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MAY 2022

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Easter sunrise at Parham



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Getting the show on the road - page 24



The New Vicarage, School Road, Amberley, BN18 9NA Tel: 01798 831 600

Enriching the lives of others

In the fields beyond the vicarage the lambs are growing from wobbly dependence on mum to skipping exuberantly around the fields like gangs of small boys up to mischief. This joyful spring sight brightens our walks and for some of us lucky ones it is the view directly from our window.

The lambs in the fields remind me that in May comes 'Good Shepherd Sunday' when we read from St John's gospel about Jesus the Good Shepherd and his care for us like his sheep. Shepherding was an everyday sight in Jesus' time and the image of God as a caring shepherd is an ancient one. This is still a comfort today, especially as we walk through times of anxiety or loss, and *Psalm 23, The Lord is my Shepherd*, is many people's favourite.

Jesus says that as the Good Shepherd he brings 'life in all its fullness'. I wonder what that means for you? We see the abundance of spring growth, we delight to hear blackbirds sing and the laughter of children at play, but life is much more than simply skipping around like a carefree lamb. The Christian belief is that this life is just the start, with complete fullness to be found ultimately in God's presence. But life can be lived to the full now, whether our lives are long or short – and we are aware of some lived to the full but tragically cut short. Jesus' own life on earth was world-changing despite lasting a mere 33 years.

Our Amberley community has seen several great losses over the past year, and we have thought together of lives well lived. The latest has been the sudden shock of losing Richard Robinson, a source of so much gentle wisdom and guidance as well as a passionate botanist, a singer and person of great warmth and humour. As we remember him, and also Jenny Toynbee, Jerry Losty and Sue Endacott, we recognise them as people who lived so generously. They used their many gifts to help others grow and flourish and to enrich the community both locally and beyond. I have named just a few and there are, of course, others who will have particularly touched your lives.



The Revd Gerry Burgess

It can be so hard to go on after a great loss, and with a gaping hole left in life, and it takes time. But the best tribute to a loved one lost is to carry on in the spirit of all that was good in their life. It would be easy to feel battered as a village by several great losses over the past year, but perhaps we need rather to look to how we carry things forward together. There are already many good things going on, local initiatives of all kinds, but we have potential to do more.

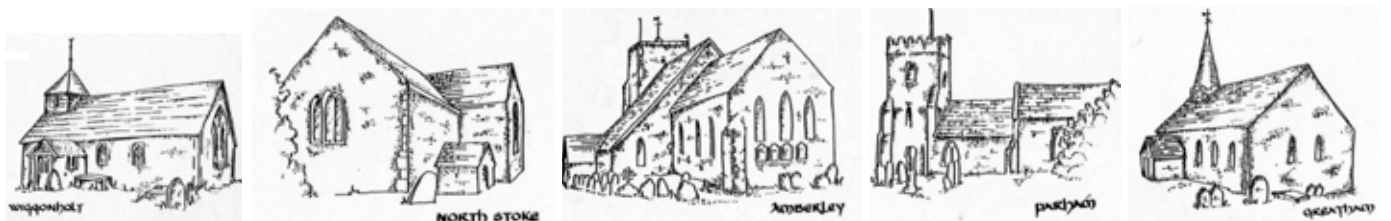
I hope that over this summer there will be joy and laughter, along with time for deeper conversations of caring and remembering. We look forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations with a traditional picnic tea for all on 5th June on the Millennium Green. Then on 12th June Amberley Gardens Open returns after four years, offering enjoyment to many and raising funds for Ac-

tion Medical Research, a charity founded by Duncan Guthrie, a former Amberley resident.

This illustrates wonderfully the balance we seek, enjoying with gratitude so many good things and so much beauty around us and yet never closing our eyes to the needs of others.

As we are surrounded by the anxieties of war in Europe, a seemingly endless pandemic and mounting financial difficulties, it is easy to turn inwards, weighed down by such awful things. But I suggest we look instead for ways in which both individually and together we can share our gifts and interests. May we discover more of what it means to live life to the full and enrich the lives of others, here in Amberley, across the Wildbrooks and beyond.

The Revd Gerry Burgess
Priest-in-Charge





MAY SERVICES/BIBLE READINGS

As Covid continues to be very prevalent we ask you still to wear a face covering in church at the moment. When weather permits we shall hold some services, serve coffee etc outside.

SUNDAY, 1st MAY EASTER 2 WHITE ARRAY

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
6.00pm	Evensong	Wiggonholt

SUNDAY, 8th MAY EASTER 3 WHITE ARRAY

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley

SUNDAY, 5th MAY EASTER 4 WHITE ARRAY

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Holy communion	Amberley

22nd MAY EASTER 5 WHITE ARRAY

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

THURSDAY, 26TH MAY ASCENSION DAY

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Wiggonholt
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29th May Sunday after Ascension White Array

10.00am	Holy Communion United Benefice service	Wiggonholt
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5th June Pentecost/Queen's Jubilee Red

The Jubilee will be marked at our normal service times. In addition there will be prayers for the Queen at the Amberley village picnic tea.

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
6.00pm	Evensong	Wiggonholt

Bible Readings

Sunday, 1st May

Acts 9.1-6; John 21.1-19; Psalm 30

Sunday, 8th May

Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30; Psalm 23

Sunday, 15th May

Acts 11:1-18/Revelation 21.1-6; John 13:31-35; Psalm 148

Sunday, 22nd May

Acts 16:9-15/ Revelation 21:10, 21.22-22:5; John 5:1-9; Psalm 67

Thursday, 26th May (Ascension Day)

Acts 1.1-11; Luke 24.44-53; Psalm 47

Sunday, 29th May

Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26

Sunday, 5th June

Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17, 25-27; Psalm 33.1-12

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

Baptisms, weddings and funerals can all be held in our churches and Revd Gerry Burgess welcomes your enquiries. Please get in touch (01798 831600) with your requests and to check the current situation regarding any restrictions.

Baptisms

Babies or children of any age may be baptised after a preparatory meeting with the parents. Baptisms may be held during a regular service at any of our churches, or at a separate time by arrangement.



Weddings



To marry in church you need a connection to the parish, through family, by living in the parish, or by attending church here for six months. Weddings can be on Saturdays or other days by arrangement. Please get in touch well in advance to discuss the legal requirements and to arrange a date.

Funerals

Funerals usually arise with little warning, but Revd Gerry Burgess will do all possible to support you at this difficult time with arrangements for a service at church or crematorium, burial in the churchyard or burial of ashes at a later date. Anyone who lives in a parish has the right to burial there, and this is often possible for others with strong local connections.



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CHURCH NEWS

Holy Week and Easter events

We were blessed with wonderful weather from Palm Sunday to Easter which enabled many people to join in with our wide range of Easter activities across the Wildbrooks churches. All our churches were beautifully decorated with Easter flowers and at Wiggonholt and Amberley Easter gardens told the story from the cross to the empty tomb.

Throughout Holy Week the Easter Trail led people reflectively around St Michael's churchyard, giving pause for thought at different points as they walked through the events and emotions of that time. The Trail will remain in place during May – just follow the signs around the churchyard.

Palm Sunday

This year we had two donkeys for our Palm Sunday procession! During lockdown Bramble (the brown donkey), who has visited us before, made friends with Bobbin (the white donkey) and now won't go anywhere without him! So they came together and led us from The Square, along Church Street to St Michael's, while we waved palms and sung hymns.



At the churchyard Revd. Gerry conducted a short service after which we had coffee and delicious special refreshments in the sunshine. Congregation member and star baker Sue had made cheese straws in the shape of crosses, and small cakes and biscuits decorated with donkey motifs.

Eventually, Bramble and Bobbin had to go home – which they did reluctantly as they were enjoying our biodiverse and chemical free churchyard greensward!



Easter weekend

It began with **Maundy Thursday** as we gathered at Wiggonholt to remember Jesus' Last Supper in church and then kept watch prayerfully in the primrose-studded churchyard as the light faded.

Good Friday Whilst we enjoyed hot cross buns, the big cross and crown of thorns reminded us of the sufferings of the world. The cross was taken into church for the quiet afternoon service of music and readings led by Shirley Linford and the church choir.



Easter Day began with an atmospheric Sunrise Communion service in **Parham Park** on the most perfect spring morning. As the deer grazed peacefully around we lit the Paschal Candle and celebrated Holy Communion before warming up with hot cross buns and coffee.



At **Wiggonholt** and **Greatham** Easter services led by Gerry and Elaine were held out in the sunny churchyards. Walkers paused to listen to the prayers and singing of 'Jesus Christ is risen today' with birdsong accompaniment, and at Greatham even the sheep joined in!

Our Family Communion at Amberley was attended by a great crowd of adults and children. We sang joyfully, celebrated Communion, smashed chocolate eggs (can you work out why?) and adorned the big cross with ribbons and flowers to remember the good news of Easter. Alleluia: the Lord is risen. He is risen indeed: Alleluia!

continued overleaf



continued from previous page

Easter Explored

In the last week of the Spring term children from Amberley Primary School visited St Michael's Church for a new interactive walk through the events from Palm Sunday to Easter. Each class in turn visited different stations around the churchyard where volunteers from the church told the story, encouraging the children to reflect and engage with simple activities, all designed to make this a memorable day for them. Each child was given a palm cross, a booklet of the Easter story and a chocolate egg to take home.

