone in)

100g chorizo sausage (spicy or regular), Lidl do a great one!

600g mixed – size & colour – tomatoes

Bunch of mixed fresh herbs e.g. Flat parsley, rosemary, basil, coriander, oregano – you choose!

Juice of half a lemon (save the other half for your salad dressing)

Jar of red pesto or sundried tomato paste

Smoked paprika, cumin seeds, chilli flakes – all optional

Method:

Scrub the potatoes (halve the bigger ones) and par-boil in salted water for 10 mins. Drain and set aside.

Rub the chicken thighs all over with olive oil and season with salt & pepper. Place skin side down in a large wide casserole dish on a medium/high heat for about 10 mins until the skin is golden brown, turn over and leave in the pan on a low heat.

Chop up all the herbs and in a small bowl, mix with 3 table spoons of olive oil, the juice of half a lemon – and (optional) a teaspoon each of cumin seeds and smoked paprika. Pinch of chilli flakes if you like a little kick. Leave to steep.

Slice the chorizo into rings (not too thick) and sprinkle into the chicken pan, with the drained potatoes and then spoon in the jar of red pesto around the chicken. Add the tomatoes – whole if they're cherry toms, halved or quartered for any others. Spoon in half of the herby mixture and gently stir everything in together. Then, using tongs, turn the chicken thighs so they are all skin side up in a single layer and pop in the oven to cook for about 40 mins until the chicken is falling off the bone. Leave the lid on for the first 30 mins, taking it off for the final 10.

Drizzle over the remaining herby mix, twist of black pepper and serve straight from the pan, using the cooking juices as the sauce, with crusty bread and a crunchy green salad on the side

TIPS:

Make sure your chicken is room temp not fridge cold before you start.

Weights don't need to be accurate and you can add more chicken thighs & tomatoes/chorizo if you have a bigger crowd.

If you have a pestle and mortar, you can pound the herby sauce in there, so it's more of a paste.

Keep an eye on the chicken dish when it's in the oven – you don't want the chorizo or chicken skin to burn.


Avocado, blanched beans and asparagus all make a lovely addition to a green lettuce salad.

For your salad dressing, put olive oil, the juice from the other half of the lemon, honey, mustard and a minced or grated garlic clove (optional) into a jam jar and shake it up just before using.



canine capers

St Mary Magdalene church and others
are organising this extravaganza for
dogs and their families.


DATE - 
Saturday 18th July


TIME - 
12-4 pm -
classes start at 1 pm


PLACE - 
the Old School Field

**FUN FOR
DOGS AND
THEIR
FAMILIES!** 




 10 classes for your
dogs to enter


 plus cream teas

 lucky water dip
for dogs




 bandana and bow tie
stall for your
magnificent hounds



 have a go crafts
for children



 bbq, bar
and much
much more.

