

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF BADSHOT LEA AND HALE



Serving the communities of Badshot Lea, Folly Hill, Hale, Heath End, Sandy Hill and Weybourne



The churches of St George's, St John's and St Mark's

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286

May 2025

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Magazine subscription and deadline

Subscriptions to the magazine are a minimum of £10 for the year, suggested price £15.

Contact 07565 422079 or email editor@badshotleaandhale.org.

The deadline for the May issue of the magazine is

Sunday 18th May.

Advertisers

Below is a list of our current advertisers by category and the page numbers you can find them on. Please use their services and don't forget to say that you saw their advert in this magazine.

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Cartoon Family portraits from the Squirrel Collective



Have your portrait drawn by Jacqui, from the Squirrel Collective, as seen on baptism booklets in the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale.

Family groups, friendship groups, couples, children and parents... even your pets. I draw from photographs and will work with you to get a drawing you are happy with. I draw by hand and add colour with alcohol-based markers, so your picture will stay vibrant for a long time to come.

You can buy an additional, digital copy of your portrait, so that you can put it onto mugs, T-shirts, bags, etc.

Prices from £15.

To order, or for more details, please see @TheSquirrelCollective on Facebook.



What's on in May

Thursday, 1st —10:00 to 12:00

Coffee and Art at St Mark's

Join us for art and coffee (and cake) at St Mark's on the first and third Thursday of every month. No artistic skills needed!

Tuesday 6th—10:00 to 11:30

Connections

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

Wednesday, 7th — 15:00 to 16:00

Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

Thursday, 8th—12:00 to 14:00

St John's Thursday Café

Instead of coffee drop-in, we are going to have a lunch of soup, bread and some cake. This will be from 12noon until 2.00pm. We need to know who is coming and numbers will be limited. Please can you let Pamela know as soon as possible if you are coming. Donations to be made to the St John's Tower Fund.

Friday, 9th—19:00 to 21:00

Friday Night Games Night

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's. There is a meal, table tennis, games and lots of chat!

Monday 12th

- Clothing Giveaway & Café 09:00-11:00

Our weekly clothing giveaway and Café at St Mark's. There are free clothes for anyone who would like to come and take some and it is a good way of recycling clothes and helping reduce waste. There is also a café serving tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. Please come and see what is going on and choose some clothes. If you want to donate clothes they will be most welcome.

Tuesday 13th—10:00 to 11:30

FREE Craft Café

FREE Craft Café run by Farnham Maltings at St George's. Come along and learn a new craft or bring your own. It's every fortnight and absolutely free.

Wednesday, 14th—15:00 to 16:00

Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

Our regular church services are:

Every Sunday: 9.30am St John's;

10am St George's; *and*

Online: www.badshotleaandhale.org

11am St Mark's.

Wednesday: 12pm St Mark's, Midweek Eucharist.

Thursday, 15th—10.30am-12pm.

Coffee and Art at St Mark's

Join us for art and coffee (and cake) at St Mark's on the first and third Thursday of every month. No artistic skills needed!

Monday 19th

-- Clothing Giveaway & Café 09:00-11:00

Our weekly clothing giveaway and Café at St Mark's. There are free clothes for anyone who would like to come and take some and it is a good way of recycling clothes and helping reduce waste. There is also a café serving tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. Please come and see what is going on and choose some clothes. If you want to donate clothes they will be most welcome.

Tuesday 20th —10:00 to 11:30

Connections

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

Wednesday, 21st—15:00 to 16:00

Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

Thursday, 22nd —10:00 to 12:00

St John's Thursday Café

Drop-in coffee morning takes place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Sumner Room at 10am. There is tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and a chance to meet and chat with other people.

Friday, 23rd—19:00 to 21:00

Friday Night Games Night

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's. There is a meal, table tennis, games and lots of chat!

Wednesday, 28th — 15:00 to 16:00

Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's every Wednesday. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

St John's Pews



Did you ever wonder what happened to the pews which were taken from St John's Church. Some of them have been repurposed as a wonderful book case at the Cathedral.



