

over the wall....

The newsletter for Horsley Villagers

Spring 2014

issue 73

NUPEND FARM - WHERE DOES THE BUCK STOP?

The proposed Housing Development at Nupend Farm is currently going through a critical consultation period which understandably is giving many of us cause for concern.

This is an extract from a recent article on housing development choices written by a Horsley resident, writer and film maker.

“The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out a strategy to kick-start the economy by encouraging house building development.

It presumes *in favour* of planning for building applications. Particularly vulnerable are Councils that have not yet met their building obligations for the region, or that have not drawn up a 5-year housing plan. 49% of the country's Councils fall into that category.

Stroud District is one of those 49%. Despite having an “emerging plan” this quintessentially English landscape is very vulnerable to building developments.

Traditional red line boundaries, that restrict where building can occur, are being rubbed out and up and down the country legally designated “Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty” (AONBs) are now potential high value building plots.

This is not an anti development argument. With a growing population we need additional housing. This is a debate about legacy. We have a duty to leave to future generations a landscape that is at least as beautiful as we found it.

It is not *inevitable* that developers must build housing estates that are out of keeping with the natural and social environment. But it is a choice. At every step of the way they exercise this choice. Those who choose to build over red line areas designated for protection for future generations, have an opportunity and a responsibility: to build and bequeath a new landscape that befits the beauty of the scenery it has taken away.

Will they step up and make that choice? That kind of legacy takes integrity, vision and generosity.

It is a choice that will be remembered and enjoyed by far more, for far longer.”

Marc Jobst

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A GARDENER'S LIST

It's Spring, it's a beautiful day and I'm off to the greenhouse to re-sow the peas and beans in pots to plant out in May, my first batch having been eaten by some creature.

Just outside the backdoor I notice the remains of a Christmas wreath that I've been meaning to take to the compost bin. As I set off, I notice that the pots on the patio need to be emptied and replanted; also the old Hosta which is pot bound. A wheelbarrow is in order, so I put down the Christmas rubbish and march off with purpose to the greenhouse, behind which I keep the wheelbarrow. As it's such a nice warm day I think I will leave the greenhouse door open.

On the way, to my horror, I notice that the ground elder which I thought I had cleared last year is back with a vengeance. There's nothing for it but to completely clear the bed and dig out all the ground elder roots, so I will need pots to temporarily house the perennial plants. I might as well divide some of the bigger clumps of perennials while I'm at it, Spring being a good time for that job. This is going to need serious tools from the shed; I can get those whilst I'm getting the wheelbarrow.

Blast, I forgot to hang out the washing, better do that now as hubby won't be best pleased if his shirts end up smelling of pond weed again.

Isn't it funny how you notice things from a

.....cont'd above

.....cont'd.....

different angle, like that clematis and the honeysuckle which have both come loose during the winter storms, they will need re-tying and twining around the trellis. While I've got the twine out, I might as well tie in the climbing and rambling roses as near to horizontal as possible to restrict the sap flow, causing more side shoots to grow along the length of the stem, resulting in more flowers.

Now, where's the twine, in the other shed I think and while I'm there I'll get the secateurs and prune the fig tree, and those lavenders could do with being lightly cut back to stop them getting too leggy and woody. As I pass the apple trees, I notice that the tree ties are cutting into the bark of a few of them, in fact they could all do with loosening.

Who's that? Why it's hubby, it can't be that time already! "Had a good day at the office dear?" "Yes" he said, "how about you? What have you been up to?"

"Oh I've been really busy" I said, then realised that I hadn't ticked a single thing off my list!

GH

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WHAT'S THAT COMING OVER THE HILL?

It's not often that the good folk of Horsley have the chance to do THREE great humanitarian acts in one go, but developments up at Nupend Farm give us a golden opportunity for selfless philanthropy at the highest level.

Over the past months, we have all watched, horrified, the terrible images of refugees on our TV screens. It has been heart-wrenching to see frustrated speculators who have no idea where their next million might be coming from, searching desperately for scraps of land where they can make just a few more pathetic millions for their starving children.

And if that were not a big enough scandal in a country as rich as ours, think of the bands of emaciated lay saints who follow them, the developers, whose progress can be marked by the little boxes that they leave behind them on the hillsides – all made out of tacky-tacky and they all look just the same.*

For these are the people dedicated, selflessly, to the betterment of mankind, and if – as I am sure we will – we Horsleyites greet these modern Ghandis with open arms, then we may see as many as 65 affordable homes adorning our village.

