THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

St Michael & All Angels

AUGUST 2026

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EDITORIAL
By Tricia Horwood

***Well** it's certainly been a dramatic summer so far –we've had the excitement of Arthur Ferry getting to the quarter finals at Wimbledon, the FIFA world cup, a new prime minister and a prolonged heatwave! And at home, despite the heat, village life has flourished, with walking cricket, Friday night drinks outside the village hall, and the Gobles brilliant Barn Dance.*

***Although** August tends to be a quieter (and hopefully wetter) month, there is still plenty happening over the coming weeks, and one exciting opportunity comes from our church, which is launching a bell ringing class for anyone who has ever been curious about this traditional skill. Whether you're a complete beginner or have rung bells in the past and would like to refresh your knowledge, everyone is welcome. If you've ever wondered what it's like to ring the church bells, now is the perfect chance to find out (see p13).*

***Our** village pavilion renovation project continues to gather momentum, and thanks to the generosity of residents and supporters, we are now within sight of our fundraising target. A JustGiving page has been created to help raise the final £50,000 needed to complete the project. The renovated pavilion will provide an invaluable facility for sports clubs, community groups and local events for many years to come (see p24).*

***We** are also pleased to welcome a new independent veterinary practice to nearby Haslemere, which opened its doors two months ago. Their arrival offers pet owners greater choice and access to veterinary care close to home and we wish the team every success (see p36).*
*And finally, a reminder for all keen photographers: the closing date for entries to this year's village calendar photo competition is **30th August**. The annual calendar is always a wonderful showcase of local talent and captures the changing beauty of our village throughout the seasons.* ***Wishing you all an amazing August!***

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SERVICES FOR THE PARISH OF ELSTEAD, THURSLEY SHACKLEFORD & PEPER HAROW

AUGUST

SUNDAY 2nd Trinity 10	**9.45am** 10.30am	**Communion at St Michael's, Thursley** Modern Service at St James' Church, Elstead
SUNDAY 9th Trinity 11	9.15am	Communion at St James' Church, Elstead
SUNDAY 16th St Mary's Patronal	11.00am	Patronal Service with Communion at St Mary's, Shackleford
SUNDAY 23rd Trinity 13	10.00am	Communion at St Nicholas Church, Peper Harow
SUNDAY 30th Trinity 14	9.15am	Communion at St James', Elstead

www.parishesofetsph.org.uk

AUGUST

CHURCH CLEANING

(Please contact Sallie Roles if you can help)

Sarah TRAILL Jo KELLY

CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

(Please contact Caroline Mendelssohn if you can help)

2nd Sallie ROLES

LOCAL & VILLAGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

Friday 7th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes.** Village Hall. All welcome. See p24.
Friday 14th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes.** Village Hall. All welcome.
Saturday 15th	10.00am	**Churchyard Working Party.** St Michael & All Angels Church. All help welcome.
Friday 21st	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes** Village Hall. All welcome.
Friday 28th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes** Village Hall. All welcome.

Village Table Tennis (open to everyone) is held every Tuesday evening from 6-7pm in the pavilion. If you'd like to come along please email Andy Hanbury in advance on **ahanbury@btinternet.com**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday, 5th September
HORTS SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW

Tuesday, 15th September
HISTORY SOCIETY GUIDED TOUR OF BROOKLANDS MUSEUM

Saturday, 10th October
HARVEST SUPPER

VOLUNTEER COOKS NEEDED FOR HARVEST SUPPER

There would be no Harvest Supper without our team of volunteer cooks. If you would be happy to cook a main or pudding for eight people please contact me, Sally Scheffers, **scheffers@btinternet.com**. I very much look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

CHURCH LETTER

By Revd Delia Orme

Dear Friends,

We are well into the wedding season, and it is wonderful that so many couples wish to marry, including those who choose to marry in church. A wedding is such a special day for the couple and their families as they come together to hear and see what love is: in the Bible readings and poems chosen for the service, and in the faces and voices of the couple and those who love them.

In the wedding service, we use traditional words that have been spoken by many generations before us. The declarations and vows show us how love is lived out: through comfort, honour, protection, faithfulness and promises made publicly before God.

The first declaration we ask is:
N, will you take N to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Such loving words and what we would wish for all our families.

Then the vows are:
I, N, take you, N, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part; according to God's holy law.

In the presence of God I make this vow.

These old, traditional words may resonate with you, perhaps reminding you of promises of love you have made in the past, or prompting you to reflect on how a relationship might be refreshed today.

A key suggestion I make is to keep talking to each other. Set aside regular time away from distractions, so that you can really communicate about how you are feeling and where you are heading in life. Do you have a monthly date night?

Love needs feeding and nurturing through the time and attention you give to it. Life will bring more challenges, and you may not always feel ready for them or react well at first. Just remember that God forgives and gives us another chance, so offer each other that same forgiveness and grace.

After such a conversation, you might decide you would like to renew your vows; we have a special service for that at any age. If you have not found that one special person, you can still adapt these words to the other important people in your life and take time to refresh the love you show them. If you did have that special loving relationship but have lost it and grieve for that loss, I hope you can remember what you had with a smile and count the blessings you gained from that love.

Jesus told us to love God, and to love our neighbour. Perhaps the words we hear in a wedding service can help us see more clearly how to do that. If we live them out, the world will indeed be a better place.