Staff commented: 'We must do more things like this!'



Churchyard classroom: children from Amberley Primary School learn about Easter

From the parish registers

Baptism

Robin Zoe Sacha Englehart, at Greatham (April 24)

Marriage

Russell Newman and **Marina Kracht**, at Amberley (April 23)

Burial of ashes

Joan Stear, at Amberley (April 7)

Funeral

Richard Robinson, at Amberley (April 28)

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

The APCMs for our parishes will be held as follows. All on the church electoral roll are encouraged to attend. Churchwardens will also be elected at the start of the meeting, when all parish residents are welcome.

Amberley	Saturday, April 30 10am in church hall
Wiggonholt	Thursday, May 5, 10am in church
Greatham	Monday, May 9, 9.30am (NB: change of date) – in church
Parham	Monday, May 9, 7pm Seed Room, Parham House

Greatham coffee morning

A coffee morning, in aid of Greatham Church, is being held on Saturday, May 7, from 10.30am until 12.30pm at the home of Annie Rydon, at Washingham, Greatham Lane. There will be a variety of stalls, plus a raffle.



Picture: Michael Joseph

Churchyard weekend

St Michael's churchyard will be looking its best in June with abundant wildflowers. Following the success of last year's event we plan an open weekend during June 25-26 with a variety of activities for all ages, exploring the churchyard and its wildlife, enjoying music, refreshments and more. Most activities will be on Saturday, June 25, with a special service on the Sunday. Lots more details coming soon. Make sure you save the date.

Holy Week and Easter events in pictures



Easter Explored in the churchyard

A warm sunny day brought over 70 people, young and not so young, (and some ever-hopeful dogs) to enjoy warm, buttered, hot cross buns in The Square, Amberley, on Good Friday. The event raised around £264 for the Lorica Trust, based at East Clayton Farm near Washington. The Trust works with children at risk of exclusion from school and also helps adults moving on from homelessness. It also brought along the donkeys that led our Palm Sunday parade. Thanks to Ros Simpson and helpers and to Stella and John Kemp for allowing their kitchen to be taken over for bun-heating, to the trustees of the Old Surgery where drinks were made, and to Colin Woods, proprietor of Amberley Village Stores for providing discounted buns. And our thanks to everyone who supported this St Michael's Church fundraiser and for bringing sunshine both literally and metaphorically!

Mel Edge Churchwarden, St Michael's



Lay Reader Elaine Corbett at Greatham Church



Sunrise service at St Peter's Parham with the the Revd Gerry Burgess



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ST PETER'S CHURCH PARHAM

More major work needed

Over the winter 2021-2022 St Peter's has undergone significant works on the tower and roof. These pictures show some of the skilled work to the tower and roof which has recently been completed.

The very small congregation is grateful for funding from grants, generous donations and legacies which have made this work possible. However, the exposed situation of this Grade 1 listed building with a heavy Horsham slab roof and stonework described by our supervising architect as "like Wensleydale cheese" mean that further work will soon be needed.

The architect advises that we should prepare for works to the timbers supporting the heavy roof, along with other outstanding items which we need to attend to. Having already spent well over £50000 the congregation now faces the prospect of having to find another £150000.

Although Parham parish church sits within Parham Park it is completely independent from Parham House and the estate. This year it is hoped that greater visitor numbers will lead to an increase in donations, but further donations or legacies which could help the congregation to maintain this beautiful building as a place of worship, beauty and peace for future generations would be greatly welcomed.

If you can support by bank payment the details for Parham PCC account are: Sort code 60-01-18, Account no 67464564, Ref: St Peter's donation.

Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival

St Peter's Parham has a small but skilled and dedicated team of flower arrangers who will be ensuring the church looks its best over the Jubilee holiday (Flower Festival June 1-5) and beyond. There will be a service at 9.15am on June 5 but the church is open daily to visitors. The church parking area is immediately before the church on the left. All donations will go to church funds.

New Wildbrooks website

The four Wildbrooks Churches – St Michael's, Amberley, St Peter's, Parham, Wiggonholt Church and Greatham Church – now have a smart new website which can be accessed at www.wildbrookschurches.org.uk

Do have a look and let me have any feedback. I'm aware there are some pages which still lack content, and I'm working on additional links, but there's already plenty to see.

We are indebted to David Lower at Squirrel Wise for building the website. <https://squirrelwise.com> **Melanie Edge**
Churchwarden, St Michael's



MUSIC AT THE VICARAGE

Friday 13th May, 2.30pm and 5pm



Libby Burgess returns for two short afternoon recitals of piano music by Rachmaninov.

The programme is the same for both concerts with time for tea in between.

**Amberley New Vicarage
School Road, BN18 9NA**

*Seating is limited so please book a place in advance:
01798 831600 stevegerryburgess@gmail.com*

Admission free but donations are invited, to be divided between Family Support Work and St Michael's Church funds.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND LISTSERVE POSTINGS

It's a small world

The extremely interesting article (Know your Sussex, Wildbrooks Magazine, April) outlining important strategic influencers over the past hundred years to local events within Sussex ended with an item concerning Littlehampton's iconic East Beach Café designed by Thomas Heatherwick Studio.



Littlehampton's East Beach Café: a local connection

You may be interested to know that one of the Heatherwick team has specific links with Amberley and has worked on one of the houses on East Street commissioned by the resident in 2016. The home owner at that time was Holly Trusted and the carvings of her house name, Pine Cottage, were undertaken by my daughter, Liz Middleton.

Liz, was Head of Operations within Heatherwick Studio for 14 years and worked on the items you mentioned in your article. Liz has stayed in touch with Holly who recently co-founded the Public Statues and Sculptures Association and in fact discovered one of the relief carvings in St Michaels Church was likely undertaken by the controversial but revered 20th century artist Eric Gill.

All-in-all it seems we live in a small world!

Bob Middleton

Brooklyn, The Alley, Amberley

Water companies: government intervention to clean-up their act

I know that many Amberley residents have registered serious concerns about the dumping of sewage into the sea and rivers by Southern Water. This has been happening almost daily, including into the River Arun from the Ford treatment plant. This sewage, of course, will slosh all the way up to Stopham Bridge on the tide. I raised this with our MP, Andrew Griffith, some months ago, as the government line at the time was that forcing water companies to desist from this practise would impose excessive costs on the companies.

The government, in the face of public reaction, appears to have changed course, and has now altered the policy towards water companies and the practise of dumping untreated sewage without sanction.

I have now heard from Andrew Griffith, who has kindly agreed that I can share his email with our Amberley residents.

Geoff Uren

Chairman, Amberley Parish Council

Response from Andrew Griffith, Member of Parliament for Arundel and the South Downs: I am writing to update you that the Government has announced the largest overhaul of

sewage regulation (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-overhaul-of-sewer-system-to-tackle-storm-sewage-discharges>) since the Victorian times.

There will be time-bound mandatory targets for water companies to achieve the complete elimination of ecological harm from storm

overflows, further protect public health and limit storm overflow use.

The consultation will also look into wider options to reduce the strain on our sewer system, such as mandatory sustainable drainage systems, as well as how to eliminate the use of wet wipes and ensure they are biodegradable where needed.

Under these plans, by 2035, the environmental impacts of 3,000 storm overflows affecting our most important protected sites will have been completely eliminated.

The consultation outlines how water companies are expected to achieve these targets, including mapping their sewer networks, reducing surface water connections and engaging in long-term collaborative planning.

These are real measures backed up by a bill of £7.1 billion that has been handed to water companies themselves to make improvements.

Combined, this will deliver massive reductions in the harm caused by storm overflows. There should be no doubt about the Government's ambition and determination in this area. Back in July last year – before anyone else jumped on this issue – ministers set out, for the first time ever, their expectation that Ofwat should incentivise water companies to invest to significantly reduce the use of storm overflows in the forthcoming pricing review period.

We are blessed by our precious natural geography with clean aquifers, chalk streams and rare species in the Arun, Adur and Rother rivers.

I have personally ensured that ministers understand how strongly you feel about this issue and I know that they are looking at some final tweaks to make the provisions of the Bill stronger and eliminate any doubt on the intent.

Locally, you should also know that I am a member of an action group of Solent Basin MPs holding Southern Water – whose past conduct we all know has been completely unacceptable on this and other issues – to account and to quickly ensure our waterways and beaches are pristine.

Parham

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So, whether it's making best use of your ISA allowance, topping up your pension or to give younger generations a helping hand, we can help you head in the right direction.

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PEOPLE & EVENTS



Our condolences...

To **Jenny Robinson, Sarah, Tom, Kate and Harry** on the loss of **Professor Richard Robinson** (pictured), who died suddenly on April 10, aged 79. A private burial took place on April 28 at Amberley, and a celebration of Richard's life will be held at St Michael's Church on September 10. A full obituary will appear in next month's issue.

Farewell..

To **Neill and Anna Hill**, who are moving this month from Leith Court in East Street, Amberley, after 37 years residency. We wish them every happiness in their new home in Chichester. Welcome to **Patrick and Sarah Fitzgerald**, who are the new owners of Leith Court.

