

THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

St Michael & All Angels

FEBRUARY 2026

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EDITORIAL

By *Tricia Horwood*

As we move into a new month, it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Richard Bates, a man who can only be described as a true pillar of our community. Richard gave so much of his time and energy to village life over many years, always ready to lend a hand, or quietly get things done without fuss or recognition. He will be missed by all of us, and our thoughts are with Nicki and his family at this difficult time. A full obituary celebrating Richard's life and contribution to the village will appear in next month's magazine.

On a brighter note, there are some positive developments to share. The new pavilion website is now live and ready to be explored, setting out all the details of the forthcoming renovations (see p24). The History Society has another fascinating evening planned, with an upcoming screening of the film Lancaster and a Q & A session afterwards (see p25). And the church is hosting another concert on 8th February with Rob Goldfinch, this time featuring love songs and original compositions in advance of Valentine's Day (see p22).



Looking ahead, I am keen to involve more voices from across the village in the magazine to contribute to our regular feature "A Day in the Life of.....". I have had lots of positive feedback from you and it's given many of us a real insight into the lives of people who live and work in our village. If you are interested in writing a piece, chatting about the idea, or know someone that I could approach, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and contributions, and **please don't forget to pay your annual subscription. Wishing you a LOVE- ly February!**

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VILLAGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3rd	7.00pm	Thursley Parish Council Meeting. Village Hall. All welcome.
Sunday 8th	4.00pm	Love Notes & Winter Light. A Concert of Love Songs & original compositions. St Michael & All Angels Church. See p22.
Thursday 19th	12.30pm	Thursley 50+ Ladies Lunch. Three Horseshoes Pub. Booking essential. Contact Lisa Woods.
Saturday 21st	10.00am	Churchyard Working Party. St Michael & All Angels Church. All help welcome.
Thursday 26th	7.30pm	History Society showing of the film "Lancaster". Village Hall. See p 27.

FUTURE DATES

Easter Saturday, 4th April

OVIS CANTORUM

The chamber choir directed by David Swinson is following up November's Advent concert, returning to Thursley at 6pm on Easter Saturday, 4th April. The programme is being finalised - full details in the March issue - but will definitely feature Durufle's magical Requiem.

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR

By Revd Hannah Moore



February is often called the month of love—a time when shop windows blush pink and red, and cards and flowers begin to appear in earnest. Some might say it is also the time of year when the price of flowers triple!

But love is more than romance; it is a gift from God, woven into creation itself, and expressed in everyday acts of kindness, patience, compassion, and faith.

Even William Shakespeare, writing over four centuries ago, understood that love was something deep and transformative. In *Romeo and Juliet*, he writes: *"My bounty is as boundless as the sea, My love as deep."* And in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he reminds us of love's mysterious and sometimes surprising nature: *"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind."*

His words capture something we still recognise today—love's depth, generosity, and its power to see beyond outward appearances.

Cupid, the little winged figure who appears every February, comes from ancient Roman mythology. He was the god of affection and desire, often depicted with a bow and arrow. According to legend, anyone struck by one of Cupid's arrows would fall deeply in love. Though playful, Cupid symbolises something real: love's surprising ability to catch us unaware.

St Valentine, meanwhile, was a Christian priest in Rome during the 3rd century. Although several legends surround him, one of the most cherished stories describes him secretly marrying Christian couples at a time when the Emperor had forbidden marriage. Valentine believed that love was sacred—worth protecting, even at great personal cost. He was later martyred for his faith, and the Church began to remember him each February. His legacy is not merely romance, but courage, conviction, and a commitment to God's love.

At the heart of our Christian tradition is an even richer understanding of love — agape, the self-giving, sacrificial love of God. The Bible speaks often and beautifully about it. In 1 John 4:7, we hear: *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God."*

And of course, no February reflection would be complete without St Paul's famous words from 1 Corinthians 13: *"Love is patient; love is kind...It bears*

all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

This is the love we are invited to practice – not just on Valentine’s Day, but every day. It is the love that listens, forgives, encourages, and comforts. It is the love that Jesus showed throughout his ministry, and ultimately on the cross. It is the love that transforms communities – our parishes, our families, our friendships.

As the evenings begin to grow a little lighter and signs of spring tentatively appear, February offers us a gentle invitation: to choose love in small, faithful ways.

Perhaps it is a phone call to someone lonely, a prayer for someone struggling, a word of encouragement, or simply taking time to notice God’s presence in your day. Love often grows in the quiet places where kindness is sown.

May this February be a month not only of hearts and flowers, but of renewed commitment to the love that “never ends.” And may we, as a community, continue to reflect God’s love to one another and to the world.

With every blessing for the month ahead.

Hannah

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THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

By Chairman James Mendelsohn



Before beginning this article, I took the opportunity to look back at what I had written this time last year and, perhaps not surprisingly, there are some recurring themes which need to be raised.

We are rapidly approaching the ground nesting bird season and I have been in touch with Natural England (NE) to try and understand what their policy is going to be about walking dogs off the lead during this period. As the time of writing, I have not received a definitive response and I therefore used the ever-dependable ChatGPT to see whether it at least could come up with a coherent answer.

It referred me to the Natural England Countryside Code which is explicit in stating that dogs must be kept on the lead on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) between the 1st of March and the 31st of July each year. Whilst that may not be what many people were wanting to hear, it is at least definitive. Last year,

many of the problems were caused by the mixed messaging that we were getting from different people at NE and indeed from the different signs that were placed around the Common.

The frustration, though, is that last year, NE wrote to our constituency MP Jeremy Hunt, who had contacted them on our behalf, and said: *'the primary message across the reserve is that dogs should be kept under close control, and ideally on a lead.'*

We fully understand that the Common is a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and a SSSI. It is a wonderful asset and we must certainly respect it. Nevertheless, we will maintain the dialogue with NE to see whether some sort of compromise could be agreed about dog walking on certain parts of the Common. If I hear anything further from NE, I will certainly pass it on.

