



Things to do on free travel days in Godalming

> Godalming Museum

Between 1 and 19 March visit a photographic exhibition by two local photographers whose work records the changing seasons at Thursley and Rodborough Commons. Make sure you give yourself enough time to enjoy a cup of tea in the Museum café. Please note that the Museum is closed on Mondays.

> Godalming Leisure Centre

Mondays at 10.30-12.30pm – swimming for people aged over 50.

Tuesdays at 10.30-12.40pm – Active Life 50+ is a structured session that includes swimming and/or easy aqua aerobics.

> Free tea and coffee at Waitrose

Pop into Waitrose on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to sign up for a MyWaitrose card so you can claim your **free cup of tea or coffee** every time you visit the store. Having a card means you will also benefit from extra discount on selected items and a

Hop on hoppa for Free!

On Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in March, we are offering free travel on the Godalming hoppa service.

Thanks to a grant from Waverley Borough Council, the Godalming service was expanded in October 2015, which means it can now operate two vehicles from Monday to Friday. If you haven't yet used the service at the beginning of the week why not book yourself a ride?

This is also a great opportunity to sign up friends and relatives and enjoy free travel together.



hoppa passengers in Godalming can enjoy free travel during March

How to book your free travel

If you are already registered, simply call us and tell us when you would like to travel. If you are new to hoppa,

register your details online or give us a call. It's free, quick and easy to register.

All of our transport services are pre-booked, door-to-door and wheelchair accessible.

For more information, to register or to make a booking, please call us on **01428 681701**.

free newspaper every time you spend £5 or more.

To register you will need an email address but don't worry if you do not have one as the team at Waitrose Godalming has kindly offered to arrange this for you. Visit the customer services desk for help and mention that you are a hoppa customer.

> Godalming Library

Visit the library for a great range

of **books, DVDs and audio books**. You can also book time on one of the library computers or make use of their free wi-fi.

> Milford Garden Centre

For year-round interest visit Milford Garden Centre. If you get there before 10am, you can take advantage of the café's special offer, which is **buy one hot drink and get a second hot drink free**.

Farnham dial-a-ride is safe for another year



recognised the need for the extended service in 2015 and it was thanks to their funding that we were able to increase the running of the second Farnham bus from two days a week to five days. The service has certainly proved popular with 1,400 passenger journeys recorded in the first eight months.

We have good news for users of the Farnham dial-a-ride service. A grant of £10,000 from Farnham Town Council means the town's second hoppa dial-a-ride service can continue to operate for another year.

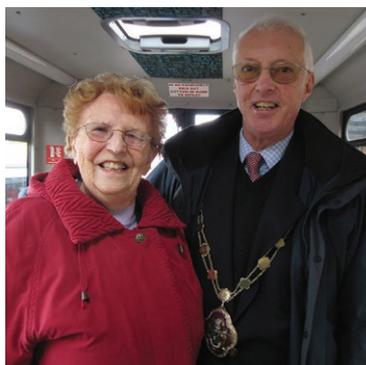
Farnham Town Council first

Do you have friends who have yet to experience hoppa? Please encourage them to contact us and register to use the service.

The Mayor hitches a ride

Earlier this month, some of our Godalming passengers were surprised to find themselves sharing their bus ride with the Mayor of Waverley, Cllr Mike Band.

Cllr Band spent some time experiencing how the service operates and meeting some of our regular users. Everybody said how much they value hoppa and how they enjoy the security provided by the door-to-door service.



The Mayor of Waverley with Mrs Walters

Did you know that hoppa can be hired for group travel? If you and a group of friends would like an outing to the theatre or somewhere slightly further afield, why not call us for a quote.

Thank you

About a year ago, Surrey County Council carried out a local transport review. This included a review of the funding that helps to support our dial-a-ride service. We were a little concerned that the funding would be reduced or withdrawn for 2016/17.

Part of the review included a public consultation to find out about the local transport services that matter most to residents.

Nearly 7,000 people responded to the survey with more respondents coming from Waverley than any other borough.

We would like to thank everybody who completed the survey because we are sure your comments helped to secure Surrey County Council's ongoing commitment to funding hoppa in 2016/17.

We are delighted that the dial-a-ride service, which so many people depend on, can operate unchanged for another year.

Thank you for supporting hoppa.

Farnham Mayor rides along

Farnham Town Council is a key funder of the Farnham dial-a-ride service so we thought it would be lovely if the Mayor of Farnham, Cllr Mrs Pat Frost could spend some time with us and to see first hand how the service operates.

