Issue #5 SEPT, 2025

ST PETER'S CHURCH & TANDRIDGE VILLAGE PARISH MAGAZINE



Winnie and Winter at St. Peter's Pet Service, 13th July, 2025.



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD. JAMES ASHTON:

September...

"Summer has come and passed the innocent can never last Wake me up when September ends"



September is an unusual month; it comes in the middle section of the year, yet for so many is punctuated by things starting, or re-starting. The above lyric is not particularly high-brow, but reveals the thoughts some have when September rolls around each year. For some, September is a month of readjustment and focus; the joys of Summer begin to pass away, and autumnal days creep up on us. (Some, may just want to sleep through the whole month ...)

For others, especially those involved in education, it is the start of a new academic year. Whether a pupil or a teacher; resources are checked and plans are made. Is everything required for the new term in the right place? Are new clothes, bags or shoes needed? If starting a new school or college, do we know where we are going? And what the schedule is? We definitely pray for all those starting a new term this September, especially those beginning in a new setting entirely.

How do we successfully make the move from one season to another? Are sometimes the 'in-between' times hard to negotiate? It's not summer, but feels like things haven't really got going yet — I'm reminded of CS Lewis's 'Wood Between the Worlds'; an in-between place that serve as thresholds on the way to the next place, or season.

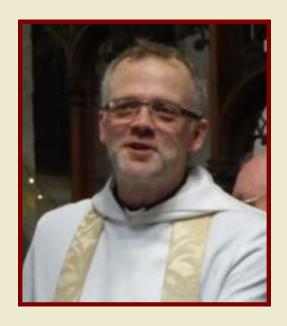
However we feel about the change in seasons, and the inexorable progress of the year, we might be reminded of Proverbs 3:5-6 from the Bible:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."
May God be with you as the seasons change, and may we be awake to see
September, and all it may bring for us!

With my love and prayers

James A





FARMING NEWS

By John Nicholas



The Environment Agency officially declared a drought in 8 out of 14 areas of England, on 12th August.

Back in 1994 the Revd. Jon Hale asked for a "brief report on the farming diary of Tandridge" for inserting into the revamped parish magazine. As I have kept several editions of the Parish News that I contributed too, due to a combination of vanity and insanity, I thought it would be interesting to see what the salient points were then compared to now.

Well, guess what.... *****weather!! features highly. Too much, too little, too cold, too hot.

30 years later and no change there. General elections, wars, budgets, stock market fluctuations, Trump and anything else you can think of that might disrupt our viability, the weather is the most impactful. If global warming brings more weather extremes, then we are going to have a serious rethink in how we farm, locally and globally.

FARMING

The last 10 months have been the most 'challenging' I have known in my time farming. The wet autumn and winter, cold early spring, then exceptional dry spell has resulted in limited grass growth. We are already having to supplement the cattle's feed from this coming winters' hay and silage stocks, with the hopes of a late flush of autumn grass allowing us to extend the grazing season. Thoughts of the 'Summer of 1976 'begin to loom large.

The harvest is rapidly approaching, so the brooms are out in force to clean up the sheds. We only keep what corn we need for the cattle, all the rest is sent to a grain co-operative for cleaning, drying and storage. This enables our corn to be pooled and sold in bigger lots, hopefully achieving a better price...

Maybe I could run a pub, if the farming gets too difficult?

IMAGES FROM THE EDENBRIDGE & OXTED SHOW 2025











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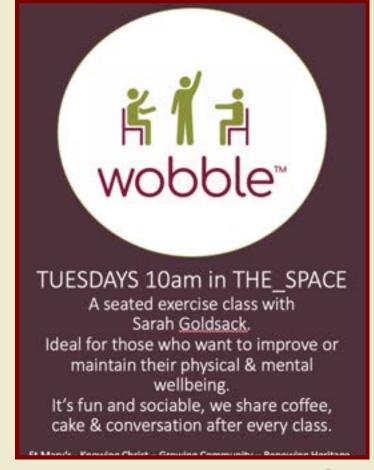
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GARDENING NEWS

By Doug Knight

Early Autumn is Bulb Time

Our gardens are still full of summer colour but it will soon be time to think about spring. There are many colourful spring-flowering bulbs to choose from and if you want the more unusual varieties, you can't leave it too long!

Daffodils for early spring colour

Daffodils (narcissus) along with small bulbs, like crocus, scillas and snowdrops, are best planted before the end of October. If you were to dig up a daffodil bulb in the garden now you would find it has already started to produce roots. Early planting allows the bulbs to root early and make good growth before flowering which benefits flowering next spring but, most importantly, the following year.

So where can you plant daffodils?



Of course, they will all flower anywhere in the first year because the bulbs come complete with flower buds inside. But for repeat flowering Daffodils prefer a spot in sun or part shade. They will not bloom well in dense shade.