On a more positive note, Chris McClements is going to be continuing his programme of keeping Thursley tidy and well maintained this Spring. This will involve cleaning various signposts, removing soil and vegetation from the pinch points at the entry to the village and perhaps organising a litter pick over the Easter holidays. I'm sure that others will be helping Chris, but perhaps I could also ask everyone to be aware of the small things outside or around their

properties that could be cleaned, removed or swept up to help our efforts to improve the general look of our community.

You will all be aware of the plans that we are developing for the refurbishment of our cricket pavilion. This building is owned by the Parish Council but a new Community Interest Organisation (CIO) is being set up to manage the cricket pavilion on behalf of the Parish Council.

In order to protect the long-term interests of the village appropriately, the

Parish Council has appointed Tom Taylor-Mathews to be the Councillor responsible for managing the relationship between the Parish Council and the CIO. I am very grateful to Tom for volunteering to take on this position, and I am sure that it will be in the interests of both the CIO and the Parish Council to have a very good working relationship between the two bodies.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 3 February at 7.00 pm.

Britain between the Romans and the Vikings A Commonwealth of the Holy Spirit

On Friday 20 March after a friendly lunch, members of Milford Probus club and visitors (growing in number and always welcome) will learn from Steve Stanley about a fascinating but often misunderstood period of British history. Between the fall of the Roman Empire and the start of the Viking invasions the Irish (aka Scots) Picts, Britons and Anglo-Saxons competed and developed a distinct cultural heritage. This is sometimes but not very accurately described as the time of the Celtic Church.

Steve will discuss how religious change and conversion drove cultural development against a background of political competition. A retired criminologist, he has degrees in history, social research and classical studies. He is also a popular and impressive speaker, who has given talks on the Silk Trade in Roman times and the Fall of the Roman Empire. Come and join us. Lunch and talk are just £32.

Milford Probus is a club for retired and semi-retired business and professional men and women who enjoy comradeship, informative talks and wider activities. If you are interested, visit www.milfordprobus.com or book lunch (book eight days before please) with Miranda O'Brien (miranda.obrien@btinternet.com/01483 423398)

The club's activities include organised outings and enjoyable walks (ending in a fine pub). Established in 1999 it has welcomed women members since 2016 and now has a female president. Prospective members are invited to join lunches as paying guests while considering membership. Come and try us. You will be very welcome. We have a friendly bar and plenty of parking.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BUSINESS ANGEL

By Jerry Horwood



I've never liked the term business angel. It suggests people like me who invest in early stage companies are in some way coming to the rescue of a business in trouble. Occasionally that is the case, but mostly we buy shares in businesses we hope will one day be bought by a larger company, or perhaps, very rarely (I've never managed it) become listed for public ownership, known as an IPO. The chances of achieving an 'exit' from an investment is no better than 1 in 20, usually far worse. In other words, you need to make at least 20 investments in the sorts of businesses which angels meet in their early stages, before you stand a chance to even get your money back, and ideally a bit more besides. Finding what's known as a Unicorn (so named because of its impossibility) isn't going to happen. But even so, I love it, despite all the pain and anguish I witness when my investments hit the wall. The rewards for taking high risks as a business angel go far deeper than simply trying to make money. They have

to be, otherwise nobody in their right mind would do it. You're unlikely to make money from it, and if you do, it will take far longer than you ever expected.

So when Tricia, your editor and my wife, asked me to have a go at writing a piece for A Day in the Life about what a business angel does, I felt it might be an opportunity to dispel the idea that making money out of someone else's genius and sweat is either easy or a sure thing. So why do it?

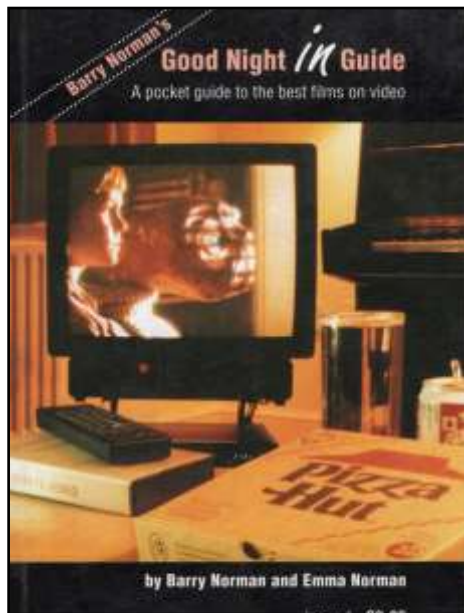
Most angels belong to investment clubs whom founders of businesses approach to raise investment. Occasionally businesses approach relatively wealthy people direct, but most angels prefer to consider opportunities within a curated environment where we work together to assess those we collectively believe might stand a chance of prospering. My club is called Surrey 100 Club, or S100 for short. I became its chairman for a three-year tenure between 2017 and 2020. It's hosted and managed by Surrey University's Innovation and Enterprise unit, which in turn is part of SetSquared, the world's largest university incubator combining the research-led business units of Surrey, Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter and Southampton universities. So it produces no shortage of high tech candidate start-ups seeking funding.

Whilst each investment is a personal decision, usually the paperwork and

legalities are handled as a group. The typical size of what's known as an 'ask' by an entrepreneur is between £250k and £1m. Raising more than this attracts specialist growth funds who invest in later stage companies seeking funding to grow, rather than to test an idea. So they are less risky and as a result the reward multiples on exit for larger raises are usually lower. Angels tend to invest between £10,000 and £50,000 each in very high risk early stage opportunities... which is where I started my own entrepreneurial journey.

