
A

LOCALS' GUIDE

TO

Hartley Wintney

What do locals like best about life in this vibrant village in Hart? There's certainly plenty of choice with its historic commons of oak trees, quaint duck ponds, picturesque cricket ground, and browsable independent boutiques and antique shops

WORDS: Emma Caulton



Photo: Getty Images/Stockphoto/Peter Sterling

Hartley Wintney's duck pond is just one of the beautiful green spaces surrounding the village

Rose Bramwell

Artist Rose Bramwell has lived in Hartley Wintney for over 25 years. She has taught art and design for over 30 years, with much of her work reflecting the local area where she lives. Around 15 years ago she held her first stall at the Summer Festival. This led to her illustrating buildings for local architects and estate agents as well as private commissions, painting houses for clients. Her work is exhibited in local gallery, Picture This, at Hartley Antiques. She also teaches watercolour painting with Surrey Adult Education and takes a weekly class in Victoria Hall in Hartley Wintney.



Photo: Rose Bramwell

LEFT:
Rose Bramwell's artwork is inspired by local buildings and landscape

BELOW:
Rose Bramwell



ROSE'S LOCAL LIFE

'The best thing for me about Hartley Wintney are the walks and the heathland near where I live. I run almost every day up on the heath.'

Favourite walk: 'A favourite starts at Hartfordbridge, towards Bramshill House and through Hazeley Heath.'

Café: 'The Courtyard Café which is at the back of Hartley Antiques: great atmosphere, service and coffee!'

Shop: 'White Lion Antiques. This is a large shop over three floors with over a hundred independent dealers selling everything from antique jewellery to contemporary handmade silver jewellery, 1940s clothing and kitchenware. You need at least a couple of hours to look around!'

Hair salon: 'Rural Fringe. A highly experienced and friendly team who specialise in colouring hair. Lee, the manager, saved my hair after a disaster home dye kit. I have been going there ever since!'

Neil Matthews, Lewis Alderson & Co

Neil Matthews and Tom Edmonds established Lewis Alderson in 2008, opening a showroom in Hartley Wintney

in 2015 displaying their bespoke ranges of classic luxury interiors for kitchen, laundry, boot room, pantry and study.

All of their furniture is handmade in the UK and individually designed for each client to suit their home and lifestyle.

NEIL'S LOCAL LIFE

'The best thing about Hartley Wintney is its traditional village feel. It's a very beautiful spot with a good mix of independent retailers and some lovely countryside on the doorstep, but it still has convenient transport links when you need a larger town or city – so it offers the best of both worlds.'

Something special: 'I love history and find it fascinating that the oak trees were planted on the common to produce more timber for naval ships following the Battle of Trafalgar.'

Pub: 'The Phoenix Inn for its lovely atmosphere, very consistent food, plus good beer!'

Favourite shop: 'William Dyer, the award-winning family butchers. They do the best Scotch eggs I've ever tasted!'

Restaurant: 'For special occasions I would always head to Heckfield Place. Its understated luxury exactly matches our ethos at Lewis Alderson. The rooms and restaurant are beautiful and the private cinema is a really fun touch.'

Time out: 'In the summer, Tom and I love to watch a bit of cricket. Hartley Wintney has one of the oldest cricket clubs in the country and it's a lovely spot to while away a summer's evening with a pint.'



Photo: Lewis Alderson

Sisi and Andrew Ryder, The Phoenix Inn

Sisi and Andrew reopened The Phoenix Inn in November 2009, after falling in love with Hartley Wintney. They quickly established it as a destination pub and eatery with their passion for fresh, local produce winning them many accolades over the years, including Best Roast Dinner in the UK, Pub of the Year in the Hampshire Food & Drink Awards, and Les Routiers' Venue of the Year.

Photo: Phoenix Inn



SISI AND ANDREW'S LOCAL LIFE

'We fell in love with Hartley Wintney over 12 years ago – its landscape, High Street and beautiful cricket green epitomise a classic English village. The welcome we received when we moved here, and the lifelong friends we have made, has made Hartley Wintney our home.'

A secret: 'The hamlet of Phoenix Green was named after the inn, which bears the family arms of the Seymour family of Elvetham. The Phoenix Inn started under their patronage in the reign of King Edward VI. Today the only reminder of the Seymour family, who once owned the surrounding grounds, is the phoenix crest rising from the flames at the inn.'

Favourite shops: 'Mimi and Cashmere Goose both have a great range of lovely items not usually found on the high street.'

Beauty salon: 'Ta-Da for its friendly, accommodating service.'

Hairdressing salon: 'The Village Gossip; excellent stylists, more than just a hairdresser!'

Restaurant: 'Monsoon: the best Indian restaurant outside London!'

Chris Farrance, chairman, Hartley Wintney Parish Council

'In the commercial world we would be a significant small business with a budget of some £300,000 and a customer base – based on population size – of some 6,000. We deliver a wide range of community support through a professional

parish office team and 12 volunteer parish councillors. It is my privilege to have been elected chairman. Internally I see my role as generating focus and momentum; externally I might be described as the local mayor – I have a chain of office!'

CHRIS' LOCAL LIFE

'What captures the eye and the heart is the majesty of the world heritage commons with the historic oaks and ponds rich in wildlife. The Commons have taken on a new lease of life post-Covid with organised keep fit groups – I wave when I walk by!'

Event: 'In January there is Wassail Night – a medieval custom where we walk with flaming torches from the centre of the village to our very special memorial orchard to bless the apple trees. There is a Summer Festival on the Commons, a village picnic, a Christmas Market, and a

travelling fair still visits on high days and holidays.

Local attraction: 'Visit 13th century St Mary's Church – a 15-minute walk from the centre of the village. Here you will find old and new in a remarkably tranquil and peaceful setting with another vista to savour.'

Something special: 'Funding from developers has enabled us, with parish council support, to benefit from a new sports ground and pavilion, named the Lucy Pygott Centre, in memory of a promising young athlete.'



Photo: Chris Farrance



Photo: Emma Gaulton

Hartley Wintney's vibrant High Street is dominated by small independent businesses

Alex and Lucy Greenwood, Greenwood Goldsmiths

Alex and Lucy run a jewellers with on-site workshop where Alex handmakes fine jewellery, carries out repairs and reuses family heirlooms to create new engagement rings or other sentimental jewellery.

ALEX AND LUCY'S LOCAL LIFE

'We planned for years to find somewhere in Hartley Wintney. There were several reasons for choosing here: the quirky old buildings, the fact that nearly all the shops are small independent businesses, and most of all because everyone knows each other either by first name or dog's names!'

Something quirky: 'There are hidden carvings all over the village: behind benches, on posts, trees and buildings. Even after 10 years' living here we find new ones.'

Favourite pub: 'The Waggon & Horses – especially on a Friday lunchtime when it is referred to as The Office. It's where

everyone and their dogs go. You find tradesmen there, and people go on their own as everyone chats to each other.'

Day out: 'The Summer Festival: a day of themed parades, small fairground rides, dog contests, plant sales, live music, barbecues, and the popular water fight between kids and firemen.'

Restaurant: 'Hartley's Fish & Chips or Po Lee Chinese Takeaway. We then have a picnic on the cricket green.'

Café: 'Cuppies 'n' Cream. The best thing that has happened to the village! Natalie and her team have made our time in Hartley Wintney fantastic.'



Photo: Jon Bradley Photography

Local attraction: 'The New Year's Day classic car gathering in front of the Phoenix Inn. Cars come from miles around, all beautifully polished up. It's like a tiny Goodwood.'