No NIMBYs here – after all, we are all in this together – and so if there are chronic housing shortages in Hammersmith and West Ham, then we are happy to do our bit by building houses conveniently in Horsley. Just think – and my hands tremble on the keyboard as I contemplate it – there are 65 homeless families out there, presumably living in makeshift cardboard-box shacks, or out of the back of their BMWs, wondering whether they will ever find a modest home to buy with the £500,000 they keep in the Waitrose carrier bags beside them on the cold, hard pavement.

Now, it may shock you to learn that there are some subversive elements in Horsley who have been expressing doubts about all this. One of their more reprehensible objections is that the farmyard is in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – but where else would you want to build a house? Not, surely, on nasty brownfield land, without a view! Be reasonable! (And we want to make absolutely sure that farmyards are not used for farming ever again – perish the thought.)

But, fortunately, the Government, ever the guardian of common sense, will not brook interference from petty local bureaucrats who might try to thwart us. Just because Stroud Council has decided – on the truly laughable basis of ‘research’ – that Horsley doesn’t need any more houses, there is always the Localism Act to ensure that genuinely local voices are recognised.

And, of course, we must not ignore the economic value to the ‘old’ community. It will do the children in Horsley School good to have practice at hot-desking – and when the Village Shop is taken over by Tesco, that will put an end to the shameless exploitation of pensioners as cheap labour which has been such blemish on Horsley’s reputation. And we have all heard of the trickle-down effect – who knows what will trickle down from Nupend to Washpool?

So, come on, good people of Horsley. Now that one of our Royal neighbours has stated that each village must take its share of new houses, and has agreed to have an estate of starter homes built on one of her front lawns (or did I misread that?) who are we to hold back?

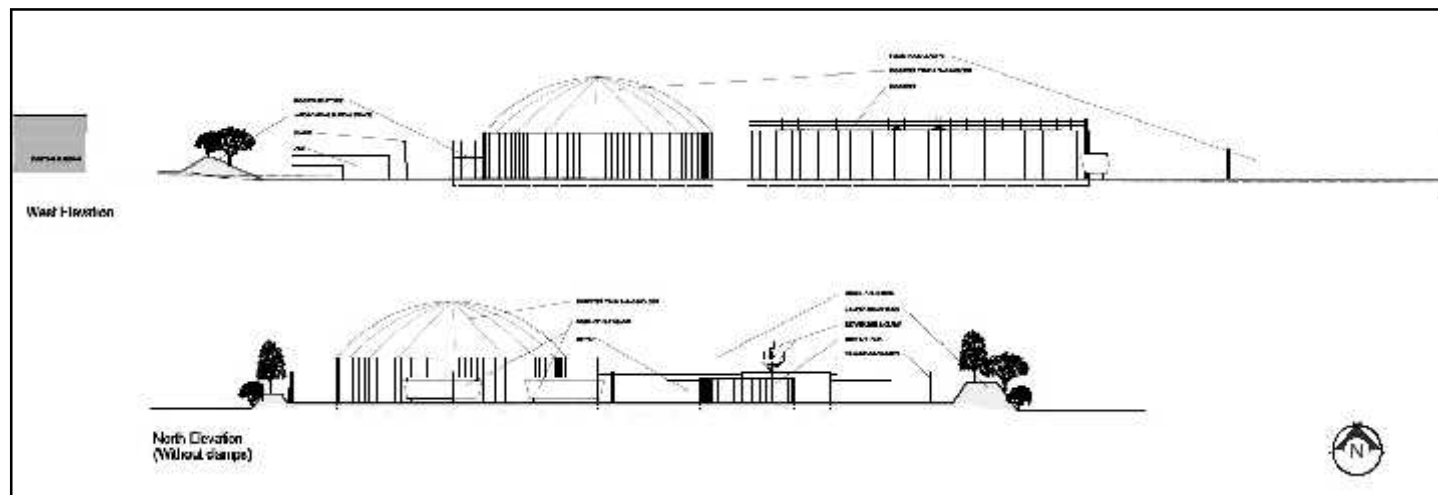
Now is the time to welcome the homeless, the poor, the dispossessed – remember that even millionaire developers are God’s creatures.**

Peter Hunt official spokesperson for the Horsley Friendship Society (Downend Sarcasm Department)

**thanks to Mr Seeger*

*** as are scorpions*

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER PLANNED FOR CHAVENAGE



The above plan forms part of a major planning application relating to Chavenage Dairy that is currently in the validation process with Stroud District Council.

