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I HEREBY SUMMON YOU to attend the **COMMUNITY, EVENTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE** Meeting to be held in The Oglethorpe Room, Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Godalming on THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2026 at 7.30pm.

DATED this 23rd day of October 2026

*Andy Jeffery*

Andy Jeffery
Chief Executive Officer

If you wish to speak at this meeting please contact Godalming Town Council on 01483 523575 or email office@godalming-tc.gov.uk

**Where possible proceedings will be live streamed via the Town Council's Facebook page.** If you wish to watch the council meeting's proceedings, please go to Godalming Town Council's YouTube page.

Committee Members:
Councillor Marshall - Chair
Councillor PMA Rivers – Vice Chair
Councillor Heagin
Councillor Williams
Councillor S Downey
Councillor Crowe

## A G E N D A

1. MINUTES

   To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 16 July 2026, a copy of which has been circulated previously.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS

   To receive from Members any declarations of interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting required to be disclosed by the Localism Act 2011 and the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.

4. PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

   The Chair to invite members of the public to make representations, ask or answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda or other matters not on the agenda. This forum to be conducted in accordance with Standing Order 5.

5. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To consider any questions from Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 6.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

Members to consider the Committee's Work Programme and to note progress on the items therein (copy attached for the information of Members).

7. BUDGET MONITORING

**Recommendation**
Members are requested to receive the report and note the current budget position.

Members are asked to note a report from the Responsible Finance Officer on the financial performance of the Committee's cost centres 101/4341 (Community Grants), 106 (Festivals markets and Events), 108 (Christmas Lights), 206 (Bandstand) and 207 (Godalming Museum) as of 15 October 2026 (report attached for the information of Members).

**101** – Nominal 4341 – In line with decisions of Council, £8,360 granted as grant-aid-in-kind and in support of Choirblast 2026, £45,500 granted via Service Level Agreements and £7,699 in Community Grants have been paid out. Members to note that grant-aid-in-kind is managed by internal transfers from the grants nominal code to the appropriate facilities being provided. This prevents double accounting of the total level of grant funding provided by GTC.

**106 –** Festivals, Markets & Events – Overall income and expenditure are within expectation for the current position within the event cycle.

**Income** is in-line with expectation and currently is predominately made up from Friday Market & Farncombe Station Market pitch fees. Income from GTC festival markets will not be reflected until the pitch fees for the Christmas 2026 and Spring 2027 festival markets is received, alongside income generated from Fireworks 2026 to be held in November.

**Expenditure** at 41.5% is in-line with expectations for the event cycle.

Nominal code 4313 – Professional fees – others reflect the cost of entertainment and traffic management for the Spring Festival 2026 and staycation activities. £351 has been miscoded to this nominal code and will be corrected.

Members should note that due to the timing of the Spring Festival the income for 2026 was accounted for in the previous year's accounts, whereas the expenditure is shown in the financial year following the event. This is accounted for in setting the annual budgets i.e. Spring festival 2027 income will offset the expenditure incurred in the current financial year for the 2026 Spring Festival.

Nominal Code 4327- Publicity Advertising – Current expenditure, currently 28.7% above year to-date expectation is a timing issue only and reflects promotion of Staycation 2027, Heritage Open Weekend and Godalming as UK Finalists in UK In-Bloom.

**108 –** Christmas Lights – No expenditure at this time, which is a timing issues with the deposit payment due for payment in October and the final balance payable in January 2027.

**206** – Bandstand – Expenditure for the bandstand stands at 5.2% of budget and is below the phased budget expectation for the end of Month 7. As the concert season has ended, payment for energy use is due and the PRS subscription for the 2027 season is due in December.

**207** – Godalming Museum.

**Income** – at 56.1% is derived from lease rental payments, which are paid quarterly, 50% is the correct amount for the end of Q2, the invoice for Q3 is shortly due to be issued. Other customer receipts reflect reimbursement of insurance costs and should equal the expenditure shown at nominal cost 4315.

**Expenditure** – Overall expenditure is at 48% against a budget position of 54.2%. However, the following nominal codes are in excess of 5% of expected position:

**4315** – Insurance – although sitting at 80.6%, the insurance premium for 2026/27 came in below budget and therefore this is a timing issue only.

**4325** – Computing – 83.9% reflects the purchase of an additional laptop for Education Outreach Officer and as with other cost centres the additional cost is the delay in moving from a server based to cloud-based system. It is likely that this nominal code will be approximately £650 overspent.

8. MOTION ON NOTICE

Proposer: Councillor Heagin

**Recommendation:**
**Members to consider the Motion and if minded are requested to resolve to approve the implementation of the motion as set out at points a and b in the motion.**

**Motion**

It is proposed that, jointly with Henry Smith Charities, the council will:
a. Contact all junior schools to establish the extent to which they offer residential trips for their pupils and what, if any, financial support is offered to families who struggle to meet the costs involved
b. Evaluate the viability of offering funding in a way that is equitable for all junior school pupils who might otherwise be denied a valuable opportunity to build confidence and learn new skills.

**Background**
Cllr Heagin is a GTC nominated trustee of the Henry Smith charities (HS). Their objective is to provide financial support for residents of the parishes of Godalming, Busbridge and Shackleford. There is a particular emphasis on educational support. They have an income of c£4,000 pa from their investments and aim to fully distribute that income each year.

Over the past 2 years they have received applications for support to enable children to participate in residential trips offered by their schools. They gave just over £1,000 in 2025 and £965 so far this year. There was one from St Marks in 2025, one from Broadwater in each of 2025 and 2026, but the majority have come from Loseley Fields, with 3 in 2025 and 5 in 2026.

Seeing the grant application from Godalming Junior School prompted several thoughts:
a. There is a growing need in our community
b. Knowledge of sources of financial support is not evenly spread
c. With only limited funds available it would seem logical for charity and council to cooperate to ensure that these funds are distributed as equitably as possible; to not simply be swallowed by the first to present their case
d. Apparently different criteria are being employed by the schools regarding the support they offer. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) is an obvious source, and all schools should include their PPG strategy on their website. PPG is £1,550 for most children receiving free school

meals, and the picture across the schools in our most deprived areas is illuminating. Based on 2025/6 data:

- Loseley Fields - £160k, of which 3% allocated to financial support for school trips
- St Marks - £80k with commitment to provide 50% support to the cost of school trips
- Godalming Junior School - £45k. No explicit comment on amount allocated to the cost of school trips, but in their application to GTC they state that one third of the cost of residential trips will come from PPG.

Whether or not the proposed investigation provides the basis for a joint scheme, the information gathered will be valuable to both organisations, to inform future activity in making funding decisions and promoting access to their funds. A draft of the proposed letter to schools is attached. It has been approved by the HS trustees.

A proposed timeline for the initiative is:

a. Letter to school by end of October
b. Responses requested by end of November
c. Results evaluated by the two organisations individually and jointly by end of December, including the possibility of a joint scheme
d. Decisions reached by end of January and communicated back to schools.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

| Information: | £ |
|---|---|
| **26/2027 Council Community Fund Allocation** | 26,100.00 |
| Allocations this year to date | 20,058.80 |
| Community Fund Balance | 6041.20 |
| Council Community Fund applications this meeting | 7687.00 |
| Balance unallocated if applications agreed | -1645.80 |

a. Members to receive a letter of thanks from Challengers for the award of a Community Grant on 16 July 2026.

