

THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

St Michael & All Angels

AUGUST 2025



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EDITORIAL

By Tricia Horwood



It is with sadness that I share the news of Angela Muir's passing. Many of you will remember her with great fondness — not only as the wife of our former vicar, Peter Muir, but also as a vibrant and much-loved member of the Thursley community. Angela had recently settled permanently in Cyprus after many happy years here in the village. Her renowned expertise as a Master of Wine brought joy to many through her memorable wine tasting evenings at the 'Shoes and she will be missed.

On a lighter note, our tradition of producing the annual Thursley Calendar continues, and it's time once again to gather your best local snapshots. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or simply caught a moment of village life on your phone, we welcome entries from all ages. The deadline for submissions for the 2026 calendar is the end of August and we'd love to include as many familiar places, faces, and perspectives as possible

You may have spotted a new addition outside the village hall — a recycling bin dedicated to shoes and clothing. This is a fantastic new initiative, not only promoting sustainability but also raising funds for various charities, including our own village hall. If you're having a summer wardrobe sort-out, please do consider donating your unwanted items.

Finally, as is often the case in August, the village enters a quieter rhythm. With many residents off enjoying holidays or visiting loved ones, a few of our regular gatherings will be taking a pause. Please note there will be no Parish Council meeting this month, and Thursley Ladies (50+) will also resume after the summer break. Wishing you all a restful and sunny August.

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE OF 14TH AUGUST 2025 FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE OF THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE.

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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Jane HEPBURN (our advertising year runs from April - March)

Tel: 07768 421935 Email: hepburnjaney@hotmail.com

DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Jenny GORDON

Tel: 07796 254361 Email: thursleyparishmagazine@btinternet.com

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: £8.50 FOR 12 ISSUES FROM JANUARY—DECEMBER 2025

PAYABLE TO: Thursley Parish Magazine. Account No: 55514963 Sort Code: 30-98-97

Ref: House Name (or number & road)

COVER: Highland Cow in Punchbowl, by Jackie Rickenberg

CONTACT: thursleyparishmagazine@btinternet.com (& to request a digital copy)

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SERVICES FOR THE PARISHES OF ELSTEAD, THURSLEY, SHACKLEFORD & PEPPER HAROW

Please note: Due to building works all services held at St James', Elstead will be moving to St James' Primary School, Thursley Road, Elstead GU8 6DH from 1st May until December 2025.

AUGUST

SUNDAY 3rd Trinity 7	9.45am	Communion at St Michael's, Thursley
SUNDAY 10th Trinity 8	9.15am	Communion at St James' Primary School, Elstead
SUNDAY 17th Trinity 9/St Mary's Patronal	11.00am	Communion at St Mary's, Shackleford
SUNDAY 24th Trinity 10	10.00am	Communion at St Nicholas, Pepper Harow
SUNDAY 31st Trinity 11	9.15am	Communion at St James' Primary School Elstead

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AUGUST

CHURCH CLEANING

(Please contact Sallie Roles if you can help)

Sarah TRAILL Jo KELLY

COFFEE ROTA

(Please contact Caroline Mendelssohn if you can help)

3rd August Sallie ROLES

VILLAGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

Thursday 14th 2.30pm **Hankley Common & Atlantic Wall Walk & Talk.** Organised by the History Society. See p21 to book.

Saturday 16th 10.00am **Churchyard Working Party.** St Michael & All Angels Church. All help welcome.

Saturday 30th **Deadline for submission of photos to the 2026 Thursley Village Calendar.** See p27.

Please note there is no Parish Council Meeting this month, and no Thursley ladies (50+) lunch. Both will resume in September.

SAVE THE DATE

Horts Society Autumn Show

Saturday, 6th September

Bible Course Series

Tuesday, 9th September and every fortnight

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Saturday, 27th September

Harvest Supper

Saturday, 4th October

THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: A BLESSING FOR EVERY SEASON

By Revd Hannah Moore

There is a gentle power woven into the quiet corners of our lives—one that can transform the most ordinary day into a tapestry of joy and meaning. This power is gratitude. As we journey together through the year's turning, it is worth pausing to reflect on the "attitude of gratitude," a quality that, once nurtured, can renew our hearts and deepen our relationships with each other and with God.

Gratitude is more than simply saying "thank you" when someone holds the door or offers us a cup of tea. It is an orientation of the heart—a posture of noticing and appreciating the gifts, both great and small, that fill our days.

In Scripture, we are reminded time and again to "*give thanks in all circumstances*" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This is not always easy, especially when challenges crowd our horizons, but even then, gratitude can become a lens through which we view our lives more clearly.

The seeds of gratitude are sown in the soil of awareness. When we pause in daily life to reflect on the warmth of the sun on our faces, the laughter of children playing, or the time relaxing with friends or family, we begin to notice the abundance that surrounds us.

Practising gratitude can start with the simplest of gestures. Perhaps you might keep a small journal, jotting down three things each evening for which you are thankful. Or perhaps, at

family dinner, you might encourage everyone to share a moment of gratitude from their day. These habits, small though they seem, nurture a spirit that can weather any storm.

Gratitude is contagious. When we practice thankfulness, we inspire those around us to do the same. Consider how a smile or a kind word can lift the spirits of a neighbour, or how a note of thanks can brighten someone's week.

Research has shown that grateful people are generally more content, resilient, and better able to cope with life's ups and downs. Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have. It softens our hearts and draws us closer to others, fostering forgiveness, understanding, and peace.

In the Psalms, David cries out, "*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever*" (Psalm 107:1). Taking a moment each day to thank God, whether in silent prayer or aloud, opens our eyes to the countless blessings we might otherwise overlook.

As we step enjoy the Summer months may we do so with grateful hearts. May the attitude of gratitude become our daily companion, guiding our words, our actions, and our prayers. Let us remember that every good gift is from above, and let us share those gifts freely with others, to the glory of God and the blessing of our village.

May gratitude light your path and fill your days with joy.

THE BIBLE – WANT TO KNOW IT BETTER?

Did you know the Bible is the best-selling book of all time? Yes it has even outsold Harry Potter and the Davinci Code! There is a reason for that – it's more than just a book.

The Bible isn't a single book but an anthology of 66 individual books. It was written by over 40 different authors and took approximately 1500 years to put together! It has profoundly influenced Western culture, art and law. Over the centuries it has helped and inspired many people. But, if we're honest, it's not always the easiest read! Who are all these characters? Why do some books within it seem so different to others?

How does it fit together?