LEARN THE ART OF BELL RINGING AT ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

By Simon Treadwell

In 2030 our church, St Michael & All Angels celebrates its 1000th anniversary and one of the things we would like to do to mark the anniversary is to get the bells working properly. This does require some maintenance work on the bells, but it is not worth doing unless we have some bell ringers in the village! The aim is to ring the bells for normal services as well as for weddings and special events.

Bell ringing is one of England's oldest musical traditions, and at St Michael & All Angels, it could be come again one aspect at the hear of village life. Our bells have marked celebrations, commemorations, and community gatherings for generations. Now, we are looking for new learners to join us and keep this wonderful tradition thriving.

You don't need musical experience or special skills to begin. Bell ringing is a craft taught entirely from scratch, and learners progress at their own pace. What matters most is enthusiasm, a willingness to participate and a desire to be part of a friendly, supportive team. Many people find ringing surprisingly absorbing: it blends rhythm, coordination, teamwork and a touch of gentle physicality. Its also a brilliant way to meet new people and feel more connected to the village.

Our learning will be carried out under the tutelage of the Bell Captain at Witley Church (Mark Gill). He has suggested that any Thursley volunteers join the WhatsApp group at Witley to stay in touch. The sessions are normally on a Monday evening but not every Monday. Sessions are relaxed, welcoming, and open to all ages from teenagers upwards. Experienced ringers will guide you through each stage from handling a bell safely to ringing simple methods. Whitin a few weeks, most learners can take part in Sunday ringing, contributing to the soundscape that has defined Thursley for centuries.

Bell ringing offers something rare today: a chance to learn a traditional skill, contribute to the community, and enjoy a shared activity that is both calming and energising. Whether you are seeking a new hobby, a social group or simply a way to give back, the belfry door is open.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Simon Treadwell on:

07799 600 470

or

charlessimontreadwell@gmail.com

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

By Chairman James Mendelssohn

Many people imagine that the work of a Parish Council consists of little more than approving minutes, discussing pot holes and occasionally commenting on a planning application. The reality could not be more different. Every meeting brings a fresh set of challenges, some of which no one could possibly predict, as we discovered at our July meeting.

One of the more unusual topics concerned peacocks. A large number of these magnificent birds have been seen wandering well beyond the boundaries of the estate where they are kept. While they are undoubtedly impressive to look at, they have become an increasing nuisance. They are damaging gardens, leaving a considerable amount of mess and, more seriously, wandering onto local roads, creating a potential hazard for motorists.

To date, we believe that they have only crossed the A3 via the bridge, but if they made it on to the main carriageway, the consequences could be extremely dangerous. We therefore discussed how best to work with the Environmental Health team at Waverley and the owner to find a practical solution that protects both the birds and public safety.

The meeting then turned to a very different issue: vandalism at the village cricket pavilion. Although scheduled for redevelopment, the pavilion remains an important community asset. A recent act of vandalism has caused unnecessary damage, and we were extremely fortunate that one of our Councillors, Tom Taylor Mathews is a very adept and practical engineer, and he was able to make the damage good, without us incurring any costs. Nevertheless, it remains a concern that someone locally can act in such a mindless way.

Planning matters are, of course, a regular feature of Parish Council meetings, but they are rarely straightforward. This month we considered an application that enjoys broad support within the village because of its overall benefits. However, several aspects of the proposal have raised genuine concerns among nearby residents and other interested parties, some 15 of whom came to our meeting to explain their worries. A planning consultant representing the applicant was also present.

Views were expressed strongly but fairly. As a Council, we are part of the planning process, but whatever the strength of feeling, we cannot interfere with that process. Rather, we need to carefully examine the details and listen to differing views, before submitting balanced comments to Waverley that reflect both our own opinions and also the concerns of others.

Finally, perhaps the most unexpected item on the agenda involved a magpie. A young bird had apparently been hand-reared and has become exceptionally tame. Unfortunately, this has led to increasingly bold behaviour. The bird has reportedly been flying into people's houses, landing on kitchen tables and, in some cases, even perching on residents' heads. While the story might sound amusing at first, several villagers have found the experience unsettling, and the Council discussed what advice could be given and which organisations might be able to help.

Whilst our July meeting was perhaps more diverse than normal, these four issues illustrate why serving on a Parish Council is anything but routine. Alongside planning and potholes, we regularly find themselves dealing with wildlife, community safety, environmental concerns, legal questions and the unexpected situations that arise in village life.

As the first tier of local government and the level closest to residents, our job is to listen, investigate, represent the community and work constructively with local authorities, organisations and residents to resolve problems wherever we can.

Everyone is, of course, very welcome to come along to one of our meetings. You may be surprised by just how varied, challenging and rewarding they can be.
We do not meet in August and so the next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1 September at 7.00 pm.

Would You Like to Receive Notifications of Village/Church News?

The PCC are considering setting up a parish WhatsApp group to keep villagers informed when someone in our community has died and to share details of funeral arrangements, where the family is happy for this information to be made public.

The aim is to help neighbours and friends stay informed, offer their support, and have the opportunity to attend funerals or remember those who have passed away.

