THURSLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

St Michael & All Angels

SEPTEMBER 2026

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EDITORIAL
By Tricia Horwood

***After** many years of school runs and long summer holidays, September has always felt to me like the beginning of a new year. There is something about the change of season, the return to familiar routines and the first hint of autumn in the air that brings a sense of renewal. I suspect many of us are looking forward to some cooler autumnal weather – and, hopefully, some much-needed rain!*

***There** is certainly plenty to look forward to in the village this month. The Autumn Flower Show is always a highlight, while the History Society is planning a visit to Brooklands Museum. We also have the annual Thursley Pet Service, and, of course, the ever-popular MacMillan's coffee morning at the village hall. These events offer plenty of opportunities to get together, catch up with friends and neighbours, and enjoy the strong community spirit that makes our village so special.*

***The** weekly Friday evenings at the Shoes will also continue throughout September. They have proved incredibly popular, so if you haven't been along yet, do give it a try. You can expect a warm welcome, good company and it's a lovely way to round off the week and enjoy a little village social life.*

***Inside** this month's magazine, you will also find updates on the refurbishment projects at both the pub and the pavilion. And finally, this is a last call for any budding photographers who would like to see their work included in the village calendar. If you have taken a particularly lovely local photograph, now is the time to submit it – we would love to see the village through your eyes.*

***So,** as summer draws to a close and a new season begins, I wish you all a cool, comfortable and stress-free September. Here's hoping for some gentle autumn rain, plenty of village events to enjoy, and lots of opportunities to catch up with one another.*

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

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 6th	9.15am	Communion at St James', Elstead
Creationtide 1	**9.45am**	**Communion at St Michael's, Thursley**
	10.30am	Modern Service with Communion at St James' Church, Elstead
SUNDAY 13th	9.15am	Communion at St James' Church, Elstead
Creationtide 2		
SUNDAY 20th	**9.45am**	**Pet Service at St Michael's, Thursley**
St Michael's Pet Service	10.30am	Modern Service at St James', Elstead
SUNDAY 27th	10.00am	Harvest Festival Service with Communion
Harvest Peper Harow		at St Nicholas Church, Peper Harow

www.parishesofetsph.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

CHURCH CLEANING

(Please contact Sallie Roles if you can help)

Sally ROLES Sue SCHOFIELD Alina LING

CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

(Please contact Caroline Mendelssohn if you can help)

6th Sarah TRAILL 20th Ann WAKELEY

LOCAL & VILLAGE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Friday 4th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes.** Village Hall. All welcome. See p24.
Saturday 5th	2.30pm	**Horts Society Autumn Show**. Village Hall. See p17.
Friday 11th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes.** Village Hall. All welcome.
Tuesday 15th	11.00am	**History Society visit to Brooklands Museum**. Meet at Brooklands Museum. See p23.
Friday 18th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes** Village Hall. All welcome.
Saturday 19th	10.00am	**Churchyard Working Party.** St Michael & All Angels Church. All help welcome.
Sunday 20th	9.45am	**Thursley Annual Pet Service**. See p13
Friday 25th	6-10.00pm	**Friday Night at the Shoes** Village Hall. All welcome.
Saturday 26th	11-1.00pm	**Macmillan's Coffee Morning**. Village Hall. See p28.

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, 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,

Did you have a summer holiday? Perhaps you went away, or perhaps you stayed closer to home – it was certainly warm enough for days out nearby. Wherever you were, I hope you found new things to discover and enjoy. New experiences of nature, places and people can broaden our horizons and enrich us. They invite us to observe, touch and try things we might not otherwise have done, and our lives are the richer for it.

Jesus did not stay in one place and wait for people to come to him. He travelled through Galilee and the surrounding countryside, meeting people, eating with them, and sharing whatever shelter and simple hospitality were available. He preached from a mountainside and from a boat. He was available to all who wanted to meet him and ask questions about life, God and creation.

Perhaps, as you travelled at home or abroad this summer, you found beauty, stillness, peace and a way to connect with the natural world as well as with your inner life. Try not to let those experiences fade too quickly. Let them shape your autumn, keeping you alert to beauty, stillness and spiritual calm as you return to the ordinary business of daily life.

There is a beautiful blessing in the Old Testament, in the book of Numbers. It is easy to pass over a book with such a plain title, but it contains real treasures, and this is one of them:

"The Lord Bless you and keep you,
the Lord make His face to shine upon you,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace."

May the beauty and grace in these words stay with you as we enter September and all that awaits us in Autumn. As the long days begin to shorten and familiar routines return, may the memories of summer's light, colour, warmth and quiet moments continue to refresh your spirit. May they remind you that God's peace is not only found in special places or holiday days, but also in the changing leaves, the kindness of neighbours, the rhythm of ordinary work, and the gentle blessings of being at home once more.

Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford & Peper Harow

09:45 / 20 September

Pet Service

St Michael & All Angels Church, Thursley

Church in the community, community in the church

PROTECTING THURSLEY FROM THE RISK OF FIRE

By Parish Council Chairman James Mendelssohn

Although I hope that by the time you read this we may have had at least some rain, the Common is so dry at the moment that it is going to take more than the odd shower to reduce the risk of fire.

As a Parish Council, we have received the following advice from the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), and have been asked to share it as widely as possible.

Preventing fires

• No barbecues, camping stoves and open fires in the countryside. They can quickly spread and get out of control.

• Extinguish smoking materials properly. Throwing cigarette ends on the ground or out of a car window can start a wildfire.

• Take your rubbish with you! Bottles and glass can start wildfire as they magnify the sun.

• Do not use flying lanterns. These can not only start wildfires, but they also pose a danger to animals as they can ingest the metal wire.

If you see a fire or smoke in the countryside

• Immediately call 999 and ask for the fire service, giving your exact location. Using your What3words location is best, so please download the free app on your phone if possible.

• Do not attempt to tackle the fire yourself, get out of the smoke and into clear air.

