

OUTWOOD

OUTWOOD NEWS COPY DATE

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025

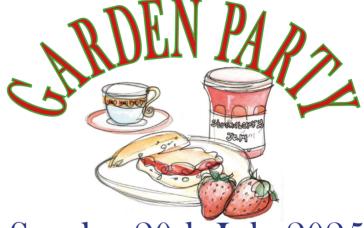
> Friday 18th July

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Outwood Matters is the village email distribution list. If you would like to be included on this please email outwoodsmatters @gmail.com

Please submit copy to:
anne.morle
@outwood.org





Sunday 20th July 2025 3.00 - 5.30pm

The Old Farmhouse

Wasp Green Lane, Outwood RH1 5QE

by kind permission of Grant & Di Macdonald

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For more information and to check availability please contact

John Mankelow:

01342 842764

or

Anne Morle:

01342 843336

anne.morle@outwood.org

CHURCH NEWS

ALAN'S AMBLINGS

Holidays and Holy Days

As we enter the Summer months of July and August, many of us will be taking a well-earned break from work and enjoying a holiday with our families and friends. Rachel and I are looking forward to visiting Scotland and seeing our family there.



The schools will be finishing soon for their summer break at the end of July and the children will be looking forward to their Summer holidays, though parents may have mixed feelings about needing to find extra activities to keep their children occupied during this period!

Taking time out from our busy lives for rest and refreshment is important for our wellbeing and I hope that many of you will enjoy quality time this Summer.

Our modern word holiday came originally from the religious term holy day which were days throughout the year that marked important religious festivals and commemorated the lives of the Saints. Holy Days were days of rest and refreshment when the community gathered in the local Church or religious building for a special service of thanksgiving. This would be followed by the sharing of food and drink with dancing and other festivities taking place in towns and villages. These were very popular in the Medieval period but largely stopped in England after the Reformation. If any of you have visited countries such as France, Italy or Spain these events are very common and colourful affairs. A few years ago, when our children were younger, we used to enjoy camping holidays in France and experienced some of the joy and community spirit that these religious festivals can create. Unfortunately, in our modern secular society we have lost the link between holy days and holidays, though many of the music and other festivals that occur over the Summer months still manage to capture some of that community spirit that lies at the heart of such events.

In country areas such as ours, the agricultural year used to be marked by important festivals such as Plough Sunday, Harvest, Rogationtide and Lammas when the community would also come together in celebrations. A few weeks ago, on Rogation Sunday, some of us walked between St Mary's Horne and St John's Outwood Church to bless the fields and communities we passed through. I hope to make a regular event and would encourage more people to join us next year. On **6th July at 11am** we will be marking the festival of Lammas which dates back to medieval times.

CHURCH NEWS

Traditionally, the feast of Lammas which comes from the old English word meaning Loaf Mass is celebrated at the beginning of August. We have brought it forward a few weeks this year for practical reasons.

It was the day when the first new grain was milled and baked into small loaves of bread, which were offered on the altar as thanksgiving for the first fruits of the harvest. Hence the term loaf mass. Festivals like this are important for our farming community and encourage us to make links between our faith and the land on which we live.

This year we will be holding our service, as in previous years, in a barn at Hookhouse Farm in Outwood and this will be followed by a picnic lunch making it a lovely family event. All are welcome to attend and join us in supporting our local farming community.

I hope to have more events like this in the future to bless our community.

I end with a prayer of blessing for this holiday season:

Dear God as we look forward to this summer period
May we experience rest, refreshment and renewal.
We give thanks for all the **blessings** in our lives.
We are grateful for our families, our friends, and our communities.
Please **bless** us with peace, joy, and love as we spend more time

together. **Amen**.

Every Blessing **Alan**, Rector.