You can grow them in pots, window boxes and even hanging baskets but choose dwarf kinds for this. Daffodils will grow and flower for many years without special care whether in pots or in borders or the lawn. But you must allow the foliage to die down naturally after the flowers fade. You need to leave the foliage for at least six weeks after flowering and do not cut it off prematurely.

The foliage can be unattractive as it dies down so you need to site them with care. In the border it need not be an issue if you plant them in and around herbaceous plants. When planting in grass it is best to choose small and early flowering kinds so you do not have to wait too long to cut the grass. It is best to plant dense clumps of daffodils so you can leave small areas to mow later and NOT scatter them over large areas of lawn.

If you are planting daffs in pots for one season, you can use multipurpose compost, dig them up after flowering replant the pots for summer and put the bulbs in the garden. If you want to plant pots permanently then use John Innes compost. If you have shrubs in pots or fruit trees, you can plant daffodils under them and leave them for years. Again, dwarf kinds are best in this situation.

The perfect daffodil?



'Tête-à-tête' is probably the world's favourite daffodil it does not have the biggest or the most unusual flowers, but it is the one of the easiest and most reliable to grow. It flowers early, increases quickly and is reliable and hardy. Each bulb will produce lots of flowers, depending on the bulb size.

'Tête-à-tête' flowers early so is good to plant in grass. It is short so ideal for pots and rockeries and it is such a good grower that it is also one of the cheapest to buy so you can afford to be generous with them. You can plant them almost touching in pots for a dense display the first year.



Another great daffodil is 'Jetfire' which has bright, reflexed petals and an orange trumpet. It is an early and bright option that is short but not quite dwarf and perfect for pots and the garden.

Among the last to bloom are the 'tazetta' narcissus. They usually have many flowers on each stem and are highly fragrant. They prefer a sunny, warm spot and include 'Minnow'



EXCITING NEWS FROM THE BIGWOOD ESTATE

By Kate Bigwood

I was so excited and proud to hear that we are finalists for the Sustainability Award within the Tandridge Business Awards 2025! I am delighted to have been nominated and to get our message out to a wider audience and shout about all the things we are doing here to make everything better for our long term future. Just being a finalist is wonderful but I don't get to hear if we have won until mid October, but as I said to the panel of judges, getting this far is something to be proud of, and what matters is that others are also doing great things, so if we don't win then that means others are doing great things too, which matters even more than winning. But I can't lie: it would be nice to win!



The day to day slog; the feeling you aren't making any progress; the constant demands for money with very little flowing back in, all make trying to do something new and different very challenging and requires a regular focus to dig deep to find within the courage and tenacity to continue. Hanging on for dear life to follow my gut instinct towards what I know to be right, despite all the daily challenges, has been, and still is, really tough at times but I have been very touched by the response of some friends and my family, to this little recognition that I am trying hard to do some good in this muddled, often messed up world. The overwhelming majority of people and businesses are still focused on short term gains, having too much stuff and remaining comfortable at all times, so the confirmation from a few who openly recognise my determination and commitment has been very gratefully received and warmed my heart beyond words.

This reminds me of the need for community. When times are tough, we need good friends who understand the challenges we face to help us find whatever it takes for us to find our way through the inevitable hard times. How do we find and create a community? I thought it would be easy but it actually is surprisingly difficult. We all have busy lives and there is very little spare time, but are we busy searching for the one thing most of us crave: to be amongst like minded and connected people? To be supported when times are challenging and to uplift others as they go through their tough times? To encourage each other to do the right thing rather than follow the majority. Or is it that when we are in groups, we are more likely to seek comfort, stuff and look through a short term lens? Perhaps that depends on the company we keep. I feel blessed and full of gratitude for having both loving and supportive family and friends. They all enrich my life and help me to steer this ship when the surrounding waters get choppy. Without their on-going support, I would never have achieved any recognition for a business sustainability award and would not have the opportunity to further spread the message on what we can all do to change and collectively make a difference to the whole. We are all in this together and it's together that we can make a difference.

Kate Bigwood



RUSTIC COTTAGES BICENNTENIAL CELEBRATION 1825-2025

Last year, whilst having drinks in one our gardens I floated the idea of having a 200 year celebration and us all opening our gardens, with the neighbours joining us in 1, 2 and 3, the Barratt's, Barnett's and Richards' houses.

We forgot the idea until about 8 weeks before the event and then went for it barrels of beer, buckets of iced wine and prosecco, accompanied by great company. Here's to the next 100!

Mike Barratt











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MEMORY LANE PART V

IN THIS ISSUE WE RETURN TO PAULINE HOPKIN'S SCHOOL DAYS AT ST. MARGARET'S IN SHROPSHIRE. HER PARENT'S AND YOUNGER BROTHER HAVING RETURNED AFTER THE WAR TO HONG KONG.