From the ministry team

Today I write in the knowledge that our vacancy will shortly be coming to an end, and I reflect back over the past 14 months. Entering into the vacancy was rather like stepping into the unknown and I felt privileged to be part of the team that would lead us through that time – no matter how long it continued.

Personally, I have loved the challenge. I have loved being trusted to lead people in worship. I have been happy to change my priorities in life – putting the needs of the parish and of others before my own. In doing so I have found growth within myself; in particular growth in love and compassion and gentleness. I have found that being generous with my time and energy has resulted in me receiving far more than I have given.

I am mindful of a couple of bible passages:

2 Corinthians 9:7: Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And Luke 6:38: Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Of course, I couldn't have got through the last months without the love and support shown by others. An answer to that prayer that we so often included in our intercessions: "We ask for your blessing and

guidance on those with particular responsibility for ensuring that things run as smoothly as possible and for understanding and forgiveness when mistakes are made." That prayer for me has certainly been answered and I thank everyone for their understanding, forgiveness, patience, generosity, help and support.

And now we look forward into another unknown future. Our new rector Rev Lexi Russell will also need God's blessing and guidance, and she will need understanding and forgiveness when mistakes are made. May we all show generosity and acceptance to her while she is settling into her new role.

For in Lexi, I see someone that may be well equipped to help us on the next stage of our journey and our vision to grow God's Kingdom; following our aims (as stated in our parish profile) to:

- Grow in Spiritual Maturity
- Grow in Number
- Grow Younger
- Grow in Community Engagement.

May God bless us all and we continue together on our journey.



Kris Lawrence
Churchwarden &
Occasional Worship Leader

Easter Day

Christ is Risen! Alleluia

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

It was such a joy to see St George's so full for our Easter Day service, and what a lovely service it was!



For the sermon Stella read a narrative inspired by the Gospel reading, John 20.1-18. It was read so beautifully and surely touched the hearts of those that heard it.



The church looked beautiful with flower displays of lilies and daffodils and the Easter Garden adorned with flowers taking central place. The Easter Bunny must have visited the garden during the service so there were ample eggs for all located in the hunt that followed the service.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



The Children's Society

I have now completed the opening of the charity boxes held by members of St George's church and sent off a total of £351.02 to this very worthwhile charity. Thank you so much to the 14 box holders for their very generous donations.

Kay Eastman.

Parish Community Fete—7th June



It may seem a while away, but the Parish Fete will be here before we know it! Let's make this fete bigger & better than ever before!!

New for 2025 we have a Pet Show – see Christine Brown's entry for more information and Farnham's current mayor,

Brodie Mauluka's band will be playing a live set for us.

There will of course be all the favourites – cream teas, BBQ, Bar, tombola's, craft stalls, community stalls, games and of course maypole dancing, Karate, etc!

The success of much of this depends on YOUR help and support! We need things to populate the various stalls:

Tombola's:

Bottle tombola – any kind of drink in a bottle

Chocolate tombola – speaks for itself!!

Gift tombola – any items that would be suitable to gift onto to someone

New for 2025 – Jam Jar tombola – small gift items that would fit into a small jar

Other stalls:

Toys & games

Jigsaws

Please drop off any donations at one of the churches.

We have a variety of games, but need people to run these – so please let Kris know if you are willing to help.

All we need then is good weather on the day so lots of visitors come along and have a fun day!



Kris Lawrence—Churchwarden

PARISH SOCIAL CALENDAR

Future Social Events for the Diary

	Sat 17 th May – 10am-12pm Plant sale	St George's	
	Sat 7 th June – 12pm-3pm Community Fete	St George's	
	Sat 21 st June – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Fri 4 th July – time TBC Jane Austin Day	St John's	
	Sat 13 th Sept – 6pm-9pm Murder Mystery Bring & Share supper	TBC	
	Sat 20 th Sept – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Sat 4 th Oct – 6pm-9pm Harvest Supper	St George's	
	Mon TBC – 5:30-6:30pm Christmas Light Switch on	St George's	



Badshot Lea Community Fete at St George's Church

Children's Pet Show

**Lots of fun classes including; Best Rescue Pet
Fluffiest Pet • Most unusual Pet • Best Fancy Dress
Best Party Trick • Most Knowledgeable Owner
(Small animals will be judged in a separate area)**

Lots of Prizes and Trophy for Best in Show!

