



St Peter's
Parish Church

LIMPSFIELD

PARISH NEWS

AUTUMN 2023

online at stpeterslimpsfield.org/parish-news



MESSY CHURCH

St Peter's holds a monthly Messy Church that all families are welcome to attend. This is an afternoon of crafts and activities, usually with a story and song followed by tea and cake. Suitable for all ages from 3+

COME AND JOIN US

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 3PM



NEW TERM
17 September
15 October*
18 November



***Harvest Messy Church in the Limpsfield Community Orchard (by Grubb Street). Meet at the Orchard at the earlier time of 2pm.**

ALL AGE SERVICE

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 10AM

A short, informal service where families are especially welcome.

**3 September, 1 October, 5 November,
3 December**



Dear Friends,

As we move towards the end of a somewhat mixed summer and look towards the season of Autumn, we are reminded that there is a season and time for everything in life, as the bible reminds us there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun. Life is constantly evolving and changing. Throughout our lives we will experience many seasons and change. We experience seasons of trials, of joy, of sadness, of mourning, of laughter, of things ending and new beginnings. Sometimes life is exciting and sometimes a bit duller.

As the seasons remind us there can be much beauty in change and even in letting things go, change helps us to learn and to grow into the person that God has made us to be. I suspect all of you who are reading this could tell stories about the changes which are happening in your life now, or the changes which you hope for or even that you worry about. How do we live life in the midst of change?

What if in the midst of change we sought to listen to that one voice, the voice of God what if we kept our ears open to what he is saying in our life and world today? To let his concerns be our concerns, to let his way of engaging life and the world become our way of engaging life and the world.

Doing this would mean that whatever change comes upon us, it does not have the final word. There is another word, a word of life, a word of hope, a word of forgiveness, a word of mercy, a word of beauty, a word of generosity, a word of courage, a word of love.

Will we speak to the world with his voice?

With my love and assurance of prayers,

Rev. Helen



Team Rector of Limpsfield & Titsey:

The Rev Helen Cook
Email: hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk

01883 unless stated
07530 609511

Clergy of the Limpsfield & Tatsfield Team Ministry

The Rev Paul Perkin (St Andrew's)
Email: paul.perkin6@gmail.com

412454

St Mary's Tatsfield (Team Vicar - Interregnum)
Email: stmooffice.lttm@btinternet.com

712512

St Peter's Parish Office

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712512

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Church Flowers: Elizabeth Stoughton-Harris
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Road Stewards: Jean Scott
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Bell Ringing: David Bell
712970

St Peter's Hall Bookings: Pat Davies
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716487

Parish News: Ian Tolley
Email: petersnews@littm.org.uk

07711 926856

The Parish Office at the Rectory is open on Tuesday to Thursday from 09:00am-5:00pm. The office can be reached on 01883 712512 or e-mail via: stpeterschurch.lttm@gmail.com

Address: St Peter's Church Parish Office, High Street, Limpsfield, RH8 0DG

CHURCH NEWS

SUNDAY SERVICES

St Peter's has a regular pattern of Sunday morning worship: a quiet **8am Holy Communion service** and a main **10am Parish Eucharist**. On the first Sunday of the month there is a shorter, more informal **All Age Family service at 10am**.

MORNING PRAYER

From September there will be a short service of Morning Prayer in church **every Wednesday at 10.30am** led by various members of the Ministry Team. Everyone welcome.

LIVE STREAM

The 10am Sunday service is live streamed on the St Peter's YouTube channel every week except on the first Sunday of the month. Visit YouTube and search 'St Peter's Limpsfield' or find details at www.stpeterslimpsfield.org.

MESSY CHURCH

The Autumn term will begin on **Sunday 17 September** in church. On **Sunday 15 October** there will be a special outdoor Harvest Messy Church at the Limpsfield Community Orchard (*see inside cover for details*).

HARVEST FESTIVAL

St Peter's will celebrate its Harvest Festival on **Sunday 8 October at 10am**. There will be the usual collection of food and household items for a food bank of our choice. At 12.30pm on Sunday 8 October there will be a Harvest Lunch in the Hall. If you would like to attend then please contact the Parish Office.



FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S

The Friends of St Peter's has been set up to help preserve our historic church building for generations to come. All money raised from the Friends of St Peter's will go towards maintaining the fabric of the church. No money will go into general funds or to the Diocese. If you would like to become a Friend of St Peter's application forms are available from the Parish Office.

Summer Highlights

Although the Summer was slightly wetter than we hoped, it certainly didn't put a dampener on our Summer events.

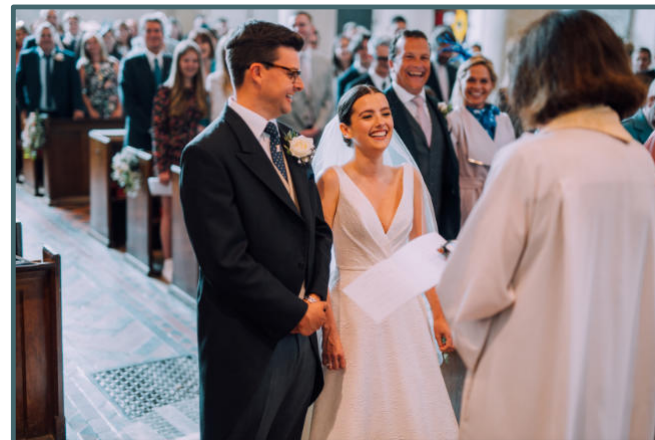
On Saturday 1 July, the Limpsfield Village Summer Fete returned to the Glebe after a two year hiatus. It was wonderful to witness it all again and what a day it was. A big thank you to everyone who was involved in so many different ways. It was a huge success and the profits have been shared equally between the church and Limpsfield Infant School. We're already looking forward to next year!



Limpsfield Fete, 1 July 2023



Wedding of Holly and Oliver at St Peter's, May 2023



Clockwise L-R: Somewhere over the rainbow; The Rector's daughter Emma who married Justin at St Peter's in July; Cole, our Choral Director, who married Alicia at Guildford Cathedral in August; Darcey and Chris who married at St Peter's in June. Congratulations to all newly married couples!

CHURCH DIARY: SEPT - NOV 2023

The church is open every day during daylight hours.