Platinum Jubilee Picnic

An invitation is extended to all residents of the Wildbrooks parishes to a picnic on Amberley's Millennium Green on Sunday, June 5, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Bring your own picnic together with a rug or chairs. There will be activities for children and tea cake will be on sale. There will also be a toast to Her Majesty. The event starts at 2.30pm and continues until 4.30pm with Thank-giving prayers and the national anthem, after which you are encouraged to stay and continue to enjoy the occasion.

Spring is in the air!

Preparations are well under way for the biennial Amberley Gardens Open event on Sunday, June 12.

The wonderful event gives us this opportunity to welcome the public to our picturesque village and the chance to visit many of the Amberley gardens. It gives so much pleasure to so many.

As well as the ever-popular plant stall, tombola, ploughman's lunch and teas, there'll be a raffle of a magnificent handmade quilt, specially designed for this Jubilee year by Linda Connoll.

The gardens will be open to residents and visitors from 12 noon until 6pm. Tickets, priced £7 (children under the age of 12 are admitted free of charge) will be available from the junction of Church Street with Hog Lane. For visitors, there is free parking.

If you're unsure about opening your garden, do give us a call.

You may have already offered to help, but if not and you'd like to please contact either Jacqui Feakins (01798 831538/e-mail jaxfs@aol.com) or Suzie Coates (01798 831676/email: footloose@amberleyvillage.net)

All proceeds to Action Medical Research, the charity founded by the late Duncan Guthrie, an Amberley resident.

For more information see amberleygardensopen.blogspot.co.uk

Kithurst Hill car park

The access lane to the car park on Kithurst Hill has reopened following the completion of work on removing unsafe trees.

Engineering works continue

Travellers using the Arun Line to London during the May Bank Holiday weekend, and again during the weekend of May 21-22, are advised to check before they travel as engineering works continue at London Victoria station. Timetables may be amended and trains diverted to London Bridge.





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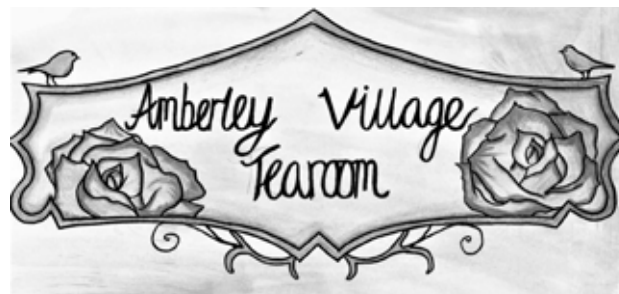
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Brenda Elliott, 1934-2022

Brenda Elliott, who has died aged 87, had lived in Amberley her entire life. She was born at Crossgates, and first attended Amberley School, then went to the school in Rackham before it closed during the Second World War, and returned to Amberley, completing her education at Rydon in Storrington.

She worked for various families in Amberley, including, for many years, the de Precourts who lived at Kennards, and for the Arrowsmiths at Brae Cottage (now Brooklands). A regular supporter of village events, from jumble sales and coffee mornings to village lunches, she was a familiar figure around the village and will be missed.

Details of the funeral were not known before going to press, but will be posted on Listserv and at Amberley Village Stores.

Thefts from vehicles

Police are urging motorists to be vigilant following a spate of thefts from vehicles across rural West Sussex, including Amberley.

Items such as satnavs, headphones, handbags, and clothes have been reported stolen in recent weeks, as well as number plates.

Since the start of the year, approximately 60 incidents have been reported to police from car parks and laybys in areas such as Lavant, Funtington, Goodwood, Midhurst and Pulborough as well as Amberley.

However, it is suspected that some incidents are not being reported, and police are urging any victims to get in touch as soon as possible in order to prevent and detect further offences.

PC Steve Bucksey, of the Roads Policing Unit, said: "This appears to be a linked series of crimes whereby rear and side windows are smashed in order to steal items from vehicles parked in rural locations.

"Never leave valuables in your car, and especially not on display. But most importantly, be vigilant and contact us if you have been a victim of crime or witnessed any suspicious activity such as vehicles missing number plates.

"We rely on information being passed to us efficiently, ideally while still at the scene, in order to build up our intelligence rapidly. That way, we can alert our colleagues across the force and increase our chances of catching those responsible and bringing them to justice."

Tours planned at Parham

Parham House & Gardens, which reopened to visitors on Easter Sunday, has a number of special tours planned this month, along with a display of needlework.

Home to possibly the finest and most important collection of 16th and 17th century embroidery in the UK, Parham will offer visitors an enhanced opportunity to discover the needlework, including items that are not normally on display. They will be available to view in the house during normal opening hours (2pm-5pm), from May 1 until May 29.

On May 6, there will be the first of two tours planned this year of the clocks in the house. Dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, they were collected by the Bisshopp and Pearson families. The second tour will be in September.

Special tours of the house and gardens are also scheduled on May 12 and 20 respectively.

All tours have to be booked in advance via Parham's website: www.parhaminsussex.co.uk

Goodwoof

A weekend of all things dog takes place at the Kennels, Goodwood, on May 28-29.

Billed as the ultimate celebration of dogs, there will be something for everyone. The two days of Goodwoof will see a full programme of world-class competition, wellness workshops, trails, treats and plenty of play.

Designed as a family event, there will be dog-themed films at the open-air cinema, races and competitions.

Tickets available online from www.goodwood.com/goodwoof



AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual report 2021/22

Once again we have been unable to hold our Annual Parish Meeting, as the Council decided that in view of the current high Covid infection rates in the parish, it would be unsafe and irresponsible to have a crowded meeting in the Church Hall. Let's hope that this is the last year that we will have to cancel the meeting, which is usually a popular and well attended event.

Your Parish Council has been busy on your behalf, and I would like to summarise what we have been up to this past year. I hope this doesn't read too much like a Monty Python script for "What has the Parish Council done for us"!

One of the main objectives this year has been to secure the finance for the community car park, and to arrange the work with our chosen contractor, Landbuild. The car park was a key policy in our Neighbourhood Plan, which was formally accepted on June 15, 2017, with 91 per cent support from parishioners. Since then we have spent much time obtaining planning permission from the South Downs National Park Authority, and in raising the money needed. The current financial climate hasn't helped, as interest rates and construction costs have all risen considerably. We have now secured funds from the SDNPA CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Fund, Section 106 receipts, and a Public Works Load Board (PWLB) loan from the rather clumsily named Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). To service the PWLB loan, it was necessary to increase the Parish Council precept, but by good housekeeping we managed to reduce the impact from a projected 12 per cent (equivalent to £11 a year per Band D property), down to 10.45 per cent, or £9.08 per Band D property.

Construction of the car park is expected to begin around mid-May, and take about six weeks. Once it is opened, we can look at measures to reduce on-street parking in the village, particularly in the problem areas around the



Geoff Uren, chairman, Amberley Parish Council

School, Black Horse, East Street and Amberley Village Stores.

The Council has been actively co-operating with Houghton Parish Meeting on improvements to the B2139, including a plan to have pedestrian access from Houghton to Amberley station. We have also secured new village signs for Houghton Bridge to mark the boundary of that part of Amberley parish on the B2139.

Other concerns that we have raised with the appropriate agencies and with our MP have been the unacceptable level of sewage dumping into the sea and River Arun by Southern Water, the proposed Boundary Commission changes that would see Amberley divorced from Arundel and placed in a Shoreham constituency, and motorcycle noise nuisance and speeding on the B2139.

We have engaged in the consultations regarding the Arundel A27 Bypass (in favour), commented on the Glover Landscape report for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and we are working with Historic England and the SDNPA Cultural Heritage and Conservation departments to try to get the owners of Amberley Castle to agree a schedule of works to repair the seriously damaged north wall.

So, in addition to all these actions, what else has the Parish Council done for our residents? The Planning Committee has made representations on several planning applications, including objecting to the current plans for the re-development of the Pickwick site on Turnpike Road. Jason Charman, our Roads and Paths czar, has continued to work tirelessly on hedge trimming and path maintenance. We have recently formed a working partnership with the West Sussex County Council's Young Offenders team, and so far they have replaced rotten fence posts along Ruffs Path. We have also published the *ABC Directory* for local businesses.

Your parish councillors work hard on your behalf, and I am proud to acknowledge the time and effort that all of them put in. I would also like to record my sincere appreciation of the work done by Mrs Vicky Spiers, our incredibly efficient Parish Clerk. Not only is she our 'Jackie Weaver', ensuring that all the correct procedures are followed, but she is also in the process of attaining enhanced qualifications which will enable the Council to have a 'General Power of Competence', enabling us to increase the scope and effectiveness of what we can do for the Parish.

