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FEBRUARY 2024

# THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



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A wintry scene at Parham House, photographed by Elizabeth Zeschin



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## FEBRUARY SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

Please check the Benefice website [www.wildbrookschurches.org.uk](http://www.wildbrookschurches.org.uk) for any last-minute changes

### SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2 BEFORE LENT Green Array

<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion	Parham
<b>11.00am</b>	Holy Communion	Amberley
<b>3.00pm</b>	Evensong	Wiggonholt

### Bible Readings

**Sunday 4th February**  
*Proverbs 8:1, 22-31; John 1:1-14; Psalm 104:26-end*

**Sunday 11th February**  
*2 King's 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9; Psalm 50:1-6*

**Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday**  
*Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; Psalm 51:1-18*

### SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY NEXT BEFORE LENT Green Array

<b>9.00am</b>	Holy Communion	Greatham
<b>10.00am</b>	Café Church (in the Hall)	Amberley

**Sunday 18th February**  
*Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15; Psalm 25:1-9*

**Sunday 25th February**  
*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-end; Psalm 22:23-end*

### WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY ASH WEDNESDAY Purple Array

**12 noon** Holy Communion with Ashing  
(soup and bread lunch afterwards  
in the church hall. All welcome)  
Amberley

**Sunday 3rd March**  
*Exodus 20:1-17; John 2:13-22; Psalm 19:7-end*

### SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY LENT 1 Purple Array

<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
<b>11.00am</b>	Morning Praise	Amberley

### SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY LENT 2 Purple Array

<b>9.00am</b>	Matins	Greatham
<b>11.00am</b>	Holy Communion	Amberley

### SUNDAY 3rd MARCH LENT 3 Purple Array

<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion	Parham
<b>11.00am</b>	Holy Communion	Amberley
<b>3.00pm</b>	Evensong	Wiggonholt

### Interregnum arrangements

Following the retirement last month of the Revd Gerry Burgess, we are now without our own vicar. The life of the church here continues and we are keen to keep the church active and a positive presence in the community.

If you need pastoral support and a listening ear, prayer or Communion at home, please don't hesitate to call Amberley churchwardens in the first instance on (07973) 163369, or e-mail [amberleyst-michael@gmail.com](mailto:amberleyst-michael@gmail.com). It is hoped that the service pattern will change very little, but please look out for updates nearer the time.

We are seeking help from visiting clergy to cover at least one Communion service each week. Elaine, our Lay Reader, will take a number of other services. For baptisms, marriages and funerals at any of the four parishes within the benefice, please contact the relevant churchwardens (details on page 46).

The best way to stay up to date is to ensure you are on the list for a weekly church e-mail with notices of services and events, readings and prayers for each Sunday. Please e-mail Michael on [mpdavey@gmail.com](mailto:mpdavey@gmail.com) to ensure your name is on the list.



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## CHURCH NEWS



### Kneeling on true talent

Anyone visiting Wiggonholt Church in the last few months would have been delighted to see the collection of new kneelers.

The project was instigated by churchwardens Cathy Folwell and Jenny Sadler, who encouraged the PCC and Wiggonholt congregation to get involved.

The result is a wonderful selection of vibrant and colourful kneelers – 26 at the latest count, depicting birds, animals, heraldry and royal events. On the underside is a record of the worker, the donor and the person to whom the kneeler is dedicated.

At the end of the Advent service the Revd Gerry Burgess conducted a short service of blessing to all involved.

Also pictured are two candlesticks, made of wood from the church's old lychgate and produced by woodturner Heather Joy.

### Songs of praise

The carol singers who toured Amberley shortly before Christmas raised a total of £357, to be divided between two charities – Freedom from Torture and Crisis. There were special thanks to the Black Horse for plying them with mulled cider which was warming and lubricating to the vocal chords, and to Suzie and Russell Coates for opening their Advent Calendar door to host delicious food, which included excellent sausage rolls from Glenys Rowe.

Cyndy Kennett



### Christmas Stall in The Square

Despite a bitterly cold morning in early December, the Christmas Stall in the Square raised £413.42 for the St Michael's Church Hall Upgrade and were also able to support Amberley's two local Ukrainian friends, Viktoria and Iryna, as well as St Mary's North Stoke. Christmas cards, gifts and decorations, hand-knitted baby hats and gloves, preserves, cakes, biscuits and other sweet treats were all on sale and the warm, spiced apple juice and mince pies went down particularly well. Raffle winners were Grahame Joseph, Jacqui and Bob Middleton, and Sandie Conlon. Congratulations to all of them.

Mel Edge



### Helping struggling families

Some of the many donations of festive food and Christmas gifts for adults and children given by residents of the Wildbrooks parishes in response to the appeal by St Michael's Church for Brighton-based Family Support Work, which helps families in Sussex to overcome their difficulties and prevent crisis. It supports those struggling with issues such as poverty, ill-health, learning difficulties, bereavement, break-up and domestic abuse. "Thank you all so much for your generosity," says St Michael's churchwarden Melanie Edge. "FSW is helping more families than ever this year."



## CHURCH NEWS

### Journey to the Crib pulls in the crowds – again!

The first Journey to the Crib we ever did on a Christmas Eve is now a distant memory, but year upon year, it seems to become more and more popular - a looked-for joyful prelude to many people's Christmas celebrations.

Christmas Eve 2023 was no exception with what seemed like a record crowd in The Square at 3pm ready to make their way to Bethlehem (St Michael's church). There was an international flavour to this year's Journey, thanks to the lovely carols chosen by Katie Ohno and sung by Amberley Village Singers

Bramble and Al, two donkeys from the Lorica Trust in Washington arrived to lead the way. The Journey began with Gabriel visiting Mary to tell her of the coming birth of Jesus. Alas, a bout of Covid 19 had ruled Mike Wright out from playing the role of Gabriel but last-minute under-study, Tim Simpson, stepped ably into the part, delivering the line 'The name's Gabriel. Archangel Gabriel' with aplomb.

Carol singing began before Greg Simpson, our perennial lead Pilgrim, joined the donkeys to escort the entire gathering on to the corner of Hog Lane. Here we encountered Luke Hughes our worthy Shepherd and his magnificent sheep, Igor – yes! A REAL sheep this year...a first for the Journey. Both played their parts superbly, Luke telling of the Heavenly Host and how he and his fellows were 'sore afraid', while Igor, with his huge, curly horns, looked every inch the authentic Judean sheep.

More singing, then the Star, which had appeared to the Shepherds, led on to Oak Tree House, where our trio of wonderfully bedecked Kings, David Mcanulty and Ethan Radcke (house guests of David and Lillis Lyon) and Jay Simson (always ready for a bit of dressing up), awaited. Here we sang a lovely French carol about the Kings' arrival before moving on to the church porch – 'How Far is it to Bethlehem? Not Very Far', we sang. And then into St Mi-



Michael's, where Mary, Joseph (Cate and Sam Feigenbaum with their real baby, Margot, as Jesus) were ensconced in the stable bare.

With the singing concluded, a packed church of happy pilgrims joined in prayers led by Revd Gerry Burgess and toasted the arrival of the baby in the manger with a cup of mulled wine.

As the final door of Amberley's Living Advent Calendar, we made a collection in aid of The Lorica Trust (go to [www.eastclaytonfarm.org.uk](http://www.eastclaytonfarm.org.uk) for information) and were able to donate £350 to help the important work they do there.

**Ros Simpson**





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & GAGGLE POSTS

### A distressing incident

Two very loud shots rung out across the Wildbrooks at around 9.00-9.30am on December 16. Did anyone see someone with a shotgun?

There was an extremely upsetting scene whereby a stag that had been shot came running up the pathway and into one of the gardens in Hog Lane while the owners were in their garden. The animal had its lower jaw hanging off its face and was obviously in an extremely stressed and desperate condition.

Words fail me (well they don't actually but I won't be writing them here) as to how I personally feel about someone who could inflict this on a beautiful creature. But taking the emotion out of it, hunting should be conducted ethically and humanely.

It is the responsibility of whoever shot that deer to follow up his or her failed attempt to minimise the animal's pain and suffering. This was not done.

As it was the stag's only luck that day was for it to come across people in the village who would never leave this animal to its fate. If left to go back onto the Wildbrooks it more than likely would have suffered a slow and painful death, as it was obviously unable to feed itself.

Instead, some five hours later, after many phone calls and waiting for the RSPCA to arrive, it was finally shot in the garden and put out of its misery.

If anyone knows any more information about who was shooting out there we would very much like to talk to them and make them aware of what happened.

It's obviously a public safety issue to have a large deer

with antlers, very stressed and running into gardens in the village. There were children out walking on that path the previous day and I dread to think if it had ran up at the path at the same time. What could have happened, let alone the image it could leave in their minds just before Christmas when we had images of Rudolf everywhere.

To end on a slightly more positive note the shooting of the geese that I recently expressed my concerns about stopped that morning not long after my post on Gaggle and hasn't happened since. (Thank you everyone for all your support.)

I don't know whether it had anything to do with the highlighting of this practice but just in case it did I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to anyone concerned with stopping this.

**Sarah Weatherstone**

### A thank-you from two grateful Amberley residents

Stella and I have been in the wars for a couple of years. We only kept going because of the kindness of the village. We would like to say a very big thank you to Amberley folk.

They say that when you are in trouble you find out who your friends are, meaning the number gets smaller. For us it was the reverse. Thank you to the friends who came and picked us up off the floor, who drove us here, there and everywhere. Then there were the people who bound up my head, I am probably responsible for a shortage of vinegar and brown paper in Amberley. Then there is the shop. You wouldn't get the same kind of help from a supermarket that they gave us. Thanks to good medical advice and, in no small measure, Amberley's kindness we are getting better.

**John and Stella Kemp**

**Swallow Barn, Amberley**



From the 1930s onwards, rail companies converted old passenger carriages that were no longer of use into 'camping coaches' with living and sleeping spaces. These would be parked up at stations and provide affordable holiday accommodation while also encouraging tourists to use the railway as a way of exploring the area. There were two at Amberley Station and this picture, courtesy of Amberley Museum, shows holidaymakers enjoying themselves in 1954.



## PEOPLE & EVENTS

### Our condolences...

To the families of **Greg Owen** and **Charles Shaw** on the loss of devoted husbands and fathers. Appreciations appear on pages 13 and 14 respectively.

### Amberley Gardens Open 2024

This wonderful community event, which takes place on Sunday, June 9 this year, has now been running for over three decades and once again we hope to have approximately 20 gardens open to the public.

We would love to encourage our new residents to open their gardens or perhaps you've been in the village for some time and thought 'it's not for me'. What makes this event so popular is the diversity of the gardens, large or small, manicured or cottage-style. Our visitors gain great pleasure year after year seeing how gardens develop whilst enjoying the ambience of our lovely village.

If you'd like more information on opening your garden, please contact Jacqi Feakins (jaxfs@aol.com).

All you green fingered out there, if you have spare plants or are about to divide plants please could you consider potting-up for our very popular plant stall.

Why Action Medical Research?

Over 60 years ago, Action Medical Research was founded by a former Amberley resident, the late Duncan Guthrie. Early research funded by the charity contributed to the development and rapid adoption of the first oral polio vaccine. This charity continues to raise funds, changing children's lives through medical research, developing treatments, vaccinations and cures.

Gardens Open is such a happy event and the support we receive is incredible. It truly is a community event which is made possible by our many volunteers who help out in many areas such as car parking stewards, teas, plant sales, manning the ticket desk and first aid. Volunteers give an hour or so of their time on the day of Gardens Open.

For all other information or to volunteer, please contact Stella Broadbent (stella.broadbent@gmail.com).

### Sportsman Action Group set up

An action group has been established in an effort to save The Sportsman from permanent closure and the risk of it being sold for housing. And on New Year's Eve – its last day of trading – regulars gathered to thank outgoing landlords Lee and Sophie Forbes for their efforts.

- Full report on page 21



Around 30 residents joined guests at Amberley Castle to see the New Year in with a midnight firework display, accompanied by a glass of fizz.

### Timetable changes approved for Village Bus

The proposed changes to the Village Bus timetable, following the village-wide survey carried out last summer, have been approved by the regulator and were introduced on January 8.

