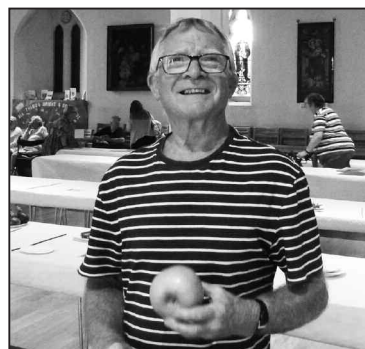


THE Farncombe Villager

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH



ANOTHER GREAT VILLAGE SHOW



MORE PICTURES WITH PRIZE WINNERS ON PAGE 4



How many times have you been disappointed after a run of perfect hot British Summer days and on the day of the Wedding, the outdoor Birthday celebration, the day on the river, the skies open? Not on August the 22nd! The weather was perfect and at 2pm, the Church began to fill with Families, Grandparents, young people and those dying to see if their exhibits had got the coveted first prize and Red Rosette.

The Church had been transformed; pews and chairs pushed to the sides with tables stretching down the entire length of three aisles. All were laden with fruit, vegetables, handicrafts, beautiful flowers and three tables full of outstanding exhibits made by the Children ranging in age from toddlers to sixteen years. A friendly monster made from junk materials, a ceramic mermaid, a very funny, clever poem and delicious jam tarts were a delight to see.

Of, course with the Mediterranean temperatures we've had, nurturing fruit and vegetables was a testing time for growers, and the number of exhibits was down compared to last year but the quality was excellent. The hosepipe ban was the final straw for keen growers and as one

winner's wife asked, "Is there a prize for the wives who diligently watered while their husbands/partners were at work?" We were encouraged by the Judge's comments who all said they liked judging Farncombe Show because the standards were very high. They found it a very relaxed, friendly show and would come back if asked.

Usually each year, we recognise a lot of names of regular exhibitors. Interestingly their numbers were lower this time, but they were replaced by a raft of new names. This is very exciting for the future of the Show, although we do hope our regulars will come back next year, and it's encouraging to see so many children who may be our exhibitors of the future.

A brief plug. The Show could not be put on without our wonderful, but few, Volunteers most of whom are approaching the age of Methuselah. If you would like to come and help, to do however small a job, do speak to Sue Petty or ring St John's Office. The office is manned on Monday mornings but always ring and leave a message as the phone is regularly monitored and calls will be replied to ASAP. Tel: 01483 426353



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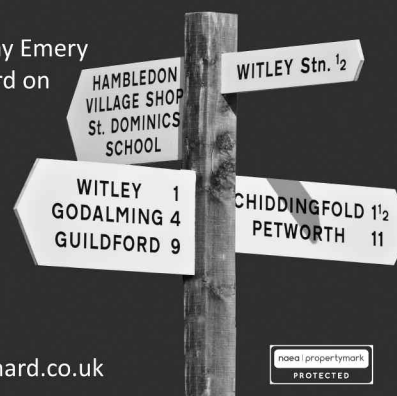


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From the Rectory



In 1958 the sawmill next to St John's church caught fire. Parishioners took out valuables in case the flames spread to the building, but my predecessor Rector Charles Allingham took more hazardous action. Against all advice he stayed overnight in the church praying that the fire would not spread, and of course in the event it didn't, although we won't debate here how prayer interacts with human actions – in this case, those of the fire brigade – because they surely do, in some way.

I found myself thinking about Charles Allingham's night of prayer in the church as I looked over my parched garden and wondered what would happen if a fire caught the Binscombe woods just beyond my fence, or the fields not far away from the trees. There's plenty of combustible material for a good blaze. So I find myself praying almost every day that this danger will be averted from the parish of Farncombe, and it's at least partly about my own self-interest as much as my responsibility for the village. But that's not a problem: we ought to tell the Lord what's on our minds, and it's reasonable that safety should be part of it. It's not as though a fire that threatened the Rectory wouldn't also take in lots of my neighbours, either, not to mention all the animals who live in the woods; and it will take more

than a dash of rain and a drop in temperatures to remove the peril entirely. You can add the risk of wildfire to all the other 'public' concerns that we might bring up in our prayers, from the potential strain on the supply of food or water caused by prolonged hot weather, to the difficulties in the health and care systems we can see affecting the lives of many people, to the possibility that the war in Ukraine might go in a disastrous direction indeed, and involve us all in something civilisation-threatening.

Well, this all sounds overwhelming and there is little we can do practically about any of these subjects apart from bring them before God. But as far as coping with them goes, there is one thing we should also pray for, which is that even in times of strain and conflict we will have the grace to recall our common humanity – that even when we encounter stupidity, insensitivity, wrongdoing, or even downright wickedness, those with whom we have the most profound disagreements or enmities still have the same needs and reflect the same creator. It may sound obvious and basic, but it is hard enough work, and there is no greater shield we can have in our hands as we face a future which, in this fallen world, is always uncertain.