The application is for an 'on farm' agricultural anaerobic digestion energy plant using farm waste and crops generated on the Chavenage Estate, which owns the site.

David Manley

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David Manley has been invited to the PC meeting on 29th April 7:30pm in the Village Hall

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LIVING LIFE

We have just spent another weekend having tremendous fun, kayaking!

Many of you will know that just over a year ago our son, Harry became an amputee after being diagnosed with a rare type of bone tumour. As a family we feel it's really important to give you an update on his progress since finishing his treatment last Christmas.



He has managed to completely re-integrate at school where he's working towards his GCSE's, this includes a trip to Iceland this summer as part of his Geography studies.

Sport is still high on his agenda crutch football, swimming and kayaking are proving to be popular but the opportunities are plentiful, Paralympic disciplines such as wheelchair tennis and athletics are really exciting possibilities, as well as learning to fly!!

This small but exceptional community has played an enormous part in Harry's recovery by supporting our family in so many ways financially, practically and spiritually and all that dedication gave us the strength to survive. The gift of our fabulous puppy continues to make life joyful too.

So what more can we say but *THANK YOU*

Harry's a quiet teenager who's been caught in life's complicated web but because of this, he's actually incredibly inspiring too.

With immense gratitude from The Ash Family

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RUSKIN MILL COLLEGE & THE TIPPUTS INN

As you will have heard by now, Ruskin Mill College is exploring the possibility of purchasing Tippetts Inn.

This opportunity came about when the current owners of the pub indicated that they were looking at selling the property and asked whether or not the college would be interested in the asset.

The college is currently going through a planning application process, and if successful intends to purchase Tippetts and have a small café open to the public, a shop selling local produce and crafts.

In addition to the shop and café, the building will offer a large meeting space that will be able to be used by the community.

We know that a lot of local people walk through the site and visit the events and exhibitions and we saw the opportunity of opening an additional café and having a shop that could be open to the public and selling our local produce, could increase the interaction with the local community.

Although the building will no longer be run as a pub, we hope that it will continue to be a community asset.

Elisabeth Johnson, Principal of Ruskin Mill College



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AN EXOTIC EYE OPENER!

12 year old Milo Herbert and his dad, Tom Herbert (one of the famous Baker Brothers) recently spoke to SWR students about their amazing trip to Laos.

Milo and Tom were visiting with the charitable organisation 'Tearfund' to look at some of the poverty related issues that the country faces. Not surprisingly one of the issues they focussed upon was food security – sharing with us the heart-breaking story of a young family that regularly live off one small chameleon or a few frogs a day! Many in this country are living a hand to mouth existence, which is extenuated by desperate families sending their children and spouses to a life of slavery in bordering

Thailand in order to survive. Part of the work that Milo and his dad undertook was to research and suggest alternative meals and snacks. They were aware that this needed to be sustainable – therefore ingredients that were readily and cheaply available in local markets and made using every day utensils. As a result Tom Herbert and 12 year old baking partner Milo came up with 'sticky sticks' trialled and devoured by a number of children in rural Laos!



Milo shared with his peers how this amazing experience has really changed his outlook on life, and made him appreciate what poverty really looks like – beyond the TV screens. This in turn encouraged our Year 8 students who are currently studying the topic of development in Geography to reflect upon the opportunities and luxuries that we have living here in the UK.

As a result of Milo's presentation, a group of Year 8 students are now fundraising for Tearfund by holding cake sales, which are naturally very popular!, together with a raffle of a wooden model of 'Mallard' (the world's fastest steam locomotive) beautifully crafted by our DT Technician, Rob Child.

Trips—Our students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of trips and day visits during their five years at SWR. During the February half term a group went skiing in Austria. At the end of June our Year 7 students will travel to Montabaur in Germany, with Year 8s travelling to Bude in Devon for an activity adventure (similar to PGL).

