

THE Farncombe Villager

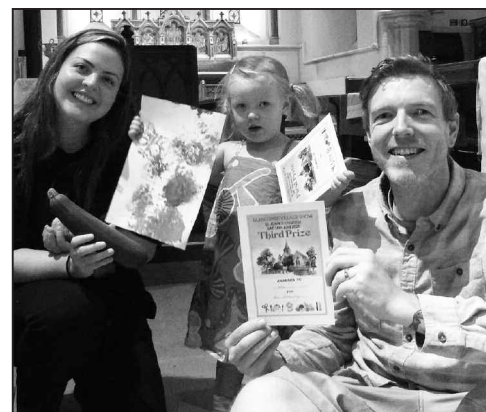
ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH



AN EXCITING VILLAGE SHOW



Best in Show



Despite the forecast, Saturday, 17th August was a rather cloudy day at St John's Church as the Village Show entries came in but this did nothing to dampen the enthusiastic chatter and the enjoyment of meeting up with friends. The weather this year has caused problems related to climate change but the standard was very high – the gardeners were clearly working very hard! Despite the problems we equalled the highest number of entries for the Show and the judges were definitely ready for lunch after their judging!

When the Show opened at 2pm it was really good to see a large number of excited exhibitors checking to see how their entries had done.

With the change in layout this year it was good to be able to see all the entries together as they were all in the church, with the Church Room concentrating on those important refreshments. The Show is a good social event and a lot of 'catching up' with friends and neighbours was going on.

A big 'thank you' to Jane Jopson, Sue Petty and all those who helped with the organisation, publicity and other arrangements to make it such a happy and successful Show – there were some very tired people by the time the church furniture had been put back afterwards!

John



MORE PICTURES WITH PRIZE WINNERS ON PAGE 4

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From the Rectory



It's a hot and humid August afternoon as I sit to write this piece and I barely want to stir out of doors and thankfully don't have to until I go down to the church to say Evening Prayer and lock up. I think of some of the places where our Forest Church excursions have taken us over the couple of years we have been doing them: Binscombe Fields, where the soil was dusty enough between the rows of crops when we visited, and likely to be even more so now; Broadwater Lake, the path usually crowded with dog-walkers and anglers, but surely not so today even if the water might look cool; and the old Golf Course we walked round at the end of July, probably loud with grasshoppers if any of them can bear to be active.

Part of what we try to do in our Forest Church is to reflect on the way the natural world communicates God's presence and nature to us, and also, in a light and unimposing way, prayerfully to offer to him this aspect of our community's life: to bring the two together. Of course the scenery we move through isn't all that 'natural' at all, certainly in the sense of being wild. It's shaped and constrained by human activity and history, and we think about that too. But we can still see God's command to the world to live and bear fruit continually playing out as wildflowers and saplings take over derelict areas and insects and birds move back into them.

As one heatwave succeeds another we may enjoy the weather, or find it a bit inconvenient. In the middle of one I can't help my mind turning to the vast changes in our climate which make long spells of dry weather more likely. How will these shifts affect human society in the decades to come – what impact will they have on our ability to move about, the water we have available to use, the food we are able to grow? Changes and accommodations will be inescapable, and from

a Christian point of view making sure our decisions and actions are grounded in the reality of what God expects of us is the very first thing we should do.

New Offers for Autumn!

At St John's we always strive to find ways of worshipping which might help different groups of people. This September we're trialling two. The first is a short and simple service at 11.20 on Sunday mornings that will hopefully be more suitable for family groups than the longer services we offer currently: it'll consist of two songs, a reading, and prayer time, just to keep in touch with God. The second is a quiet, music-based contemplative evening service on the 3rd Sunday in the month. See below or check the website for more information!

Churches Together Bandstand Service

Churches Together in Godalming & District held our annual open-air service at the Bandstand on August 10th and the sun shone on the 200+ people present.

James Rector



St John's Church, Farncombe

Sanctus

Stillness
Music
Recharging

6pm, 3rd Sunday each month
begins September 21st



St John's Church, Farncombe

ELEVEN TWENTY

A short Sunday celebration for families & others
11.20-11.35am, begins September 21st

Bring your coffee or get one with us!



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Village Show 2025 Headlines

- 368 entries – Exactly equal to last year, once again the highest number of entries since records began (n.b. records began in 2014!)
- A total of 52 individuals have won certificates (a new record)
- 14 of them scored more than 10 points in total (also a new record)

Cup Awards

Judith Smith Cup

For the best entry in the Children's category

- Clara Sahraei for her superb drawing

Highest Points Cup

Sarah Keyworth retains her title with a fantastic 62 points and a total of 20 awards across the show!