If you would like to be included in this WhatsApp group, please contact Susanna Hunter with your mobile number on:

Tel: 07833 574152/ email: susanna@parishesofetsph.org

Please note that this group would be for announcements only and not for general discussion, helping to ensure that important information is shared clearly and respectfully.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY UPDATE

By Pat Clake

I hope that by the time this is read that the heatwaves and droughts of May, June and July will seem but a memory, however the effect on our gardens will be quite long lasting and may make us reconsider what is planted where next year.

Whatever the weather the Autumn Show on Saturday 5th September will go ahead and will probably amaze us once again. Thursley Horticultural Society has a good reputation to uphold. Aside from the usual vegetable, fruit and flower classes, the Novelty section – open to any age- will, I hope, encourage you to nurture your largest pumpkin, ugliest vegetable, heaviest potato and a very long runner bean! The Floral Art classes have been very well thought out to attract both experienced and novice entries. There have been some fantastically imaginative entries recently. Find the 'Harvest Festival' class, or enter a 'Bee Friendly' vase, or just arrange foliage with seeds and berries. (class 39). Do be careful though, to observe the width stipulation, so that there is plenty of room on the bench for lots of entries. There is no height restriction, so reach as high as you wish!

Cookery classes include a Gluten-free Cake using your own favourite recipe – maybe list the main ingredients to guide the judge. There is also a class for a Courgette Cake to be made to the set recipe in the back of the schedule. Create 3 Gingerbread people – use your imagination there - and take up the challenge of making non-dairy Brownies.

The children's classes are equally interesting, and we hope there will be time for making these before school gets underway. Children are invited to make individually named Mr and Mrs Potato Head. Those who have grown sunflowers, maybe from the seedlings or little plants provided by Amanda Flint, are encouraged to send a photograph of the sunflower to our email address, or bring a photo to put on the bench. It may even be possible to measure the sunflower growing in the garden! Carved pumpkins are especially welcome. A tough job that that may require a hand from parents.

A new initiative this year, designed by Anne Treadwell to show your creative side as well as your growing skills, is '**Give it a Show'.** This has a competitive side to it but is to celebrate our gardens by entering flowers, fruit and vegetables as a very local team. To enter, please contact us by 3rd September on:

thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk

There are a few rules to guide you listed opn the page opposite.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 5th September. Meanwhile enjoy August in your garden.

To join Thursley Horticultural Society, please email:

thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk

GIVE IT A SHOW

Thursley Horticultural Society Autumn Show
5th September 2026

We invite members of all ages, whether experienced gardeners or budding enthusiasts, to join our neighbourhood competition showing the wonderful flowers and vegetables that we grow in our gardens.

Teams of up to 6 members will join forces to show a creative display of homegrown flowers and produce. We are looking for free-style creative displays of colour and form celebrating the beauty of our gardens and the joy they give us.

There are very few rules, but entries must meet these requirements:

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Any number of flowers (cut or growing in pots)
Any number of vegetables and fruits
All flowers, vegetables and fruits must be grown by members of the team
Entries must be displayed on a tray measuring about 60 x 90 cm (tray to be provided by the THS committee)

TEAM CAPTAINS
Bowlhead Green (Anne Treadwell)
Friends of Thursley (Tina Chant)
Pitch Place (Pat Clake)
Thursley Village (Bruce Pywell)

JUDGING
The entries will be judged by our Floral Art Judge, Zoe.

TIMELINE
Entry notification to **thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co**.uk on 3rd September by 6 PM.
Staging on 5th September from 8.30 till 10.45 in The Village Hall.

Please contact your area captain to join your local team.

We welcome more than one team from each neighbourhood and if you are not yet a member of the THS, this is a great opportunity to join us.

THURSLEY HISTORY SOCIETY
(est1991)

Brrroom, Brrroom, Brooklands

As part of its year of transport history, the Thursley History Society is delighted to invite you to a guided tour of Brooklands Museum in Weybridge.

2026 is the Centenary of the First British Grand Prix held at Brooklands Race Track.

We will meet on Tuesday 15th September at 11am at Brooklands Museum.

We will have a guide from Brooklands Museum as well as our own Brooklands expert, Tim Wakeley, to show us round. After our tour we can then wander round and see the buses and the planes and everything else Brooklands Museum has to offer.
The cost per person is £25

Please book with Sally Scheffers:
scheffers@btinternet.com

Village calendar photos

Thank you to the early birds who have already submitted images.

There's still time to send in your best village photos.

It's always great to see your favourite shots of village life: buildings, landscapes, wildlife, events, gatherings, neighbours, ….

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 1167105).

Closing date: 30th August 2026

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

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

By Clea Beechey

Friday Night Shoes has become a fast favourite in the village, with numbers increasing every week and a steady set of regulars. We've honed our bar to suit pretty much every taste. We often have specials - such as G&T, Pimm's or Sangria - and always try to have ice cold lager (!), TEA bitter, cider, prosecco, a choice of rosés, whites and red wines, zero beer, coke and other soft drinks. With the beautiful weather we've been having, we've taken to setting up the bar and tables in the shade of the giant Holm Oak at the front of the Hall - a lovely dappled shady area, just the perfect setting. Inside we have the giant screen set to whatever the big sporting event of the day is - we've enjoyed the Wimbledon men's semi finals and several gripping World Cup matches. We also provide games, such as draughts, backgammon, chess, cribbage, dominoes, Uno etc. Kids and dogs always welcome!