Rev. Alan Bayes The Rectory, 5 TheAcorns, Smallfield, RH6 9QJ Email: revalanbayes@aol.com



ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE



OUTWOOD WI

is excited to host a

QUIZ NIGHT and **SUPPER**

on 12th SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7pm

LLOYD HALL, BRICKFIELD ROAD, OUTWOOD RH1 5QX in aid of

ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE

Tickets are £20 per person.

For reservations and information, please contact Marcia marciadawn53@gmail.com or 01342 844854.

Please either make a team of 6 – 8 people or let us help you make a team and come and help us support St Catherine's Hospice.

A cash bar serving wine, lager, ale and soft drinks will be available.

Please inform us in advance if you have any food intolerances or allergies.

OUTWOOD WI



JUNE 2025

Although we are based in Outwood, we now have many members who do not actually live in the village but who travel in for the monthly meetings from Reigate in one direction, to Turners Hill in the other. This does not, however, diminish our sense of community; on the contrary, it enriches our experience – for example our monthly lunch club is enjoying sampling good venues from further afield, on recommendations from members.

At this year's summer Outwood Show our WI group will be running a tombola stall to raise funds for future activities and we have already amassed a pile of exciting prizes to tempt visitors!

Always keen to support local charities, we are also organising a quiz night with supper at the Lloyd Hall (all created by our committee) on behalf of St. Catherine's Hospice, who do such amazing end of life care locally. The date for this is **Friday 12th September at 7pm** so put the date in your diaries and bring a team! Tickets will be made available nearer the time.

For June's monthly meeting we had invited David Chave, a former police detective from the major crime department, who spoke to us last year about famous female killers, and whom we invited to return this year to fill us in on the use of DNA in catching killers today. We heard all about how serology (blood analysis) had developed into familial profiling and then became even more effective as the discovery of DNA introduced a much finer tool for the apprehension of murderers. David was keen to emphasise that we are very lucky to live in a country where our murder rate is well below that of other places and our rates of detection and arrest are comparatively high. Our ladies had many questions following the talk, relating to high profile cases, and we were lucky to get fascinating answers from someone who had such a thorough knowledge of the topic.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st July at 2.30pm when we are expecting the cruise lecturer Gary Miles, who will be showing us how Shakespeare can be great fun!



PLANNING INSPECTOR'S DECISION MEANS 270 MORE HOMES FOR SMALLFIELD.

A Planning Inspector has allowed an appeal against Tandridge Council's refusal of planning consent for up to 270 new dwellings on land west of Chapel Road, Smallfield, specifically citing a recent change to the National Planning Policy Framework which defined the concept of "grey belt" land, as the primary reason for finding in favour of development.

Contributary reasons for the decision included:

- Tandridge Council's inadequte housing land supply bank and its very poor housing delivery record.
- That some 49% of the new homes would be "affordable".
- That flood alleviation works proposed would benefit the whole of Smallfield.
- That the public would have access to new green spaces.

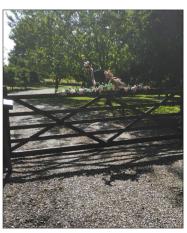
In another recent appeal decision the "traveller site" on the corner of Dowlands Lane and Plough Road in Smallfield has been granted leave to remain by a Planning Inspector who also considered the site to be "grey belt land" and who additionally referred to Tandridge Council's historic failure to provide enough land for such "gypsy and traveller sites".

NATURE WATCH

The predominantly dry weather that started in early March continued through May until the third week of June when, just for good measure, it threw in a heatwave with temperatures topping 30° and on the summer equinox - 21st June – the top temperature in the country was recorded at 33° in nearby Charlwood. Despite the ongoing ravages of ash die-back disease the shortage of rainfall has resulted in trees showing signs of stress. Many have shed their leaves and given up the ghost, others are displaying dead branches and some have simply collapsed, like a hawthorn in full leaf that fell across the bridleway near Tile Barn – quickly cleared by local horse riders. Another feature of our current hot, dry weather has been the wind. It has been almost continuous to the point that I thought we might, like the Spanish island of Menorca, refer to our selves as the windy isles. As an element the wind can be capricious and reckless – doors slam, tiles get blown off rooves and sudden gusts turn brollies inside out. All of which leads to shortened tempers, which in the areas of France affected by the famous mistral winds, it is believed that this raises peoples blood pressure resulting in an increase in strokes and heart attacks.

