



Who needs the great outdoors? Joanna Wallington's Charms By Joanna worked perfectly well inside that nice dry hall.



Fab four: Nick Nicholls, Jim Gardner, Pip Nicholls and Dave Kemp are shoulder to shoulder with all who serve.

Soaking it up on the bank

Surprise, surprise, it rained all day; but the bulldog spirit was in evidence

Pictures by Jake Darling, Ref: AN155021



Phoenix Choir stalwarts Carol Paterson, Sue Halhead-Baker and Vicki Harrison weren't going to be put off by a drop of rain. How about a song from Wet Wet Wet?

by Fergus McEwan
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AS so often seems to happen on a bank holiday, Monday was the day the rains came, but organisers of a gathering at Mytchett Community Centre averted disaster by moving everything indoors.

The Mytchett Community Association was hoping to welcome thousands of people to the centre, with outdoor entertainment at the centre of the fun, including arena displays, a bouncy castle, a fire engine, a car boot sale and a display of cars from the 1980s.

But as the elements conspired against them they went for a Plan B instead and managed to attract around 1,500 visitors inside the centre.

Mike Tilston, president of the MCA, said this was the biggest indoor event he could remember at the community centre and he praised the dedication of staff and volunteers who carried on despite all that rain, and the public



It wasn't a day for heathland fires so Andrew Burke and Denis Hall were happy to show Ryan, 4, and Victoria, 7, the ropes.

who braved it all to save the day for everyone.

"We averted disaster and enjoyed a fantastic turn-out despite the pouring rain," Mr Tilston said.

"We had lots of outside plans, but we still did really well, taking into account what a horrible day it was.

"There was still plenty for people to do and the various local and national charities did well through their stalls.

"With outdoor events a washout, proceeds were down but everyone made the

best of it. This event is not meant to be a big fundraiser.

"It's an open day for local people and, as such, it still worked very well," he said.

The MCA is hoping for better weather with other planned events, including a wedding fair on September 20, a cider and food festival on October 3 and the fireworks display on November 1.

Call 01252 373073, email mytchettcentre@btconnect.com or see www.themytchettcentre.co.uk for further information.

In Brief from your LOCAL correspondents



YATELEY, BLACKWATER, EVERSLEY & HAWLEY

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SANDHURST Joggers, who organise the Yateley 10k race series every summer, have announced that this year's races raised more than £12,500 for local charities and community projects.

This is a significant increase on last year, when £5,650 was raised.

Approximately a third of the entrance fees from the races are donated to local charities and organisations, some of whom help out at the events.

In the past the races have donated to Frimley Park Hospital, the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and Scout and Guides groups.

For more information on

the group, visit www.sandhurstjoggers.org.uk.



ASH, FARNHAM & TONGHAM

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A FAMILY cycling trail continues at Alice Holt Woodland Park, offering a fun outdoor activity while the weather remains - Bank Holiday apart - relatively dry.

The self-guided activity challenge on the family cycle trail includes six posters, each with information about the forest south of Farnham, plus things to do in each location.

Children can get excited looking for the posters, while people of all ages can learn more about the area.

The activity trail is

available right up until December 31. For more information, visit the website at www.forestry.gov.uk/aliceholt or call 0300 067 4448.



FLEET, CROOKHAM, HOOK, ODIHAM & HARTLEY WINTNEY

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A CHARITY with a shop in Church Crookham is launching its first virtual cycling challenge to raise funds for its services.

Members of Parity for Disability, which has a fundraising shop at the Linkway Parade, will hold a sponsored spinathon in Farnborough in January.

They will pedal a total of 986 miles, the equivalent of cycling the length of Britain from Land's End to John

o'Groats. Supporters are encouraged to cycle alongside them on static bikes for a £10 deposit per person and a minimum sponsorship target of £50.

To sign up, visit www.parityfordisability.org.uk or contact Helen Charles on 01252 375581 or send an email to helen.charles@parityfordisability.org.uk.



ALDERSHOT & NORTH TOWN

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AN Aldershot-based youth homeless charity is calling on volunteers to help raise cash with a 10-mile challenge.

Step by Step, which helps people across Hampshire, has places available for runners to take part in the Great

South Run next month (October 25).

The charity works with youngsters to provide accommodation and help them reach their goals through training exercises, counselling and family mediation.

For £30 volunteers can sign up for the run and help Step by Step continue its vital work.

For more information email Jenny Jackson on Jenny.Jackson@StepbyStep.org.uk or call her on 01252 346112.

The charity is also keen to hear from businesses, organisations or individuals that may be able to support it.



CAMBERLEY, FRIMLEY, WINDLESHAM, SANDHURST & CROWTHORNE

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You Win the shirt!



A dry event encourages

B&B Centre Frimley is society, a performance 125th anniversary of the Christmas.

Members will perform classic music (based on the Church of St Andrew) on the 1st Saturday 7.30pm - 9.30pm September 7.30pm.

Tickets 60s and up. Book a box office light-themed text 07546.

The show ages. Brightly donate at proceeds shows at cancer.