In July the Geography department will be embarking on their first overseas field trip to Iceland. Known as the 'Land of Fire and Ice' Iceland is an astonishing country with spectacular glaciers, volcanic mountains, wild gorges, stunning waterfalls, Europe's largest wet desert, impressive geysers and a raft of other geothermal features all wrapped up in a centuries-old Norse culture. Residential field trips are becoming increasingly recognised as an important part of learning and development. This trip will reinforce classroom learning and bring the text book alive.

In the summer of 2015 a group will travel to the Ardèche in France for an exciting water sports trip. Descending the spectacular Ardèche River as it winds and tumbles its way through the stunning 600' deep gorge, including an overnight bivouac under the stars.

Sir William Romney School, Tetbury

FLIES ON THE WALL YOUTH THEATRE

Flies On The Wall Youth celebrate twenty one years of fun and fabulous theatre-making in 2014!

The Youth Theatre was started by Lucy Heywood of Horsley fame 21 years ago.

Since then over 1500 teenagers have experienced friendship, drama, and all that making theatre entails.

Easter 2014 there will be TWO productions back-to-back at Lansdown Hall in Stroud to celebrate this anniversary, 30 young people in each.



'Opal Dreaming' is set in Australia 1928 where prospectors are digging for opals. Intrigue and humour abound as the search for the perfect opal unfolds.

'Stargazing' is set in 2028 and tells a fantastical story of the astrological star signs wreaking havoc from the celestial belt. Cricketers, cooks, Vikings and astrologers are involved in this funny and sparkling show:

Both shows are being performed at Lansdown Hall with wonderful set design, costumes, music, song, and dance.

OPAL DREAMING will be performed 7.30pm on Friday April 11th and 3.30pm & 7.30pm on Sat April 12th

STARGAZING will be performed 7.30pm on Friday April 18th and 3.30pm & 7.30pm on Sat April 19th

Tickets from Star Anise Cafe, Gloucester St, Stroud £8 / £7 concessions £20 families (up to four) £14 if you come to both shows Under 18's £6

NOVEMBER 29th 2014 at Lansdown Hall we are throwing a Flies 21st Anniversary Party! All welcome tickets £5

Jo Bousfield

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The Hog Over the Wall

Greg and Caroline, and family are pleased to be finally 'in residence' at the Pub.

We would like to thank everyone who has offered support and encouragement to welcome us to the village.

We haven't moved far - from Amberley - and many will know us from meeting us at our Café, The Canteen in Nailsworth. We have plans to make the pub a fantastic place to meet, eat and drink. We are sourcing everything locally as has been our philosophy at the Canteen.

We have started refitting the cellar and are pleased to announce we now have beer!! We have ten pumps installed and are pleased to be a Free House so will stock Stroud, Uley and Cotswold Brewery Beer and Ciders.

Our kitchen is the next room to be tackled and then we will start on the dining and bar areas and garden. We can't wait to get cooking, we have lots of great ideas but our tiny kitchen at the Canteen doesn't allow us to extend our repertoire as much as we would like.

When we open, we will also sell coffee and cakes. We would like people to use it as a meeting place during the day, like at the Canteen. We would like the Pub to be used as a 'Hub'. If you would like to book a regular time for meetings, please let us know.

We have renamed the Pub 'The Hog' and we plan to open as soon as possible, but recognise that this may be some weeks ahead yet. We look forward to greeting all our guests as the new Landlord and Landlady.

Rest assured we will have an opening event to remember!

Greg, Caroline, Alex and Charlotte





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IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

It's been a busy few months since last we spoke.

All that rain was a bit of a bore...had to have many more BATHS than usual because of the MUD.

The most fun and interesting thing has been that I DID start "Agility" classes in January and have been going weekly on a Monday evening. It's in Haresfield, quite far away from where I live, down narrow lanes and, with all the horrible rain, meant we had to drive through FLOODS on several occasions...this has been quite novel for me to see Jo turn into what I think is called a "gibbering wreck"....we always made it (just).



Lots of different dogs (all of them bigger than me) but we all get on.

A huge indoor arena (where there are normally horses prancing about....oh the smells of the dung.....) and our owners spend a bit of time setting up all manner of obstacles that we are expected to navigate.....hmmmmmmm. The jumps are easy-peasy and the tunnel is second nature (being a terrier an' all)

BUT I'm also expected to "weave" in and out of a set of sticks...what IS the point of that I wonder? I WILL do it (badly) if there's a piece of sausage involved.....