In September we are starting an eight part course to go through the Bible together. Every 2 weeks we will meet online to discuss a video we will have

watched in advance and talk about the readings for since the last session. The first session will be face to face to help us get to know each other a little more. It is open to anyone and please feel free to invite others. As it is online it will be easy for others to access who do not live locally. Best of all it's free! There is an optional book you can buy but all the resources are available online for free.

This course is great! It will help improve our knowledge of the Bible, help us journey together and understand more about the very book that millions of people regularly read. It doesn't matter whether you've never read the Bible before or you've read it many times through. I guarantee you will get something from this course. So do join us! Please drop me an email and I will tell you more about how it will work. Contact Rev Louisa on:

curate@parishesofetsph.org

The Bible Course
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Tuesdays every fortnight from 9th September
7:30pm. First session face to face then online.

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Contact Rev Louisa

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

By Chairman James Mendelssohn



The chair of Elstead Parish Council, Pat Murphy, having reached the age of 80 and having served as the chair for the last 14 years, has decided to stand down. I sent him a note from us all in Thursley to mark his retirement.

Although the parishes of Elstead and Thursley are very different in many ways – Elstead has approximately ten times the number of properties than we do here in Thursley, and a proportionally larger income – we do have a number of common interests and it's important that we work together and sing from the same hymn sheet wherever possible.

The combined response of the two parishes in the aftermath of the devastating fire, almost exactly five years ago now, is a case in point. There have been other issues relating to the Common since. There are also many issues relating to transport and

planning policies which affect us all in similar ways.

In his response to my note, Pat said *'the collaboration between our two Councils has been excellent in recent years'* ... and this is important. As a Parish Council, we are on the bottom rung of local Government, but we still have an important role to play in voicing the opinions of the local community, and by working together when trying to hold to account other bodies with whom we work, be it SCC, WBC, National Highways or Natural England to name but a few, our combined voice is more likely to be heard.

It is all too easy to complain about the state of the roads, vagaries in the planning system or overgrown footpaths but the reality is that, however frustrating it can be dealing with various public bodies, more can be achieved by collaboration than confrontation. The note from Pat really served to remind us of that point.

In terms of working together, an event was held recently in the Punch Bowl to mark the launch of the new Wealden Heath Super National Nature Reserve. Whilst we remain committed to working with Natural England as the managers of arguably the village's most valuable asset, we would like to do this at a local level discussing a range of issues that affect us and Thursley Common.

We do, of course, understand that there are some common issues between the three Reserves making up the new Super Reserve, but we are worried that some of the specific concerns that we have about Thursley Common may be overlooked if the only discussion forum to which we are invited focuses on the broader aspects of the enlarged Super Reserve. We also have an aversion to large groups and unwieldy meetings – very often more can be achieved by smaller groups working together on local issues.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely. If the large group works well, that will be great, but we will continue to liaise with Natural England locally on Thursley Common issues if we feel that is the best way forward.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 2 September at 7.00 pm. All are welcome.

NEW CLOTHES RECYCLING BIN AT THE VILLAGE HALL!

Get rid of any clothes, handbags, belts, paired shoes, soft toys, hats, curtains, sheets, all **BAGGED UP PLEASE**, in aid of various charities, the environment, and the village hall (which gets paid



by weight). A sensor is being installed so that we will automatically know when it needs emptying. Please, if you find it is full, take your bags home and wait a day or two until it has been emptied. We hope you find this a useful addition!

Many thanks,

Clea Beachey

Thursley Village Hall

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIALS

By Jason Smith



During the summer of '81 I was sixteen years old and working behind the bar at Shepperton Film Studios. Duran Duran were filming there and I sneaked in to watch them film the X rated version of their Girls on Film video. This was the moment I decided I would be a rock star! An unsuccessful stint as lead singer in a punk band whilst studying English and Film at Kent University soon put this to rest. I realised I needed copious amounts of alcohol to get over my stage fright and more importantly, I couldn't sing. Suddenly a career behind the scenes as a film director seemed a much easier option!

After sailing across the Atlantic, I wrote, produced, and directed a 20-minute documentary on local life in Antigua. I returned to London clutching my finished documentary under my arm, naively expecting my career as a film director to begin. Little did I know! More than six months of desperately trying to get meetings finally led me to a

job as a runner in a successful production company.

Here I worked on ground breaking TV commercials, including the iconic Levis 'Laundrette' Commercial with Nick Kamen and learnt a great deal as I did everything from making tea to collecting various directors' dry cleaning to taking rushes to Post Production houses at 2am. A runner's job is 24/7 but it was an extremely exciting time to be in the industry as in the mid 80's it was shaping British culture.

I quickly learned that a Director was the most important person on set and a film crew are all working as one to create the director's vision. A director has overall responsibility for everything from the art direction, casting, look of the film, pacing, editing, music and



Filming my first documentary in Antigua

sound design. The buck stops with the director and on any given day on set, a director will be answering hundreds of questions to ensure his/her vision is fulfilled. It is a hugely creative and rewarding experience. This is what I really wanted to do.

A couple of years later I went freelance and got a job as a 3rd and then 2nd Assistant Director working on everything from feature films (I was Carl Reiner's assistant) to TV series like Poirot. I also began to work as a 1st Assistant Director on music videos and toured with some of the biggest bands in the world from Guns N' Roses to Black Sabbath. I was also Freddie Mercury's assistant for a short while which was a lot of fun!

Making it on my own

I'd been in the film business about six years by this time and still desperately wanted to get a break as a director. It was time to make a short film on my own terms so I made an observational piece shot on Super 8 in Barcelona about street life. Luckily the film struck a chord and I sold it to MTV and the Barcelona Olympic committee. My

fledgling career as a Director had begun.

The next three years were extremely difficult financially. It was the early 90s, interest rates were soaring and the flat I had co bought with a uni friend was constantly threatened with repossession. We were forced to rent it out just to pay off the bailiffs and ridiculous mortgage payments. I was picking up the odd job as a Director, still working as a 1st Assistant Director to pay the bills but I'd begun to build a show reel and finally in early 1994 I got my first big break. I was hired to direct a French commercial for which I won my first Cannes advertising award. It was a huge job. I spent a week or so in a four seater plane flying all over South Africa scouting for the best location which ended up being on the Skeleton Coast in Namibia. We were given permission to close the only road between Cape Town and Namibia and redirect it through the diamond reserve. It was the first time this had been allowed. We then chartered our own plane, flew in more than 100 crew and shot the commercial over a week in 45 plus degree temperatures.



