

THE Farncombe Villager

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH



A GREAT VILLAGE SHOW



Saturday, 17th August was a very busy day at St John's Church as the Village Show entries came in and there were many discussions about the weather this year and the problems which have arisen as a result. There were several comments about the variations in the growth of some plants, such as 'Mine didn't grow anything like that!' Despite the problems we had the highest number of entries yet 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 visitors who clearly enjoyed seeing the entries and also the various stalls and the 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



MORE PICTURES WITH PRIZE WINNERS ON PAGE 4



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From the Rectory



Here in sunny southwest Surrey we don't have the most diverse community in the country, and although there are some areas where the deprivation indices are higher than average, it's relatively well-off as well. This means we don't have the main conditions that prepared the ground for the rioting and disorder that affected some towns and cities in the earlier part of August. But what we will have are the underlying human instincts that generate conflict between groups of people, rooted in the fear of having the things we need to flourish taken away from us, or, if we feel they already have been taken away, trying to explain why and to do something about it. Often, we pick on the wrong explanation.

August is a quiet period in the life of the Church as in the rest of society. Lots of people are away and there is less booked in the diary. I've even found time, on a couple of occasions, to walk around a few roads in the parish, praying for the people I know there and also for the ones I don't know. I find myself wondering about the stresses and difficulties people may face that I know nothing about, and reflect that

in other circumstances that's just where conflict might come from.

'Community building' is part of our special mission at St John's. This means that some big events through the year, the Spring Fair and the Village Show which has just taken place, as well as the Quiet Garden and indeed The Villager itself, are means not just of making a bit of money or publicising the activities of the church, but also providing spaces and occasions for Farncombe people to meet and interact in ways that they might not otherwise do. There's a limit to what we can do to promote understanding between people, but we can keep insisting that understanding is what we should all be aiming at – and that sometimes that will mean conversations that aren't easy or comfortable.

In theory, the Church itself should be a community that includes all ages, races and classes. It should be in a small and humble way a reflection of the world to come when all humanity will be, as the phrase is, gathered together at the heavenly banquet of the Lamb. St John's doesn't represent that diversity as much as we would like. But we know what we have to aim at.

James Rector

St John's 175th – Celebration Evensong

It was July 1849 that St John's church was first consecrated to serve the spiritual needs of the growing community of Farncombe. We're celebrating this year with a number of special events which included a special Choral Evensong on 21st July, the Sunday closest to the actual date of the consecration. We were able to augment our choir with the help of a variety of friends and Richard Stevens acted as director for the service while Stasio Sliwka, organist from St Edward's School at Witley, came to play for us. The service followed the pattern of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer beginning with the plainchant hymn Blessed City Heavenly Salem. The choir sang the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis to a setting by Ernest Moeran and followed with Martin Shaw's anthem With a Voice of Singing. Revd Margaret Dean, our curate from 2007 to 2011 and now lives in Merrow, returned to preach. We were also grateful for the buffet supper prepared by the



team afterwards! The whole event was a joyous act of thanksgiving to God for those who have gone before us here and the work St John's has managed to achieve.

Photograph by Martyn Sandford.

Two Old Photos



Jenny le Maistre recently gave us some typeset proofs for the old church newsletter, 'Farncombe Focus', her late husband Edouard produced in the early 1980s. These included a couple of interesting photos we didn't have in our archive.

The first, very small and dot-printed one, shows servers from the church carrying the church banner at the Glastonbury Pilgrimage

which we attended for many years - you can just see rector Fr Dennis Hedges behind the banner-bearers. The second shows a Toy Service at St John's in about 1981. The Toy Service just before Christmas collected toys for the families of prisoners at a variety of UK prisons: the link was Sister Elizabeth Ranson of the Church Army. In this photo



Revd John Clay and the curate Brian Llewellyn are receiving toys from the children. Since we put these photos on Facebook a couple of people have already contacted us to identify themselves – can you see yourself? Do let us know.

Details of winners etc.