Over the years I've explored many business ideas including home delivery food (20 years before Deliveroo et al became a thing); a handbook of videos to rent called the Good Night In Guide (written by Barry Norman and his film critic daughter Emma); a 3-dimensionally tabbed notebook to help

you find your notes again; a packaged market research business; even a service for motorsport teams to manage their sponsors. None of these ever flourished.



Then in 1986 I met a bloke in a pub (Tom, in *The Two Brewers* in Marlowe). I had recently been fired by BMW as a young and over-ambitious, mouthy Marketing Services Manager. That was the best and worst day of my career. But I wasn't alone. In those days BMW's management was brutal, and people like me who pushed the edges of the envelope weren't tolerated for long. I'd always been inventive, a chip off my father's mad inventive block – buy me a pint at The 'Shoes one day and I'll tell you more about some of the bonkers ideas he and I have hatched up. So at the tender age of 30 I was trying to work out if I had the balls to explore some of the ideas I'd been dreaming about, or get another job, probably in the car industry where I also had Volvo on my reasonably impressive CV (despite being fired by BMW, they still provided my with a decent reference).

So Tom and I started our chance meeting at the bar by asking each other what we did. I told him I was looking for my next opportunity in marketing, and he told me he had started a company teaching computers to understand ordinary English so they could find information to answer questions expressed in what he called Natural Language (ordinary English like you use in ChatGPT). This was three years before Tims Berners Lee invented the WorldWide Web, and computers in those days had tiny screens with green characters. Only nerds knew how to use them.

Turns out his little start-up called Tome Associates had produced the world's

first commercial deployment of AI, powering what we know today as a Search Agent (12 years before Google existed, and 36 years before ChatGPT) ... and they needed someone to lead their Sales and Marketing. I was hooked.

So started an incredible 5 years travelling the world, demonstrating our crude, but groundbreaking product called Tome Searcher to the likes of The World Bank, The UN, The Home Office, IBM, The European Space Agency and many more large institutions, all of whom found it interesting, but useless. Few of them at the time were trying to access the world's online data, so they didn't think anyone would need help doing it. Basically we were offering a solution to a problem the world didn't yet realise it had, or would have. It finally ran out of money in 1991, long before its time.

Lesson #1. Timing is everything. Find needs first. Don't invent them or hope they exist.

But my former experience in the car industry was about to pay off. While evangelising the future of 'online information retrieval', I had developed many contacts in the publishing sector who needed to give their readership access to previously published articles. And before WWW became the way to do it, those of us of a particular age will recall everyone had a fax machine – which is basically a modem, a computer and a printer all in one. But what most people didn't realise was that you could dial a remote computer from your fax machine to automatically print out documents my company had

stored on it. Lots of businesses began to use us as a way to publish information on demand – including the car industry. Indeed BT dug up the Hogs Back to provide my Wanborough home's basement with 50 phone lines before we moved into offices in Godalming opposite the station (now residential flats).

My fax publishing business eventually, after years of sweat, angst and pure graft, with no holidays for at least the first 10 years, evolved into a web publishing business focused on solving information sharing problems for the car industry. It also moved to new offices, also in Godalming, where you might recall seeing 'Jerry's Cherries' on the office building next to the Flambards Way bypass. I eventually sold 2nd Byte (hence the cherries logo) to Autotrader in 2006, the year we moved our young family into Thursley. But I didn't sell all of it...

A small under-exploited corner of the business measured customer communication by phone and email. But measuring what is now known as Customer Experience (CX) wasn't yet a high priority for brands. So I decided to start another company to deliver data about CX to car manufacturers around the world. Today it is used by about 20 brands in 30 countries and employs around 100 people. And of course, the less I get involved with the operation of the business, the better it performs. Indeed in 2017 the company was one of only five businesses in the UK that year to win two Queen's Awards (for Innovation and for International Trade), and together with my exec team, I very proudly met the Queen.



Lesson #2. Entrepreneurs rarely make good executives. Find great people to run the business for you.

Since I moved into Thursley, I decided to become a mentor, mostly with The Prince's Trust as well as for Guildford Council where for several years I provided a monthly business advice clinic. I also became a professional business angel. I've always enjoyed learning about new discoveries and



Outside Buckingham Palace

technologies. Indeed I've regularly attended the amazing annual TED conferences where over a week we hear around 80 TED Talks by incredible people about extraordinary things. I call it my ritual annual humiliation where I am reminded I'm not as great as I think I am.

Angeling became a way to buy my own seat at the leading edge of where the world is heading technologically. It's also known as the bleeding edge because of the intense competition it faces from all over the world, as well as the crucial timing and need-identification rigours that have to be finely aligned with each business' capability and proposition.

Half a dozen times a year, 30 or so angels meet at Surrey University to hear pitches, Dragon's Den-like, from 4 or 5 entrepreneurs, keen to encourage us to part with cash to fund their dreams of becoming Unicorns. Ideally I look for businesses who have similar stories to my own so I can help to inject a few shortcuts, and spot pitfalls a little more effectively than I might have otherwise been able to do.

Lesson #3. Don't be afraid to make mistakes – but never make the same one twice. Good judgement comes from experience. But experience comes from bad judgement.

I also enjoy writing a blog. It's called Grombles (grumbles of a GRumpy Old Man). I meander around many topics, but what seems to be most popular is where I talk about entrepreneurs. If you'd like to read more about what angels should look for in a start-up, you can read the post here:

www.grombles.com/2014/10/how-to-start-successful-business.html

If you think you'd also like to dabble in the high risk world of business angeling, I'd be very happy to introduce you to my club. And if you would like to chat about a business idea you have, it will cost you a pint in the 'Shoes. But be prepared for cynicism. Starting a company ain't for the faint-hearted. But if you get the timing and need assessment right, for unemployable grasshoppers like me, it's more rewarding than being a wage-slave.