Total Points

- 1st Sarah Keyworth 62 • 2nd Shirley Purchase 39 • 3rd Shiela Kelsey 31

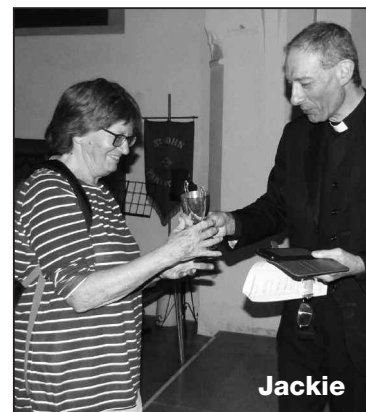
Overall Best in Show Cup

By unanimous decision, the judges chose Jackie Bodington's beautiful ceramic dog, in the handicraft section. Congratulations Jackie!

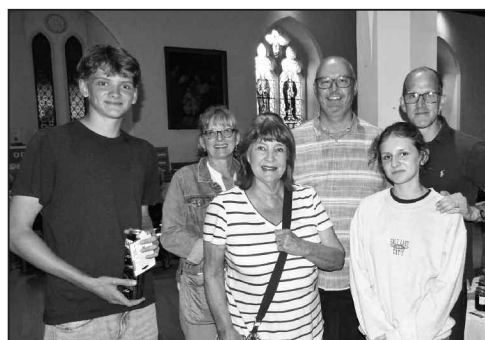
Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to our judges, and to all those who entered and helped to organize this wonderful event.



Sarah



Jackie



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OPEN EVENING

TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2025
at 19:20 at Wilfrid Noyce Centre

Contact our membership secretary
Pauline at p.powlesland@btinternet.com
if you are interested in joining the choir

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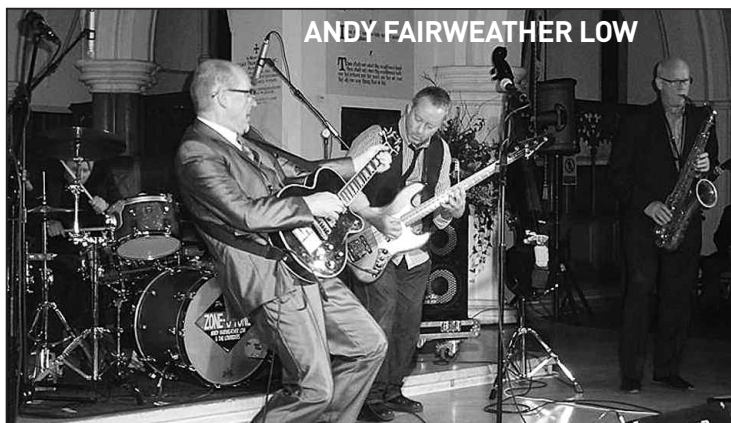


A reflection on the 15 years of the Farncombe Music Club concerts at St. John's Church.

The idea for the establishment of these concerts came in the Autumn of 2006. I was travelling by train up to London with a local friend and journalist, Grahame Morrison, to attend a Christian Aid march. During our conversation, Grahame revealed that back in the 1980's, he had been a music journalist and also run folk music nights in the Crypt at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London.

I shared that I had a similar interest at running regular live music nights at some point. I had just left working in international banking in the City in June 2006 in order to pursue my dream to run my own music business. This wasn't an entirely new business because it had been evolving since my first foray at promoting live music when I organised a one day music concert in Vale Castle in Guernsey in 1978 as part of my school's charities week, then DJing at various events over the past 25+ years and, since 1991, taking stalls at record fairs selling vinyl records and other music related memorabilia.

Grahame and I followed up this day trip to London with a number of meetings to discuss starting up a regular monthly music night. We discussed possible different local venues. I mentioned that in July 2005, my wife Jo and I had been to see The African Children's Choir at St. John's Church and wondered whether that would make a suitable venue. What it lacked in facilities and comfort compared to other venues, it made up for in terms of acoustics and atmosphere.



We agreed that concerts there would be very much in the spirit of what we wanted to do - as well as offering quality live entertainment - help raise money for the church and other charities such as the local youth project Trinity Trust Team, and support Fairtrade with fairly-traded goods such as wine, coffee, tea and chocolate.

We met with Rev. Margaret Blake, discussed and then submitted our proposals to the Farncombe PCC. Once approved in early 2007, we set about booking the first programme of monthly concerts and securing some initial local sponsorship from businesses such as Waitrose and the Co-op. We took a stall at the Spring Fair on the Bury's to officially announce the concerts which would begin in June with an appropriately titled "Evening of Angelic Music" with singer-songwriters Liz Simcock and Janis Haves. That concert attracted an audience of about 50 which was an encouraging start.