A couple of months later my life changed forever as I managed to win the largest TV commercial campaign in the UK beating a famous Film Director from RSA (Ridley Scott Associates) to the job. It was an 18-day shoot for Gatorade, which I filmed in Sydney, Australia. In another first we were allowed to film from the very top of Sydney Harbour Bridge for a shot I wanted where 25 cyclists rode across the bridge as an Ocean liner simultaneously passed underneath. After waiting all day we finally got the shot as the sun was setting. Thanks to this commercial I literally went from sleeping on a friend's floor in Notting Hill to buying a penthouse apartment in Little Venice in London in the space of four months. That same year I got nominated for the Best New Director award at Cannes and my directing career began to fly.

The next few years directing TV commercials were hugely enjoyable. I had the choice of pretty much whatever project I chose to do in the UK and I was making good money. I was also working with a lot of celebrities which made life interesting. I began to win more awards most notably at Cannes, D&AD (Design and Art Direction) and the British Television Advertising awards but I still hadn't worked in the US. So Lou and I rented a house in Venice Beach and I became a partner in a US production Company. My overriding goal was to direct a Nike campaign which I felt were the most creative commercials in the world. I pitched and lost out many times before winning a Nike baseball campaign. It successfully aired in the US and I went on to direct another 8

campaigns for the sports brand. My final Nike commercial was with Lance Armstrong in which he races against a 40 ton Tanker Truck that ends up crashing into a gorge (see photo). We shot this in Southern Spain as they were the only country that would allow us to throw a tanker off a hill side! I used stunt guys from the Bond Movies to orchestrate the stunt. It won an Association of Independent Commercial Producers award, and is



archived at MOMA (Museum Of Modern Art) in NYC. That same year I also won a D&AD for a British Army Campaign. During this time I also filmed campaigns for many other big brand names from Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Honda and Mitsubishi to Sony Playstation.

Branching Out

I realised that to stay relevant and to survive as a Director I needed to reinvent myself. I also wanted to spend more time living in the UK. So I decided to change things up, branch out and direct music videos, which were considered hugely creative. My first music video was for Electronic with Johnny Marr from The Smiths and Bernard Sumner from New Order. It

was very controversial as it documented a band of thugs fighting and abusing their way around Soho. It was shown as a short film at Edinburgh Film Festival two years running but was banned from MTV. I have since directed a number of music videos for everyone from Jamiroquai to Kasabian. I also continued to shoot commercials and regularly filmed on location in New Zealand, South Africa, Hawaii, Canada, the US and across Europe.

By now I was also keen to direct feature films. I already had a movie agent, CAA (Creative Artists Agency) who look after everyone from Brad Pitt to Spielberg. They persuaded me that I'd have more success being on the ground in LA than living in London. So we moved back to LA, this time with Ollie and Amelia aged 5 and 3, and rented a house in Malibu. Alongside having the most financially successful time of my career I spent the

next four years pitching films. The pitch process in LA is fraught with problems. How any films ever get made is a minor miracle! I was the favoured Director on three films that were supposedly 'green lit' only for them to fade into oblivion. It was a huge amount of work for no result. Also the financial crash of 2008/9 changed everything. Suddenly the movie execs I'd been speaking to no longer had jobs and the industry shrunk by 50% almost overnight. Thankfully my Commercial and Music Video career continued to flourish!

Staying in the game

During this time I decided I didn't want to bring up my children in LA, especially after asking an 8 year old Ollie where he fancied going for Sunday lunch and he replied Nobu! That was enough for me! So in 2010 we moved back to the UK and bought Lower Highfield Farm. Since then I've won another MOMA award for



With Bjorn Borg and Yannick Noah filming a Renault commercial in Southern Spain



an Audi campaign, directed many other TV commercials and in 2016 was commissioned by EA Sports to develop the script and direct the live action for their “Need for Speed” video game. The ambition was to seamlessly blend live action with computer generated footage to create an immersive authentic experience where the player plays a role with real life characters in each scene. After four months in script development, the shoot took place over two months in various locations around London.

I’ve also completed a feature documentary “Cross Country” following acclaimed sculptor Jon Krawzyck across 18 states from LA to NYC with his 9/11 memorial sculpture strapped to the back of his pick up truck. This proved to be a challenging and controversial project. We interviewed over two thousand people as we crossed America. There was a lot of emotion and some difficult interviews. The editing of such a huge amount of footage took more than a year and I still play with how I could re-edit it to make it better! Jon’s sculpture now proudly stands opposite Ground

Zero, NYC and my documentary is archived in the 911 Memorial museum at Ground Zero.

After years of filming all over the world I’m increasingly aware of how fast technology is moving. The entire creative world is undergoing a seismic shift with the onset of AI. TV commercials are not the glamorous entity they once were nor is the money in the industry to pay for the kind of huge shoots I was lucky enough to direct. I’m now focusing on more personal film projects. I recently completed a series of short film pieces for a charity championing the work of unpaid carers and am working on a short film Lou and I have developed together. I feel incredibly lucky to have had a career that has never felt like a proper job. I’ve worked to my own schedule, had the luxury of picking and choosing the projects I’ve been involved in and above all I’ve been allowed to play, to create incredible visuals with some of the most talented film professionals on the planet. It’s been an inspiring journey so far, long may it continue!

Hankley Common and Atlantic Wall Walk & Talk

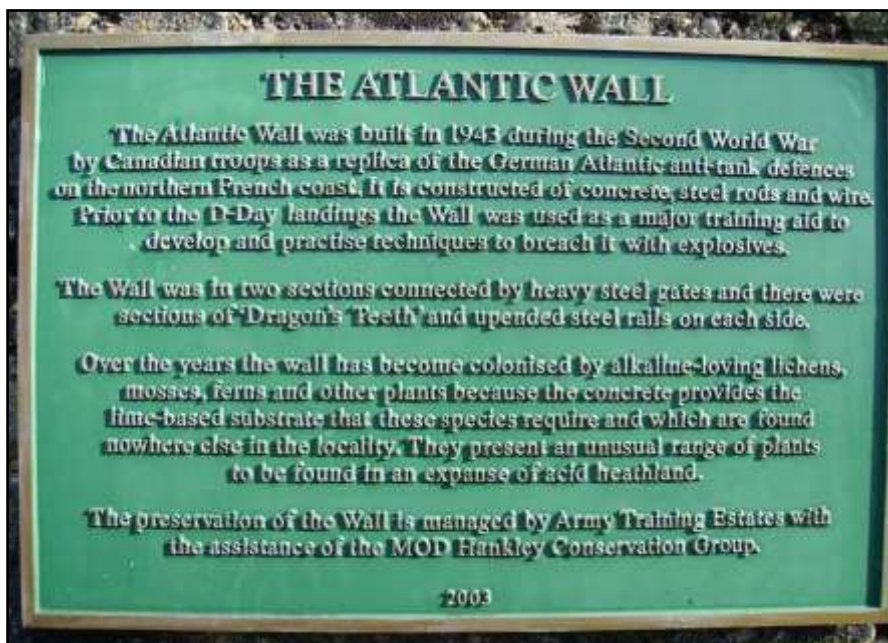


Thursley History Society is organising a Walk and Talk on Hankley Common concluding at the remains of the Atlantic Wall where a talk will be given by Paul McCue, Executive Trustee of Secret WW2. www.secret-ww2.net/