Members to consider the following Community Grant requests. Supporting papers, where applicable, to be tabled at the meeting. Previous grants shown cover the period from 2019.

**Ockford Park Community Garden Group**

Sponsor: Cllr Kiehl, Cllr Follows.

£1,500 is requested towards the cost of improvements to the Ockford Park Community Garden to support community use, accessibility, biodiversity and volunteer activity.

The group has explained that the garden is intended to provide a welcoming space for local residents, including those without access to private gardens, and to support wider community events, volunteering and educational activity. The group advises that the site is already being used for community engagement, including baby and mum meet-ups, volunteer gardening sessions, a toddler mud kitchen and community social events. The intended improvements would increase the usability of the space and allow the group to develop the site for the benefit of local residents and visitors, not limited to Ockford Park only.

The group has identified the following intended purchases:

- Seating improvements, to include:
    - 1 picnic bench - £300
    - 1 two-seater companion chair with back - £200
    - 1 three-seater bench with back - £150

    - Concreting in - £200
- Tool hire for hard landscaping works to create five new beds - £100
- Compost to improve soil and protect new plants - £200
- Wildlife pond materials to support biodiversity - £100
- Plants - £100
- Stones - £100
- Noticeboard - £150.

Total requested: £1,500.

The group has advised that it is not currently constituted as a charity or CIC and that, if awarded, it would be happy to pay for items and seek reimbursement. Officers note that community grants cannot normally be paid in advance into a private individual's bank account, and reimbursement would only be possible on receipt of appropriate invoices. Officers also note that publicity and advertising are not eligible expenditure under the Council's grant guidance.

Members are asked to consider whether the application provides sufficient detail of community benefit and proposed expenditure to support a grant award.

**Godalming Junior School**

*Background:*
As Members are aware, school budgets are tighter than ever and though schools are allocated additional funding for children in receipt of free school meals (FSM) and those who qualify for the Premium Pupil Grant (PPG), these only goes so far. Members will also be aware, in most cases those children who qualify for FSM and PPG also have other, sometimes complex, needs. The additional funding received needs to be prioritised towards daily support and does not fully extend to funding these children on school trips. Arguably, these children are the ones that need these opportunities the most.

In recent years it has been even harder to secure additional funding and schools have seen grants cut meaning the capacity to support our most vulnerable children is even more difficult. Godalming Junior School very much believes that every child should be given the opportunity to attend residential school trips, which provides them with memorable experiences they can reflect on fondly in future years.

Sadly, these trips are creeping up in cost and GJS is making every effort to mitigate these costs. They are informing parents earlier so that they can spread payments more over the school year and, the PTA is covering some of the transport costs.

To help support the FSM children, the school has approached a number of grant funding organisations, unfortunately without success.

The number of children on FSM and PPG differ in each year. Currently there are 8 families in Year 3 and 10 families in Year 4. From September, they will begin paying for their residential trip. GJS are seeking to secure 1/3 of the cost of the trips from Community Grant support, 1/3 through the PPG grant we receive for these families; leaving the parents to cover 1/3 of the trip.

a. Godalming Junior School – Sayers Croft Residential Trip, Year 4

Sponsors: Cllr Penny Rivers & Cllr Adam

£720 is requested towards the cost of supporting 8 children/families for the Year 4 residential trip to Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning Centre, Ewhurst in June 2027.

The school advises that the grant would support free school meal / pupil premium children, with the intention of covering one third of the trip cost for eight families. The school states that it seeks to ensure that all children have access to the residential experience and that the trip provides an important shared educational opportunity for pupils.

b. **Godalming Junior School – UKSA Residential Trip, Year 6**

Sponsors: Cllr PS Rivers & Cllr Heagin

£2,000 is requested towards the cost of supporting 10 children/families for the Year 6 residential trip to UKSA, Isle of Wight, in September 2027.

The school advises that the grant would support free school meal / pupil premium children, with the intention of covering one third of the trip cost for ten families. The school states that early confirmation of support enables the school to plan ahead and helps reduce anxiety for families by allowing payments to be spread over the school year.

Godalming Junior School Previous Grants: 2022/23 £628 and £657, 2023/24 £1,516 and £376, 2024/25 £1,030 and 2025/26 £1,890.

**Godalming Town Football Club**

Sponsor: Cllr Adam

A grant of £2,500 is requested towards the first phase of a programme of improvements to the club's facilities. The application was originally submitted on a CIL form; however, this is not being considered as a CIL application, and the information has been extracted for the purpose of a Community Grant request.

The club explains that the project is intended to improve the provision of seating and table facilities for players, officials, volunteers and other users of the clubhouse and associated facilities. Officers note that the application as originally submitted exceeds the maximum Community Grant limit, and the club has therefore been advised to consider the project in phases.

Phase 1 would comprise chairs and a trolley, together with delivery and VAT, at an estimated cost of £2,775.60. The club is requesting £2,500 towards this phase.

Phase 2 would comprise ten folding tables, together with delivery and VAT, at an estimated cost of £3,084. The club has indicated that it would like to apply for a further grant of £2,500 at a later stage, subject to Members' consideration in a future grant year.

Officers note that only one quotation has been provided and that further quotations would normally be expected to demonstrate value for money. Members are therefore asked to consider whether the application provides sufficient detail of community benefit and value for money to support a grant award for Phase 1.

**Mary How Trust**

Sponsor: Cllr Ed Holliday and Cllr Peter Martin

£967 is requested towards the cost of a blood pressure monitor for the Mary How Trust's new health screening clinic at The Wharf, Lower Eashing.

The Mary How Trust is a charity providing health screenings to support the early detection of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. The Trust has served the community of Pulborough and surrounding areas for over 35 years and is now opening a new clinic at The

Wharf, Lower Eashing, which will provide an accessible health screening service for residents of Godalming, Lower Eashing and the surrounding communities.

The Trust explains that its existing clinic in Pulborough screened 3,976 people between March 2025 and April 2026, with 68% advised to follow up with their GP after a potential health concern requiring further investigation was identified.

The new clinic in Lower Eashing will initially open with six consultation rooms, with the capacity to provide approximately 4,771 additional screenings. As funding allows, the Trust intends to expand to twelve consultation rooms, with the potential to screen more than 14,000 people each year.

The Trust states that, thanks to a legacy donation, phase one of the new clinic has been funded, but further grants and charitable donations are now being sought to purchase the medical equipment required to fully equip the consultation rooms.

The application seeks £967 specifically for a blood pressure monitor, described as an essential item of equipment used as part of the Trust's comprehensive health screenings.

The Trust advises that screenings are provided free of charge, with donations invited from those who are able to contribute, and that no one is turned away because they are unable to donate.

Although the clinic lies just outside the Town Council's administrative boundary, the Trust considers Godalming residents to be among the principal beneficiaries of the new facility. The Trust advises that Lower Eashing is only a few minutes' drive from Godalming, with free parking available.

The Trust also advises that it intends to raise awareness of the clinic among Godalming residents through local community organisations and groups, and to provide early booking opportunities for local residents. It further states that it is recruiting nurses and sonographers from the local area and would be happy to provide feedback on the number of Godalming residents accessing the service, subject to its data collection and reporting arrangements.

Members are asked to consider whether the application provides sufficient community benefit to support a grant award.

10. EVENTS 2026 UPDATE

Members are requested to note the future Events Calendar covering the period January – December 2027 and the separate report setting out event activity over the previous quarter and progress on event planning over the next quarter (both attached for information).