On calmer days butterflies have been more noticeable with plenty of large whites – the plague of gardeners – scallop winged commas and the speckled wood flitting through the woodland glades. They are all on a quest to lay eggs, pupate and then emerge as adults and off again with the reproductive cycle. All of this requires energy in the form of food, which they find in many forms for example flower nectar, ripe and rotten fruit or occasionally animal faeces such as the small tortoiseshell butterfly Yvonne spotted feeding on dog droppings. Another sighting comes from Tony Cooper who had seen a marbled white, a fairly rare large butterfly, with white wings covered with black markings.

Honey bees begin swarming in May through into June if the weather conditions are right, the earlier the better – and the old beekeepers adage records the significance - "A swarm in May is worth a ton of hay". So, it was no particular surprise to hear from Judie Wolf that she and Philip had a swarm in their garden but what was a surprise was to hear the bees had decided to swarm around the attractive decoration of a bird and flowers atop their five barred entrance gate and that they had subsequently decided to nest there. So, I took my camera with me when next passing by but without my old protective bee clothing I was unable to get close enough to be sure exactly where they were nesting. I presume it is inside the body of the bird. The automatic mechanism ensures the gate opens on approach and the bees seem to have become used to their home moving around from time to time.



Judie Wolf's gate with bees

Last month I referred to the increase in the sightings of red kites around the village and clearly, they must be nesting close by. Good news came from Patrick McIntosh who luckily spotted a pair of kites that have taken up residence in woodland at the rear of Paul Pitts property and who will hopefully be adding to the local population. Another report comes from Mark Osland supported by a photograph showing a very tame robin that he sees regularly around his garden – bird on the grass with Mark's hand just inches away - such moments are magical.







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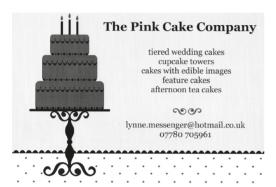
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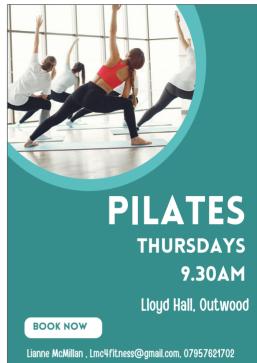


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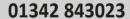
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Burstow Group of St Catherine's Hospice



Ichi -Coo Park

Russ Hill Farm, Russ Hill, Charlwood RH6 0EL

Sunday 6th July, 11am - 5pm

16 glorious acres containing an eclectic collection of plants, trees and water, spaces, forms and vistas, habitats and sanctuaries. A place for reflection, for relaxation, oh and a plane spotter's dream!

The ladies of the Burstow Friends will be serving tea/coffee, home-made cakes, wine and beer in aid of St Catherine's Hospice.

Admission

- *Adult: £20.00 Child: Free
- *Money raised from admission fee in aid of National Garden Scheme

For full details and pre booking, https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/45466/ichi-coo-park or just turn up on the day.



Performance by Professional Concert Harpist

Margaret Watson

Full Traditional Afternoon Tea



Lloyd Hall, Tuesday 23 September – 1.45pm for 2pm start

Join us for an informal and fun afternoon. With Margaret's vast repertoire - Bach to Beatles, entertaining personality and resplendent costumes, you're in for a treat!

Margaret's performance will be followed by a delicious full traditional afternoon tea with a generous selection of home-made cakes and scones, sandwiches and tasty savoury bites served on pretty, vintage tableware.

Arrive – 1.45pm and enjoy a complimentary glass of fizz.