**Geoff Uren
Chairman, Amberley Parish Council**



The field on the corner of School Road and the B2139 where work is shortly due to start on the village car park

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Sunday, 12th June, 2022

12pm – 6pm

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amberleygardensopen.blogspot.co.uk

ALL KINDS OF FOLK

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Saturday 20th August 2022 2pm-6pm



Brambly Croft Field, Amberley BN18 9SH

Rachael Wood

SuperStrings Trio

Nicolette Macleod

and

Jimmy Lee and The Blue Coconut Orchestra

Hosted by Matthew Bannister

**Tickets on sale soon. For further information contact:
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Lemn Sissay

"Finely-crafted songwriting"
Joan Armatrading

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St Mary's North Stoke, Amberley BN18 9LS

Tickets £10 from eventbrite.com Richard Navarro



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Learning how to live more environmentally-friendly lifestyles

Green living will be the subject of a talk at Storrington and District Museum on May 3 by Carrie Cort, CEO of Sussex Green Living, a fast growing environmental awareness and education charity. With the help of volunteers, it runs the Sussex Green Hub, the Horsham Repair Café, Sussex Green Ideas and a Youth Eco Forum.

Carrie Cort set up Sussex Green Living out of concern for the way humans are treating the planet which sustains us all. With motherhood in 2008 came concern about environmental sustainability and a burning desire to learn how we can live more environmentally-friendly lifestyles, in harmony with nature.

She has always had a passion for the countryside, animals and the natural environment. Most of her career has been spent in marketing and communications, mainly within education and land-based industries. In an effort to help create a climate for change, she decided to use her knowledge and digital skills to share ideas which anyone can adopt, saving money and the planet.

She says she is not an expert, just an ordinary person who

is on a greening journey and wanting to pass on what she's learnt to others. "Let's all make some simple changes, become more resilient and try to lead simpler, less materialistic and consumerist way of life," she says.

The talk starts at 7.30pm and costs £6 (£5 for museum members).

Music at the Vicarage

Libby Burgess returns, this time not with Bach but with a short 45-minute programme of piano music by Rachmaninov. The beauty of this Russian music will no doubt turn our minds to the tragedy of conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

There will be two performances of the programme on Friday, May 13, at 2.30pm and 5pm, with time for tea in between. Please come and enjoy this relaxed afternoon.

Admission is free but donations are invited, to be divided between Family Support Work and St Michael's Church. Please contact Gerry or Steve Burgess to book a seat.



Picture by Mike Beck

Members of SAGE (Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts) enjoyed a visit to the internationally renowned garden at Vann, near Godalming. The five acre garden is formed by a series of "rooms" which surround and complement a family home dating from the 16th century. It includes the old cottage garden with delightfully informal planting in a formal setting, a robust pergola of Bargate stone designed by W.D.Carøe, the arts and crafts architect and great grandfather of the present owners, the water garden, laid out and planted by Gertrude Jekyll in 1911, and the newly designed and planted centenary garden. Pictured above on a stone seat at the end of the yew walk are (from the left): Phil Greenwood, Di Hamilton, Sarah Ffoulkes Roberts, Pat Morley, Pam Malcomson, Adrienne Greenwood and Jane Joseph.

On May 19 there is a visit to Ramster Garden, near Chiddingfold, known for its rhododendron and azalea collection and its carpet of bluebells in spring. The visit will coincide with the Surrey Sculpture Exhibition in which Michael Joseph will be exhibiting, and who has offered to give SAGE members a guided tour of the sculpture trail.



Amberley School has ‘the best outdoor learning facility in Sussex’

An exciting addition to what is described as “the best outdoor learning facility in Sussex” was formally opened at Amberley C of E Primary School last week at the beginning of April. The innovative, sculptural structure and play area was funded entirely by the school’s supportive parent-teacher association and led by Two Circles Design, award-winning, Slindon-based artists Mark and Rebecca Ford.

Two Circles Design works in education and art settings to create beautiful and unique structures from natural materials and draw on ancient traditions and techniques of willow craft and woodland conservation.

The project, which involved the entire school, was launched in July last year when Mark and Rebecca discussed organic architecture with pupils at assembly. Each class was given time to generate design ideas based on natural forms, such as seeds, nests or the microscopic world, and participated in design workshops led by the Two Circles couple.

The pupil-led School Council and Eco-Council considered the various ideas and produced a final, integrated design, which was translated into a buildable structure with a meandering turfed roof, planted with spring bulbs. The children came up with a long list of imagina-



Top: pupils line-up outside The Seedling. Left: Mark Ford, creator of the structure, cuts the ribbon and (above centre) in discussion with two of the parents; Below centre: The Revd Gerry Burgess and Glenys Rowe, a former governor actively involved in the outdoor learning areas; and (right) a jubilant Ray Jackson, chair of governors. Photography by Mike Beck

tive names for the structure, with 'The Seedling' voted as the winning choice.

Explained Mark Ford: "It's really important for young designers to discover that something in their imagination can be translated into an actual three-dimensional building. This free-standing structure is constructed from locally sourced hazel and birch poles and clad with individually made wooden leaf/feather-shaped shingles. It has a curved seating area for an entire class to have outdoor lessons."

He added: "I've really enjoyed working with Amberley School on this unique project."

Mrs Lizzie Martin, Executive Headteacher of the Arun Villages Federation, of which Amberley C of E Primary School is a member said: "The magnificent contribution by the Friends of Amberley School Association has funded the design and installation of The Seedling, which adds to our beautiful Nature Space, dedicated Forest School area and extensive grounds to give the school the very best outdoor learning facility in Sussex.

"The Seedling will provide a unique teaching and learning space for the children, and an area to inspire creative play, teamwork and friendship-building."



Above: Tea ladies Louise Walker, Ally Webster and Sam Padgham; Below left: Mark Ford examines the new structure with a parent; Below right: Mark Ford with Ray Jackson and Paul Armitage, assistant executive headteacher; Bottom picture: pupils and parents celebrate the opening of their new outdoor learning facility





Getting the show on the road

Amberley Museum hosted its first major event of the year at the beginning of April, when the Vintage Car Show returned to delight families and enthusiasts alike.

Over 120 classic cars – the oldest an 1899 Benz – drove to the industrial museum to showcase the charm and inventiveness of early 20th century motoring. Visitors were able to ride on the museum's Southdown vintage buses, as well as on the narrow-gauge railway with steam locomotive *Polar Bear*.

The show was the first of a series of special events planned at the museum for 2022:

Spring Bus Show: Sunday, May 1.

The Classic Motorcycle Show: Sunday, May 8, is a highlight of the museum's year when a collection of over 100 classic motorcycles, all pre-1992, will be on display to celebrate the history of British biking.

Environment Day: Saturday, June 11.

Father's Day & the Emergency Services: Sunday, June 19. A special day of celebration, with free entry for Dads.

The Steam Show: July 2-3. A weekend of everything steam-related.

Amberley's 21st Classic Car Show: Sunday, July 17, when around 100 classic cars from the 1955 to 1993 era will be on display.

Other upcoming and popular summer/autumn events include Railway Gala Weekend, Retro Wheels, Steampunk Weekend, Communications Day, Bank Holiday Ale & Crafts, Miniature Steam Weekend, Land Rover Day and special Halloween and Christmas celebrations.

STORRINGTON FILM NIGHTS

No Time to Die

The final film of the current season of Storrington Film Nights on Wednesday, May 11, with an earlier start time of 7pm, is the latest action-packed James Bond movie *No Time to Die*, starring Daniel Craig. Organised by the Rotary

Club of Storrington & Pulborough District, it takes place at Sullington Hall.

Tickets are £5, and are available from the Card Shop in Storrington. Any unsold tickets will be available on the door, on the night. There is a bar and a raffle during the interval.

Anyone requiring transport should contact Roger Jamieson on (01798) 813956. Films resume on September 14.

Village lunches – and more

Following the questionnaire in last month's edition of *The Wildbrooks Magazine* (also posted on Listserve) to determine how much of an appetite there is for the continuation of the Village Lunches, feedback suggests it is a broader issue.

It is not just about the revival of the popular lunches but is it now more about the time for a post-pandemic renaissance of village social activities in general? That (in the words of the bard) is the question.

We had 28 responses representing some 41 residents, which was both good feedback and encouraging with 30 offers of help for anything from pot washing to serving, preparing/cooking the meals and providing transport for the elderly and infirm. We were particularly delighted that a significant number of these offers were from residents who have moved to the village in more recent times and who are obviously welcoming opportunities to play a part in community life.

What has not become clear is what the demand is likely to be in terms of potential attendees for the lunches. In an effort to establish this we are now directly contacting our previous village lunch 'regulars' for their views, and also about meeting in larger groups. Once we have all the information we need we can look for appropriate ways forward.

That aside we are sure you will be interested to learn that as a spin-off of the village lunches issue there seems to have been a good degree of informal discussions on interests and needs for other community/village-wide organised events, such as picnics, themed evening gatherings and village parties to name but a few.

All of which is beyond the remit of the village lunch team, but could there be a post-pandemic 'renaissance' of the wider village social life which we enjoyed before Covid.

Would it be an idea for potentially like and fresh-minded folk to come forward to think this through further? Perhaps send your views, comments and ideas to the editor of *The Wildbrooks Parish Magazine* (mike@brooklandsamberley.com).

Sandie Conlon

Team Leader, Amberley Village Lunch

TO CELEBRATE HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



You are invited to a Jubilee Picnic

Amberley Millennium Green

Sunday 5th June, from 2.30pm

Bring a Picnic and Rug or Chairs

Tea and Cake on Sale - Activities for Children

Toast to the Queen

Event will end at approx 4.30pm with
Thanksgiving Prayers and National Anthem
but you are welcome to stay on and enjoy yourselves!