The walk will commence at 2:30pm on Thursday, 14th August, from the dropping zone car park (marked on maps as Upper Car Park) which is near the double bend on the road towards Elstead, turn left and continue until you see the car park on the left. There will be a short, 20-minute, walk led by Sukey Langdale which will conclude at the Atlantic Wall where Paul will give his talk and take questions. After that, tea and cakes will be served and another longer 50-minute walk for those wanting to participate. Please bring your dogs and friends. The cost is £5 per person and please bring cash on the day.

If you can attend, for catering purposes please advise David Young at:
davidjohnyoung51@hotmail.com

www.thursleyhistorysociety.org/post/hankley-common-and-the-atlantic-wall-in-ww2



GIVE IT A GROW

By Debbie Spencer



La Dolce Vita

I was fascinated to hear from our friends in Italy about their annual Ferragosto celebrations on August 15th. Historically, Ferragosto has ancient roots dating back to the Roman Empire. The term "Ferragosto" is derived from the Latin "feriae Augusti", meaning "holidays of Augustus". This festival was introduced in 18 BC by Octavian Augustus, from whom the month of August takes its name. Ferragosto was a time of rest to celebrate the end of harvest with their family and friends. So maybe it's time to channel our inner Italian and do a little work in our gardens then sit back and then celebrate.

VERDURE- VEGETABLES

It's harvest time for sweetcorn, tomatoes, courgettes, cucumber and carrots.

Also harvest edible Alliums now- yellowing foliage leaves on Allium plants (onions, garlic and shallots) means they should be ready to lift. If you leave them in the ground too long and it rains they can re sprout and produce an undesirable green centre. Lift the bulbs up with a fork to prevent damage- if it's sunny leave them on the ground or on a table to dry out, or move to the greenhouse if it's wet. Once the skins are dry and papery they are ready to store, ideally plaited and hanging up.

FRUTTA - FRUIT

Light pruning can be done after harvesting of summer fruiting raspberries, cutting back the fruited canes

Trained apples and pears: Prune side shoots to three to four leaves to form fruiting spurs.

Nectarines, apricots, and peaches: Prune after fruiting if necessary.
Plums, gages, and damsons: Prune immediately after harvest if necessary.

TAGLIARE - CUT BACK

Wisteria can be cut back twice a year, a summer prune in July/August and a winter prune in Feb/March. So now is a good time to cut back the whippy green shoots of the current year's growth to five or six leaves.

This controls the size of the wisteria, preventing it from growing out of



control and encourages it to form flower buds rather than green growth. Other climbing shrubs such as climbing roses and pyracantha can be pruned too. Cut back Alchemilla, Lavender and hardy geraniums.

CRESCERE-GROW

There's still time to sow fast-maturing salad crops such as summer lettuce, radish, rocket, sorrel, chicory and fennel. Sow spring cabbage turnips and oriental vegetables.

IRRIGAZIONE-IRRIGATION

Aim to water deeply (around 30cm or 1ft) with a watering can aiming at the base of the plants rather than frequently with shallow watering. Avoid watering the foliage

to prevent scorching and spreading disease. The best time to water is in the morning, allowing plants to absorb the water before the heat of the day. Early evening is the second-best time.

Use collected rainwater or grey water (from washing-up or baths) whenever possible.

Overwatering can lead to issues like blossom end rot in tomatoes and splitting of root vegetables.

CELEBRARE -CELEBRATE

Celebrate like an Italian this August '*Chi va piano, va sano e va lontano*' -who goes slowly, goes safely, goes far!

THURSLEY'S ARTISTS THROUGH THE YEARS

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

As well as being synonymous with combine harvesters in the fields, sweet peas rambling wildly in the garden, seaside visits and long balmy nights, my summers are also a reminder to visit that wonderful creative space that is the Royal Academy in London's Piccadilly, for their annual open Summer Exhibition.

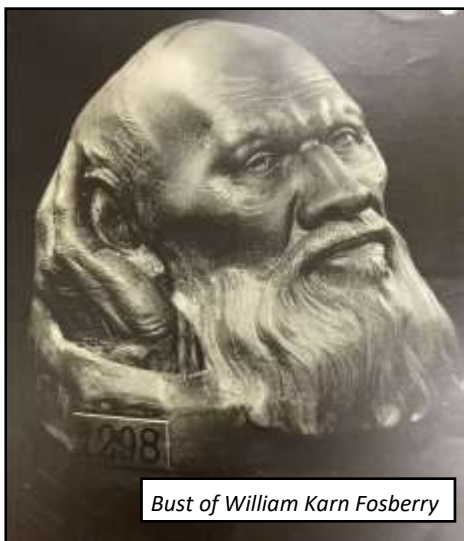
For over 250 years, the RA has existed to champion art and artists. Every year, since 1768, they have held an annual Summer Exhibition, the largest open-submission art exhibition in the world. Thursley has had more than its fair share of artists, and still does, and incredibly, even the occasional PRA – Past Royal Academician.