Audiences started to build and the genres broadened from the initial folk, Americana, singer-songwriter line-up as we started to attract the likes of Kiki Dee, Hazel O'Connor, Benny Gallagher and Jim Diamond who had all had top 10 chart hits. We were also able to involve some local performers including Guildford Vox, Godalming Community Gospel Choir and Reed Maxfield. By now, Grahame had moved away from the area so I continued to book the acts and run the concerts, whilst largely on my own, it would not have been possible without the support of many others which I will expand on later.

Securing Judie Tzuke's show in March 2012 was momentous in many ways. I had approached her booking agent a number of times and then I was contacted just before Christmas 2011 to ask if the church could host the opening night of her UK tour. It transpired that they had rejected the recently opened G Live (which had replaced Guildford Civic Hall) due to that venue's expensive hire costs but wanted something which could still be regarded as hometown / local with Judie's home nearby in Weybridge. Everything was quickly agreed, tickets went on sale and sold out weeks in advance of the show. Our first sell out!

Judie's concert was also the last in the church itself before the church was re-ordered with new flooring, lighting, electrics and seating. The closure was to last a few months and thankfully during that time, we were able to use the church room as an alternative



venue, albeit obviously with a much smaller capacity, for all our scheduled concerts without any cancellations. The re-ordering of the church provided a much more appealing and comfortable venue for all users, not just those attending our concerts. Much credit to Rev. James Rattue, the PCC and all those others involved in that.

Consequently, we were quickly able to attract other name acts such as Beverley Craven, Andy Fairweather Low, Dennis Locorriere (of Dr. Hook), Julia Fordham, Jaki Graham and Nerina Pallot. Over the years the programme had grown from once a month into more regular hirings of the church and church room. Those hirings included recording albums, videos, festival and tour rehearsals as well as record fairs. We also hosted regular Sunday afternoon cafe-style concerts which were recorded for an internet radio show.

As a result of these other uses, we were able to help increase income for St. John's Church alongside other charitable fundraisings for the Trinity Trust Team youth project, Farncombe Day Centre, The Cellar cafe, Christian Aid, CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) and Disasters Emergency Committee appeals. The concerts raised over £100,000 in total for these various charities. As part of Godalming's application in 2008 to become a Fairtrade Town, we also organised a specific Fairtrade Concert.

My eclectic music tastes gradually saw the programming becoming more varied with progressive rock bands such as Caravan, Curved Air, Focus, Gryphon, The Enid, John Lees' Barclay James Harvest and Soft Machine all appearing alongside popular music favourites

Continued from page 8

of mine including Big Country, China Crisis, The Christians, Space, Roachford, The Icicle Works, The Blow Monkeys, Hue and Cry, Toyah, Glenn Tilbrook, Chris Difford and Dean Friedman.

The COVID pandemic hit right after our most successful year in 2019. Much of 2020 and 2021 was spent on administration with rescheduling, cancelling and relocating concerts caused by the various lockdowns. It was in September 2021 that, after much consideration, I decided to bring to an end the Farncombe Music Club concerts with the final run of shows starting in January 2022 and ending in November that year including some of the shows which were either rescheduled or cancelled during those previous 18 months.

As mentioned above, the concerts would not have been possible without the support of many others. In fact they may not have even

started if there hadn't been that initial conversation with Grahame Morrison. The support of Rev. Margaret Blake, Rev. Margaret Dean and Rev. James Rattue together with the various members of the PCC obviously provided the foundation. Then from a practical level at each concert there were the many volunteers over the years including my wife, our children, friends and relatives. The technical support on sound and lights was provided by some very talented professionals who remain as friends and have worked with me on my many concert promotions at other venues in Surrey. Lastly of course the concerts wouldn't have become so popular without the support of our many regulars who flew the flag and told others about the concerts.

Farncombe Music Club concerts may well have ended but they will be long remembered by many. For me and to use that song title from Hue and Cry, it was a "Labour of Love".

Julian Lewry

NEWS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor of Waverley Borough Council, Councillor Penny Rivers, held her Civic Service on Sunday 6 July at St John's Church bringing together councillors, community representatives, and residents for a moment of reflection, faith, and civic pride.



The service, which began with a formal civic procession, was led by Rev. James Rattue, (the Mayor's Chaplain). Penny made her Mayoral promise to serve the Borough of Waverley with compassion and fairness, pledging to represent all residents, "young and old, able and less able, those of faith and those with none, male, female, LGBTQ+ alike."



Musical highlights included a performance by the Godalming Junior School Choir who joined St John's Choir, singing "Higher and Higher",

The Mayor's chosen charities for the year are:

The Meath Epilepsy Charity, which provides specialist care and support for people living with complex epilepsy and related disabilities.

Skillway, a local vocational training initiative for young people, helping to build skills, confidence, and a positive future.

Following the service, attendees joined the Mayor for refreshments in the Church Room, with thanks extended to all who contributed, from the Godalming Town Band and school choir to volunteers. Penny is Jamaican born and following the Jamaican tradition, Rev James Rattue was asked to say a prayer of blessing over the cake which was then shared with everyone.

