

AUTUMN 24

# PARISH MATTERS

ST MARY'S  
CHURCH  
MERTON

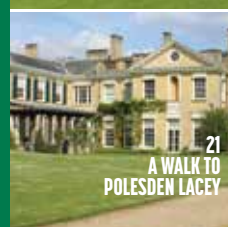
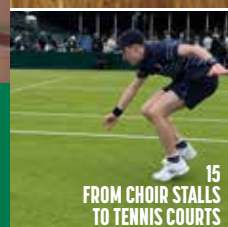


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This edition draws attention to some of the challenges in the natural world around Merton Park relating especially to hornets and stag beetles. There are profiles of long term Merton Park resident Lord Singh of Wimbledon and one of the ball boys at the All England Tennis Championships.

Alongside regular features about Surrey walks, recommended books and stained glass windows in St Mary's church, Judith Berwesden reflects on Harvest. Two local businesses are featured as well as an appeal for more volunteers to help with the various Scout groups so that the long tradition of scouting in Merton Park may continue to flourish.

Richard Price  
Editor

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## Stag beetles in Merton Park – an increasingly rare sight

Flying haphazardly, usually between mid-May and late July, disconcertingly at face height, male stag beetles can be a spectacular sight with their impressive antlers. Adrian Berry is a big fan.

Stag beetles are 'crepuscular' insects (active mainly at twilight) and are drawn to light but you may also see them walking on roads and pavements where they are attracted to the warmth. So be careful where you tread!

These beautiful, intimidating creatures are often seen flying in the early evening on the hunt for females, and looking for the opportunity to mate, multiple times.

This flight is the culmination of an extraordinary process. Stag beetles live from three to seven years. Most of this time is spent as larva underground, digging tunnels in the rotting wood they feed on, preferably oak but also other broad leaf species. Females lay up to 30 eggs in the dead wood or nearby soil. These hatch after about three weeks and the spectacular larvae spend several years feeding on the rotting wood. The more decayed the wood the quicker the process to pupation and to adulthood. Pupation takes about six weeks. The transformed adult remains underground until May or June when the temperature is right and warm summer rains have made the ground softer. Adult males emerge first and only survive for a few weeks living on sweet fluids such as tree sap and decomposing fruit. They usually die soon after mating and egg laying, usually by August.

Females can fly but are more likely to be seen on the ground looking for suitable egg laying spots. They tend to return to where they were hatched to lay their own brood – not moving far unless they have to.

Males can measure up to 7.5cm long, including their antlers (mandibles), their size determined by the quality of the food available as a larva. The larva itself can be up to an impressive 11cm. The female beetle is generally half the size of the male and lacks the mandibles. It is the largest beetle in the whole of Europe!

The male's large antler-like jaws are used to battle each other for access to the females during the breeding season, as a male deer does during rutting, which is where the 'Stag' beetle gets its name. They are used as a warning to other males in aggressive or defensive postures and for wrestling an opponent to dislodge it from its 'perch', the largest individual almost always winning. They are also used, less combatively, to woo the female in courtship displays circling with the mandibles open and raised.

Stag beetles are harmless and you can safely move them out of danger's way, although they do tend to cling tightly to whatever they are on. Males can move their mandibles to give a gentle pinch whereas the females' jaws are a bit stronger. They could pinch but they aren't aggressive.

We are extremely lucky in Merton and southwest London as this is a stag beetle 'hot spot'. But sadly, numbers are diminishing and we have seen decades of decline. This is partly due to habitat loss from tidying of woodland, parks and gardens. They also face predation from crows and magpies and sadly the growing population of domestic cats.

In the UK they live mainly in the south, with Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath designated European areas for conservation. A priority species for UK conservation, they are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

### How can you help?

Provide a dead wood pile – burying some underground.

Move beetles to a safer spot if vulnerable.

Record sightings on the Great Stag Hunt website – [stagbeetles.ptes.org](http://stagbeetles.ptes.org)

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Amanda Berry asks...

## Do you know your hornets?

You may have read or heard in the press about the 'invasion of the Asian hornets'. Not all of it accurate and some of it fairly sensationalist. However, what is true is that Asian hornets are not native and may soon become established in the UK as they have in France.