1.30pm on Saturday the 7th June

**Guest Judge - qualified vet Izzy Jones
from Farnham Veterinary Hospital**

**To enter please email a photo of your pet
and the age of their human to:-
christine@serviceplus.org.uk**

Entry to all classes and to qualify for best in show only £5.00

This year for the very first time Badshot Lea Community Fete will host a Children's Pet Show which being sponsored by Farnham Vet Hospital . This is to be a fun event where any pet is welcome. To enter please email Christine@serviceplus.org.uk with a photo of your pet and the name and age of their human. Entry is only £5 and there will be loads of prizes and a trophy for Best in Show.

We are delighted to have Vet Izzy Jones from Farnham Veterinary Hospital as our guest judge. There are plenty of fun classes so every pet should have a chance to win a prize. So get working on your fancy dress, perfect your party trick or learn all you can about your favourite friend or just arrive and look cute! Don't worry, we can keep some pets separate if necessary if they are likely to be nervous or worried by their fellow animals.

Judging starts at 1.30 but please arrive by 1.15 so we can allocate you and your friend a name badge. Can't wait to meet you all!



CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

9am - 11am Mondays

St Mark's Community Centre

St Mark's Church

Upper Hale, Farnham GU9 0LT

**Good condition clothing
donations received.**

**All clothing for free to our
community for personal use.**



**For donation drop-offs and enquiries please contact
Rev'd Stella Wiseman 07842 761919**



St George's Church, Badshot Lea

PLANT SALE



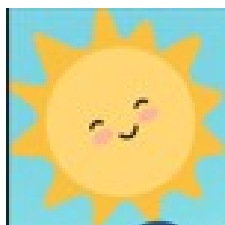
Saturday 17th May
10am - 12pm

Refreshments
available
while you
browse

Children's
potting
activity



Donations welcome



Summer Community Fete

St George's Church, Badshot Lea
Saturday 7th June
12noon - 3pm

New for 2025
Pet Show



Mouthwatering BBQ
Scrumptious cream teas
Bar

Grand
Prize
Draw

A great afternoon full of fun!
tombolas, craft stalls
community stalls, kids crafts,
entertainment, games,
live band,
and lots, lots more!!



<https://badshotleaandhale.org/>



Family



Praise

a short, informal period of
Christian Worship for all the family

St George's Church

11.30am

1st Sunday Monthly from May 4th

Everyone welcome

Please join us for tea / coffee / juice at 11:10am

Please come and join us in this special time when
Children of God of all ages (0 – 100+)
join together in worship

Lord God

As spring turns to summer,
Fill us with the warmth of your love
That we may share in your kingdom.
Through your grace,
May we share with all those we meet
The joy of your love.

Amen



Thank you to Farnham TC!

The condition of the chairs at St George's Church have been of concern for some time and we are so grateful that with the support of Farnham Town Council we have managed to replace the chairs in the hall.

There have already been many comments of approval!

This is not the end of the project as we are also awaiting delivery of the characteristic red chairs for use in the church.

The old chairs, although looking very tired and tatty, are still sturdy enough, so please let me know if you could make use of them (a donation to church funds would be welcome).

So, thank you again Farnham Town Council!