Date	Services Sept-Nov
Sun 3 Sept	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am ALL AGE SERVICE with BAPTISM
Wed 6 Sept	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING on the Glebe Meadow
Sun 10 Sept	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *
Wed 13 Sept	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING on the Glebe Meadow 8pm FAMILY DRINKS EVENING at The Rectory
Sun 17 Sept	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am Service of the Word * (led by Paul Budgen) 3pm MESSY CHURCH
Wed 20 Sept	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 24 Sept	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *
Wed 27 Sept	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am MUSICAL MEMORIES in the Millennium Room

Date	Services Sept-Nov
Sun 1 Oct	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am ALL AGE SERVICE
Wed 4 Oct	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 8 Oct	HARVEST FESTIVAL 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * 12.30pm HARVEST LUNCH in the Hall
Weds 11 Oct	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 15 Oct	NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * 2pm HARVEST MESSY CHURCH at the Limsfield Community Orchard 3.30pm Ecumenical Service at St Mary's Tatsfield
Weds 18 Oct	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 22 Oct	TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * 12.30pm BAPTISM

Date	Services Sept-Nov
Wed 25 Oct	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am MUSICAL MEMORIES in the Millennium Room
Sun 29 Oct	ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * 4pm ALL SOULS' SERVICE of Remembrance and Thanksgiving followed by tea in the Hall
Wed 1 Nov	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 5 Nov	FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am ALL AGE SERVICE
Wed 8 Nov	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 12 Nov	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * with ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AND WREATH LAYING
Wed 15 Nov	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING in the Millennium Room
Sun 19 Nov	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST * 3pm MESSY CHURCH

Date	Services Sept-Nov
Wed 22 Nov	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am COFFEE MORNING on the Glebe Meadow
Sun 26 Nov	CHRIST THE KING 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am PARISH EUCHARIST *
Wed 29 Nov	10.30am MORNING PRAYER 11am MUSICAL MEMORIES in the Millennium Room
Sun 3 Dec	ADVENT SUNDAY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 10am ALL AGE SERVICE with BAPTISM 6.30pm ADVENT CAROL SERVICE followed by drinks and nibbles

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS & THANKSGIVING SERVICES

6 July Sue Eastwood

WEDDINGS

6 May Holly Morgan and Oliver Perry
10 June Darcey Le Ruex and Christopher Hawker
15 July Emma Cook and Justin Boylan Toomey

Flower Power

Do you remember the Victorian “language of flowers”? The single red rose which said “I love you”, the snowdrop saying “hope” or an orchid which signifies love and beauty.

Today we have access to a huge range of flowers and flowering plants for our homes and gardens but have mostly lost the art of saying things through flowers.

However, there is one very important way we can spread the message of love; through the giving of flowers to people we know in the Parish who have joys or sorrows in their lives. The Val Darkin Fund, established in memory of a much loved wife, has supported this work for many years and it is my pleasure to cuddle a new born baby or listen to memories of loved ones. They don't have to be connected to the church.

If you come across someone you think would like a bunch of flowers, please let me know on 01883 712713.

Helen Ireland

What will happen about CTOD?



Churches Together in Oxsted and District is facing real problems. The organisation in its present form has been around for almost 40 years but in various other forms and nomenclature since 1948. However, since the pandemic like other similar organisations it is facing a problem threatening its future existence.

One has been the reduction in the numbers of clergy. In the Anglican communion parishes have been amalgamated into “teams”, where the number of clergy is less than the number of parishes or congregations. In other churches, the number of ministers has been reduced and the area they cover increased. CTOD has gained free churches over the period (the Kings Church and Hurst Green Evangelical Church) but it has lost the Quakers – an associate member – and recently the Methodists. The URC survives but has had a vacancy for several years which they cannot fill.

One of the effects has been the increase of demand on laity to fill the gaps. Many decided to become lay ministers of various types. CTOD itself

became mainly a lay organisation. Various posts became unfilled. When we got to autumn last year, no-one was willing to take on the chairmanship. I, though a past Chair, agreed to take on the role for a second period on a caretaker basis to enable the organisation to continue in existence.

One matter became obvious when I started to consider the matter in detail. You can't run CTOD on a caretaker basis. The Council was well-intentioned but couldn't see what its priorities were. It was clear to me that CTOD needed a “Mission Action Plan” to look forward. Fortunately, Revd James Ashton who was so much help to us in drawing up our own MAP is on the CTOD Council and could advise us. If we have a MAP, then we too can work on how the future can be developed and follow an agreed way forward.

The other problem is the fact that the Deputy Chair of CTOD is retiring next Autumn. Wendy Hewitt is in the last year of her work and no-one has volunteered to succeed her. Unless this happens, I will be running CTOD on my own without even a secretary or



publicity officer to help. I have therefore told everyone that in these circumstances, I am proposing to resign at the next CTOD AGM in November and we will then have to organise the closure of CTOD in its present form.

This will not necessarily be the end of ecumenism in Oxted and District. We have churches from outside our current area wanting to join CTOD and they might provide volunteers to help, but it would mean that the range and nature would change and I believe that the future of CTOD would be

different. That might be a good thing but I would still prefer to do this deliberately rather than through force majeure.

As Christians, we of the churches of Oxted and District know that death is not the end, and history tells us new life is often the product of the death of something which preceded it. So please pray for CTOD and for its future and that new life may arise in all the churches in Oxted in whatever way they are able to work together in the future.

John Tolley



Musical Memories - Limpsfield

Designed for anyone who enjoys a sing a long, including those with dementia and their carers. All welcome. You can be assured of a warm welcome, plenty of singing, company, cake and refreshments.

**Last Wednesday of the month, from 11am
in St Peter's Church, Millennium Room**

2023 dates

27 September 25 October 29 November 20 December*

*one week early due to Christmas

£1 per person, Refreshments provided

Lifts available! Contact the Parish Office to enquire:

01883 712512 | stpeterschurch.ltm@gmail.com

LEGACY GIVING



LEAVE A LASTING GIFT

**No matter how big or small, a gift in
your will can help make a lasting
difference to help keep your local
church alive and preserve its future.**

For help on leaving a gift or to see our Legacy policy visit
www.stpeterslimpsfield.org/legacies

Gertrude Hadenfeldt was a resident of Limpsfield in her later years, living in Rodney House at least between 1945 and 1970 (according to electoral rolls). She died locally on 31st March 1975 aged 90.