Thank you BMW for firing me!



NEWS AT 'THE THREE HORSESHOES'

A huge thank you to everyone that came out and supported us throughout the festive period. After a pretty busy Christmas we are looking forward to more warming open fires and pies and pints throughout the winter months.

We are a pretty special country pub nestled in Thursley surrounded by fantastic walking and cycling routes. We would love to keep our gem of a location a secret just for us village folk but the word is spreading and we continue to welcome new faces.

Those Pub Guys

If you haven't heard of '**Those pub guys**', infamous on instagram, they have put the spotlight on us with their witty video on social media, highlighting our squeaky ale pump and claiming the best pub food they have ever had along with some interesting historical facts.

The social media post was viewed by an audience near and far. If you haven't seen it, it's worth the watch on

Instagram: [threehorseshoesthursley](#)

Wild Walks

We also welcomed Rosie from Wild Walks, a local social walking group with walkers from ages 16 - 75 years. We welcomed 28 walkers who joined us for coffee after their Sunday walk. Thanks to Wild Walks and their social media once again we shared our lovely pub and location. There are not many local pubs where you can start and finish at the local pub and this continues to be an attraction. For future social walks across the area follow Rosie on

[wildw.alks](#)

Send us Your Wintery pics

We have received some fantastic local photographs from walkers and cyclists which we have added to our website and social media. If you have any photos you would like to share with us please do send them to us or tag us on your social media.

'A Pie and a Pint'

Daniel has been baking his delicious meat pies to keep you warm this winter, served with mash and gravy. A pie and pint, a pub classic along with the traditional Sunday Roasts always available. Grab a pizza or browse our a la Carte menu on the website:

www.threehorseshoesthursley.com



For up to date news please join our Newsletter and follow us on Socials at:

[threehorseshoesthursley](#)



Love Notes ✨ 🎵 Winter Light

Step out of the frost into the candlelit warmth

St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thursley
Sunday, 8th February 4pm

In a timely prelude to Valentine's Day, join local maestro **Rob Goldfinch** (renowned organist to Elstead, Peper Harow and Thursley) and operatic sensation **Benjamin Plache** (San Diego Opera) for an intimate performance. Together, they weave a tapestry of love songs and original compositions, ranging from the grand to the deeply personal.

A £10 donation will be collected on the evening or via the QR code for **Help Musicians, Musicians Benevolent Fund**. (Collection divided 50% Thursley Church - 50% to Fund.)

For over a century, this independent registered charity has provided a lifeline to professional musicians offering 24/7 mental health support and financial aid during times of illness, injury, or crisis. <http://helpmusicians.org.uk> registered charity number: 228089



WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE FARM THIS MONTH?

By Jo Ranson



Winter is in full flow this month; it's been wet, we have had cold (very cold) weather, there has been snow and actually the odd bit of sun which is lovely, but it is so low it's tricky to see with it blazing in your line of vision. The days are supposed to be getting longer but I am not sure this is the case in January; I can do dark evenings but am desperate for some lighter mornings.

With the cold we have and some struggles with bits of the parlour freezing, we do put in a couple of heat lamps and a heater, but when you open up the parlour to let cows in the temperature drops quickly. Once the parlour is full of cows it helps raise it again, but you have to be quick and it's the same at the end of milking by getting the doors shut quickly when all the cows have been done. We are also quite careful where we wash things down particularly at night as it all freezes again overnight. We haven't had anyone fall over as yet, but we do all adopt the penguin waddle walk. I

scraped one morning and made a terrible job of it. The cubicles were fine - it had frozen in there, but in the clamps, it was like driving over cobbles and what muck will move just gets smeared so it's actually best left. When it defrosts though there is an enormous amount of muck to move. Usually after each scraping we wash the tractor off - again not a good move when it's likely to freeze so this gets left too and it will look like a mobile poo going around the farm. We had trouble with one of the scraper tractors not starting over Christmas due to a forward sensor failing, so until it could be washed and fixed (took ages for the part to come because of everyone shutting down for Christmas) we had to use the one from where the heifers are. This is why two scraper tractors are kept - it gets you out of a hole, but it does mean sharing and that means precision timing between the two farms to be scraped.

More silly breakdowns. The condenser for cooling the milk has been misbehaving, not great when it is essential to get the milk as cool as possible as quickly as possible. Our nearest engineer for this is in Didcot, but he came at 7pm at night and fixed it enough to keep the milk cool until he could get parts to give it a good refurbish. The condenser did also trip out all the electrics at 3am so the clamp alarm rang us to say it had no power. Inconvenient at that time of the morning but also a blessing as the cows would have worked out that the power was off and destroyed the clamp by 5 am.

Nick worked out it was the condenser so turned that off and everything else worked again. The condenser has now been fully restored and hopefully fingers crossed no more worries on cooling the milk or the power going off.

On frosty days or when the ground is firm we have been hedge cutting and getting some dirty water out of the lagoon. Nick was lucky a couple of weeks ago when he was hedge cutting round cow paddocks. He drove under a tree, never touched it, but a rotten branch fell down and landed between the tractor and the hedge cutter. You couldn't do it if you tried and it didn't break a thing except squash a mud guard and light. How to get it off without breaking anything was also a challenge; using Matthew's small chainsaw and trimming it bit by bit we could then hook a chain round the biggest bit and lift it off with the JCB and success - not a scratch. The big winds have brought over a few trees, one we have been chomping away at but it is huge and right in the middle of a cow grazing paddock. Some thought on how we are going to clear that one will be needed, but I am sure we will get there in the end.