Tickets £25 from Mary; mary-briggs@outlook.com Tel 01342 844131

Please mention any dietary requirements when booking. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a very entertaining afternoon. Don't miss out! Book early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited.

For more information about Margaret - www.harpmusic.co.uk or scan QR code below.

Thank you from the girls of Burstow group.





SEE PAGE 21 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Mobile: 07903 302515
Phone: 01959 528 788
Email: priya.williams@sipp.co.uk



ST.JULIEN

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Named as a trusted financial adviser in the Times and Telegraph (March 24), Priya has over 16 years of experience in the finance industry, having previously transitioned from an accountancy background. Financial Wellbeing is at the core of the service she provides, and she owns an accredited financial wellbeing practice. Priya is also a mental health first aider. She provides holistic advice to her clients and helps them build their financial futures through goals-based financial planning in the form of investment, retirement and estate planning.

OUTWOOD NEWS

This space is just £160 p.a. - only £16 per edition!

For more information and to check availability please contact

John Mankelow:

01342 842764

or
Anne Morle:
01342 843336
anne.morle@outwood.org

Come And Meet Each Other.

On Friday 6th June we had a great turn out for the Windmill Songmen.

They really cheered us all up, singing songs such as "When I'm 64", "Put your Head on my Shoulder" and "Let it Be," which we couldn't help joining in with.

The men made up some of their own lyrics to What Shall we Do with the Drunken Sailor? (You can use your imagination!) and wore flat caps for the Lowry song, Matchstalk Men and Matchstalk Cats and Dogs.

They are led and accompanied by Ginette and Peter Nye and were extremely well received by all of us at CAMEO.



On 4th July, we meet in the Rectory Garden for a chat and a cream tea, at the usual time of 2pm.

Our 1st August meeting will be back in the church hall, for a catch up before our Denbies outing on the 4th.

Everyone is welcome. Please come along.

It's free to join our friendly club for musical entertainment, games, quizzes, tea, coffee, cake and lots more fun.

Centenary Hall Smallfield

Tuesdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm

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OUTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

RESIDENTS URGED TO TAKE PART IN CONSULTATION ON FUTURE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SURREY

The government has launched a consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey. The Council is urging residents to take part and give their views because this is the only opportunity for the public to comment on the proposals. The consultation is open to all residents, businesses, voluntary groups and local organisations.

The government wants to replace the two-tier system of county and district councils with unitary authorities. Under this change, the 11 Surrey borough and district councils, including Tandridge and Surrey County Council, will be abolished.

The consultation is on two options:

- A proposal for two unitaries, an east and a west Surrey, which is supported by the county council and two of the districts and boroughs.
- A proposal for three unitaries, an east, west and north Surrey, which is supported by nine districts and boroughs, including Tandridge.

A third option for a unitary proposed by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Crawley Borough Council is not being progressed and will not be consulted on.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Catherine Sayer, said: "There is no other chance to have any input into this reorganisation, so it would be great if as many people as possible take part. Tandridge District Councillors believe any new unitary council must keep a strong local connection to its communities, as well as being democratically accountable, which is why we consider three unitaries with three councillors per division, rather than two, is a better option.

I am delighted that the third option involving a unitary with Crawley is not being taken forward by the government. However, I am still concerned about the huge amount of debt incurred by other Surrey Councils and how this will be managed. It would be totally unfair for Tandridge residents to inherit any of it, especially given the tremendous efforts this council has made to successfully achieve a financially stable position."

Explore Our Community Treasures

Our Community Orchard: Now Bearing Fruit

Come and enjoy the beauty and bounty of our community orchard, where nature's hard work is finally paying off! The trees are now bearing fruit, offering a delightful spot for a stroll, or simply to admire the vibrant colours of the season.

The Trim Trail: A Pristine Pathway for All

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, the trim trail is looking better than ever! Recently trimmed and polished, it's a perfect place for an invigorating walk, jog, or a peaceful escape into nature. The renewed trail invites you to enjoy the outdoors in a fresh, clean environment, making it a highlight of our local amenities.