The changes are as follows:

- The Chichester service now operates on a Wednesday.
- The Rustington/Littlehampton service has moved to Thursdays. The service now includes a stop in Arundel (arriving Arundel at 10.05, with the return pick-up at 12.40).
- The Worthing service now terminates at Haskins Garden Centre, Angmering (arriving Haskins at 10.30, and departing at 12.50).

There are no changes to the Monday services to Pulborough and Bognor.

The new timetable can be found on page 39 of this issue and can be viewed on noticeboards throughout the village.

If you would like more information about the new timetable, or opportunities to use the village bus for other community activities, e-mail Phil Greenwood at philandad@btinternet.com or call him on (01798) 831803 or (07840) 128995.

**The Village Bus Team**



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## Greg Owen, 1979-2023

Greg Owen was a real life action man and thrill seeker. From an early age he loved outdoor life and adventure – and the South Downs were a very special place for him. He spent many happy hours crossing the Downs on horseback, on his mountain bike, canoeing and when the Wildbrooks were flooded, paddling over the fields to help the farmers take hay bales to the marooned cows. He passed on his love of the natural world to his daughters, Isobel and Ella, teaching them how to light fires, how to kayak and taking them on camping trips as soon as they could walk.

Always kind, always courageous, always generous, Greg grabbed life with both hands and never took a back seat.

Gregor Drennan Stewart Owen was born in 1979 in Gloucester, to Annie and Stewart. He went to the same pre-school as Princess Anne's son Peter Phillips – and was most put out because unlike Peter Phillips, there wasn't a picture of his granny on the wall. The family moved to Amberley in 1984 and Greg, together with his brother Doug, attended Amberley Primary School and then Steyning Grammar School.



**Greg preparing to deliver fodder in his kayak to stranded animals on the Wildbrooks**

Greg immediately became immersed in village life and is remembered for singing in the Amberley Church choir – a fact he later kept quiet – but for which he received a medal from the Diocese of Chichester. Above all, Greg loved cubs, scouts, venture scouts and everything that involved outdoor adventure. His childhood friends remember him for his boundless energy – flying his kite from the top of Amberley Mount in gale force winds, swimming like a fish and refusing to get out until he was blue, and the camping trips where he insisted on sleeping outside on the moorland rather than in a tent.

For his Year Ten work experience, Greg did not contemplate mundane employment but spent the week with the RAF Search and Rescue helicopter at Portsmouth. In his teenage years, he developed his entrepreneurial skills – gardening, babysitting, doing handywork – basically, anything to earn his own money. Later, he spent some time as a team leader with Sussex Search and Rescue, freely giving his time to help others and search for missing people.

As soon as Greg could drive, his love of cars was born. All his car knowledge was self-taught – first rebuilding his Landrover and then helping to do up a VW campervan.



Greg completed his education at Plymouth University, where his interest in the natural world led him to study Environmental Science and where he was awarded a BSc in 1999.

Greg then took a few months out to travel to Montana where he stayed at a guest ranch, exploring Montana's wilderness and experiencing the genuine western way of life. Here, dressed in cowboy hat and boots but always with a very British accent – he proved to be particularly popular with the female guests! Greg returned to Montana for five glorious summers – perhaps the most glorious be-

ing in 2003, when he met his future wife Joanne, who was spending a gap year there. They both returned to work in London but missing the outdoor life, they soon moved to Old Cottage in East Street, Amberley, with Greg still spending some of the week working in London.

Greg and Jo got married in 2012, with daughters Isobel arriving in 2015 and Ella in 2017. The family was complete with Loki, the yellow labrador. Jo and the girls were Greg's whole world and everything he did was for them. When Jo asked the girls for words to describe their daddy, they captured his spirit perfectly when they said 'camping, fishing, shooting, chainsaws, log chopping'.

Continuing his interest in earth science, Greg moved into mineral resources exploration and development, eventually joining a start-up company that specialised in acquiring and managing a portfolio of mining royalties in 2011. Here, he made many good friends, who loved him for his kindness, generosity, high standards - and very dry sense of humour. He was also Honorary Secretary of the Oxford Mining Club – a network for those with interests in mining, investment in mining – and good company.



**Greg with daughters Isobel and Ella and Loki the labrador**

Greg will be remembered for a life well lived. One of his enduring qualities was that he was incredibly humble and never needed the spotlight, always more concerned to ensure that family and friends were looked after. When Greg died of a brain tumour in December, his life cut short at 43, the world lost a wonderful son, husband, father, friend and colleague.

**Gregor Drennan Stewart Owen was born on April 27, 1979, and died on December 12, 2023.**



## Charles Shaw, 1944-2023

Charles Shaw was born in 1944 to C.K. and Nora Shaw at 12 Drury Lane in London during the blitz. Brought up in a well-travelled and artistic family, they soon moved to bohemian Bloomsbury, where his father ran an art studio, before settling in a large house in Sussex where Charles spent the rest of his childhood.

Charles trained to be a doctor at Middlesex Hospital where he was known for his keen intelligence – as well as his vigorous social life in and around his flat in Nassau Street. For several years, he was the fearsome editor of the *Middlesex Hospital Journal* and a prolific writer for the famous Middlesex Christmas concert. His student friends remember him for his dry sense of humour, particularly for his knack of wittily exposing the pompous and the absurd – a good example being at the start of a new academic year at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, when the dean entered the auditorium leading the students in a procession. A solemn moment until – on one occasion – the loudspeakers blared out Mendelssohn's *Wedding March*. That was Charles, with a little help from his friends!

Charles was awarded an MBBS from the University of London in 1969 and spent the first six years of his career as Medical Director of the King Edward VII Hospital in Bermuda – an enjoyable, but also highly formative experience for his later career, when he moved away from clinical medicine to become an academic and an expert in the quality of health care. His continuing interest in standards led him to be awarded a PhD in 1986 from the University of Wales.

While on a short trip back to the UK from Bermuda, Charles was invited to a dinner party in Cheltenham, where one of the guests was Carolyn. So began a trans-Atlantic romance and a mere 18 months later, Charles and Carolyn were married in the Wirral, in July 1974. For Charles, the clincher was that he finally had the key to completing *The Times* crossword, as Carolyn knew the answers to all the Shakespeare clues. Carolyn joined Charles in Bermuda and for 49 years, they were two halves of a whole.

Charles continued his international career, working or consulting in over 40 countries. His expertise, together with his methodical, organised and efficient approach, meant he was able to make a significant contribution to improving each country's medical care and strengthening its healthcare systems. In 1985, he was a founder member of ISQua – an international body dedicated to improving global health care – and went on to join the ISQua board, eventually serving as president. He also wrote or edited numerous chapters in professional textbooks, held Visiting

Professorships at Macquarie and New South Wales Universities, while still finding time to write 166 medical and academic papers which were published in international journals.

Charles also worked closely with the World Health Organisation and established an international reputation as an expert leader of quality assurance, particularly in developing countries.



Charles' children, Tim and Anna, remember how he brought them up to have a curiosity about life and the confidence to explore it – encouraging them to have a go at everything, from technology, to languages to sports to outdoor pursuits when, most importantly, they learnt that all good walks end at a pub!

Charles and Carolyn moved to St Nicholas Cottages, Houghton in 2008, where they were integral to village life,

working to bring the little Houghton community together by organising village fundraising activities and village nights out at the George & Dragon.

In 2019, Charles took on the position of chairman of the Houghton Parish Meeting, achieving much in his four years' tenure – not least in his battle with the B2139. Charles organised volunteers into a Community Speedwatch team and set about trying to access funding to improve pedestrian access through the hamlet. Charles' energy and polite persistence is finally bearing fruit, as there is now an agreement to get the footpath project underway, with work starting in the summer.

In recent years, particularly during his illness, Charles inevitably slowed down and was able to spend more time with Carolyn and his family, including his wonderful new grandchildren. He was still able to take some short holidays and tend his beloved vegetable patch overlooking the Arun valley.

Charles was a knowledgeable and compassionate doctor – and a remarkable man. Whether working as a medic, an artist, a choir supporter, a village champion, a headmistress's husband or a vegetable gardener – he was a man with a zest for life. Most of all, he worked passionately and tirelessly to improve humanity's lot by continuously seeking to raise global healthcare standards, always ensuring that those most impacted had a voice in the decisions that affected them. His colleagues describe him as 'a true quality assurance warrior' who managed to achieve permanent change on a global scale, giving everyone a better chance of a safe and healthy life.

**Charles Drury Shaw was born on November 25, 1944. He died of cancer on December 12, 2023, aged 79.**



**AMBERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Letting children grow**

The children at Amberley Primary School last year enjoyed another growing season in the Nature Space.

Reception and Year 1 were learning about healthy eating and planted a variety of lettuce, radish, rocket, salad onion seeds and tomatoes. When these were ready, they were harvested. The children then washed them before having a tasting session in the Nature Space. Each child then took a selection home.

Years 2, 3, and 4 decided to grow sunflowers to provide food for both the bees and birds.

At the end of April, the 22 children each planted a sunflower seed in a named area of the bed. By June 3 there was great excitement when the plants were seen growing.

Over the following weeks the children made regular inspection visits, eagerly comparing the differences in the growth of their plants. Finally, on October 11, the harvesting of their sunflowers took place which proved to be a challenge as many were 7ft tall with stems and roots resembling small trees. The diameter of a number of flower heads measured one foot.

These were taken home by the children but there was one spare plant, with a large flower head remaining, which took pride of place at the school's harvest festival service. It has since been dried and I have retained the seeds in readiness for next year when every child in the school will plant a seed in a pot and, when it is a suitable size, they will take it home to grow on.

It is worth noting that no watering of these plants took place, which was surprising given the temperatures during the summer last year and the size to which they grew.

Years 5 and 6 were learning about food production and planted a variety of seeds and plants including yellow and green courgettes, rainbow chard, leeks, onions, beetroot and tomatoes. There were mixed results due to the weather but overall, a reasonable harvest was produced. Hopefully, in later life, it will encourage them to grow their own.



**Gardeners in the making: children at Amberley Primary School last year grew a variety of vegetables for healthy eating as well as some spectacular sunflowers**

**Glenys Rowe**

**Appointments now needed**

From February 12 booking will be required for all West Sussex County Council's tips. Previously, Billingshurst and Chichester were exempt but the decision has now been made to introduce advance booking for all sites, bringing them in line with Bognor and Littlehampton (Wick). See page 39 for opening times.

**Museum's half-term activities**

Amberley Museum will be celebrating the South Downs National Park's Dark Skies Festival during half-term this month. On February 10 and 11, and between February 14-18 February visitors can explore the museum with a free, themed family trail. In addition, from Wednesday to Friday (11am to 3pm) there will be hands-on family activities to discover different constellations and find out more about nocturnal animals.

The star-studded skies overhead are as valuable as our beautiful rolling landscapes and, with properly dark skies in the South East of England under threat, the skies of the South Downs are worth protecting. In 2016 the SDNP became the newest International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) and has since been joined by others. It is now part of a family of 19 IDSRs around the world.

The Dark Skies festival encourages people to protect the dark skies in their area and take action for nature and climate by embracing the darkness, so we can all enjoy dark skies for generations to come. Visit [www.southdowns.gov.uk/dark-night-skies](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/dark-night-skies) to find out more.

The February half-term is the perfect opportunity for a fun family visit to Amberley Museum with nostalgic bus and train rides around the site, nature walks, craft demonstrations, have-a-go pottery or woodturning sessions and seasonal activities, all included in the general admission. Book tickets online at [www.amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk)



**Hands-on activities**



**PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

# What your councillors discussed



## Highlights of the meeting held on Tuesday, January 16 at The Old School, Rackham

**Present:** Heather Cartwright (chairman), Claudia Fisher, Philipa Trumper and Catherine Dugdale. Also in attendance: Paul Marshall (Leader of West Sussex County Council), Vicky Spiers (parish clerk) and three members of the public

Speeding issues, damage to broadband and phone connections as a result of a fallen tree and flooding at the junction of Rackham Street and Rackham Road were among the topics discussed. Councillors also approved a 2.86 per cent increase in the Precept, which represented an extra £1.25 on a Band D property.