St John's Church, Farncombe

Sanctus

Stillness
Music
Recharging

6pm, 3rd Sunday each month



Churches Together Open-Air Service

We always think about how the weather will affect the annual Churches Together service at the Bandstand on the second Sunday in August, but this year the concern was whether the heat would keep people away rather than rain! It was indeed a bit punishing in full sunlight but in the event about 200 souls mainly managed to find a spot in the shade, which was in fact a bit up on last year. Well done Revd Margot Spencer from the Minster Parish for organising and everyone who took part. **James Rector**



BIBLE STUDIES

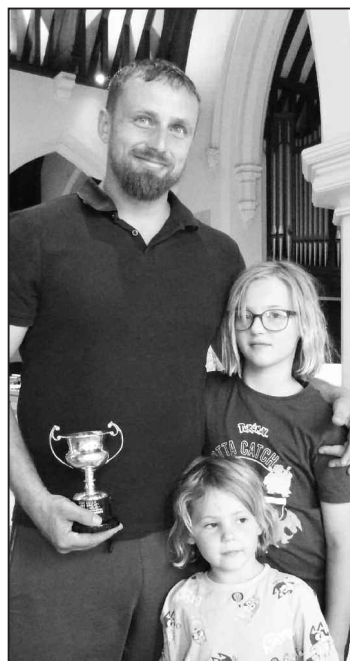
The Bible study group meets on 10th and 24th September, 8th and 29th October, 7.30-9pm in the Church Room.

We will be looking at highlights in the Acts of the Apostles.

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Village Show 2026 Headlines

Due to the extremely hot weather there were only 204 entries, compared with 368 in both 2024 & 2025. However, there were the highest number of new entrants on record and a total of 30 people exhibiting for the first time. A record 67 people won certificates, with 13 entrants gaining 10 points or more.

Rosettes (Best in Class)

Flower Arrangements: Joan Ashton for her table centre arrangement

Flowers: Patricia Harding for her asters

Home Produce: Felicity Ross for her jam

Fruit: Stephen Elkin for his cooking apples

Handicrafts: Mike Slocombe for his painting of the River Wey

Cup Awards

Judith Smith Cup

For the best entry in the Children's category

- Kit Buchanan-Coleman for her handprint painting

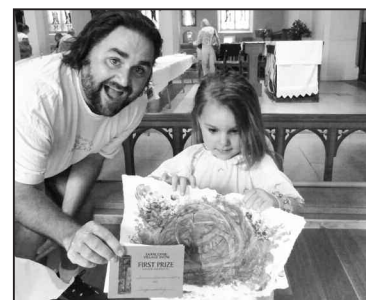
Highest Points Cup

- 1st Stephen Elkin with 32 points • 2nd Cella Ellis with 29 points
- 3rd Patricia Harding with 28 points

Overall Best in Show Cup

The judges chose Henryk Gaszka for his corn on the cob!

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



The FARNCOMBE CALENDAR 2027

Available **NOW** just £8.50 from **SIMRAN'S, BOOTS & St JOHN'S CHURCH**

PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THIS CALENDAR WILL BE DONATED TO THE QUIET GARDEN AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH





Binscombe Medical Practice FLU & COVID VACCINATIONS THIS AUTUMN

GP practices will once again be offering NHS flu vaccinations this autumn, alongside COVID-19 boosters to eligible patients, and we would really encourage you to have your vaccination at your surgery.

Patients sometimes tell us they have gone to a pharmacy for their flu vaccination because they thought it would help ease pressure on their surgery or free up an appointment for somebody else. Please don't worry about that – vaccination clinics are an important part of the service provided by GP practices and we actively want patients to use them!

NHS vaccination programmes are specifically funded to enable GP practices to provide this service. By choosing to have your

vaccination at your surgery, you are not taking an appointment away from another patient; vaccination clinics are planned and staffed separately for this purpose. You are also helping to support the range of services that GP practices provide for their local patient populations.

This year, eligible patients may be able to receive their flu and COVID vaccinations at the same appointment, making it even easier to get protected for the winter ahead.

Practices will contact eligible patients with details of how to book soon. If we invite you, please book with us; our main clinic at Binscombe will be on Saturday 24th October – we'll be very pleased to see you!
Emma Phillips Practice Manager

Come and play at Friday Toddlers

Every Friday during term time, whatever the season, the church room opens its doors to Farncombe's youngest residents - and, of course, to their parents, grandparents, guardians and carers too.

'Friday Toddlers', as my children affectionately call it, welcomes babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers alike. It's a place to play, explore and make new friends, with an endless supply of toys, a different craft to enjoy each week and a much-loved snack of fresh fruit. Every session ends with nursery rhymes and songs, and once a month everyone heads into church for 'Toddler Praise', led by James.

As wonderful as it is for the children, Friday Toddlers is as important for the grown-ups. It's a chance to catch up with familiar faces, meet new people, share the highs and lows of family life and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee - often while it's still warm, thanks to the children being happily absorbed in play.

None of it would be possible without the incredible team of

volunteers who give their time every week. They may not always realise the difference they make, but for many local families, Friday Toddlers is far more than just a playgroup. It's a place where friendships are formed, support is found and everyone is made to feel welcome.