THURSLEY'S ARTISTS THROUGH THE YEARS

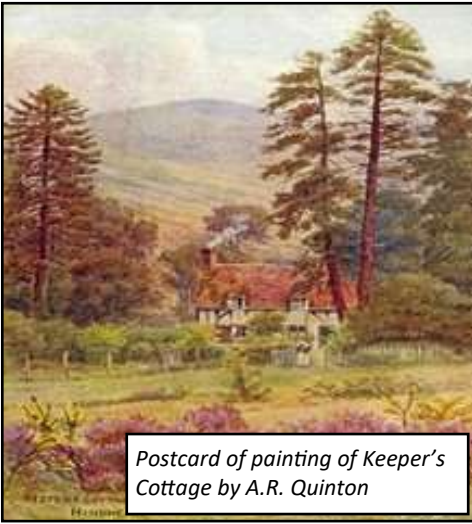
A R Quinton exhibited his romantic watercolour painting of Keeper's Cottage in the Devil's Punchbowl in the exhibition of 1879, at the ripe old age of 26 years old (see opposite). Alfred Robert Quinton's work routine would be to travel around England and Wales for three months of the year, mostly during the summer months and often by bicycle, during which he would draw sketches and take photographs of locations which he would work up into paintings in his studio during the winter months. He painted several from his time in Surrey, including "Blackdown from Hindhead", "Abbot's Hospital, Guildford", "St Martha's Chapel, Guildford" and "Guildford, Five Views". Many of his paintings, including this one of Keeper's Cottage, were published as postcards and some were used in calendars. He was quite prolific,



*William Karn Fosberry
with his son, Harry*



Bust of William Karn Fosberry



Postcard of painting of Keeper's Cottage by A.R. Quinton

painting over 2,000 paintings until the time of his death in 1934 at the age of 81. However, latterly towards the end of his life he was banned from exhibiting at the RA as the authorities were not in favour of "commercialisation" of art.

Julias A Gems apparently exhibited a sculpture of a bust of William Karn Fosberry of Thursley, which was exhibited at the RA in 1939. This is according to an article in the History of Thursley Society Newsletter of Winter 2007/2008. William Fosberry was a builder of repute, who owned Vean Cottage, The Clump and The Corner, so a man of some importance in the village, hence maybe why he or someone else commissioned a bust of him. He died in 1943 aged 89 years. However, my research could not uncover any knowledge of Mr Gems or of him exhibiting in the Summer Exhibition and no one seems to have set eyes on the bust, although we do have a photograph of it. If anyone can help, please contact info@thursleyhistorysociety.com. It is known that William's sister, Anne Tozer, who ran the Post Office and general store



"Minding the Fire" by Henry Edward Sperton Tozer

from "The Clump" was married to Henry Tozer, an artist who worked out of a studio at the bottom of the garden known as "The Outlook". This house was also rented out to Eveline Lance, a Victorian artist.

Henry Edward Tozer spent his early years in Newlyn, Cornwall with his parents. His father, Henry Edmund Tozer, also an artist, exhibited "Surf and Rocks at the Mouth of the Cove" at the RA in 1892. Henry Edward painted scenes of country life (many of them from his life in Thursley) in oil and watercolour. By 1891 he had moved to Thursley, although we don't know why, and in 1894 he married Mary, sister of William Fosberry. He continued painting alongside running the Post Office with his wife and died aged 90 still at "The Clump" in 1955.

Eveline de la Belinay Lance (1866-1937) was born in Essex, but moved to "The Outlook" in Thursley in 1929. She was known as a watercolour landscape



Lutyens design for Jaipur Column, New Delhi

painter, but also illustrated books. She has a comprehensive back catalogue and her work is very much still in demand.

Sir Edwin Lutyens. Finally, we have the distinction of having a past resident of the village as a past president of the Royal Academy. Between 1938-1944, Sir Edwin Lutyens was the elected president of the Academy. Most of us are aware of the importance of Lutyens work in architecture, furniture design, interior design, landscape architecture and garden design. He has two works in the RA Collection with a further 6 associated works. From his early days growing up in Street House, through his early career commissions in the village (Prospect Cottage and The Corner) to his lasting legacy of New Delhi and The Cenotaph, he is surely Thursley's most acclaimed and eminent artist and Past Royal Academician.



Mercy Fosberry & her daughter Mary, by Eveline de la Belinay Lance

Village Calendar 2026

Deadline approaching



Given the sweltering temperatures we've had of late, here are a few past calendar entries from winter months to help cool you down.

We've already started receiving entries for the 2026 calendar. It's always great to see your ideas about the heart of the village: buildings, landscapes, wildlife, VE Day, cricket matches.



For 2026, we are also hoping to attract a new theme: **village residents in their doorways**. Might a neighbour take a shot of the family (pets included) on your doorstep in gentle morning or evening light?



There will again be a prize of £50 for the judges' favourite shot and entries are welcomed from all ages and abilities.

All funds raised will go to the Village Hall extension (charity number 1167105).

Closing date: 30th August 2025

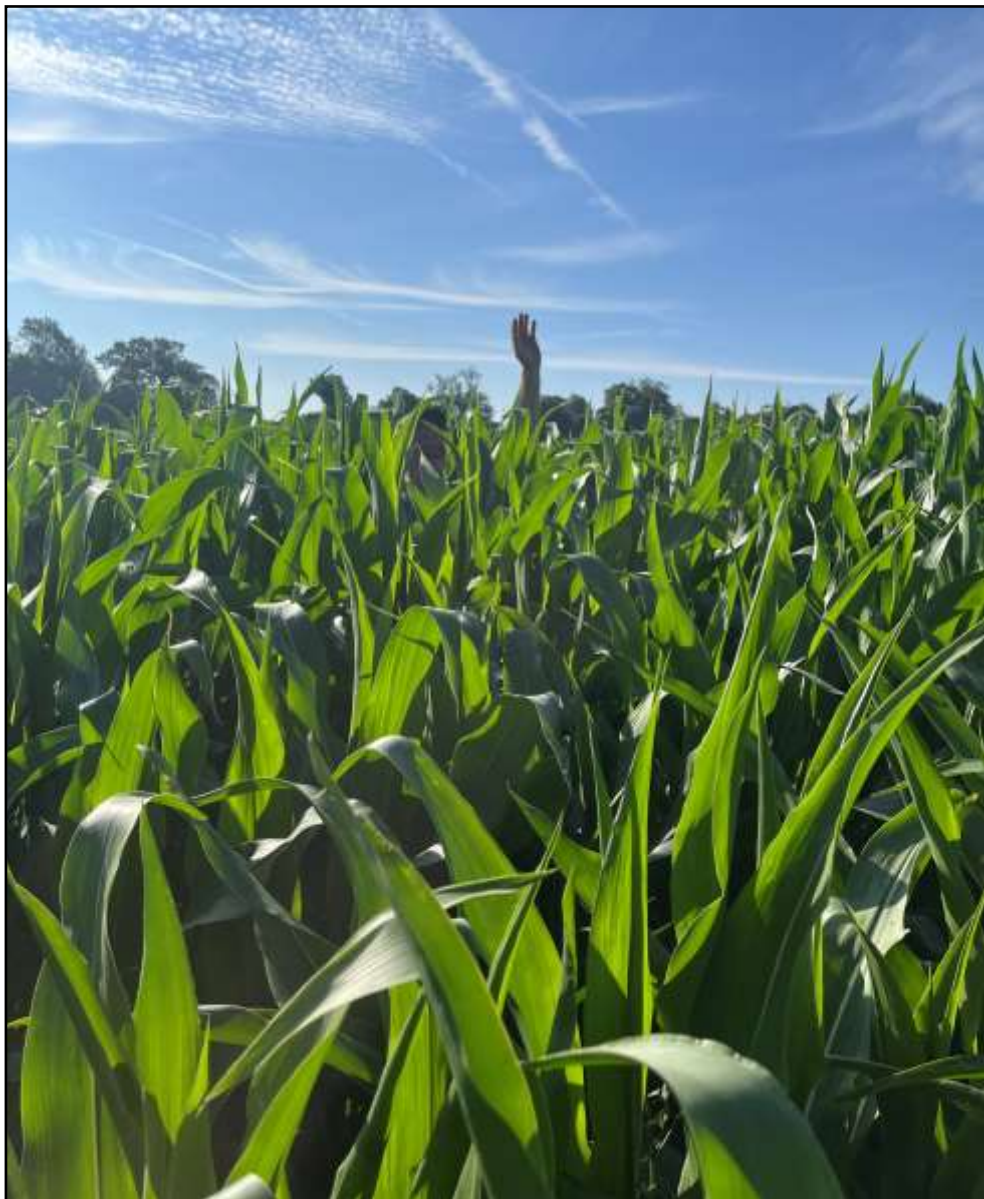
Please submit entries to Neil McIntyre (neil90south@gmail.com) with a short description or title and your details and age (if under 18)