A resident asked whether anything could be done to reduce vehicle speeds on the stretch of the B2139 by the Rackham Street junction as it was locally purported that traffic was not slowing down despite the Speed Warning sign. It was resolved to submit an application for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). A similar application would be made in relation to Greatham Lane as the county's speed policy had changed in December 2022 making the possibility of a TRO more likely. WS county councillor Paul Marshall indicated he would support both applications.

Two residents said that in December a fallen tree on to the road near their property in Rackham Street had taken out their broadband and phone line. They expressed concern that further large branches, either laying on top of or precariously close to other Open Reach lines, might damage or disrupt communications. After discussion, it was agreed that the chairman and her husband would visit the site to assess the situation and report back to council their findings. The clerk also suggested that once ownership of the trees had been established, the parish council could send a politely worded

letter asking for the owner to undertake remedial work, with the possibility of following it up with WS Highways department which has statutory powers.

The historical flooding issue at the end of Rackham Road had already been reported to WS Highways department by a resident and three times by the parish council. In the past the Highways people had flushed out the culvert and pipe beneath the road and said it would be kept under review. However, both the resident and the parish council were of the opinion that the pipe under the road was insufficient to deal with the volume of water. Councillors agreed the clerk should make further representation to the Highways department, also pointing out that the flooded junction was a stop on Steyning School's bus route. In the event WS Highways was unable to give a firm commitment that the pipe would be replaced, the clerk suggested that the council could consider applying for the work to be done under Operation Watershed.

Paul Marshall advised the meeting that WSCC was looking to adopt its 2024-25 budget in February. Its element of the Precept would increase by 4.99 per cent, which included two per cent ring fenced for social care. He added that there were no cuts to services but that some efficiencies had to be made – for example the introduction of booking slots for all WSCC recycling centres.

Claudia Fisher told councillors that Horsham District Council's Local Plan had been agreed and would be going out to public consultation on January 19.

She said there would be an increase in council tax for empty and second homes in the district. HDC, she added, had approved a proposal for a Rivers Charter, which, if adopted, would see the council build on the work already taking place within the district, working along side other bodies, landowners and stakeholders.

Councillors resolved that following a request, the £50 donation to Parham's St Peter's Church would continue for churchyard maintenance.

**Date of the next meeting:** Tuesday, March 12 2024 at 7.30pm at The Old School Rackham.

## The Amberley Society

Friday, February 23 at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall

### Weald to Waves

A talk by Alex Briggs on this unique nature recovery project will follow the Annual General Meeting.

All welcome – there is a nominal charge of £3 for non-members





## The sweet smell of success

The first Hallraiser's 'Scent Soirée', hosted by Amberley Castle, was an olfactory journey through the centuries. The Great Room, dressed in its festive finery shortly before Christmas, was the perfect setting for 50 guests to enjoy a glass of sparkling local wine and a selection of mouth-watering canapés before embarking on a marathon of scent sampling!

I was worried that I would be slightly rusty not having hosted an event of this size for over five years. However, it was like riding a bicycle and, with a wonderfully receptive audience, the stories came flooding back. We travelled from ancient Egypt via Capri, Cologne, Paris, the Côte d'Azur and the Highlands of Scotland to New York – it was quite a trip.



Smell is such a unifying sense, and I had quite forgotten how joyful it is to watch a large group of people close their eyes and be moved by fragrance. Scent speaks to us, both collectively and individually, as it taps into our personal memories and transports us through time and space.

The success of an event of this nature can be measured in decibels, and the number of questions one is asked at the end. Our Amberley audience did not disappoint on either count, and I can safely say that a good time was had by all.

We raised over £1,000 towards the refurbishment of St Michael's Church Hall, and I was asked by dozens of attendees (plus many neighbours unable to secure a ticket) if I will host another olfactory adventure in 2024. The working title is 'Posh Pongs – The Golden Age of Fragrance in the 1920s and '30s'...so watch this space.

Our heartfelt thanks to Pierre Schalkwyk, Jacquelyn Wattam and the wonderful team at Amberley Castle, and to Peter and Bridget Gladwin at Nutbourne Vineyards for their support and kindness.

**Michael Donovan & The Hallraisers**

## Chalkpath's Christmas Carol with a difference

The Chalkpath Theatre Workshop's version of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol in St Michael's Church Hall, part of the Living Advent Calendar Open Doors programme, obviously went down well, raising a total of £216 towards the hall's refurbishment fund.

According to the players, it was so much fun to perform and they paid tribute to Vicky Paine for her inspiration and for bringing theatre workshops to Amberley. It was yet another way for Amberley residents and friends to get together and try something different.

The workshop meets every Thursday in the hall from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and there is an open invitation to join the group. Suzie Coates

- For more information of the Chalkpath Theatre Workshops, e-mail Vicky Paine at [chalkpaththeatre@gmail.com](mailto:chalkpaththeatre@gmail.com)

## College Open Morning

Slindon College has an Open Morning on Saturday, March 9, providing an opportunity for prospective pupils and their parents to tour the school and grounds, meet the headteacher and speak to teachers, staff, pupils and members of FoSC, the Parents' Association. It takes place between 9:30am and 12 noon and booking is essential as spaces are limited. Call 01243 814320 or visit [www.slindoncollege.co.uk/openmornings-visits](http://www.slindoncollege.co.uk/openmornings-visits)

## Pilgrim's progress

Another Old Way Loop Pilgrimage Walk is planned for March 16, starting at 10.30am from St Nicholas Church Arundel, taking in both North and South Stoke churches.



## Weald to Waves talk

Amberley resident Alex Briggs is the Project Officer for the pioneering Weald to Waves nature recovery project. His talk at the Amberley Society meeting on Friday, February 23 will have a particular focus on Amberley and our surroundings, plus updating us with the latest developments. He is a very knowledgeable and engaging young speaker and introduces his talk as follows:

“Weald to Waves is a partnership network of farmers, land managers, councils, researchers, wildlife charities, schools, gardeners and community groups, working to establish a 100-mile nature recovery corridor across Sussex. While communities like Amberley are set in beautiful countryside, intensive human activities have profoundly altered the entire landscape. As we face biodiversity and climate crises, connecting our fragmented landscape is essential to restore biodiversity, capture carbon, enhance food production and enrich our rural economy.

“We need to do better, think bigger and join the dots. By working together, we are establishing a nature recovery corridor from the High Weald to the Sussex coast and revived seas, encompassing over 20,000 hectares of contiguous habitat. Come along to find out more about the project, and what it means for nature recovery in Amberley.”

Everyone is welcome to the meeting, which is also the AGM, in St Michael’s Church Hall at 7.30pm. For non-members there is a nominal charge of £3 and children are admitted free.

## The Great Escaper

The true story that made national news when a pensioner absconded from his care home in Hove to attend an event in France marking the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings is the subject of this month’s Storrington Film Night.

Starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson, *The Great Escaper* is being screened at Sullington Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday, February 14. Tickets, priced £5, are available in advance from the Card Shop in Storrington or at the door on the night.

## A date with acapella

Vocal Fusion Acapella is taking part in a joint concert with Kaleidoscope at St Nicholas Church, Arundel, on March 9 at 5pm. Also performing will be flautist Rachel Sherlock – all under the direction of Zoe Peate, with Gary Prior accompanying.

Many readers will have seen Vocal Fusion, whose members include Amberley residents Jeff Feakins and Mike Wright, performing at Amberley Church and also with Kaleidoscope at Champs Hill. Tickets can be purchased on the website: [www.vocalfusionacapella.co.uk](http://www.vocalfusionacapella.co.uk)

### THE ARTS SOCIETY WEST SUSSEX

## The Golden Section

The secrets of the sacred geometry and perfect beauty of the Golden Section in art and architecture is the subject of the first talk of the New Year for members of the Arts Society West Sussex. Alexandra Epps, an official guide at Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the Guildhall Art Gallery will



There are golden sections in Botticelli’s *The Annunciation*, c1485–92, (The Met New York)

explain how it has inspired thinkers from all disciplines for thousands of years.

The meeting is on Tuesday, February 6, in Fittleworth Village Hall, at 2pm. Coffee and tea is served afterwards and non-members are welcome for £7.

The subject of the talk on March 5 will be the Golden Road to Samarkand: the architecture, art and textiles of Uzbekistan.

For further information, contact Jackie Buckler on (01903) 411086 or e-mail [westsussex@theartsociety.org](mailto:westsussex@theartsociety.org)

## Writing for children

Anyone who thinks writing books for children is easier than for adults – think again. Author Jill Atkins, who has written 200 children’s books, is giving a talk on the subject during the afternoon of February 2 at Storrington Museum.

Getting published, the successes, the failures and the processes – editing and illustration – will be among the topics covered. Her books range from historical fiction to workbooks on spelling and phonics, from fiction to non-fiction, from teenage novels to early readers.

The talk starts at 2.30pm and tickets cost £8 (£6 for members) and everyone is welcome.

Storrington Museum is located in the Old School, School Lane, Storrington.

## Open doors raise £3,600

The 2023 Open Doors Advent Calendar got off to a good, very early start when I was approached by some of the residents of Drewitts Farm in September asking to bag a date in December for their event. And this year more than ever it felt as though the community had really come together to have fun and raise funds for a variety of charities.

We had a lovely mix of old favourites and new events, included an international feast of European Christmas foods, a fun games evening with only manual dexterity required and a model railway exhibition which enticed 20 brave souls up a loft ladder to view the trains. We were so pleased to meet and welcome newcomers to Amberley who enthusiastically went through open doors. The age range was wide – from six to 90 – with a number of the still working or only recently retired taking part.

My thanks to everyone who opened their doors and to everyone who went to the events and gave so generously. The grand total was £3,600 of which £810 was raised for Freedom from Torture which was the original and only charity for which doors were first opened in 2015.

Finally, a number of people have said they would like to open their doors this year – real forward planning. I will be in touch...  
**Sue Pheasey**



Top: Drewitts Farm residents staged a Euro Christmas in the church hall. Above: Robin Hurst-Baird



From the left: Wendy Huggins, Pat Morley, Sue Haynes, host Jacquie Middleton and Bruce Cable; below: Malcolm Pheasey's model railway and Richard and Jo Sharman representing France at the Euro Christmas evening in the church hall





### Start of coppicing cycle

Some residents of Hurst Cottages in Amberley may have noticed a difference to their view of the Millennium Green. An area of hazel has been lopped, opening up the northern side of the green. Have giant beavers escaped from Knepp? Or did Roger Agate and his crack team of coppicers get their chainsaws out?

Happily, the latter was the case, and a new coupe of coppiced hazel has been created. Eventually, seven coupes will be cut and coppiced on a seven-year cycle. The wood taken from these will provide stakes, bean poles and pea-sticks for the community.

The wood this year will be used for the laying the hedge on the north side of the green; large poles for vertical stakes and flexible 'whips' for binding the top of the hedge.

The rest of the brash was added to the dead hedge by Ruff's Path which, although we say so ourselves, is looking mighty fine!

Local heroes were Roger and Judy Agate, John Fryett and Dave Cole for wielding their chainsaws, and Russell Anthony and Stella Broadbent who helped to clear up afterwards.

**Ruth Stevens**

### Empty and second homes set for Council Tax increases

Horsham District Council is expected to recommend shortening the period before a 100 per cent increase in Council Tax premium is applied for owners of properties which are defined as long-term empty homes.

The added charge is intended to encourage owners to bring empty properties back into use to provide homes in the district.

If approved, the new Council Tax premium will come into force on April 1 this year after one year's ownership instead of two years. Additionally, a 100 per cent Council Tax increase is being considered for owners of properties which are only occupied occasionally (ie used as second homes). If this recommendation is approved, it would come into force on April 1 next year.

"It doesn't feel right that, at a time when we have a shortage of homes for local people in the district, so many properties are standing long-term empty or being used as a second home," said Mark Baynham, HDC's cabinet member for finance and resources. "More properties may come back on to the market from owners of second and empty homes who are discouraged by the extra fees. Alternatively, if they retain the properties, they will be making much greater contributions to local services which are currently under great pressure."

### SAGE talk on wildflowers

Wildflowers of the Arun Valley will be the subject of a talk for members of the Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts on Monday, February 26, in St Michael's Church Hall. The speaker is SAGE member Nick Sturt, who is also chair of the Sussex Botanical Recording Society. The talk starts at 2pm.