Organised by the Parish Engagement Group of St Michael's Church,

with assistance from the Millennium Green Trust

For more information, **or if you can offer help on the day**, contact

Ros Simpson ros.simpson1@btinternet.com or Mel Edge amberleystmichael@gmail.com



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Candlelit concert

The Church of St Mary the Virgin will be the setting for what promises to be a memorable concert on Saturday, May 24, featuring the acclaimed folk-inspired duo of Richard Navarro and Nicholas Thurston.

The pair are songwriters and musicians and together they accompany their own songs on the violin and acoustic guitar. They perform in atmospheric places with good natural acoustics, which makes the 11th century, Grade 1-listed church at North Stoke, an ideal venue. The centrepiece of the concert is a suite called *Firewatching*, an original creation of song and story, mostly based on heroic events which took place in the Middle Ages around southeast England.

This powerful performance will be held by candlelight in the church (seating unreserved). The recital is part of a tour by Richard and Nicholas in association with the Churches Conservation Trust and is in support of CCT.

The performance lasts for a little over one hour without an interval. Tickets can be obtained online via eventbrite.com Richard Navarro, or (paper tickets) from Janet Aidin, The Old Rectory, Wiggonholt, Pulborough RH20 2EL (see please with cheque payable to The Churches Conservation Trust). Tickets are priced at £8 for Friends of St Mary North Stoke, and £10 for others.

Piano and violin recital

Works by Beethoven, Vaughan Williams, Korngold and Elgar will be performed by the accomplished duo of Bradley Creswick (violin) and Margaret Fingerhut (piano) at this month's Chichester Music Society concert on Wednesday, May 11, at 7.30pm.

As usual the venue is the chapel at the University of Chichester, Bishop Otter campus and tickets, priced £15, available from ticketsource.

More details from Cyndy Kennett on (07745) 407185.

Testing, One, Two...

A talk on the evolution of music festival films is being given by Amberley resident Sandy Guthrie at Chichester's New Park cinema on Saturday, May 28, at 10.30am.

Sandy, who lives at Wildhanger, Rackham Road, will examine the subject from 1959's *Jazz on a Summer's Day* to *The Last Waltz*, released in 1978. Entitled *Testing, One, Two*, the talk will take in *Monterey Pop*, *Woodstock* and other similar films on the way, and is largely an excuse to show some wonderful musical performances on the big screen, together with a good sound system!



Concert venue: North Stoke Church

Other talks coming up, given by members of New Park's education team, will include an examination of British film music, and a session on George Gershwin.

All Kinds of Folk

"My idea of heaven is a place where the Tyne meets the Delta, where folk music meets the blues." Said Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits for those who remember them!). And in a way that is what we hope August 20 will be here in Amberley.

Brambly Croft Field will be transformed into a concert venue where an amazing line-up of local talent including Jimmy Lee from the Blue Coconut, Jon Wigg from the Black Horse Folk Club, Nicolette Macleod (daughter of Anna and Ian Corcoran) and Rachael Wood from Houghton Bridge will play All Kinds of Folk Music to you on August 20.

Bring a rug, a chair, a picnic for a family day out. We hope to have children's activities in a craft tent as well as beer for the older folk. The event is from 2pm-6pm in aid of Ukraine and Family Support Work. Tickets on sale soon. Contact hazel.allinson@btinternet.com for further information.

Concert in aid of Ukraine

Local musicians from Greatham are performing at a concert in aid of Ukraine on Saturday, June 25, at West Chilton Village Hall.

Alan Wheeler and Anne Anne Sartain (of Cotillion fame), who have entertained audiences in Amberley on many occasions, will be among musicians playing a variety of classical, folk and easy listening in a café-style setting.

Desert Island Discs

Never having received an invitation from the BBC to share my *Desert Island Discs* with listeners, I am delighted that I will have an opportunity at this month's gathering of CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) on Tuesday, May 10! While I suspect the audience may be somewhat smaller than Radio 4, I am looking forward to the experience and hope attendees will derive as much pleasure from my selection as I have putting it together. The meeting, in St Michael's Church Hall, starts at 2pm and includes tea and cakes. If you require transport, please contact Hazel Allinson on 01798 831159.

Mike Toynbee

Choral work at cathedral

The Leconfield Singers, together with the English Philharmonia, are performing Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in Chichester Cathedral on Saturday, May 7 at 7pm. Tickets are priced from £15.



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PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held at the Old School, Rackham, on March 22, 2022

Present: Tim Hayward (chair), Heather Cartwright, Catherine Dugdale and Claudia Fisher. Also in attendance: Vicky Spiers (parish clerk).

A planning committee is to be established to improve the council's current process of dealing with planning applications. Members of the newly formed committee, comprising Heather Cartwright, Catherine Dugdale and Claudia Fisher, will now be sent a 'planning pack' by the parish clerk in respect of every application received. A site visit will then be arranged with the applicant to view the proposed plans, with a minimum of two members of the committee in attendance.

The clerk has been instructed to set up a separate planning page on the parish council's website and there was a consensus that members were hopeful that this would also result in more engagement and transparency with residents.

An invitation to join the committee would be extended to Will Rydon and Paul Slimming, who were not present at the council meeting.

Among the current planning applications, it was noted that a retrospective application by Link Farm, Wiggonholt, for the continued storage of bricks had been refused by HDC. Councillors also discussed an application by Parham House for the conversion of a disused workshop to a one-bedroom dwelling and agreed that while there was objection they were interested in how the dwelling would be insulated and heated and hoped this would be in a sustainable form, along with how the application would combat the water neutrality issue.

In her absence, Horsham District councillor Diana van der Klugt had provided an update prior to the meeting on Openreach's Community Fibre Partnership for faster broadband. She reported that, encouragingly, within two weeks of Openreach opening the online portal sufficient vouchers had been pledged by the community to surpass the share of the infrastructure cost of just under £600,000. The next step was to ensure that Openreach proceeded with the initiative and committed to delivery.

Councillors also agreed to adopt the revised Local Government Association (LGA) model Code of Conduct with effect from March 2022.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 7.30pm at the Old School, Rackham.

www.parhamparishcouncil.org

Running Wild...an update

An article in the February edition of *The Wildbrooks Magazine* highlighted an application by the Drewitt's Farm residents in Amberley to rewild the 'rough' behind Drewitt's Farm, following a call by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for possible sites where new wildlife habitats could be created. We saw this as an opportunity to get professional guidance and support in creating a beautiful wildflower meadow in a field which has lain fallow for more than 30 years. We have now heard back from the SDNPA – and we have had some good news and some less happy news.

The good news is the SDNPA want to explore further with Mel Edge – who owns the second field behind the Drewitt's development – the possibility of supporting her in her wonderful ideas to create a wildflower area and a small orchard of heritage apples and pears, possibly combined with occasional grazing for a small number of rare breed sheep. At the same time, Sussex Wildlife Trust are advising Mel on the best way of maintaining the seasonal stream habitat between the field and the cricket ground.

The less happy news is that the SDNPA are not prioritising the first field, which is part of the Drewitt's Farm development. It has had a lot of interest expressed in its call for potential sites and so has decided to leave the rewilding of this field to the developer. We are still hopeful that as residents, we can have some influence and input to the design of a wildflower meadow, when it eventually happens.

Susan Watson

Pole in one...

A new security pole has been installed at the vehicle entrance to the Millennium Green at the junction of Hurst Close. It is not designed to restrict legitimate use of the entrance by residents, but to reduce the risk of unauthorised vehicular access and the nuisance that might pose. A key to allow the post to be lowered to the ground is being held at Amberley Village Stores, courtesy of Colin Woods. The shop's instructions are to issue it to anyone from the village known to them. Alternatively, any of the Millennium Green trustees (Roger and Judy Agate, Tina Bishop, Nicole Burnett, Jason Charman, Dave Cole, Jim Endacott and Ruth Stevens) have access to a second key, enabling vehicle entry to the Green.



The trustees look forward to seeing the Green used for a range of social events this summer, not least the Platinum Jubilee Picnic on



Picture: Tom S B Lee, Sussex Wildlife Trust



The aftermath of the battle

Two thousand corpses lie strewn on the slopes and riverbanks around Lewes. Some view this as a victory; for others this is defeat. But for a large, black bird who has calmly watched the bloodshed from the side-lines, this scene of slaughter is an all-you-can-eat buffet. Democracy never tasted so good.

Smart birds, ravens. Way before 1264 they'd realised they needn't waste their energy killing to eat when other less intelligent species can do the dirty work for them. For centuries ravens exploited man's enthusiasm for resolving quarrels with clubs and swords. Ravenous ravens dined out at all the finest battlefields, burial grounds, gibbets and gallows.

Hanging around with corpses would get anyone a bad reputation but the raven's took on mythological proportions. Across the northern hemisphere the bird became respected and revered by many cultures as an omen of death, denizen of the afterlife, messenger of defeat. This sinister CV secured them a plethora of portentous appearances in everything from the Old Testament to Game of Thrones. The sight of a raven struck fear in the heart of man who would dare not harm it. Today ravens still occur in our folklore as the earthbound spirit of King Arthur, and

the Tower of London the birds are entrusted with the fate of the kingdom.