Pauline reuinted with her parents and brother in Hong Kong in 1948

Directly after the war ended. Pauline spent 3 years at school in England, far away from her parents. There were no family visits, only letters. However, in 1948 an initiative called "Flight Youth" was organised to return young Hong Kong Belongers back to their homes, for a holiday and then back to school in England.

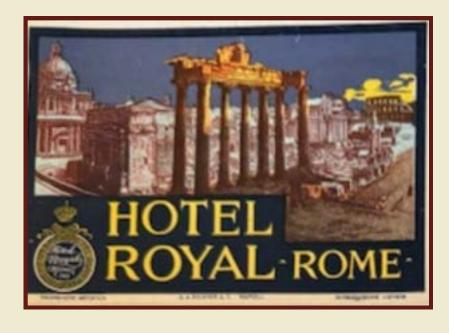
Pauline remembers joining 35 students at Bovingdon Airport, excitingly boarding a huge aircraft, (a Flymaster), and commencing her first flight - a criss-crossing 6 day journey back to her family. The details of this trip were meticulously kept by her father and Pauline still has the volume of photographs, tickets and notes which he documented.

The first stop was Geneva, followed by Rome, then Egypt, which included a short trip to the Pyramids and a stay at the Heliopolis Palace. There were further stops for fuel and overnight stays in Karachi , Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangkok and finally Hong Kong where her mother, father and brother were waiting to meet her at the foot of the airplane's steps.









There was another person there to witness Pauline's arrival; the bamboo telegraph was fully operational, so much so that Pauline's old nanny, (her Amah), Ahsee was spotted a little way off, ensuring she witnessed this special event.

In 1950, Pauline returned to Hong Kong and began her career, working for the secretary of The Chamber of Commerce. However, it was not all work - Pauline was invited to many parties and balls, including the first and only debutantes ball as a guest of the Governor of Hong Kong and his wife, Sir Alec and Lady Grantham, at the Pensinsula Hotel.





Pauline at the debutantes' ball at The Peninsula Hotel

At one particular social occasion in 1951, a couple of Pauline's friends mentioned that they were off to collect one of their associates from the airport. Pauline decided to join them on the trip, completely unaware that she was about to meet her future husband. Tony was the friend they were to meet and drive to his accommodation. This was his first time in Hong Kong, yet sadly, Pauline wasn't to see him for another 6 months.

They were engaged in 1953 and married at St, Mark's Church, North Audley Street, Mayfair. They had originally arranged to marry at St. John's Cathedral in Hong Kong, but certain family members thought it best to marry in



England to allow for as many relations to attend as possible. They then decided to hold the service at St. Peter's, Tandridge. However, this was considered inconvenient to those travelling from the Far East. In the end, they opted for London.

Married life began in Caterham followed by Oxted. Tony worked in London as a shipbroker and was then assigned to Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong for two years, where in 1960s he opened routes to China.

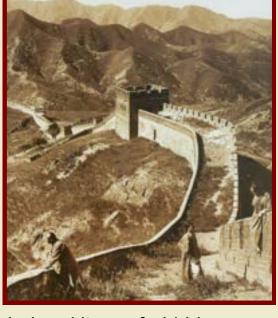
The couple first attended St. Peter's Church, Tandridge, which was Tony's family's church, but as their family grew and as they looked for

Pauline and Tony marry in Mayfair

more family-friendly services, they decided to attend St. John's in Hurst Green. However, when Dennis Lane became the vicar at St Peter's and began the popular and well-attended Junior Church Services, Pauline and her family returned to St. Peter's and never looked back. For many years, they both became extremely involved and supportive in so many aspects of the church's care, maintenance and the general running of it. Tony was the church warden on two occasions, one such time, he and Gerry Walkden were the wardens together. Pauline was in charge of the brass cleaning for many years. Annette has taken this over with her team, much to Pauline's admiration and gratitude.

When their 4 boys were older, Pauline and Tony would take quite long business trips to Hong Kong and China. Tony built up such good relations with his Chinese counterparts that the Chinese Government paid for Tony and Pauline to have a 3 week guided tour of the country. This was during The Cultural Revolution, long before China opened it's borders to the West and there was





The Ming Tombs

no tourist industry of any kind. Chairman Mao ruled and it was forbidden even for the Chinese to travel within their own country. They enjoyed the most priviledged, extensive, private tours, which included a picnic lunch on the Great Wall - where there wasn't a single other visitor, a private visit to the Ming Tombs and a drive through the spectacular Pataling mountains. Pauline remembers that in Peking the local people were fascinated by her being dressed in a skirt and tights, as her legs were visible! It was a very different time in China, one which has long gone.

The accomodation was basic. They travelled with a light bulb, toilet paper and Nescafe. The food varied region to region and was good; in Szechuan it was notably hot! Pauline remembers that the authorities opened up the Summer Palace especially for her on her birthday. It had been closed to the public ever since Chairman Mao took office. Pauline walked alone down to the banks of the lake and sat in the marble boat - which was made for an Empress (who suffered from sea sickness.)