Penny said:

"I'm honoured to serve as Mayor of Waverley. This Civic Service is not only a moment of tradition but a meaningful way to commit to serving one another. Together we can do so much more".

Penny will be holding two fundraising events in the Borough Hall for The Meath and Skillway – on Friday, September 26th at 7pm there will be a screening of "A High Wind in Jamaica" (if you are very observant, you will spot a young Penny and her parents who were extras), and on Friday, 13th February there will be a quiz for Valentines.

More information to follow, especially on her facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/councillorpenny>



Derek Pollard representing Skillway and Lucy Miguda representing The Meath.

REGULAR SERVICES at ST JOHN'S

SUNDAYS

8am Holy Eucharist
 8.45am Roman Catholic Mass
 10am 1st Sunday in the month, Sunday Space
 Other Sundays, Parish Eucharist
 6.30pm 1st Sunday in the month, Sung Eucharist
 7.30pm 2nd Sunday in the month, Compline over Zoom

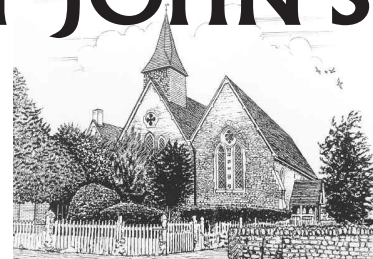
TUESDAY

10.30am Holy Eucharist

FRIDAY

11.45am Last Friday in the month,
 Toddler Praise

For all other information see our website: www.farncombe.org.uk



There is a Roman Catholic Mass every Sunday morning at St John's starting at 8.45am *all are welcome*

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

ANNUAL FUND RAISING TEA

On a sunny Wednesday afternoon Mothers union members and guests met in the garden of St Johns Church for the annual fund raising tea. We enjoyed homemade cream scones and a good natter. There was a raffle and a sales table and as a result £179.20p was raised. The branch decided to add to this from funds held and £100 was sent to the appeal for Sudan £100 to the Literacy project which help people learn to read worldwide and £50 to AFIA (Away from it all) a project that provides days out or short breaks for families struggling for a variety of reasons.

In July we visited the mosque in Tilford the home of the Ahmadiyya Moslems. We were made very welcome and most of us were surprised at the size of the beautiful site with its attractive gardens, houses, offices and of course the lovely mosque. People come from worldwide for conferences to this site.

In September we restart after the summer break and we look forward to hearing about Homestart. Please come and visit us and learn about Homestart, Mothers Union and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.

Marjorie



*Open to God
 Open to each other
 Open to all*

On the 7th September, 5th October
 and 2nd November at 10am

SUNDAY SPACE

The theme for Sunday Space on 7th September
 is 'My money – my Choice'.

SAVE THE DATE
 The next Quiz Night
 at St John's is the
 10th October

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Our thoughts for this Messy Church were on the very topical theme of 'Journeys'- the preparations such as packing, finding the way to go and learning some of the ways to make our journeys clearer.

We looked at some of the accounts in the Bible of people who had made special journeys, both in distance and in their personal life. Our individual lives are a type of journey too and we can learn a lot from people like Jacob and Ezra who went on long journeys and prayed to God for help and protection. We also remembered the words of Jesus, "So do not worry about tomorrow, it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings."

Our activities were very varied and included a competition to get a paper aeroplane to fly as far as possible and an ingenious balloon-propelled car.

We meet again on 13th September (when we hope it will be a bit cooler!) John

THE TEAM



PRAYER FOR FARNCOMBE

A small group of pray-ers gather on the second Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Lady Chapel to pray for Farncombe, its people, organisations, schools and businesses.

Our next meetings are 11th September, 9th October and 13th November.

New members to our group are welcome, and if you have a concern that you would like us to include in our prayers, please tell us by emailing prayers@farncombe.org.uk.

PARISH REGISTER

In Memoriam

Audrey Chatterton

BIBLE STUDIES

This term, the St John's Bible Study group looks at 'Harlots and Heroines' – women in the Bible. We start with a lady called Tamar on Thursday, 11th September, 19.30-21.00 in the Church Room, and after that we meet on 25.9., 9.10. and 16.10.

THE QUIET GARDEN

For over 20 years the Quiet Garden at St John's Church has been maintained by a group of volunteers, some being knowledgeable gardeners and others keen to help (and learn too). The council maintain the grass areas as this requires special motorised equipment. The Garden is widely used by people seeking some peace and quiet for thought and remembrance or just somewhere to sit down, enjoy the flowers and trees or meet friends. Part of the area at the front has been developed to provide a play area for playgroups using the Church Room and can be fenced off safely for their outdoor activities.