• Follow the advice and guidance from the emergency services call handler

• Get far away from the fire, it can spread incredibly quickly. Your safety is the most important thing.

Prevent fires at home or at work

Wildfires can threaten businesses and homes. It may seem unlikely that your home or business could become threatened by wildfire, but it pays to be prepared!

• Reduce or remove areas of high fuel close to your home (vegetation, bushes or piles of leaves).

• Be aware that dense areas of vegetation, hedges, timber fences or sheds, and dry undergrowth will allow a fire to spread from an open space to your home or business very quickly.

• Create an evacuation plan, including a list of essentials you and your family would need in an emergency.

Something to report?

Whilst you are enjoying the Surrey countryside, hiking, going for a dog walk, bike ride or even horse ride you can feedback your observations to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). We can then use the information to tailor prevention activities to educate and mitigate the risk from wildfire. It is hoped this work will minimise the instances of fires occurring and allow information to be shared with the appropriate land manager or department quickly.

Whilst you are out exploring, should you come across any anti-social behaviour, campfires, large quantities of litter/fly

tipping, use of disposable barbecues, broken gates, cropped locks, burning of waste material and arson, these can be reported and all of the information provided is valuable for prevention work!

When reporting please share relevant details and ensure you provide an accurate location, using What3Words or an Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference. We also have a Facebook group (SFRS Wildfire Prevention Advocates) where pictures can be shared.

From the Thursley perspective, perhaps we could just add a couple of points. In each of the last few years, the Natural England Reserve Managers and members of the Parish Council have received messages and telephone calls, and have seen messages on Facebook, saying *'I can see smoke – what should I do?'* Worse still, voicemail messages have been left saying '*I thought you ought to know that I think I can see smoke coming from the Common'.*

We cannot emphasise enough that if you see or smell smoke or have any fire related concerns, it is your responsibility to dial 999 immediately. You will be put through to the SFRS Control Room, and the staff there will be grateful for your call and will always treat you courteously, even if they are already aware of the situation.

Messages posted on WhatsApp groups or on Facebook saying, and messages left on somebody else's voicemail, are a complete abdication of that responsibility.

We have had two major fires on Thursley Common in the last 20 years, and we all need to work together to ensure that we minimise the risk of any future events.

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 RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD STOCKBROKER

By Tim Wakeley

Not being bright enough to go to university I was advised by an old family friend of my parents to try and get a job on the Stock Exchange. And so in July 1961 at the age of 17 I enrolled as a clerk in the old established and prestigious stockbroking firm W. Greenwell and Co.

There I found myself entering a world of top hats and stiff white collars. After a spell of being a general dogs body I was lucky enough to be given an opportunity of becoming an assistant in the private client investment department. It was then that I realised the world of investment with all its challenges was one which most excited and interested me. I went on to qualify as a member of the Society of Investment Analysts and became a partner in 1972 with responsibility for investment management of wealthy private clients, trusts and charities.

But things were about to change.

Having peaked in May 1972 a savage bear market saw the FT Index lose 70% of its value by January 1975. This had been caused by a mix of inflation, the 1973 oil crisis, rising interest rates, weak corporate earnings and political uncertainty.

Sounds familiar doesn't it?! Many stockbroking and stockjobber businesses failed but those which survived were to be challenged a decade later by 'Big Bang.' This brought an end the separation of stockbrokers from stockjobbers and the introduction of electronic trading and allowing foreign firms to own stockbrokers. It also marked the end of gentlemanly hours. Instead of arriving in the office by 9:30 a.m. alarm clocks were brought forward by an hour and a half!

The changes saw my partnership with Greenwell pass through directorships with Samuel Montagu, Midland Bank and ultimately HSBC from which I retired as Managing Director of HSBC Investment Management in 2003.

Much of my career was spent being involved with investment strategy, asset allocation, stock selection and marketing to larger private and professional bodies such as University Colleges. Livery Companies and Charities.

And so in retirement what had a lifetime of investment taught me?

I can do no better than quote the Sage of Omaha, Warren Buffet. His simple but successful rule is to 'be fearful when others are greedy, and be greedy when others are fearful.' He also, like me, believes that over any sensible time frame equities will outperform cash.

Today I still keep in touch with many of my old colleagues in the investment world and count myself very lucky that, by sheer chance, I fell into a career which has challenged and rewarded me in so many different ways.

Thursley Horticultural Society

AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW

INCLUDING "GIVE IT A SHOW"
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FRIENDS & RESIDENTS OF THURSLEY

on Saturday

5th SEPTEMBER

at THURSLEY VILLAGE HALL 2.30pm
PRIZE-GIVING AT 4.15pm
Raffle (drawn at 4pm)

ADMISSION FREE

SHOW ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER PLEASE At: thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

By Lynne Stewart-Brindle

Friday night Shoes

Yet again, the success of Friday Night Shoes makes the headlines in our monthly article for Thursley Village Hall. On 31 July, we moved our pop-up pub to the cricket pavilion for the evening match and added a new local cider to the drinks menu: Hazy Hog from Hogs Back Brewery. It went down a storm. The only bottle left was sold before closing, taken from the warm display (!) and served with ice. So cold Hazy Hog will now be a regular at Friday Night Shoes – and, for those of you who have not yet visited us, we hope you will soon be regulars too.

While the extraordinarily hot, dry weather takes its toll on our gardens, it has made for delightful warm evenings when we can set up the bar and tables in the dappled shade of the giant Holm Oak. As always, you can expect rickety tables and chairs, terrible glasses, granny's tablecloths and no table service – but also a very warm welcome, plenty of laughter and a strong sense of village community.

We hope this regular village gathering will 'lift and shift' to our beloved Three Horseshoes when the pub reopens. Inside and out, it will be very welcoming – and certainly more comfortable. At that point, we will look at other complementary ventures for Thursley Village Hall, alongside the new Thursley Pavilion

plans. So there should be no shortage of opportunities for the village to gather regularly as a community.