Whether you've been awake since 4am with a baby, spent an hour persuading a toddler to put their shoes on, or arrived soaked from the rain or melting in the summer heat, you'll always find a warm welcome, a friendly face and a community that's genuinely pleased to see you. For an hour and a half each Friday, the church hall becomes much more than a place to play - it becomes a place where families belong.

'Friday Toddlers' takes place every Friday in term time from 10:30am-12noon in the church room, with a voluntary donation of £2 per family. The group returns on Friday 4th September 2026 and all are welcome.



To repair household items in Godalming, attend the free Repair Café Godalming at the Borough Hall on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 12.30pm. The cafe offers a variety of free repairs and advice for electronics, bikes, textiles,

and more, relying on skilled volunteers to reduce waste and promote sustainability. Donations are accepted to support the cafe's operations.

The repairs are free, though donations are gratefully accepted to cover costs. Items Repaired: Expect a range of items, including electronics, household appliances, bikes, and textiles. What to Expect: A friendly environment where skilled volunteers will attempt to repair your items and share their knowledge.

For further information go to the Website: at
www.repaircafegodalming.org.

Conservatoire Concerts (CIO)

Godalming Baptist Church GU7 1BA

September 12th - 7.00pm

Rising Stars Concert

Featuring students from

 The Purcell School
for young musicians



Luca Boston, piano



Emily Carrington
oboe



Khanui Erdenebat, violin
Tristan Hermanto, piano

Programme

Chopin, Ballade No. 4; Debussy, L'isle Joyeuse;
Franck, Sonata for Violin and Piano

Other works by Cimarosa, Silvestrini, Ligeti and more

For full details and booking visit our website
www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk



REGULAR SERVICES at ST JOHN'S

SUNDAYS

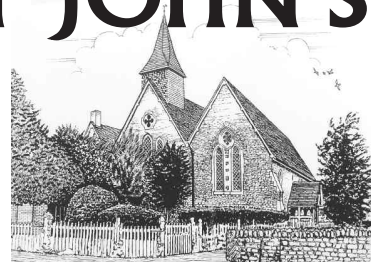
8am Holy Eucharist
 8.45am Roman Catholic Mass
 10am 1st Sunday in the month, Sunday Space
 Other Sundays, Parish Eucharist
 6.30pm 1st Sunday in the month, Sung Eucharist
 7.30pm 2nd Sunday in the month, Compline over Zoom

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*



COFFEE MORNINGS at ST JOHN'S

all are welcome in the Church Room

Saturdays 10am -12noon

5th & 19th September 3rd, 17th & 31st October
 14th & 28th November



Board Games @ St John's

2nd Sunday afternoons
 September - March,
 4-6pm

Games and cake for all ages.

PARISH REGISTER

In Memoriam

Sidney Woods
 Cathy Beisley
 Ann Phillips
 Robert Anderton

Baptisms

Imogen Page
 Indigo Ellis-Harmes
 River Ellis-Shennan
 Thomas Alderton
 Olivia Baitup
 Louie Kirby-Field



LOUIE



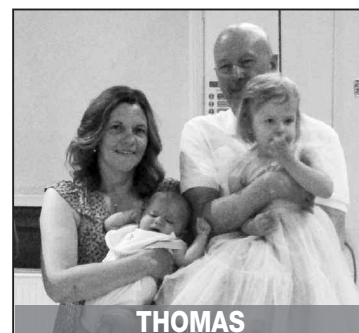
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This well-known hymn reminds us about God's creation and helps us to recognise God's work in natural features and landscapes. We made booklets which showed some of the natural scenery, animals and plants to remind us of the beauty of our surroundings. It is difficult to imagine the vast range of God's creation, which ranges from giant whales to tiny insects and it was quite a challenge to create even a Play-Doh rabbit which looked at all like the well-known animal! We then tried to make a 'bug hotel' to provide a winter refuge for insects. Another aspect of creation was to make a picture of a sunset, with the characteristic reds and oranges. The last verse of our hymn encourages us to look carefully at different aspects of God's creation, which will inspire us to tell others about the beauty of God's provision for us. **John**



Love Singing? Join St John's Church Choir

Revel in live choral singing at St John's Church, where majestic acoustics meet the grandeur of the pipe organ.

St John's Choir is looking for more new voices to join our welcoming, friendly, dedicated singers. Calling all **Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses** who can hold a tune and manage a basic level of sight-reading.

A choir that fits your life

We know how precious time is. Whether you are balancing exams, a career, family life, or retirement, we work around you. If you can join us every week or occasionally, that is completely fine. Our routine includes:

- Sundays: Parish Eucharist at 10:00am
- One Sunday a month: Sung Eucharist at 6:30pm (with a quick 1-hour rehearsal just beforehand at 5:30pm)
- Short, seasonal rehearsal blocks leading up to Christmas and Holy Week.

Grow as a singer

Our lively choir strives for high musical standards in a warm, joyful atmosphere. Many of our singers use this experience to leap into professional music studies and local choral societies. During our Christmas season you will also get the chance to develop your skills under the baton of acclaimed Choral Director Richard Stevens.

Come and sing with us - whenever you can. We would love to hear from you.

Although there is no formal audition process, we will invite you to sing with us in a relaxed environment to determine your voice type.