Kris Lawence
Churchwarden

From the Parish Registers

Weddings

We congratulate those who have recently married:

5th April at St George's

Ashley Wood and Shay Hallinan

17th April at St John's

Bethany Jayne Thomas and Sean Declan Keens

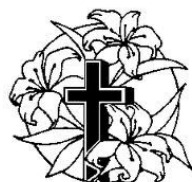


Funerals

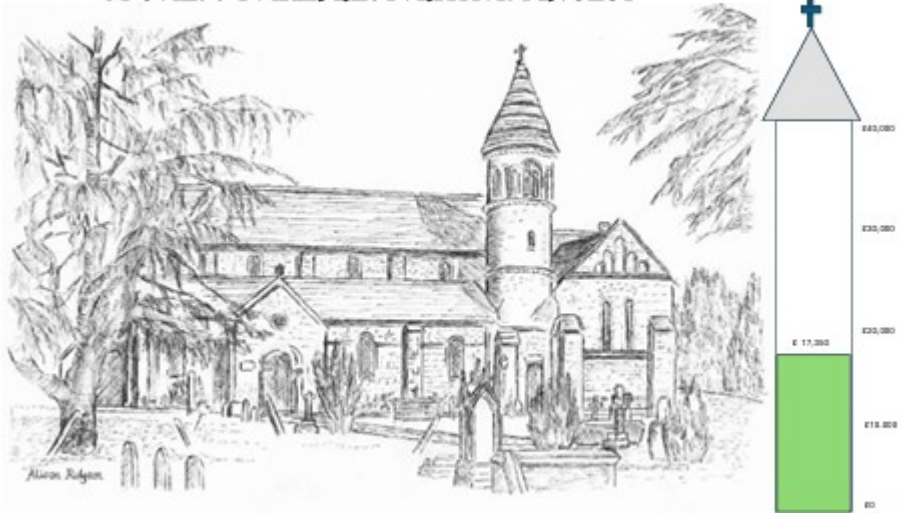
We commend to God those whose funerals have recently taken place:

1st April at Crematorium

Sheila Kirk Brown



ST JOHN'S TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT



LAST UPDATED:

22nd MARCH 2025

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Website:

www.cunninghamhouse.co.uk

Email:

cunninghamhousepirbright@gmail.com

Cunningham House is the operating name of Abbeyfield Pirbright and District Society Limited, a registered society under the Co-Operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014, registration number 22478R

Abbeyfield Pirbright & District Society



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Register on our website today.



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Tilford Bach Festival



**A varied programme for
our 73rd annual Festival
is taking place at
All Saints Church and
the Tilford Institute**

Friday 6th June, 7.30 pm **Scottish Baroque music, from the salon to the Highland Fling** - Soloists: Alastair Fraser and Natalie Haas; followed by a cèilidh at 9 pm

Saturday 7th June, 7.30 pm **J.S. Bach – Mass in B Minor, BWV 232** – Soloists: Julia Doyle, Daniel Taylor, Ruairi Bowen, Ashley Riches

Sunday 8th June, 5 pm **Young talent play the best of Baroque: music by Corelli and Vivaldi** – Leader: Sara Matovic, Choir: Students from the University of Toronto under Daniel Taylor

We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of our orchestra in residence, the London Handel Players, under our Artistic Director, Adrian Butterfield

Find more details, buy tickets and subscribe to our mailing list via our website tilfordbachfestival.com, or contact us via info@tilfordbachfestival.com

TILFORD BACH FESTIVAL

The **Tilford Bach Festival** in 2025 is the 73rd annual celebration of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach held in All Saints church in Tilford. Our Musical Director is Adrian Butterfield of the Royal College of Music and our orchestra in residence under his direction is the London Handel Players.

We are a charity aiming to showcase the best of British and international musicians at affordable prices, whilst also promoting young talent .

Friday 6th June 2025, 7.30pm - A celebration of Scottish Baroque music – the salon to the Highland Fling: a fusion of traditional Scottish fiddle tunes and a folk influenced baroque repertoire

Soloists: Alastair Fraser and Natalie Haas

Followed by a cèilidh at the Tilford Institute at 9 pm - Scottish country music, dancing and fun, with a caller to help keep everyone on track. You don't need to know the dances!