368 entries, the highest since we started taking records in 2014 (360 in 2023)

49 individuals won certificates

13 of them scored more than 10 points

Category winners:

Best in Class (fruit & veg) – Steve Elkin for tomatoes

Best in Class (homemade produce) – J Keen for a victoria sponge

Best in Class (flowers) – J Hammond for giant large decorative bloom

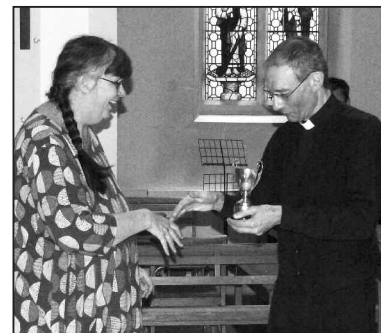
Best in Class (flower arrangements) – J Keen for a miniature box arrangement

Cup winners:

The Judith Smith Cup for best entry in the Children's category – Clara Sahrael for her superb display of garden flowers, even more impressive for one of the youngest entrants in the entire show!

Cup for High Points – Sarah Keyworth with a fantastic 63 points and a total of 22 awards (2nd: Shirley Purchase with 55 points and 3rd, Celia Ellis with 54)

Cup for Overall Best in Show – By unanimous decision, the judges chose Vicki Worth's handicraft, a superb piece of textile art.



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A Novel Idea is Godalming's only charity book and vinyl shop. Located on Queen Street just off the High Street, the shop stocks a variety of pre-loved books, records, and CDs. All profits go to Catalyst Support, a Surrey charity offering over 20 services supporting people with their mental health and wellbeing.



There are books for everyone at A Novel Idea! Thanks to the generous donations of local people, the shop holds books for children and adults, including thrillers and travelogues, romance and literary fiction, books about philosophy and cookbooks. Typically, paperbacks are priced at £2 and hardbacks at £2.50.

It doesn't stop at books! The shop offers an extensive collection of vinyl, CDs and sheet music that are checked for quality by the team. CDs start from £2; singles and albums vary but are competitively priced.

The shop is run by a team of dedicated volunteers. "Working at A Novel Idea is a labour of love," says manager Alan Garvey. "Some of our volunteers received help from the charity in the past and now the shop provides them with a helpful role in the community and an opportunity to give back."

If you are interested in volunteering, please email volunteering@catalystsupport.org.uk or Tel: 07714 744150.

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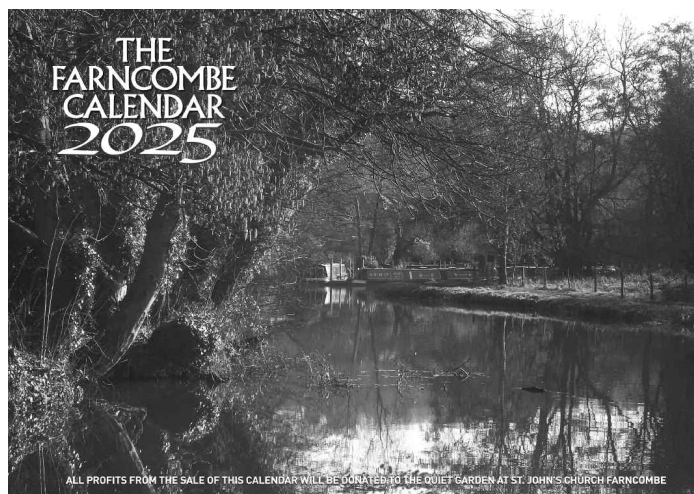


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The FARNCOMBE CALENDAR 2025



Many thanks to all who bought a copy (or several!) of the calendar, I hope you enjoy it throughout the year. Sales of the calendar raise money for the Quiet Garden, which is much used and appreciated by local people and visitors alike.

Thank you to all those who help to keep the Quiet Garden tidy and pleasant for others by putting litter in the bins and a big thank you to the band of happy gardeners whose efforts on the last Saturday morning of each month (except December) keep the plants in good shape and growing well. If you would like to help with the garden maintenance just come along for 9.30 on the last Saturday of the month and you will be most welcome. We have a range of tools but stout shoes and gloves are advisable.