In other news, we are planning an exciting talk by Thursley's very own Dave Rowntree - "Blur on Mars". This is the story of how Blur came to be commissioned to produce the musical call -sign for the British Beagle 2 Mars lander in 2003. Date yet to be confirmed, but it will be soon, and is a definite not to be missed event! Watch this space!

Our Christmas Fair is back as usual - Sunday 29th November. If you would like to book a table, contact Amanda Hall or Valerie Ferris as soon as possible, as slots tend to fill up fast. Last year's fair was the best ever, with a superb variety of local crafts and goodies on sale - why bother with the Christmas rush on the High Street when all your gift needs can be met in one fell swoop at your local village hall? Save the date …

We are still looking for help to put on a Scarecrow Trail this autumn at Halloween time. It has been so successful in the past - enjoyed by 100s of children and adults for miles around. It's a super project to occupy the kids as well in coming up with their own scarecrow to fit the theme. If you can help, please contact Valerie Ferris.

We are currently fundraising to replace the somewhat jaded curtains in the hall. The green floral look definitely speaks of ages past … The money we are raising from the Friday Night Shoes is going towards this, and if you'd like to make an additional donation, we'd be very grateful. Contact any of us if you'd like to contribute.

Current trustees are: Clea Beechey, Valerie Ferris, Amanda Hall, Alison Hanbury, Lynette Lawson-Tyers and Lynne Stewart Brindle. We are always looking for others to join us - it's good fun and a great way to get to know everyone in the village, so please let us know if you'd be interested.

And lastly, a reminder … we have all sorts of useful things at the Village Hall, which are all available for villagers to borrow in return for a donation. It's your Village Hall, after all! For example, we have a basic wheelchair, trestle tables (both long and square), plastic chairs, crockery (both plain white and classic Woods Ware Beryl Green), cutlery (both basic and a nicer set we use for weddings), giant tea pots, tea urns etc. Contact Alison Hanbury, the Hall Manager, if we can help.

SUGAR & BAKES

By Camilla Daubeney

CUCUMBER & MINT GAZPACHO

For a light but healthy lunch or supper on the very hot days when you crave something other than a salad, this Gazpacho might be the perfect dish (and its quick to make). This recipe will serve two.

Ingredients

1 cucumber cut in half lengthways, deseeded and chopped
2 yellow peppers, deseeded and chopped
2 crushed garlic cloves
1 avocado
1 bunch spring onions
1 small bunch mint
150ml pot of natural yoghurt
2 tbsp white wine vinegar
1 tbsp Tabasco sauce

Method

1. In a food processor or blender, blitz all the ingredients until smooth.

2. Add a little extra vinegar, Tabasco and seasoning to taste.

3. Chill until very cold, then serve with a dollop more yogurt, some fresh mint leaves (and a few ice cubes if you like). The soup will keep in the fridge for 2 days – give it a good stir before serving.

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE FARM THIS MONTH?

By Jo Ranson

All the tricks we tried last month to make it rain were carried out again, but it's just not working; final resort is that Nick and I go on holiday and guess what - it is due to rain both here and where we are going (so the forecast says anyway). I actually don't even mind if it rains whilst we are away - it's gone on too long and I need hydrating with rain as much as the cows and grass do. It is also a chance to show off the farmer tan (which is very embarrassing actually) Mainly on the legs - is a bit like Neapolitan ice cream - very white tops of the thighs from shorts, to very brown knees, then there are a couple of shades of brown from welly and work boot wearing, then very white feet from socks. We are slowly but surely resigning our selves that these summers are going to become the norm and we are going to have to monitor grass more in the spring to be able to cope in the summer, either by feeding the cows even when they are out grazing, growing more grass to enable to do this and then keep tighter control on the number of cows we have where and when.

We have been drying the cows off over the last month and it is quite a lengthy process. Each cow's teats get washed, she then gets milked, whilst she is being milked, she gets tail taped (green for sealant only, red for antibiotics and sealant). Once she is milked, she has each teat washed, then tubed in each teat depending on the colour of the tape. Teat sprayed and vitamin bloused. We have also tied in their blue tongue vaccine which has to be done twice, two weeks apart. There are about 60 – 65 cows each week to dry off, so it takes 6 of us approximately 4.5 hours to do each group. It's a long morning particularly when it's hot. This year we have decided to seal the heifers too. Over the past 2-3 years we have had a few heifers get mastitis within a few days of calving. This is probably because heifers' bag up (udder size increases) a long time before they calve and can run their milk several days before they calve so the teat canal is open long before they start coming in to be milked, allowing bacteria to get in. So, we are hoping that by sealing them they won't have an open teat canal until they actually calve, by which time a calf will be sucking it, or we will be milking it. The only issue with sealing them is that they haven't yet had an open canal so getting tubes in

to insert the sealant was tricky. That was a really long day as we had to get them brought back from one farm to here where we have a better crush to put them in. Do the sealing, blue tongue them bolus them and fly spray and there was 59 to do and only 3 of us (some had already gone on holiday) whilst also milking and checking all the other cows.

The last group of cows get dried off tomorrow and then all will be on holiday. This has advantages and disadvantages too. Advantages being the cows really aren't up for walking back to the parlour in the afternoon in the heat, it's too much for heavily pregnant cows so they will enjoy that side. We can give the parlour a really good clean, get lots of building maintenance jobs done without cows being in and out of the buildings, and our holidays can be fitted in. Disadvantages are we aren't selling any milk, so income is down. The cows get bored being on holiday as they like routine and the feed offerings are like eating Jacob's crackers permanently for 4-6 weeks.