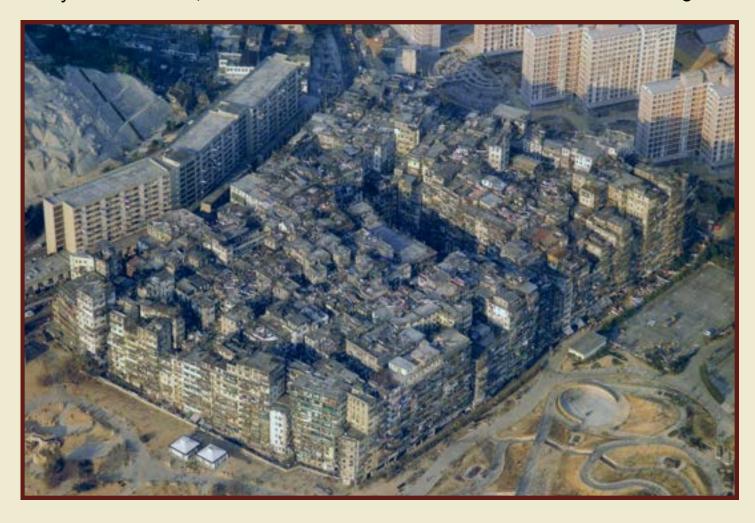
The 18th Century marble boat at the Summer Palace

On a visit with Tony to Hong Kong, Pauline was invited by Jackie Pullinger to visit the Walled City in Kowloon. The Walled City was a densely populated, lawless enclave, ruled by triad gangs, with high rates of drug abuse, prostitution and gambling. The population density reached a level of 3 million inhabitants per square mile in the late 1980s. It was inhabited largely by Chinese refugees fleeing the renewed Chinese Civil War.

There was barely any daylight in the narrow lanes Pauline walked down and the trade in all manner of banned products and practices thrived. Naturally, Pauline stuck very close to her host. As a missionary, Jackie Pullinger took Jesus to the Walled City in the late 1960s and as well as being a primary school teacher, she ran programmes to wean people off Heroin. She still does and has been extremely successful. As a result of her success and the people's love for her, she became godmother to many local children, some of whom Pauline met.



Jackie Pullinger



Kowloon Walled City. It was demolished in 1994. It is now a park.

Back in Oxted & Tandridge, Tony was a much loved and respected figure. He passed away just before Covid and Bishop Andrew Rumsey returned to St. Peter's to conduct the funeral service. Many feel that the position of his grave is appropriate, given all the good work he did for the church.

He had been a merchant seaman during the war and whilst serving on the Mermydon, the ship was torpedoed by the Germans just south of the Equator. The ship sank and the crew, which had taken to the lifeboats, were eventually picked up by the destroyer Brilliant and dropped at the mouth of the Congo. He eventually made it back to England, caught the train to Caterham, where the local milkman (having spotted Tony) offered him a lift home on his horse and cart. Not long afterwards, he was back at sea, which included being in action on D-Day.

"Hopkins", a colleague remarked, "always had a twinkle in his eye. He was one of those truly nice people who was always interested in others."



Tony as liveryman and member of The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights meeting The Princess Royal. For his charitable work, he was awarded the Shipwrights medal of honour in 1999. Only the fourth person to receive the company's highest award.

In Tony's memory, the Hopkins family restored the clock on the spire of St. Peter's Church, Tandridge.

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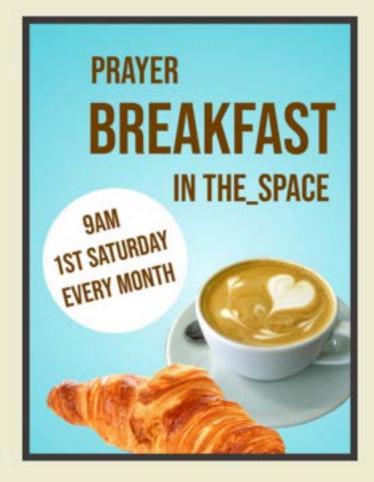






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FUNERAL AT ST. PETER'S, TANDRIDGE

Dr. Peter Morley 1959-2025

On Wednesday, 27th August, Peter's wife Julie, sons William and Adam, family and friends gathered at St. Peter's to remember and celebrate the life of Dr. Peter Morley. Approximately 275 people congregated in St. Peter's to show their respects. They heard from the family and his friends, who all spoke of how much Peter meant to them. It was a fitting tribute to an amazing man.



Peter was a G.P. at Oxted Health
Centre and an active villager. He was
a keen cyclist, skier and sailor. A great
many of those who attended the
funeral made their way to the Barley
Mow for the reception after the
service.





Flowers from the community



PETS SERVICE AT ST. PETER'S

Fantastic Fun!!!
By Winnie Westoby-Lloyd, age 8.