Yet aside from all the make-believe malevolent accolades bestowed on the raven, it truly is magnificent to watch. As befits Britain's wickedest bird, the raven certainly dresses the part in a costume of sleek, glossy black feathers, shaggy 'beard' and stout dagger beak. It commands the sky; wheeling on wide wings and uttering its guttural 'cronk cronk' call. Sometimes their behaviour is incongruous with their evil image. To see ravens rolling and tumbling through the air during their joyous display flight is like catching the grim reaper doing the hokey-cokey.

When not busy instilling fear in the population, ravens performed an important clean-up job ridding Britain's towns of rotting rubbish and the bird was protected by royal decree. But in the 17th century people's perceptions changed and for centuries the birds were persecuted. Ravens, and the old beliefs they represented, were exorcised from England. By 1895 they had vanished from Sussex.

But informed, tolerant attitudes have recently allowed ravens to return. They mostly breed on our chalk cliffs and quarries but can be seen flying over our towns and cities. In our comfortable world of surround sound and selfies there is something reassuringly sinister about watching a raven circling overhead; a spectral souvenir of our brutal, primitive past. Sussex will never again be the site of a bloody revolutionary battle. But there's no harm in a few ravens hanging around. Just in case. **Michael Blencowe**

Sussex Wildlife Trust

Joy of the dawn chorus

Arriving in the dark there are stars in the sky, a chill in the air and the only sound is the song of the nightingale. The yawns and heavy eyes of the early start are soon forgotten as you marvel at the rich, melodious notes, piping calls and bizarre frog-like croaks of this most celebrated songster.

Our nightingales will have spent the winter in Africa, south of the Sahara in Senegal or Guinea Bissau, perhaps in the company of pelicans. They have travelled north, negotiating a number of dangers en route, including a desert crossing and a flight across the Mediterranean.

But despite this our nightingales arrive; and I can legitimately claim them to be 'ours' as migration studies using satellite tracking have shown that nightingales are site-faithful – they tend to return to the same place to breed. Nightingales migrate by night so the males arrive first, claim a territory and then start to sing through the night in the hope of tempting a migrating female to drop down and take a closer look. The more complex the song, the more attractive the male is to the female.

As well as impressing the females, the song of the nightingale has inspired poets, songwriters and authors for centuries. Interestingly, in almost all the tales and poems the nightingale who sings is depicted as a female bird. *continued on page 33*

March rainfall

The dry start to the year continued into March, with just 32.7mm (1¼in) of rain, 12.6mm (½in) of it falling on a single day on the first of the month. Dry and wet/damp days were equally divided – 16 and 15 respectively. The total rainfall for March was almost the same amount as recorded in the same month last year when the figure was 35mm (1½in). For the first three months of 2022, a total of 134.8mm (5½in) was recorded.

Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey



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continued from page 30

As dawn breaks and the sun begins to rise other voices join in with the concert; the mellow tones of the blackbird, the wistful tune of the robin and the strident notes of the song thrush. The latter is fairly easy to pick out from the noise, offering up a string of different phrases, seemingly never able to settle on just one. The early-to-rise are eventually joined by others including the shouty wren, twittering finches, and those tricky warblers, otherwise known as "little brown jobs"!



The song of the nightingale has inspired poets, songwriters and authors for centuries

One of the greatest gifts the natural world gives us is the dawn chorus, that cacophony of birdsong that eases us from the depths of sleep and introduces a new day. This time of the day is ideal for birds trying to attract a mate as the cool dense air and lack of background noise means their song will carry 20 times further. It's a declaration from the male birds: "I'm awake, I'm handsome, strong and I have this wonderful patch where we can nest and raise a family!"

The RSPB's nature reserve at Wiggonholt provides a home for over 2,000 different species and is particularly good for spring songsters. They have moved in to enjoy the woodland, hedgerows and the dense pockets of bramble and spiky blackthorn that provide song perches, shelter for nests and plenty of food to feed the hungry mouths of their chicks.

As the sun begins to creep over the horizon and cast dappled light through the trees, the birdsong will dwindle as new priorities take over; hungry tummies must now be filled, both the birds and ours. I am glad that the café is open for breakfast!

Anna Allum

Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB, Wiggonholt

Coffee Morning

In aid of Greatham Church



Saturday, May 7, 10.30am-12.30pm

At Washingham, Greatham Lane

Stalls • Raffle

Recipe

Real trifle

When food rationing finally ended after the Second World War there was a renewed interest in cooking. Here in an early 1950s recipe for trifle: I have never found a better. It is very easy to make, sinfully alcoholic and just the thing for the winter. This serves four, do double quantities for a party but perhaps not for children. Grandmothers love it.

You need

3 Small sponge cakes

6 macaroons

1 oz ratafias (or extra macaroons)

¼ pint medium or sweet sherry

3 tbs brandy

Grated lemon rind

1 oz blanched almonds cut in strips

Strawberry jam

½ pint of egg custard (see recipe below (powdered custard will not do)

Cream whip for topping (see recipe below) and crystallised fruit to garnish



Method

Make the custard first and leave it to cool while you prepare the rest.

Put the sponge cakes, macaroons and ratafias into a dish. Mix the sherry and the brandy and pour it over the cakes. Sprinkle over the lemon rind and chopped almond and spread a small amount of strawberry jam (do not overdo the jam or the trifle will be too sweet). Pour over the custard, allow it to sink in and heap the whip on top. Chill it. Garnish with crystallized fruit.

To make the custard

You need two egg yolks, 1/2 pint of whole or semi skimmed milk, one teaspoonful of sugar and a vanilla pod (keep an egg white for the whip, see below). Heat the milk slowly together with the sugar and vanilla pod, do not let it boil. Mix the egg yolks together in a pudding-basin, pour in the milk slowly stirring all the time as you do it. Stand the basin in a pan of hot water, heat gently stirring the custard until it begins to thicken, take it out of the water and allow it to cool before using it.

To make the whip

You need ¼ pint of double cream, one teaspoonful of sugar, one egg white and one teaspoonful of sweetish sherry. Whisk all the ingredients together until the volume is nearly doubled. The effect of the egg white is to lighten the cream.

Jane Mason

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EDITORIAL

Road rage – again

Not for the first time have we complained about the state of West Sussex's roads, which are a disgrace. Admittedly, some long overdue repairs have now been completed on two of the worst offenders locally – Greatham Road and Rackham Street up to the junction of North Park Road – but Rackham Road and East Street in Amberley continue to be a hazard for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike.

During the Easter Bank Holiday weekend, a visitor walking along East Street twisted an ankle in one enormous pot-hole and then tripped, sustaining serious injury. After dark these pot-holes pose an even greater risk to life and limb.

The county council absolves itself from responsibility once a white line has been placed around a pot-hole, but often these disappear as the hole becomes a crater.

There is a noticeable difference in the state of roads when driving from West Sussex into neighbouring Hampshire and Surrey, which suggests WSCC is lagging behind in terms of essential road maintenance despite the extra cash which has been allocated for this purpose by central government. It really is time it got its act together.

Difficult times

While acknowledging these are difficult times for cash-strapped local councils, it is also proving a challenge for local businesses, too. At a time when the cost of just about everything is rising, our village shop is feeling the pinch now that people are gradually resuming their former supermarket shopping habits and receiving home deliveries. As Philip Bentley eloquently summed up the current situation in a Letter to the Editor in last month's issue: 'The successful campaign to save the village shop will have been in vain if it now dies from lack of support.'

Amberley Village Stores kept many of us going during the pandemic, providing a vital delivery service at a time when many residents were unable to secure supermarket delivery slots. In a heartfelt appeal to residents and second home owners, Philip pointed out: 'We were there for you when you needed us. We are still here for you now. But will you be here for us, now that we need you?'

The village shop is generally reckoned to be one of our greatest assets. Don't allow it to fail through indifference.

Mike Toyndee

Deadline for the June issue is Thursday, May 12

(note: the Editor will be on holiday later in the month and will need copy early)

mike@brooklandsamberley.com



God the Artist

God, when you thought of a pine tree,
How did you think of a star?
How did you dream of the Milky Way
To guide us from afar.
How did you think of a clean brown pool
Where flecks of shadows are?

God, when you thought of a cobweb,
How did you think of dew?
How did you know a spider's house
Had shingles bright and new?
How did you know the human folk
Would love them like they do?

God, when you patterned a bird song,
Flung on a silver string,
How did you know the ecstasy
That crystal call would bring?
How did you think of a bubbling throat
And a darling speckled wing?

God, when you chiseled a raindrop,
How did you think of a stem,
Bearing a lovely satin leaf
To hold the tiny gem?
How did you know a million drops
Would deck the morning's hem?

Why did you mate the moonlit night
With the honeysuckle vines?
How did you know Madeira bloom
Distilled ecstatic wines?

How did you weave the velvet disk
Where tangled perfumes are?

God, when you thought of a pine tree,
How did you think of a star?

Angela Morgan



LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse & Recycling Calendar

Household refuse collections (Amberley/Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road and Houghton Bridge): Mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be collected on **Tuesdays, May 5, 17 and 31**. Non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Tuesdays, May 10 and 24**.