Fairy Doors: Magic Along the Trail

As you wander along the trim trail, be sure to keep an eye out for the delightful little fairy doors lovingly placed by Sandra. These charming additions are sure to captivate children and spark their imaginations as they peek into the tiny enchanted worlds hidden along the trail. It's a whimsical touch that adds a sprinkle of magic to every visit.

The MUGA: Always Ready for Action

Looking for a spot to unleash your competitive spirit? Our Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) is always available for a game of tennis or other sports. Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking for a bit of leisure fun, the MUGA is the perfect place to gather, and play

CONTACT DETAILS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held each month except August and December

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mary Baldock National Trust / Community Matters baldock.mary@googlemail.com 07936 166557

Helena Devlin Vice Chair - Highways velma9612@gmail.com 07718 278402

Anna Malley Planning anna.malley1@gmail.com 07802 581006

Patrick McIntosh Airports c0nnect1@me.com 07860 745832

Nick de Wiggondene-Sheppard Chair - Planning nickdewiggondene@hotmail.co.uk 07788 923495

PARISH CLERK

Rodabe Rudin Email: parish.clerk@outwood.org Tel: 07592 151985
Address: 2 Dirty Lane, Ashurst Wood, West Sussex RH19 3RY

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Ashleigh Bolton 07717 881061 Sue Farr 07973 541297 Richard Smith 07702 077673

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Chris Farr Chris.Farr@surreycc.gov.uk

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

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Claire Coutinho

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Email: lloydhall.outwood@hotmail.co.uk

Management Committee Secretary
Helena Devlin 07718 278402

Email: Ihmc@lloydhall.org

NATIONAL TRUST

Harewoods Estate Office 01342 843225 Email: harewoods@nationaltrust.org.uk www.nationaltrust.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Tandridge Neighdourhood Policing Team Email: tandridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk Mark Osland Email: outwoodnw@gmail.com

POLICE

Emergency Attendance 999
Report non-urgent incidents 101

Crime Prevention Advice

Mark Howells

Email: mark.howells@surrey.pnn.police.uk

PS Brooker is the Southern Sergeant

Email: Joshua.Brooker@surrey.pnn.police.uk

The PC's for our area are Lee Newman and Rowan Futter

Email: Lee.Newman@surrey.pnn.police.uk Email: Rowan.Futter@surrey.pnn.police.uk

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Monday to Friday only

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Leaves Redhill Bus Station 09.00

12.25

School days only 15.12

15.37 17.15

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Bookings and information: 01883 701270 Website: www.rtp@esrtp.org.uk

OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SURREY

Lisa Townsend
Police and Crime Commissioner



The public can contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the following ways:

Telephone: 01483 630 200

Email: SurreyPCC@surrey.police.uk

Website: www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Are you willing to take on the position of local co-ordinator.

Please contact
Outwood Parish Council
for more information

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JULY 2025

Sunday 6th July - Lammas

8.00am BCP Holy Communion - Horne

11.00am Benefice Lammas Service - Hookhouse Farm

3.00pm Music Recital - Horne

Sunday 13th July

9.30am Holy Communion - Burstow
10.00am Holy Communion - Horne
11.00am Holy Communion - Outwood

3.00pm Café Church - Smallfield Church Hall

Sunday 20th July

9.30am Holy Communion - Burstow
10.00am Holy Communion - Horne
11.00am Holy Communion - Outwood

1.00pm Community Lunch - Smallfield Church Hall

Sunday 27th July

9.30am Morning Worship - Burstow
10.00am Morning Worship - Horne
11.00am Morning Worship - Outwood

HORLEY REPAIR CAFÉ @ ST WILFS

The Repair Café organisation is international with over 2,500 Repair Cafes worldwide. There are many in Britain and now Horley has its own. Vast numbers of items are thrown away where often a simple repair would give these items a new lease of life.