Classic Car Show

Members are also requested to consider approval for the Classic Car Show to move from a GTC supported event to a GTC partnered event from 2027.

The Classic Car Show has historically been held on the same day as the Chamber of Commerce Summer Food Festival. In 2026, the events were separated, with the Summer Food Festival held on the Saturday, and the Classic Car Show held on the Sunday. This proved to be a successful change, with increased footfall for both events.

The Classic Car Show is a free public event for residents and visitors, with income generated through vehicle entry fees, sponsorship and donations. As well as being an enjoyable event for residents and visitors, the car show is organised to raise money for local charities, with all profits donated.

For 2027, it is planned that the Classic Car Show be held on Sunday 4 July, following the Summer Food Festival on Saturday 3 July.

Godalming Town Council already provides significant administrative support for the event, including assistance with event documentation, risk assessments, liaising with WBC as current managers of the Burys Field, loan of equipment and use of facilities at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre. The event promoters being responsible for the booking arrangements for the classic car owners and on-the-day management of the event.

The proposed change would formalise the event as a GTC partnered event operating under GTC insurance.

**Recommendation**
**That Members approve the Classic Car Show becoming a GTC partnered event from 2027, with the event promoters retaining responsibility for the booking arrangements and on-the-day management, and with the event operating under GTC insurance.**

11. CHOIRBLAST 2026

Members to note that following investigations into the feasibility of extending Choirblast to cover the full weekend Friday-Sunday in 2027/28, the organisers have determined that they would not be able to successfully put all the required plans in place for 2027/28 and therefore it will remain from Friday afternoon to Saturday evening. However, they have expressed an intention to expand in 2028/29.

12. FEES AND CHARGES

**Recommendation:**
**Members to consider Officers' recommendations set out below and to resolve to agree the Market Fees and Charges from January 2027.**

Members are asked to consider the table of fees for Godalming markets events as of 1 April 2027. Current Fees and Charges shown in red.

| **Godalming Town Council Markets - Fees & Charges From January 2027** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Spring Festival Market** | | |
| High Street Standard (39 Pitches) | High Street Catering (5 pitches) | Church Street/Upper High Street (19 Pitches) |
| £100 (£95) | £115 (£110) | £50 (£45) |
| | | |
| **Christmas Festival Market** | | |
| High Street Standard (39 Pitches) | High Street Catering (5 pitches) | Church Street/Upper High Street (19 Pitches) |
| £125 (£120) | £145 (£143) | £60 |
| | | |
| **Specialist Markets** | Third Party organised markets | |
| £12 per pitch | | |
| | | |
| **Friday Market** | Max 10 Pitches | |
| £20 per pitch | | |
| | | |
| **Farncombe Station Market** | 17 pitches | |
| £20 (£15) | | |

13. MUSEUM REPORT AND MUSEUM LIAISON GROUP

Members to receive:

i. A report from the Museum Curator on the Museum's events and activities for the previous quarter, together with planned activity for the coming quarter.
ii. An update from Cllr Heagin following meetings held on 4 & 23 September 2026 with representatives of Godalming Museum Trust.

The meeting of 4 September considered the future relationship between the Council and the Museum Trust following the successful achievement of Arts Council England accreditation. The meeting concluded that there would be benefit in re-instating the Museum Liaison Group, which was previously established to support closer working between the Council and the Museum Trust during the accreditation process. It is proposed that the Group's role should now be to help maintain momentum, ensure that processes and procedures remain current, and support future re-accreditation requirements.

The meeting of 23 September related to future staffing arrangements at the Museum.

Members are therefore asked to consider the following:
a. Whether they wish to re-instate the Museum Liaison Group; and
b. If so, to appoint two Members to serve on that Group alongside the Chief Executive Office
c. The report and recommendations relating to future staffing structure and arrangements.

14. DRAFT BUDGET 2027-28

As a Service Committee, Members are asked to consider the Community, Events & Culture Committee's budget requirement for the next financial year and to make a recommendation to the Management Committee (attached for the information of Members).

The Management Committee is responsible for consolidating the budget requirements of each service area into a single draft budget proposal for consideration by Full Council. Whilst Service Committees make recommendations in respect of their own service areas, the Management Committee may, in consultation with those committees, need to balance competing pressures to ensure the final budget recommendation is affordable and presents a balanced position for Full Council.

The RFO, in consultation with the Communities & Communications Officer and the Museum Curator, has reviewed the cost centres and nominal codes within the Committee's remit. The proposed budget is attached for Members' consideration.

Members will note the following comments and explanations in respect of variances from 2026/27:

- Staffing budgets are the responsibility of the Staffing Committee. That Committee has agreed that the staffing costs previously shown against cost centre 106 properly sit within cost centre 301.
- 106-4313 – The increase in costs reflects the new fees imposed by Waverley Borough Council for the issue of Road Closure Notices for Town Centre events. Market fees, where appropriate, have been adjusted to recover the cost of road closures. GTC will recharge the cost of the Carnival road closure to the event organisers.
- 106-4341 – Grants expenditure was previously recorded against cost centre 101. As this Committee is responsible for the Council's Community Grants, the expenditure has been moved to cost centre 106. Members should note that the increase in the grants budget includes provision for Choirblast and the rent of the Kit4Kids cabin.
- 207-4202 – Car allowance: provision for mileage costs arising from educational outreach.
- 207-4313 – Professional fees: provision for the anticipated additional costs in 2027/28 arising from changes to DBS requirements. It is expected that this provision will reduce

in 2028/29 as costs settle into a more stable pattern based on staff and volunteer turnover.

- 207-4323 – Broadband: this provision was previously included within nominal code 4325 (computers) but should properly be shown against this code.
- 207-4325 – Computer: whilst the overall increase in computer and IT costs across GTC is broadly in line with inflationary expectations, the increase shown for cost centre 207 is mainly due to a coding correction, as some costs previously allocated here were charged to Head Office costs.

Potential costs not included within the budget are as follows:

a. Additional grant funding to support schools, for example extracurricular activities for children in receipt of Free School Meals or Pupil Premium Grant (PPG), which has previously been discussed by Members. If Members wish to make provision for this, they would need to recommend to the Management Committee either an allocation of a percentage of the existing grants budget or an increase in the grants provision. It would then be for the Management Committee to consider the request alongside competing demands from other service committees and the overall affordability of the Council's budget.
b. Additional toilet provision for town centre events. Members have previously considered the issues arising from large public events in the town and the pressure on existing public toilet provision. If Members wish to plan for additional temporary provision, they would need to recommend to the Management Committee an expenditure allocation against cost centre 106, nominal code 4301 (equipment). It would then be for the Management Committee to consider the request alongside competing demands from other service committees and the overall affordability of the Council's budget.

Members should note that where expenditure has not been budgeted for, it can only be met if an underspend or saving can be identified elsewhere. If no compensating saving can be found, any such cost would need to be funded from reserves, subject to the appropriate delegated authority or a resolution of Full Council.

15. GERTRUDE JEKYLL STATUE

**Purpose of report:** To seek support for Godalming Town Council to request from Waverley Borough Council a licence to occupy the Manorial Pound (photo attached) at the Borough Road entrance to Phillips Memorial Park, to enable the Gertrude Jekyll Commemorative Statue Committee to progress its proposal.

**Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Committee:**

**a. Notes the proposal from the Gertrude Jekyll Commemorative Statue Committee (GJCSC) to commission a statue of Gertrude Jekyll in Godalming;**
**b. Supports, in principle, the use of the Manorial Pound at the Borough Road entrance to Phillips Memorial Park as the preferred location for the statue, subject to all necessary consents;**
**c. Recommends that Godalming Town Council seeks from Waverley Borough Council a licence to occupy the site for a minimum period of 24 years, subject to planning permission and any other required approvals; and**
**d. Asks officers to progress the matter through the appropriate governance channels.**

**Background**

The Gertrude Jekyll Commemorative Statue Committee is a community group formed to secure a statue in the town to celebrate one of Godalming's most distinguished former residents.

The aim of the proposal is to commission a statue of Gertrude Jekyll to recognise her as an entrepreneur, creative artist, writer and craftswoman, and above all as a gardener and garden designer. The group considers that a statue would be a fitting way to mark her local, national and international impact, strengthen the sense of place of West Surrey, attract inward investment to the area, and encourage the appreciation of nature. At present, there is no statue of Gertrude Jekyll in the town.

Having considered a number of possible sites, GJCSC has identified the Manorial Pound at the Borough Road entrance to Phillips Memorial Park as its preferred location. The site is immediately adjacent to the Jack Phillips Memorial Cloister, which was designed by Lutyens, a close collaborator of Jekyll's. Godalming Museum holds video footage of Jekyll attending the opening ceremony for the Cloister.

The Manorial Pound is owned by Waverley Borough Council as part of Phillips Memorial Park. Informal discussions with WBC have indicated that it would look favourably on an application from GTC for a licence to occupy this parcel of land for a minimum of 24 years to allow for the installation of a plinth-mounted statue, subject to the necessary planning consents.

WBC has also indicated that, from a visitor perspective, it would be helpful to have a place in the town where people can come to learn about Gertrude Jekyll.

**Policy Context**
Phillips Memorial Park is an important part of the town's green and heritage environment. It forms part of the wider town centre landscape and is used for community activity, recreation and events.

The Council's adopted planning and town-centre documents recognise the importance of the Phillips Memorial Park area to the character of the town and the value of public realm and green spaces in supporting community life, heritage, and sense of place. The proposed statue would be consistent with those objectives, subject to planning and property considerations.

**Community Benefit**
The proposed statue has the potential to:
- Celebrate an internationally significant local figure;
- Strengthen Godalming's identity and heritage offer;
- Improve the visitor experience in Phillips Memorial Park;
- Support education, interpretation and local pride;
- Complement the nearby Jack Phillips Memorial Cloister and the wider heritage setting; and
- Contribute to the attractiveness of the town as a place to visit, live and invest.

**Considerations**
The Committee is asked to consider the proposal in principle only. Any progression beyond this stage would remain subject to:
- Waverley Borough Council agreeing to grant a licence to occupy the land;
- All necessary planning consents;
- Any statutory or consultative requirements;
- Agreement of design, materials, siting and scale;
- Ongoing maintenance and stewardship arrangements; and
- Any financial implications being brought forward through the appropriate approval route.

At this stage, no commitment is sought from the Town Council to fund the statue or associated works.

**Options**

Option 1: Support the proposal and recommend that officers seek a licence from WBC for the preferred site.

Option 2: Do not support the proposal at this stage, leaving GJCSC to identify an alternative approach or site.

**Risk Implications**
If the Council does not support the request to seek a licence, the proposal may not be able to progress at the preferred location.

If support is given, risks remain in relation to planning consent, legal agreements, public acceptability, capital costs, and future maintenance. These matters would need to be addressed before any final commitment is made.

**Financial Implications**
There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

Any future costs associated with the statue, groundwork, interpretation, installation, or maintenance would need to be the subject of separate reports and approvals.

**Legal Implications**
Any occupation of land owned by Waverley Borough Council would require its express consent, likely by way of a licence or similar legal agreement.

Any installation would also need to comply with planning law and any other relevant statutory requirements.

**Equality and Community Implications**
A public statue may improve the town's cultural offer and widen engagement with local heritage. Any future design and interpretation should take account of accessibility, inclusivity and public safety.

**Environmental Implications**
The proposal would involve a small footprint within an existing civic and heritage setting. Any design should be sensitive to the surrounding parkland and landscape character.

**Conclusion**
The proposal offers an opportunity to celebrate Gertrude Jekyll in a prominent and meaningful location within Godalming's heritage landscape. Subject to the usual legal and planning requirements, the Manorial Pound appears to be a suitable preferred site in principle. The Committee is therefore invited to support the request for Godalming Town Council to seek a licence from Waverley Borough Council to enable the proposal to progress.

16. UK TOWN OF CULTURE

**Purpose of report**
To update Members on the outcome of Godalming Town Council's Expression of Interest to the UK Town of Culture competition, and to invite Members to consider whether the Council should now explore whether any elements of the bid could be progressed independently of the competition.

**Background**
As Members will be aware, Godalming Town Council submitted an Expression of Interest to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for consideration in the Medium Sized

Town category of the UK Town of Culture competition. The competition attracted over 400 applications from across the country.

Godalming was not shortlisted to proceed to the next stage. The successful towns in the same category were Corby, Great Yarmouth, Leith, Pontypridd and Port Talbot.

It is noted that, on the entry criteria, Godalming was considered within the same band as a number of towns in the South East with larger populations, including Guildford, Bognor Regis, Dover, Winchester and Littlehampton.

**Subsequent discussions**
Following announcement of the shortlist, Waverley Borough Council contacted the three Waverley towns that had submitted bids — Godalming, Farnham and Haslemere — with a view to identifying whether any of the ideas developed through the individual bids could be taken forward outside the UK Town of Culture process.

Initial discussions suggest that, while each bid contained ideas and opportunities for enhancing cultural activity and wider economic benefits in the relevant town, many of the proposed outcomes were dependent upon external funding if they were to be delivered in full.

**Assessment**
Godalming's bid was, as Members would expect, ambitious and wide-ranging. However, the bid was conceived as a complete package and, without UK Town of Culture funding, is unlikely to be affordable in its original form.

That said, Members may consider that the exercise should not be treated as having failed completely. It may be possible to disaggregate the bid into separate themes, projects or strands, some of which may be capable of progression through smaller-scale funding opportunities, partnership working, volunteer support, or phased delivery over time.

This approach would enable the Council to identify which parts of the original vision remain achievable, while avoiding unnecessary commitment to a programme that is not currently financially realistic.

**Options for Members**
Members are invited to consider the following options:

Option 1: Note the outcome and take no further action
The Council would note that the bid was unsuccessful and take no further steps.

Option 2 Part 1: Undertake a scoping exercise
Through the committee work programme, Members to identify the principal themes and projects emerging from the original bid and assess whether any could be taken forward separately, together with possible funding sources and delivery partners.

Option 2 Part 2: Develop a phased proposal
Following the scoping exercise, bring forward a more detailed delivery framework setting out which projects could be pursued in the short, medium and longer term.

**Financial implications**
At this stage there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, any future work to explore individual projects would need to be brought forward with clear funding assumptions, affordability considerations and any implications for officer time.