For Church Street and Hog Lane, collections for garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be on **Mondays, May 2, 16 and 30**; non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Wednesdays, May 4 and 18**; collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, May 11 and 25**.

Opening hours for amenity tips

Billingshurst: 9am-6pm (closed Thursday and Friday); **Bognor:** 9am-6pm (closed Thursday and Friday); **Chichester (Westhampnett)** 9am-6pm (closed Tuesday); **Littlehampton** 9am-6pm (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). **Note:** Advance booking necessary at Bognor and Littlehampton and proof of West Sussex residency is required.

Monday Village Bus service to Storrington and Pulborough

Following the discontinuation of the Compass Bus service, the Village Bus has resumed its Monday morning service to Storrington and Pulborough.

Amberley Square (depart)	10.15
Hurst Cottages	10.18
The Sportsman	10.20
Rackham Street	10.23
Storrington (arrive)	10.35
Pulborough (arrive)	11.00
Pulborough Sainsbury's (depart)	12.03
Pulborough Tesco	12.05
Storrington bus station	12.25
Rackham Street	12.35
The Sportsman	12.38
Hurst Cottages	12.40
Amberley Square (arrive)	12.41

Village Bus



On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Community Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers. We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver will pick up and set down at your door on request (especially useful when you are returning home with shopping), or anywhere else en route. The fare is a flat-rate £3 per return journey, and Sussex County Card Holders and children under 14 travel free. Wheelchair users are welcome, but always ring ahead. To arrange a pick-up from your home, or to discuss becoming a volunteer driver, please call Philip Greenwood on (01798) 831 803. The full bus timetable can be found on the Amberley Parish Council website: www.amberley-pc.org.uk/

DAY	DESTINATION	DEPARTS AMBERLEY	TIME FOR SHOPPING / APPOINTMENTS	ARRIVES BACK IN AMBERLEY
Mon	Bognor For details of the Storrington & Pulborough service, see panel above	Rackham St 12.35pm Hurst Cott 12.40pm Square 12.41pm Bridge Inn 12.44pm	1.25pm to 3.30pm	4.12pm approx
First Tues only	Worthing via Storrington (with around three-and-a-half hours before the return journey)	Bridge Inn 9.37am Square 9.40am Hurst Cott 9.43am Sportsman 9.45am Rackham St 9.48am	10.15am to 1.05pm	1.40pm approx
Wed	Littlehampton & Rustington	Rackham St 9.32am Hurst Cott 9.35am Square 9.37am Bridge Inn 9.39am	10.05am to 12.31pm (Arundel) 10.15am to 12.20pm (Littlehampton) 10.25am to 12.10pm (Rustington)	1pm approx
Thurs	Chichester	Rackham St 9.32am Hurst Cott 9.36am Square 9.37am Bridge Inn	10.25am (Market) 10.30am (South Street/ West Street) to 1.30pm (Cathedral)	2.16pm approx



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OPENING HOURS

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 5pm-10pm

Wednesday-Thursday:
12 noon-3pm & 5pm-10pm

Friday & Saturday:
12 noon-11pm

Sunday: 12 noon-5pm

Note: subject to change

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MAY DIVERSIONS

1. Which Middle Eastern capital has given its name to a fruit, a fabric, a metal and a variety of rose?
2. How many teams currently compete in the Rugby Premiership?
3. Which English county was once divided into six administrative areas known as rapes?
4. Who rowed with her father, a Northumberland lighthouse keeper, through a storm to save nine survivors of a shipwreck?
5. In the novel by Graham Greene, what was the occupation of James Wormold in *Our Man in Havana*?
6. Which three sauces make up prawn cocktail sauce?
7. Roger Taylor is the drummer in which band?
8. Which are the only two books in the *Old Testament* are named after women?
9. What flag is flown by a vessel about to leave port?
10. Which British animator created Wallace and Gromit?
11. The international car registration CH stands for which country?
12. Name the seven dwarfs from *Snow White*.
13. Who is the current Poet Laureate?
14. In which city would you find O'Hare Airport?
15. What do *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady* and *Oliver!* have in common?
16. What animal lives in a form?
17. Of which US states are the following the capitals?
(a) Harrisburg (b) Tallahassee (c) Columbus
(d) Montpelier (e) Charleston
18. What is 10 on the Beaufort Scale?
19. Where is the St Leger run?
20. With which football club did George Best spend most of his career?
21. *Knights in White Satin* was a 1967 hit for which band?
22. What was the name of the tree that the 'jolly swag-man' camped beside?
23. He was a 16th century Italian statesman who gave his name to a word meaning unscrupulous political cunning. Who was he?
24. What is hummus made from? **Answers page 41**

QUICK CROSSWORD

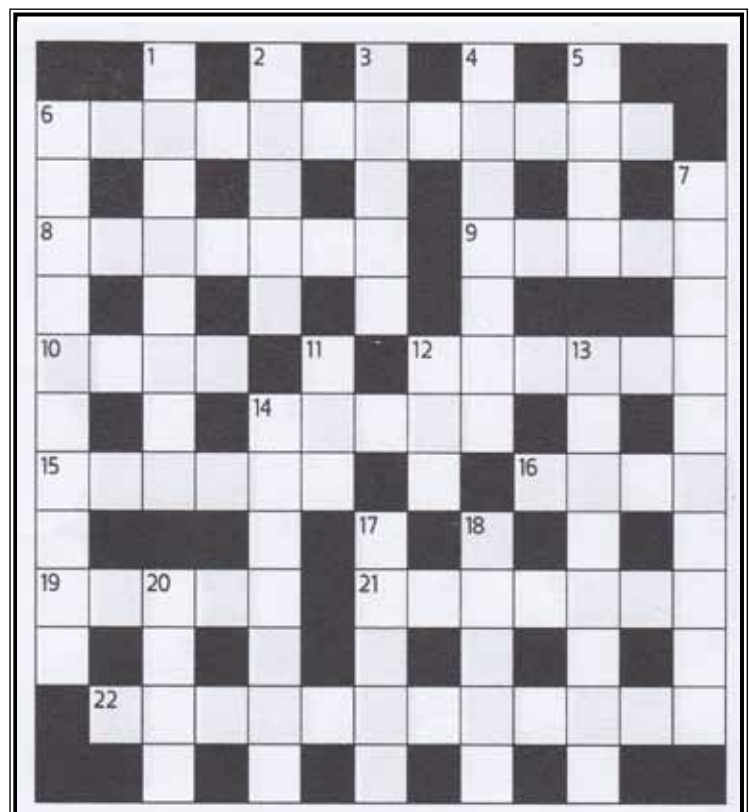
Across

6. Not enough (12)
8. Staunch nationalist (7)
9. Fireside seat (5)
10. Always (4)
12. Salad plant (6)
14. Absolve (5)
15. Easy (6)
16. Fervent (4)
19. Parish priest (5)
21. Lacking consistency (7)
22. Expert, polished (12)

Solution, page 41

Down

1. Contour line of equal temperature (8)
2. Attach (5)
3. *The ___ Dozen*, film (5)
4. Resembling (7)
5. Drawback (4)
6. Permissive [anag] (10)
7. Systematic (10)
11. Beer (3)
12. Uncooked (3)
13. Tempting (8)
14. Make plain (7)
17. Grand meal (5)
18. Teach (5)
20. Cauliflower head (4)





MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

1st Sunday

Dawn Chorus, RSPB Reserve, Wiggonholt,
4.30am-11.30am

Spring Bus Show, Amberley Museum, from
10am

Fittleworth Garden Trail, 2pm-6pm

2nd Monday

Fittleworth Garden Trail, 2pm-6pm

Bell ringing practice, St Michael's Church,
7.30pm (and every Monday at the same time)

3rd Tuesday

Arts Society West Sussex talk, Fittleworth
Village Hall, 2pm

7th Saturday

Greatham Coffee Morning, Washingham,
10.30am-12.30pm

Concert: Mendelssohn's *Eliza* (Leconfield
Singers), Chichester Cathedral, 7pm

10th Tuesday

CAMEO (*Desert Island Discs - the Editor's
choice*), St Michael's Church Hall, 2pm

Parham Parish Council meeting, Old School,
Rackham, 7.30pm

11th Wednesday

Mid-week Wildlife Walk, RSPB Reserve,
Wiggonholt, 10am

Film: *No Time to Die* (Rotary Film Night),
Sullington Hall, 7pm

Concert: Chichester Music Society,
University of Chichester, 7.30pm

12th Thursday

Amberley Parish Council meeting,
St Michael's Church Hall, 7.30pm

13th Friday

Music at the Vicarage (Rachmaninov piano
recital by Libby Burgess, Amberley Vicarage,
performances at 2.30pm and 5pm*)