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE FARM THIS MONTH?

By Jo Ranson

Yet again it has been hot and really too hot. The bit of rain we had last weekend was very welcome, but we need more. It was also very

welcome in that it broke the stupidly hot spell although it looks to be returning next weekend. We are constantly looking at the



weather apps now hoping for rain not for a break in it. It seems a long time ago now we were desperate for a dry day. As I have said before it should be easy to organise rain at night and warm sun during the day, if only it were that simple.

We are still struggling for grass around the cow paddocks here, but the last group get dried off this week and will get shipped off to further away fields with grass we have been saving for them. It does get a bit complicated because we sperate the cows into weekly dry-off groups, but they are then separated again into one group which have had antibiotics (reds) and ones which haven't (greens) and greens can't go into or through a field which red ones have been in. It would lead to 8 groups of cows, we don't have enough fields of grass for 8 groups, so week 1 and 2 reds join as do week 1 and 2 greens and so on. The heifers have joined a green group, which I thought would be great -the cows would bring them back into line (they are very much in the teenage stage, always right, find it difficult to follow rules and answer back) the trouble is the cows are a bit out numbered by heifers so think they are finding it tricky to keep on top of their tantrums.

Some cows love going on their holidays, lazing around in the sun, all inclusive buffet, no commuting to work. Others however are not so enamoured of the constant Jacob crackers style food, which is not good enough, so they will voice this opinion a lot when we check them. The heifers also voice their opinion whilst constantly trying to eat the neighbours' gardens; they

disconnected their own fencer unit (the cow slobbery cables are evidence enough for me) so no power obviously equals prune the gardens along the field boundary. If you value your plants, it might be an idea to not plant them close to our fence, unless of course you would like them pruned for free.

The maize has been motoring along, the saying goes "knee high by 4th July" - well as you can see it is head high (it is Nick in the photo and he is of a normal height). It is though going a bit spikey and starting to tassel which are signs of stress and is a little earlier than we would have liked as it doesn't tend to grow much more once it tassels. Again that rain last weekend may have taken the edge off the stress. Whilst we were out and about getting fields ready for dry cows to go into Toby and I noticed one of our large oak trees has almost split in half (could have been a lightning strike) and some huge branches have come down and are in the maize so it will have to wait until we have harvested it before we can do any removals, even then it will be tricky as it is a big tree. The dry weather and full leaf have made other branches come down too but nothing too dramatic - they can usually be shifted by hand or with the JCB. Also whilst checking the fencing in the fields I noticed a helicopter land on one of our fields near the A3 so thought we better investigate to make sure no cows were upset by it. We found the air ambulance (a cyclist had had a nasty accident) so we unlocked the gates for ambulance crews to go in and out of and left them to it.

For a while now we have been struggling for water either on

mains or bore hole. Last week as Matthew was getting cows in, he heard water leaking but, in the wood, and we don't have any water pipe in the wood. But this is getting serious, the cows were always in desperate need of water, so dig we must on a stupidly hot day, we all took it in turns to dig either with spade or JCB. Eventually we found the problem, tree roots had been pushing apart a T piece joiner over who knows how long and the water had found its way to a rabbit warren in the wood and was leaking out of it. So, we reset it all and put it all back in place neatly and water has been brilliant ever since. We replaced the bore hole pump 18 months ago because we thought it was becoming old, and it may have been the tree roots all along.

Having become very excited that our new cubicle shed was coming early last time I wrote, what actually turned up was the roof. Now I am no expert, but I do know you can't build from the top down. I received another phone call a week

later regarding another delivery from farmplus (the cubicle company). The lorry drivers are always very vague as to what is on board so again, we got very excited, and this time it was the guttering. I am hoping next week will be the actual cubicles as there will be no cows to milk, most of us have done our holidays (just Beth to squeeze one in) and we are all poised ready to go.

Whilst no cows are being milked we are having the parlour floor reset; the rubber flooring has bubbled up in several places over the years and it is now looking untidy, so whilst it is not being used and has time to dry out the company that fitted it are coming to do that - it is maintenance season.

There will be no milking to do but we will be building, making silage bales, getting the sheds ready for calving and perhaps getting the freeze branding of the baby heifers done too. All we need is some rain and cooler temperatures and we will be happy - perhaps!



THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Pat Clake

This summer the society has had a busy few months of talks and other events which have been hugely enjoyable. Our next event is at the beginning of September – hence the article in the August edition of the Parish magazine. The Autumn Show is on Saturday September 6th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall and we will warmly welcome new exhibitors and curious visitors on the day. The Village Hall will be full of exhibits – usually about 200 in all – laid out on benches. It makes a great display.

The Hall is set up by the committee and others on Friday evening and the entry cards laid out. Exhibitors are invited to bring their entries from 8.30am on the morning of Saturday 6th. They must be in place by 10.45 as the judging starts at 11. The Show opens at 2.30 when you can find refreshments and friends to chat to while you peruse the exhibits. People are always amazed! Prize giving at 4pm.