Another fantastic day at St Peters
Church!! A very amusing one.
We had no interruptions (just barking). Unfortunately Reverend
Ashton didn't ride a horse because of his fear. We had music and hymns outside, and all our pets were blessed.

Refreshments were held after the famous hymn "If I Were a Butterfly".

A great success!

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC SERVICE

Clare Addison brought a very special teddy to the above service, gifted to her by her 93 year old mother, marking retirement from the Clare's NHS in December last year. Clare spent 42 years in the nursing profession, firstly working within neurosciences. Upon moving to Tandridge in 2002, she was appointed Matron for Surgery at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. Clare officially 2020 during COVID, retired in returned part-time as Lead Nurse for Adult Safeguarding up until December 2025.





THE FORGE, TANDRIDGE. OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

AN AWKWARD MOMENT

SURREY MIRROR - 12 MARCH 1881

George Pearce, blacksmith Tandridge was summoned for assaulting Emily Wood, on the 18th February, at Oxted.

The complainant said that the defendant was shoeing some wheels, and whilst thus engaged threw some water over the children: she ran out to protect her son, and the defendant threw over her a pail of dirty water. Potter came after her with another pail.

The defendant said that he and his mates were engaged in shoeing the wheels, which required to be done when they were very hot; the children came at an awkward moment, and not being well educated enough to go when asked, he threw at them a little water he had in a pail - about a quart. Mr Potter, the employer, corroborated, and testified to the annoyance received from the boys when he and his men were occupied in putting the tyres on. Fined 5s. and 16s. 6d. costs.

TANDRIDGE WESTERHAM HERALD - 7TH APRIL 1917

ACCIDENT - Mr. H. Crowhurst met with a serious accident while working at his father's forge on Tuesday. He was leading out a horse which he had just shod, when a companion horse tied up waiting shoeing suddenly kicked him full in the face. he received severe injuries, his nose being split open and face much damaged. He was attended by two doctors and lies seriously ill,

FATHER, SON, AND GRANDSON OLD VILLAGE SMITHY LIT BY ELECTRICITY

DUNDEE EVENING TELEGRAPH 26TH JULY, 1933

In the pretty village of Tandridge, in Surrey, there are three generations of the village blacksmith working in the same smithy.

Grandfather Albert Crowhurst is 78, yet he still works at this forge from seven in the morning until five in the evening every day.

He has been the village blacksmith for 51 years.

His only son Albert Jospeph Crowhurst, is aged 51, and has been working in the same shop for 35 years.

Fred Crowhurst, a grandson is 19, and has worked beside his father and grandfather for 5 years.

The "mighty man' Grandfather Crowhurst told a press representative that he did not find any falling off in shoeing or blacksmithing in Tandridge,

"There are not many carriage horses, of course," he added, "but we have plenty of hunters and farm horses to shoe and any number of agricultural implements to repair

"In my opinion tractors are going out, in this part of the world at any rate, and the farmers are coming back to the old reliable horse. "We're off the beaten track somewhat in Tandridge and perhaps we are fortunate."



THREE
GENERATIONS - Mr.
Albert Crowhurst, who
is 78, with his son
Albert, and grandson
Fred, at the village
smithy in Tandridge,
Surrey.
Daily Herald, 26th
July, 1933

The Crowhursts have nothing to do with motors, They are old-fashioned blacksmiths and can find more work of the ordinary country kind than they can do.

"We have half a dozen horses to shoe some mornings." said grandfather, who shoed a horseshoe 9 5/8" diameter which he made for the famous shire horse, King of Tandridge.

He won the first junior championship in London. He also showed a 2 feet high iron candle-stand which he made to light his shop over 50 years ago.

That and the glow from the forge were his only winter lights in those days.

"We had gas after that," he said. "Now we've got electric light. Not many village blacksmiths work with electric light yet."

Grandfather Crowhurst has been something of a cricketer as well. As a young fellow he played with Bobby Abel at Blindly Heath and East Grinstead. The highest score he ever made was 97.

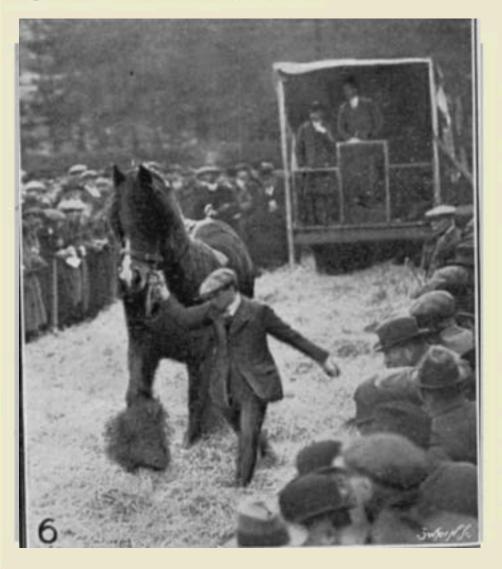


Photo of King of Tandridge, hired by the Crewe Shire Horse Society for 1915 at 1,000 guineas. This noted horse won many prizes, including 1st London. He is one of the greatest sires, his stock having won and continues winning in London, the Royal, and all leading shows. Foals by him have been sold for 400gs; and 250gs each.