Saturday 7th June 2025, 7.30 pm - J.S. Bach – Mass in B Minor BWV 232: a rich tapestry of voice and instruments

Soloists and the Pegasus Choir

Sunday 8th June 2025, 5 pm - Young talent perform music by Corelli and Vivaldi

Musicians: Students of the Royal College of Music, under Adrian Butterfield
Leader: Sara Matović

Choir: Students from the University of Toronto, under Daniel Taylor

Visit our website tilfordbachfestival.com to find more details, buy tickets, subscribe to our mailing list, or make a donation - or contact us via Info@tilfordbachfestival.com.

TRAUMA: MORE RELEVANT TO EVERY DAY LIFE THAN WE REALISE



Led by Libby Williams, Counsellor and Tutor

***Saturday 5th July 2025
10 am – 12.30 pm***

(Coffee available from 9.30 am)

***at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA***

- Do you notice yourself reacting to seemingly small things in ways that seem out of proportion? Or perhaps you notice this in others around you? But where do these (over) reactions come from?
- Do you find yourself struggling with certain topics of conversation? Feeling like you'd like to escape or noticing you can't concentrate or keep zoning out? What goes on inside us that makes staying present hard?
- Do you ever get halfway through a sentence and your mind goes blank? Or you have a to-do-list but find yourself feeling overwhelmed or procrastinating forevermore? What is happening inside our minds/bodies when this happens?

We are familiar with trauma resulting from a bad car crash, or at the hands of a violent partner, or as the result of a chronic illness etc. However, whilst trauma can result from all those things, it also encompasses so much more. Come along to the session to learn what trauma actually is, where it comes from, and how it is surprisingly relevant to most of our lives. Find out how it effects our bodies, minds, and behaviour. Explore what can be done to help in practical ways and learn to start noticing better what is going on in and around you.

**Please reserve a place, with payment of £7, by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646
*by Friday 20th June***

PASTORAL CARE IN CHALLENGING TIMES



Led by Andy Peck

Saturday 14th June 2025

9.30 am - 1 pm (Coffee available from 9 am)

at Godalming Baptist Church,

Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA

It is said that a crisis doesn't make or break, it just reveals! There are times when we feel challenges in caring for others, either because we feel like we are just 'hanging on' to faith ourselves, or because the situation being faced is stretching us like never before. The recent COVID pandemic left many reeling!

In this session, we aim to step back and provide an assessment of what pastoral care is and what it isn't, look together at our mind-sets as we face challenges, and provide a faith-filled expectant outlook that takes Romans 8:28 seriously, knowing that 'in all things God is at work for the good of those who love him'.

Areas looked at will include:

- What is pastoral care according to the Bible?
- What role might you play in caring for others?
- Looking at the five stages of church involvement and the care needed for each
- How do we understand the suffering that God allows?
- How do we serve at a sustainable pace?
- How do we involve others?
- How might our care extend beyond the local church?

The morning will be a mixture of teaching and small group discussions with time for questions, and notes will be provided.

Please reserve a place, with payment of £8, by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646
by Friday 30th May

The Badshot Leader



Since the last Leader came out, the new disabled access path has been constructed between the kiln and the community Garden. This was paid for with a £2500 grant

Meanwhile the Badshot Bloomers participated in a Community Day in Gostrey Meadow in connection with

this year's Farnham in Bloom. Farnham hopes to repeat its success last year, when it was awarded Gold and best in its category in the competition held annually by the Royal Horticultural Society. Areas to be judged include Badshot Lea Cemetery and the Village Pond.

Local residents honoured as Community Champions

The Chair of Surrey County Council recently held a reception for about 40 volunteers who had made outstanding contributions to community projects. Our local councillor, Katherine Powell nominated four from our area, and they are seen here. Brian Drew (guest on the left), Roger Dickey, John Ely, John Martin and Oli. Sam Hussain, Chair of Surrey County Council is third from the right.



The Cricketers is safe.

Many of you will have noticed that the lease for the Cricketers has been on the market, and the pub was threatened with closure, as has happened to so many village pubs. It is therefore good news that it has been taken over by J P Stubbins's chain of 17 Star Pubs. A new manager, Nikky Daws, is now in charge.