John

The ideal Christmas present - available from Boots the Chemist and the Farncombe Post Office

TIME TO JOIN IN

Many of us breathed a sigh of relief when the general election was over and there is a temptation to assume that we don't need to think about 'that sort of thing' now. We have elected our representatives and now we expect that we can leave them to get on with their work, where they will hopefully set a good example of caring for those in need. We should remember that government is a partnership

between legislators (our MP's), the administrators (usually civil servants) and the general population and we should tell our leaders when we see things that are wrong or in need of improvement. We all have a responsibility to care for others and inform our leaders at local or national level when problems arise.

We have a lot to be thankful for with the work of voluntary organisations like the Farncombe Initiative and this is a good way to help maintain and improve our local area. It is also a great way to become involved with the wider community where more helpers are always welcome!

John



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I WISH I COULD GO TRAVELLING

Approaching my 78th birthday I had begun to wonder if I would ever go travelling again – travelling is not the same as holidaying.

Then, earlier this year, Sue and I received an invitation from a German friend to her 60th birthday celebration in July. She lives south of Munich, only 10 kms from the Austrian border and as we prefer not to fly, we decided to look at going by train.

Coincidentally, Interrail/Eurail announced a seasonal discount. "Interrail"? Isn't that just for students? Nowadays, there exist passes for different age groups from Youth (12-27) to Senior (60+). The price depends on how many days you choose to travel in any one-month period. You can choose to travel second or first class. Passes can be restricted to one country or the whole of Europe (excluding UK). There's an App for this – there's an App for everything! The Pass can also be issued in paper, but the App gives greater flexibility. With this you choose the train you want to catch and "activate" it on the App, but this can be changed at the last minute. For example, we narrowly missed a booked train due to being misdirected by German railway staff. As the train pulled out, I "deactivated" the journey and activated the pass for the next train 40 minutes later.

We decided this was for us, so I bought two 5 day passes and began to plan our journey and the party weekend soon became a fortnight's travel through Germany. Although there are trains from Paris to Munich, this involves changing stations in Paris whereas in Brussels you just change platforms. So, I booked Eurostar from St Pancras to Brussels Midi (South) but didn't use the passes for this as it wasn't cost effective.

We used our passes to book from Brussels to Cologne where we stayed the first night.



Cologne cathedral overlooks the station.

Next morning we boarded a German high speed ICE train for Munich, a 5 1/2 hour journey.

We spent two days here enjoying the sights – and the local beers!

The weekend was spent with our German friends, not far from the Austrian border and Innsbruck. This included a visit to their local beer festival. This was a family event for all ages from 3 to 90. The Bavarians enjoy dressing in their traditional costumes and, of course, there was an oompah band!



After the weekend we began our return journey. Travelling through Munich we went to Dresden which was our first time in the former East Germany. The historic city centre has been completely rebuilt following WWII, but outskirts have yet to catch up.

After a couple of days here, we continued again by fast high-speed train to Berlin.

Four days in a very lively Berlin and then it was time for the final leg of our travels, back to Cologne, then Brussels and St Pancras.

We travelled approximately 2,500 kms and spent about 24 hours sitting in trains! Tiring, but very enjoyable. You're never too old for a train ride!



John & Sue Petty



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REGULAR SERVICES at ST JOHN'S

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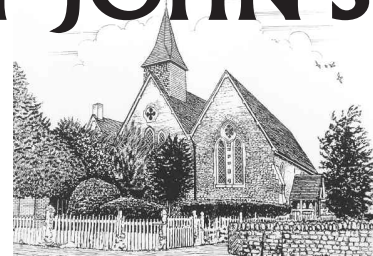
8am Holy Eucharist
 8.45am Roman Catholic Mass
 10am 1st Sunday in the month, Sunday Space
 Other Sundays, Parish Eucharist
 6.30pm 1st Sunday in the month, Sung Eucharist
 7.30pm 2nd Sunday in the month, Compline over Zoom

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

The 11th March 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the first Roman Catholic Mass held at St. John's which has been held continuously ever since



FOOD FOR THE SOUL

10am - on the 1st Sunday of the month

On the first Sunday of each month we have a relaxed style of service called Sunday Space. During these services we will think about various ways we can nourish our inner life and come to know God better. Christians through the ages have found prayer, pilgrimage and fasting helpful, so we will consider why they are relevant to us and how we might practice them today.