Exhibiting doesn't always sound like fun but there is a lot of enjoyment in it – and challenges too. Saturday mornings are special. As I bemoan the weather, the sorry state of my flowers (better when I picked them) and am dismayed to find I have only 3 stems instead of 5 for a certain class, there is always someone at my elbow who will sympathise and help. Vases are provided – but can I get my stems to stand up and face the front. Tricky. (tip – a small piece of newspaper in the vase helps) There is always a friendly atmosphere in the morning as we scurry around getting everything in place.

Entries for the show should be in by 6pm on Thursday 4th September. It is possible to make last minute alterations, but

having entries on the Thursday means that the proper entry cards will be ready and there will be enough spaces on the bench. Enter by email, by phone (01252 706869) or post into the box at the Village Hall.

The Schedule has all the details. Classes include a variety of Vegetables and Fruit, including Novelty classes like the 'Ugliest Vegetable' and the 'Largest pumpkin'. Floral Art classes list 'A Table Centrepiece' and, more challengingly - 'A Display on Water'. You could also enter foliage and berries, and 7 stems from your garden plus foliage (the latter is a class for novices) Plenty of time to think about this!

Roses and Dahlias figure prominently in the Flower class as well as vases of mixed flowers. Foliage and berries can also be entered. The Cookery classes include the classic Victoria Sandwich - do please use the Set Recipe in the Schedule for this.

You can enter a photo of Thursley or one of Wildlife in your Garden. Children should be encouraged to make Butterfly cakes, a bracelet and paint a stone – these last two could hopefully be done as part of summer holiday activities. Handicrafts classes are there for the creative hands and minds. Bring in a homemade garment (not yet worn), a piece of jewellery, or a picture of your choice. And do please make an impressive Autumn Wreath. It will be lovely to see lots on the walls at the hall.

Look at your schedule for all the details - or get in touch. New members welcome.

SUGAR & BAKES

By Camilla Daubeney



PEA & TARRAGON SOUP

It's summer and you don't want to be spending ages in a hot kitchen cooking, so this quick and easy soup is just the thing for supper with some crusty Ciabatta or a Baguette.

Ingredients

1 Litre Chicken Stock (or Vegetable Stock if you want to make this Vegetarian/Vegan)

600 g Peas (preferable fresh but frozen work just as well)

15g Fresh Tarragon leaves

Salt

Crispy fried bacon or pancetta to garnish

Method

1. Heat your stock of choice until it is simmering, add the peas and simmer until just cooked through.
2. Add the Tarragon and a pinch of salt and simmer for another couple of minutes.
3. Using a hand blender or a food processor, blend the soup to your desired consistency and then serve.

If you are wanting to add a garnish, break your crispy bacon/pancetta into small pieces and put on top of each bowl of soup.

COFFEE

morning

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



YOU ARE INVITED !

Saturday 27th September

11am - 1pm

Thursley Village Hall, Dye House Rd, Thursley GU8 6QD

Come together for a lovely morning of coffee, cake, and community spirit – all in aid of a Macmillan Cancer Care..

- ☕ Enjoy a hot drink and a homemade cookie with entry by donation
- 🍰 Browse a tempting selection of freshly baked cakes and local produce for sale
- 💎 Try your luck in our raffle – with some fantastic prizes to be won!

Let's raise funds and make a difference, one cup at a time.

We'd love to see you there!



Can't join us on the day ? You can also scan this QR code with your phone to donate directly to the Thursley Macmillan page. It's easy, quick and secure.

If you can support with donations cakes or produce to sell , raffle prizes or volunteer to help us on the day please email us.

Jackie Rickenberg – jackierickenberg@gmail.com

Maggie Smart – mcsmartm@gmail.com

Cakes & produce to be delivered to the village hall 9am - 10:30am on the day.

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED DIRECTLY TO MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT.

ECO-FRIENDLY LIVING - IT'S ECO-LOGICAL

By John Swift



Have you noticed how often the cost of energy is mentioned in the news? For electricity, it's been about how expensive it is compared with other countries. For gas and crude oil it's about how it's varied as a result of geopolitical events. That's all very well, but what does it mean? Are there just minor differences, or are they significant? Are there differences in the cost of energy between different sources of energy?

The problem in understanding what these prices mean is that they are often in different units – p/kWh for electricity and gas, p/litre for LPG, \$/Bbl for oil and £/load for wood. Fortunately for us, a not-for-profit organisation (Nottingham Energy Partnership) has been researching and publishing fuel data since 2007, and they have done all the hard work

of converting it for us into a common set of data!

Typical data for June 2025 are (see link below for source details):

Electricity (standard rate): 32.6p/kWh

LPG: 55p/litre = 9.0p/kWh @90% eff.

Oil: 47.9p/litre = 5.4p/kWh @90% eff.

Wood(1): 37.3p/Kg = 10.7p/kWh @85% eff.

and 26.0p/kWh @30% efficiency.

This means that electricity is currently more than 6 times as expensive as oil and 3.5 times more expensive than LPG. Oil prices are relatively low right now, and electricity is high so this difference is unusual. Understanding the price of various energy sources (and their carbon intensity) helps evaluate choices to reduce one's carbon footprint.

Just over 3 years ago we installed solar PV panels on our house and have tracked the operating data since then. Our system uses the generated electricity first, uses any surplus to heat our hot water and exports any remaining surplus. Using this data, and the relative pricing of buying and exporting electricity and the cost of oil that is saved by using electricity to heat our hot water, it's possible to get an indication of how long it will take for the savings to pay off the investment. Over the past 3 years the price of buying and exporting electricity has changed, but the amount of electricity generated each year has been 1583 kWh $\pm$ 50 kWh. This has translated into savings of £780, and so it will take about 16 years to pay back the initial investment of £4,200. This is longer than we first thought, but at least the Solar PV electricity is zero carbon.

Although the relative cost of electricity is at an all-time high (for UK) due to the link with gas-fuelled generation, we can expect it will revert to a more normal value (3 times as expensive) – or even lower – as the UK transitions to more wind/solar powered generation (by 2030). It goes without saying that electricity based on renewable energy has a negligible carbon footprint compared with fossil fuels, and so is part of the solution to the 2050 net-zero goal.

If you want more information about any of these ideas or wish to help, please contact:

jds swift@btinternet.com

www.nottenergy.com/advice-and-tools/project-energy-cost-comparison

(1) An open fire is only 30% efficient at best, while a wood burning stove is likely to be better than 65% efficient.

Milford Probus Club lunch & talk on Friday 19 September 2025

Britain's atomic v bombers – a personal memoir

Our speaker after a friendly lunch on Friday 19 September will suggest to members of Milford Probus club and visitors (always welcome) that the Cold War of the 1960s has uncomfortable resonances with today.