My wife's mother and grandmother were neighbours for a time, living in Rodney Cottage and were fortunate to have some of her paintings which enabled me to admire her skills with water colour.

She was an artist of some renown in her lifetime but as far as I am aware, her paintings are not displayed in any galleries but some can be seen online. I had always been curious about her past and hope that my research into a talented resident of Limpsfield will be of interest.

She was born in Hampstead in 1885 of German parentage from the city of Lubeck. There is little known of her but thanks to the internet I have been able to gather some information which provides an insight to her adventurous spirit and artistic ability.

She studied St John's Wood school of Art under Edward Clifford who recorded his travels in Kashmir and perhaps he sparked her interest in Kashmir and India where she was later to travel.

In 1904 she was one of 3 female students from that school to be awarded a scholarship to the Royal Academy that year. This was of significance

in the history of British Art as it was an award normally reserved for only one exceptional student. She studied there from 1906 to 1909 and her painting exhibited there in 1907 was named the Gates of Lubeck perhaps a subject reflecting her parent's heritage.

A very talented water colour artist her paintings have over the years been sold at auction. A clear indication and recognition of her skill in her lifetime is reflected by comments from others.



The Bombay Gazette in June 1913, describes "a young and gifted artist who, finding herself in India... fell under the spell of its glow and colour, and resisting persuasion to return home, wandered the plains to Kashmir in leisurely fashion, learning Hindustani and wielding her brushes."

She travelled to and painted in Kashmir, India, Tibet, Palestine and Jerusalem. The British Library record that she worked in India during the

1920's and visited Ladakh in 1926 where she lived for a time in a houseboat. She presented 11 paintings to the Library in 1959 that are listed and available to view today.

She was a member of the American Watercolour Society

in New York and had a one woman show of some 80 paintings in 1921 at the newly opened New York Art Centre. An article in the New York Tribune describes her paintings *"This artist affords one of the happiest sensations of the season and we cannot speak too cordially of her work. They denote in the first place a remarkable flair for the right picturesque motive a really seeing eye which not only captures the colour and oddity but the mystery of romantic places. Add to this a positive gift for variety which manifests itself in the choice of subject some in detail, others boldly reflect the scene with colour indicating a firm individualised touch. Her exhibitions are not to be neglected"*.

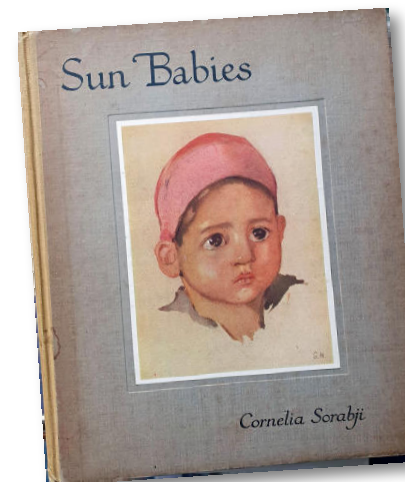
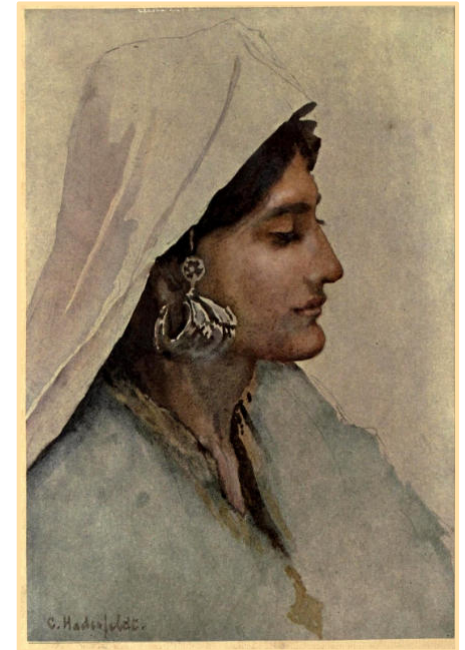
Vincent Clarence Scott O' Connor in his book the Charm of Kashmir produced in 1920 describes her as intimately familiar with Kashmir's scenery and characteristics that the decorative beauty of her pictures made specially to illustrate the text of this book will appeal to all who know the country and take pleasure in the originality and freshness of outlook.



The Adopted Son at the End of the Day

One painting which was included in this book shows her skill for portraiture which in watercolour is a distinct ability.

In 1918 she provided illustrations for Cornelia Sorabji's *Sun Babies*, the study of Indian childhood first published in 1904 (co-incidentally the same year that Gertrude was awarded her scholarship to the Royal Academy). Sorabji, the first female graduate from the University of Bombay and the first female advocate in India, retained a lifelong interest in the conditions of Indian women and children, advocating the end of child marriage, as well as the Hindu custom of Sati, where a widow sacrificed herself on her husband's funeral pyre. In her 1934 memoirs she recalls how, among touring friends who stayed with me were Gertrude Hadenfeldt, the artist who illustrated one of my books about children, and whose paintings of Kashmir are so well known."



A comment recorded by an art historian said that *"Sorabji refers to Hadenfeldt's pictures as being 'well known' when they are now forgotten, is evidence of how reputation can be buried by time. Perpetuation of legacy will generally fall to close family, friends, collectors, all with an incentive to lay out the details of an artist's life when they remain fresh in the mind. Hadenfeldt lived and worked alone. She never married or had a family. Her vastly unconventional*

life, not exactly defying the standards of her period, but actually entirely oblivious to them perhaps made it difficult for her to form lasting friendships."

It appears that she did not seek fame or fortune and was evidently content to travel widely using her undoubted skills as an artist to record and capture scenes of every day life and the scenery of the lands she visited- before the days of photography. I hope that you find these paintings of interest and perhaps draw your attention to many of her other work by simply searching using her name Gertrude Hadenfeldt on the internet that now provides a world wide gallery for everyone to view her talents as an artist.

Anthony Horsford

You can see more of Gertrude Hadenfeldt's work on the inside back cover.



SECRET CHURCH

When you look at the spire of the church you may not be aware that tucked behind on the north side is a chimney. In 1816 G J Haden was set up manufacturing heating stoves for churches and one of these is still in the boiler cellar.