Open to God - Open to each other - Open to all



PARISH REGISTER

In Memoriam

Sandra Harris Sylvia Taylor

Baptisms

Billie Cubitt (picture left)



PRAYER FOR FARNCOMBE

A small group of people meet twice a month at St John's Church to pray for Farncombe, its people, schools, businesses and other institutions. The next three dates are Thursdays 12th September, 10th October and 7th November all 9.00 – 9.45 a.m. in the Lady Chapel.

You are welcome to join us, and if you have a concern that you would like us to include in our prayers, please email prayers@farncombe.org.uk.



COFFEE MORNINGS at ST JOHN'S

all are welcome in the Church Room

10am -12noon 14 & 28 September 12 & 26 October 9 & 23 November

JULY**THE TEAM**

Our theme for Messy Church looked forward to the Olympic Games and we had various activities related to Olympic events and their Greek origins. We thought of St Paul's letter to the Christians in Corinth which compares being a Christian to running the race of life, with eternal life being the prize for completing the race.

We had some mini-Olympic style sports indoors (it had started to rain again!) and blew little sailing boats across an indoor paddling pool and even tried a simple archery test with suction-headed arrows – more difficult than it sounds. We also made laurel wreaths, which the Greeks used to crown their winners, and colourful flower arrangements. The collage featured flags from countries around the world. In church James led a simplified Communion Service which helped us to understand how faith in Jesus gives us the strength to run the race of life.

The tea was much appreciated, with a splendid variety of sandwiches and cakes to help us dodge the showers on the way home.

Our next Messy Church is on 14th September

John



Worship at the Bandstand

Friends from the various Christian communities of Godalming gathered at the Bandstand for our annual open-air ecumenical service as part of Staycation Week on Sunday August 11th. The

weather was perfect. Thank you to everyone who took part, the clergy, stewards, musicians, and coffee team, and to the Town Council for making it possible.



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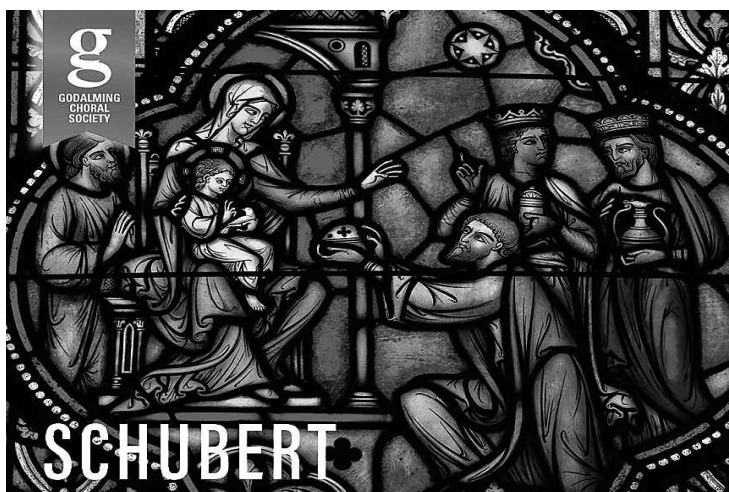
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The Farncombe Initiative

The Farncombe Initiative is pleased to see some ongoing projects come into fruition and is studying new ideas.

ROADS



If you've been out and about in Surrey this summer, you can't have failed to notice the deplorable state of many of our roads, whether it is potholes or faded and near-invisible road markings.

Of course, no-one is happy with this and many take to social media to vent their feelings and let off steam. In the short term this may make you feel better, but it is highly unlikely that Surrey County Council Highways Department staff spend their time perusing these posts to plan their work schedule!

So, what can be done?

Notify Surrey Highways directly every time you come across a "highway issue" by completing their online form. This may take you ten minutes, but it's time well spent. Members of Farncombe Initiative have used this to report about 20 problems. For every report an acknowledgement has been received with an individual reference number for future use, if needed.