Once a month, the group of volunteers have a tidying session with jobs like pruning shrubs at the right time and keeping them to a suitable size, dealing with the perennial weeds and keeping the borders as tidy as possible. With the passage of time we need more volunteers to help with the maintenance of the Quiet Garden: if you are able to help we meet from 9.30 to 12.00 on the last Saturday of each month (except December!) Please come along if you would like to see what happens, we can provide the garden tools but suitable clothing is necessary as it is very much 'hands on'.



We were very pleased to receive an award from Godalming in Bloom again this year in recognition of our work in the Community Gardens section.

We look forward to meeting some new garden enthusiasts at future working sessions.

John

Kettle's On

AFTERNOON CLUB



**You are invited to
AFTERNOON TEA**
meet old friends, make
new ones and enjoy
CONVERSATION

St John's Church Room

St John's Street

2pm until 4pm

every 3rd Wednesday in the month

**Carers with friends and loved
ones especially welcome**

**We are open to those of all Faiths
and those who have None.**

**Do come and enjoy Afternoon Tea,
all homemade**

A small donation gratefully accepted - but not essential

DATES FOR 2025

Sept 17th Oct 15th Nov 19th Dec 10th - Party.

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All our volunteers have been trained by the audiology departments of
Epsom & St Helier Hospital or the Royal Surrey County Hospital and
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Cotton On Craft Club

New! Handicraft Group at St John's Farncombe

The 1st Wednesday in the month

- Bring your favourite craft to share
- Learn a new one
- Beginners welcome
- Inspire others • Ask for help

- Make a community project
- Learn more about your sewing machine
- Bring your ideas

The next dates in the Church Room are

Sept 3rd Oct 1st Nov 5th 2pm - 4pm

The next Quiz Night at St John's is the 10th October

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FREE LUNCHTIME CHARTERHOUSE CONCERTS at ST JOHN'S CHURCH

THURS 2nd OCT at 1.15pm & THURS 20th NOV at 1.15pm

On behalf of the Charterhouse Music Department, we would like to thank St John's Church for their generosity and hospitality in providing us with this alluring church as the performance venue for our charity concerts.

Through a range of performances by our musicians, from 17th century baroque music to 21st century rock classics, we have successfully raised +£500 to support the Cheryl King Trust, which

supports underprivileged kids for their musical education in the local Surrey area. This would not have been successful without the unwavering support of St John's and we would like to send our deepest gratitude to the church. We are very keen on extending our partnership and look forward to seeing many of you again soon. With our warmest wishes,

Eamon and Christy



FARNCOMBE CHURCH CONCERT

FOR THE NEW 2025-2026
MUSIC SEASON

SEE YOU AT ST. JOHN'S
CHURCH, FARNCOMBE,
1:15PM, ON...

2ND
OCTOBER,
2025

20TH
NOVEMBER,
2025



St JOHN'S CHURCH FARNCOMBE
FRIDAY 10th OCT

7.00pm for 7.30pm with RAFFLE

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THE NEXT FARNCOMBE MARKET

will be held on Saturday 13th September from 10.00 to 14.30.
IN THE FARNCOMBE STATION CAR PARK



COFFEE MORNINGS at ST JOHN'S

all are welcome in the Church Room

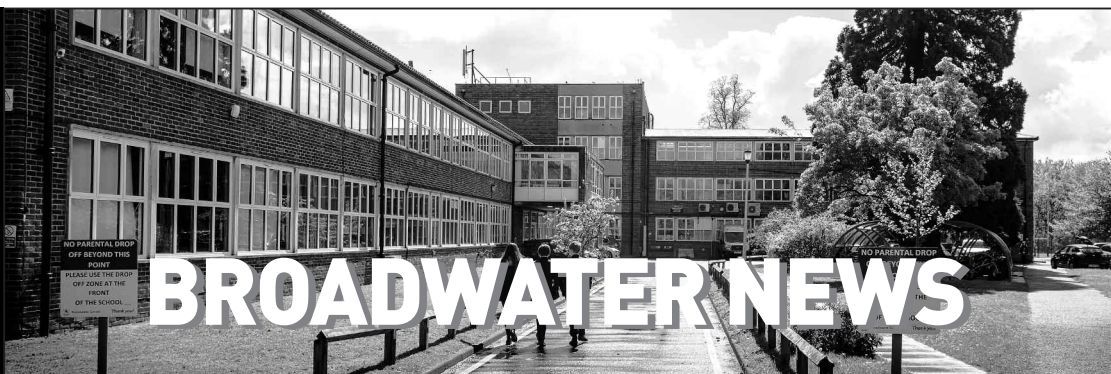
Saturdays 10am -12noon

13th Sept 27th Sept 11th Oct 25th Oct 8th Nov

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WINNER OF THE GLT CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025



We were incredibly proud to have our students represent the school at the inaugural GLT Athletics Championships, held at the University of Bath — a day that celebrated athleticism, determination, and exceptional sportsmanship.