This was a coke fired boiler which required regular stoking during the winter months and the fumes and smoke from this passed along a flue from the cellar under the centre aisle and up through the central pillar on the left hand side of the aisle and out via the chimney above.

In the 1960's the fumes had started to become unpleasant and lead to



Anthony & Geoff Tozer up on the roof

the transition to oil and then gas fired boilers. The oil tank was placed on the concrete slab which is now used for the crib at Christmas and is ideal for wedding photos.

Such is the march of progress in church heating but all boilers need a flue and the chimney still serves that vital task.

ASH



The old G J Haden boiler - still in the cellar

THE WOODHOUSE CRAFT CENTRE



CROCHET REFRESHER AND NEXT STEPS



A workshop led by Jenny Beal

This workshop will be perfect for those who have just learned to crochet as well as those who want to refresh their skills. There will be a reminder of the basic crochet stitches such as double crochet, chain and slip stitch, and then you will learn how to read crochet patterns, both diagram and word formats, while making some small pieces.

Saturday 30 September

10am to 3pm

£35 per person

Includes all materials. Light refreshments will be available but please bring your own lunch.

The workshop will be held at The Woodhouse Craft Centre, Hoskins Road, Oxted RH8 9HT (opposite the Leisure Centre)

To book your place contact the Woodhouse Craft Centre on

01883 715189 or thewoodhousecentre@gmail.com

www.thewoodhousecentre.org.uk

Registered charity No. 1198197

Friends of Limpsfield Common



Maintaining the legacy for all of us

Limpsfield Common Air Raid Shelters Opened to the Local Community

Friends of Limpsfield Common recently invited members of the public for a guided tour of the air raid shelters which were built in 1940 to protect children at Limpsfield School. Volunteers, dressed in military uniforms, took groups down into a shelter and talked about how it must have felt for young children.

When the air raid siren sounded during the war the children had to walk over to the shelters but were instructed to lie flat on the ground if bombs were being dropped before they reached the shelters. Each of the six shelters could

accommodate up to fifty children. Lighting was by oil lamps. Keeping the children calm and entertained was up to the teacher. Singing and seeing who could suck a sweet for the longest time was popular. No one knew how long the children would be in the shelter and toilet needs were accommodated by a bucket behind a curtain the contents of which the teacher had to deal with at the end of the day!

The volunteer guides also took the visitors to the nearby lookout point.

Local features, such as St Michael's school, a factory in Hurst Green and the North Downs were used as guidance by pilots on both sides of the conflict. Stories were told of planes crashing and a German pilot parachuting out to land on a roof in Limpsfield and then arrested.

The site of a spigot mortar anti-tank gun was then examined and discussion took place as to why it was situated in this position on the Common. The army didn't like the





system and so the guns tended to be given to the Home Guard. The ultimate idea was to stop enemy tanks moving towards London.

The stories were enhanced by one member of the party, who was a pupil at the school during the 1940s and a friend who remembered the time and events well. A school report from the 1940s was produced and enjoyed. How time flies!

Another Open Afternoon is planned for Sunday 17 September, 2.00-4.30pm and places can be booked by emailing lorna@chartcroft.com with number in party and preferred time (half hourly slots). We hope that families will come along and that children can learn what life was like during an air raid.

Tony Pearson



NOW OPEN: TITSEY'S NEW BREWERY & TAPROOM WITH INCREDIBLE VIEWS

Titsey Brewing Co., the small, independent brewery in Tatsfield, has expanded into a new site, positioned at the highest point of the North Downs Way. Along with a larger space to brew more of its delicious, session-strength beers, the Titsey taproom open is now open to the public, overlooking the Vale of Holmesdale on Clarks Lane Farm.

The taproom has Titsey beers flowing four days a week, from Thursday to Sunday with plenty of indoor and outdoor seating. Alongside its core beers – Gower Wolf (bitter), Gresham Hopper (pale ale), Leveson Buck (IPA) and Innes Lager – visitors can sample Titsey's seasonal beers, with some

exclusive to the taproom such as its new non-alcoholic beer, and its own cider 'Marmaduke', in partnership with Kentish Pip. The bar also stocks a small selection of spirits and a handful of wines.

With its position atop the North Downs Way, the taproom is the





perfect pitstop while exploring the Surrey Hills. For those who have worked up an appetite as well as a thirst, Titsey have bought in chef Jay McMillan, who's drawn on his love for outdoors to create a sustainable menu using locally sourced ingredients. The taproom's speciality dish is peri-peri rotisserie chicken, served with sides such as Asian slaw, barley salad and rosemary salted fries. Smashed patty burgers also feature, along with buttermilk chicken and a

vegetarian option. Gluten free guests can also be catered for.

For the early morning walkers and riders, coffee is served from 9.30am on the weekends along with a selection of brunch dishes, such as sausage & egg muffins and bacon, egg & cheese bagels. Ample bike rack storage is available, and four-legged friends are more than welcome.

Brewery tours will be available to



buy via the Titsey website in the near future, and visitors to the taproom and brewery are able to purchase as a selection of merchandise and bottle packs to enjoy at home.

OPENING HOURS

(please check website/social media before visiting for food service):

- Thursday: 12pm – 9pm
- Friday: 9.30am – 9pm



- Saturday: 9.30am – 9pm
- Sunday: 9.30am – 7pm

Find the new brewery & taproom at:
Clarks Lane Farm
Tatsfield
TN16 2JU

For more information, visit:
www.titseybrewingco.com

All Change at the Village Stores

Limpsfield Memorial Stores are sad to announce that after 11 years as our well-known, hard-working Memorial Stores Post Office and Shop Manager, Kerry Daniels has decided that it is time to move to pastures new. Kerry says that she has been very grateful to all those who have worked in or shopped in the village stores and Post Office but she now wishes to move on to different work.

Kerry has been the lynchpin of this vital community hub for everyone involved with the stores and has been instrumental over the years in orchestrating much needed change and implementing numerous improvements with relish and gusto to ensure the shop continues to thrive well into the future. The committee members and all the volunteers are sorry to see her go but we wish Kerry well



with her future plans and thank her for her dedication, constant cheerful nature and extraordinary ability to multitask! She will be sorely missed by us all as well as by our lovely customers, many of whom have got to know her extremely well over the years.