18th Wednesday

SAGE garden visit: Ramster, near Chiddingfold,
10.30am*

24th Tuesday

Concert: Firewatching, St Mary the Virgin,
North Stoke, 7pm*

28th Saturday

Goodwoof, The Kennels, Goodwood,
10am-5pm*

29th Sunday

Goodwoof, The Kennels, Goodwood,
10am-5pm* * *Booking essential*

Littlehampton Tide Timetable – May

Sun 1 st	Mon 2 nd	Tue 3 rd	Wed 4 th	Thu 5 th	Fri 6 th	Sat 7 th
High 00.27 Low 06.15 High 12.46 Low 18.31	High 01.01 Low 06.50 High 13.21 Low 19.05	High 01.31 Low 07.23 High 13.49 Low 19.38	High 01.57 Low 07.54 High 14.18 Low 20.10	High 02.22 Low 08.27 High 14.48 Low 20.43	High 02.51 Low 09.00 High 15.21 Low 21.21	High 03.26 Low 09.40 High 16.02 Low 22.06
8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
High 04.11 Low 10.31 High 17.02 Low 23.07	High 05.20 Low 11.38 High 18.32	Low 00.27 High 07.00 Low 13.01 High 19.42	Low 01.49 High 08.08 Low 14.16 High 20.42	Low 02.52 High 09.04 Low 15.13 High 21.33	Low 03.40 High 09.53 Low 15.58 High 22.17	Low 04.22 High 10.36 Low 16.39 High 22.59
15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
Low 05.02 High 11.20 Low 17.22 High 23.42	Low 05.44 High 12.05 Low 18.05	High 00.25 Low 06.29 High 12.51 Low 18.50	High 01.10 Low 07.15 High 13.37 Low 19.38	High 01.56 Low 08.04 High 14.26 Low 20.28	High 02.44 Low 08.55 High 15.19 Low 21.21	High 03.37 Low 09.51 High 16.18 Low 22.21
22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th
High 04.40 Low 10.55 High 17.26 Low 23.33	High 05.55 Low 12.11 High 18.41	Low 00.53 High 07.13 Low 13.26 High 19.55	Low 02.03 High 08.26 Low 14.28 High 21.00	Low 03.00 High 09.25 Low 15.21 High 21.51	Low 03.49 High 10.14 Low 16.08 High 22.36	Low 04.32 High 10.59 Low 16.49 High 23.17
29 th	30 th	31 st				
Low 05.12 High 11.40 Low 17.29 High 23.56	Low 05.49 High 12.18 Low 18.05	High 00.31 Low 06.25 High 12.54 Low 18.41				

TIDAL DIFFERENCES ON THE RIVER ARE +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON BRIDGE Compiled by Hazel Allinson

DATES FOR THE DIARY

12th June Amberley Gardens Open

July 9th-10th Sussex Steam Rally,
Parham Park

23rd-26th June Festival of Speed,
Goodwood

23rd July Amberley Revival

June 25th Concert for Ukraine, West
Chiltington Village Hall

20th August All Kinds of Folk,
Amberley

Property Watch List compiled from Rightmove

Homes for sale locally

Amberley

Church Street 4-bedroom Grade II listed thatched house
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,200,000**

Rackham Road 3-bedroom house **OIEO £1,400,000**
(GL&Co, Storrington)

Strawberry Villas (new development of 14 properties)
3-bedroom house (Plot 9) **£595,000**
4-bedroom house (Plot 13) **£1,050,000**

(Fowlers, Storrington)



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Amberley Village Stores, grocery, wines, newspapers, Post Office 01798 831171

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Dorset House, independent day and boarding school for boys and girls, 4-13 01798 831456

Slindon College, independent day and boarding school for boys aged 8-18 01243 814320

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Marion Scotcher, foot health practitioner home visits by appointment 01798 875588

Robert Sadler, locally-based registered osteopath 01798 874736

DIVERSIONS ANSWERS (see page 39)

1. Damascus (damson, damask, damascene and damask rose), the capital of Syria 2. 13 3. Sussex 4. Grace Darling 5. A vacuum cleaner salesman 6. Mayonnaise, ketchup and Worcestershire sauce 7. Queen 8. Ruth and Esther 9. Blue Peter 10. Nicholas Park 11. Switzerland Confoederatio Helvetica, meaning Swiss Confederation) 12. Bashful, Doc, Dopey, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy and Sneezy 13. Simon Armitage 14. Chicago 15. The film versions all won Oscars 16. A hare 17. (a) Pennsylvania (b) Florida (c) Ohio (d) Vermont (e) West Virginia 18. Storm 19. Doncaster racecourse 20. Manchester United 21. The Moody Blues 22. Coolabah 23. Niccolo Machiavelli 24. Pureed chickpeas blended with tahini, lemon juice and garlic

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across 6. Insufficient 8. Patriot 9. Ingle 10. Ever 12. Radish 14. Clear 15. Simple 16. Avid 19. Vicar 21. Erratic 22. Professional

Down: 1. Isotherm 2. Affix 3. Dirty 4. Similar 5. Snag 6. Impressive 7. Methodical 11. Ale 12. Raw 13. Inviting 14. Clarify 17. Feast 18. Train 20. Curd



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Rackham School Hall Reservations		Malcolm Pheasey.....01798 839046
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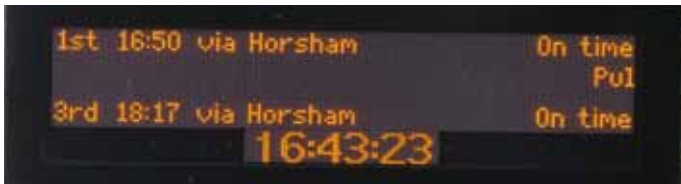
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LOCAL INFORMATION



Southern Trains Timetable (from February 28, 2022)

MONDAY-FRIDAY

From Amberley to London (Victoria except here shown): 05.53, 06.17*, 06.45, 07.47, 08.17, 08.50, 09.17 and then at 17 minutes past the hour until 21.17 then 23.03 (change at Gatwick Airport).

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

* To London Bridge

From Pulborough to London (Victoria except where shown): 05.59, 06.23*, 06.51, 07.25, 07.54, 08.23, 08.56, 09.24, 09.55 and then 24 and 55 minutes past the hour until 21.55 then 23.09 (change at Gatwick Airport).

Typical journey time 1hr 19 mins.

* To London Bridge

From London Victoria to Amberley: 05:54, 06.36, 07.06, 07:36, 08:03*, 08:35 and then at 35 minutes past the hour until 15.35, 16.05, 16.35, 17.35 and then 05 and 35 minutes past each hour until then 21.05, 21.35P&S, 22.05B&C, 22.35C.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 22mins.

* From London Bridge

From London Victoria to Pulborough: 05.54, 06.36, 07.06, 07.36, 08:03*, 08:35 and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 16.35, 17.35 and then 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 21.05, then 21.35P&S, 22.05B&C, 22.35C. Additional train from London Bridge at 17.02.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 15mins

From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis except as shown): 06.40SC, 07.15SC, 07.55, 08.23, 08.57, 09.27, 09.57 and then 57 minutes past the hour until 16.57, then 17.27, 17.57, 18.57, then 27 and 57 minutes past the hour until 22.27 then 22.51P&S, 23.21B&C, 23.52C.

P&S – Portsmouth & Southsea; C – Chichester; B&C Bognor and Chichester; SC – Southampton Central

SATURDAY

From Amberley to London: 06.26, 07.17 and then at 17 minutes past the hour until 21.17 then 23.03 (change at Gatwick Airport). Additional train at 16.50.

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

From Pulborough to London: 06.32, 06.55 and then 24 and 55 minutes past the hour until 21.55 then 23.09 (change at Gatwick Airport).

Typical journey time 1hr 19 mins

From London Victoria to Amberley: 06.35, and then at 35 minutes past the hour until 20.35 then 21.05, 21.35P&S, 22.05C, 22.35C.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 22mins

From London Victoria to Pulborough: 06.05, 06.35, and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 20.35 then 21.05, 21.35P&S, 22.05C, 22.35C.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 15mins

From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis except as shown): 06.41SC, 07.57 and then 57 minutes past the hour (to Bognor) until 21.57, then 22.21, 22.51P&S, 23.21C, 23.53C.

P&S – Portsmouth & Southsea; C – Chichester; SC – Southampton Central.

SUNDAY

From Amberley to London Victoria: 07.53, 08.58 and then at 58 minutes past the hour until 21.58.

From Pulborough: 6 minutes later

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 21mins

From London Victoria to Amberley and Pulborough: 07.32, 08.32, 09.35 and then at 35 minutes past the hour until 22.35.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 20mins

From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis and Portsmouth Harbour (divides at Barnham) except as shown): 09.01B, 09.58PH, 10.58PH, 11.55 and then 55 minutes past the hour until 21.55, then 22.56B and 23.55B.

B – Bognor Regis; PH – Portsmouth Harbour.

Compiled by Malcolm Pheasey

Local Farmers' Markets

Storrington Community Market

Village Hall, West Street **Fridays (9.45am-11.15am)**

Chichester

East and North Streets **First and third Fridays (9am-2pm)**

Ford

Ford Airfield **First Saturday (7.30am-2pm)**

Steyning

High Street Car Park **First Saturday (9am-1pm)**

Arundel

Town Centre **Third Saturday (9am-1pm)**

Pulborough Village Market

Village Hall **Fourth Saturday (9am-12.30pm)**

Petworth

Leconfield Hall and Square **Fourth Saturday (9am-1pm)**