The King of Tandridge in the sale ring, 1916. Formerly owned by Sir Max Michaelis of Tandridge Court and stabled at Brook Farm.

When he died in 1917, his obituary was printed in several newspapers!

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LATE MR. CROWHURST

Mr. Albert Crowhurst died on Friday at the age of 86, having been the village blacksmith at Tandridge. He was born in Sussex and came to Blindly Heath at the age of four when his father, also a blacksmith, gave up smithing and took over Colboys Farm. Mr. Crowhurst was apprentice to the blacksmith at Blindley Heath and took over the smith at Tandridge 61 years go. For 30 years, from it's formation in 1902, he was Captain of the Tandridge Fire Brigade and was also an overseer for 20 years. He played cricket for Blindley Heath and Tandridge until he was 60 and for many years after this never missed a Saturday game at Oxted. He leaves a widow (his second wife), son and daughter, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral at Tandridge was conducted by the Vicar Canon Roland Cragg.

Sevenoaks Chronicle and Kentish Advertiser. 9th October 1942,



DEATH OF MR. A. J. CROWHURST

In the death of Mr. Albert Joseph Crowhurst, of the Forge, Tandridge, on Thursday last week, the village has lost an old and highly respected resident. He was born 73 years ago at Blindley Heath shortly before the family moved to Tand-At the age of sixteen he started ridge. to learn the trade of a farrier in his father's forge, and after training at Wye College, qualified as a blacksmith and became a registered shoeing smith and a member of the Master Farriers' Association. Mr. Crowhurst was then apprenticed to a builder with whom he learned plumbing and water fitting. Subsequently, he returned to the forge to assist his father and in 1942, on the death of his father, he took the business over. Crowhurst won a number of awards as a shoeing smith and during his early life he spent much of his time as a travelling blacksmith at agricultural shows.

9th March ,1956, Surrey Mirror and County Post



Knowing Christ. Growing Community, Renewing our Heritage

Mr. Crowhurst devoted himself to public service and social activities and was for many years a member of Tandridge Parish Council. During both the 1914-18 war and the General Strike of 1926 he served as a special constable. He was for a number of years a member of Tandridge Parochial Church Council and was also People's Warden for a long period and a trustee of the village charities. At one time he was Captain of the then Tandridge Fire Brigade, having previously served as a fireman for many years, and became Head Warden of the village A.R.P. in 1937. He was a very keen committee member of the Godstone Horticultural Society, which during the last war raised considerable sums of money for charities. He was a manager of Tandridge Church of England School for many years up to the time of his death. For 30 years Mr. Crowhurst was a member of the Oxted, Limpsfield and Tandridge Sports Club and as a young man was an athlete of some repute and won many races both on the track and in cross-country events. He was also a member of the Redhill and Reigate Athletic Club.



Above - The Crowhurst family working on cartwheels in the yard. Page 38

TANDRIDGE FORGE TODAY LIVING HISTORY AND LOCAL INDUSTRY

Simon Larkin very kindly took time out of his busy day to recount some of his family's history of their time spent living and working at Tandridge's forge.

Simon's father Roger hailed from Addington, where his father was given a small-holding for his service during WW1. The Sailors and Soldiers Land Settlement Act of 1916 was proposed by the coalition Asquith ministry in 1916 and given royal assent under the Lloyd George ministry in December of that year. The Larkins kept a horse, cow and some sheep on their land. (This act was only repealed in 2008.)

After Roger had completed his national service he became an apprentice blacksmith working for Mr Crowhurst at Tandridge Forge. Each day, Roger would commute to work on his 125 Bantam motorbike (*below left*). During the Winter months, the journey could be quite hazardous as snow was much more



prevalent back then. The snow could be as high the hedgerows. The majority of his work involved shoeing horses which included many Shires, a good number of which were still stabled in Tandridge, notably at Brook Farm. Half a dozen of them could be waiting in the yard to be shod first thing in the morning. He would also mend farming equipment and make gates.



"The Great Freeze" on the North Downs, Surrey, 1962



Up until 1973 Forge Cottage and the Forge, in fact all the Rustic Cottages were owned by the 6th Marquess of Northampton (who resided at Castle Ashby). After Mrs Crowhurst passed away in 1973 and the lease was broken, the Marquess was then able to sell all four cottages. Roger Larkin completed the purchase on Forge Cottage and the forge, and moved in with his family; Simon was aged 11 at the time. However, the Larkins weren't to live there very long, as Roger didn't get much peace!