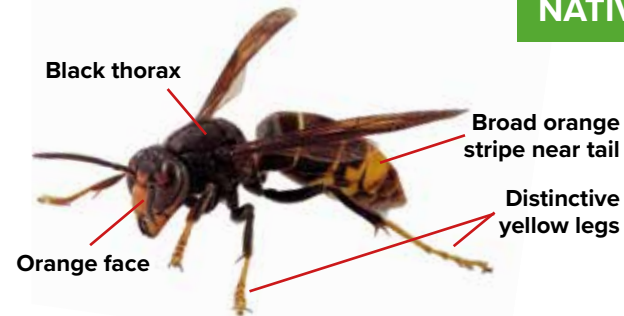
They are highly effective predators of insects, including honey bees and other beneficial species, and will likely cause significant losses to bee colonies, and other native species. It is important for everyone to know what they look like and to tell them apart from our beautiful native insect – the European hornet.

Also known as the yellow-legged hornet, the Asian hornet is active mainly between April and November but peaking in September.

**If you spot an Asian Hornet, you should report it, preferably with a photo, by email to [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) Alternatively there is a free 'app' that you can use.**

### European hornets

Despite its fearsome reputation, this native insect is much less aggressive than its smaller cousin, the common wasp. Though if you spot a nest, leave well alone as you might get a nasty sting! The European hornet can be seen in a variety of habitats including woodland, grassland and urban areas – and is often spotted in and around Merton Park.



### Asian hornets

Although no Asian hornets have been spotted in this area yet, autumn is the time when they may be feeding on flowers and fallen fruit and hunting for insects. Please keep an eye out.

## WE DON'T WANT

NON-NATIVE ASIAN HORNETS



# Scouting around for Volunteers

Richard Price discovers the history of scouting in Merton



Scouting in Merton Park has a long and proud tradition. In 1910 The vicar of Merton, keen to establish a local scout group following the publication two years earlier of Baden-Powell’s book “Scouting for Boys”, persuaded two local brothers to take on this initiative. Eight boys joined up and met at Old Church House opposite the Parish Church. Three years later the boys went on their first summer camp and in 1916 a cubs pack was formed for younger boys.

For the next 50 years three different local scout groups became active locally, but given the challenge of finding enough permanent scout leaders, the groups merged in 1960 to form 1st Merton Park which 64 years later now operates as a registered charity.

1988 saw a new Beaver colony for boys aged 6 to 8 and four years later girls were welcomed into all sections of the Scouts movement. Two years ago a new Squirrels section was added for children aged 4 to 6.

Throughout its 114 year history the various groups have relied on the willingness of parents and others in the community to volunteer. It is because so many have come forward to help that scouting in Merton Park has been such a success.

The current Chair of the Board of Trustees, Emma Maddison, says that to ensure the long term future of the charity more adult volunteers are needed. She invites those who might be interested in helping to have a conversation about the various activities which require support.



## “Many hands make light work”

There are several sections (Squirrels, Beavers, Scouts and Explorers) that would love more help running regular meetings, as well as more behind the scenes options – for example help is needed with maintaining the scout hut in the church hall car park and the old air raid shelters in the Glebe field where equipment is stored. There are always opportunities to help with the traditional jumble sales (see photo) and other fundraising activities. For those with a financial background, the trustees will soon need a treasurer, a very important role in the charity.

**Emma’s motto is “Many hands make light work” so if you would like to help please contact her at [hello@mertonparkscouts.org.uk](mailto:hello@mertonparkscouts.org.uk)**



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 OCTOBER  
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WHAT'S ON

AUTUMN 2024

**Regular church services**  
 see page 28

**Sunday Club**  
 see page 28

**Children First Eucharist**  
 see page 28

**Parish Matters is distributed to 3250 homes in the parish of St Mary's, Merton, thanks to a goodly number of volunteer deliverers.**

**A different member of the editorial team edits each issue. We welcome your feedback.**

**Winter issue copy deadline: 14 October**

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**Harvest Festival 'Children First' Eucharist**

Sunday 20 October, 10am

**Walks from the church**

27 October, 24 November, 10.30am

Short walks up to six miles involving public transport. For details see the weekly pew sheet in church.