I am not sure if it is another advantage or not, but we have our main dreaded Arla inspection coming up in a couple of weeks so having the parlour and dairy not in use allows us to get that all in sparkling condition before that happens. All the dry cow antibiotics will be used, so more space in the locked cupboards to get the medicines in, time to get paperwork uploaded. The Arla one has higher standards than the red tractor inspection, so we will be weeding, sweeping and washing everything.

Another cut of silage has been done, and we have now filled the heifer clamp which is a relief, just now need to get some more clamp or bales done for calves and some spare (to help with the new norm of hot summers). Rain now would be very much appreciated to get that going. The maize has grown well after that bit of rain last month but even that is looking a bit stressed, the leaves go spiky looking and it is starting to tassel, once it starts tassling it doesn't tend to grow much more before making cobs. On the whole it is looking good and very few weeds in the bottom.

A lot of fencing finding has had to be done this month, bracken is excelling in the hot weather and really bogs down our electric fencing, so before we can move dry cows or youngstock to their next field we have had to hedge cut out the bracken to find the fence. Nick or Toby do the hedge cutting and at times it is really hard not to break the wire or posts that are hiding in there. Beth or I get the task of following them round doing the repairs whilst also receiving most of the horsefly or mosquito bites!!!

Most of our straw has come in this week too, all things needed in the build up to calving time. I will be given a list as long as my arm of things we need to have in time for calving, (buckets, teats for feeders, gloves, to name but a few) and the whole process starts again.

AN UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE THURSLEY PAVILION PROJECT

Dear Villagers,

We are delighted to share some excellent news on the fundraising front.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of local residents, businesses, charitable trusts and grant providers, we have now raised more than £550,000 towards the new Thursley Pavilion. This is a remarkable achievement and reflects the tremendous support the project has received from across our community.

Reaching this milestone brings us significantly closer to our goal of creating a modern pavilion that will serve not only cricket but also a wide range of community activities for many years to come.

Whilst planning and statutory applications are progressing, and we continue to pursue grant funding, we are also pleased to announce the launch of our new JustGiving page, making it easier than ever for anyone who would like to support the project.

Whether you choose to donate £10, or sponsor a brick for £50, or make a larger contribution, every donation helps move us one step closer to turning the plans into reality.

If every household in Thursley contributed what they could, however large or small, together we can help bridge the remaining funding gap of £50,000 and bring this exciting project to completion.

You can donate by visiting our JustGiving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/charity/Thursley-Pavilion

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported the project so far. We look forward to keeping you updated as we move ever closer to making the new Thursley Pavilion a reality.

With best wishes,

The Trustees
Thursley Pavilion Project

FRIDAY NIGHT SHOES

So we lost the football ... Never mind - come and drown your sorrows with the rest of the village every Friday from 6pm! All your favourite bevvies on ice, plus crisps, nuts, sunshine, a gentle breeze and great company. Dogs and kids welcome, as always. See you there!

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE SHOES

THURSLEY VILLAGE HALL—ALL WELCOME

CHURCHYARD WALK

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

Thursley History Society organised a churchyard walk on Thursday 18th June 2026. As it turned out, it was a beautifully warm summers evening, lending itself perfectly to the interesting and informative walk and the supper afterwards, under the oak tree in the John Freeman Memorial field. A bucolic scene for the 35 attendees, on what was one of the longest days of the year.

If you're like me, we walk through and past our churchyard with regular frequency and of course, we know the well-known tales of a small number of the tombs and gravestones – the murdered sailor's monument, the - until fairly recently - unmarked grave of the "Wigwam murder" victim, Joan Pearle Wolfe and the grand headstone for the Bossom family, killed in an air crash over Hankley Common. However, there are an abundant number of headstones that we've never really known much about or haven't even stopped to read and it was these that the two guides – Amanda Flint and Sally Scheffers – concentrated on. And the most unexpected take-home from the night? Who knew that Marianne Faithfull's great, great, great aunt, Una Faithfull, lies in our churchyard? Younger readers, look her up!

The evening was such a success and oversubscribed, that we will repeat again, probably same time next year. So, if you didn't manage to make this one, can I highly recommend that you book early for the next. The transcript of Amanda and Sally's talks are on the website (thanks to the ever-efficient Mr Young) but I thought I'd whet your appetite by including an excerpt from Una Faithfull's story.

"An early print of the church shows the area on the south side, full of these wooden memorials (known as leaping boards) set at different angles and with the inscriptions on the westward side (before about 1860) or the eastward (after that date) as the stone ones also are.

The one remaining leaping board (see above) in the churchyard belongs to Una Maude Faithfull 1875-1911. The now illegible epitaph reads:

"To them that knew her there is vital flame
In these the simple letters of her name
To them that knew her not be it but said
So strong a spirit is not of the dead".