There's also an A-frame.....up one side and down the other.....piece of cake,

HOWEVER.....

It seems that I'm supposed to WAIT at the end with back paws on frame and front paws on ground.... far too challenging, and as yet I'm not having anything to do with that part of the equation.

There is also a "See-Saw".....not convinced....

Jo has to direct me where to go and I find it highly amusing as I am MUCH faster than her and haven't really got the hang of "left" and "right" yet...

She really looks quite different when she's running about like a headless chicken and flailing her arms about...I'm sure she'll get the hang of it soon.

I'm in the Beginners class and sometimes make it through the fence to join in with the professional clever dogs. The dogs don't mind but everyone else seems to get a little stressed about that.....

We still go to "Superdog" classes in the Town Hall of a Friday evening, and would you believe it, I just got awarded a CUP for "Most Improved Terrier"!!! Jo was VERY pleased and I felt quite chuffed too...just imagine what I could do if I really put my mind to it!

That's all for now, as the sun is shining and its time to go and dig up all the onion sets that Jo has just spent a long time planting out in the veggie patch.....

Ain't life Sweet?

Daisy of Downend

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT HORSLEY SCHOOL

5-4-3-2-1! We have lift off!

On the 12th of February our fantastic new space themed library was officially opened by local children's author and illustrator Hannah Shaw. Throughout the day Hannah ran fun workshops with all the children and in the afternoon the whole school, all 104 children, squeezed into the library to see Hannah cut the gold ribbon and formally declare the library open. A huge cheer went up as the children were presented with a lunar landscape cake created by Justine Bryan and with a piece of cake in hand, they skipped out of school ready to get reading! Mission accomplished.



Otters Trip to @ Bristol

On March 3rd Otters (year 3 & 4) went to @ Bristol Science Museum - Marcus, age 9 wrote: *"When we got there the first thing we saw was the Human Hamster Wheel. We went to a classroom and learned all about light and shadows. We wore funny glasses which split the light into rainbow colours, played with lasers and saw a slide show. After that we went to a forces and motion show where William was lifted sky high with some pulleys. After lunch we went to the Ancient Egyptian Rooms and saw mummies, shappias, tombs, coffins and canopic jars. Finally, we went back to the bus and went home. All in all great day! "*

ISingPOP

The culmination of a week of hard work and great fun learning songs and dances, the IsingPOP concerts on March 6th were a total triumph. The joy on the faces of the children was infectious and many present were visibly moved by their enthusiasm and enjoyment as they performed the range of songs they had learned. The whole event is perfectly summed up by the Vicar, Michael Irving, who wrote: *"I write to congratulate you on a most wonderful and inspiring concert last Thursday. The children were remarkable—so alive and so full of joy and wonder.... Lisa you head up a remarkable school. It was a joy to see so many parents there and that is the sign of the positive partnership you have built up between school and homes"*

World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March all children had the opportunity to listen to book readings by school staff, when books including *The Tiger who came to Tea*, Jacqueline Wilson's *Cookie* and characters including Lemony Snickett and Percy Jackson were brought to life. Then on Friday the 7th children came to school dressed as their favourite book characters.

Owls Trip to London

On Friday 7th of March, while the rest of the school was busy dressing as their favourite book characters, Owls (years 5 & 6) went on a fantastic trip to the Science Museum in London. Nell aged 10 wrote: *"It was a long journey but when we got there, it was worth it. We had a great time looking round at all the amazing space items which included a few of the spacecraft that had actually been to the moon and back! We were allowed to feel what it was like wearing space gloves, and it turned out to be very painful even picking up screws. The last thing we did was to have a tour round London to see the sights and gawp at Buckingham Palace."*

HORSLEY PLAYGROUP

Thinking about the theme of domestic science for this issue of Over the Wall made me think about just how much cooking we do at Horsley Playgroup, and the answer is quite a lot!

Cooking activities are a great way to get young children involved, busy, active and learning. It reaches both boys and girls alike and it gives so many opportunities; to explore using the senses, to listen and follow instructions, to share and work together, to develop the physical skills to use simple tools to measure, chop and mix ingredients together.

Developing counting skills, an early understanding of science and an interest in print when following the recipe, the list goes on.....!

To make cooking such a special activity we have a special table covering, our own weighing scales, chopping boards, bowls and other equipment too, but also, very importantly, the children wear children sized aprons that help to make it special.