We currently have a great team of volunteers covering repairs to electrical, electronic, woodwork, mechanical and general items, clothing, hi/fi & audio, bicycles, tool/knife sharpening, and computers.

Would you like to get involved? Whether you have a repairing skill or not we are on the lookout for more volunteers. Please contact us on the email below or just turn up at a session and see how it works.

The Horley Repair Café @ St Wilfs runs on every second Saturday of the month 11.30am – 2.30pm (last items in by 2pm please) at St Wilfrids Church Hall, Horley Row, Horley RH6 8DF.

This enterprise is only possible due to the very kind support of the Horley Team Ministry.

For more information please contact **horleyrepaircafe@yahoo.com** or our Facebook page Horley Repair Café @ St Wilfs

DIARY OF EVENTS

JULY

Tuesday 1st WI MEETING - Shakespeare for Fun

2.30pm - Lloyd Hall

Tuesday 1st PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

7.30pm - Lloyd Hall

Sunday 6th SCH - ICHI-COO PARK

11.00am-5.00pm - Charlwood

Sunday 20th ORBL GARDEN PARTY (See Cover)

 $3.00\mbox{-}5.30\,\mbox{pm}$ - The Old Farmhouse Wasp Green Lane

AUGUST

Tuesday 5th WI MEETING - SUMMER LUNCH

12.30pm - Lloyd Hall

Saturday 30th OUTWOOD VILLAGE SHOW

From 1.00pm - Lloyd Hall

with

OHS SUMMER SHOW

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 2nd WI MEETING - Magicians and the Music Hall

2.30pm - Lloyd Hall

Friday 5th A SEPTEMBER SONG FOR OUTWOOD

7.pm for 7.30pm - Lloyd Hall (See page 3)

Saturday 12th W.I. QUIZ in aid of ST.CATHERINES HOSPICE

7.00pm - Lloyd Hall (See page 6)



The Outwood Village Show needs an army of volunteers for the show to successfully run.

We are asking for volunteers for setting up, manning of games stalls and clearing of the show.

Please email <u>leighloveridge27@gmail.com</u> to add your name to our roster and for more details.

THE LLOYD HALL, BRICKFIELD ROAD,
OUTWOOD
SATURDAY 30TH AUGUST - 1PM



As some of you may know, I have spent the last few months on maternity leave after the birth of my son, Rafael. Watching him grow has been a very special time for me and my family (and what a phenomenal process of human biology!). While he brings me so much joy each and every day, I am also eager to get back to being out in the constituency, meeting residents and listening to your concerns.

I will be steadily returning over the next few months, and I am looking forward to

seeing as many of you as possible. However after seeing a photo of one of my predecessors, Sir Geoffrey Howe, riding a donkey at the Oxted Derby, I think I will stick to watching from the sideline this year...

My first visit back was to Tatsfield to knock on doors, speak to local residents about their concerns and pick up any casework. I know Surrey County Councillor Becky Rush has been pressing the Council to prioritise road repairs in the local area, so residents were looking forward to seeing improvements. There is still work to do to improve transport links and phone signal, and I look forward to working with Becky in the coming months to address these issues.

I was then treated to a performance by Katie Cox's ballet troupe. Eight wonderfully talented teenagers from Caterham, Warlingham and the surrounding areas have qualified for the World Cup Finals this summer the England Team in the ballet group category, with Zoë also qualifying for the solo ballet category.

We discussed their future aspirations, and it was lovely to hear that many of the older girls have already received offers from some of the country's top dance colleges and universities. Their ambition to win was contagious, but as is often the case with elite sport, attendance at the World Cup Finals is self-funded. The group has already raised £6,000 through cake sales, tutoring younger dancers and the generosity of donations, but they still have a way to go to reach their funding goal. You can find a link to donate on my website.