**Recommendation**
It is recommended that Members:

a. note the outcome of the UK Town of Culture Expression of Interest;
b. agree a scoping exercise to identify whether any elements of the bid could be progressed independently of the UK Town of Culture process; and
c. work to identify possible opportunities, funding sources, and any recommended next steps.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community, Events & Culture Committee is scheduled to be held in the Oglethorpe Room on Thursday, 4 February 2027 at 7.30pm or at the conclusion of the preceding Audit & Governance Committee, whichever is later.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brought forward by permission of the Chair. Requests to be submitted prior to commencement of the meeting.

IN PURSUANCE OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 S.1(2), THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS FROM THE MEETING AT THIS POINT PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM(S) 18 & 19 BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED I.E COMMERCIAL-IN CONFIDENCE

19. SUMMER FOOD FESTIVAL

Members are asked to consider the attached confidential officers report relating to the Summer Food Festival and to consider its recommendation.

20. COMMUNITY BANKING HUB

Members to receive an oral report from the CEO relating to the proposed Community Banking Hub and to consider any recommendations arising from the report.

8. COMMUNITY, EVENTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME

| TASK | When | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|
| Budget Monitoring | Each Meeting | Action - RFO |
| Review of events | Each Meeting | Community & Communications Officer/Operations and Compliance Officer – debrief on events in previous quarter, planning updates on future events |
| Museum Report | Each Meeting | Museum Curator – review of Museum events and activities over previous quarter, outline of events and activities on future events and activities |
| Consideration of future GTC funded events - Longcast | Annually – Meeting One (July) | Community & Communications Officer – consideration of any proposed new events, 12–18-month long cast |
| Budget Setting | Annually – Meeting Two (October) | Proposed budget requirements to be considered by Management Committee in November – Action - RFO |
| Review of 12 Month Event Calander | Annually – Meeting Two (October) | Community & Communications Officer – events Calander covering 12 months January to December of year ahead. |
| Review of staffing capacity | Annually – Meeting Three (February) | Report any proposed amendments to Staffing Committee for September Review – Action CEO/DCEO |
| Social Media activity report | Annually – Meeting Three (February) | Community & Communications Officer – Social media statistics for previous 12 month period |
| Consideration of future GTC funded events | Annually – Meeting Four (April) | Community & Communications Officer – consideration of any proposed new events, 12-18 month long cast |
| Strategic Risk Assessment | Annually – Meeting Four (April) | Chair/CEO assessment of Community, Events and Culture committee areas against corporate plan objectives |

| **POLICY REVIEWS**<br>*to be updated following review on this agenda* | **PERSON UNDERTAKING REVIEW** | **DATE ADOPTED/ LAST REVIEWED** | **REVIEW DATE** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Community Events Support Policy | | April 2024 | April 2028 |
| Community Engagement Strategy | | May 2025 | April 2029 |
| Museum Management Agreement 2024-2029 | | December 2024 | July 2029 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

15/10/2026

# Godalming Town Council - Community Events & Culture Committee Report

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 15/10/2026

Month No: 7

Cost Centre Report

| | | Current Month Actual | Current Month Budget | Current Month Variance | Year To Date Actual | Year To Date Budget | Year To Date Variance | Total Annual Budget | Funds Available | % Spent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **101** | **Head Office Costs** | | | | | | | | | |
| 4341 | Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 61559 | 53900 | -7659 | 71600 | 10041 | 86% |
| **106** | **Festivals, Markets & Events** | | | | | | | | | |
| 1301 | Premises Hire Charge | 0 | 0 | 0 | -95 | 0 | 95 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| 1303 | Other customer/client receipts | 504 | 889 | 385 | 6157 | 9774 | 3617 | 18772 | | 32.80% |
| 1304 | Donations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 352 | 1233 | 881 | 3233 | | 10.90% |
| Festivals, Markets & Events :- Income | | **504** | **889** | **385** | **6414** | **11007** | **4593** | **22005** | | **29.10%** |
| 4001 | Salaries | 0 | 0 | 0 | 133 | 1897 | 1764 | 3795 | 3662 | 3.50% |
| 4002 | Employer's NIC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 285 | 265 | 569 | 549 | 3.50% |
| 4003 | Employer's Superannuation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 336 | 314 | 672 | 650 | 3.30% |
| 4162 | Waste Removal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 225 | 700 | 475 | 1100 | 875 | 20.40% |
| 4301 | Equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | 250 | 3192 | 3192 | 0% |
| 4304 | Catering & Hospitality | 0 | 0 | 0 | 293 | 340 | 47 | 460 | 167 | 63.70% |
| 4306 | Printing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 330 | 330 | 0% |
| 4313 | Professional Fees - Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3092 | 1984 | -1108 | 4350 | 1258 | 71.10% |
| 4327 | Publicity Advertising | 0 | 420 | 420 | 4179 | 2940 | -1239 | 5042 | 863 | 82.90% |
| 4343 | Licensing/PRS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 208 | 160 | -48 | 760 | 552 | 27.40% |
| 4900 | Miscellaneous Expenses | 0 | 167 | 167 | 1070 | 1165 | 95 | 2000 | 930 | 53.50% |
| Festivals, Markets & Events :- Indirect Expenditure | | 0 | 587 | 587 | 9243 | 10057 | 814 | 22270 | 13027 | 41.50% |
| Net Income over Expenditure | | **504** | **302** | **-202** | **-2829** | **950** | **3779** | **-265** | | |
| **108** | **Christmas Lights** | | | | | | | | | |
| 4313 | Professional Fees - Other | 0 | 20000 | 20000 | 0 | 20000 | 20000 | 51030 | 51030 | 0% |
| Christmas Lights :- Indirect Expenditure | | 0 | 20000 | 20000 | 0 | 20000 | 20000 | 51030 | 51030 | 0% |
| Net Expenditure | | **0** | **-20000** | **-20000** | **0** | **-20000** | **-20000** | **(51,030)** | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **206** | Bandstand | | | | | | | | | |
| 4102 | Property Maintenance | 0 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 350 | 350 | 600 | 600 | 0% |
| 4111 | Energy Costs | 0 | 250 | 250 | 0 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 0% |
| 4343 | Licensing/PRS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 500 | 430 | 500 | 430 | 14% |
| Bandstand :- Indirect Expenditure | | 0 | 300 | 300 | 70 | 1100 | 1030 | 1350 | 1280 | 5.20% |
| Net Expenditure | | **0** | **-300** | **-300** | **-70** | **-1100** | **-1030** | **-1350** | | |
| **207** | Godalming Museum | | | | | | | | | |
| 1302 | Rents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4402 | 4402 | 0 | 8804 | | 50% |
| 1303 | Other customer/client receipts | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1774 | 2200 | 426 | 2200 | | 80.60% |
| Godalming Museum :- Income | | **0** | **0** | **0** | **6176** | **6602** | **426** | **11004** | | **56.10%** |
| 4001 | Salaries | 0 | 6440 | 6440 | 36238 | 45077 | 8839 | 77277 | 41039 | 46.90% |
| 4002 | Employer's NIC | 0 | 716 | 716 | 3997 | 5012 | 1015 | 8592 | 4595 | 46.50% |
| 4003 | Employer's Superannuation | 0 | 902 | 902 | 4311 | 6311 | 2000 | 10821 | 6510 | 39.80% |
| 4011 | Staff Training | 0 | 0 | 0 | 308 | 1000 | 693 | 1000 | 693 | 30.80% |
| 4102 | Property Maintenance | 0 | 250 | 250 | 1664 | 1750 | 86 | 3000 | 1336 | 55.50% |
| 4103 | Maintenance Contracts | 0 | 113 | 113 | 370 | 791 | 421 | 1356 | 986 | 27.30% |
| 4121 | Rents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1478 | 3224 | 1747 | 3224 | 1747 | 45.80% |
| 4202 | Car Allowances | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 35 | 35 | 60 | 60 | 0% |
| 4313 | Professional Fees - Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 131 | 0 | -131 | 0 | -131 | 0% |
| 4315 | Insurance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1774 | 2200 | 426 | 2200 | 426 | 80.60% |
| 4325 | Computing | 361 | 316 | -45 | 3186 | 2220 | -966 | 3800 | 614 | 83.90% |
| Godalming Museum :- Indirect Expenditure | | 361 | 8742 | 8381 | 53456 | 67620 | 14164 | 111330 | 57874 | 48% |
| Net Income over Expenditure | | **-361** | **-8742** | **8281)** | **-47280** | **-61018** | **-13738** | **-100326** | | |