When the ground isn't frozen we have been fencing (much easier to get a new post in when its defrosted). It hopefully will stop raining and the cows will go out in a couple of weeks. There is a lot of fencing, mainly rotten posts but the deer are often running through it and breaking posts and wire.

Getting dirty water out feels like you are getting nowhere sometimes. Toby spends all day taking water out of the lagoon, giving the fields free

fertiliser and then the next morning with over night rain you are back where you started! We did have the contractors in who uses an umbilical system - you get more out but go as far on the farm, to help get it down before the heavy rain was due. This is a good system but pricey so we have been looking into getting our own umbilical so we can go whenever we like (the contractor is a busy man). Nick and Toby are at a machinery show today looking at that and hopefully not too many other nice bits of shiny machinery.

Our new system in the parlour is working well now, and we are pleased with the results; bactoscan and cell counts are well below the levels we are allowed to be at. When you are close to those levels it doesn't take much to go over and a fine will creep in, so we have a comfortable gap now.

We are still serving cows but not many (hope I haven't spoken too soon) and the results are looking good. I will start pregnancy scanning in the next week to get definite answers. You can scan from 32 days after being served but you risk upsetting the pregnancy and they are harder to find but you could pick up a problem quicker. I scan at about 42 days so there is less chance of upsetting things and much quicker and easier to see the calf but yes it does mean should she not be in calf we have picked it up a bit later to do something about it - swings and roundabouts.

Over the next month we will be measuring the grass in the hope we can get the cows out and take the pressure of the lagoons. The cows love it too but until then it's more milking, scraping and bedding.



THURSLEY PAVILION PROJECT

FULL WEBSITE NOW LIVE



Scan the QR code or follow us
on Facebook and Instagram
for live updates.

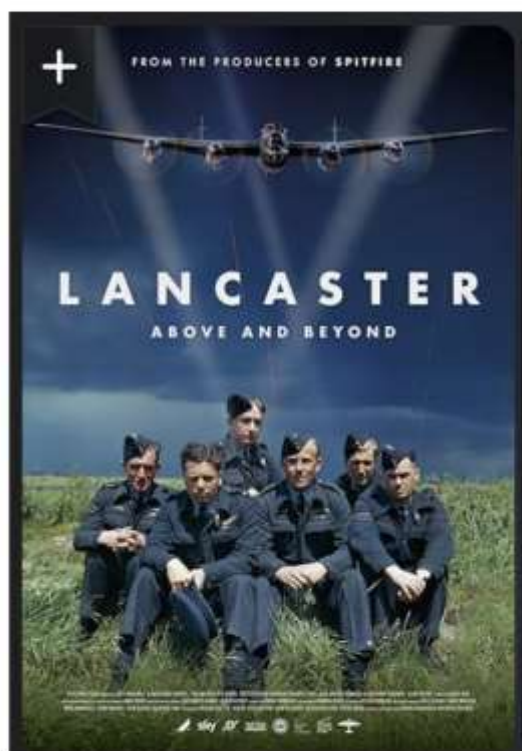
www.thursleypavilion.co.uk



@thursleypavillon



THURSLEY HISTORY SOCIETY
WILL BE GIVING A UNIQUE SHOWING OF THE FILM
LANCASTER, DIRECTED BY DAVID FAIRHEAD
AND
NARRATED BY CHARLES DANCE



THIS FILM WILL BE INTRODUCED BY **DAVID FAIRHEAD** AND THERE WILL
BE A Q&A AFTER THE FILM

THURSLEY VILLAGE HALL, 7:30PM ON THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY 2026
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.
£7.50 PER PERSON, PLEASE BRING CASH IF POSSIBLE.

Refresh Cafe

Physical, emotional and spiritual refreshment

Bring your babies and toddlers to enjoy stay-and-play fun while you enjoy a comforting hot drink, a slice of cake, and a short 5 minute spiritually refreshing thought for the day.

**Wednesday 10-11:30 (term time)
£3 per family, refreshments included**

ST JAMES' CHURCH, ELSTEAD



Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford and Peper Harow
Church in the Community, Community in the church

St James' Church Modern Service

Spring Term 2026

04 Jan	Modern Service	The Kings	10:30
18 Jan	Modern Service	LUKE: The Mission Begins	10:30
01 Feb	Joint Service	Welcome Back to St James	10:00
15 Feb	Modern Service	LUKE: Calling and Following	10:30
01 Mar	Modern Service	LUKE: The Upside-down Kingdom	10:30
15 Mar	Modern Service	LUKE: Lost and Found	10:30
29 Mar	Modern Service	LUKE: The Road to Jerusalem	10:30
05 Apr	Family Service	Easter Sunday	10:30

Our modern services are relaxed and welcoming, with refreshments, live music, a baby play area, and children's groups—an easy way to connect with others and explore faith.



Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford and Peper Harow. Community in the Church, Church in the Community

EXCITING LAUNCH OF OUR NEW REFRESH CAFÉ AND YOUTH CAFÉ!

By Richelle Smith (Modern Service Leader & Children's Family Worker)



We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Refresh Café and Youth Café! After a short delay caused by the completion of building work in the church, we're

delighted to confirm that the new launch date for both cafés is 25th February.

We can't wait to welcome you and your children to enjoy these new community activities.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has generously donated toys and equipment — your support has helped make these new spaces possible. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing this exciting new chapter together!

The Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford and Peper Harow - Church in the community, Community in the church

LAUNCHING ON 25TH FEB

YOUTH CAFE

ART & CRAFTS - TABLE TENNIS - TABLE FOOTBALL - COMPUTER GAMES - BOARD AND CARD GAMES - CHILL OUT AREA

LEGO - MILKSHAKES AND TOAST

ST JAMES' CHURCH, ELSTEAD / TERM TIME

WEDNESDAYS / 4:15-5:45 / £3 / YEARS 5&6

for more information and to book your child's place please email:
richelle@parishesofetsph.org

THS REVISED PROGRAMME FOR 2026

By Pat Clark

Wednesday 18th Feb:	7.00pm	Jean Griffin ' Let's Talk Gardening '
Wednesday 18th Mar:	7.30pm	Graham Dilmore, Head Gardener, '500 Years of Gardening History at Hampton Court '
Saturday 11th April:	2.30 pm	Spring Show
Wednesday 29th April:	7.30pm	Talk from 'Cate' on Field Flowers, an organic Flower Farm in Haslemere
Saturday 9th May:	10.30 – 12.00	Plant Sale
Wednesday 20th May	7.30pm	Ray Broughton 'Pruning'
Wednesday 3rd June:	7.00pm	Rose and Rosé Wine Evening
Thursday 11th June:	2.30 – 4.30	A Visit to The Manor, an NGS Garden in Haslemere
Sometime in June:		Summer Container, Pots, & Vegetable Garden Judging
Sometime in August:		Afternoon Tea for members
Saturday 5th Sept:	2.30 pm	Autumn Show
Wednesday 23rd Sep:	4-6.30pm	Visit to Greenhills Garden, Tilford
Wednesday 7th Oct:		Mark Saunders, Head Gardener in Fittleworth 'Super Seasonal Display Ideas'
Wednesday 4th Nov:	7.00pm	AGM and Social Evening including wine & refreshments

All Meetings and Shows will be held at Thursley Village Hall. Raffles at 4pm and Prize Giving at 4.15pm. Please look in the Parish Magazine and on Facebook for further details of these events. Do also ensure that the Horticultural Society, thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk has your correct email address.

Possible additions: A visit to Wisley including a Talk at the Hilltop Centre & a visit to Shalford House in Kingsley Green.

THURSLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Pat Clake



Thursley Horticultural Society would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during the 2025. We had a very successful and enjoyable year, and lots is planned for 2026. Please note a change of date for our Talk from Cate of Field Flowers, an organic Flower Farm in Haslemere. It will now be on Wednesday 29th April. In addition we have 23rd September from 4 – 6.30 booked for our visit to Greenhills Garden in Tilford. It should be lovely! Our first meeting is on Wednesday February 18th at the Village Hall. Unusually it starts at 7pm. Entitled 'Let's Talk Gardening', Jean Griffin, a gardening expert will be there to speak and to answer questions.

We welcome new members, but most of our events are open to non-members too, including children, and grandchildren. For those new to Thursley, do get in touch to find out more about what we do.

Subscriptions of £7 per person are due and can be paid by bank transfer. Membership cards and schedules will be delivered to you in the early February. Membership includes discounts at Avalon Nursery, Haslemere Garden Centre, the Millais Nursery, Lindsay Clark Brothers in Churt and Squires in Milford. If you have any queries, for example about paying by another method, please contact:

thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk

If you would like to pay through internet banking the details are below. Our Centenary Booklet is still available (glossy with 40 pages!) for £3.00 which could be added to your subscription payment.

£7 subscription payable to:

**Thursley Horticultural Society
(Business account)**

Sort code 30-93-49

Account number 00328733

FINAL LETTER HOME FROM SUKEY LANGDALE'S FATHER

By Jackie Rickenberg (from the archives of the History Society)

This is the final month of the letters Sukey Langdale's father, wrote home during WW2, when he was sent to India and the Far East on behalf of the Colonial Office. I hope you have found them as fascinating and amusing as I did; he indeed seems a charming man and the fact that Sukey barely knew him, as he died when she was eight years old, is as unfortunate as it is mournful. He has now reached India.

"Now about India. As I have now been on Indian soil for almost 2 hours, I am almost qualified to write a book, by modern standards, on India - but I will resist the temptation & merely give my initial impressions. First, there is the feeling of cleanliness - the streets are continually being swept. The hotel is forever being dusted, & the waiters and bearers are superb in efficiency & spotless cleanliness. In fact, I suppose the bearer has impressed me more than anything. The very best type of Army orderly. I just cannot get used to such service: my shirts are whisked off & washed the instant I take them off: shaving water arrives the second that I need it: & so on. The next impression of life as it concerns me, is the food, which is first

class & beautifully cooked. Last night I dined off soup, fish, very good meat, banana trifle & coffee. For breakfast I had coffee, porridge & cream - lashings of cream - pilchards on toast, toast, butter & marmalade & melon or banana. I don't remember ever having eaten so well. I have just had lunch, well up to standard, & finished off with peach trifle.

I did not stray from the hotel last night but sat on the veranda & talked with two Anglo-Indians of the old school. Most interesting and I learned all sorts of things I wanted to know. They kept on summoning the bearer for errands which would have made me blush: never did they do anything for themselves. I felt quite ill when the bearer held his trousers for one of them to step into - but he clearly enjoyed it. They were very affable and spoke Hindustani the whole time. But to my home bred



notions it is odd, & unless you are a very strong man, it must be easy to slip down the drain.

The laundry here – which takes three hours from delivery, to the bearer, to reappearance on one's bed – is infinitely better than in London. Seven pieces cost 2/3d. I like my bearer. He has a sense of humour – but I don't yet understand the attitude of the old die hards who are staying here. Presumably they know what's best, but to the onlooker they are selfish & conceited & will have a very sticky time in the next world. I went into the town this morning to see about my passage to Bangalore. I went in a pony & trap & was most intrigued. Any amount of camel carts: I know the word "supercilious" is hackneyed when used to describe camels, but I can think of no other adjective. They really are. Then there are such odd sights: suddenly a perfectly normal looking Indian lay down in the middle of the pavement & went to sleep – all in an instant – no one turned a hair except me.