In March, there will be a talk by Alan Humphrey on 'growing dahlias my way'.

**Hey there...**  
 Hay harvested from St Michael's churchyard in the autumn being enjoyed on the Downs by sheep and cattle owned by Luke and Samantha Hughes, who live at Newland Gardens, Amberley





## Action group established to save The Sportsman

Plans to save Amberley's Sportsman Inn from permanent closure were outlined at a well-attended public meeting on January 8, barely a week after landlords Lee and Sophie called time on New Year's Eve.

Around 70 supporters crowded into the church hall to hear Roger Agate, who is heading the Save Our Sportsman (SOS) Action Group, explain why it was felt the pub could be saved and what options were available.

The Sportsman, which has been an ale and public house since the 1850s closed on New Year's Eve when the current tenants' lease expired and the freeholders decided to sell up.



fee mornings, film nights, folk club venue, book and tool exchanges, and repair café.

It was felt that the best route for acquisition would be with the establishment of a Community Benefit Society once a price had been agreed with the vendors. Various grant applications were being pursued and the action group had already engaged with other communities that had acquired pubs.

A number of those attending the meeting stepped forward to join a steering committee to take the project forward and are now busily engaged in drafting a prospectus for fundraising purposes, drawing

Mr Agate, whose grandfather ran the village shop in Amberley for more than 30 years, said that the group had successfully obtained an Asset of Community Value listing on the property prior to its closure. He explained that research into its viability had been carried out, with encouraging results, and that views of Amberley residents had been sought to determine what additional uses a reopened pub could be put to for the benefit of the community at large. A wide range of suggestions included workspace with Wi-Fi, drop-in cof-

up a business plan, applying for grants and obtaining quotes for essential works.

"The response has been overwhelming," said Mr Agate. "There is clearly a need for a 'local' like the Sportsman and we are determined to see the pub flourish again. It's unique location, with views across the Amberley Wildbrooks, has always made it a popular destination with visitors to the village as well as serving the local community."

## Farewell to Lee and Sophie from a grateful community

On the last day of trading at The Sportsman on New Year's Eve, around 100 regulars gathered to express their thanks to outgoing landlords Lee and Sophie Forbes who ran the pub for five-and-a-half years.

Suzie Coates, on behalf of the many well-wishers who attended a presentation during the afternoon, said the food had never been better and thanked the couple for helping to keep the village fed and watered during the pandemic lockdowns. They supplied more than 3,400 meals, delivered by volunteers, to some 160 households in Amberley and the surrounding hamlets.

There was a presentation of a specially commissioned commemorative plate from Amberley Village Pottery, a large cheque, a framed (non-controversial!) limerick penned by Jay Simson at the final 'Midweekers' lunch just before



Christmas, and some items for a baby which is on its way.

Lee, a trained chef who raised the standard of catering at the Sportsman to new heights, is planning to start an outside catering business of his own.





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## Festive feast and fun

Around 70 people attended the Amberley Village Christmas Lunch on December 6 in St Michael's Church Hall. Following a delicious traditional meal of turkey with all the trimmings, guests were entertained with some suitably festive songs and encouraged to join in with song sheets which were distributed.

Prior to the lunch, the newly renovated



toilets, including the provision of an accessible one, were formally opened by members of the Hallraisers fundraising team.

More than 24 volunteers, under the leadership of Sarah Wheeler, worked their socks off cooking, serving the food, serving the tables and then clearing everything away. The wine was provided by a generous donor and £450 was raised, split between the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance, Médecins sans Frontières and the International Rescue Committee.



**WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**(AMBERLEY: B2139, SCHOOL ROAD & VARIOUS ROADS)**  
**(20MPH & 40MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2024**



West Sussex County Council proposes to introduce a permanent Order under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to:

- (i) Extend the existing 40mph speed limit on the B2139 Turnpike Road, eastwards for a distance of 225 metres;
- (ii) Introduce a 20mph speed limit on Church Street, East Street, High Street, Hog Lane, Hurst Close, Hurst Cottages, Rackham Road, School Road, The Square.

As part of the legal process West Sussex County Council is required under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, to undertake a formal consultation with you. I am pleased to attach a weblink. This will enable you to view:

- Plans showing the proposed speed limits
- Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order
- Public Notice outlining the proposal that will be advertised in the West Sussex County Times
- Draft Order

[www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/live-consultations-for-permanent-tros/horsham-live-tro-consultations/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/live-consultations-for-permanent-tros/horsham-live-tro-consultations/)

In the usual way if you wish to express support or raise an objection about any part of the proposal please e-mail [tro.consultation@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:tro.consultation@westsussex.gov.uk), or write to TRO Team, West Sussex County Council, The Grange, Tower Street, Chichester, PO19 1RH quoting reference TRO/HOR2305/RC

Please note the statutory consultation period **ends on February 8 2024** and any comments you wish us to take into consideration should be received before this date.



# Over and above the call of duty

Melanie Edge, churchwarden of St Michael's Amberley, pays tribute to the Revd Gerry Burgess, who retired last month after five years in charge of the Wildbrooks benefice, which includes the parishes of Parham, Greatham and Wiggonholt

Sometimes putting together a few words about a retirement is easy and sometimes it's difficult. This is a bit of both. Easy because there are lots of nice things I can say about Gerry and Steve. Difficult because we don't want to see them go – and because there are so many nice things I could say that this could be a very long article, so there is much that I will have to leave out. I hope Gerry will forgive me for anything I have omitted.

The first thing to say is that a house-for-duty priest (which Gerry was) is supposed to work two-and-a-half days a week.



Gifts included an engraved glass bowl with the Wildbrooks logo

That's a joke. Gerry not only covered the Sunday services and administration for four parishes, she also found time to add in all sorts of special services and occasions needing extra planning and sometimes taking place during the week.

Sunrise Easter communions at Parham, pet services on the Millennium Green, Ash Wednesday, All Souls, Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Sunday – the list goes on. Some services needed to be done twice – once for the parish and once

for the school. Some, like All Souls and Mothering Sunday, needed extra sensitivity, and this was one of Gerry's particular strengths. And I mustn't forget prayer meetings and Bible courses at the Vicarage as well as Morning Prayers in church every Wednesday.

On top of this, Gerry was a regular at CAMEO – our monthly social group; at all the Parish Engagement Group events (Buns in the Square, Christmas Stall and so on). She and Steve hosted musical teas at the Vicarage and Gerry organised a wonderful concert in the churchyard during the pandemic.



Parishioners from across the benefice contributed to a cheque, presented by Mel Edge, of St Michael's



A packed church hall (above) for a farewell lunch and a picture of St Michael's (below) which was presented to Gerry and Steve



On the subject of the pandemic, I should mention that Gerry, with the help of our licensed lay reader Elaine Corbett, had to work out how to live stream services. Gerry also started a weekly e-mail with all the service content for those who weren't comfortable with watching online. This weekly e-mail communication has continued and is appreciated by those who for various reasons can't get to church.

All of this meant that Gerry was a constant and visible presence in the benefice. This, and the fact that she made herself available at all times to anyone who needed her prayers, support or just a listening ear, meant that Gerry was much more than just a vicar to the church congregation; she has been truly of service to the whole community.

And I must add in a word of thanks to Steve for his support of Gerry's work, his cheerful presence at services and events – and of course his contribution to church music both in the choir and on the organ – his playing having gone from strength to strength.





- A wonderful vicar and will be missed.
- I will definitely miss her wise words and thought provoking sermons and articles in the magazine.
- Gerry knows that I am an unbeliever but has said that despite that (my wife and I) are still members of her flock.
- I do not worship but found Gerry and Steve delightful and friendly “neighbours” and will miss them both.
- A light in the community.

**Fond farewells from many of her parishioners outside St Michael's**

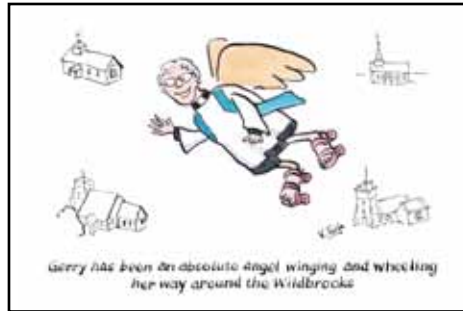
In addition to her work as Vicar, Gerry was a foundation governor at Amberley Primary School, federated with Coldwaltham School. Ray Jackson, until recently chair of Governors, writes: *“Gerry has been tremendous for the church, village and of course the two schools. Her energy and passion have shone through and she will be sorely missed by so many in our community. I well recall the situation that existed before Gerry arrived and Amberley School had lost hope that we would ever have another ex-officio foundation governor. Gerry arrived like a whirlwind and she does not seem to have stopped. Rosemary and I wish Gerry and Steve, health and happiness in their retirement and I suspect Amberley will always be fondly remembered by them both. On a personal level, I would like to thank Gerry for her contribution to the Arun Villages Federation (AVF) governing board. Her interventions have always been pertinent, positive and focused on what is best for the children.”*

And Grahame Joseph, chair of the Amberley Welfare Trust, adds: *“We will look back on the last five years of Gerry’s incumbency as being special and good but for many there has also been sadness and hardship. Through some of the toughest times of bereavement, Covid pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis Gerry has excelled. Along with her other busy roles for the church and the school, she accepted an invitation to become a voluntary trustee of the Amberley Welfare Trust. Working behind the scenes she has quietly used her incredible skills to identify and find where help and support was needed and to ensure it was delivered. She was supported by her husband, Steve, who took on the role of treasurer and secretary of the trust. They have been the best friends our community could have wished for. We are eternally grateful – they are big shoes (or roller skates!) to fill.”*

The PCC received many generous contributions towards a retirement gift for Gerry and Steve. Often, these were accompanied by warm words, examples of which are quoted here:

It’s noteworthy that many of the comments were from non-churchgoers, a testament to Gerry’s commitment and value to the whole community.

We thank Gerry and Steve and wish them every happiness as they enter a new phase of their lives in Dorset, a county they love very much, with more time for their friends and (growing) family.



**A splendid spread prepared by parishioners, words of thanks from Grahame Joseph and his cartoon above, and pictured with churchwardens Mel Edge and Michael Davey**

**...and a thank-you from Wiggonholt**

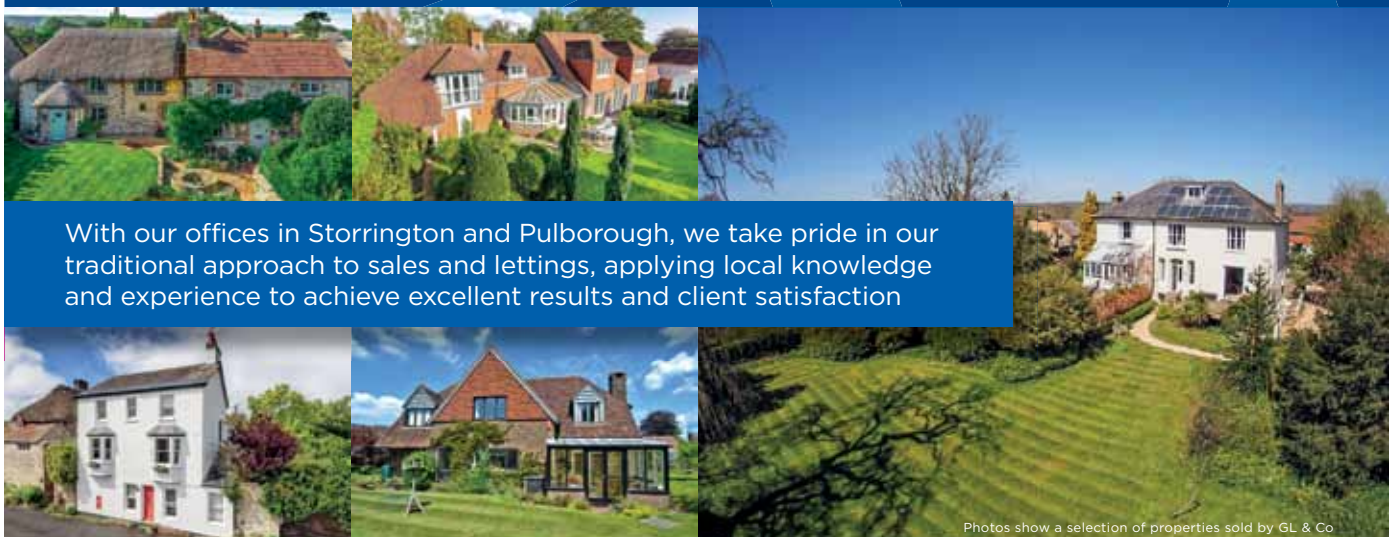
On behalf of the PCC and congregation Brenda Lorkin thanked Gerry Burgess for her outstanding ministry at Wiggonholt Church, whether this was her sermons or individual concern for members of the congregation or church renovation. She also guided the PCC most helpfully through Deanery and Diocesan literature and finance.