Thinking about this some more, the children that have attended Horsley Playgroup have been using these same beautiful hand printed aprons for what must be 25 years now. Lovingly printed by Ali Heywood, when her son Barney was at playgroup, and edged and sewn with the help of a mum or two, these wonderful aprons have been in use for a multitude of recipes and occasions ever since.

Just this week, for instance, the children and adults worked to give the mums a very special lunch to celebrate Mother's Day.

The children helped make the lunch over the last two weeks at playgroup; making invites, fruity cake and cheese scones, to freeze to keep fresh. Then a very hearty and healthy soup made on the day of the lunch, and paper flowers to decorate the tables - which the children helped lay ready, all the 58 place settings needed. With the amazing support of parents, this was a wonderfully special and proud celebration of the occasion, and all things domesticated!

If you are interested in your child coming to Horsley Playgroup, please feel free to drop in or



contact the number below. Our sessions are currently Monday mornings, Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings in the village hall and for children in their pre-school year, Monday and Wednesday afternoons, with the Wednesday one held in the reception classroom at Horsley Primary School.

We also run a parent, baby and toddler group in the hall Tuesdays 9.30am-11.30am - just turn up, you will be very welcome.

Mags Ratford, Playleader 833876

STAND & STARE

Our new exhibition 'It's This A Dagger?' opens at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon tonight and runs until 21st September 2014.

We have worked with the RSC Property Workshop to shine a spotlight on 12 props.

Each object tells a different story, revealing the breadth of detail, historical research and skill needed to create them as well as the role they play on stage and how they interpret a designer's idea.

The Royal Shakespeare Company's Prop Store is a vast, sprawling warehouse full of aisles of metal shelves. It is stuffed with weird and wonderful props from snails to sailing ships, all waiting to be reused or recycled.

This interactive exhibition invites you to peek inside a fascinating world, explore objects used in past RSC productions and hear directly from the people who make, source and use theatrical props everyday.

info@standandstare.com



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STROUD ECO OPEN HOMES 2014

Transition Stroud is again bringing together householders, individuals and organisations across the Stroud Valleys to celebrate 'fit for future' homes.

Transition Stroud will again be opening homes to share tips and information on eco-renovation and building. This year a record 27 homes will be open - from old, listed buildings to self built wooden homes; from modern terraced to 17th century detached.

The event will be held on the weekend of May 3rd and 4th, from 11.00am - 5.00pm and homes will be opening across the Stroud valleys.

An organiser, Jane Brown said: "We are looking forward to welcoming people from all over the West Country to come and get inspiration from home owners who have experienced the highs and lows of sustainable building work. Many people return year after year since they have found the event so helpful. Many are choosing to take several measures in their own homes."

This year we will also be holding an Installers' Fair in the Stroud Subscription Rooms on Saturday 26th April, 10.00am - 2.00pm to give people the opportunity of talking to suppliers and getting some ideas before the Eco Open Homes event the following weekend.

Children can come and build their own home at the Installers' Fair too.

See more at: <http://www.stroudopenhomes.org.uk/>

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DOMESTIC SCIENCE

Ask a group of people to tell you what they understand by the term 'Domestic Science' and most will say how it's the stuff that girls do at school while the boys are making wooden tea trays – things like ironing tablecloths and learning to write thankyou letters.

For me though, domestic science has always meant something quite different – namely real science that just happens to be carried out in the home.

Last autumn I bought a Van de Graaf generator for £75 on eBay. It's one of those machines with a shiny silver ball that you can use to create what looks like real lightning.

I wasn't sure what to do with it at first until I decided to show it off at a party. That was an evening people won't forget in a hurry. It was enough to make your hair stand on end – literally. It proved so popular that I decided to host a regular weekly event in the village hall.

It was on one such occasion: the air was crackling, the dial was 'turned up to eleven' and the sparks were beginning to fly, when – like a bolt out of the blue – it came to me: simply the most brilliant idea I have ever had – and one that alongside scientific acclaim, honours and awards, is likely to make me a wealthy man.

Later, Mrs Wormwood told me that, though I was unconscious for no more than two or three minutes, she had been seriously worried and that if I was going to persist in further scientific explorations then perhaps it could be more of the David Attenborough and a bit less of the Victor Frankenstein. I promised her I would try. To be honest I was starting to get bored with the Van de Graaf generator parties anyway.