As a member of my charity, The Friendship Project, catching up with the unstoppable team at The Glebe has been high on my list since starting to return from maternity leave. From creating and maintaining the community garden to organising village events, they are community heroes – and we are very lucky to have them. Earlier this year my Friendship Project donated £2,500 to support the Glebe's project to update the local children's playground. It was great to see the project begin to take shape. The trustees were also keen to incorporate 'Happy to Chat' benches into the design and place more throughout the village, so the next time you visit Woldingham, make sure to keep an eye out for them.

As always, if there is ever anything I can do to help, or if you would like me to visit a local project or business you are involved with, please do get in touch on claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk.

THE NUCLEAR WAITING GAME

It was a bright, sunny late summer afternoon with a slight southerly breeze as I stood in the South Australian desert, waiting.

At that time I was Assistant Military Attache South Africa but was joined by about 200 military personnel from various posts around the world who had been asked to take part in the nuclear trials being held in Australia. Initially we all assembled in Singapore for briefings by military and civilian experts, including Sir Bill Penny, head of the Atomic Energy Authority, before being flown down to Maralinga, a military village with its own airfield set up in the desert just for the trials.

Our mission was to witness the effects of a nuclear strike on military equipment and how personnel would be affected psychologically. As we waited that afternoon for the momentous event, we were very much aware that by taking part in the trials we were putting our lives and future health on the line. So we waited for the enormous event.

We had been in the desert for three weeks during which time we had placed military equipment including tanks, vehicles and three fighter jets at varying distances from the DZ (drop zone) to see what effect a nuclear strike would have upon them. As a tank soldier I was responsible for three 52-ton Centurion tanks.

The weather had to be exactly right before detonation could take place and I well remember the detonation time being announced and being put into an army 3-ton truck and being driven out to the bomb site. Standing about 8000 yards from the DZ simply in our tropical uniforms and totally unprotected, all of us were somewhat apprehensive about what we were about to experience. As the time for detonation approached, chat amongst us subsided and tension grew. There was a palpable air of excitement mixed with a certain degree of apprehension.

Prior to the final countdown, relayed by loud speaker, we were told to turn our backs to the DZ from which we were only 8000 yards away. On the count of zero there was the most almighty flash and the desert in front of us appeared like an over-exposed colour film. Surprisingly, there was little noise as the light wind took it to the north of our position. At the same time I was much surprised by the intensity of heat on the exposed nape of my neck.

Almost immediately we were told to turn to face the DZ and we saw in front of us the familiar mushroom cloud forming. It was awesome and quite surreal. My immediate thoughts went back to Japan and the terrible loss of lives. How could man be so destructive and cruel.

We were not allowed to enter the bomb site until the next morning but I was anxious to see the effects of the explosion, especially on my tanks, so conned my way onto an Australian Air Force Dakota to fly around the area from which I filmed some unique footage. I noticed that the immediate area around the DZ had turned to a blueish-grey colour. I thought I knew why but would have to wait until morning to confirm my belief.

Next day we were medically checked, dressed in protective clothing and given a Geiger counter, which recorded radiation levels, before entering the much radiated area.

As soon as I entered the contaminated area my predictions from the air the previous day were confirmed. The heat generated by the bomb was so great that the silica in the desert sand had melted and turned to glass.

Next the tanks. These had been placed at 400, 800 and 1200 yards from the DZ. All had been left with their engines, gun platforms and radios running. The tank nearest the DZ had been lifted bodily and thrown back 30 yards. The others had been shifted but, surprisingly, the engines on all three had remained running until the fuel had run out.

We were not allowed to stay in the area for more than thirty minutes and on exiting the area were then showered and our clothing burnt before being medically tested and our radiation levels recorded. In those days radiation was measured in Rontgens. I received 15. 45 was fatal but I still suffer from skin cancer, which St Thomas' Hospital has attributed to my Australian experience.

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THE NUCLEAR WAITING GAME cont.

There was another aspect to our experience and that was the psychological effect upon personnel. For everyone who attended the event there was a different reaction and a different outcome but I know of only one who died as a result of attending the trial. For all of us it was an unforgettable experience and convinced us that such a terrible weapon should never be allowed to be used.