Thank you to those who have taken to putting away their own tables at the end of their evening – very kind, but you really don't need to. Huge thanks also to the person who donated several cases of delicious wine. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and we have now measured up to replace the curtains as planned with all the funds raised.

Coming This Year at the Village Hall

We are delighted to be planning an exciting talk this October by Thursley's very own Dave Rowntree. Entitled Blur on Mars, the event will tell the fascinating story of how Blur came to be commissioned to create the musical call sign for the British Beagle 2 Mars lander. Tickets will be 'landing' soon, so keep an eye out and don't miss this unique opportunity to hear the story first-hand.

Looking ahead to the festive season, our popular Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday 29 November. If you would like to book a table, please contact Amanda Hall or Valerie Ferris as soon as possible, as spaces fill up quickly every year.

The Scarecrow Trail this Halloween may have to be cancelled as half term falls at this time and many people are away. But don't worry as we have other plans. While the summer weather is still with us, we are considering a friendly pétanque competition. No prizes for guessing whose idea that was! We are also exploring the possibility of a wine or cider tasting evening. Watch this space for more details in next month's article.

THURSLEY BETWEEN THE WARS

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

This month I am featuring articles from a collection of Thursley memories, recently transcribed from the archives onto our website thursleyhistorysociety.org. The first one is titled "Thursley Between the Wars" and written by Margaret Cooper in 1989.

"The present-day inhabitants of Thursley will find it hard to believe that once there was a school population of about one hundred and sixty children attending their present Village Hall when it was the Village School. Yet, this was the case in my young days soon after World War 1 in the 1920's, when we walked in all weathers from Pitch Place and later Bowlhead Green; our dinner consisted of sandwiches or a lardy roll from Mr Karn's shop, and sometimes a halfpenny cup of cocoa provided by Mrs Swallow, the Headmaster's wife! How we saved each week to pay the five shillings needed for the annual char-a-banc outing to Worthing or Littlehampton, where we would dabble our feet in rarely seen sea water – one of the year's highlights.

Those were the days when the cat's whisker and crystal set (an early unpowered radio receiver) were in their infancy, and TV was yet to be invented; possibly this was why we made our own amusements and wholeheartedly supported community efforts, such as the sixpenny hop in the old Village Hall (an ex -World War 1 army building) which used to stand next to The Three Horseshoes; the music was provided by people whose names are still known in the village – Rapley, Wisdom and Goble amongst others. The last named, Mr Goble Senior, was also the village carpenter, coffin maker and undertaker who lived at The Institute, now Prospect Cottage. The Institute, designed by Lutyens, served as a men's club and was also the H.Q. of Thursley's ARP (Air Raid Precautions) in the 1940's.

Another of our amusements in the 20's was to walk to the present (old) A3 "to watch the traffic on the hard road". There was far less of it then, and the motor car was something owned only by the "gentry"- a ride on one being a very rare treat. At Bowlhead Green, it was quite an event when Mr A.E. Karn's pony cart arrived to deliver bread, groceries and paraffin once a week. There were still only two shops in the village – Mr Karn's and that of Mr Tozer, situated at what is now The Clump, the present Post Office (now converted to a house and occupied by Paul and Karen Thorogood) and shop not being built until the 1930's for Mr Davidson. On those rare occasions when we visited the local towns for shopping expeditions, we walked to the end of French Lane to catch the hourly bus to Godalming. The fare I recall was sevenpence each way, and if we should wish to go to Hindhead, for what reason I cannot imagine, then that would cost eightpence return.

For village girls leaving school in those days, the choice of a future career was limited in the extreme. We could either go into "service" or stay at home, if our

parents could afford to keep us. The other choice was to seek employment in London, and I did this when I was fifteen, living with my married sister in Westbourne Park. Thus, it was that I met my future husband when we were sixteen, and when I brought him back to Thursley for introductions, he fell in love for the second time – only now it was with the village, vowing that this was where he wanted to live. It took the Second World War to see this wish fulfilled, but that as they say is another story.

An amusing insight into the "closed shop" nature of the village in the early 1930's can be obtained from a question put to me once, when my future husband was visiting during one weekend. He had chosen to wear what was then the fashion of many smart young men about town, and an elderly lady whispered in my ear "Who's the toff in plus fours?" I think the "toff" at the time was earning about £2 a week!

Thursley in the 1920's and 30's had not yet been "discovered" as a desirable area for commuters to live in, and the population was very much "native" in the true sense that generations of folk had lived in the same area for centuries, often in the same cottages. The Welfare State and affluent society had not yet arrived, and the inevitable consequence was that many of the houses and cottages were in a poor state of repair. So, although some of the original inhabitants may regret the passing of many of the old names, at the same time there is no doubt that the influx of "foreigners" with money to buy up and restore the old buildings has, on balance, been the salvation of much that is picturesque and irreplaceable in one of the country's most beautiful villages".

And a small very relevant excerpt from **"In Days Gone By"** by Lucy Good 1988.
"After being without electricity, and