Over 400 students from 17 schools competed across a full programme of track and field events, including shot put, high jump, discus, long jump, 1500m, 800m, 200m, 100m, and the 4x100m relays. The level of talent and commitment was truly inspiring.

What stood out most were the moments beyond the competition:

- Cheering each other on
- Sharing high fives and encouragement
- Practising relays during lunch
- Taking responsibility and tidying up — without being asked

In just one day, our students built a culture of teamwork, respect, and pride — a reflection of the values we strive to instil every day. Their unity and spirit made all the difference. Congratulations to our team on being crowned overall winners of the GLT Athletics Championships 2025!



COMPTON PHONE BOX OUR CHALLENGE WEEK COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

As part of this year's Challenge Week, our students once again took over the iconic Compton Phone Box with an exciting Community Art Project.

Inspired by the bold, geometric style of renowned artist Morag Myerscough, students worked collaboratively to design and construct a series of vibrant sculptural pieces. Their creativity, teamwork, and artistic flair were on full display throughout the project.

A huge well done to everyone involved — the final installation is a fantastic celebration of colour, expression, and community spirit.

INVITATION DISCOVER WHAT MAKES US EXCEPTIONAL

We warmly invite you to our Open Evening on Thursday, 2nd October, from 6:00–8:00pm.

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In a world that often tells us we need to be younger, fitter, and more flexible, it's easy to feel disconnected from our own bodies. Many of us believe the myth that yoga is only for the "young and bendy," a practice focused on achieving picture-perfect poses. But what if yoga could be a gentle conversation with yourself, a way to build a renewed friendship with the body you have right now?

That's the heart of Zen Yoga with Catherine. I offer a space for women who feel alienated from their practice, or have never even stepped onto a mat, to explore the powerful connection between mind and body. My approach isn't about sweating or striving for an idealised shape. Instead, we focus on how the poses feel, not how they look.

With years of my own lived experience with anxiety and grief, I bring a deep sense of empathy and a playful, relaxed attitude to every class. Using mindfulness practices from Zen, I will guide you to gently get to know your body again, fostering a sense of physical and mental peace. This is a journey of self-discovery, not of competition. It's about honouring where you are and discovering the strength and peace that already lie within you.

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Slimming World News

Neil wins weight-loss award after losing inspirational 5stone 3lbs

A Surrey has been named as his Slimming World group's Man of the Year 2025 after losing 5st 3lbs.



Neil and Vicki with Paul Merton

The Man of the Year competition recognises the most inspiring male slimmers across the UK and Ireland. Winners are voted for by their fellow group members for their incredible dedication and inspiring transformation.

Neil Hobbs joined the local Slimming World group in September 2024 after deciding it was time to take control of his health. At his heaviest, he weighed nearly 17 stone, and since joining the group, he's dropped to 11stone 10lbs, transforming not just his weight, but his life.

He says: "I'd reached a point where I didn't feel like myself anymore. I was constantly tired, struggling with my confidence, and even everyday tasks felt harder than they should; things like walking the dog or doing my day job as a bathroom fitter.

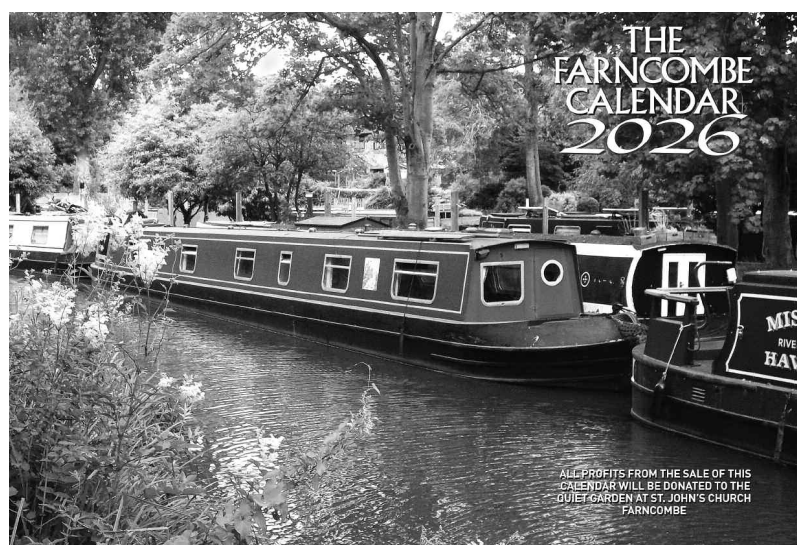
Neil says being part of a Slimming World group was a game-changer: "I'll be honest, I was nervous about walking through those doors the first time. I thought I'd be the only bloke there. But there were others just like me, and the atmosphere was welcoming and down-to-earth. Every week, sharing progress and tips with the group kept me motivated; it's been a huge part of my success."