Una was born in Hoddesdon, Herts in 1875. She was the youngest of one older brother and five older sisters (all fascinating in their own ways but see the website for more details). By the age of twenty-five, she was single, working as a secretary and living at The Old Vicarage in Farnham with two of her older sisters. In the same year she appears in The Alloa Advertiser, in a report on the Silver Wedding of Lord and Lady Balfour of Burleigh, as amongst the list of gifts is "Miss Una Faithfull's silver box". Four years later she is in The Morning Advertiser's headline "A Hyde Park Incident: Edward Bowler, 24, no home, bricklayer, was charged, with attempting to steal a purse belonging to Miss Una Faithfull of Palace Gate, Kensington. Miss Faithfull was walking with other ladies in Hyde Park, when the prisoner snatched her purse. He then tried to run away, but was captured by Constable Cousins, who had been

watching him from a place of concealment. The prisoner, in defence, said the affair was "an accident" owing to his having taken "a tidy drop of beer". He was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour".

At the next census of 1911 (aged thirty-six) she was noted as Head of Student Boarding, High House, Chilcomb Within, Hampshire. Sadly, that same year, Una died, at Salviday or Saturday Cottages (?) Thursley, and was buried here by Rev Hudson on the 21st August 1911. For her probate entry Una's address is given as 20 Queensbury Place Kensington. She is listed as a spinster who died at Thursley, near Farnham, Surrey. Una left £998 13s 2d, which in 2026 would be worth about £152,500.

Una came from a well-educated, well to do family and she had very good social connections. And yet, despite that she has a very simple wooden grave marker as opposed to a headstone and no strong connection to Thursley that is obvious (please get in touch if you know more). Today her leaping board, though illegible, is the only one left and so Una has, thankfully come to our attention".

This article is researched and written by Sally Scheffers and the full version - along with hers and Amanda Flint-Roberts full commentary from the evening – can be read on our website:

thursleyhistorysociety.org

A huge debt of gratitude goes to both Sally and Amanda for their hours and hours of research and for giving us such an amazing insight into some of the lesser-known occupants of Thursley!

Other thanks go to the "Quiche" ladies of the parish – Sallie, Sarah and Lizzie, Pudding Queens – Sally and Anne, Gilli for tables and chairs and the remaining committee for their hard graft and enthusiasm. A memorable village night.

GIVE IT A GROW

By Debbie Spencer

DRY DAYS, DROUGHT & DOING OUR BIT

2026 is the first year on record of temperatures reaching 35 C or above in three different months -May, June and July. By the time this article is printed there's a high chance we will have a hosepipe ban in place so let's look at a few ideas so we can still enjoy our beautiful gardens using less water while continuing to support wildlife.

Fade to Grey

Drought-resistant plants are those that cope well with dry conditions once established. Many have silver or grey foliage, small leaves, or aromatic oils that help reduce water loss. Mediterranean favourites such as lavender, rosemary, thyme and sage thrive in sunny spots with well-drained soil. Other excellent choices include sedums, salvias, verbena bonariensis, yarrow (Achillea), euphorbias, stachys Byzantina (photo) and ornamental grasses. These plants not only survive dry weather but often look their best in it.

Thank you very mulch

Water conservation begins with the soil. Adding garden compost or well-rotted organic matter improves the soil's ability to retain moisture, meaning plants need watering less often. A layer of mulch around plants also helps to keep the soil cool, reduce evaporation and suppress weeds, which compete for precious water.

When watering is necessary, use a watering can but it is better to water thoroughly but less frequently. A deep soak encourages roots to grow downwards in search of moisture, making plants more resilient. Watering early in the morning or later in the evening reduces evaporation, ensuring that more water reaches the roots rather than disappearing into the air.

50 Shades of Grey Water

According to the RHS we can use grey (waste) water on our plants and lawns provided we use the water immediately - don't store it to prevent odours and rapid bacterial growth.

Only use the grey water from washing up liquid or soaps waste- not water with bleach, disinfectants, or harsh cleaners.

Limit use on edible plants - only those that will be cooked e.g. no raw salad crops.

Don't use in a drip hose system as it can clog.

Potty idea

A terracotta olla (Spanish for pot) is an ancient way of storing water in the soil for the plants to absorb. This method reduces water waste by up to 70% compared to top down watering because it prevents evaporation and run off. Because the unglazed clay is porous water naturally seeps out into the soil only when the earth dries up.

1. Block the drainage holes in a terracotta pot.
2. Bury the pot up to its rim in the soil next to the plants you want to keep watered. Fill it with water to the brim.
3. Cover with a lid and keep checking topping up when necessary.

No Butts?

Collecting rainwater is one of the simplest and most environmentally friendly ways to reduce our reliance on tap water. A water butt connected to a downpipe can capture hundreds of litres over the course of a year. This stored rainwater is ideal for watering flower beds, vegetable plots and containers.

Pot Luck

Containers deserve particular attention during hot weather, as compost dries out much faster than garden soil. Choosing larger pots, mixing water-retaining compost into containers, and grouping pots together can all help reduce water loss. Self-watering containers can also be a worthwhile investment for keen gardeners.

Green to Brown

Lawns often turn brown during dry spells, but this is usually not a cause for concern. Most grass recovers remarkably well when rain returns. Allowing the grass to grow slightly longer helps shade the soil and reduces water loss, while leaving clippings on the lawn after mowing can return valuable moisture and nutrients.

Finally, the easiest water saving idea to implement is a simple washing up bowl in the kitchen sink to collect any running water, excess kettle water or rinsing water- you'll be amazed how much you collect every day!