The papers here are full of the announcement the Viceroy is expected to make soon, on the future constitution of India. I hope soon to go to Delhi: it will be fun to see something of the political



Indian Army During WW2

turmoil. The papers are very one sided – such as I have seen.

And that, I think, is that. A great turbaned tough has just passed, carrying two trunks on his head. Either of them would have broken my neck in a matter of seconds. If I had to fight, I should like to think the Indian Army was on my side.

You must pass this letter to Janet & any others who are interested. Perhaps, Jean would like to see it to show that even the incurable can get about and enjoy life: but I hope that by now she has recovered her joi-de-vivre: is it joi or joie? To increase the enjoyment of this strange business by 50%, there should be someone else with me. It is so much more amusing to have someone to share one's experiences.

Love and all good wishes

David"

And finally, if you have time on these dark evenings (in between box sets!), take a look at our website www.thursleyhistorysociety.org. and check out the latest additions, which are all to do with the old village hall. This stood on land adjacent to the pub and was still used up until the village school (in what we now call the village hall) closed in around 1960. If you have any info/photo's etc, please do get in touch with David Young on:

davidjohnyoung51@hotmail.com

And finally, finally. 2026 is the Centenary of the first British Grand Prix

at Brooklands in Weybridge. The committee plan to concentrate on all things pertaining to transport. Hopefully, a film about the building of the Hindhead tunnel; a visit to Brooklands Museum; a visit to a local private car collection; an exhibition including the changes to the A3, the Old Tollhouse and Turnpike, the Thursley bridge, the tunnel, the old road through the village and the Bugatti of Emley Farm. Thank you for all of your support throughout 2025 and hopefully 2026 will be an exciting and brr brr brilliant one!

GRAND PRIX CENTENARY 1926 - 2026



SUGAR & BAKES

By Camilla Daubeney

Leek, Brie & Walnut Galette



Ingredients

400g pack trimmed leeks
30g unsalted butter
120g baby spinach
5g fresh thyme leaves
125g mascarpone
1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
½ x 200g brie, cut into small cubes
1 egg, beaten
15g walnut halves, broken into small pieces

Pastry

175g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
½ tsp fine sea salt
100g cold unsalted butter, cubed
1 egg yolk

Method

1. For the pastry, put the flour, salt and butter in a food processor and whizz to fine crumbs.
2. Beat the egg yolk with 1 tbsp cold water, then gradually add to the flour mixture and whizz until the mixture starts to clump together – you may not need all the egg mixture. Bring together into a

ball, then flatten into a disc, wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for an hour.

3. Meanwhile, slice the leeks into 1.5cm-thick rounds. Melt the butter in a large frying pan, then arrange the leek rounds in a single layer. Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side over a low heat, carefully turning with tongs halfway, until softened and lightly golden.

4. Add the baby spinach, cover with a lid (or a baking tray) until wilted. Season, stir in the thyme, then tip the mixture into a bowl to cool. Once cooled, stir in the mascarpone and mustard until combined. Fold through the cubes of Brie, then season (if needed) and put aside.
5. Preheat the oven to 200°C, 180 Fan, Gas mark 6. Line a large baking tray with a sheet of baking parchment. Lightly flour your work surface, then roll out the pastry to a rough 11 inch diameter circle before carefully transferring it to the lined tray.

6. Spoon the mascarpone mixture into the centre of the pastry circle and spread it out towards the edges, leaving a 1½ inch border. Fold the pastry edges over the filling, overlapping and pinching the pastry as you fold. Brush the pastry border with the beaten egg, then bake for 20 minutes.

7. Remove the galette from the oven, scatter with the walnuts and bake for a final 20 minutes or until the pastry is deep golden. Remove from the oven and leave to cool before serving.

LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

By Lizzie Young



It's love month again. Comes around quickly, doesn't it? Marketing genius: there really is very little else to recommend February. Spring isn't close enough, winter too deeply entrenched (basically, if we were settlers in the New World trying to survive a harsh winter, we'd be onto the really scabby old potatoes by now. Good to think of settlers trying to survive a harsh winter, if only for perspective. We have cinemas, and supermarkets, and online shopping. And the new series of *The Night Manager* on BBC1. We'll probably make it). New Year's resolutions are mostly specks in the distance to your past. Valentines Day is, not to put too fine a point on it, putting lipstick (bright red, obv) on the pig of the worst month of the winter (apologies to any February fans out there. You weirdos.). And nonsense, besides, if you're happily married (more nonsense, I daresay, if you're unhappily married, but let's

gloss over that. I'm not an Agony Aunt.). I don't need a dozen overpriced red roses with a whacking carbon footprint to know I'm loved.

However...in this house we are in the midst of...wedmin. Wedding admin, for the uninitiated. Our daughter is marrying in October. I could pretend this is tiresome or boring, but it's wonderful fun, as I'm sure loads of you way ahead of me can attest. I mean, there is a limit to the number of different typefaces you can enthuse or offer an opinion about, but they don't have to know that. It's just very lovely to be on the periphery of young love, full of excitement, expression, happiness and demonstration, even as you reflect that it's all rather exhausting and you'll settle for tea in bed every morning and someone who lets you warm up your cold feet on the back of their knees in front of the telly. T&M are on the hunt for readings for their ceremony, and they asked us to hunt too. So I've been reading about love for weeks. The classics are the classics for a reason, and it's hard to argue with Paul's Letters to the Corinthians, or Shakespeare's Sonnet 116 (even if loved doesn't quite rhyme with proved: I always want to say looved.), or ee cummings I carry your heart with me (unless you're a sucker for punctuation, in which case it bugs the proverbial out of you.). But there are thousands of

others. Apache blessings (I don't know if these are under a cultural appropriation ban currently, but they are wonderfully simple, earthy sentiments), and song lyrics (we once heard When I'm 64 read fantastically well at a wedding to great effect) and romantic poets and passages from literature and children's books. There is doggerel and humour, and things that touch on the mundanity of life. Yeats and Keats and Browning and Cope and Larkin and bits from the script of Friends and When Harry Met Sally and His Dark Materials. My daughter's fiancé sent her one he'd found the other day, adding his heading 'this is how I feel about you' and made her cry at her desk. However you say it, however you celebrate it, with whomever, be it romantic, familial, for a friend, your community...it makes the world go round, and I'll grudgingly admit it makes February a bit sparklier, even if just vicariously.