Alison Earnshaw, the Chair of the Limpsfield Village Store Association told the Parish News: *"The Committee are very grateful to*



Kerry for her 11 years of service. It will now be necessary – but very difficult – to find a new manager quickly and advertisements for the post will be going out shortly".

If anyone would like to pop in to the shop to say their goodbyes, Kerry will be around now and for most of October. In any case, we and Kerry would welcome seeing any members of the community into the shop to say hello, goodbye or just support our endeavours!

Lastly, it goes without saying that if anyone feels they could step into the breach and fill the large shoes Kerry leaves behind, then we would be delighted to talk to you. This position is full time, permanent and with a salary range £25,000 - £27,000. The ideal person would have Post Office experience or be willing to be trained up to reach the standard expected and some retail and/or management experience would be desirable. The successful candidate will need to be hard working, customer focussed and with a sound understanding of IT.



You will work closely with our committee members, our Morning Assistant and with all of our volunteers. Do ask to speak to Bridget (via the shop) if you think you may have the attributes and enthusiasm to be our new manager.

**Bridget Glynne-Jones
& John Tolley**

The Barn Theatre



Thurs 14th September 7:30pm	What's Wrong with Benny Hill? Giles Shenton Productions <i>This brand new comedy explores the life and legacy of a very peculiar and brilliant comedian and shows why he was considered by many of his peers to be the best.</i>	Tickets: £15.00 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Fri 15th September 7.30pm	The Greatest Sportsperson in History - Really Interesting Evenings <i>Lively debate, uncensored and unfiltered</i>	Tickets: £22.00 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Sat 16th - September 7.45pm	Sammy, Frank & Dean - The New Foxtrot Serenaders <i>A tribute to the Rat Pack and Friends including Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, Andy Williams, Matt Monro and Mr Michael Buble</i>	Tickets: £20.00 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Fri 22nd September 7:45pm	The Music of Carlos Santana - Oye Santana <i>An evening of passion and excitement with Oye Santana, every track is a fiesta, every performance is a show</i>	Tickets: £25.00, from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Sat 23rd September 7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Night - 16+ <i>When did you last have a good laugh? Change that and come and see Tom Ward and the comedians from House of Stand Up</i>	Tickets: £20.00 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Tues 17th – Sat 21st October 2.30pm (Sat) & 7.30pm	Humble Boy - The Oxted Players <i>A beautifully written, bittersweet comedy about family life</i>	Tickets: £13.00, from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Wed 8th – Sat 11th November 2.30pm (Sat) & 7.30pm	Scrooge - Oxted Musical Theatre Company <i>The perfect pre-Christmas show "Scrooge" being performed by OMTCC.</i>	Tickets: £15.00, from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Thurs 16th - Sat 18th November 7.00pm	The Marriage of Figaro - The New Aquarian Opera Company <i>A comic opera in four acts performed in English with a chamber ensemble</i>	Tickets: £20.00, from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Fri 24th November 7.45pm	Alter Eagles <i>A tribute band who dedicate themselves to the vocal sound and compositions of The Eagles</i>	Tickets: £22.00 - £25.00 from www.barntheatre-oxted.co.uk
Sat 25th November 7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Night - 16+ <i>When did you last have a good laugh? Change that and come and see Lee Hurst and the comedians from House of Stand Up</i>	Tickets: £20.00 from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Information pertaining to all the above shows can be obtained from:
www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 15a High Street, Westerham. Kent. TN16 1RA. 01959 561811

WOODHOUSE CRAFT CENTRE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

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Limpsfield Grange School is the UK's only school solely for autistic girls.

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If you're keen to make a positive contribution to our vibrant school, and help make a difference to the lives of our students, we'd like to hear from you.

Interested in exploring this exciting opportunity further?
 Please send an email to secretary@limpsfield-grange.surrey.sch.uk and tell us why you think you'd make a great School Governor.





LIMPSFIELD GRANGE SCHOOL
'together we make a difference'

News from Limpsfield Grange

It's been quite a significant year for the Grange with two prime time BBC documentaries featuring the school, raising greater awareness of who we are and what we do, as well as opening up more discussions around autism and in particular female autism – long may this continue.

Life at the Grange from Spring through to Summer term continued to be as busy and varied as usual ...

Our new Eco Garden Club got off to a flying start with generous donations



from both Waitrose and Morrisons, and by the end of term, our students were rewarded with a bumper crop. Students are learning all about re-using and re-purposing rather than buying new, as well as how to care for plants



past their best and bring them back to health. Our green fingered enthusiasts are looking forward to getting their hands dirty again during the new academic year.

Students at Limpsfield Grange not only benefit from the full mainstream curriculum and alongside this the school has developed its own WACI (Wellbeing-Achievement-Communication-Independence) curriculum providing a tailored approach to developing life skills for all our students.

Hand in hand with academic achievement we encourage the girls to develop confidence and resilience to tackle the challenges of everyday life when they leave school. Our WACI programme has activities to provide an opportunity to overcome anxieties using a range of strategies which promote learning and enjoying a more independent life.



As part of their WACI studies this year some of our students have been out and about familiarising themselves with Oxted and even created their own version of Monopoly using featuring local businesses and landmarks.



Classroom learning aside, our students benefit from a varied programme of activities whether it's visiting the ever-popular Animal Ark, learning essential life skills such as first aid or getting creative with willow sculpture making.

At the time of writing we are eagerly awaiting exam results, and by the time the Parish Magazine drops

through your letterbox we'll be welcoming our new Year 7s looking forward to an exciting new year at the Grange.



Please see P29 for an important notice.

Alex's Books:

Trespases

by Louise Kennedy

You may have already come across this debut novel by Louise Kennedy as there has been a lot of praise for it over recent months. Set in Belfast in the 1970's, against the backdrop of the Troubles, we meet a young teacher named Cushla. She is from a catholic family, works in her brother's pub in the evenings, teaches by day, and continually props up her alcoholic mother in between.

One of the regulars at the pub is Michael Agnew, a protestant barrister, and they start to strike up a friendship which develops into something more. He is an older, married man, protestant, from a different social class, and all these elements combined mean this will not be an easy path for Cushla. Interwoven with this is the strong sense of care she feels towards a young boy in her class at school and his troubled family life.