THE ART OF VILLAGING

By Lizzie Young

I'm writing this in a heatwave. The Shark Flex Breeze I ordered last week is two feet from me on the table, blowing furiously (but mercifully quietly – the much older fan upstairs makes you feel like you're trying to fall asleep inside the turbine of a 747 engine). I look like Bonnie Tyler in the 'I Need A Hero' video. Sort of. The odds are, according to the news, you'll be reading it in a heatwave too. Unless the schools have just broken up, in which case it's almost certainly raining, grey and chilly, before the tropical heatwave kicks back in first week September when they've gone back. But for now, my thermostat is reading 32 degrees. I have refused to close all the curtains and windows, as I know you should, because it feels joyless, and so maybe (definitely) I'm a mad dog of an English(wo)man, but I'm moving slowly, and moaning and complaining frequently, which is, of course, a pleasure all its own and a more popular British pastime than the dreaded padel.

I was seven years old in the long hot summer of 1976 – the great mythical year of heatwave against which all other years are measured. I have sepia coloured, tessellated memories of that time. We lived on a cul- de-sac in Kent, full of kids, and we all marauded around in a gang from straight after breakfast until someone's mum came out and shouted loud enough to bring us all home. I don't remember any combative conversations about screen time (just the one in my house, and apart from Why Don't You (that source of all projects and summer schemes) we were not allowed to be in front of it at all during the day), or, to be honest (sorry mum), much parental insistence on sunscreen or incessant hydration. We didn't wear bike helmets either, and we spent hours without adult supervision, all scabby elbows and knees and dirty feet. The most popular mums had shop bought ice lollies in the chest freezer. Ice was made in a plastic tray, not ground out continuously by your fridge, and it was for my parent's gin and tonics, drunk on the very best evenings of all when they were socialising with the parents of our fellow gang members and no one made us go to bed. Ah…it was bloomin' great. I've just had a quick google. Wikipedia tells me the hottest temperature that summer was 35 degrees. Pah. What were we even talking about?! We were amateurs.

I'm going to overlay this summer with sepia. A Wimbledon entirely free of umbrellas and Cliff Richard sing-a-longs (although he was still there, fairly bouncing along, at 112 years old. I'll have what Cliff's had, please.). An Ascot where your satin kitten heels were safe from mud, and a Henley Regatta where the only splash danger came from blades slicing the river water. Laundry that dries on the line almost before you've finished pegging out the whole load, and not having to bring the cushions in from the outside chairs after you've eschewed the television for nature's sunset show and a glass of something chilled. You'll notice I'm avoiding talk of climate change, or the risks of open water swimming, and wild fires, and dehydration. I'm not mentioning the brown, brown grass, the drooping dahlias, the dust on my car on which some passing wag/walker really should write DUST ME, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD. I'm aware. I'm just being positive. Like I was in 1976.

A new hip for Dave, which not only promises a pain free future (and a lurch free walk down the aisle with his daughter in a few weeks) but enforces an appropriate slowdown in the pace of life we don't always observe otherwise. It turns the walk to lock up the church in the afternoon into an expedition on the healing journey, and if you don't quite smell the roses, you read the gravestones, and watch the birds, and hold hands, and it's rather lovely. The Odyssey is in prospect at the cinema. Not only almost three hours in air conditioning (you're already winning), but apparently the best film ever made. Quite the boast. We shall see…

Walking cricket – played over by the pavilion – open to all, quite the silliest sport I've ever been involved with, and great fun. Those who may be too creaky for tennis opt for pickleball and padel, so I'm told (don't come for me if you play both easily…artistic licence). Those who are horrified by the energy required for either of those, but not quite ready for tiddlywinks, might consider walking cricket, where speed and agility positively penalise your team. If you're not playing, come and laugh at your fellow villagers moving about the pitch like toddlers desperate for the loo.

The heroes of the Village Hall, setting out tables for the Friday evening alt pub while we patiently await the renaissance of the Three Horseshoes, are a marvel and proof that if you build it, they will come. My favourite thing among many, about that, now they've moved from the back to the bank along Dyehouse Road, is how non-resident motorists cutting through the village slow down as they drive by, curious as to what is going on at the gingham clothed tables. We're villaging, passing drivers, we're villaging. You'll see we are all very very good at it.

REVIEW OF HASLEMERE VETS

By Sally Scheffers

This is an unapologetic plug for Haslemere Vets the new independent small animal practice that opened a couple of months ago.

Dr Helen Klein and Dr Sophie Angel studied veterinary medicine together and, having worked in veterinary practices owned by big business, vowed to open their own practice when the opportunity arose.

They have converted the chainsaw shop in Shottermill, which had been Glovers haberdashery previously, into a state of the art veterinary surgery.

I have Karen Tyler to thank for recommending them to me as I was getting nowhere with the vets I was using and my very elderly cat, "Calico", had a bad tooth and was given antibiotics which wasn't getting to the root of the problem. And my previous vets just weren't interested.

Calico as a kitten

A consultation with Helen confirmed that Calico needed her tooth out but, and there is always a but, Calico's kidneys aren't great but then she is 17. A blood test proved that her kidneys are seriously not great but she couldn't stay on antibiotics for the rest of her life. It really did feel like being between a rock and a hard place as Calico was well and eating and putting her under a general anaesthetic brought all sorts of risks with it.