We reported the terrible potholes by the "sleeping policeman" outside Loseley Fields school and already two of the holes have been filled.

We also reported faded white lines and got the reply that the lines were no longer needed so were being allowed to fade away!

If more than one person reports the same issue, so much the better! You can use the link below to report more than just potholes. It can be used for blocked drains, hedges overhanging footpaths, road markings etc. To make a report, use this link: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/> and click on "Highway Issues".

Anyone with a love for Farncombe is welcome to take part. Do get in touch to join the steering group or one of the teams. farncombeinitiative@gmail.com

COTTON ON CLUB

New! Handicraft Group starting at St John's Church, Farncombe

On September 11th we will be starting a new venture in the St John's Church Room. After a very interesting talk, held at St John's, about The Linus Quilt Project and another on processing a fleece, that's one from a muddy, shorn sheep, not Mountain Warehouse, into perfectly woven wool, we found ourselves thinking about being creative.

Our ideas are along the lines of meeting once a month to help and teach each other, to bring along personal projects to share and enjoy each other's company, create items for a fundraising occasion, participate in a larger project together, give help with unfinished craft projects, to help with a new skill such as how to set up and use a sewing machine, to get going on that collection of items for a Scrap Booking idea

the list is endless. None of us are experts, but we are if we pool our skills.

We even have a name for our group, a name with an historical background which ties in nicely with our existing "Kettle's On" name...the "Cotton On Club". There are several different derivations to be found on the internet but the one we like best comes from the Linen Mills, where the thread to be woven, was firstly joined onto cotton thread, hence the phrase "Have you cottoned on yet?" Today, we understand it to be that lightbulb moment and certainly learning a new skill can be just that!

If you are interested in joining or would like more information ring Sue on Mob: 07818 582336. All welcome.

HERITAGE WEEKEND

Heritage Weekend falls on 14th and 15th September this year. Many historic buildings around Farncombe and Godalming will be open to the public. St John's is taking part again - join us on Saturday 14th between 10:00am and 12:00pm and on Sunday 15th between 2:00pm and 4:00pm. On Saturday 14th at 10:30am, there will be a special Graves & Monuments tour of the churchyard. The events at St John's are free and no booking is required, just turn-up.



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FARNCOMBE MARKET

15th June

With the weather so far this summer much cooler than expected it was no surprise that the stallholders had to compete with wind and showers whilst setting up and during the market. It was good to see a wide variety of stalls again, from cakes to garden plants, cards to soaps and also to meet up with friends over coffee, even whilst dodging the showers. It is an interesting feature of the Market to see so many locally produced items and be able to talk to the stallholders about the skills required. The next market will be on September 21st so do try and come along to the station car park and see the wide variety of stalls!

The next Farncombe market
will be on **Saturday September 21st** from **10.00 to 14.30.**
Please come along and support local independent traders



Farncombe Day Centre

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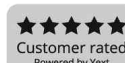
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Julian Lewry Music

KEEPING MUSIC LIVE

A message from Julian....

Hope you have had a good summer. The remainder of 2024 sees me being involved with shows across 3 venues in Haslemere, Guildford and Farnham. Unfortunately the shows at Dorking Halls had to be rescheduled to February 2025 due to the temporary and extended closure of that venue for essential repairs. To keep up to date with all my promotions, it is best to Like my Julian Lewry Music page on Facebook or visit my website www.julianlewrymusic.com. Hope to see you soon. Please keep supporting live music.

WELCOME TO ECHOES



SIMPLY US+THEM **Friday 29th November** **@ HASLEMERE HALL**

In 2024 Simply Us + Them will be performing songs from all the different eras of Pink Floyd. The band will still be performing all the Pink Floyd classics with the addition of songs from the Syd Barrett era as well as moving into songs from the later David Gilmour version of the band after the departure of Roger Waters. This year's tour is called Welcome to Echoes as it takes its inspiration from the globally successful Echoes compilation released in 2001.