The Mayor joined us on a busy Friday in February and this is what we did:

10.15am – We picked up the Mayor from the Council Offices and then departed for Lower Bourne.

10.35am – Andy, our driver for the morning, helped our first passenger onto the bus. We dropped her off in West Street as she was meeting some

friends for a birthday lunch.

10.40am – It was time to negotiate the Farnham town centre traffic and head off to Churt to pick up a passenger who wanted to go to Sainsbury's.

11.20am – We arrived at Sainsbury's, which is always a popular destination. We picked up three shoppers and their shopping. The driver helped everybody onto the bus. He checked that everybody had their seatbelt on and was comfortable and that the shopping bags were securely stowed away.

11.35am – The next stop was The Marlborough Head! We



picked up a passenger who was ready to head home.

11.45am – Time to pick up one more passenger from West Street before heading out of Farnham and onto Wrecclesham to take people home.

12.15pm – We dropped off the Mayor at the Council Offices and the bus continued on the next leg of its journey.

How will you spend your extra day?

On Monday 29 February we will be attending a Retirement Refreshers Fair at the Farnham Maltings. The Fair will be attended by local charities, organisations and societies and is aimed at people who have retired and are looking to join a club or find a new interest.

The reason we are going along is because we are looking for a new chairman. Demand for the hoppa service is higher than ever so we need somebody

who can lead us through the next stage of our journey.

Experience of the transport sector is not necessary but enthusiasm, good communication and leadership skills are essential requirements. We would love to have somebody on board who can use their business skills to drive us forward, strengthen our partnerships with local authorities and funders and help us to achieve our ambitions.

The position is voluntary and is likely to require a commitment of two to three hours per week. The chair will work closely with hoppa's general manager and the board of six trustees.

If you know somebody that may be interested, please encourage them to contact hoppa's general manager Steve Forward on **01428 681710** or email **steve.forward@hoppa.org.uk**.

Meet Roger

Living on the edge - Roger is pictured swimming with sting-rays and holding a tarantula.

Name: Roger Coombes

Age: 66

Occupation: Driver

Nickname: Dodger

Roger joined us as a full time driver when hoppa was in its infancy and has been with us for over 13 years. Roger semi-retired in 2014 and now works 2-3 days a week.

For many years Roger was the 'Haslemere Shoppa' driver and then went on to drive the Surestart Playbus, which is a Surrey County Council sponsored mobile nursery that visits rural areas in West Surrey.

Roger and his wife Sandra have been married for 43 years. They have three grown-up children, two grandchildren and have fostered 17 children over a period of 19 years.

Roger says: "I have lots of interests including cross stitch, keeping fish and woodturning. I have a lathe in my garage and I love to turn

bowls and vases. In 2007 I went to Colombia to work with street children for two and a half weeks. I went out with a local charity called In Ministry to Children, which was started in Petersfield by a couple from our church. Hoppa sponsored me one week's holiday, which meant I could stay there long enough to help with a decorating project in one of the homes used by the charity.

"The best holiday we had was when we went to the Cayman Islands. One of our foster girls invited us over to see her as she had a job as an estate agent and she paid for us to stay with her for 11 days. I went swimming with stingrays which were between 3 and 4 feet across. There were lots of them and I even got to hold one! I also saw a lot of other fish including a tarpon, which is about 6 to 8 feet long.

"I have a pond in my garden with



about 100 fish of all shapes and sizes and two tanks indoors one cold water the other a tropical tank, which is very relaxing when I get a chance to watch them."

Appeal launched to buy a new hoppa bus

Making sure our buses continue to be reliable and comfortable for passengers is very important to us and is a priority that is also shared by Farnham Town Council.

As a show of their support for the service and Farnham residents, the Town Council has awarded us a second grant worth an initial £5,000, which is to be put towards the cost of a replacement hoppa bus. They have also promised up to a further £5,000 to match other funding that we are able to secure

from other Farnham organisations. Cllr Mrs Pat Frost, the Mayor of Farnham has also pledged £3,000 from her County Councillor allowance towards the new bus.

It will cost over £30,000 to buy a new bus for Farnham's hoppa passengers so if you know of any businesses or organisations that might be able to donate some money so as to release the Town Council's additional contribution, please do let us know.



The Mayor of Farnham, Cllr Mrs Pat Frost presents a £5,000 cheque to Steve Forward from hoppa