Trees on the Clump with the shop on the left

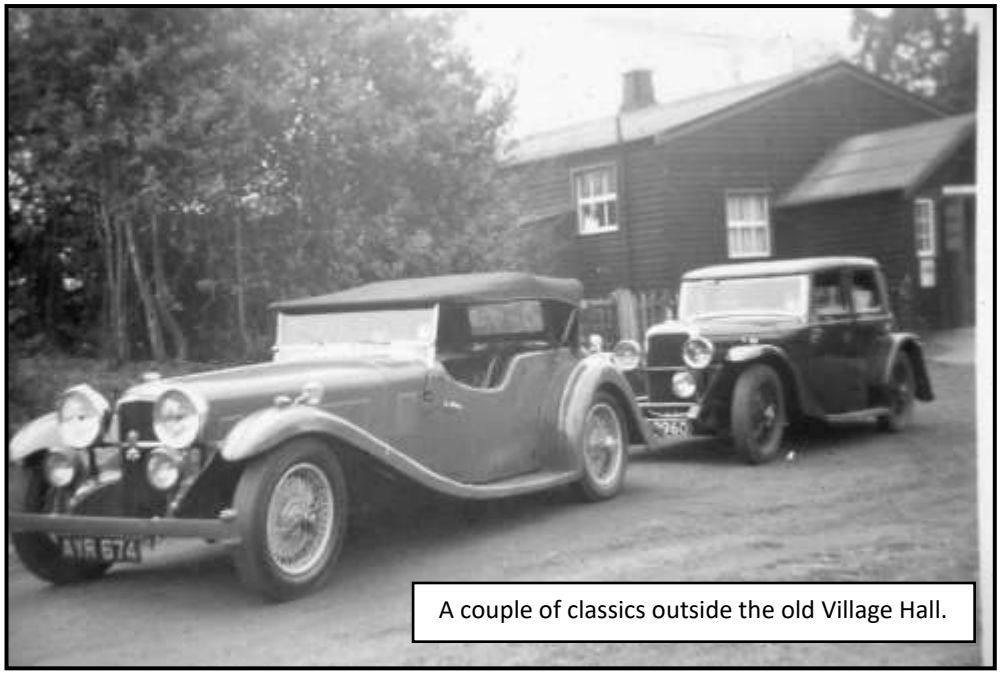
trouble with the water recently, reminds me of days gone by in the village when we had a very hot summer and a drought.

I lived in Yew Cottage. My father, Thomas Karn, worked with Grandad and Uncle Jack in the forge (the Karns at the shop were another family).

There was no electricity in the village in those days, or water on the mains. The rain water butts and tanks were empty and then the wells dried up. I can see my father now, with a wooden yoke with two pails on, struggling up Dye House Hill, after getting some water from the stream at the bottom which, in those days, fell into a small waterfall before going under the road. The water had to be for drinking, washing, cooking etc., and also some had to be brought up to use in the forge. Mr Rapley at Hill Farm had a horse-drawn water cart, which he used to get water for the animals and also to water the cricket pitch which was done with the horse's hooves bound with sacks to save them churning the green up (Thursley cricket team was well known in those days). Everyone had oil lamps and candles for lighting – and of course, coal fires and stoves for cooking on".

Good to know, just in case……

Finally, a reminder of The History Society's outing to Brooklands Museum on 15th September. See the details elsewhere in this mag. It should be a really fun and informative trip and anyone keen in taking an interesting car and driving in convoy, please get in touch with Sally, David or Peter. Also please carshare where possible.



A couple of classics outside the old Village Hall.

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

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE FARM THIS MONTH?

By Jo Ranson

Well, it's officially hot and there is a drought, according to the Met Office.. This is something we have been acutely aware of since April. I think our last day of rain was the day before Open Farm Sunday on 6th June. We have very light soil, so a drought is always on the horizon for us, but now that Wales and Ireland are in one it is newsworthy. Even for us it has been too hot and for too long; however back in February when we joked about another rainy day and the phrase "great we could do with a drop of rain" was regularly said in our house I did say the weather always evens out and it seems to be doing so, it just didn't need to have quite so much heat in that sun.

Holidays have all been done, and so the easy spell should begin where we get lots of maintenance and cleaning jobs done which we have but we are feeding all the cows and youngstock, so a lot of time is taken up taking silage bales to different groups and spreading them out. Even more time was needed for one group when a mains water leak appeared, and we had to take the long way round to the field. It takes Matthew all morning to visit six groups of cows. They are, though, starting to come closer to home as they have started calving a little earlier than their due date, but the heat and moving them has jiggled some on to calve. All was going well until last night when A1 (affectionately known as Al) decided her calf was going to come out upside down and it was not for turning, so after trying for some time at 11.30pm we called the vet who also tried to turn it and decided the side door (c section) was the best option. Al is an amazing cow - she is 13 years old this is her 11th calving and has calved (within two or three days) exactly one calf a year, but she mainly has bulls. This time she was in calf to a sexed (female) Friesian so we were all a bit on tender hooks as to whether a) it would be alive (it was mis-presented for a long time) and b) would she be the small percentage that even though put to a sexed bull would produce a bull and fortunately we were wrong on all counts - she had a live heifer calf and all doing well. It was just a long day when you start at 5am (because you thought it best to do jobs when cooler and there is no let up on jobs during the day because there is too much to do) and you finish at 2 am. But it is what we do and love doing.

We already have twenty caws calved; normally calved cows would be in at night on the clamped good quality silage and go out in the day

for grass, but there is no grass, so those that have calved are in day and night now. It does mean we will be eating more of our winter feed early, but needs must and if we need to produce milk to feed you all then we will have to find other ways to fill the feed deficit. Most farmers are in the same boat so it's a case of being resourceful and patient. We are cutting our maize next week so we will see what that yields and there could be some savings there. Other farmers we have asked about spare feed have said the same – let's see what maize yields are before they can spare some. There are alternatives to fill the gaps - brewers' grains for example - but at the moment that is still quite expensive and hard to source. There is also the chance that when the weather breaks it will rain and will give us a cut later in the year.

When the weather breaks we will also be madly grass seeding; some will go on maize ground after it's cut (this is also a trial research project on nutritious benefits of herbal leys) and the brassicas need to go in. The time of year is right but it also needs the moisture levels to be right otherwise the birds will have a feast on our very expensive grass and brassica seeds and we need to get in the grass seed for next year's swap from the arable farm.