**Dedication Eucharist**

Sunday 6 October, 9.30am

**Classical Guitar Recital with Giacomo Susani**

Thursday 10 October, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 on the door

**Parish Players Race Night**

Saturday 12 October, 7.30pm. £15 entry, includes Hot Dog dinner, vegetarian option, cash honesty bar. Contact richardgwerner@gmail.com to reserve your place

**Fellowship Lunches**

Sunday 22 September, 17 November. 12 noon for 12.30pm  
 Tickets 020 8543 3764

**All Souls' Service**

Sunday 27 October, 6.30pm

**All Saints' Day**

Sunday 3 November.  
 Sung Eucharist 9.30am. Evensong 6.30pm

**Remembrance Sunday Service**

10 November, 10am

**John Innes Society Quiz Night**

Saturday 16 November, evening (NB corrected date). In the Church Hall – see publicity nearer the time.

**Christmas Market**

Saturday 30 November, 11am – 2pm

**Advent Carol Service**

Sunday 1 December, 6.30pm



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# Abundance Wimbledon

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**It's always popular, so do go early!**

Abundance Wimbledon uses fruit that would otherwise go to waste. All sorts of people from Wimbledon, Merton and beyond help out – fruit picking, collecting jam jars, making jam with children joining in enthusiastically too.

Fruit is shared for people to eat and make into jams, chutneys, cakes and sweets. We also pass some of it on to local good causes supporting people struggling to pay for food.



# Harvest

Judith Bersweden considers the role Harvest can play in modern life

Traditionally Harvest is a time for giving thanks for the season's produce and for the rich resources of the natural world, with gratitude for all those whose hard work enables us to enjoy them. As Keats so memorably captured in his poem 'Ode to Autumn', we still think of it as a time, for many, of abundance and plenty that fills 'all fruit with ripeness to the core.'

But now more than ever, we are realising that Harvest is also a time of looking ahead, of planning and preparation. Farmers, even as they gather in the crops of one season, are making decisions about the next. And more and more, our ability to restore biodiversity, and adopt more environmentally sustainable practices, will directly affect the success of future harvests and the well-being of the entire planet.

There is certainly a place for our traditional Harvest Thanksgiving. But we each now have good reason to work towards ensuring that the harvests of the future are plentiful for our children, and for communities worldwide, by finding ways to improve soil health, care for our oceans, reduce the use of pesticides, and protect against the worst impacts of climate change. And for this to happen, we each need to find ways of making a positive difference, both through our individual actions and by working together for change.

The '#Restore Nature Now' march on Saturday 22 June was an example of the momentum for change that is gathering pace. A vast number of organisations and around 60,000 supporters came together for a colourful and joyful family-friendly march through central London to draw attention to the challenges that we face, and to call on all politicians to get behind the action for nature that is so desperately needed.



These weeks of early autumn are now kept by many churches, including St Mary's, as The Season of Creation. They include Harvest Thanksgiving, of course, but also direct our hearts and minds to the future as we ask for wisdom and guidance in the bigger choices and decisions affecting us all.

# Songs for a summer evening



# 25 Years and still going strong



**David Reeves reports on a memorable musical evening by old friends of St Mary's.**

Since leaving St Mary's music team in 2022 for pastures new, the careers of soprano Harriet Burns and pianist Ian Tindale have continued to blossom. Their debut CD "Schubert Lieder: Love's Lasting Power" won critical acclaim (Gramophone magazine called it "a very fine disc indeed"). Hattie and Ian returned to St Mary's in July to entertain us with a seasonal programme by mostly English composers.

Hattie, described by The Times as a "polished, witty, expressive and sweet-voiced performer", delighted the audience with songs by a wide variety of composers ranging from Vaughan Williams, John Ireland and Roger Quilter to Cole Porter and Flanders & Swann. The richly deserved encore was "Glorious Mud", naturally with enthusiastic audience participation.

Hattie's ability to move seamlessly across musical genres was much in evidence with beautiful interpretations of traditional songs from across Britain, as well as several religious compositions. And Ian's fine piano playing was clearly on display with lovely solo pieces by Peter Maxwell-Davies ("Farewell to Stromness") and Percy Grainger's arrangement of "Danny Boy".