Please contact Helen Gee for further details:

helenegee@hotmail.co.uk

Alternatively, come and listen to us one Sunday morning and speak to us after the service. We'd love to meet you and hope you will join our choral family.

Address: St. John's Church, St John's Street, Farncombe, Godalming, GU7 3EJ



Open to God Open to each other Open to all

SUNDAY SPACE

The theme this term is 'Growing Up by Growing Deeper'. On 6th September we will be reflecting on Forgiveness; on 1st November the theme is Grace.



PRAYER FOR FARNCOMBE

A small group of pray-ers gather on the second Thursday of the month at 9am in the Lady Chapel to pray for Farncombe, its people, organisations, schools and businesses. Our next meetings are 10th September, 8th October and 12th November all 9am- 9.40 in the Lady Chapel.

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.

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IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS ON A MONDAY...



Older residents may remember Kathleen McClymont, a teacher at Compton Village School. She used her patch of woodland (just beyond The Harrow) to share her passion for the natural world with the school children. The land was then gifted to the Surrey Wildlife Trust, and many families have enjoyed using Pucks Oak Barn as a party venue.

Since 2022, St Nicholas Church in Compton has taken on the mantle of teaching children to love the natural world

Where can you be cold and warm at the same time? With friends and with strangers? Indoors as well as outdoors?

through this place, working with Little Rays to create 'Fledglings'. On Monday mornings in term time it offers a warm place with coffee and toys, as well as the chance to venture through the community orchard, across the bridge (minding the troll) to explore the woodland. Families and volunteers find it a very special way to spend the first few hours of the week.

Church playgroups come in many shapes and sizes, and we all offer something slightly different. We hope Fledglings will be just right for your family. Favourite activities are painting leaves, making ice lanterns and threading elder bracelets. Balancing along the tree trunk also provides limitless entertainment! Every session ends with nursery rhymes, parachute and a Bible story that links to the activity, creating a familiar routine. If this appeals, please do get in touch at fledglingscompton@gmail.com or WhatsApp 07779 022419. stnicholascompton.org (Charity no 1210070)

Kettle's On VISIT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

If you only do one thing this week you must visit the Farncombe community garden open on Wednesdays one till 3 pm, Friday 10 till 12 and Saturday 10 till 12 midday. Ever felt you wanted to sit in a lovely garden without having the hard work of digging, planting and watering? That's exactly what you can do in the garden in question, but if you felt like it you could try planting a few seeds, do some potting on, sit and pluck seeds from spent plants for planting in the autumn or Spring. If you want to be more adventurous, you could do some deadheading and if you really want to burn off some energy you could do some weeding and once you catch the gardening bug, you could do some digging. But if that all seems too much, you can make a cup of tea in the beautiful cabin and find a quiet seat to read the newspaper, or just listen to the birds and "snooze. We went as a group. 'Kettle's On' is

a St John's afternoon group, which meets once a month at St John's on the third Wednesday in the month, 2 till 4 pm. We drifted round marvelling at how



a blackberry and nettle-ridden field could be turned into a beautiful productive garden and then sat down for tea in the cabin to listen to how the team of volunteers transformed the garden, what they grow now and will grow in the future but you don't have to worry. You won't have to participate. Just enjoy your cup of tea in a quiet corner and do the crossword. You won't have to do a thing, unless of course you would like to.

Sue Petty

HERITAGE WEEKEND (OPEN DAYS)



Heritage Open Days (sometimes known as Heritage Weekend) falls in September and provides an opportunity to visit buildings that are normally closed to the public as well as see familiar buildings from a different point of view. A number of events, co-ordinated by the Godalming Trust, are taking place in Farncombe and Godalming on 19th and 20th September. Full details are available on the Heritage Open Days website at

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> - search using "Godalming" as the location to see them. For a paper copy, see the August edition of VantagePoint or look for the leaflets which will be available at Godalming Museum shortly.

St John's is taking part again this year and will be open from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday 19th and 2:00pm to 4:00pm on Sunday 20th. There will be a small display on the history of the church and another 'Everyday Histories', which is the theme of this year's events. No booking is required for the sessions at St John's however note that booking is required to visit other venues.

Cotton On Craft Club 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

In the Church Room from 2pm-4pm the next dates are
Sept 2nd. Oct 7th. Nov 4th. Dec 2nd.

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Bring your brown NHS Battery Book (which includes your
settings and requirements) and your hearing aid.

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, Farncombe

2pm until 4pm

every 3rd Wednesday in the month

**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 2026

Sept 16th. Oct 21st. Nov 18th Dec TBC

ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH, ST JOHN'S STREET, FARNCOMBE GU7 3EJ
email: office@farncombe.org.uk website: www.farncombe.org.uk

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM

Do you enjoy meeting and working with the Public? Here at St John's we are very short of Volunteers to help with Hearing Aid maintenance sessions which are held once a month in our Church Room on the first Thursday in the month, 10-12 midday. You would need to undertake a one-day Training course, usually 9-2 pm approx. and yearly updates after that. We clean, repair and troubleshoot for problems with hearing aids, give out Batteries and answer queries. We are able to spend time

explaining things that might have been missed in a busy hospital clinic and of course there is Tea, Coffee and home-made cake for everyone to enjoy while they wait and an opportunity to meet with friends and neighbours. You will also need to be DBS verified by St John's Church. If you think this is for you, please phone the Church Office on 01483 426353. Or email office@farncombe.org.uk. The office is staffed on Monday mornings but calls and emails are always monitored and will be replied to as soon as possible.