Thanks also were extended to Steve. Although he was an accomplished organist he took up the challenge of our harmonium and for the last five years we have enjoyed accompaniment to our hymns and delightful voluntaries.

Flowers and wine were presented and we wished them a much deserved, happy and fulfilling retirement in Dorset.

**Mervyn Jeffery**

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Nic Howard Garden Design

## The Life and Times of ...

### Tony Williams, Sussex Farming

I was born in Brighton in 1941 to Gerald and Florence Willams, the fifth of six children. My family originally farmed in Dorset, but in 1904 they moved to Pangdean – an old Downland farm of 1,200 acres just north of Brighton. My grandfather was appointed farm manager by a wealthy Dorset farmer, who had started farming in Sussex. Later, he and my grandfather became partners at Saddlescombe, a farm adjoining Pangdean, while my father stayed on to work Pangdean.

My earliest memories are of World War II, when our farmhouse was requisitioned to house Canadian soldiers, who were manning the defences on the Sussex coast. At times, up to 50 were billeted with us. They had the five bedrooms and large attic room upstairs while our family slept downstairs. We all shared one toilet. They liked to use our water tanks for target practice, which didn't go down well with my father! They also liked to play pool on our snooker table – but my mother kept them firmly in hand, only letting them come downstairs to play in twos.

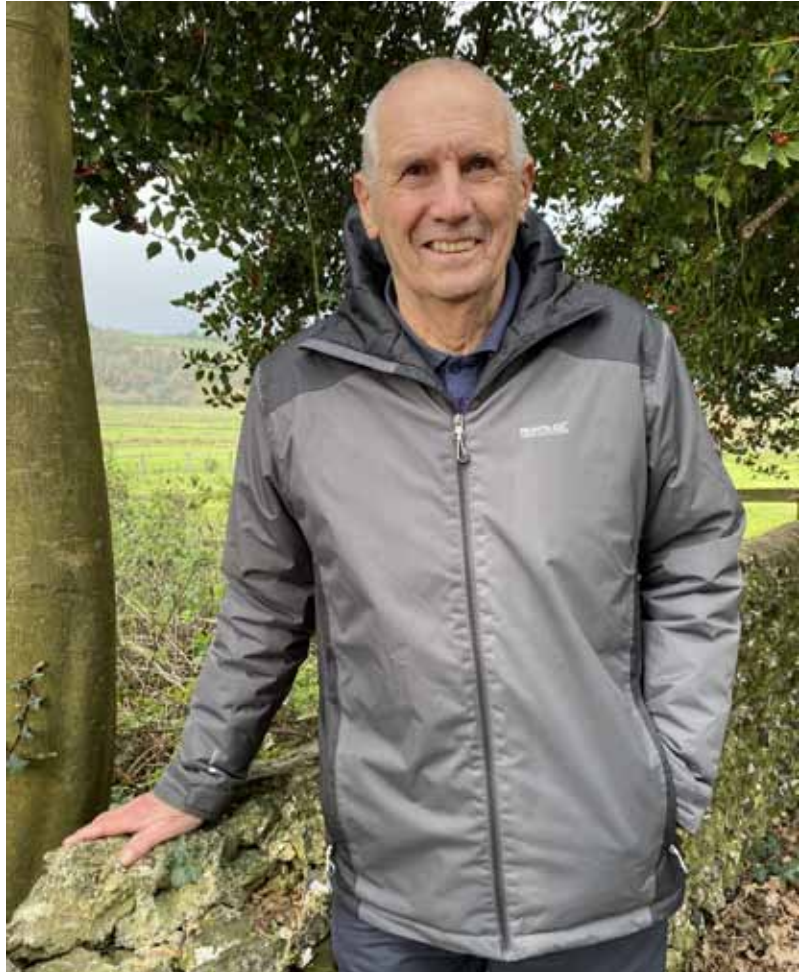
The Women's Land Army also came to Pangdean – some just for a month's basic training with my father, mainly learning to hand milk. Others stayed on permanently and two land girls married my uncles.

My mother used to farm us out in the summer holidays – either to my Uncle Wilf who worked the Devil's Dyke farm or to my grandparents at Saddlescombe. At Devil's Dyke, we used to take my uncle's pet donkey up on to the Downs and give the day trippers donkey rides for sixpence a time.

At Saddlescombe, we were allowed to roam about and amuse ourselves pretty much as we liked. When we arrived, Nanny would take us up to the granary and weigh us on the sack scales. We would be weighed again before leaving, to see if she had fattened us up during the stay.

If it rained, we had the freedom of the large attics where there were boxes of dressing-up clothes. There was also a wind-up gramophone which played 78rpm records. My brother Ken and I nearly wore out *The Laughing Policeman*, joining in lustily with the laughter!

My father was particularly proficient in the care and handling of horses. I remember that he drove a pair of ponies into a Brighton dairy each day to deliver the milk from our herd. He kept the ability of being able to count in 17s all his life, because milk churns in those days held 17 gallons!



**Tony Williams spent his entire working life on the land in Sussex**

He told us how sometimes, in the 1930s, he would follow the stagecoach from London into Brighton, which was drawn by four horses. As it reached Patcham on the outskirts of Brighton where it stopped, the post horn would be blown to announce the coach's arrival. At that point, it amused Dad to whip up his horses and overtake the coach, so that it appeared to the waiting crowds that the horn was announcing his arrival!

At Pangdean, we kept a large dairy herd of Shorthorn cows and a flock of Southdown sheep. Southdowns are short-woolled sheep – stocky and tough – so well suited to roaming the hills. John Ellman, a farmer and stock breeder based in Glynde, vastly improved the Southdown in the late 1700s. In its heyday, it was one of England's most impressive and popular breeds, essential to all the downland farms, and exported all around the world.

Nelson Coppard was a 'tarboy' at Saddlescombe during the sheep shearing. His job was to drop a dab of Stockholm tar when the shearer inadvertently

*continued overleaf*



**Tony leading his uncle's donkey – they earned sixpence a time giving day trippers rides**



*continued from previous page*

nicked a sheep, to protect the open wound. Later, Nelson became my father's shepherd. In those days, the shepherd and his dog used to walk with the sheep, moving them from pasture to pasture before the downs were fenced off after the war. The shepherds were men of great skill, knowledge and self-sufficiency, accustomed to keeping their own company. I still have a Pyecombe shepherd's crook which was crafted in Berry's forge in Pyecombe, out of a gun barrel.

In 1945, my father's employer relinquished his tenancy of Pangdean, so our time at the farm came to an end. However, it was fairly easy to find a farm to rent and next, my father secured the tenancy of Yokehurst Farm, near Lewes. It was 168 acres – much smaller than Pangdean with only two staff – a cowman and a 14-year-old boy. The soil was also different, too – cold, sticky and heavy Wealden clay. We farmed at Yokehurst for 20 years but there wasn't enough of a living to support my father, three sons and their families, so when my father retired, my brothers and I got work in agriculture. I went to work on Old Erringham farm in Shoreham.

I married my wife Shirley in 1962. I met her in the Baptist Church in Lewes when we were teenagers and we went on to have two children, Deborah and Stephen.

However, we soon found that the farm in Shoreham was too remote for us. It was on a hill with no public transport, which meant that my daughter had to walk three miles into Shoreham to school. So in 1969, I found a job as foreman at North Stoke Farm, which is owned by the Duke of Norfolk. The tenant farmer was Reg Pitts and when he died in 1973, David Lock took over. The school bus came up to North Stoke Farm and took my daughter to Amberley School, so life was easier.

I've lived in the same cottage at North Stoke for nearly 55 years. It's the same principle as the Prime Minister – he gets a tied cottage in Downing Street and I get a tied cottage in North Stoke!

There were six employees when I joined North Stoke farm – two cowmen who looked after the dairy herd and four of us working outside. However, the number of employees dwindled over the years – as farming became mechanised, there was less need for manual labour.

As a farmer, there is a rhythm to the days and seasons. Every day the cows were milked at 5am – and again at 3pm but I enjoyed tractor work more. In the winter, I would take feed to

cattle on the hills. In the spring, I would be ploughing, drilling and sowing barley, wheat, oats and beans – and they'd have to be fertilized and sprayed. In the autumn, they would be harvested. I often worked in the grain dryer, sometimes all night, as we would have to get the moisture in the grain down to 14 per cent or less before we could sell it.

Then the dairy cows had to go. Milk quotas were introduced in the 1980s and when the Milk Marketing Board was scrapped in the early 1990s, things became very difficult. Supermarkets took over, screwing down the farmers to the tightest margins and thousands of dairy farmers had to pack up as milk prices tumbled. That's what happened around here – Charlie Hughes is the only dairy farmer left now. There are still some herds of cattle that are reared for beef though – the red Sussex breed and you can see the belted Galloways on Amberley Mount and occasionally on the Wildbrooks.

When David Lock retired in 2003 I moved to Downs Farm, where I worked for a further 14 years, mainly doing maintenance work and helping with the cattle, until I retired. I had worked in farming for a total of 60 years before I stopped in 2017.

In my spare time, I played football for Amberley – we were

usually in the 3rd division of the West Sussex league. I was also a runner and took part in over 100 marathons in total, including 10 London marathons. My favourite race was the South Downs Way from Petersfield to Eastbourne. My best time was 13¼ hours – which is not bad for three marathons back-to-back, across hilly ground!

Looking back, my highlight has been bringing up my two children, of whom I am very proud.

My daughter, Deborah, lives in Kent and my son, Steven, is a professor of psychiatry at Bradford University. I have five grandchildren and now five great-grandchildren, who often come to see me.

Things move on and the way my family farmed is history now. We can't go back to the past – but maybe we are on the cusp of another change in farming, that draws on the old ways. We only need to look to Knepp with their free roaming livestock and pasture-fed herds to see how traditional farming methods are making a comeback, albeit as a new business model.

**Interview by Susan Watson**



**The Roberts family – Tony is in the front row second from right, looking unhappy at being positioned between girls**

## Toad-in-the-hole

Once upon a time, the British people were divided. Impassioned debates raged throughout the land, truth and common sense became distorted, and the public rose up and demanded an answer. How did that toad get inside that rock?

In 1898, two burly workmen in a chalk quarry near Lewes cracked open a hollow chunk of flint. The solid rock, formed 85 million years ago, split open to reveal an airtight cavity at its core. To the quarrymen's amazement, entombed within the ancient flint was a dead toad.

'Toad-in-the-hole' hysteria soon hit the headlines. It seemed like every month the newspapers reported how someone had split open a rock and found a toad inside. Some of these toads had already croaked but others would inexplicably still be alive and hopping. The Victorian world was thrown into theological and philosophical panic. Clergymen preached that the Creator had placed the eternal amphibians in rocks at the dawn of time. Subscribers to Darwin's new theory of evolution were perplexed. Charles Dickens wrote of his bewilderment, while others believed it was simply sorcery. Scientists began burying living toads in sealed boxes to investigate the unfortunate animal's longevity.

The Lewes toad of 1898 is the world's only surviving artefact of the entombed toad craze. It now resides in Brighton's incredible Booth Museum of Natural History – one of my favourite places in the whole world. Among the many awe-inspiring exhibits at The Booth, you'll find a special cabinet dedicated to curiosities. In it, lying reverentially on a bed of maroon felt, there is 'Probably the most famous toad in the world'. Admittedly when it comes to world-famous toads it's not a particularly crowded field, with only Toad of Toad Hall to contest the title. Alongside the original oval of cleft flint sits the shrivelled body of the infamous amphibian. The whole surreal exhibit is like a Kinder Surprise designed by Hieronymus Bosch.