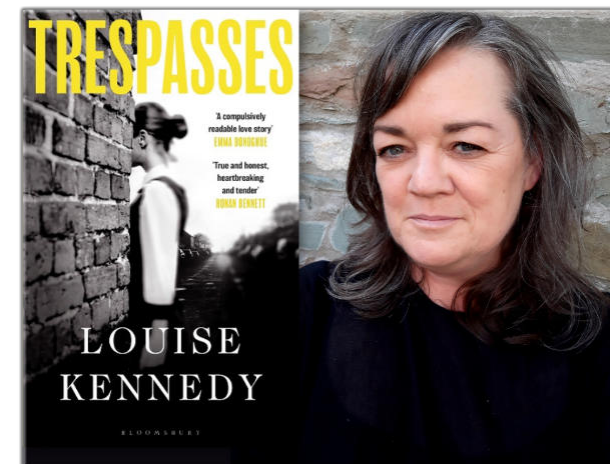
The sense of character and place in this novel are part of its most striking features. Cushla is a determined, bright and strong young woman. She lives in a world that is full of social and religious boundaries, constant fear of violence, where loyalties are key to everything. And yet, for someone so young she is fearless in everything she does. You

may not always agree with her decisions but she takes them with conviction.

Michael Agnew represents another part of society that is different in both class and religion, and he invites her to come and teach the Irish language to a group of friends. Cushla is torn between feeling uncomfortable amongst this "elite" but also holding her own in their discussions and enjoying the intellectual debate. Their love story builds with both of them fully aware of how dangerous a relationship it is, yet seemingly unable to fight it. It is not a sentimental relationship, it is complicated and portrayed with a realness that is key to the novel.

Cushla's dedication to her pupils at school is a thread that runs throughout the novel. Looking in from the outside, it is incredible how much children of this time just lived day to day alongside extreme violence at unexpected moments, with their vocabulary smattered with tales of booby traps and incendiary devices. Many chapters start with a role-call of violent incidents, and the pace is relentless.

Cushla takes particular interest in a young boy called Davy who has a difficult home life, often going beyond



her role as a teacher to help him. It is when Davy's father is savagely beaten, that the political backdrop and Cushla's personal circumstances start to collide, with devastating effects.

What Louise Kennedy has achieved in this novel is a fascinating dynamic. The plot and language are really tight – nothing is surplus to requirements – yet still it can't fail to move you and wrap itself around you. There are many decisions that Cushla takes that mean you can feel the inevitability of sad endings but even then, some things that come to pass are still deeply shocking. It is always a joy when an author manages to find the right way to finish, and the final chapter is perfectly poignant. This book will live with you, perfect for book club discussions, and is most definitely one of my stand-out reads for 2023.

Alex Wilkinson



A Concert for a New King

On 27th May the church was filled with soaring vocals, accompanied by hearty playing of the organ, as The New Aquarian Opera Company launched vigorously into the third of their Coronation themed concerts with Handel's *Zadok The Priest*.

The evening continued with excerpts from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, solos and duets from the opera genre and silly songs, from Offenbach and Flanders & Swann to lighten the mood. A fine rendition of organ pieces with a royal connection, played brilliantly by organist Graham Dixon, rounded off the first half of the evening. The audience enjoyed singing along to *Rule Britannia* and were entertained by

the popular operetta by Gilbert & Sullivan; *Trial by Jury*.

It was wonderful for the church to be full of a different kind of music in this most successful community event which included singers from the choir and our congregation.

Aquarian Opera are very grateful for the use of the church for rehearsal space and

for the support offered to them throughout the year. It is hoped that the event can be repeated in the future.

Their next opera will be Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, to be performed at the Barn Theatre, Oxted between 16th and 18th November 2023. Tickets available via the Barn Theatre website or the Aquarian Opera box office: 01883 722930 (see p28).

Andrew Claringbull



An evening of "Summer Smooth"

On Sunday 21st May, North Downs Community Orchestra ("NDCO") held their "Summer Smooth" Concert at Hazelwood School in Oxted. Launched back in 2016 by Dave Ellis and Peter Matthews with just 12 very enthusiastic, amateur musicians, the orchestra has steadily grown in size to around 60 musicians, who all share their love of rehearsing and performing live music together in their spare time.

Their Musical Director, Sara Young, has been the conductor of NDCO since July 2019, which means she steered the orchestra through the pandemic.

Sara said: *"The orchestra has been such a positive thing for our musicians since Covid. Pam Deverill, one of our founder members, and NDCO committee have made it such a fun orchestra which has really boosted the spirits of many local musicians who had been struggling with lock-*

down. Our huge thanks goes to Pam and our strong committee who helped to make this all happen."

At the start of the concert, Sara told the audience that one of the great things about being the Director of NDCO is that she gets to put together the concert's programme and she likes to choose pieces that showcase different instruments. The first two pieces after the National Anthem were both written for strings. The first was a haunting soundscape entitled: "Voices in the Shadows" by American composer, Brian Balmages, followed by the uplifting and more traditional "Celtic Roots" by Soon Hee Newhold. "Simple Gifts", a traditional Shaker tune arranged by Marsha Chusmir Shapiro, put the wonderful flutes centre stage while the audience themselves had a chance to perform by singing "Jerusalem" to launch the second half of the concert.

The programme featured a wide variety of musical genres, including a fantastic performance of Santana's "Smooth" and the very challenging



"Mission Impossible" by Lalo Schiffrin, deftly performed by the musicians and demonstrating just how much the orchestra has grown in confidence since it began seven years ago. A wonderful medley of Cole Porter classics had feet tapping throughout the auditorium before the concert ended with a fabulous performance of one of Sara's favourite classical pieces - Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 Finale.

Rainer Hersch, the orchestra's patron, who is a professional comedian and musician, had flown in from Berlin especially to perform as a violist with the orchestra. He said: *"I remember our first rehearsal on Godstone Green when there were just 12 of us, including an accordion player! I had only taken up the viola three months previously. Now it is amazing and such a great thing to be a part of."*

One of the musicians, Douglas Lloyd, who played the French Horn at the concert, has been a member since the beginning of the orchestra. He said:

"NDCO presents a good opportunity for anyone coming into music or returning after a break. Sara is so much fun, we all love her!"