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NEPAL EXPEDITION: MAKING MEMORIES - MAKING A DIFFERENCE



What an incredible adventure our students had in Nepal as part of the Kathmandu Community Initiative and Helambu Trek.

From exploring breathtaking landscapes to giving back to local communities, this expedition has been a truly life-changing experience.

Our students have embraced every challenge and opportunity with enthusiasm, resilience, and positivity. During their community project work, they rolled up their sleeves and got involved in a range of activities, including painting classrooms, bricklaying, and helping to improve local facilities. Their hard work has made a real difference, and they should be incredibly proud of the contribution they have made.

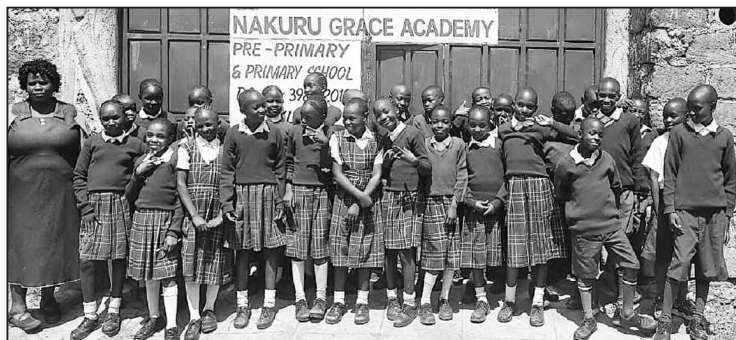
Students have enjoyed spending time with local Nepalese students, learning about their culture, sharing stories, and building friendships that will be remembered for years to come. One

particular highlight was joining in with some fantastic traditional dancing, where smiles and laughter needed no translation! The expedition also included the stunning Helambu Trek, giving students the chance to experience some of Nepal's most spectacular scenery. The trek challenged them physically and mentally, but they tackled every step with determination and teamwork. Along the way, they developed independence, confidence, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world around them.

This expedition has been much more than a trip abroad; it has been an opportunity to learn, grow, and make a positive impact. We are incredibly proud of every student for stepping outside their comfort zones, embracing new experiences, and making the most of this unforgettable adventure.



FUNDRAISING SUCCESS FOR NAKURU GRACE



We are delighted to share that our school community has successfully reached its £3,000 fundraising target for Nakuru Grace Academy.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative. Your generosity and commitment will make a real difference to the lives of children in Nakuru, helping the academy to expand its facilities and provide greater access to education.

This achievement reflects the kindness and community spirit of Broadwater, and we are incredibly proud of the positive impact we are helping to make. Together, we are supporting brighter futures and creating new opportunities for young people to thrive.



BEE CLUB: A BUZZING SUCCESS

We are delighted to have welcomed several new members to our Bee Club this term. For their first visit, students enjoyed a trip to the beautiful Farncombe Community Garden, where they began their beekeeping journey and met the wonderful Broadwater Bees. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about hive life, the importance of pollinators and the role beekeepers play in caring for their colonies.

Our Bee Club members have also been hard at work throughout the year, and we are thrilled to share that they have successfully produced their very own honey! From looking after the bees to extracting the final golden product, students have gained valuable hands-on experience while developing their teamwork and responsibility.

We are incredibly proud of all our young beekeepers and look forward to another year of learning, discovery and, of course, honey-making!



A NEW FEATURE AT THE STATION

The volunteers of Farncombe Station Community Rail Partnership were delighted to install a new planter for herbs on the London platform recently. It is recycled from an old safe which was donated by Andrews Pianos on Meadrow. We believe it dates from around the time the station was built so it seems a most fitting destination. It was in a terrible state when rescued but volunteer, Paul, spotted its potential and did all the hard work to clean it up and paint it ready for its new role. It's hard to tell that it's not straight from the garden centre and designed for the job!

The notice asks people to allow the herbs to establish themselves but, in time, we plan to change this to invite travellers to pick a snip for personal use.

TEAM SWIFTS OVER FARNCOMBE



Have you ever heard the Formula 1 birds flying over and around Farncombe in Spring and Summer? By that I mean the shrill, excited squeals they make as they bank and turn at top speed around St John's Church where they live. Do you know the name of these birds? Are you surprised to know, like most of our wildlife, their lives are endangered because they are losing the places where they can make their homes. These birds are called Swifts. They arrive in Spring from Africa, nest, produce a family and fly back to Africa by the end of

Summer. Next time you walk alongside the Church along Church Walk look up under the eaves and where the stonework meets the roof there are tiny gaps. You might have to wait until next Spring as they have already left for Africa now but you might see some white smudges of droppings showing the entrance to their nest which is just inside the roof space. Swifts live in the air, eating insects, sleeping, mating and only land to make their nests and produce their young. They are different to Swallows and Martins being all black with a lighter coloured face and their wings, in silhouette, curve to make the shape of a crescent moon. We look forward to seeing the Swifts next year and even more being able to hear them performing their laps over Farncombe.