One of the jobs that need doing over the cows dry period was concreting. Really not something that needed to be done in the heat but again if needs must. Most areas were big sections so you could make and pour in. The easiest area to do was posts in the cubicle house for the new cubicles. There were small holes to fill but 22 of them and it was 33c and it was going off fast. Lunch time came and went you just knew you had a pan mixer full, and it had to go somewhere. We also weren't sure how far it would go either but it did the whole lot phew! We just need the rest of the cubicle to arrive as only the posts came this week. They are made by a company in Ireland and are obviously on Irish timings. We ordered them in May and the sales rep assured us they would take a couple of weeks to be made and delivered but demand was high as they were on a government farming grant, which we also applied for but we would have had to replace the cubicles with or without the grant. The grant would be a bonus so, great we would get the four sides done in the dry period. We saw the rep at a meeting in June and informed him that we had secured the grant so wanted to get cracking. We are now the second week of August and all we have had are posts - fortunately we have only taken out the old cubicles on two rows, not four, because we aren't sure we will get the other ones done before all the beds are needed. Also, annoyingly the one thing we were classed as non-compliant with on our Arla Garden inspection was that not all the cubicles were in good repair (in fact they were missing but the inspector said she had to technically say we did have enough beds) - once they are in place though we will pass with flying colours. She was in fact very complimentary about our farm, our cows and our organisations which is lovely to hear, and it is a real team effort to get that too.

So, this month it will be maize, calves, grass drilling and hoping that it rains lots

THREE HORSESHOES VILLAGE UPDATE

By The Board, The Three Horseshoes (Thursley) Ltd

Dear Villagers,

An update on the progress. The Board has secured shareholder support to undertake a comprehensive refurbishment and redesign of the 3HS. The aim of the works is to future -proof the building and provide the basis for a thriving pub business, producing a high-quality food and beverage offering for the whole community.

The Redesign

We are embarking on a substantial redesign of the front-of-house. The bar will be moved back into the space formerly known as Table 14, providing for a much larger and open bar area with more space for standing drinking and seated eating (and drinking).

The restaurant area to the rear of the pub will be far more integrated, feeling more part of the pub. Overall a much more open and welcoming layout throughout the pub.

We also have grand plans for the garden with a new pergola for food and beverage and new wooden long-tables, all fashioned from one tree trunk.

There will also be a new private dining space on the first floor across the entire front of the pub, with its own reception area in the oldest part of the pub (see photos – currently open-air), dating back to the 1600's.

Funding and other support

We have had a fantastic response from existing shareholders, and a group of new shareholders from the Parish, who have supported the project and committed the funds necessary to complete the works. The Board is incredibly grateful for this generous and community-minded support. If anyone in the village would like to support this community project in any way, please email:

peterrickenberg5@gmail.com.

Works

The works are well underway. It is evident that the building has not had much in the way of maintenance for many decades, dating back well before the village took ownership in 2004. This has resulted in a series of "discoveries" – of broken mains drainage, rotten window frames and floor joists, insufficient foundations requiring underpinning, as well as a roof structure to the rear of the property which requires a substantial rebuild. Whilst we are now (hopefully) at the end of the discovery phase, the effect of these additional works has been to delay the estimated completion date from the Autumn, until most likely early December.

Whilst we are disappointed about this, and we know you will be too, these additional works are essential to provide the foundation for the future.

Relaunch

We will be entering into a tenancy agreement with an experienced two-man team, who have strong local connections. Given the expected delays, we have had to adjust our thinking - the current plan is for a soft-launch pre-Christmas ahead of a full launch in the Spring. The Board and the new team are committed to providing for the village pre-Christmas - including the Men & Women of Thursley suppers and Xmas Eve

Carols, if the building is ready. We will provide monthly updates in this publication going forward.

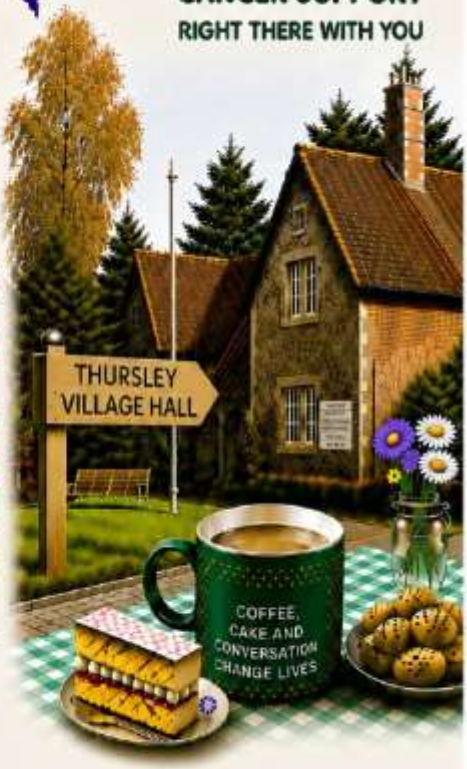
All that remains is to thank you all for your patience and support – we'll have your pub back open as soon as we can, ready to provide you with a welcome smile, pint, glass of wine (or whatever your tipple) and a great plate of food for years to come.

From next week, there will be updates on the village Facebook page and Instagram: (threehorseshoesthursley)

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

Join us for Surrey's Biggest COFFEE MORNING

Let's Change Lives!



Come together with neighbours and friends over coffee, cakes and great conversation while raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Enjoy a hot drink & a cookie with your donation ♡

Cakes & locally made produce for sale ♡

RAFFLE & AUCTION

Raffle & auction with fantastic prizes! ♡

Everyone welcome – bring family, friends & neighbours! ♡

Can you help? ♡

Donate produce
ackeinickenberg@gmail.com

Donate prizes
claire.dally@yahoo.com

Volunteer on the day
We'd love your help!

DATE:
Saturday 26th September

TIME:
11am – 1pm

LOCATION:
**Thursley Village Hall,
Dye House Rd, GU8 6QD**

THURSLEY PARISH
HARVEST SUPPER
JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF GOOD FOOD,
COMMUNITY & ENTERTAINMENT
SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER, 2026
7PM
THURSLEY VILLAGE HALL
TICKETS
Purchase tickets via thursleyevents@gmail.com
£20 PER PERSON
INCLUDES FOOD & WINE
If you would like to help with food, please contact
Sally Scheffers via scheffers@btinternet.com

Various Hort Society Garden Visits

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY UPDATE

By Pat Clake

First a reminder that Thursley Horticultural Society's Autumn Show is on Saturday 5th September. There was a lot of information about it in the August Parish Magazine and the Schedule provides the rest. Do get in touch with Pat Clake on 01252 706869 or **thursleyhortsoc@hotmail.co.uk** if you would like to know more or if you would like to join.