While much of Britain embraced the swinging sixties, the threat from an aggressive Soviet Union was deadly serious. The Royal Air Force's role in countering that threat included a formidable nuclear deterrent provided by Britain's V Bomber Force. Around the country, nuclear armed aircraft with highly trained crews were on duty 24/7, able to be airborne in two minutes. The purpose of such potent defence was to ensure that no sane person would dare challenge let alone test it. It worked. Our speaker Andy Richardson, one of those crew members, believes that the RAF V Force provided the safest decade for our country in recent history.

Come and hear Andy's story first hand. Lunch and talk are just £32.

neil.bamford1@btinternet.com

COMING BACK TO LIFE

By Lizzie Young



Another month, another deadline, another blank page...here I lie like a consumptive Victorian heroine, energy sapped by the heat, wilting like the geraniums I am not supposed to be watering with a hose, and scorched like Hankley (thank goodness this one wasn't too serious...) by an afternoon with the mad dogs and Englishmen.

It's been the loveliest few days. Of course, because I'm British, I will note that it is a little too hot. But goodness me, the sunshine is glorious. We were down in the West Country this weekend, visiting my baby brother. He lives in rural South West France with his wife and four children (actually, they're four young adults now, scattered across Europe for education...), and we don't see nearly enough of him. He left England twenty years ago, with his wife, a toddler and newborn twins, and has been there, south of Toulouse, ever since. He's even French now. Since he was over to visit my parents, David

and I headed down for a family dinner. It is not lost on any of us, I believe, that to have both parents hale and hearty in their eighties, all siblings present and correct, still happily married to the self-styled 'outlaws', and to be able to sit down to dinner together, is a huge privilege and tremendous good luck. Next summer marks their sixtieth wedding anniversary, my folks, and we plan, if that luck holds, to gather all 24 of us to celebrate, and what an occasion that will be. These are the moments...

Anyway, we were ahead of schedule, having allowed extra time for the A303 at Stonehenge – rubbish at the best of times, and truly rubbish on a summer changeover Saturday morning, we thought...but the traffic gods were kind to us, so we stopped in Sherborne for a coffee and a mooch on the pretty high street that runs up from the Abbey. And that is where an exciting thing happened...

Nope – not the pretty little cashmere sweater in the excellent sale in the clothing shop I always like to browse in, nor the small green glass vase that is an exact match for one I already have and will look lovely with flowers on my dining table.... It happened in the independent bookshop.... We always like to support an independent bookshop – they are rarer and rarer. For years we lived

under a self-imposed Amazon ban. I say self – it was David, champion of the independent and small chain – who banned the rest of us. The ban is lifted these days, because...well, because Amazon.... But we still prefer to buy books from proper bookshops. On this occasion it was Bob Mortimer's new novel *The Hotel Avocado*. I loved his first one, but allegedly gave it away (oops) before David had read it. He's a very funny man, absolutely brilliant on *Would I Lie to You*, and he'd definitely be at my fantasy dinner party. Anyhow...I digress, shocker... that's where the exciting thing happened. I felt the bubble of creative juices.... I felt like I'd like to sit down...and write.... Yep...I felt a faint, an almost imperceptible urge to return to the (currently largely imaginary) novel.

For me this feels like I imagine it feels to sit on a surfboard on a millpond sea and suddenly sense a wave you might be able to surf. I'd been talking about/boring (delete as applicable) a new and lovely friend about the subject matter over supper in the week, and had been aware that explaining my story had made me excited about telling it. And the bookshop...well, it got me going. What's that aphorism about success being 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration? I don't agree, not when it comes to writing. There's plenty of the latter, for sure, of the cerebral variety, but it isn't worth a damn without a healthy dollop of the former.

I love to hear other writer's detail their inspiration/perspiration ratios. The extraordinarily fertile imagination of J K Rowling apparently imagined all seven years (and thus novels) Harry Potter would spend at Hogwarts before she started *The Philosopher's Stone*. EL James allegedly conceived of her phenomenally successful *Fifty Shades of Grey* as a piece of fan fiction homage to her crush on Robert Pattinson as Edward Cullen in *Twilight*. The author of *Twilight* itself, Stephenie Meyer, claims the whole concept came to her in a dream.

I've never had that, alas, but all ten of my previous novels have seeded in different ways. The first, about book groups, was the joyful realisation in my own reading group that such a gathering was an ideal (and commercial!) setting for the characters I had created but didn't know how to pose. *The Way We Were* started when I heard from an old boyfriend after many years. In some ways I was *The Girl in The Girl Next Door*, my ode to the loneliness I felt in New York. And *Things I Want My Daughters to Know* is a love letter to my own girls but sprang properly to life when I found a silly little gift book with the same title in a branch of Anthropologie in Miami (you can't copyright a title). My new novel did deliver itself to my imagination as a skeletal but thrillingly complete plot, standing in York in 2022. It's lain dormant for too long. And I think it's coming back to life....

PHYLLIS TUCKWELL LEADS THE WAY WITH WALKIES FUNDRAISER



Take part in this pet-powered fundraising event and help support local Hospice Care!

Phyllis Tuckwell's Walkies challenge will take place across the whole of September. Simply walk 100k with your dog over the month, and get friends and family to sponsor you. It's a great way to spend some quality time together, meet other dogs and their walkers, and enjoy the late summer sunshine.

There's a £5 registration fee, and once you've registered you'll be sent a fundraising pack, containing a bandana for your dog, and a tracker which you can use to mark off your milestones over the month. You can also buy a Phyllis Tuckwell t-shirt to wear on your walks, so you and your dog match! At the end of the month, Phyllis Tuckwell will arrange a group dog walk, so that everyone can finish the final few kilometres together and celebrate their success.

All of the money raised through the Walkies challenge will help fund the palliative and end of life care that Phyllis Tuckwell provides for local patients and families living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer. Every day it support over 250 patients, relatives and carers, through medical and nursing care, therapies, counselling, social work advice and practical support, but as the NHS/Government only cover around 25% of its costs, it has to raise over £25,000 every single day to do this.

To register or find out more, visit **www.pth.org.uk/walkies**



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 retake 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



If you would like to know more about the Foodbank and how you can help, please contact Rev Delia on 0735 9098 655 or email:

minister@parishesofetsph.org

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There is already lots going on - everyone is welcome, so get involved, join one of the village societies or start one of your own.

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www.thursleyvillagehall.co.uk



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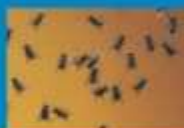
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