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Phyllis Tuckwell News

Phyllis Tuckwell Supports TV and Radio Legacy Campaign

Keep an eye out for a new TV and radio campaign launching on 14th September, which local charity Phyllis Tuckwell is part of.

'This is Hospice Care' is a three-week campaign which highlights the importance of gifts in Wills in helping to fund specialist palliative and end of life care for patients and families who are living with an advanced or terminal illness.

Being diagnosed with an advanced or terminal illness can turn life upside down, affecting not only patients, but those closest to them, too. The expert care offered by Phyllis Tuckwell, and other local hospice care organisations around the UK, helps manage symptoms, ease pain, and support the emotional and practical needs of patients and their loved ones. As well as caring for patients at the end of life, they also offer support earlier in a patient's illness, helping them to live life as fully and independently as possible, for as long as they can.

As the NHS/government funding that Phyllis Tuckwell receives only covers 25% of its costs, it has to raise over £30,000 every day to provide its services, which it gives free of charge to its patients and their loved ones. Some people kindly choose to leave a gift in their Will to support Phyllis Tuckwell, and these donations are vitally important in helping fund its care, providing enough money on average to cover a third of its nursing costs.

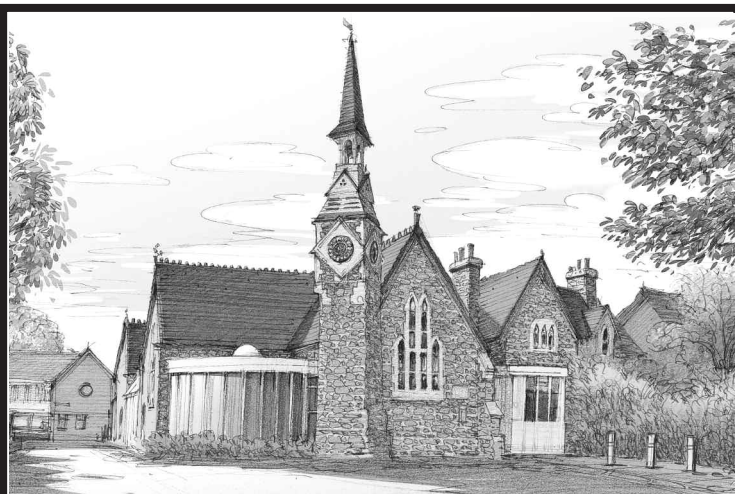
"We're proud to be part of this national campaign highlighting the importance of hospice care and how gifts in Wills help fund it," said

Hannah Robins, legacy officer at Phyllis Tuckwell. "Choosing to leave a gift in your Will is a deeply personal decision, and these generous gifts have a lasting impact, helping us to provide expert hospice care both now and in the future. Legacies do not have to be a large amount of money - every gift, no matter how what size, makes a huge difference, helping us to plan ahead, invest in our services and reach more people who need our specialist care."

This is Hospice Care. Help it live on for all, for now, forever. To find out more about how to leave a gift in your Will, please visit www.pth.org.uk/gifts-in-wills or for a confidential, no-obligation conversation, call Hannah Robins on 01252 221783 or email hannah.robins@pth.org.uk

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ENTER THE GREAT “DEAR SURREY HILLS...” LETTER WRITING COMPETITION



Surrey Hills Writers and VantagePoint magazine have teamed up to get people writing.

What better way than a letter celebrating the Surrey Hills? The letter can be an e-mail, or a

physical copy sent through the mail.

The letter is to be addressed to the Surrey Hills. It can be to the people who live there, or a single person. It can focus on a particular town, village or area within the Hills. It can be about the past, present or the future. It can be prose, or a poem. So, let your creativity, imagination and writing skills run free.

There are great prizes. Including a fabulous gift set from Silent Pool gin, two free tickets from the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, and valuable discounts on Surrey Hills Writers publications. Full details will appear in the June issue of VantagePoint.

All entrants will be invited to a gala event at which the best letters will be read out. This will take place at the superb facilities of the Guildford Rugby Club on November 19th at 6 pm.

The Rules

You can get ahead of the game by writing and submitting now.

- 1: Letters 500 words or less.
- 2: E-mail to dearsurreyhills@gmail.com, or send a physical copy to: Dear Surrey Hills, c/o VantagePoint Magazine, Oak Home, Tanshire Park, Shackleford Road, Elstead, GU8 6LB.
- 3: Entrants 18 years or older. T and Cs apply to all prizes.
- 4: Entries must be received by midnight 23 September 2026.
- 5: Entries must include your full name and e-mail address (postal address for physical copies.)
- 6: Only winning letter writers will be communicated re. results. All other writers will be communicated with regard to the Guildford Rugby Club event, and eventual publication of letters.