Just shut your eyes and imagine yourself slumped on the sofa after an exhausting day at the office. Unhooking your attention momentarily from your phone, you gaze wistfully as a herd of tiny elephants, shuffles its way slowly across the sitting room carpet. This was my vision; this is what, at that moment, I decided I would give to the world – perfect, miniature animals.

I spent the next four weeks Googling everything I could find on genetic engineering; and the next four ordering equipment – centrifuges, mass spectrometers and lots of plastic tubing, and all the time working so hard I can't have slept for more than 15 minutes at a time.

Just a few more nights and I should be ready to reveal the fruits of my research to the wider scientific world.

I have already secretly bought Mrs Wormwood something to wear at the press conference.

It's a black T-shirt on which the following words are written in bold, white letters:

.....which will be really funny as everyone knows how devoted to me she is.



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ESPAÑA ¡OLÉ! – An evening of Spanish Music and Dance

Despite the road being closed a capacity audience turned out on Saturday 8 March to enjoy an exciting evening of Spanish music and dance entitled España ¡Olé! at the 3-in-1 space at St Martins Church.

The evening featured The Cappella Singers, together with Sally Jenkins, harp, and Stroud's own popular flamenco group, Suspiro Flamenco. The high demand for tickets meant that it was sold out a week before the event, but by some rearrangement of seating and tables, those on a waiting list for tickets were able to be accommodated.



The doors opened early and there was opportunity to take full advantage of obtaining delicious tapas, which was provided by Star Anise Café, and a bar featuring Spanish wine and beer ably run by Stan Burrage and Mike Hewitt.

The Cappella Singers, lead by their musical director, Philip Colls, performed a varied programme of music with choral pieces from the 16th century Spanish Renaissance, Andalusian villancicos, and finishing with three exciting pieces from Cuba and Argentina, featuring solos from Ken Lawrence and Liz Farley.

Harpist Sally Jenkins played a solo from the 16th century, arrangements of pieces from Falla's ballet 'El sombrero de tres picos' (The Three-cornered Hat), and joined in with the sopranos of The Cappella Singers to perform 'La virgen camina Egipto', a traditional song from Andalucia.

Suspiro Flamenco featured flamenco dancers Raquel Alvarez and Vicky Clifford, singers and guitarists Kotska Garcia and David Butcher, and cahon percussionist Senan Clifford.

They performed an exciting programme of flamenco, which featured a range of emotions and moods, in the variety of dancing, singing, guitar playing and rhythms.



THE LAMBING SEASON

This is our first new arrival - a Bonny ram lamb.

He was born at 1.30am Tuesday morning and as you can see he is healthy and growing well. He needs a name, which should begin with the letter 'h', and any suggestions would be appreciated. Some kind of name that is linked to 'Lord of the Rings' would be nice. Little does he know that he will soon have to have his ear pierced for a name tag, and for his tail to be shortened to protect him from nays fly attack!

Anyway, we can reassure him that we've made no plans for him to participate in any 'domestic science' lesson!

Norman Kay



HORSLEY ROAD LANDSLIP - Highways Update

I visited the site on Friday 21/3 with our Geotextile Engineer who has been looking after this site so far to learn more about the nature of the closure.

GCC are confident that the reopened carriageway will not negatively impact the slippage area but ongoing monitoring will continue to measure any further movement. Further advance warning signage for the 7.5 Tonnes weight limit is being introduced on the network.

As such our investigation and monitoring thus far has been with a view to understanding the conditions and partially reopen the carriageway.

I will keep you up to date as progress becomes available on the works required to stabilise and reopen the B4058 fully.

John Kay, Highways, GCC (Richard Gray's replacement)



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Gables Farm Open Day Sunday 18 May [NAILSWORTH FESTIVAL]
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John Smith Tuesday 20 May 7.30pm £12 [NAILSWORTH FESTIVAL]
Richard Valentine Memorial Folk Concert

Cath Hodsman Friday 23 May–Monday 16 June *Insect illustrations*

EAC Summer School Concert Friday 25 July 7.30pm

Ruskin Mill College Students Annual Exhibition Saturday 12 July–Sunday 7 September

RUSKIN MILL GALLERY & CAFÉ open 10am–4pm daily including weekends

Full events listings on our website where the Summer Events Guide is also available to download. Please call or email the Events Office to be added to our mailing list
01453 837537 events@rmc.rmt.org



www.rmt.org/ruskin-mill-events

HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of meeting held on 18th March 2014

Land at Sugley Lane (Wheelbarrow Farm)

District Cllr Blackwell reported that a report required by the planning officer had not yet been received and was required within the next 48 hours if the application was to be considered at the April Meeting of SDC Development Control Committee. It therefore seemed most likely that the application would go before the May meeting.