I know that maintaining the garden in the extreme conditions of the last few months has been very difficult, but when it comes to our Shows members always surprise themselves by finding something to enter. Visitors and Judges are impressed each time with what Thursley can produce. This year there is the added challenge of our 'Give it a Grow' competition, but please do not neglect the usual classes. Search around see what is there! Remember as well that there are Cookery, Floral Art and Handicraft classes and opportunities for children to enter too.

Entries should be made by 6pm on Thursday 3rd September via email, phone or put in the Hort Soc box at the Village Hall door. Bring your entries to the Hall on the morning of Saturday 5th between 8.30 and 10.45 am. Doors will open at 2.30 for the Show. Free entry. Refreshments available. All welcome!

Entries for the 'Give it a Show' competition should be brought to the Hall at the same time on Saturday morning, or by arrangement with your team captain.

Our next Talk is from Mark Saunders, the very experienced Head Gardener from Fittleworth House. This is on Wednesday 7th October at 7.30 and is entitled 'Super Seasonal Display Ideas'. This is a highly recommended talk with an interesting creative approach, and Mark will be open to questions about what can be grown in gardens in hot, dry conditions! There will be a raffle, and wine and soft drinks available. All welcome. This evening will be a perfect opportunity to meet friends and to get to know gardeners in the Village. Do put the date in your diary.

A visit to the garden at Greenhills House in Tilford arranged for Wednesday 23rd September has been cancelled because of very dry, hot weather. While disappointing members will understand the circumstances. The visit is being rearranged for a date in 2027. That will give us a chance to see the garden at its best.

AN UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE THURSLEY PAVILION PROJECT

Dear Villagers,

Following last month's fundraising update, we thought it would be helpful this month to explain where we have reached with the statutory approvals for the new Pavilion and what this means for the construction programme.

Our planning and Section 38 applications were prepared and ready for submission earlier in the summer. However, following changes to the ecological requirements affecting developments such as ours, we took the decision to hold back the formal submission while these changes were incorporated into our proposals. Given the particularly sensitive setting of the Pavilion, we believe it is important that we take the time to get these matters right and secure all the necessary permissions before work begins.

Following our earlier positive pre-application discussions with the planning authority, the full planning application was submitted to Waverley Borough Council on 7 August. We are now awaiting its formal validation. Once validated, we will be in a position to submit our separate Section 38 application, required because the Pavilion is situated on registered common land.

We have been encouraged by the positive and constructive discussions we have had with the relevant authorities and consultees to date. However, both applications must now go through their respective statutory processes, and the timing of those decisions is inevitably outside our direct control.

As a result, we now anticipate that construction is more likely to commence in the spring, rather than this autumn as we had originally hoped.

While this represents a change to our original programme, we believe that taking a thorough and considered approach is the right way to deliver a project of this

importance, particularly in such a sensitive location.

In the meantime, work will continue on the detailed design, construction planning and fundraising so that, subject to securing the necessary consents, we are in the strongest possible position to move forward.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and encouragement. We will continue to keep the village updated as the applications progress.

The Trustees are very happy to answer any questions about the project or clarify any of the points above.

QUESTIONS?
thursleypavilion@gmail.com

FIND OUT MORE:
thursleypavilion.com

SUPPORT THE PAVILION:
Scan to visit our Just Giving page

justgiving.com/charity/Thursley-Pavilion

Final call for village photos

The window is closing …

But 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)

SUGAR & BAKES

By Camilla Daubeney

MOIST PLUM CAKE

This delicious cake is great with afternoon tea or with ice cream for pudding!

Ingredients

12 Plums, halved and stoned
2 tbsp Demerara sugar
175g Butter
175g Dark Muscovado sugar
140g Syrup
2 Eggs (beaten)
200ml Milk
300g Self Raising flour
1/2 tsp Bicarb of Soda
1 tsp Ginger
1 tsp Mixed Spice

Heat your oven to 180C/160 Fan/Gas 4.

Method

1. Line and grease a 9' square cake tin and then sprinkle the Demerara sugar over the base.

2. Place your plums, cut side down, so that they cover the entire base of the tin.

3. Melt the butter, muscovado sugar and syrup in a pan until totally liquid, then put to one side to cool for about 15 minutes.

4. Once your mixture is cooled, beat in the eggs and milk, then sieve in the flour, bicarbonate and spices and mix until your batter is smooth.

5. Pour the batter over the plums and bake for 50 minutes until firm. Cool in the tin for 15 minutes and then turn out onto a wire rack.

Enjoy !

GIVE IT A GROW

By Debbie Spencer

Right as Rain

I am writing this on 13th August, the hottest day of the year after a long, dry summer but fingers crossed September should bring a welcome month of weather change. Hopefully, we will have some autumn rain to give our plants time to recover from drought and prepare for winter.

A good September rule after drought is tidy lightly, water deeply where necessary, (if allowed?) mulch and wait for the plant to recover before major pruning. One exception is dead wood- if a branch is clearly dead or broken it can be pruned. Check by scraping back the bark - if it's green it's alive, brown is dead. Don't rush to feed plants, allow to recover with water, once the soil is moist a layer of compost or well rotted organic matter around plants is more beneficial than a strong fertiliser.

Lawn Order

Don't worry too much about brown lawns, established grass is surprisingly resilient and will usually recover when rain returns. Keep the mower blades higher than usual and repair patches once the soil is moist.

Appley Ever After

In the vegetable garden continue harvesting apples, pears, plums, tomatoes and autumn raspberries, lift main crop potatoes. Crops such as winter salads and spinach can be sown for the months ahead and spring cabbage and onion sets can be planted. Bare ground can be covered with green manures to help look after the soil over winter.