The spacious Bawtree Hall in Hazelwood School with its stunning views over the Surrey Hills provided a great venue for the concert, especially now that NDCO has grown so considerably in size. During the evening, NDCO expressed its thanks to a number of guest musicians who participated in the concert.

NDCO's Christmas concert is set on 26 November 2023 at Bawtree Hall. Check out our website nearer the time to see when the tickets go on sale. Find out more at www.thefunorchestra.co.uk

Julia Church

HURST GREEN SINGERS

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

THEN FIND YOUR VOICE AND JOIN US!

Hurst Green Singers is a friendly group of enthusiastic amateurs who enjoy making wonderful music together. We are a well-established choir keen to keep a good balance of male and female voices to make the best possible overall sound, and as such, we wish to encourage those with lower pitched voices into choral singing. After being over-subscribed for some time, the popular choir now has some places to fill and wishes to welcome new members – particularly those with alto, tenor, baritone or bass voices.

Under the inspiring musical direction of James Meaders, the choir performs a variety of major works by the great composers as well as an eclectic mix of choral pieces by a wide range of contemporary composers at two successful concerts a year, in May and December.

The choir meets every Tuesday evening to rehearse in St John's Church, Hurst Green at 8.00pm. There are no auditions, and there is no requirement to read music, but you must have a willingness to learn, sing on pitch, blend with other voices and attend regular rehearsals to maintain the high standard of the choir. You are welcome to join us for a few rehearsals to see if you enjoy singing in our group before you need to commit to joining the choir.

So, if you've enjoyed singing in the past, then why not give it another go! Our new term starts on 5th September when we commence rehearsals for Handel's Messiah which we will perform in December. If you are interested in potentially joining us, please contact hurstgreensingers@gmail.com for further information.

Oxted & District History Society's Summer Trip to Walmer Castle

Some 30 members of the Oxted & District History Society much enjoyed their summer outing to Walmer Castle, Deal and the Battle of Britain Memorial at Folkestone held yesterday, ably organised by Roger Cornish, Vice-Chairman of the Society.

Despite the dire weather forecast, which meant that most of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships could not be completed, the rain held off, enabling the Society's first Summer Outing since 2019 to go ahead.

Walmer Castle was one of 3 defensive castles hurriedly built by Henry VIII in 1539-40 when the country was threatened by a combined invasion from the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V and King Francis I of France, which



fortunately never happened. From 1540 to 1720, Walmer Castle was occupied by a Captain and Garrison of the



Warden of the Cinque Ports. It became the country retreat of Wellington after his successes against Napoleon.

The castle was also occupied by subsequent Wardens, including Earl Granville (1855-91) who was closely connected with the Leveson-Gower family of Titsey Place, Winston Churchill and the Queen Mother.

The Oxted & District History Society is now in its summer recess and its 2023-4 Lecture Season opens at 8pm on Tuesday, 3 October with a lecture by James Dickinson on '*Arundel Castle & the Fitzalan-Howard Family*' at the United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted. More about the History Society can be found on its website at www.oxteddistshistorysociety.com.

Stuart Paterson

The Time is Right for Oxted Rotary

1923 was significant for the Town of Oxted, with the Rotary Club of Oxted & Limpsfield being chartered in July of that year and going on to help local people for the next 100 years. In 1973, to celebrate the first 50 years of the Club, the members made a gift to the people of Oxted of a Rotary clock which they fixed above the shop at 101 Station Road East in Oxted and now, in 2023, as the Club celebrates its 100th Anniversary, the clock has been overhauled and once again is showing the right time.

But the Oxted Rotary Club was not the only organisation being born in 1923. The land now known as Master Park had been used for recreation since the late 19th century and by 1920, the area had become known as "The Rec" because the Hoskins Masters family had allowed local people to use it for Recreational purposes.

In 1923 this use was formalised by Charles Hoskins Master, who executed a trust deed establishing that the "said piece or parcel of land should be laid out and reserved for ever hereafter for the healthy recreation and amusement of the inhabitants of the Parish of Oxted and their friends."

In those days, a football club, cricket club, ladies hockey club, two tennis clubs and an athletics club used the park and there was a pavilion in rather poor condition. Children were allowed the use of the north west portion of the park as a play area, so not much has changed since then.

Also in 1923, the Surrey Mirror gave the first news of an exciting new project by announcing the proposal "to erect a public hall for the service of Oxted and Limpsfield and surrounding parishes, to be known as the Barn Theatre. The project originated with the Oxted and Limpsfield Players, with whom the Crichton Dramatic Club was

early associated. The two clubs, both of which were badly handicapped for the want of a suitable public hall in the district, appointed a joint committee which was to be responsible for carrying the project through" and so, The Barn Theatre was born.

These three events in 1923 heralded a long association for each of the organisations involved. Master Park

remains a central feature of Oxted, providing a fun venue for many charitable and social organisations, just as Charles Hoskins Master envisaged all that time ago. The dilapidated old pavilion is long gone, having once been replaced and now due to be replaced again with a building that will last another 100 years.

The Barn Theatre has also undergone significant expansion and today it provides a theatrical venue for drama, pantomime, musical theatre, opera, rock and big bands, tribute acts, concerts and comedy nights, ensuring, that the people of Oxted and surrounding areas will be suitably



entertained for many years to come.

The Rotary clock is controlled by a radio signal broadcast from the Anthorn Radio Station in Cumbria, which serves as the United Kingdom's national time reference. The signal carries a time and date code that a radio controlled mechanism uses to automatically adjust our clock to the correct Greenwich or British Summer Time. The time signal received is controlled by cesium atomic clocks and is accurate to within one second every 1000 years, so the Oxted Rotary clock should see the people of Oxted kept in time for at least the next 100 years!

David Simmonds



LEARN, LIVE, LAUGH with us at Westerham U3A.

We hold an Open Meeting on the second Thursday of each month, starting at 2pm in Westerham Hall, and a coffee morning on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.30 also in Westerham Hall, at which we welcome all current members and anyone who would like to join us. You can find all the information you need about our many interest groups, outings and general activities on our website – [https:// www.westerhamu3a.org](https://www.westerhamu3a.org)

Our annual subscription is £20 or £35 (joint membership) and we levy a fee of £2 at Hall meetings to cover hire costs. We welcome new members to join any of our 50+ interest groups from Ancestry to Yoga.