# Draft communication with schools

Both Godalming Town Council and Henry Smith Charity (the Organisations) routinely see applications from some, but not all, schools for financial support to enable children receiving free school meals to participate in residential trips.

Both Organisations recognise the value of such trips and are keen to provide support. Equally, however, both organisations are keen to ensure that the limited resources they have available are evenly distributed across our entire community.

To that end the Organisations are considering the feasibility of a scheme with a fixed annual timetable to ensure that those in need each year are able to be considered for support at the same time, early in the year.

At this stage no decision has been taken regarding the provision of such a scheme. To assist them in considering the viability of such a scheme, the Organisations wish to profile the level of potential need over the next 3 years, to inform decisions on the structure and level of funding to allocate to the possible scheme. It is appreciated that figures provided at this stage can only be best guess estimates.

Please therefore respond to this letter, answering the following questions:

1. Would you wish to participate in such a scheme, if one is introduced YES/NO

2. If YES please provide the following information:

   - Number of residential trips planned over the next 3 years, split by year group?
   - What is the budgeted cost per pupil for these trips?
   - What are the projected pupil numbers in each of these year groups over the next 3 years?
   - What is the number of pupils in each of the target year groups who are receiving free school meals? How many of these are eligible for pupil premium grants?
   - Is a fixed proportion of your pupil premium grant allocated for support for residential trips? If so how much and does it vary by year?
   - Does the school provide other financial support for pupils whose families will struggle to afford to participate in these trips? If so how much support is offered and what criteria are used to determine who receives it?
   - Does the school have access to other sources of support, apart from the Organisations?
   - Is affordability the only factor that prevents pupils participating in these trips? If there are other factors, please explain
   - Are there any other factors you feel the Organisations should be considering in evaluating the viability of such a scheme?

Stoke Park, London Road, Guildford, GU1 1TU
Fundraising: 01483 230 060
www.disability-challengers.org

Godalming Town Council
107-109 High Street
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1AQ

28 July 2026

Dear Andy,

We were delighted to receive the donation of £1,250 from Godalming Town Council on 28 July 2026 and are very grateful that the Councillors have chosen to support Challengers.

As outlined in my application, your grant will help fund inclusive play for disabled children at our Guildford Playscheme.

Your incredible generosity will create a place where disabled children can thrive, where their voices are heard and they feel free to be themselves.

As one parent recently shared:

*'My daughter LOVES Challengers. It is her safe space, her access to a community and friendships she would not access without this service. She can be herself and learn about the world in a safe environment and now remains the only other place in the world (other than home) she wants to be. This is huge for her and it is emotional for me to see her confidence grow and her thrive at Challengers.'*
*— Challengers parent*

Thank you for supporting our work with disabled children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

Ruby Pritchard

Ruby Pritchard
Trust Fundraising Officer
**E**: rubypritchard@disability-challengers.org
**T:** 01483 230060