The Cricketers was one of the first buildings in Badshot Lea, being one of a ring of new pubs designed to cater for troops, who moved into the new camp at Aldershot 1854. The village marked the limits soldiers could go from camp without a pass. In the 1861 census the landlord was William Arnold who also worked as a carpenter. He advertised rooms for travellers.

A later landlord, "Cocker" Langridge, ran the pub during the Great War and he operated a coal delivery business from the yard. Cocker could be a difficult man at times and he fell out with



"Admiral Gibbs" over a debt. Gibbs, who became a Special Constable in the war got his own back by twice charging Langridge for allowing lights to show during the blackout. (Imposed because of Zeplin raids).

The photo shows the Pub in about 1910, when it was owned by the Guildford brewers, Lascelles Ticker. The man looking out of the window is Ernie Langridge, the landlord's son.

Nikky plans to run a traditional village pub, with basket meals from 12pm to 6pm on Monday to Saturday, and pre-booked Sunday Roasts. A meat raffle is held at 6pm on Friday. There is good coverage of sport on Sky and TNT, as well as a pool table and Juke Box.

Dockers or Baggies? - Football in Badshot Lea.

People in Badshot Lea are often puzzled when they read that Badshot Lea Football Club's First Eleven play their home matches at Wreccelsham, and wonder why. Well, it really is a success story, and the Club which was formed in the Lea has progressed steadily up the divisions. Promotion often means that grounds must conform to the higher standards of that division. However, Badshot Lea Junior and Colt teams still play on village and Weybourne recreation grounds.

Kickabout football must have taken place early on, although the only public space for games was the Green. This had been allocated for recreation when the enclosure map was drawn up in 1857. The present recreation ground was bought in 1929 and a Recreation Ground Committee was established which continues today. Prior to that, football and cricket matches were played on the fields of friendly land owners. Cricket was sometimes played on what is now Badshot Park. A gate in the old wall allowed access to the Crown. Both Badshot Lea School and the Evening Class boys were playing friendly matches by 1904, as were the nucleus of young men who met at the Mission Room at the beginning of the 1904 season to officially form Badshot Lea Football Club. Mr Billows was elected Captain, Chris Patrick became Secretary and Mr Hinwood Treasurer. The Reverend Tristram served as President.

Village morale was high in 1904, particularly when Badshot Lea won the Aldershot Hospital Carnival cup with their float. This was in the shape of a gun boat on a waggon towed by Humphry Gardener's team of horses. The story goes that the "Saucy Kipper" was built at the Badshot Lea Docks, (a pond where the garage now stands). For the next 50 years the villagers and Badshot Lea Football team were known as the Dockers. During their first season they fielded 2 teams. The first eleven won their first 3 matches and by April 1905 the reserves had won 8, drawn 3 and lost only 2.

The club soon joined the local leagues and were well established when war broke out in August 1914. It was then said it was "no time for games", and the new season was suspended. The captain at the time, Chris Patrick, was one player who never returned, having drowned in the river, while serving in Baghdad.

Friendly matches were resumed towards the end of the Great War, encouraged by the Revd. Durrant, and league football resumed in 1919. In those days most men played for their own villages and they were keenly followed. In the Runwick Cup final in 1924 a crowd of 1300 saw the Dockers beaten 1-0 to arch rivals Hale.

Between the wars Badshot Lea Football Club had begun their rise and in the golden season, of 1936/37 they won the Surrey Intermediate League, Farnham League Division 1, Surrey Junior Charity Cup and the Runwick Charity Cup.



The 1936/37 teams with their "silver ware"

In recent years the club have steadily risen, through the leagues and were playing in the Isthmian South-Central League in the 2024/25 season. Although sadly, they now call themselves "The Baggies" Just why is uncertain, but in the 1970's the school children referred to the village as Baggy Lea.

1st Weybourne Brownies

We are searching for new volunteers to take over the Unit from September 2025.

The new team would be provided by Girlguiding with all the training required including a mentor, plus local support from the other Girlguiding volunteers in the area. An enhanced DBS check would be organised for all new volunteers.