Tickets: £23 inc. booking fee. Show starts @ 8.00pm (doors and bar open from 7.00pm)

THE ALTER **EAGLES** **NO FINER TRIBUTE**

Friday 13th December **@ HASLEMERE HALL**

Since The Alter Eagles started in 2004, the five piece have built a reputation as one of the most faithful tributes around, ensuring that the audience enjoys a loving note-for-note recreation of songs like Hotel California, Lyin' Eyes, New Kid in Town, Desperado, Take it Easy and Life in the Fast Lane - as well as 'newer' Eagles' classics like Long Road Out Of Eden and How Long.

Tickets: £23 inc. booking fee. Show starts @ 8.00pm (doors and bar open from 7.00pm)

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND



THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL **Friday 7th February** **@ HASLEMERE HALL**

This 5-piece band perform Billy Joel's hits and classic album tracks from his breakthrough in the 70's, the huge global chart success of the 80's, through to the 90's by which time Joel's status was firmly established as a true American icon. The set includes Just The Way You Are, My Life, It's Still Rock And Roll To Me, Uptown Girl, Tell Her About It, An Innocent Man, We Didn't Start The Fire, The River of Dreams and, of course, Piano Man.

Tickets: £23 inc. booking fee. Show starts @ 8.00pm (doors and bar open from 7.00pm)

OTHER UPCOMING SHOWS INCLUDE THESE EXCITING ACTS

Saturday 14th September - Los Endos (Genesis tribute) @ Electric Theatre, Guildford

Sunday 15th September - Los Endos (Genesis tribute) @ Electric Theatre, Guildford

Saturday 2nd November - Totally Blondie (Blondie tribute) @ Electric Theatre, Guildford

Saturday 23rd November - G2 Definitive Genesis @ Farnham Maltings

Saturday 15th February - Los Endos @ Dorking Halls

Saturday 22nd February - Simply Dan (Steely Dan tribute) @ Dorking Halls

Friday 28th February - Totally Blondie @ Haslemere Hall

Friday 2nd May - Genesis Visible Touch @ Haslemere Hall

Tickets for Haslemere shows are available from www.haslemerehall.co.uk or the box office on 01428 642161. Tickets for other venues from the respective box offices

To keep up to date with news and info on upcoming shows, please see Facebook page Julian Lewry Music and website www.julianlewrymusic.com



Slimming World News

With Slimming World you can eat the foods you love and still lose weight, by changing your relationship with food! Committing to changing the way you cook, shop, and eat can help but all this starts with you. Changing in your mindset to "I can do this," is a great place to start, by speaking positively and being kind to ourselves.

It's a new day, new week, new month, could be a new start!
What would you truly love to achieve in September 30 days. If you commit to change for just 30 days, the results could be staggering!

You could start right now - by joining a group near you.

You could start right now - 100% on plan each day.

You could start right now - 1 small change each day.

You could start right now - building a body magic routine into your week.

You could start right now - read the books in your pack and learn/refresh your knowledge of the plan.

You could start right now - ensuring you ALWAYS have free/speed free food available and ready for you to grab when the munchies hit.

You could start right now - believing in yourself. You can do this. You can give your inner angel a megaphone and let her drown out the little devil on your shoulder who tries to steer you off track.

What are you going to start right now? - you will be more likely to commit to turning plans into reality.

Who wouldn't love to start the month thinking 'WOW! I can totally smash it!'

What reward (non food) will you give yourself for doing your absolute best for the next 30 days?

Why not pop into group to find all the answers. This could be your time!



This is Charmaine. She lost over 5 stone saying one of her main reasons for losing the weight was her daughter. She didn't want her to be bullied at school 'coz her Maur was fat!' Kids can be cruel. "She was and still is my inspiration."

To find out more call Pauline 07872 162842, or come along to Farncombe - St Johns Church Tuesdays 8.30am, 10.00am, 5.30pm or 7pm or

Godalming - Wilfred Noyce Saturdays 8.30am or 10.00am

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!

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This Month's
Mystery
Photo is?