Mulch Ado about Nothing

After this dry summer I'm sure we are all so much more aware of water saving ways. Integrating a compost bin into the garden is one of the most effective ways to save water as organic compost acts like a natural sponge that traps moisture in the soil. Choose a compost bin to suit the amount of space you have and the quantity of waste your garden produces. A compact plastic one is good for a small garden, larger gardens can benefit from a 3 bay wooden type.

Building a compost

Building a wooden pallet is one of the cheapest and most effective time ways - ideal because their open slats provide excellent natural ventilation. Check the pallets for HT (heat treated) safe for garden use. Avoid MB (methyl bromide) as they have been treated with toxic chemicals.

Ideally the compost area should have 3 sections, but it depends on the size of your garden whether you can afford that amount of space. Bay 1 is for new waste, Bay 2 is maturing to be left over winter, Bay 3 is ready to use.

- Layer the base with 10-15cm of coarse material like twigs or small branches to ensure good airflow.
- Balance your layers- alternate between nitrogen rich 'greens' like grass cuttings, spent summer bedding, soft hedge trimming, and green vegetable scraps. According to the RHS 25-50 per cent should be green material, but not all grass as this can cause slime. Brown waste is carbon material such as egg cartons, shredded cardboard, wood chips and dry straw, and ideally make up 75-50 percent of your compost.
- Turning or mixing the compost adds air which is necessary for the composting process, ideally several times a year.
- Insulate the top with old carpet, wooden lid or tarp to retain heat and keep out heavy rains.
- Don't add meat or dairy, diseased plants or perennial weed roots.
- Keep it moist using grey water from the kitchen.
- Locate it in the shade to prevent the sun drying it out.

Mature compost is dark brown, with a crumbly texture and smell like damp woodland- it can take 6 months to 2 years to be ready.

SUFFRAJITSU

By Lizzie Young

Off on our holidays. Using my father's wry maxim that if you pay they will come, we found a sweet little (potentially suspiciously reasonable) villa in the hills outside Nice and booked it, before offering a room each to the girls (one six weeks pre nuptials, one two weeks pre starting new job in new county from new home), nonchalantly, in our best take it or leave it tone (so as not to seem desperate). They took it. We are driving down, car laden with working from home monitors, booze (yes, wine, to Provence. I know.), and their suitcases. The kids and their plus ones are flying in once we arrive.

Pootling through France is always fun, right? The tunnel beats an airport, and you can shove all kinds of everything in the back of the car. You may be interested to learn I packed a kettle bell. I had to dust it off before I put it in the car, but hey, you never know – in the South of France it might just come in handy for poolside workouts. A nice bistro dinner at the end of a few hours of driving pretty straight easy roads, the opportunity to peruse an endless fascinating French pharmacy (I know this isn't just me), the odd building of historical interest to amuse you en route (Hospices de Beaune, anyone?! It's like if Disney designed hospitals.)

Until it's not fun (this happened south of Lyon, from where we have been stop starting for 200km). The French move like shoals of fish in August, and today they are all moving the same way as us. What do you expect when the actual motorway name is Autoroute Du Soleil? Very clear. We should rename the M1 and the A303. Suggestions on a postcard. I have my laptop propped up on my actual lap, as this two hour slot is a co-pilot stint for me. When I drive, David sleeps. When David drives, I actively co-pilot. I'm sure he finds my sharp intakes of breath, dramatic reaches for the handle above the door, and instructive, high pitched 'say what you see' mentioning of braking ahead helpful and not at all aggravating. I feed him snacks, unlid the water for hydration sips, read to him from the obituaries in the Times. I google French road signs (a little too late – the white diamond means carpooling lane. Whoops.), and look up interesting facts about places we pass.

Here's one…. The stunning cathedral at Reims was badly damaged by shelling in 1914. The fire in the wooden beams

was so intense that it melted the lead roof and the liquid molten lead flowed down through the open mouths of the stone gargoyles, setting fire to the bishop's house next door. Golly.

David gives me the starter word for WORDLE – no adieu starter in this vehicle – and I try to get it in three guesses. We do the Times Quiz (a deeply shameful and I'd have to say almost unprecedented 9/20 this morning – but it was ever so hard), and, because it's Saturday, we do the New York Times history quiz, where you must put 8 historical events in the correct order. We got 7/8, because we don't know enough about shoguns in the Edo period, damn us. And a marvellous new word. Around 1910, after encounters with the police turned violent, British suffragettes took up a martial art and that skill became an important self-defense strategy at rallies. They called it SUFFRAJITSU.

Best word ever. We definitely, absolutely need suffrajitsu lessons in the new pavilion. Just think of all the life situations we women face, where unleashing a bit of suffrajitsu would be just what was called for.

Did I mention that when I drive, David sleeps? That's where the audio book comes in useful. He plugs me in and I'm transported while he snoozes. This trip it has been The Correspondent by Virgina Evans. Read by eight different male and female voices, it is a novel told entirely in letters and emails, and came highly recommended. The different voices make it easy to follow, and it's gripping. There is pathos, a bit of mystery, a hint of peril, and a huge dollop of humanity. I'm loving it. When David wakes up I have to pause it and give a full synopsis of what he missed, so it also doubles as a literary comprehension test and a memory game. It makes me think letter/ postcard writing IS a lost art we should reinvigorate. We all know how lovely it is to receive a handwritten envelope amongst the flyers and unsolicited catalogues. Trouble is, mine are all complaints.

Dear French Minister for Roads. Is your insistence on changing the speed limit from 130km per hour to 70km per hour for 500m stretches a proven effective safety measure or a way to charge a Brit 3,000 euros in fines for driving through your country? Asking for a friend.

Dear Meghan Markle. Please don't. Just please don't. You hate it here, remember? Also, we're good for jam, thanks.

Dear Wedding Industry. We see what you did there.

The sat nav says 30km until our destination. 1420km down, 30 to go. Dave's left buttock has gone numb and we have run out of liquorice allsorts, so I really hope it's right.