But this cracked up flint isn't all it's cracked up to be. The Lewes toad was originally presented to the Brighton and Hove Natural History and Philosophical Society by Charles Dawson. That's the same Charles Dawson who would soon be sticking some orangutan teeth on a human skull and declaring he had discovered the 'missing link' at Piltdown, near Uckfield. In 1953, Dawson would be unmasked as a fraudster and the whole 'toad-in-the-hole' phenomenon would come crashing down, dismissed as poppycock. **Michael Blencowe Sussex Wildlife Trust**

● Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in Sussex. Founded in



Toad-in-the-hole: an historical hoax

1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at [sussex-wildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://sussex-wildlifetrust.org.uk/join)

## How headbangers manage to cushion the impact

It may still be a little early for spectacular birdsong, but one bird, in particular, will be making itself heard this month – the great-spotted woodpecker. Even when the RSPB reserve is in flood, or when frost lies on the ground, the drumming of a woodpecker is a welcome signal that spring is surely on its way.

Both male and female great-spotted woodpeckers drum; striking their beaks repeatedly against a suitable rotten or hollow branch. And it is an effective form of display with the sound reverberating through the woodland in early spring. They will systematically try out different spots, testing which ones create the best sound.

Surely this would cause the headbanger considerable damage? But it was discovered that woodpeckers have a pad of shock-absorbent tissue between the base of their bill and their skull which neutralises the impact. Such an incredible anatomical adaptation prompted further research with the hope of finding clues to help design more effective motorbike crash helmets!

The smart black, white and red bird is also adapting to life around us, making regular appearances at birdfeeders across the country. If you are lucky enough to see great-spotted woodpeckers on your garden birdfeeders, take a closer look and see whether 'your' bird is male, female or a juvenile (or perhaps you'll see the whole family). You can tell who's who by the pattern of red on the head. All three have red under the tail but it is the presence and location of the red patch on their head that distinguishes them – the

*continued on page 31*



The great-spotted woodpecker heralds the arrival of spring

Picture: Chris Prince

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continued from page 29

female has none at all, on the male it's on his nape and on the juvenile it's the forehead.

The red cap of the juvenile means that they are often mistaken for our second species, the Lesser-spotted woodpecker. 'Lessers' are a very different bird though – much smaller than the 'great spot' – about the size of a sparrow. The male has a bright red cap and both male, female and juvenile have a ladder-like pattern on the back and lack the large white panel of the great spot.

As well as being the smallest, the lesser-spotted woodpecker is also the rarest. These woodland specialists are one of the UK's fastest-declining bird species. They feed on insects and invertebrates. Their powerful beak allows them to peck into dead and rotten wood to access the beetle larvae living within.



**Harder to spot: the lesser spotted woodpecker**

Being both rare and shy, the lesser-spotted woodpecker is not easy to spot. Listen out for its softer but more prolonged drumming and be sure to look up, as these birds spend most of their time high up near the tops of trees. The presence of a bird may be given away by the call – a kestrel-like series of quick piping notes.

The green woodpecker is the largest of the three woodpeckers that breed in England. It is green on its upperparts with a paler belly, bright yellow rump and red on the top of its head. The black 'moustache' has a red centre in males. They have a bouncing flight and a loud, laughing call.

An old country name for this woodpecker is the 'yaffle' because of the laughing sounds it makes. For those who remember the children's programme *Bagpuss*, Professor Yaffle was based on the green woodpecker.

Compared to other woodpeckers, green woodpeckers have relatively weak bills and when excavating their nest holes in trees, they usually only chisel into soft wood, and they rarely drum to communicate.

While the green woodpecker may not have the same special 'headbanging skills' it does have a superpower of its own: it catches its favourite food – ants – by probing the ground with its powerful beak and sucking them up with its long, sticky tongue.

Its tongue is so long that it coils behind its skull in order to fit inside its head. In fact, fully extended, their tongues are a whopping three times the length of their bills and can flick rapidly in and out, getting into tiny holes and crevices catching dozens of ants and pupae in one go – delicious!

**Anna Allum**

**Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB, Wiggonholt**

## RECIPE

# Chicken and bacon rolls in mustard sauce

This is simple to make and needs little last-minute attention. The sauce is piquant and creamy in texture. Serves 4

### You need

4 small skinless chicken breasts (large ones will do, whole or split lengthways depending on appetites).

8 rashers of smoked streaky bacon

1 tbs olive oil

1 tbs plain flour

2 tbs Dijon mustard

4 large cloves garlic

½ to 1 pint chicken stock (a cube will do)

Thyme, chopped parsley or chives to garnish



### Method

Cut the rinds off the bacon and lay them in pairs side by side on a flat surface. Roll each chicken breast up in two rashers and fasten with a wooden cocktail stick.

Heat the oil in frying pan and fry the rolls gently turning them to brown all over: try not to burn them or the oil.

Remove the chicken rolls to a casserole (a snug fit is best). Sprinkle the flour on the fat in the pan, stir to cook the flour and to dislodge meat deposits, remove from the heat a stir in about half the stock to make a smooth and thinnish sauce, pour this over the chicken rolls.

At this stage the sauce should nearly cover the rolls (if it does not, add some more stock). Add the thyme.

Cover the casserole with a tight-fitting lid and cook in a slow oven (150°C fan) for about two hours. Halfway through the cooking add the mustard and crushed cloves of garlic and stir in well. Keep an eye on the liquid level to make sure it does not dry out; top up with more stock if necessary.

Sprinkle with parsley and/or chives and serve. New or mashed potatoes are good with this.

**Note:** The only hazard with this dish is a tendency to dry out towards the end of the cooking; just add more stock. Do not add any salt as both bacon and stock cubes have enough. Otherwise it is indestructible and can hang about in the warm until you are ready.

If you have time, an improvement is to marinate the chicken in a little white wine and olive oil with a slice of onion and a bay leaf some hours before you start cooking. Add the strained marinade with the stock.



# 2023 That Was The Year That Was...

## Our annual round-up of the past year

A coronation, major conflicts in Ukraine and Israel, increasing concerns about climate change and an ongoing cost of living crisis for many were among the memorable and less memorable moments of 2023.

The coronation of King Charles III on May 6, eight months after the death of Queen Elizabeth II, was watched by an estimated 400 million people around the world. Here in the UK the figure was more than 20 million but some nine million fewer than those who watched the Queen's funeral. The new king, accompanied by Queen Camilla, embarked on a busy schedule.

The war in Ukraine raged for a second year, with Russia continuing its missile and drone attacks on civilians and the West sending more weaponry to help the Ukrainians, and an ever-mounting toll on both sides. In the Middle East the paramilitary wings of Hamas unleashed an attack on Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 people and taking 132 hostages. Israel responded by destroying a large area of the Gaza strip in its effort to eliminate Hamas, displacing well over 1½ million Palestinians. By the end of the year, an estimated 22,000 had been killed and a further 58,000 injured.

Amid increasing concerns about climate change, summer 2023 was globally the hottest since records began in 1880 and here in the UK June was the hottest ever. There were devastating wildfires in the US and Canada, Russia, Australia, Spain and Greece, and floods in the US, India, Libya, Greece and Hong Kong as well as here in the UK.

COP28, the UN's Climate Change Conference which was held in Dubai, announced a new fund to address the increasingly severe losses and damage vulnerable countries face from climate impacts and concluded with the first international agreement to tackle climate change's main driver: fossil fuels. However, many claim it does not go far enough.

Turkey and Syria were hit by an earthquake and a severe aftershock. These high-magnitude events left more than 50,000 people dead.

India's population was reported to have surpassed China's for the first time, making it the world's most populous country with 1.4 billion inhabitants. In the UK the population is estimated at around 67.7 million, equivalent to 0.84 per cent of the world total.

Migrants continued to make the dangerous Channel crossing in small boats although the number was down by more than a third, from 45,000 in 2022 to just under 26,000. The migrant barge – *Bibby Stockholm* – moored at Portland in Dorset finally started housing asylum seekers after a lengthy delay. Meanwhile, the government battled to keep its controversial Rwanda immigration policy afloat amid setbacks in the courts.

It was a year of workplace dissatisfaction with a wave of strikes by junior doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers, train and Underground drivers. The NHS had its largest strike in history as well as growing waiting lists, while the train drivers' dispute has rumbled on for well over a year.

The likes of Just Stop Oil and Greenpeace caused further disruption with their headline-grabbing stunts, including blocking roads, stopping play at sporting events and halting theatre productions not to mention a demonstration on top of the Prime Minister's Yorkshire manor.

The World Health Organisation announced that the coronavirus pandemic was no longer a global emergency as the disease was spreading more slowly than before. Covid-19 remained a problem but was now a manageable one.

Over the summer, *Barbie* fever took hold as the long-anticipated film went head-to-head with *Oppenheimer* at the box office.

There was chaos over the August bank holiday weekend when the travel plans of thousands were disrupted with the cancellation of around 2,000 flights because of a technical glitch at NATS, the company responsible for air traffic control.

The famous 'Sycamore Gap' tree on Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland was cut down one night in mysterious circumstances. The National Trust, which owns the land, said it was hopeful the sycamore would live on after salvaged seeds and cuttings were showing signs of being viable for new growth.

Following a Cabinet reshuffle in November, which saw the departure of Suella Braverman as Home Secretary, former



**Celebrating the first coronation for 70 years: a well-attended street party in Church Street**



Prime Minister David Cameron (now Lord Cameron) made a surprise return to government as Foreign Secretary.

Nicola Sturgeon stood down as Scotland's First Minister and she and her husband were then embroiled in a police investigation over SNP finances.

It was a big year for sport. England's Lionesses, the reigning European champions, were narrowly beaten by Spain in the FIFA Women's World Cup, and South Africa won the Rugby World Cup in France by a single point, beating New Zealand 12-11. England secured third place with a narrow victory over Argentina.

There was less success for defending champions England in the Cricket World Cup in India, knocked out after a dismal performance. Australia emerged the winners for the sixth time, beating India in the final.

Manchester City FC completed the treble by beating Inter-Milan in the Champions League, having already secured both the Premier League and FA Cup in which they beat rivals Manchester United with a 2-1 win at Wembley.

Corach Rambler, trained by Lucinda Russell and ridden by Derek Fox won the Grand National, the start of which was delayed by animal rights protesters. And on a beautiful day on the Epsom Downs Auguste Rodin, ridden by Ryan Moore, flew home to win the 2023 Derby in one of the most open runnings of the Classic for many years.

In the Boat Race Cambridge was victorious in both the men's and women's events.

Among the notable deaths in 2023 were actors Joss Ackland, Jane Birkin, David Callum, Shirley Anne Field, Michael Gambon, Steve Halliwell, Glenda Jackson, Gina Lollobrigida, Ryan O'Neill, Matthew Perry (Friends), Sylvia Syms and Raquel Welch; BBC *News at Six* presenter George Alagiah, World of Sport presenter Dickie Davies, *Strictly Come Dancing* head judge Len Goodman, foreign correspondent Ann Leslie, commentator John Motson, talk show hosts Michael Parkinson and Jerry Springer, cartoonist Bill Tidy; comedians Barry Humphries and Paul O'Grady, impressionist Mike Yarwood; composers Burt Bacharach and Carl Davis; singers Jeff Beck (Yardbirds), Harry Belafonte, Tony Bennett, Astrud Gilberto, Gordon Lightfoot, Shane MacGowan (The Pogues), Sinéad O'Connor, Lisa Marie Presley, Tina Turner and Roger Whittaker; the first female Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, two former Chancellors of the Exchequer Alastair Darling and Nigel Lawson; former Downing Street press secretary, Bernard Ingham; Glenys Kinnock, Henry Kissinger, Jacques Delors and Silvio Berlusconi; writers Martin Amis, A S Byatt and Fay Weldon; poet Benjamin Zephaniah; fashion designers Mary Quant and Paco Rabanne; chef Bill Granger; astronaut Frank Borman; former owner of Harrods Mohamed Al Fayed; and footballers Sir Bobby Charlton, Trevor Francis and Terry Venables.