The Unit meets once a week, in a local hall, meetings are for 1.5 hours with planning and preparation required ahead of each meeting.

Brownies are girls aged 7 – 10 years, who work on the Girlguiding programme of activities which is

Alder Valley Brass
MUSIC OF STAGE AND SCREEN
AN EVENING OF MUSIC FROM TV, FILM AND STAGE
7PM SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2025
Normandy Village Hall
Glaziers Lane, GU3 2DT

Ticket to Ride – Locomotive No. 40000 by Alan Farnes

Adults £10
Under 16's free!
Available on the door or in advance through EventBrite

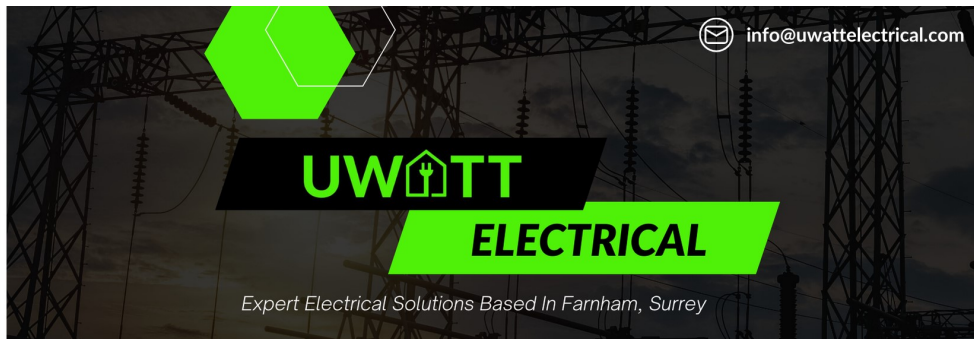
SCAN ME


spread across six themes – Be Well, Have Adventures, Know Myself, Take Action, Skills for my Future and Express Myself. As one of our current volunteers said *"I love volunteering with Girlguiding it's great fun, very rewarding and I've made life long friends. Running weekly meetings is not as hard as I'd thought it would be as Girlguiding have developed great sets of programme activity cards, it's all about learning whilst having lots of fun"*.

Please sign up to volunteer and give back to your local community, if your daughter is on a local Brownie waiting list it's a sure-fire way to get her to the top of the list by volunteering regularly yourself.

Please get in touch with Kirsty who is the local District Commissioner via hale_district@outlook.com, or call 07796 178418.

We look forward to hearing from you.



 info@uwattelectrical.com

UWATT

ELECTRICAL

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OUR SERVICES



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Pollinator Patch with Juliet from Hive Helpers



In praise of tussocks

There is a small wood near where I live, familiar to residents as Ten Acre Wood. It is small but perfectly formed, with a valuable mix of habitats which has so far avoided development, although it has no specific protection that I know of. In autumn, it boasts a range of fungi including an impressive crop of winter chanterelles. And there is a small clearing in the middle which at this time of year is buzzing with bumblebees, reminiscent of Yeats' 'bee-loud glade' in his wonderful poem *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*. There are large buff-tailed and common carder bumblebees scouting around in the long, tussocky grass, perfect for nesting bees. Grass which is long and uneven is so beneficial for biodiversity, which leads me nicely to...

No Mow May

This is Plantlife's annual campaign which asks all gardeners, councils and landowners not to mow until the end of May, in order to boost the flowers and nectar available to pollinating insects. I have been pleased to see so many dandelions adorning our roadside verges, such a good source of early nectar, and I even spotted a blue heart in Rowledge to indicate that the area had been deliberately left wild and was not laziness on the part of the owners! Mossy and bare lawns are good too, although I haven't convinced my husband on that score!

Bee of the month – Common carder bee

Chances are that if you see a gingery, fluffy bumblebee, it will be a common carder (*Bombus pascuorum*). They are often found in gardens and woods and like all



Common carder bee—Sarah Womersley

bumble bees, it is a social insect making small nests in cavities, old bird's nests and mossy lawns. The name comes from the fact that they tease moss and dried grass with the bristles on their legs, brushing and shaping the material into a nest to keep the offspring warm and dry. They are long-tongued bees so like tubular flowers such as heather, clover, lavender.