Proceeds from the concert went towards the costs of their second CD "A Short Story of Falling". To contribute, go to [cafdonate.cafonline.org/22316](http://cafdonate.cafonline.org/22316).

**St Mary's choristers mark a milestone in their tie-up with Sanderstead Singers. David Reeves reports.**

In 1999 the Director of Music at St Mary's at that time, John Eagles, offered an opportunity for adult members of the choir to sing a week's services at Salisbury Cathedral, deputising for the cathedral choir, with another group formed from St Mary's Sanderstead. I was one of three that put our hands up then, alongside Andrew Mills and

Mark Aldham. The other Merton choir members suggested that we gave the Sanderstead Singers a try – and report back!

Our feedback was clearly positive, as the following year the number from Merton to sing a week with them at Worcester Cathedral had swelled considerably. And in the ensuing years, the total of Merton choristers joining Sanderstead Singers easily reached double figures, including several trebles.

25 years on, three of us – John Gout, Andrew and myself – again joined our Sanderstead friends in August for a week at Winchester Cathedral (photo above). Over that time, we have deputised for the choirs of 16 English cathedrals, including several twice, as well as individual days at St Paul's Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey (where our own choir sang in August 2023).

As for next year? A week at Canterbury Cathedral is already in the diary!

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# From choir stalls to tennis court

David Reeves talks to St Mary's  
senior chorister Matthew  
Hopkins on his experiences  
as a Wimbledon ball boy



The ball boys and girls of the Wimbledon tennis championships are rightly regarded as the best in the world. And once you know the months of hard work they endure – even after getting through the rigorous selection process – you'll understand why!

2024 was Rutlish School Year 11 student Matthew's second year as a ball boy. He explained that for the new intakes of girls and boys (students from years 9 and 10 in schools across Merton, Wandsworth, Sutton, Kingston Upon Thames and Richmond) the selection process starts the previous September with an online application to the All England Club and a series of online modules and assessments.

Once that first hurdle is overcome, the school (in 2023 Rutlish were assigned up to ten places) takes over with fitness and skills training. A subsequent trial day at the Club's centre in Grand Drive tests the youngsters' fitness, attitude and general gameplay, followed by more online modules and assessments. Only then are the highest performers selected for the weekly training programme at Grand Drive from February to June. And not everyone gets through that either!

"Tough and vigorous" is how Matthew describes the whole experience, and the hard work continues throughout the championships and, if selected, also for the qualifying rounds at Roehampton. Each ball boy/girl position on court has a different role, with teamwork key in ensuring that everyone does their job to the extent that they remain firmly 'under the radar'.

They are also expected to behave impeccably on court and around the Club grounds on matchdays. It's not unknown for teams (even those selected for show courts) to be sacked if they fall below the Club's exacting standards.

Matthew said that the 'one hour on/one hour off' regime is important, as the role is both mentally and physically tiring. Each team leader is responsible for finding out where the team is expected to be at the end of each break, which is why you will sometimes see ball boys and girls hot-footing it around the grounds.

Overall, Matthew feels that the experience instils a sense of dedication, teamwork and discipline – all great lessons for life. He is already looking forward to next year's Wimbledon, if selected, and has an admirable aspiration to make it onto Centre Court!

# The Letter in The Window...

When I first saw the advert in the pharmacy window, it broke my heart. I thought, 'That could be my own mum in a few years time'.



I wasn't looking for a new career or anything, but I knew I could give someone a bit of help here and there. So, when I saw the ad, I went for it and called the number.

I spoke to a lovely lady called Sophia who filled me in on what Home Instead Wimbledon and Kingston were looking for and how they helped so many older adults. Honestly, it really didn't feel like I was talking about a job. For the first time in ages, I felt like I could really contribute something good to another person's life.

Deciding to offer a few hours of my week was a simple decision. Those few hours quickly turned into a full-time commitment. Leaving my job at the shop wasn't easy, but what I've found in return is so much better.

**Home Instead** stands out because everyone is so friendly and welcoming. The immersive training was incredible - it really felt like being in Betty's flat. It didn't just prepare me for the everyday tasks I'd need to do but it helped me understand depth of care, the importance of dignity, and the value of companionship to someone's life and wellbeing.