Surrey Hills Writers is a Godalming based group which works to encourage writing and reading in the area. You can find details and their publications on www.godalmingwritersgroup.org

Look out for VantagePoint magazine for great local articles. www.vantagepointmag.co.uk



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- Binscombe Surgery 01483 415115 • Community Helpline 0300 200 1008
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Slimming World News

FARNCOMBE MEMBERS RAISE MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH BY TACKLING RACE FOR LIFE



Slimming World members in Farncombe have raised £3250.73 for Cancer Research UK by taking part in the charity's Race for Life event at Stoke Park in Guildford.

The Farncombe Slimming World group, who meet weekly at St Johns Church, completed a range of distances including 5k, 10k and a Mud run to help support the charity's life-saving research.

Slimming World Consultant Vikki, who runs the Farncombe group, says she's proud of how her members came together to support the charity, as well as increase their own activity levels.

She says: "It's brilliant to see so many of my members smashing their fitness goals and what better opportunity to challenge themselves than taking part in Race for Life? The support they've shown one another when preparing for the event and on the day is heartwarming and it reminds me of the strong, supportive community we've built.

"For many of my members, completing this would have sounded out of reach before joining Slimming World. I hope they're as proud of themselves as I am of them!"

Vikki's members prepared for the event by following Slimming World's active lifestyle programme, which helps members embrace and integrate fitness habits into their everyday life. The programme recognises a wide range of activities, to suit all ability levels and

budgets, and supports members to increase activity from their own individual starting point and at their own pace.

Vikki says: "Race for Life has an event for everyone, and my members love that you can complete it in your own way. It doesn't matter if you walk, jog or sprint or how long it takes for you to reach end. The supportive atmosphere is like no other – there's no wonder my members crossed the finish line with the biggest smiles on their faces!"

As well as raising funds for Slimming World's charity partner, Cancer Research UK, the team of members raised awareness of how maintaining a healthy weight reduces the risk of 13 different types of cancer. Overweight and obesity is the second biggest preventable cause of cancer in the UK - causing more than one in 20 cancer cases.

Vikki says: "Being overweight doesn't necessarily mean that a person will develop cancer, but we know that losing weight and maintaining a healthy weight can help prevent a number of health conditions, including some types of cancer. I'm proud that my members were involved in this year's Race for Life to help Cancer Research UK continue its vital work."

Farncombe Slimming World group is held at St Johns Church every Tuesday. For more information or to join Vikki's group either pop along or call her on 07810868360.

Find Friendship with Your Body Through Zen Yoga

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 those 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.

I am a Yoga Alliance registered teacher, and have recently completed an 85 hour Prenatal Yoga Course. I offer a range of classes in Godalming and Shalford, and am taking private clients who want one-to-one tuition.

If you are ready to find a practice that values feeling over form, and connection over complexity, then Zen Yoga is for you. Come and find your calm with us.

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This Month's Mystery Photo is?
The answer is on page 19

AUTUMN GARDENING

Our gardening efforts have been dominated by the hot, dry weather this summer, making our normal routines difficult, even before the hose pipe ban, making some crops very unpredictable, although blackberries have cropped well!

Trees, shrubs and fruit bushes will need to be pruned as usual and it would be useful to make sure there is plenty of compost to put round them to help retain moisture over autumn and winter. A good covering of compost also helps to restrict weeds too. We will need to plan ahead for our spring crops and flower bulbs although it may be necessary to water

them regularly or sow seeds in pots to germinate and plant out when it is cooler. Crops like winter lettuce could be sown in frames or a greenhouse for a (hopefully) early crop. Trees and shrubs which have lost branches should be cut back to help them recover and to retain their shape.

When it gets cooler, the ground can be dug over to relieve the compaction and compost added to enrich the soil.

The hot, dry weather has made gardening more difficult this year and over the winter it would be helpful to consider which plants are most suitable for what is becoming a changing climate. **Enjoy your garden John**



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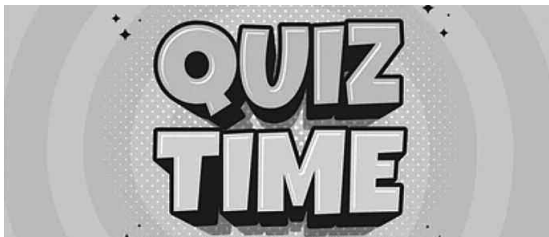
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BROADWATER PARKRUN

Did you know there is a friendly, free and fun 5k community event every Saturday morning at Broadwater park? Join us to run, walk or jog – or become part of our fantastic volunteer team!

Parkrun is a series of volunteer run, weekly, 5km timed runs around the world. In the UK they take place at 9am. Parkrun is open to everyone and it is safe and easy to take part. People of every ability are supported. Our Broadwater regulars range from babies in buggies to octogenarians; some complete the 5k in well under 20 mins, and some over an hour. All are welcome!



1. Grimsby is a port on which river estuary?
2. What was the first name of the Victorian prime minister Disraeli?
3. What word is used to describe the removal of an animal's tail?
4. Which is the largest brass instrument in an orchestra?
5. Which woodworking joint has the same name as part of a bird?
6. What is the common name for the group of tools used for tending an open fire?
7. Which country did Paddington Bear come from?
8. 'Purl' and 'stocking' are types of what activity?
9. What is the square root of 144?
10. What are the cutting edges of a handsaw blade called?