## Meanwhile, here in the Wildbrooks parishes...

Much to the relief of everyone, the pothole-ridden B2139 was resurfaced all the way from the Whiteways roundabout to the outskirts of Storrington, with the added bonus of reducing the road noise. Noisy motorcycles, however, remained a problem but a new sign suggested that 'acoustic' cameras may be deployed at some point in the future.

On the subject of noise, that emanating from birdscarers on adjacent farmland, triggered a heated debate on Gaggle and in the Letters columns of this magazine about the joys, or otherwise, of country living.

In March, the Revd Gerry Burgess was officially licensed as incumbent (vicar) of the Wildbrooks parishes, having previously served as priest-in-charge.

Wiggonholt Church embarked on a project, inviting members of the congregation to donate a homemade kneeler in memory of a loved one or friend. By the end of the year the total was 26.

An upgrade programme for St Michael's Church Hall got underway by an enthusiastic and aptly named group of volunteers – the Hallraisers. As part of their fundraising, they organised a wellbeing fair in May, Amberley's first and highly successful Roving Supper (no doubt to be repeated) and a Scent Soirée at Amberley Castle. As a result



**Smart looking loo: one of the newly refurbished toilets in St Michael's Church Hall. Phase Two is the outdated kitchen**

of their efforts they raised sufficient funds to complete the first phase of the programme – unblocking drains and installing new toilets, including an accessible one – by the end of the year. The next phase is a complete makeover of the outdated kitchen.

*continued overleaf*



*continued from previous page*

Lee Stace, having started 20 years ago as a ‘Saturday boy’ at Amberley Village Stores became a full business partner alongside proprietor Colin Woods.

Jenny Robinson organised a series of cardiac massage and defibrillator training sessions – the end of the year a total of 200 residents had undergone CPR training. There are now six defibrillators installed in the area – outside the St Michael’s Church Hall, the bus shelters in The Square and at Hurst Cottages, at The Sportsman, at the wooden garage at Rackham and at Amberley Station.

Jason Charman took over the chairmanship of Amberley Parish Council, following the resignation on health grounds of Geoff Uren, who stepped down after 11 years as a councillor and six as chairman. And Heather Cartwright was elected chair of Parham Parish Council following the death of Tim Hayward. Neither council was contested at the local elections on May 4 – Fraser Wheeler was an unopposed candidate at Amberley, and Ian Corcoran, Paul Mustow and Laura Rawnsley were all subsequently co-opted. Diana van der Klugt, of Greatham, stood down as a Horsham District councillor after four years and another Greatham resident, Claudia Fisher, was one of three Green candidates elected to the Storrington and Washington ward.

Pierre Schalkwyk took over as general manager at Amberley Castle, succeeding Piers Vowles who left to take up the post of general manager at The Grand in Brighton.

Jeremy Crump became the new archivist for the Amberley Society, taking over from Tim and Pat Ashby who had moved to Storrington. And Ian Galbraith spent a large part of the year digitising the many tape recorded interviews with residents during the last 50 years.

The Amberley Society held a well-attended AGM with a fascinating and entertaining talk on growing up in the village recounted by Michael Agate, whose father ran the shop for 30 years. It was attended by a number of former residents, including Veronica Pooley (nee Chandler), Robin Wills and Eddie Blake who all returned for the occasion, joining some of those who still live in the village, including Basil Figg. There was also a memorable Downland butterfly walk led by Michael Blencowe, who writes our monthly nature notes, and Tree Warden Pam Keeble conducted a guided tree tour of Amberley. Simon Mockford, long-serving South Downs Ranger, retired

A group of 40 people joined the inaugural walk of the recently rediscovered Loop of the Old Pilgrim Way, from St Nicholas Church Arundel, via St Leonard South Stoke and St Mary North Stoke.



**Friends reunited: The Amberley Society hosted a lunch for contemporaries of Michael Agate (far right) following his reminiscences of growing up in the village at the society’s spring meeting. Pictured from the left: Grahame Joseph (AS chairman), Robin Wills, Norman Dalleywater, Michael Finnigan, Basil Figg and Eddie Blake**

A charity auction of unwanted gifts plus promises and pledges at the Sportsman raised £2,600 in aid of the earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria and those of a cyclone in Malawi, where Amberley has a long-standing relationship through its Schools Project.

As part of a drive by St Michael’s to become more environmentally aware, there was an Eco-Fair and Open Churchyard weekend in June. Connor Puttock, aged 15, and five-year-old Zoe Anne Wheatley won their respective categories in an Amberley Young Nature Photographer competition organised by wildlife photographer Richard Sharman who lives in the village.

A new monthly Eco Hub and Repair Café got off to a flying start in September in the church hall, offering a refill service, recycling advice and drop-off point as well as serving tea, coffee and cakes. It is now regularly established, taking place on the fourth Saturday of the month.

It was a busy year for the churches. CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) enjoyed regular monthly meetings, with talks, chats and cake. On Palm Sunday donkeys once again joined the now traditional parade down Church Street to the churchyard, On Palm Sunday donkeys once again joined the now traditional parade down Church Street to the churchyard; at Easter there were hot cross buns in The Square at Amberley, and a Christmas stall there in December. Elsewhere, there was a pet service at Wiggonholt which included horses and a tortoise, a sunrise Easter communion in the open at Parham and the Eco Fair and churchyard weekend at Amberley.

It was a special year for Amberley Museum with the appointment of Katrina Burton as its new director following

*continued overleaf*

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For enquiries about prices, contact:

Jill Couling on (01798) 831 845 or e-mail [amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com](mailto:amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com)

The George & Dragon, Houghton TEL:

01798 831559

Email: [info@thegeorgeanddragonhoughton.co.uk](mailto:info@thegeorgeanddragonhoughton.co.uk)

[www.thegeorgeanddragonhoughton.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgeanddragonhoughton.co.uk)

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\*\*\*

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Monday & Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday - Sunday: 12.00 - Close

KITCHEN

Monday & Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday - Saturday: 12.00 - 2pm & 6.00 - 8pm

Sunday: 12.00 - 2.30pm

These times maybe subject to change without notice.

FOR ALL INFO DO CHECK OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM  
OR JUST GIVE US A CALL - WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



*continued from previous page*

the retirement of Valerie Mills, and an accolade recognising the 350 volunteers who work there on a regular basis – the King’s Award for Voluntary Service, which is the equivalent of an MBE.

Volunteers from the village helped to carry out a lot of maintenance work during the year on Amberley’s Millennium Green. Roger Agate stood down as its chairman, with Ruth Stevens taking over as acting chair.

There was a book launch – *Tales of a Sussex Farm* – written by Angela Lerwill who is the younger sister of Amberley resident Rhona Hoy – about family life on a small farm just outside Pulborough.

The magazine published a series of ‘postcards’ from Claire Bruce, who set off on a belated ‘gap’ year, aged 71. We also featured the *Life and Times* of Michael Agate, Valerie Myers, Camilla Nash, twins Grahame and Michael Joseph, Lady Emma Barnard, Caroline Seaton, Andrew Griffith MP, Eric Hereema of Nyetimber and the Revd Gerry Burgess, all of whom were expertly interviewed by Susan Watson.

Amberley celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with a popular street party at the end of Church Street and there was a Gateaux and Chapeaux party in the garden of Oak Tree House, raising £1,100 in aid of Action Medical Research. And the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning raised a record £2,200.

The Boathouse reopened as a restaurant in the spring having the previous summer simply operated a pop-up pizza outlet in its car park. The concept was taken up by the George & Dragon at Houghton with the opening of the The Shack.

The Kithurst car park, which had been threatened with closure, remained open following the intervention of Horsham District Council. But the car park on Houghton Hill, which closed while forestry work was taking place, has failed to reopen.

Three well-attended village lunches were held – in February, September and early December (for Christmas) – all cooked and served by a team of volunteers under the leadership of Sarah Wheeler.

SAGE had a busy year, with talks and plant swaps, and garden visits, including Denmans, Sandhill Farm House at Rogate, The Grange at Fittleworth and a behind the scenes tour of the National Collection of Orchids near Pulborough. There were also visits to Amberley gardens at Stream Barn and Oak Tree House, and the summer social was held at Brooklands.

Much to the disappointment of everyone, the decision was

reluctantly made to discontinue the immensely popular Rackham Flower Show and Fete following its suspension during pandemic. It had been held on the August Bank Holiday Monday for more than 70 years.

Amberley School continued to flourish with pupils numbering around 54. One of the highlights of the year was an outing to the Children’s Concert at Chichester Festival Theatre.

The newly-established Chalkpath Theatre Workshop met weekly in St Michael’s Hall on Thursdays.

The contractors responsible for the village car park in Amberley were summoned back to resolve flooding issues and the lighting that the South Downs National Park had insisted on also had to be repaired and expensive protective fencing erected after many of the lights were knocked over by carelessly parked cars.

Nine Amberley ladies succeeded in raising over £8,000 by fulfilling a commitment to walk 10,000 steps a day during March as part of the ‘Walk all over Cancer’ challenge set by Cancer Research. They topped the national leader board ahead of the other 190 teams taking part. And Matthew Bannister raised an astonishing £16,300 with a sponsored 180-mile Long Walk for the charity Help Musicians.



**If you want to get ahead, get a hat. A Gateaux and Chapeaux party raised £1,100 for Action Medical Research**

Most of the new residents moved into the Swan Meadows (Newland Gardens) development.

After one of the hottest Junes on record – Wiggonholt made national news when the temperature soared to 29.8C (85.6F) – July and August were a washout. The second All Kinds of Folk outdoor concert had to be cancelled because of rain and high winds but the Amberley Revival Classic Car tour went ahead despite the appalling conditions. Instead of finishing at the waterlogged cricket ground, the tour was redirected to The Sportsman, where lunch was served. Once again, the Nyetimber Estate was the official sponsor.

The year ended on a sad note with the closure on New Year’s Eve of The Sportsman, having been run for the past five-and-a-half-years by Lee and Sophie Forbes. An action group had already been established prior to its closure in an effort to secure its future as a pub rather than being sold for potential development. A case of watch this space.

The list of those sadly no longer with us includes Pat Ashby, Margaret Dalleywater (nee Paskins), Michael Figg, Tim Hayward, Ian Horsell, Christopher Johnson, Doris Johnson, John Keeble, Lyndy Kessell, Anthony Litchfield, Diane McLaren, John Michelsen, Diana Rumbold and Geoff Wills.

**Mike Toynebee**



## EDITORIAL

### Oh deer, oh deer...

Like most people with the privilege of overlooking the Amberley Wildbrooks, I enjoy seeing the grazing deer and watching the frolicking fawns. It is a heart-warming sight. Sarah Weatherstone's distressing account on page 9 of a death of a deer will have no doubt upset many readers, including myself.

But having had deer in the garden for the first time in the 25 years we have lived in our current house in East Street I have to confess that my attitude towards them has changed somewhat. To say they decimated the garden would not be an exaggeration. They chomped their way through much of the shrubbery, including a 20-year-old established camelia which was in full bud. They trampled over flowerbeds and their antlers brought down climbing roses from arches. All in all, they made a right mess of things. And coming face-to-face with a couple of enormous stags in the garden was pretty unnerving. My rather Heath Robinson-ish deer defences do seem to have solved the problem for the time being but if this is to become a regular occurrence I shall have to invest in something more permanent.

The unfortunate fact is there are now too many of them. We always thought there were around 300 but a drone survey last year apparently revealed there were more than 1,000 roaming the surrounding area. It is not just my garden that has fallen victim. They are a positive traffic hazard wandering across lanes and even the main road – we've all sadly seen the carcasses of dead animals at the side of the B2139, no doubt causing considerable damage to the vehicles that hit them – and possibly injury to their drivers and passengers. Recent research indicates that up to 74,000 deer may be involved in vehicle collisions each year in Britain.

At one point last year, residents of Crossgates counted almost 200 deer which had crossed Rackham Road from the brooks into the fields behind the houses, feasting on whatever crop had been planted there.

With no natural predator (I don't think the reintroduction of wolves would go down particularly well), it all points, sadly, to a well-managed and controlled culling programme. Believe me, I am the last person to want to see any animal killed but something has to be done, not simply to protect property but to reduce accidents both to the deer themselves and to people.