Now, four months in, I can't imagine doing anything else. The clients I visit, the stories I hear, the smiles we share - I love it. So, to anyone who felt the same as me when they read that note in the window, I'd say, make the call.

Caring and companionship, giving back to the community, that's what life is all about.

All the best,  
*Aanya*



## The St Matthew window in St Mary's

In the third in our series of short articles on the stained glass windows in the church, Simon Hillson looks at the St Matthew window.

The second pair of windows in the north aisle of St Mary's church depicts St Matthew and St Matthias, and seems to have been installed in the early 1950s. Matthew is named in all of the first three gospels as one of the twelve apostles called by Jesus to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom. In our window he is shown carrying in his right hand a small bag, presumably containing coins, and in his left hand a large book on which kneels a miniature angel in an attitude of prayer, indicating the book's sacred character. These symbolic features draw our attention to the two things for which Matthew is best known.

First, the book reminds us that his name is given to the first gospel in the New Testament, 'according to Matthew'. Few scholars now believe that the apostle Matthew was actually the author of the gospel. However, some explanation is required for the fact that his name was associated with it from a very early stage - probably as soon as the early second century, when Papias of Hierapolis referred to Matthew having put together sayings about Jesus 'in an ordered arrangement'. While the chief source for Matthew's gospel is clearly that of Mark, it is certainly plausible that eyewitness testimony of the apostle Matthew provided additional material for the gospel which bears his name.

Secondly, the bag of coins highlights Matthew's occupation as a tax collector. Interestingly, this detail is only mentioned



in Matthew's gospel, in the well-known story of Matthew's call by Jesus. In the parallel narratives in Mark and Luke, recorded in almost identical words, the tax collector called by Jesus is named Levi. Puzzled scholars have offered various explanations for this discrepancy. One of the most convincing is that the author of Matthew's gospel, knowing that the apostle Matthew was a tax collector and wishing to give him greater prominence and to record his call by Jesus in the gospel that was associated with him, transferred Mark's story from Levi to Matthew.

On the basis of the scriptural evidence, nothing more is known about the life and

ministry of Matthew apart from the fact that he was amongst the disciples gathered in Jerusalem after the Ascension. Further information from the tradition is of doubtful historicity. There are reports from some of the second century Fathers that he preached the gospel to the Jewish people in Judea and then in other countries, including Ethiopia. The tradition is that he died a martyr, again possibly in Ethiopia, around 68 CE.

However, despite the paucity of information we have about Matthew, the gospel story of his call and of a life transformed by an encounter with Jesus, remains a powerful inspiration for Christians up to the present day.

# Meet Lord Singh of Wimbledon

Richard Price talks to a famous resident of Merton Park



Indarjit Singh, founder and editor of the Sikh Messenger magazine and co-founder of Interfaith Network, was appointed to the House of Lords in 2011 and took the title Lord Singh of Wimbledon.

He chose the title because he and his wife have been living in Merton Park since they came to London in 1976. Their first house was in Erridge Road and for many years they have lived in Dorset Road. Both his daughters attended local schools and were welcomed in the local community. So being very

settled here for over 40 years it was easy for him to link his title to where he lives.

Lord Singh came to England from India with his parents in 1933 when he was an infant and grew up in Birmingham. His father, an experienced doctor, initially found it impossible to get work and more than 25 years later Lord Singh found that race was still an issue as, despite a first class degree in engineering, he also found it very difficult to get a job. In 1959 he applied to the National Coal Board for a job as a mine manager. However he was told that the miners wouldn't like a Sikh as a mine manager. He was offered a role in the scientific department which he declined and instead left to work in the mining industry in India.

After his marriage and the birth of his first daughter the family decided to return to England in the hope that they would find a more enlightened and tolerant society.

Lord Singh says that Britain in the 1970's was more enlightened but there was still ignorance and intolerance of people of different faiths and racism had not been consigned to history.

He became very involved in inter-faith discussions and for almost 40 years was a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's "Thought for the Day".