A couple of things I am loving just now, apart, of course, from my lovely husband and his warm back of knees.

Hamnet. Love love loved it. Get thee to a cinema. Extraordinary performances and the most tender story. Plus, side note – genuinely quite grubby actors and costumes. I'm always excessively distracted by this inaccuracy in historical films. This lot had dirt under their fingernails to a man, and you could almost catch a

whiff of the 'sweaty nightcaps' pressed together on the floor of the Globe.

An orange and Cavallo Nero salad I am making on repeat – it's delicious and makes me feel virtuous and trendy in a culinary way. Soon I'll 'jump the shark' and make it one time too often. I did this with an Ottolenghi salad last year, and cloud bread the year before that. Then everyone groans and complains. I thought my elder daughter loved my flapjack, so when she went away to uni I sent her a box most weeks. She can't look at flapjack now, let alone eat it. Dave does this with songs. Which is worse.

Going to bed early to read in a passion killing flannel nightie. I'm 'doing' fiction at the moment (correct, if you're eagle eyed – not writing myself just this minute. I'm warming up. I don't know if Tricia can reproduce emojis, but obviously go ahead and insert the laughing hysterically and rolling eyes ones here.) and there's nothing more comforting as the world implodes than snuggling up and escaping.

Planning our garden. If you walk my way through the village, you'll see we're starting from scratch, and the fun bit lies ahead (the noisy, messy, muddy bit behind, thank Goodness). My google history is all 'fast growing climbing roses' (I have no patience), pleached crab apple trees because I'm a fiend for blossom, dahlias, and hammocks. Roll on summer 2026. I'm going to be ready for you.

SHARE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR GARDEN FOR LOCAL HOSPICE CARE

By Jenny Barnes



Celebrate the joy of nature by opening your garden to help fund local Hospice Care.

Every spring and summer, local charity Phyllis Tuckwell invites garden-lovers across West Surrey and North-East Hampshire to take part in its Open Gardens event. By opening your garden for the public to look around and enjoy, and charging a small entry fee to visitors, you'll raise money to help fund the vital palliative and end of life care that Phyllis Tuckwell provides for patients and families who are living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer.

Open Gardens is all about sharing the beauty of your garden with others, whatever its size and design. Whether you have flower meadows and woodland streams, or small shrubs and pots of flowers, Phyllis Tuckwell would love you to join in.

"We're looking for unique and interesting gardens of all sizes to swing open their garden gates to the local

community, or just to family and friends if you prefer, this spring and summer," said Helena Burke, community fundraiser at Phyllis Tuckwell. *"If you'd like to, you can sell refreshments too, or include plant sales, to raise even more money. By taking part, you'll help fund the important care we provide for those who really need our specialist services. We'd also like to thank Kebur Garden Materials for once again kindly sponsoring this event."*

Every day, Phyllis Tuckwell supports over 250 patients, relatives and carers, but as the NHS/Government only cover 25% of its costs, it has to raise over £25,000 every single day to do this. If you have a garden that others would love to visit and admire, or maybe could even get together with your neighbours or local community to arrange a group opening, Phyllis Tuckwell would love to hear from you. Visit www.pth.org.uk/open-gardens, email:

fundraising@pth.org.uk

or call 01252 729446 to find out more and to register.



Elstead Foodbank

Helping villagers during times of crisis

Elstead foodbank has moved temporarily. As the building works move into St James Church the Foodbank has moved into the Youth Centre next to the Elstead Village Hall. We will be open for drop ins every Thursday morning from 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

We continue to support those in greatest need of food and household consumables on a regular basis. We are currently supporting 22 households, a mixture of families with children, single mums, couples, pensioners and singles. It is such a joy to see people who come to us in need and are gradually able to re-take control and come off our regulars list. For that we are able to draw on a small grant from the Household Support Grant managed by Surrey County Council. We are also dependent upon the generosity of our donors both in finances and the many food gifts which often come to us anonymously as they simply appear in our collection boxes in the church porch.

If you are struggling to purchase sufficient food whilst paying all your other bills, do please get in touch and we will try to help you, either with an emergency food parcel or to work with you for longer. We have contacts to be able to signpost you to Citizens Advice and other agencies that might also be able to help.

The Elstead Foodbank is open every Thursday from 10am - 11am at Elstead Youth Centre GU8 6DG. We are here to help villagers through difficult times, and to make sure that no one ever goes hungry. If you need help call Revd Delia on 0735 9098 655 or visit us on Thursday morning and we will have a food parcel ready for you.

If you cannot come to the Foodbank but are in need of food, we can arrange a home delivery, subject to volunteer availability. We are very grateful for all your donations throughout the year. All food donations can be taken to St Michael and All Angels Thursley where there is a donation box in the porch for non-perishable food and toiletries. At this time of year we particularly would like donations of:

- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned meats and fish
- Custard (packet or tinned)
- Tea bags
- Instant coffee jar or hot chocolate
- Pot noodles
- Tinned rice pudding
- Jam or Honey or Peanut butter
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shower gel



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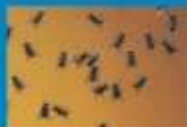
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