Helen is assuring, quietly confident and above all, thoughtful. Calico was admitted the evening before so she could go onto a drip to fully hydrate her before her operation. The following morning Helen and Sophie removed seven rotten teeth which took an hour as cats' teeth have very fine roots so they had to x ray to check everything was removed. Calico then stayed in overnight and I collected her the following day. We can all learn a lot from our animals and Calico won the hearts of all the staff as she purred her way through her whole stay and showed them just how enthusiastic she is for her food. I had packed her an overnight bag complete with feline dishes which had to be replenished the following day!

I took Calico back three days later for a check up and she had dipped that morning. Helen gave her some more fluids under her skin and tweaked her pain relief medication. The result was uplifting and her phenomenal appetite is

back. Breakfast, elevenses, lunch, tea, dinner, supper – it is endless but while she wants to eat I will feed her. I was also alerted to a product that I had never heard of which is Purina Hydra Care which helps with feline hydration. I wish I had known about this years ago as it might have helped with her kidneys but it is never too late and she is greedy for the sachets.

Calico is a tri-coloured tortoiseshell cat which are called calico cats in America. She and her two brothers were born in the straw bales at Upper Highfield Farm in the spring of 2009. A black and white cat had appeared the previous autumn and after asking around and realising that the cat was untamed I started feeding her. In the new year a ginger and white cat was sitting beside her on a bale and they both looked rather pleased with themselves. That was the only sighting of the second cat and I did fleetingly wonder but then thought no more of it.

In May I went to feed the cat and I heard a mew not a meow and I hadn't seen the cat open her mouth and the sound came from the wrong direction. The flashback of the two smug cats on the bale made me realise that there were kittens. It took over an hour and then a little black head popped out of the round bales. Two black kittens were seen but the third – Calico, took longer to show herself. It was a couple of days before a wary kitten came out for food. I had bought kitten food and the two boys rushed out every time but Calico was always very cautious and constantly looking for danger. I worked at gaining their confidence and the big boy, "Nelson" so called as he got a bad eye, was very receptive and super friendly. The other two not so much and they were unfriendly towards their mother. For them it was very much we three and they loved to sleep in a heap together on the velour tractor seat.

I knew I had to get them neutered as I didn't want a feral colony and the Cats Protection at Haslemere supplied a trap and crush cages. It took a lot of planning and finding a vet who would perform the operations. Helen Stephens at Hunters Lodge in Guildford agreed and I managed to get the three of them there and later in the day "Mummy Cat". Nelson had his eye treated and "Hopsie" who had something in his foot was also sorted out.

They all recovered quickly and Mummy Cat departed never to be seen again. It was almost as if she knew her offspring would be well looked after and she didn't need to be there anymore. Nelson kept walking home with me and then he too vanished and as he was such a friendly cat I think, and hope, he found a new home. Of the two remaining ones Hopsie was getting friendlier and I could stroke his tail. Calico still looked at me as if I was an axe murderer.

Ginny Lindley, my neighbour, told me to persist and I did. The two cats loved one another. They would walk ahead of me with their tails touching and inter twining which filled me with joy. This also worked to my advantage as I would stroke Hopsie's tail and then, later, his back and Calico would want to be close to her brother and then I could, on the odd

occasion, brush my hand against her tail. The progress I am describing was not over weeks or months but years.

The two cats, by now about five years old, would enjoy their stroking sessions but still couldn't be handled. Our last cat at home had died and I decided that they would be better off at Punch Bowl Farm. Monica Edwards had written a book in 1964 entitled "The Cats of Punchbowl Farm" so we had to have a cat or better still two.

I took the cat box and managed to grab the pair of them and get them into the Land Rover but they escaped and were loose in the car. It is only a very short drive between the barns at Upper Highfield and home but it was terrifying. Even though I drove at a snail's pace I was sure we were going to die. The two cats had gone crazy and were launching themselves at the windscreen and my head and they seemed to be airborne throughout. Once home I had to recapture them and bundle them into the cat carrier and into the house. Hopsie wasn't too bad but Calico bit and scratched my hand ferociously. The house was closed, they were released and copious quantities of TCP were applied to my hands by my mother Jo who also told me how stupid I'd been!

For a fortnight the house remained closed and we didn't see our new residents. They ate the food and used the dirt tray so we knew they were alive. Then the cat flap was propped open and they were free to go. And hopefully come back. Which they did.

Their habits continued as before with Calico staying close to the buildings whilst Hopsie would roam the fields. In the summer he would take himself off to hunt for days on end and when he turned up again Calico would delight in his return and more tail twining which would delight Jo and I. Ginny's advice paid off and the two of them tamed which was due to either our persistence or their maturity.

At the end of the summer 2018 Hopsie had been gone longer than usual and he arrived home in very poor condition and limping. After a couple of trips to the vet the likely diagnosis was a cancer in his leg. He lay on my bed and Calico was on the landing. I put her on the bed beside him and they ignored one another; she rubbed her face against me purring and he did the same but their bond was broken. In spite of their seeming disinterest, as he spent his last few days on my bed Calico kept her vigil on the landing.

The aged Calico is friendly and affectionate to all and frightened by none. She rubs up against Gabriel (the Labrador) who licks her face and she has calmed the new feral feline arrival. A Charlie Brown cartoon is captioned, "Happiness is a warm puppy" but for me happiness is an elderly cat whose love and trust have been hard won.

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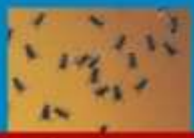

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