Lord Singh was instrumental in forming the "Lambeth Group" which brought together representatives of different faiths who worked together to provide the subjects for the "Faith Zone" in the Millennium Dome at the turn of the century. With others he produced a set of "Values for the 21st Century" by which we should all live and has spoken widely about the need



for shared ethical standards and greater religious tolerance.

Lord Singh has often been the Sikh representative at important state occasions such as the annual National Service of Remembrance at the cenotaph and the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey. He carried the glove in the procession at the coronation of King Charles. The glove has been part of the coronation ceremony since the coronation of Richard 11 in 1377. It is placed on the King's right hand after the monarch puts on the sovereign's ring and remains in place during the crowning ceremony. The glove signifies the King's commitment to integrity, considerateness and gentleness. For his coronation, Charles III used the glove made for his grandfather George VI.

Lord Singh was also a member of the group of faith leaders who prayed together at the conclusion of the ceremony as the King left the Abbey. As a result of having two roles at the coronation Lord Singh received two silver medals from the King – everyone else who took part just received one medal!

Lord Singh is the first member of the House of Lords to wear a turban and in recognition of this his portrait will be placed in the Lords Gallery.

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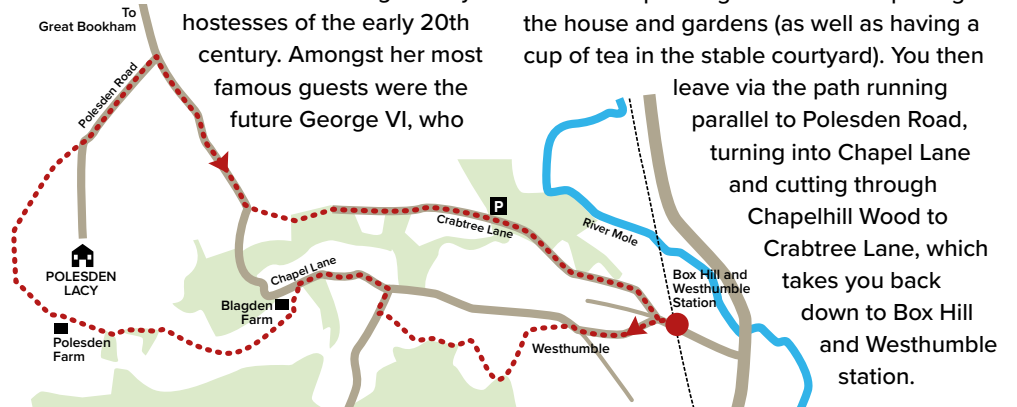
# Polesden Lacey

**Simon Hillson recommends  
 a beautiful Surrey walk**

Undoubtedly some of the most beautiful nearby countryside for those of us who live in Merton is the area between Leatherhead and Dorking, taking in the Mole Valley, Box Hill, Ranmore Common and Norbury Park. Easily accessible within about half an hour by frequent direct trains from Wimbledon, and criss-crossed by footpaths, including a stretch of the North Downs Way, it is a regular destination for the St Mary's walking group.

On one side of a peaceful valley looking towards Ranmore Common, stands Polesden Lacey, the focus of one of our recent walks. The core of the house, now owned by the National Trust, was built in the early 1820s by Thomas Cubitt (the builder responsible for the distinctive character of many of London's historic streets and squares, notably in Belgravia). It was expanded and remodelled in 1906 for Margaret Greville, and became the base from which she built her reputation

as one of the leading society hostesses of the early 20th century. Amongst her most famous guests were the future George VI, who



spent part of his honeymoon there with his new wife Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (the late Queen Mother, as she is known to today's generation). The house is surrounded by gardens and a large estate which includes Tanner's Hatch youth hostel, the first overnight stop on St Mary's pilgrimage to Winchester in 2010.

The walk recently undertaken by St Mary's walking group, which is about six miles in length, begins at Box Hill and Westhumble station and mainly follows quiet country lanes and field paths. A couple of miles' walking brings you to the bottom of the Polesden valley at Blagden Farm, and after a further mile along the valley floor path a lane turns up to reach the house. If time allows, it is worth spending a few hours exploring the house and gardens (as well as having a cup of tea in the stable courtyard). You then leave via the path running parallel to Polesden Road, turning into Chapel Lane and cutting through Chapelhill Wood to Crabtree Lane, which takes you back down to Box Hill and Westhumble station.