| Calendar of Events in Godalming Jan 2027-Dec 2027 | | | | Key: | GTC Events | GTC Partnered Event | GTC Supported Event | Other Events | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Organiser** | **Event** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sept** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** | **Benefit** | **GTC Support** |
| **GTC** | **Weekly Friday Pop Up Crown Court** | Frl 18,15,22,29 | Fri 5,12,19, 26 | Fri 5,12,19, 25 | Fri 2,9,16,23,30 | Fri 7,14,21,28 | Fri 4, 11, 18, 25 | Fri 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | Fri 6, 13, 20, 27 | Fri 3, 10, 17, 24 | Fri 1, 8 , 15, 22, 29 | Fri 5, 12, 19, 26 | Fri 3, 10, 17, 25 | Economic/ Place-making | Curate and organise Market & activities/marketing |
| **GTC** | **Spring Festival - Retail Centre** | | | | Sat 3 | | | | | | | | | Economic/ Place-making | Organise Event including marketing |
| **GTC** | **Floral Godalming (spopnsorship ongoing)** | | | | | Blooms in place | | w/c 1st week July tbc | | | | | | Well-being / Place-making | GTC covers full cost offset by sponsors, GTC grounds staff responsible for Floral Godalming Displays |
| **GTC** | **Godalming Food Festival** | | | | | | | Sat 3 | | | | | | Economic/ Place-making / well-being | Organise Event including marketing |
| **GTC** | **Staycation Holiday Programme** | | | | | | | Sat 31 Jul - Sun 8 Aug | Staycation Ends Sun 8 Aug | | | | | Economic/ Place-making / well-being | Curate program, social media and publicity, provision of venues |
| **GTC** | **Farncombe Market Station car park** | | | Sat 13 or Sun 14 | | | Sat 12 or Sun 13 | | | Sat 11 or Sun 12 | | | | Economic/ Place-making | Curate and organise Market, provide Tobyman |
| **GTC** | **Remembrance Service and Parade** | | | | | | | | | | | Sun 14 | | Civic | GTC organises event, printing of service sheet, PA system, town wreathes/advertising campaign |
| **GTC** | **Godalming Christmas Lights Switch-on** | | | | | | | | | | | Sun 21 | | Well-being / Place-making | GTC organises event, timings, performances, coordinates with Santa's Sleigh (Round Table), GTG Panto Stars, |
| **GTC** | **Godalming Christmas Festival Market** | | | | | | | | | | | Sat 27 | | Well-being / Place-making | Organise Market, activities and Meet and Greet Character |
| **GTC** | **Farncombe Christmas Lights** | | | | | | | | | | | | Fri 3, | Well-being / Place-making | Organise atcivities |
| **GTC** | **Farncombe Christmas Market** | | | | | | | | | | | | Sat 4, or Sun 5 | Well-being / Place-making | Organise Market, provide Tobyman |
| **Sport Godalming** | **Godalming Run** | | | | | 16 tbc | | | | | | | | Economic/ Place-making / well-being | GTC Manages Road Closure |
| **Godalming Rugby Club** | **Fireworks** | | | | | | | | | | | Fri 5 | | Well-being / Place-making | GTC manages infrastucture requirements, procession & Socail Media Promotion |
| **GTC/ACVREvents** | **Antiques & Vintage Market** | | | Sat 6 | | Sat 22 | | | | | Sat 26 | | | Economic/ Place-making / well-being | GTC Manages Road Closure, Street Trading Licence and promotes via social media, Organisers fee per pitch |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GTC/ACVREvents** | **Antiques & Vintage Market in High Street and Artist & Makers Market in Church Street** | | | | | | | | Sat 7 | | | | | Economic/ Place-making / well-being | GTC Manages Road Closure, Street Trading Licence and promotes via social media, Organisers fee per pitch |
| **GTC/Hills to HarbourCRP/SWR** | **Story Time/Winter Warmer** | | | | | | | | | | | | TBC | Well-being | GTC Station adoptors & Stakeholders of Community rail partnership, promotes events via Social media |
| **GTC/GDCOC** | **Classic Car Show** | | | | | | | Sun 4 July | | | | | | Well-being / Place-making | Assist with documentation, equipment loan, Social Media |
| **Rotary in Godalming** | **Godalming Repair Café** | Sat 27 | Sat 27 | Sat 27 | Sat 24 | Sat 22 | Sat 26 | Sat 24 | Sat 28 | Sat 25 | Sat 23 | Sat 27 | | Economic | GTC Hosts webpage & promotes via Social media, concession bookings |
| **Rotary in Godalming** | **Duck Race** | | | | | | | | | Sat 12 (tbc) | | | | Well-being / Place-making | GTC loans equipment/helps promote via social media |
| **Rotary in Godaming** | **Spring Fayre (the Burys)** | | | | | Sat 1 (tbc) | | | | | | | | Economic/ Place-making / well-being | GTC loans equipment |
| **Godalming Film Society/GTC** | **Relaxed Screening (WNC) Dates TBC** | Sat 16 | Sat20 | Sat 20 | Sat 17 | Sat 15 | Sat 19 | Sat 17 | Sat 21 | Sat 18, Sun 19 | Sat 23 | Sat 20 | Sat 18 | Well-being | Grant-aid for WNC, manage tickets & social media |
| **Churches Together** | **CTIG Easter Event** | | | Fri 26-Sun 28 (tbc) | | | | | | | | | | Well-being | Assist with road closure application |
| **Go Godalming Association** | **Music in the Park Bandstand Concerts** | | | | | Sun 9, 16,23, 30 | 6,,20,27 | Sun 4,11,18,25 | Sun 1,8,9,15, 22,29 | Sun 5,12,19,26 | | | | Economic/ Place-making / well-being | GTC Bandstand FOC, Social media promotion, GTC sponsored concert |
| **Godalming Round Table** | **Round Table Town Show & Carnival** | | | | | | Sat 5 | | | | | | | Place-making / well-being | Manage Road Closure for procession, loan equipment, FOC WNC |
| **Godalming Fringe** | **Rural Roars** | | | | | | | | | Sun 17 tbc | | | | Place-making / well-being | Support for WNC and PP |
| **ChoirBLAST** | **ChoirBLAST Festival** | | | | | | Fri 11, Sat 12, Sun 13 | | | | | | | Well-being | GTC advise on event planning, Grant aid, facilitates infrastructure, venue hire, social media |
| **Godalming Trust** | **Surrey Heritage Open Weekend** | | | | | | | | | Sat 18, Sun 19 | | | | Well-being | GTC funds promotion of event, FOC use of Pepperpot, Museum manages tickets |
| **Sport Godalming** | **Go Godalming AssociationSport for all Awards** | | | | | | | | | | | Fri 26 | | Well-being | FOC WNC for awards ceremony |
| **Churches Together** | **CTIG Carol Service/Concert** | | | | | | | | | | | | tbc | Civic / Well-being | Social media promotion |
| **Godalming Museum** | **Ghostly Walk** | | | | | | | | | | | **Date tbc** | | Place-making / well-being | Social media promotion |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Godalming Performing Arts Committee** | **Godalming Music Festival** | | Feb-March | | | | | | | | | | | Place-making / well-being | Social media promotion |
| **Godalming Trust** | **Godalming Trust Guided Town Walks** | | | | | tbc | tbc | tbc | | | | | | Place-making / well-being | Social media promotion |
| **St Johns Church, Farncombe** | **St Johns Spring Fayre (St Johns Church, Farncombe)** | | | | | Sat 1 May (tbc) | | | | | | | | Place-making / well-being | Social media promotion |
| **Godalming BID** | **Great Godalming Stampede** | | | | | | | | | | | | TBC | Place-making / well-being | Social media promotion |
| **Busbridge Open Gardens** | | | | | | | 26/27 (tbc) | | | | | | | Place-making / well-being | Social media promotion |
| **Trinkfluss Wines** | **Wine/Fete Festival** | | | | | | Sat 19 June tbc | | | | | | | Place-making / well-being | Social media promotion |
| **Discover Godalming** | **Halloween Trail** | | | | | | | | | | Date tbc | | | Place-making | Social media promotion |
| **Discover Godalming** | **History, Mystery Trail** | | | | | | | Thu July | Thu Aug | | | | | Place-making | Social media promotion |
| **Discover Godalming** | **Great Godalming Stampede** | | | | | | | | | | | Date tbc | | Place-making | Social media promotion |

**Events Report and Forward Look – 2027**

**Overview of 2026**

Events held throughout 2026 attracted visitors to the town and supported local businesses. The 2027 programme will build on this success, with established events returning alongside new initiatives and opportunities for further development.

**Markets and Retail Events**

The weekly Friday pop-up market in Crown Court will continue in 2027, with a maximum of eight stallholders. Regular traders are booked for January 2027, while additional stallholders are selected on an ad hoc basis to ensure the best fit for the market throughout the year.

The Antiques and Vintage Market has had a successful year, leading to an additional date being added and bringing the total to four dates in 2027. An Artists and Makers Market will also take place in Church Street during Staycation week.

**Floral Godalming**

Floral Godalming will continue in 2027, with sponsorship opportunities for planters and hanging baskets. Judging for South and Southeast in Bloom is scheduled for early July.

**Farncombe Station Market**

Southwestern Railway (SWR) is reviewing car park revenue at Farncombe Station and has asked the Council to consider moving the quarterly Saturday market to Sundays. Alternative dates have been provided, with confirmation expected before the end of 2026. Holding the market on a Sunday would allow it to continue rather than risk its cancellation.

**Festivals and Special Events**

The 2027 programme includes the Godalming Spring Festival, Godalming Food Festival, Classic Car Show, Godalming Run, Godalming Town Fireworks in partnership with the Rugby Club, the Rotary Spring Fayre and Duck Race at The Burys, Godalming Round Table's Town Show and Carnival, ChoirBLAST Festival, Go Godalming Association's Music in the Park, Discover Godalming's History and Mystery Trail, and the Great Godalming Stampede, subject to confirmation.

Trinkfluss Wine Bar is planning a new Wine/Fête Festival for June 2027 on the Burys Field. Further details are to be confirmed.

**Seasonal Events**

Remembrance Service and Parade, Christmas in Godalming - Godalming Christmas Lights Switch-on, Godalming Christmas Festival Market, Farncombe Christmas Lights and Farncombe Christmas Market.

Plans are finalised for the 2026 Godalming Christmas in Godalming.  Full details are available on the Godalming Christmas Festival website.

**Cultural, Heritage and Community Events**

The 2027 programme will include the Staycation Holiday Programme; Story Time/Winter Warmer, in partnership with SWR and Hampshire Community Rail Partnership (tbc); Godalming Repair Café; relaxed screenings at Wilfrid Noyce Centre (WNC); CTIG Carol Service/Concert; Surrey Heritage Open Weekend; Godalming Museum's Ghostly Walk; Godalming Trust Guided Town Walks; St John's Spring Fayre in Farncombe; and the Go Godalming Association Sport for All Awards.