2023 marked our 10th birthday and on August 10 many members enjoyed a special afternoon tea provided by the Courtyard Café, and an anniversary cake specially made by one of our very first committee members. Entertainment



was provided by Colin Hill, Hilary Moore, and Eileen Perryer, with humorous sketches. Chairman Tony Pearson congratulated all members on their support, as it is only because people get involved and help out that the organization flourishes.

On Thursday 14 September our meeting will take the form of a quiz,



teams of six. This proved a successful event last year.

In October, our speaker will be Tony Harris and his subject will be *Henry VIII*. Tony lived and worked at Hampton Court for two years and played Henry VIII every other day for the benefit of more than half a million tourists.



Our November talk will be by Ian Walker on *The Legacy of the Great War* and on December 7 our Christmas Lunch will be held at Westerham Golf Club. As the Lunch is limited to members only, join now and enjoy the festive fun!!

Remember you can find out more at www.westerhamu3a.org

Wynne Gifford

The Lingfield Art Association will be holding their annual exhibition during the October half term (23rd - 29th October, 10.00am – 4.00pm) at the Community Centre in Lingfield. Entry is free.

This is a great opportunity for amateur artists to exhibit their works as well as the public to view and purchase some inspiring original paintings, greeting cards and sculptures.

For more information, please visit our website www.lingfieldart.org or find us on Facebook - **Lingfield Art Association**.



Textiles and Inspiration

On 18th September 2023 the Tandridge Handicraft Society is hosting a talk presented by Sara Cook on Bojagi, a Korean textile art.

On 16th October 2023 we are hosting a talk with examples: “*Inspired by Stitch*” will be presented by Jane Robinson.

For both talks: Doors open 1:30pm, talk starts at 2pm. Visitors are welcome, £5 entry including tea and biscuits.

The Society meet every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre, Oxted RH8 9HT (postcode for SatNav RH8 9JQ). Further details on our website www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk or contact Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.

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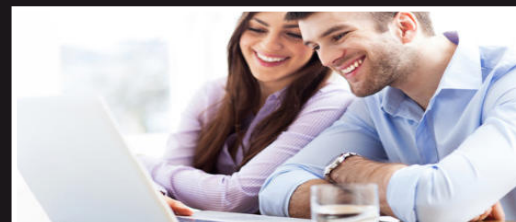


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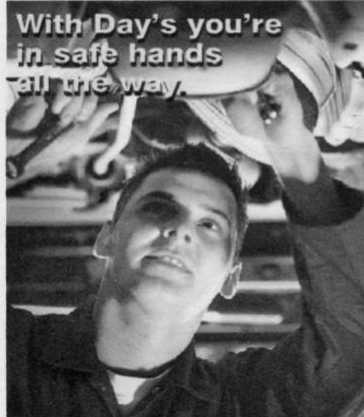
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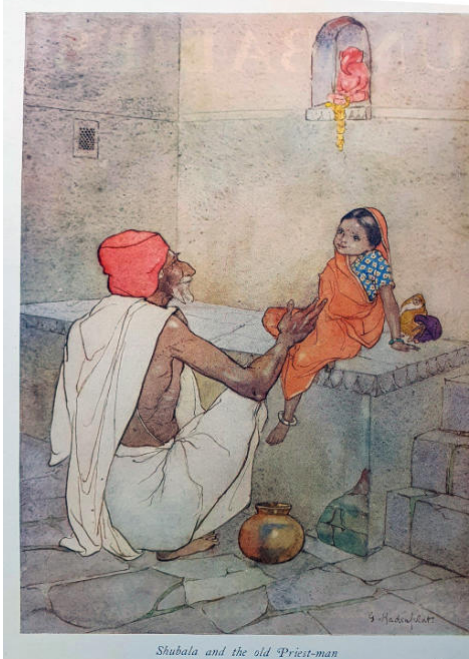
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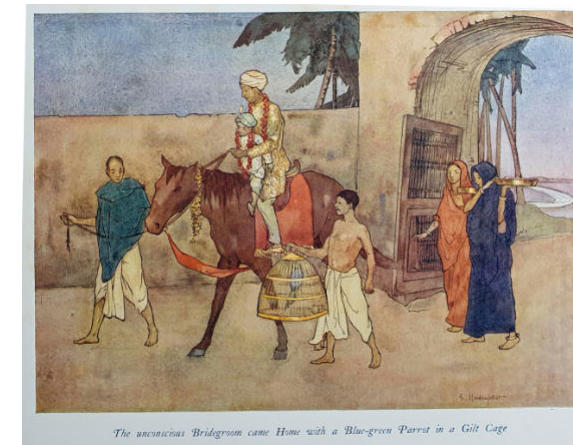
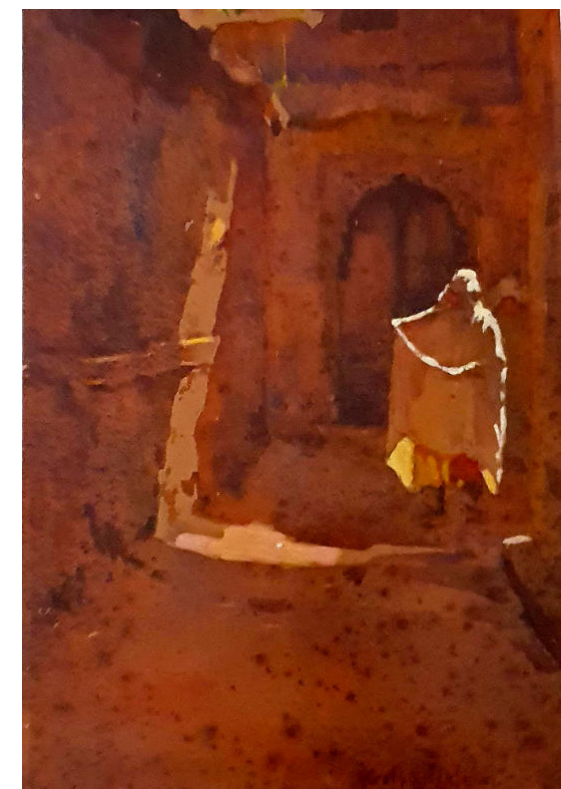
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See Page 8



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