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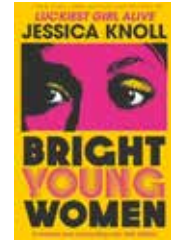
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## A good read...



### Bright Young Women Jessica Knoll

In 1978, Pamela Schumacher's sorority house is attacked by a killer who then escapes. Tina Cannon is convinced the perpetrator is a notorious serial killer, one whom she suspects has also killed her best friend, Ruth, who disappeared in 1974. Inspired by true events, this book reframes the typical serial killer narrative to focus on the lives and relationships of the women affected by the crimes. Those expecting cat-and-mouse action will be disappointed, but this is an astute and powerful third novel from Jessica Knoll. Jumping between timelines and perspectives, and spanning four decades, it is a richly textured and fascinating read.  
**Emma Hooker**



### The Jane Austen Society Natalie Jenner

The best thing about this book was that it made me want to visit Jane Austen's house in Chawton, near Alton, and to read her six novels. The early chapters were set at different times around World War II, which was initially quite confusing, but the book timeline soon settled. I suspect the story line is a clever allusion to story lines and characters in Austen's various novels, however I did not manage to identify this and still enjoyed the book! There was an unexpected twist towards the end of the book, and while several loose ends were

tied up, the reader is left to decide for themselves what happened beyond the end of the book for a couple of the main characters. This is a very readable novel that ponders life, loss, the importance of community, and a love of reading.  
**Amanda Roberts**



### Piranesi Susannah Clarke

This stayed with me long after I closed the final page as a disorienting and fascinating exploration of solitude and the importance of human interaction. It tells the story of a labyrinthine mysterious house, dotted all over with statues, where a man lives all alone and where tides flow up the stairs. Gradually, his otherworldly existence is interrupted by the appearance of mysterious writing. It's an atmospheric novel that draws you into a finely realised and dreamy world, whilst still being shot through with tension and intrigue. It's hard to define it as a novel: an evocative descriptive jewel box of a story.  
**Georgina Knights**

## Sudoku

			2		5	8	
2		6	9				7
	1		5			2	9
			1			6	3
5		3	6	9	4	8	1
1	6				3		
7		4			9		5
9					5	3	4
	8	5		3			

Solutions on page 28





  
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Richard Price talks to Charles Green, owner of Green Industree

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One of the benefits of  
 living in the Merton Park  
 area is being surrounded  
 by trees in our gardens,  
 streets and parks. So this  
 has proved to be a good  
 place for qualified tree  
 surgeon Charles Green to  
 start up his own business.

Having worked in a partnership in central  
 London he decided to set up his own local  
 business in 2018. Focused on South West  
 London the company also covers Surrey,  
 Croydon and Richmond as well as boroughs  
 north of the river. The services offered  
 include tree pruning, tree felling and tree  
 planting as well as undertaking tree surveys.

Born in South Africa, Charles studied  
 microbiology at Stellenbosch University and  
 later horticulture in Cape Town becoming  
 especially interested in the care of trees.  
 He worked for one of the larger tree care  
 companies in the country and gained  
 extensive experience before coming to the  
 UK in 2005 on a two year visa and doing  
 freelance work for several companies in  
 the industry.

Currently Charles works with a full time and  
 a part-time employee and has also taken  
 advantage of the government's apprentice  
 scheme and has an apprentice who works  
 with him four days a week and spends one  
 day a week at college. The business is  
 prospering and Charles has plans for future  
 growth, dependent on recruiting the right  
 qualified people.

Back in South Africa he continued working  
 as a freelancer and then returned to the  
 UK with his wife in 2009. He combined  
 freelance work with taking more  
 qualifications here including the Level 4  
 National Diploma in Arboriculture at Merrist  
 Wood College in Guildford and gaining  
 a Professional Tree Inspection Certificate  
 from the Arboricultural Association.

From the testimonials he has received  
 and the amount of repeat business that is  
 being generated, Charles is proud of the  
 recognition he has already established for  
 a personal, reliable and knowledgeable  
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**For further information  
 contact Charles Green at  
 charles@greenindustree.co.uk**

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## PARISH TOGETHER



### Wednesday Club

Meeting in the parish small hall every Wednesday 2:30–4:30pm. The monthly programme includes two film sessions, an afternoon tea, quizzes and lively topic talks. Suggested donation of £5 pp, or £8 per couple/pair.