Answers on page 19

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The Hills to Harbour Walking Trail

A new walking trail has opened recently which passes through Farncombe. It's called the Hills to Harbour Walking Trail, and it was launched a month or so ago at the Open Day of the Farncombe Community Garden. The trail joins all the stations along the line from Guildford to Portsmouth Harbour so it's easy to get to the start of any of the walks and home again at the end of the day.

The routes have been devised by local people to take you between stations through scenic countryside or to interesting corners in the towns along the way. All of the directions have been thoroughly tested, and full walking guides are provided. You can find these on the Hills to Harbour Community Rail Partnership website:

<https://hillstoharbourcrp.co.uk/station-to-station-walks/>

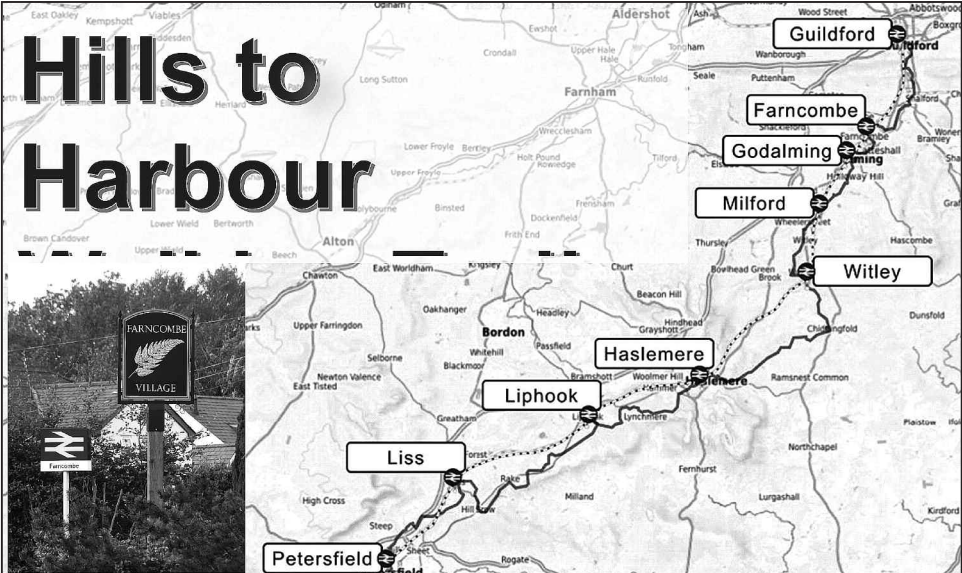
Sections are between 2 miles and 12 miles in length so you can choose a route to suite your idea of a good day out. Walk a specific section or join sections together to make longer walks. You could set yourself a challenge and follow the whole trail!

As well as providing those of us living in Farncombe with ideas to help our physical and mental wellbeing by spending some enjoyable hours out in the fresh air, the trail will bring new visitors to Farncombe who may well support our local businesses.

Quotes

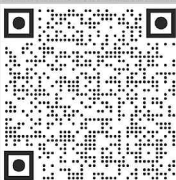
"Sometimes I was surrounded by beautiful Surrey and Hampshire countryside. Sometimes the route took me to urban backwaters with unexpected highlights to discover."

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Answers: 1. Humber 2. Benjamin 3. Docking 4. Tuba 5. Dovetail 6. Companion set
7. Peru 8. Knitting 9. 12 10. Teeth

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ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR INTERNET SECURITY

A few months ago, a customer brought me his computer because it had slowed to a crawl. The culprit turned out to be a surprising one: several antivirus programs all installed at the same time. It sounds like extra protection, but it is actually worse than having just one — they fight each other and slow everything down.

Then I looked at his subscriptions, and this is the part I want to share with you. He was paying for Norton Internet Security, Norton Utilities, anti-tracking software, driver updaters — and several McAfee subscriptions on top of that. Altogether it came to over £450 a year. Most of those licenses covered up to ten computers. He owned one.

He was not being careless — far from it. Each charge appeared at a different time of year, so no single payment ever looked alarming. It simply added up, quietly, to a small fortune. I see this far more often than you might think.

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- Have a look through your bank or card statements for recurring payments to Norton, McAfee, Avast, AVG or similar names.
- Check how many devices your license covers. If it says 5 or 10 and you only have one computer, you are paying for protection you will never use.
- Remember that Windows 10 and 11 already include Windows Security (also called Windows Defender). It is built in, free, updates itself automatically, and is perfectly good for most home users — you may not need to pay for anything extra at all.
- Cancel anything you don't need, either through the company's website or by asking your bank to stop the payment.

And please don't feel embarrassed if you find something — these companies make their renewals very easy to miss. If you would like a second pair of eyes on your subscriptions, pop in or give me a call. It is a quick check, and it could save you a few hundred pounds a year.

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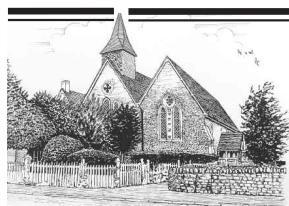
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