Community Shop/Pavilion

The clerk reported that again this year the building qualified for maximum business rates relief and therefore no rates were payable.

Nupend Farm

Members of the residents working group attended the meeting to present its report on the consultation exercise performed in the parish, relating to the proposed development at Nupend Farm. Council congratulated the group on the thoroughness and quality of the report. It was estimated that perhaps 25% of residents had responded and as such the report was considered to be representative of opinion amongst residents.

Following a discussion on the way forward, it was agreed that the group should retain the services of a professional consultant to assist them and some alternatives were considered before finally deciding on one. It was agreed the group should arrange a meeting immediately with the consultant to decide the next step.

Playing Field

Cllr Caudwell reported he had inspected the fence and whilst he would attempt temporary repairs, longer term the fence required replacing, possibly in the next couple of years. He had also applied grease to the roundabout which was now operative. One of the springs required painting and the clerk agreed to redistribute the bark under the swings.

Quotations for the grass cutting of the playing field were studied and it was agreed to await further quotations before finally deciding.

B4058

Cllr Ms McDonagh agreed to try and obtain a date for completion of the work on the land slip site from GCC Highways Dept. and request a copy of the 'geotech' results.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 29th April 2014 at 7.30pm in the village hall

John Nicholson, Clerk to the Council

horsleyclerk@btinternet.com

HORSLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS

The following list of Parish Councillors was given to **otw** on 25th March 2014; they are shown with their contact numbers & letter codes indicating their committee & working party involvement where known (see KEY):

John Nicholson	(Clerk)	832734
Kate Kay	T	833458
Bryn Howells	F, P,	836601
Dawn Clarke	PF	836131
Nick Hackett	(Chair) F, P	834568
Christina McDonagh	P, VH, RM	834465
Allan Caudwell	(V Chair) F, P	834548

KEY

P	- Planning Committee
F	- Finance Committee
FP	- Footpath Working Party
S	- School Liaison
VH	- Village Hall Rep
RM	- Ruskin Mill Liaison
PV	- Pavilion Working Party
T	- Traffic & Road Working Party
HC	- Horsley Charities Rep
PF	- Playing Field

* Denotes chair of Committee/ Working Party indicated

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month



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Bear Hunt

It's 1965, and officials await the visit of a Party boss; nervously, it must be said, as his staff have let it be known he expects to shoot a bear, the comrades to arrange it for him.

They are not so keen, in fact, feel a certain sense of outrage: after much vodka come up with an idea - why not commandeer a circus bear, and all their problems will be at an end.

So they do - have it kept in a hut in the woods. The bear is not sure about this, being used to his keeper, the circus - but he's fed, there's a comfy bed, so what's the problem.

When the boss arrives, makes it be known that promotion will be assured - a new car, house, you know the sort of thing - he's told a bear's been sighted, they'll hunt the following day.

And so they do, though the bear doesn't want to play his part, is bewildered by bullets whistling past, until one nicks him and off through the trees he goes, till he reaches a clearing,

catches his breath as an old man appears cycling along a track. Ah, a bicycle. Yes, he knows about bicycles, and his heart leaps with joy in this joyless forest. As the hunters emerge,

they see the old man throw up his arms, leap off the bike, and run: they see the bear pick it up, find his feet, so to speak, build up a head of steam as he cycles off into the trees.

Certain questions remain: did the party boss see the joke? did the bear return to the circus, or join the local population who accepted him once the strange smell faded from his fur.

David Hale

OVER THE WALL PRODUCTION TEAM

Lorna Adamson (836351)	Copy
Ali Heywood (834382)	Copy
Lynn Stride (833026)	Advertising
Nick Hackett (834568)	DTP & Distribution

Next Copy Date is 2nd July 2014; please contact Lorna or Ali to submit copy:

heyweather@msn.com **for Ali** or
lornaadamson@msn.com **for Lorna**

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