We have just celebrated VE Day but it would be another 3 months before the war in the far east ended as a result of nuclear strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in which over 150,000 were killed with many more dying over the following years from radiation. Never again can such vile weapons of war be allowed to be used.

In recent times threats of nuclear war have been made and, as the world waits, one can but pray to God that the world leaders will see sense and not at any time deploy nuclear weapons. I have seen what could happen if ever such a strike was to be launched. It would be the end of civilisation as we know it.

After the trials I embarked on a lecture tour of military establishments and one question was always asked of me - "why have nuclear weapons?" - to which I had a stock answer - "because the other side has them and as a result they have not been used". In our present days of uncertainty, one can only hope that philosophy continues.

Finally, I will never forget what I saw and, as a result, I am now able to appreciate what devastation such weapons can do to humanity. I feel privileged that I was able to witness the detonation of a nuclear weapon and to see the effects it had on both military equipment and personnel, as well as the psychological and medical effects on those exposed to the radiation.

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FRIDAY 18th JULY - FROM 6.00pm

THE ANNUAL OUTWOOD HOG 'N' SLOG

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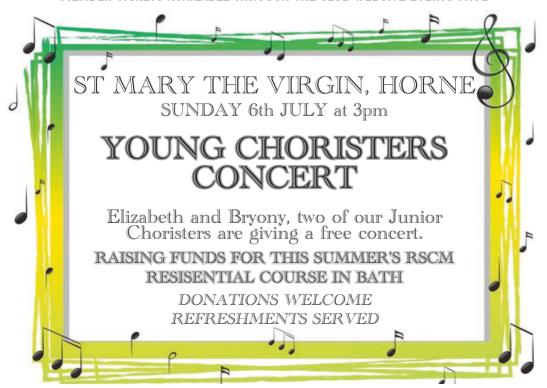
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OUTWOOD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Outwood Horticultural Society Membership is open to all and new members are very welcome. Only £5 per year. Please contact us at outwoodhortsoc@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.

LATE SUMMER SHOW

The Late Summer Horticultural Show will take place in the Lloyd Hall on Saturday 30th August in conjunction with the Outwood Village Show.

Entries are welcome from members and non-members alike.

The schedule and entry form will be distributed in the next edition of the Outwood News.

Even if you don't enter any produce do come along to admire the exhibits.

Dates for your diary:

Sat 30th August Fri 21st November 7pm Late Summer Show AGM and Supper

Lloyd Hall Lloyd Hall

Photographic Classes for Late Summer Show:

Natural Wonders
Local Colour
Life Cycle
Family Fun – Children's Class

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For more information and to check availability contact the Booking Secretary:

07435 882640 enquiries@lloydhall.org



www.lloydhall.org

What's on at Lloyd Hall

Monday

10.00am Wood Carving b.monk031@btinternet.com

Tuesday

14.30pm W.I. carolinedurance@me.com

(1st Tuesday of month)

Wednesday

9.30am Yoga reigatemassageandyoga@gmail.com

11.00am Coffee Morning ukmikie@hotmail.com 13.30pm Yoga jdyson7@hotmail.com

18.00pm Dance Classes harmonydancing@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday

9.30am Pilates Imcfitness@icloud.com

15.00pm Dance Classes harmonydancing@hotmail.co.uk



We hold a Coffee Morning at Lloyd Hall every Wednesday from 11.00 to 12 noon

Everybody is very welcome to come along and make some new friends whilst enjoying real coffee and homemade cake
- only £3.50 coffee / £3.00 tea
Price includes cakes, savory bakes and refills.

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OUTWOOD NEWS COPY DATES ISSUE COPY DATE

August & September

18th July

NOTE: Please submit copy either as finished artwork (a PDF of the correct size) or, if using WORD, in the simplest form. Please avoid using text boxes.

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