For further information contact:  
**Barbara Moreland** 020 8542 3427  
[bmoreland43@gmail.com](mailto:bmoreland43@gmail.com)  
**Lindsey Jones** 020 8715 6398  
[lindsey6456@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindsey6456@hotmail.co.uk)

### Book Club

Meets monthly in different houses across the parish. About two hours.

For further information contact John Combs:  
[johncombs46@gmail.com](mailto:johncombs46@gmail.com)



### Pilgrim Group

The Pilgrim Group meets on alternate Thursday evenings, and offers an opportunity for informal study, prayer and fellowship. Reconvening in September, dates to be advised on the website.

For further information, contact Simon Hillson  
[simonhillson@me.com](mailto:simonhillson@me.com)

### Fellowship Lunch

Join us for an inexpensive lunch in good company – especially for those who might not cook a Sunday roast for themselves.

To book call Anita Simpson on 020 8543 3764 or 07960 324 371 or email her at [adsimpson68@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adsimpson68@yahoo.co.uk)

### Walking Group

The Occasional Walking Group meets five or six times a year after the Sunday Parish Eucharist for short walks (maximum six miles), usually in the Surrey countryside.

For further information contact Simon Hillson  
[simonhillson@me.com](mailto:simonhillson@me.com)

In addition to our services in church, St Mary's offers several activities which are open to all in our local community. You are sure to receive a warm welcome.

For more details get in touch with the contact person mentioned.

## GoodOaks Homecare celebrates their third anniversary with a sweet gesture

To mark three years in Wimbledon, GoodOaks Homecare, the local Visiting and Live-in Care provider, hand-delivered personalised strawberries and cream to all their clients during the Wimbledon tennis fortnight.

Director Arpan Patel is pleased to link the values shown by the tennis athletes at Wimbledon with the company's commitment to resilience and dedication which has been the hallmark of the company's own values. He is proud that over the past three years GoodOaks has been privileged to serve many families in the local community, providing not just care but also companionship, dignity, and peace of mind

to those who need it most. Just as in tennis, he notes, the greatest triumphs come not from individual efforts but from the strength of a team working towards a common goal. He looks forward to many more years of serving the community "with the excellence and compassion that define us."

For further information call 020 8176 6989 or email [wk@goodoakshomecare.co.uk](mailto:wk@goodoakshomecare.co.uk) or visit [goodoakshomecare.co.uk](http://goodoakshomecare.co.uk)



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### Regular Sunday Services

**8am** Said Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer, fourth Sunday of each month)

**9.30am** Sung Eucharist ('Children First Eucharist', third Sunday of each month) NB. On some Festivals the main morning service is at 10am.

**6.30pm** Evensong

Monthly midweek Said Eucharists 10.30am (30 mins), third Thursday of each month

**Sunday Club for children** meets on the first Sunday of each month in the hall at 9.30 am, before joining the end of the service in church. Children 3+ welcome. Parents/carers are asked to stay with under 3s. [judithbersweden@stmarysmerton.org.uk](mailto:judithbersweden@stmarysmerton.org.uk)

**Children First Eucharist** a family-friendly service at 9.30am on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please check website for details, or contact [judithbersweden@stmarysmerton.org.uk](mailto:judithbersweden@stmarysmerton.org.uk)



St Mary's Parish Office is open four mornings each week from 9.30am-1pm (closed Wednesdays).

[office@stmarysmerton.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysmerton.org.uk)  
020 8542 1760



All the production and paper elements of this magazine have been carbon balanced

### Sudoku Solution. Page 5

4	9	7	3	2	1	5	8	6
2	5	6	9	4	8	1	3	7
3	1	8	5	7	6	2	4	9
8	4	9	1	5	2	7	6	3
5	7	3	6	9	4	8	2	1
1	6	2	7	8	3	4	9	5
7	3	4	2	1	9	6	5	8
9	2	1	8	6	5	3	7	4
6	8	5	4	3	7	9	1	2



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