"What really surprised me was how much I could still eat, and it was real, hearty food like curries, burgers, and pasta – all my favourite foods just made in a healthier way. I wasn't starving, I wasn't cutting out everything I enjoyed and that made it feel sustainable. I've learned so much about food, and the changes I've made don't feel like a 'diet' – it's just how I cook and eat now."

Slimming World Consultant Vikki who runs the Farncombe and Cranleigh groups says: "We're all so proud of Neil. He's a real inspiration. - Not just because of the amount of weight he's lost, but because of his positive attitude, his commitment and how encouraging he is to everyone else in group. He's proof that Slimming World works just as well for men as it does for women, and that no one is ever on their own. Our group is full of support, laughter and shared success and Neil plays a big part in that. Getting to go up to Slimming World head office and meeting one of Neil's idols, Paul Merson, is a memory I'll cherish forever!"

If you're inspired by Neil's story and thinking of starting your own weight loss journey, the Farncombe Slimming World group meets every Tuesday at 8:30am, 10am, 5:30pm and 7pm at St Johns church. To find out more, call Vikki on 07810868360 – we'd love to welcome you!

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This Month's
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The answer is
on page 19



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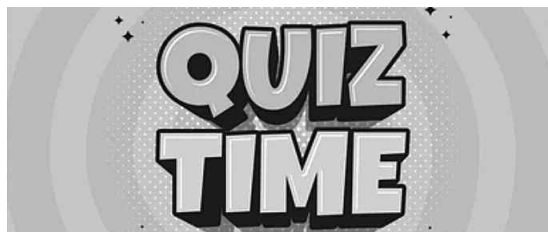
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1. What name is given to the tunnel-like entrance of a coal mine?
2. Which famous composer's works include 41 symphonies and 27 piano concertos?
3. A bread roll shaped like a letter 'O' is called a ___?
4. What name is used to describe the wearing away of rocks?
5. The cricket pavilion at Charterhouse is named after which England cricket captain?
6. Which group of Scottish Islands are known as "Inner" and "Outer"?
7. Which medieval castle is located in Portsmouth Harbour?
8. What is the name of the reservoir in the Peak District which was used in training for the "Dam Busters" mission in World War Two?
9. Who wrote the books featuring "Biggles", a WW1 fighter pilot?
10. What name describes the slope of a roof?

Answers on page 19



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JOIGNY Twinning with GODALMING

..... 40th ANNIVERSARY

On May 5th 1985 the Mayors of Godalming and Joigny in the Burgundy region of France entered into a Deed of Partnership on behalf of the towns they represented. To carry out the aims of this partnership the Godalming Joigny Friendship Association was formed and since then it has organised visits to and from France. In brief the aim of the association is "To promote and foster friendship and understanding between the peoples of Godalming and district and those of Joigny and district." Like Joigny, Godalming is also twinned with Mayen In Germany.

As this year marks the anniversary of the creation of what is often called the Twinning Agreement, the Mayor of Joigny issued an invitation for an official visit by members of Godalming's Town Council as well as our twinning association. The Town Council delegation was led by Mayor Bob Crook. In the past these visits have often been the occasion of cultural exchanges; amongst these have been visits by the Godalming Band and the Fleur de Lys Morris dancing group. This year we invited the Farncombe Jazz Choir to join us and 18 members took up the invitation.

The members of our group made their own way to Joigny, about 200 miles south of Paris, arriving late afternoon on Friday June 20th. A reception for us was organised by the members of Joigny's twinning group (Cercle d'Amitié Franco-Anglais). Those members staying with families met their hosts ready to be taken home; others left for their hotels. Some renewed acquaintance with friends made over many years.

On Saturday morning we met up early for a guided tour of the town in English. Like Godalming, Joigny has its roots in farming and is connected to Paris by the River Yonne which flows into the Seine transporting agricultural products and wine to the French capital.

It too has many old buildings; 19 are classified as French historical monuments. The best-known is the House of the Tree of Jesse depicting the ascendants of Jesus Christ, which exceptionally is carved in wood.



The choir were with us throughout, singing firstly in the Church of St Jean Baptiste and next in Joigny's covered market alongside the river. The market is the size of a small railway station and holds about 50 stalls inside. The choir treated us to "Hit the Road, Jack" to the enjoyment of the many shoppers.

After a quiet afternoon (phew!) we met at the Church of St Thibaut for a concert given by our choir and the Joigny Choir which is excellent, but rather more formal. The church was filled with an appreciative audience. Directly afterwards we left for the Salle Charles Debussy where formal signing of the renewal of the twinning agreement took place with exchange of civic gifts. Both choirs, as well as the local school choir sang on stage. The day ended with a dinner for 120 guests hosted by the Joigny Town Council – civic budgets are organised rather differently in France!