**Godalming Fringe**

The first Godalming Fringe took place on 18 October. The organisers have expressed an interest in returning in 2027, they would like to open it out for the weekend so we have provisionally booked Friday 15 - Sunday 18 October. Further details will be provided once arrangements are confirmed.

**Summary**

Planning for 2027 will focus on delivering established events, supporting local markets and businesses, and developing new initiatives, including the proposed Wine/Fête and Godalming Fringe Festival. Dates and further information will be published on the Godalming Town Council website as arrangements are confirmed.

Community & Communications Officer

# Museum Report October 2026 - Community, Events and Culture Committee

## Recent Activity

We hosted an extremely successful fundraising quiz on Friday 18th September which raised £1864 for the museum, and saw 92 people take part. Thank you to the Museum Support Manager and the events volunteers for their hard work in organising such a successful event.

Our summer archaeology exhibition was extremely well received and well-attended, and we had lots of positive feedback about the hands-on mini-dig! Our Education & Outreach Officer has forged new links with a local retirement community and has begun a series of lectures and tours with their residents. Now that summer is over, we are beginning to receive bookings from schools for workshops this academic year, and loan box bookings are increasing again.

## Visitor Figures

This quarter we have 3,757 received visitors, which is broken down below.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Museum visitors* | |
| • *July* | *1032* |
| • *August* | *969* *NB. Museum closure for 3 days due to extreme heat* |
| • *September* | *869* |
| *Lectures & events* | *391* |
| *Loan Boxes* | *472* |
| *School Visits* | *24* |
| ***Total*** | ***3757*** |

## Calendar Competition

Inspired by Gertrude Jekyll, we are inviting school age children to create an original calendar image portraying a “Flower of the Month” on each page. Entries close on Tuesday 13th October, and winning designs will be featured in a special 2027 calendar.

## Archaeological Collections

The museum’s archaeological collections have been moved to a newly fitted storage area in the loft of the Wilfrid Noyce Centre. These collections are large, bulky, and rarely accessed and the move has allowed us to create additional space in our overcrowded collections store, whilst still enabling visitors and researchers to access the materials on request. The additional space in the collections store means that we can now have a suitable area for processing new additions to the collection.

## Christmas

The Museum Christmas Shop will open on Tuesday 3rd November with an exciting array of Christmas cards, gifts, and decorations, including the new museum calendars.

The museum will close for the Christmas period at 12pm on 24th December and will reopen on Tuesday 5th January.

## 106 Festivals, Markets & Events

| | | 2027/28 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Variance | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income** | | | | | |
| 1303 | Other Customer/Client Receipts | 18,772 | 18,772 | - | Festival & Friday & Farncombe Market |
| 1304 | Donations | 3,233 | 3,233 | - | fireworks & Floral G |
| | **Total Income** | **22,005** | **22,005** | - | |
| **Expenses** | | | | | |
| 4001 | Salaries | | 3,795 | - 3,795 | removed and added to cost centre 301 payroll |
| 4002 | Employer's NIC | | 569 | - 569 | removed and added to cost centre 301 payroll |
| 4003 | Employer's Superannuation | | 672 | - 672 | removed and added to cost centre 301 payroll |
| 4162 | Waste Removal | 1,000 | 1,100 | - 100 | |
| 4301 | Equipment | 3,192 | 3,192 | - | Safety Barriers, signage, PA, fencing & lighting, fireworks set up |
| 4304 | Catering & Hospitality | 640 | 460 | 180 | incl SSEIB & God Run+LOTY |
| 4306 | Printing | 530 | 330 | 200 | fireworks & Christmas |
| 4313 | Professional Fees - Other | 5,550 | 4,350 | 1,200 | Festival Road Closure Traffic Management + Staycation entertainment & activities + £1200 new roadclosure fees |
| 4327 | Publicity Advertising | 5,042 | 5,042 | - | Hertigae Open Weekend Magazine Programme, Staycatiuon Programe & Festival adverts. |
| 4341 | Grants | 85,240 | 3,500 | 81,740 | £2610 Community Grants with uplift 2% (SLA's £45,500) + 5620 Kit4kids cabin+7500 Choirblast (General & SLA grants moved from Cost Centre 101) |
| 4343 | Licensing / PRS | 760 | 760 | - | WBC Land Licence ,The Burys Premises Licence, PRS the Burys |
| 4900 | Miscellaneous Expenses | 2,100 | 2,100 | - | Includes SSEIB entrance fee |
| | **Total Expenses** | **104,054** | **25,870** | 78,184 | |
| | **Net Income / Expenditure** | **- 82,049** | **- 3,865** | **78,184** | |

## 108 Christmas Lights

| | | 2027/28 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Variance | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenses** | | | | | |
| 4313 | Professional Fees - Other | 53,500 | 51,030 | 2,470 | Inc Storage and electrician +5% |
| | **Total Expenses** | **53,500** | **51,030** | 2,470 | |
| | **Net Income / Expenditure** | **- 53,500** | **- 51,030** | **2,470** | |

## 206 Bandstand

| | | 2027/28 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Variance | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenses** | | | | | |
| 4102 | Property Maintenance | 600 | 600 | - | |
| 4111 | Energy Costs | 250 | 250 | - | Electricity |
| 4343 | Licensing / PRS | 500 | 500 | - | Music in the Park concerts |
| | **Total Expenses** | **1,350** | **1,350** | - | |
| | **Net Income / Expenditure** | **- 1,350** | **- 1,350** | **-** | |

## 207 Godalming Museum

| | | 2027/28 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Variance | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income** | | | | | |
| 1302 | Rents | 8,804 | 8,804 | - | Lease rent |
| 1303 | Other Customer/Client Receipts | 2,200 | 2,200 | - | insurance premium recharge |
| | **Total Income** | **11,004** | **11,004** | - | |
| **Expenses** | | | | | |
| 4001 | Salaries | 81,255 | 77,277 | 3,978 | 3% inflationary pay award |
| 4002 | Employer's NIC | 9,188 | 8,592 | 596 | 3% inflationary pay award |
| 4003 | Employer's Superannuation | 13,488 | 10,821 | 2,667 | 3% inflationary pay award |
| 4011 | Staff Training | 1,000 | 1,000 | - | |
| 4102 | Property Maintenance | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | |
| 4103 | Maintenance Contracts | 900 | 1,356 | - 456 | Fire Extinguishers/Emergency Light Insp |
| 4121 | Rents | 3,000 | 3,224 | - 224 | Reflect Actuals |
| 4202 | Car Allowances | 480 | 60 | 420 | Increased outreach |
| 4313 | Professional Fees - Other | 780 | - | 780 | DBS checks |
| 4315 | Insurance | 2,200 | 2,200 | - | Insurance premium rechared against nominal 1303 |
| 4323 | Telephones & Broadband | 612 | - | 612 | Broadband costs moved from 4235 to correct nominal |
| 4325 | Computers | 4,951 | 3,800 | 1,151 | Monthly IT & Cyber Support and Annual Licences |
| 4327 | Publicity Advertising | | | | |
| 4341 | Grants | | | | |
| | **Total Expenses** | **120,854** | **111,330** | 9,524 | |
| | **Net Income / Expenditure** | **- 109,850** | **- 100,326** | **9,524** | |