*The answer is
on page 19*

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QUIZ TIME

1. What colour are the legs and feet of Greylag geese?
2. What name is given to grass which is dried and stored for winter fodder?
3. What was Beethoven's first name?
4. What do James Grieve and Charles Ross have in common?
5. What colour is a ripe fresh fig?
6. What name is given to a triangle with 2 sides of equal length?
7. What is the name of the town at the northern end of the Pennine Way?
8. In which city is the 'Royal Mile'?
9. What name is given to the angle at which a roof slopes?
10. What food product comes from an apiary?

Answers on page 19

"TIME IS A THIEF. WE CAN'T STOP IT, BUT WE CAN PRESERVE IT"

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St. Mary's Wharf

St Mary's Wharf is a 310,000-sq ft redevelopment of the 1.7-acre former Debenhams department store site in Guildford. It will offer 185 homes, ranging from one to five bedrooms, 21,000 sq ft of retail, restaurant and business space, and an acre of new public riverside walkways and gardens.

Designed by architect Squire & Partners, the buildings will be fossil fuel-free and net zero carbon in operation. The development is currently under construction, having received approval from Guildford Borough Council in November 2022.

St Mary's Wharf forms part of Native Land's strategy to acquire opportunities to reposition former retail assets in fundamentally strong UK towns and cities.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN PHYLLIS TUCKWELL SHOPS

Phyllis Tuckwell's vibrant retail team is in need of more volunteers, so if you're looking for an interesting, fun and meaningful way to spend a few hours a week, this could be just the thing for you!

Local Hospice Care charity Phyllis Tuckwell has 17 shops across West Surrey and North-East Hampshire, which sell the quality second-hand items which its supporters so generously donate. The money that these shops raise helps to fund the vitally important supportive and end of life care that it provides for local patients and families who are living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer or motor neurone disease.

As a retail volunteer, you will serve and chat with customers, use the till, take and sort through new donations, and price stock ready to be sold. You'll meet new people every day and be part of a friendly and welcoming team, where your skills will be valued and utilised, and you'll really feel that you're making a difference to the local community.

"Our volunteers are so important to us, and bring so much to our team," said Julia Morpeth, voluntary services manager at Phyllis Tuckwell. "They offer such a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organisation, and we are pleased to provide them with ongoing

support and training to enable them to learn and develop within their role."

You can volunteer in any of Phyllis Tuckwell's shops, but its the Farncombe shop in need

of more volunteers at the moment, so if you were able to help out there, your support would be very much appreciated.

Every day, Phyllis Tuckwell supports over 250 patients, relatives and carers, through medical and nursing care, therapies, counselling, social work advice and practical support, but as the Government/NHS only cover 25% of its costs, it has to raise over £25,000 every single day to offer all of its services, which are given free of charge to its patients and their families. Its shops are really important in helping it raise this money, and you could be part of that fundraising!

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact its Voluntary Services team on 01252 729400 or email voluntary.services@pth.org.uk



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A HAPPY CELEBRATION IN THE QUIET GARDEN

It may well be a surprise to many of us but it is now 20 years since the Quiet Garden at St John's Church was opened. Those with long memories will remember that the churchyard looked very different, even though the yew trees and the rhododendron were well established features. Rev. Margaret Blake, then Rector of Farncombe, had the vision of an open garden space with flower beds, benches and pathways to provide a quiet and restful environment for people to sit and take time for reflection. The plans were drawn up and work started in 2004, mainly with volunteers from church although, of course, the pathways were laid by specialists.

It is a source of amazement how well the various trees and shrubs have settled in – the silver birch were only about 3 metres tall when

planted! We still enjoy the shade from the yew trees and the colours of the rhododendron are a source of great pleasure in the springtime.

On 8th June we invited those who have been involved in supporting the Quiet Garden over the years to a celebration at church and it was good to meet up with many old friends again. The fine weather enabled us to take a stroll round and see how the garden has matured. It is of course important to keep the Garden maintained and working parties meet each month to do the various seasonal jobs. Some of the original team still enjoy the opportunity to do jobs such as weeding, edging and pruning. More help is always welcome and if you have a couple of hours to spare once a month, usually the last Saturday morning, do come along and meet up with the working party for some interesting gardening (and a bit of a chat!)