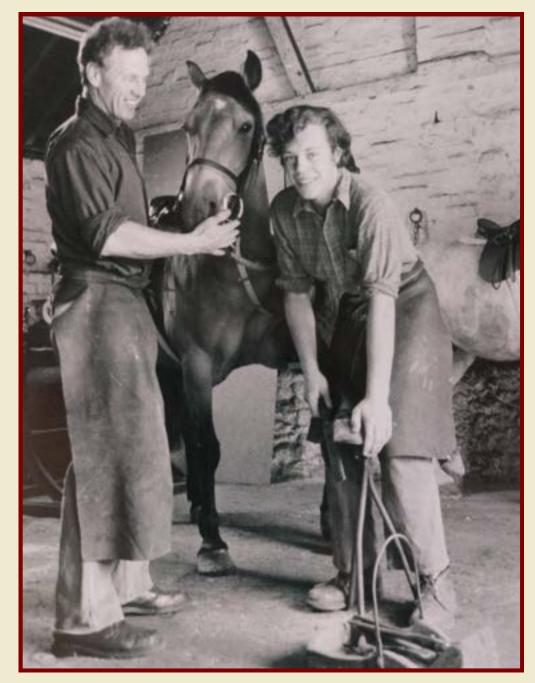
Roger Larkin at work in the forge.

In order to enjoy a day off from work and benefit from some rest and relaxation, Roger had to remove himself from the village entirely. If he stayed at home on his day off, there would be any number of visitors calling, people dropping off bits of work for him. It all became too much, so in 1978 they put the cottage up for sale.





Left: The owner of the Tandridge Estate in 1973, the sixth Marquess of Northampton and above, his family seat, Castle Ashby.



Simon began working in the forge aged 3! He began his training handing his father the nails for him to knock into the horses hooves. he then progressed to sweeping! By the time he was 10, Simon was working at the forge on Saturdays and during the school holidays, and once he was 15 he was able to do pretty much everything, except nail the shoes into the hooves - his father, as a Master Farrier with the Worshipful Company of Farriers was the only one qualified to undertake this task.

Left: Father and son at work together.

Simon began his Diploma with the Worshipful Company of Farriers in 1978. During his training in college he was required to shoe a yearling Shire, which he remembers as "not a lot of fun". It was a new experience for both trainee farrier and horse, and the adolescent colt was having none of it, making a huge fuss, Simon managed 2 shoes, before the lecturer had to come and finish the job off. He qualified as a Master Farrier in 1982.

Unfortunately, the origins of our village forge are not well documented. It is thought to date from 1850, but Rustic Cottages are 200 years old this year and given that the forge is attached to the end cottage, it is possible that the forge predates 1850. The oldest documented ironworks in Tandridge was Woodcock,

also known as Wiremill, which was situated on the Felbridge/Tandridge border and was first mentioned in the mid 1500s. There was a thriving, water-powered pig iron industry that lasted until the 1790s. A man-made lake was created to supply the water to the ironworks. The Wiremill Pub now occupies the site, on the banks of the lake.



Left: This section of Tandridge Forge is completely original and preserved. It is still coke-fired, but now has electric bellows rather than having an apprentice work them manually.

Simon became a partner in the family business in 1989 and took over the company from his father in 1994. His work as a farrier ceased that year. Prior to that, the mornings were spent out and about shoeing horses and the afternoons were spent working at

the forge, manufacturing gates, railings, mending farming equipment and much much more.

Some of his most satisfying work he says, has been producing and installing handrails and staircase balustrades, which has helped the elderly and those less mobile, to continue living in their homes.

Thank you Simon.



The tools of the trade (left)
Tandridge Forge, 2025.
Right - the original rings used to tie up the horses are still in place.





6th September saw the return of Quiz Night in the village hall. It was a sell-out! 13 teams competed to be The Brains of Tandridge and the winners were the Rector's team.

Thank you to everyone who helped on the night - to Neil our quizmaster, organiser Mike, Annette & Amelia (raffle) and Beth (scorer).

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event. We raised a record amount of £1,200, which will be shared between St. Catherine's Hospice and the Tandridge Village Hall Fabric Fund.





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Tandridge Animal Pound

BY ANNETTE SCHMIDT



From the left of the white gates leading to Tandridge Courtyard is a small wall which donates the boundary of the church and the little woodland owned by the Lodge. This runs behind the War memorial but surprisingly this is where there is a break in the line and there is a rectangular bulge before it reverts.

So, what was the function of this rectangular bulge? Well, there is rudimentary remains of a fence, and on further enquiries it appears that this is the site of an animal pound!

In the early days of farming, it was open grazing, which often meant that animals wandered off and on common land there was occasional illegal grazing. These stray or illegally grazing animals were rounded up and held in the Village Pound. To retrieve the animals a fine would have to be paid, which either went to the pound keeper or Lord of the Manor. If these animals were not claimed in three weeks, they were taken to the nearest market and sold, with the proceeds going to the impounder and pound-keeper.

Not only did the pound offer a practical solution to stray animals it also represents an early form of local governance and communal responsibility in medieval times.