SPIT & SAWDUST

By Sally Scheffers

Thank you to everyone who sent Calico well wishes and I am happy to report that she has made an excellent recovery and is still eating voraciously! Long may it continue.

But, like all good stories, there is another strand. After I had relocated Hopsie and Calico to Punch Bowl Farm it seemed rather empty at Upper Highfield Farm without them, though Hopsie would come over to check occasionally.

I was flicking through a magazine at the dentist's when I saw an advert for rural homes for semi-feral cats. I phoned and was disappointed to learn that there was a very long waiting list. So my details were added to the bottom and the wait began.

It must have been ten months later that the phone rang and I was asked if I still wanted two cats as they are rehomed in pairs. Yes I did and the following week they arrived.

This rehoming scheme was a sub charity of RSPCA Harrow. Normally, if the RSPCA are called in to deal with a feral cat colony (properly known as a "glaring") the cats would be trapped and humanely destroyed. But someone realised that most of these cats could have new lives elsewhere. A separate fund was created to pay for the capture, assessment, neutering, micro-chipping, care, feed and delivery of these cats to their new homes in stable yards and farmyards.

In the workshop at Upper Highfield Hopsie and Calico had a large plywood box with a raised floor and a big dog cushion as well as a heated pet mat on one side so I was ready for the new arrivals. A small grey RSPCA van arrived, and the incredibly competent woman inspected where they were going to be living. It turned out that I needed to keep them confined for a fortnight. Between us we managed to construct a decent run from the plywood box so they had their bed, a dining area and their litter tray right at the front. As we built, I learned more of the charity and my two, as yet unseen, cats. There had been such a huge response to the advert that the little van had delivered cats as far away as Wales and that my two had been captured in Wembley where the glaring had become a nuisance. Already well travelled: Harrow, Wembley and now Thursley!

They were then decanted out of their travelling crates into the new run and two incredibly fluffy young cats looked at me. Both long-haired with one, the boy, white with black splodges and the other, the girl, black with a white chest and feet. The white one was calm whilst the black one started ferociously spitting and earned her name – "Spit" and so he became "Sawdust".

After a miserable fortnight of confinement, the time came to release them. Spit continued her spitting but hung around as did Sawdust and they would sit lined up by the open workshop door watching the cattle being fed. Spit and Sawdust were fed on the draining board in the workshop in the bright blue plastic bowls that Hopsie and Calico had. Despite having a bowl each they always shared though Sawdust got more as Spit would throw a hissy fit every time.

Sawdust was quieter and very friendly and gradually he could be stroked and even picked up. A couple of years later he hurt his leg and needed a trip to the vet and he was very well behaved much to the vet's relief.

Sawdust also roamed further and he could be seen from a distance at the far side of the fields near the A3. Spit stayed closer and liked the hedge between us and the Axtells as well as the stables on the other side.

In the spring of 2020 Sawdust didn't come for his food. I looked all along Boundless Road and I alerted the neighbours. But he was gone. Spit was alone. But she came for her food and refused to compromise her attitude – she and I had quite a routine with her spitting and me chastising her.

New neighbours in 2024 brought with them three fit fighting cats who soon realised where Spit was fed and she did her best to defend her home but she was chased out. By the autumn Spit was missing. I put out an All-points Bulletin to my neighbours asking if they could look out for Spit.

The first to respond was Teresa Goble who said that Spit had been there and eaten her cat Reggie's food. I took a box of cat food and asked Teresa, if she saw Spit, to please feed her.

Next was Jackie Rickenberg as Spit was sitting on their lawn. This time I took a box of food and Spit's bright blue bowl which I put on a hay bale but all the dogs got wise to the food being left out. Tracey who did late night checks on her horse would see Spit scurrying past.

I don't know where she spent the winter but I got a Whatsapped photo from Jane Howard of Spit huddled on her drive in a terrible late winter storm. We were all getting very desperate to get Spit somewhere safe where she could be sheltered and fed.

And then, hurrah! Spit appeared by the gate at Upper Highfield. I fetched food and the bright blue bowl and every evening positioned it further along the drive. It worked and it was huge relief to see her run across the stable yard at Punch Bowl Farm. Last summer I fed her in the sheep barn but by the autumn it was easier to feed her outside the back door and she made herself comfortable in the Well House.

My plan was to make her a bed in the boiler house but Spit had other ideas. She disappeared again.

Luckily only for a couple of days. She had worked out how to open the long redundant cat flap. I was unsure of having Spit indoors especially when she got aggressive with Calico. But Calico licked her head and peace was made.

When Spit arrived home last summer she was a sad looking animal with her coat a dull brown and her eyes lacklustre. Within a few weeks her coat was black and her eyes brighter. Now she is a fine looking cat and she revels in her new life; every evening after her supper she goes upstairs into the bedroom above the kitchen and roars around, scrabbling the rug, jumping on and off the bed and creating quite a rumpus up there. I think of it as her dance of happiness.

And yes, she's still spitting.

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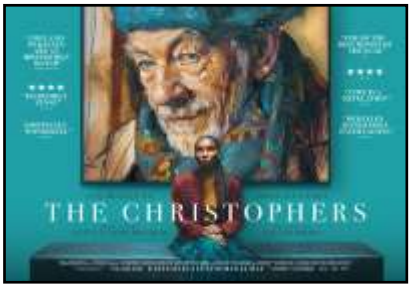

This superb dark comedy drama directed by Steven Soderbergh, full of twists and revelations, follows the estranged children (James Corden and Jessica Gunning) of fading, once-famous British artist Julian Sklar (Ian McKellen). Desperate for an inheritance, they hire a young art restorer and forger, Lori Butler (Michaela Coel), to secretly complete a cache of his unfinished "Christopher" paintings so they can be sold for a fortune upon his death. **Drama / Cert 15**

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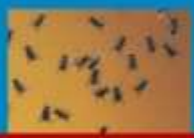

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