Pollinator plant of the month – white dead nettle

White dead-nettle (*Lamium album*), as its name implies, does not sting, and can be commonly found on disturbed ground such as roadside verges, waste ground or grassy banks. The white hooded flowers attract lots of species of long-tongued insects, including our

friend the common carder. It is also the food plant of several moth caterpillars, including the unmistakable angle shades moth (*Phlogophora meticulosa*), which at rest looks like a withered autumn leaf. I always leave patches of nettles in the wild area at the bottom of my garden, but for some reason I don't have the white dead nettle, only the stinging variety (*Urtica dioica*) which is the food plant of several butterfly caterpillars, and a garden variety of yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) which I discovered has the nickname of 'aluminium archangel' because of the silver streaks in its leaves. It is very invasive and I keep it under tight control, tolerating it only for the pollinator-friendly flowers.

For a comprehensive list of plants for pollinators, visit <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators> and download the garden plants list.

For more information about Hive Helpers, please visit www.hivehelpers.co.uk, email office@hivehelpers.co.uk or phone 07895 547637.



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It's a cat meet dog life

Rumour has it, there will soon be a church dog! A dog? I hear my fans say. Surely not! But it seems it is so. There is to be a new rector in the parish and not only does she have a wife and a baby son (I don't mind children as long as they respect me and my need for snacks) but she has a dog!

What am I to do? I am the Church Cat. I can't share my territory with my traditional enemy. First suppose he chases me? Obviously I am a sprightly young thing and quite able to leap out of his way or bop him on the nose, but I am also an elder who needs to be treated with reverence and respect. And humans are making furniture surfaces much higher up these days.

Second, what if he wants to be my friend? I have heard this sort of thing you know. I have even seen it on the internet. My internet-browsing is obviously all about tariffs on imported venison, salmon, duck and the like, or what the FTSE 100 Index is showing me about my investments, but the Curate has occasionally been found watching videos of cats and dogs, sometimes in the same room and sometimes being introduced to each other. It seems the dog is usually keen to meet the cat but rarely the other way round. The dog will run up and sniff at the cat, wag its tail and not

give up however many times the cat hisses or bops it on the nose.

These videos always end the same way:



a week, a month, a year later, the dog and cat are the best of friends and the cat invariably curls up on top of the dog for a much-needed rest. I mean, what self-respecting cat would do that? What self-respecting cat would want to snuggle up against the warm fur of another creature and have a good, long nap? I mean... oh, hold on, does that sound bad? It sounds like the cat might have a good thing going on. It sounds like this could be something to consider.

Maybe I was a little hasty in my initial response. Budge up doggo, I want a snooze.

Purrs
The Church Cat





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badshotle-
aandhale.org](mailto:revd.stella@badshotle-aandhale.org)

Youth Minister

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badshotle-
aandhale.org](mailto:youth@badshotle-aandhale.org)

The Church Cat

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[slashermcgoogs@
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Kris Lawrence
[warden.stgeorges@b
adshotle-aandhale.
org](mailto:warden.stgeorges@badshotle-aandhale.org)

Pamela Marsham
[warden.stjohns
@badshotle-aandhale
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[pcc.layvicechair@bad
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June Jasper
[pcc.secretary@
badshotle-
aandhale.org](mailto:pcc.secretary@badshotle-aandhale.org)

Choir Leader

Margaret Emberson,
[embersonmargaret@
gmail.com](mailto:embersonmargaret@gmail.com)
01252 409124

Administration and Hall Bookings

Stella Wiseman:
[admin@
badshotle-
aandhale.org](mailto:admin@badshotle-aandhale.org)

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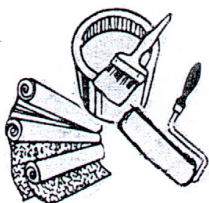
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