The word pound comes from the Old English word pund, meaning a pen or enclosure. For locals to be able to see if any of their animals were impounded, these structures were sited near village greens, or in Tandridges case near St Peter's Church.



The Somerleyton animal pound in Wadding Wood, Suffolk, England

Pounds were constructed from any available local materials, with stone and wood being a common solution. The suggestion is that the Tandridge pound was probably wood, which has long gone, but replaced by a longer lasting iron fence at some point in time.

Village Pounds were in use until farmland was enclosed in the 17th to 19th centuries.







Whilst on a firearms recovery course with my police dog at the Met Police dog training establishment in Keston there was a requirement to attend nearby venues to complete exercises, on one of these we were required to meet at The Grasshopper Pub just over the border of Tandridge, which is now sadly in a state of disrepair. However, back in the day, this was a vibrant place where, if you were to visit on a particular week night, you were likely to fraternise with the more mature ladies. Before the days of political correctness, this particular evening was referred to as "grab a granny night".

I digress, we were to meet at the Grasshopper and conduct a search for firearms with the dogs. The landlord kindly allowed the pub to be used out of hours. Using a 'live' venue was much more realistic for the dogs and helped them get used to working in places with lots of scent, rather then using 'dead' (disused) buildings where the only scent came from what had been planted for them to find. It was doubly difficult at the Grasshopper, with the additional lingering smell of Yardley's wafting about from the night before.

The instructor hid several real guns around the pub and the dogs were asked to find them. They have to be real firearms as the dogs are trained to find the scent of nitro cellulose, which is given off when a gun is fired. All new guns are test fired and this substance was decided to be the best, as other substances, for example black powder, are also used in fireworks and we don't want the dogs finding those.



The Grasshopper, when it was still trading

When it was my turn I sent Police Dog Ozzy, so named as he was mad and hairy as his namesake. Mr Osbourne. Ozzy found a revolver hidden behind bottles below the bar and at the end of the exercise the instructor took the guns and we met back at Keston for tea and medals, (a phrase used by police when things go well). We had our debriefing and returned to normal duties. This wasn't the last we would hear of the ill fated visit to the Grasshopper!

A couple of nights later, a young man entered the pub along with his date. It was was the first time they had been out together. On entering, the gentleman spotted a nice quiet booth and after buying the lady a drink, (which you could do in those days, without being accused of being a sexist), they took their seats.

Upon sitting on the bench seat, the young man felt something lumpy between the cushions, he reached down and proceeded to pull out a Colt45 pistol which he held out to his first-date. Now not knowing the man at all well, she jumped to the conclusion that he had brought said item with him and made a very hasty exit out of the pub, quickly followed by the ex-boyfriend, desperately trying to explain to her how he had found it. The Instructor was contacted and the gun retrieved.

Now you would have thought the tutor would have learned his lesson....

However, a few weeks later, our instructor decided to run an "explo" course. (It's mainly spaniels that are trained to find explosives and are used to sweep places like the Houses of Parliament, which they do every day).

He hid Semtex along with other explosives at different locations around London and the dogs were sent out to find it all. After the exercise, he was weighing back in the explosive when he realised he was a tad short in the Semtex departmen. Try as he might, he could not remember one of the locations where he had placed some and the more he was asked to remember, the more fraught and agitated he became.

Hurriedly, he reconvened the dogs with the promise of a bottle for the handler who could find the missing semtex. Nothing focuses a policeman more than a free bottle, so off set 5 police dog vans and a short while later all the Semtex was returned.

Mind how you go.



The Haycutter, Oxted

Charringtons Fruit Farm Tasting ~ Thursday 16th October

Thursday 16th October

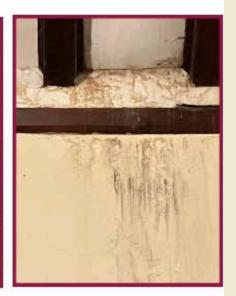
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ST PETER'S CHURCH, TANDRIDGE GENERAL INFORMATION

WORSHIP - SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 AM (1st Sunday of the month only) Holy Communion

11.00 AM Family Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)

11:00 AM All Age Worship (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)

6.30 PM Evensong. With Holy Communion every 3rd Sunday.

TEAM RECTOR

Revd James Ashton - 01883 380750

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Revd David Weightman - 01883 715420

Revd Judith Brooks -

PARISH OFFICE

Administrator - Natasha Copp - 01883 714263

stmaryoxted.stpetertandridge@gmail.com

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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

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HON TREASURER - Julie Taylor - 07980 605 634

CHURCH ORGANIST- Nigel Bates

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER - Mike Hodgson - 01883 723041

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Adeline (riding Stevie), Mum Sally & Dad Bruce, dressed as Ariel, Ursula and Prince Eric from The Little Mermaid, winning 6th place in the fancy dress class at The Oxted and Edenbridge Show, August, 2025.