Temperatures were even hotter than back home in Godalming and when they reached 37 on Sunday, plans had to be changed. Our group went on a visit (with tasting) to the cellars of a producer of sparkling Burgundy wine where 3 million bottles are stored underground in a former chalk quarry which has a constant temperature of 13. This was very welcome! Back in Joigny there was time for a final and informal reception organised by the twinning association before it was time to say "au revoir" to our French friends, whom we look forward to welcoming to Godalming in 2026 or 2027, at a date to be fixed.

John Petty



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ELECTRONICS AND TRAINING DISCUSSED OVER A FRIENDLY CUP OF TEA

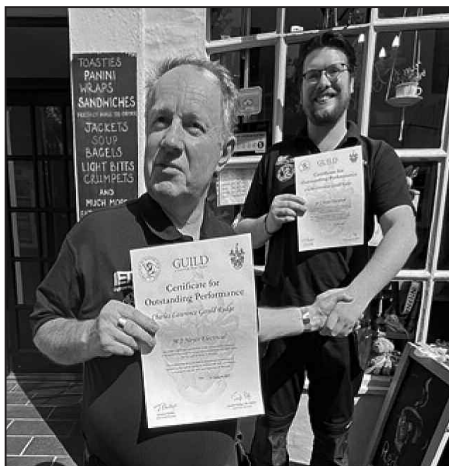
It was a sunny afternoon when I met Martin Noyes at the small tea room called 'Thyme for Tea in Church Street Godalming.

Martin has become a highly skilled electrician who has been offering his service since 1994, largely located in and around the Godalming, Waverley and Guildford area. He is originally from Guildford and has run his company working on domestic services, house rewiring, new work and general home and garden lighting. When we met in the tea room he had already ordered a pot of tea for serving and he was there with his new apprentice Charlie, formally known as Charles Rudge, who Martin introduced as we exchanged greetings. Martin went out of his way to clearly and positively endorse Charlie as his chosen and able younger assistant and as his working colleague and trainee.

We went on to interview Charlie, where it was most interesting to hear about his educational background and how he had found his way into becoming an electrician's apprentice with Martin. Charlie studied for a degree in music at Leeds Conservator for Music where he qualified with a BA(Hons) achieving a 2.1 grade. After his three years of study he moved back home to live with his parents in Guildford where he started looking to his future and employment.

He was initially employed by NatWest Bank and then he progressed into private banking with Coots where he found himself largely working from home and realised it was not his ideal choice of a future career.

As Charlie had always been interested in hands on electronics, doing and making things - he wanted to get involved working with and helping people, where he could stand back and enjoy the satisfaction of what he had been doing. This lead him to enquire about being trained as an electrician where he could work with and help people, providing him with the training for a career path chosen for the rest of his life.



The training offered is by MIT provided in West Byfleet where he continues to attend training sessions one day a week while over the rest of the week working as an apprentice to Martin - who is the master craftsman guiding him through 'Practicing the way' into being a competent ethical practitioner - working for the public where needed. We wish Martin and Charlie every success in the future.

by Brian Whitehead

MJ

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AUTUMN GARDENING

After such a hot summer, with so little rain and a hose pipe ban, it is difficult to find the energy to do big jobs so we will look at some of the lighter jobs to help keep the garden growing.

As well as harvesting our crops when they are ready it is also time to look ahead to sowing for future crops such as onions, for over-wintering plants and spring onions for early salads. It is also time to sow spring lettuce and winter spinach. As well as harvesting crops it is important to get them stored adequately to keep the fruits and vegetables in good condition. This will involve finding a cool place (quite a challenge!) and also shade from direct sunlight. This is a good fruit-picking season with a wide variety of crops including apples, pears, plums and figs.

If you still have a lawn this is a good time to raise the cutters on the mower to allow the grass to recover, some re-seeding may also be necessary.

With the extreme weather conditions it may mean that we have to change our usual routines and even try to use more resilient varieties of plants.

Enjoy your gardening and the fresh taste of home-grown! John



"It will soon be time to start cutting back hedges but do remember that birds often have a second group of young ones who need the protection of a hedge so before starting, do check that your hedge does not have lodgers."



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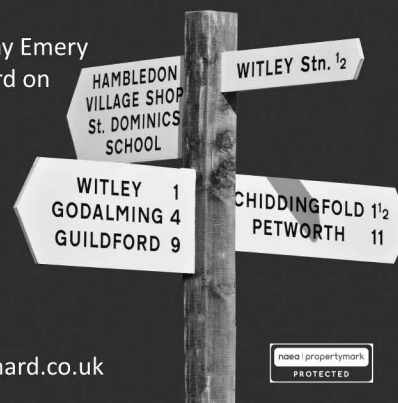


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