GODALMING IN BLOOM

This organisation has worked locally for over 25 years to encourage and celebrate the efforts of gardeners in the area and they have an annual event to award cups and certificates to groups and individuals whose efforts have brightened and improved our environment. This year's awards were held on 12th July and the Mayor presented the trophies.

We were delighted that the Quiet Garden was awarded a trophy as runner up in the Community Gardens group and this is very

welcome news for the volunteers who work so hard each month to keep the Garden looking peaceful and relaxing for those in need of a time for reflection and thought.

The working parties are held on the last Saturday morning of each month from 9.30 and usually finish around midday and we would be most grateful for more help. We had a special tea break at our last session to celebrate the award! The next dates are 31st August and 28th September.

AUTUMN GARDENING

This has been an unusual year in our gardens with some plants doing well but others struggling. This is at least partly due to the weather but it has meant that our usual routines have had to change.

Among the vegetables, potatoes have grown strongly and seem to be cropping well, as have runner beans, although they have been slow to set. Unfortunately, it has been a bumper year for slugs and snails and several crops have suddenly disappeared. At least we can enjoy some of our crops!

Most of the usual fruit species have done well, blackberries were ripening before the end of June and apple crops are good, so try to pick them regularly to relieve the weight on the branches. Store the crop in trays in a cool dry place (or apple store if you have one!) It is time to

plan ahead too so rooted strawberry runners can be planted out, either in open ground or in tubs and pots if space is a problem. Cut out raspberry canes which have fruited and tie in new ones for next year's crop. If there are suckers growing at the base it is useful to remove most of them as they are not necessary.

The care of lawns has changed in recent years and there are no strict rules but it is a good idea to raise the cutting height on the mower as the growth rate slows.

Don't forget to take your secateurs as you enjoy your walks round the garden as there will be dead-heading of flower plants, pruning of shrubs, cuttings to take and seeds to be collected. Also, don't forget to check your compost and mulch supplies for the autumn.

Happy gardening

John

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Investment and cryptocurrency scams are on the rise, targeting people of all ages. To safeguard your finances, it's crucial to recognize the warning signs and take preventive measures.

1. Be Wary of "Too Good to Be True" Offers: Promises of high returns with little or no risk are a red flag. Scammers often entice victims with the allure of guaranteed profits. Remember, legitimate investments always carry some degree of risk, and if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
2. Verify the Source: Before committing to any investment, thoroughly research the company or individual behind it. Check for registration with financial regulatory bodies. Stick to reputable platforms and be cautious of advice from unknown or unverified sources.
3. Don't Trust Unsolicited Phone Calls: Scammers frequently pose as representatives of legitimate investment firms, calling with attractive offers.

If you receive an unsolicited call, don't share any personal information or make quick decisions. Hang up and verify the legitimacy of the caller by contacting the company directly using a number from an official source.

4. Resist High-Pressure Tactics: Scammers often create a false sense of urgency, pushing you to invest quickly without giving you time to think. Genuine investment opportunities will never force you to act immediately without proper consideration.




5. Educate Yourself: Take the time to fully understand any investment, especially in cryptocurrencies, which can be complex and volatile. If you're unsure, consult with a trusted financial advisor before proceeding.

By staying informed and vigilant, you can protect yourself from falling victim to investment and cryptocurrency scams. Always remember: it's better to miss an opportunity than to risk losing your hard-earned money.

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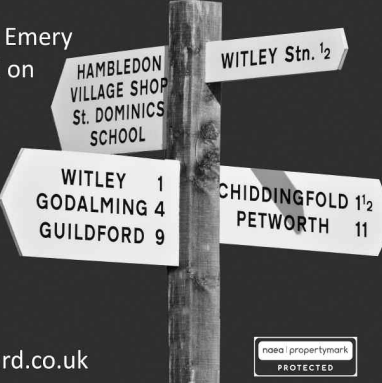




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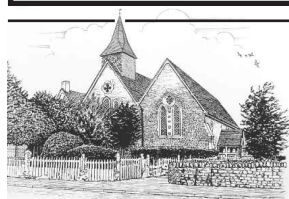



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