I know this is likely to be controversial and if anyone can come up with an alternative, more humane solution, I would be delighted to share it with readers.

**Mike Toynbee**

### A time for everything

**This poignant extract from the Bible was read at the Services of Thanksgiving last month of both Greg Owen and Charles Shaw.**

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

A time to be born and a time to die,

A time to plant and a time to uproot,

A time to kill and a time to heal,

A time to tear down and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to mourn and a time to dance,

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from  
embracing,

A time to search and a time to give up,

A time to keep and a time to throw away,

A time to tear and a time to mend,

A time to be silent and a time to speak,

A time to love and a time to hate,

A time for war and a time for peace.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

### Deadline for the March issue is Thursday, February 15

Contributions should be sent to the Editor,  
Brooklands, East Street, Amberley, BN18 9NN  
or e-mailed to [mike@brooklandsamberley.com](mailto:mike@brooklandsamberley.com)

# **AMBERLEY WELFARE TRUST**

**A community trust with funds donated by local people to support local residents**

**Financial help for needs related to health and wider well-being.**

Examples include

- Support with food or heating costs
- Help with costs of physiotherapy or mobility equipment
- Assistance with travel costs for hospital visits

**Do you or anyone you know need support with these or other similar needs?**

As many costs including energy bills are rising people are finding it harder to manage. Working together with St Michael's Church and Amberley Parish Council we want to offer help and support.

**Don't suffer in silence!**

**Please get in touch as we will listen and may well be able to help. Any conversations will be kept strictly confidential.**

We will do whatever we can and as quickly as possible.

**Contact**

*Grahame Joseph, Chair of the Welfare Trust (01798 831340)*



**LOCAL INFORMATION**

**Refuse & Recycling Calendar - February**

Household refuse collections (**Amberley/ Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt**): Mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be collected on **Tuesdays, February 6 and 20**; collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Tuesdays February 13 and 27**.



For **Church Street and Hog Lane**: collections for garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be on **Mondays, February 5 and 19**; non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Wednesdays, February 7 and 21**; collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, February 14 and 28**.

**Amenity Tip Opening Times**

**Billingshurst: Newbridge Road, RH14 9HZ**  
9am-4pm (closed Thursday and Friday)

**Bognor: Shripney Road, PO22 9SX**  
9am-4pm (closed Thursday and Friday)

**Chichester: Coach Road, Westhampnett PO18 0NX**  
9am-4pm (open daily)

**Littlehampton: Mill Lane, Wick BN17 7PH**  
9am-4pm (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). No trailers

Appointments will be required at all recycling sites from February 12. Bookings can be made at any time online by visiting [www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle) or by calling the Customer Service Centre on (01243) 642106. Proof of residency (ie driving licence, valid bus pass or current utility bill) is required at all WSCC recycling centres.

**Village Bus Timetable**

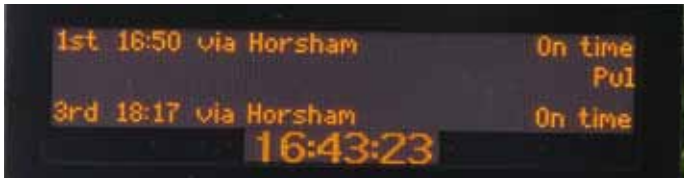
On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Village Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers. We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver 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 (£2 single fare) and Bus Pass Holders, and children under 16 travel free. Wheelchair users are welcome, but always ring ahead. To arrange a pick-up from your home, use of the bus for other community activity, or to discuss becoming a volunteer driver, please call Phil Greenwood on (01798) 831 803.

The full bus timetable can also be found on the Amberley Parish Council website: [www.amberley-pc.org.uk/](http://www.amberley-pc.org.uk/)

Amberley and Slindon Bus timetable 2024									
Monday AM		Monday PM		First Tuesday of the Month		Wednesday		Thursday	
Pulborough/Storrington		Bognor		Worthing		Chichester		Rustington	
Out		Out		Out		Out		Out	
Amberley Square	10.15	Rackham Street	12.35	Havenwood	9.15	Rackham Street	9.35	Rackham Street	9.35
Hurst Cottages	10.18	The Sportsman	12.38	(via Shellbridge Road)		The Sportsman	9.38	The Sportsman	9.38
The Sportsman	10.20	Hurst Cottages	12.39	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.20	Hurst Cottages	9.39	Hurst Cottages	9.39
Rackham Street	10.23	Amberley Square	12.41	Top Road/Church Hill	9.23	Amberley Square	9.41	Amberley Square	9.41
Storrington	10.35	Bridge Inn	12.43	Houghton	9.33	Bridge Inn	9.43	Bridge Inn	9.43
Pulborough (Sainsburys)	11.00	Houghton	12.45	Bridge Inn	9.35	Houghton	9.45	Houghton	9.45
		Slindon Coronation Hall	12.52	Amberley Square	9.37	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52
		Top Road/Church Hill	12.54	Hurst Cottages	9.40	Top Road/Church Hill	9.54	Top Road/Church Hill	9.54
		Havenwood Park	13.01	The Sportsman	9.42	Havenwood Park	10.01	Fontwell Village	9.57
		Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	13.07	Rackham Street	9.45	Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	10.04	Havenwood Park	10.00
		Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	13.25	Worthing - South Street	10.15	Chichester Market	10.18	Queens Street Arundel	10.05
				Haskins Garden Centre	10.30	Chichester Cathedral	10.23	Littlehampton	10.20
								Rustington (Waitrose)	10.30
Return		Return		Return		Return		Return	
Pulborough	12.03	Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	15.30	Haskins Garden Centre	12.50	Chichester Cathedral	13.30	Rustington (Waitrose )	12.15
Pulborough Tesco	12.05	Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	15.41	Worthing (Sea front, M&S)	13.05	Arundel Road,Fontwell Village	13.45	Littlehampton	12.25
Storrington	12.25	Havenwood Park	15.46	Rackham Street	13.30	Havenwood Park	13.48	Queens Street Arundel	12.40
Rackham Street	12.35	Slindon Coronation Hall	15.52	The Sportsman	13.33	Slindon Coronation Hall	13.58	Havenwood Park	12.45
		Top Road/Church Hill	15.56	Hurst Cottages	13.35	Top Road/Church Hill	14.00	Fontwell Village	12.50
		Houghton	16.06	Amberley Square	13.37	Houghton	14.10	Slindon Coronation Hall	12.53
		Bridge Inn	16.08	Bridge Inn	13.40	Bridge Inn	14.12	Top Road/Church Hill	12.55
		Rackham Street	16.13	Houghton	13.42	Rackham Street	14.17	Houghton	13.05
		Sportsman	16.17	Slindon Coronation Hall	14.00	The Sportsman	14.20	Bridge Inn	13.07
		Hurst Cottages	16.18	Top Road/Church Hill	14.02	Hurst Cottages	14.21	Rackham Street	13.12
		Amberley Square	16.20	(via Shellbridge Road)		Amberley Square	14.23	The Sportsman	13.15
				Havenwood	14.09			Hurst Cottages	13.16
								Amberley Square	13.18



## LOCAL INFORMATION



### Southern Trains Timetable (from December 2023)

#### MONDAY-FRIDAY

**From Amberley to London (Victoria except here shown):** 05.54, 06.18, 06.44, 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

**From Pulborough to London (Victoria except where shown):** 06.01, 06.24, 06.50, 07.26, 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 to London Victoria: 1hr 19 mins.

**From London Victoria to Amberley:** 05:54, 06.35, 07.05, 07.35, 08.05, 08.35 and then at 35 minutes past the hour until 15.35, 16.05, 16.35, 17.35, 18.35 and then 05 and 35 minutes past each hour until 20.35, then 21.05, 21.35P&S, 22.05B&C, 22.35C.  
Typical journey time from London Victoria: 1hr 22mins

**From London Victoria to Pulborough:** 05.54, 06.36, 07.06, 07.36, 08:05, 08.35 and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 21.05, then 21.35P&S, 22.05B&C, 22.35C.  
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, 08.58, 09.28, 09.58 and then 58 minutes past the hour until 16.58, then 17.28, 17.58, 18.58, 19.58, then 28 and 58 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, 07.58 and then 58 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:** 07.58, 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.

- Typical journey time to Gatwick Airport: 52min

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)**





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Music on the theme of Nature and Film

*Vocal Fusion Acapella*

*Kaleidoscope Singers*

*Rachel Sherlock* flute

conductor Zoe Peate  
accompanist Gary Prior

**9** SATURDAY  
MARCH  
2024

**5:00pm**



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## DIVERSIONS - FEBRUARY

1. Which two bridges connect Anglesey to mainland Wales?
2. The musical which includes the song, *I could have danced all night*?
3. Sports star by the name of the Golden Bear?
4. What is the main constituent of a Cornish hedge?
5. Which warship was raised from the Solent in 1982?
6. Colonel Arthur B Sleigh founded which daily newspaper in June 1855?
7. What does a spelunker explore?
8. Dig, set and spike are terms in which team sport?
9. A species of dove, symbolic of devoted or true love?
10. Which of the Channel Islands is furthest south?
11. Language spoken by Jesus Christ?
12. Material for which Carrera in Italy is famed?
13. Ritual performed by the All Blacks before a rugby match?
14. To which island was Napoleon first exiled?
15. 1st century AD Roman Palace three miles west of Chichester?
16. Which US newspaper led the investigation into the Watergate scandal?

17. Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory, is moored in which city?
18. What does the Latin word "trivia" literally mean?
19. Table salt is a compound of which two elements?
20. What company was originally called Cadabra?
21. Which planet in the Milky Way is the hottest?
22. Where is the strongest human muscle located?
23. Caulthead is a term used to refer to someone from which part of the UK?
24. What beverage-related event celebrated its 250th anniversary in December 2023?
25. Which religious text is divided into suras?
26. In which country would you find the original Legoland?
27. "Frog had teeth" is an anagram for which famous film?
28. In which year was the United Nations established?
29. Which river flows through the Grand Canyon?
30. Udon and soba are varieties of which food?

**Answers on page 45**

### QUICK CROSSWORD

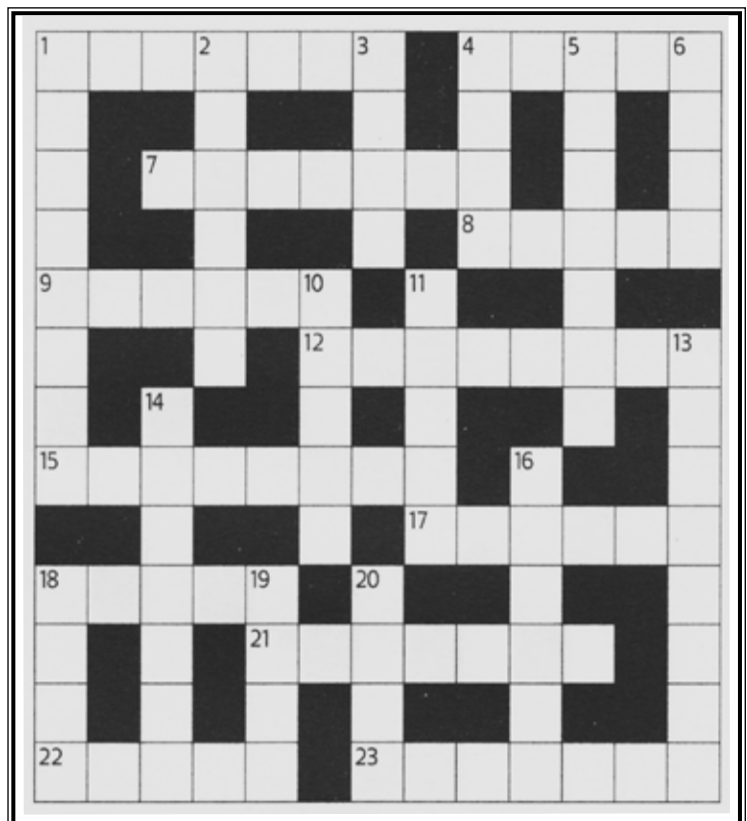
**Across**

1. Metal, symbol Hg (7)
4. Leafy recess (5)
7. Squanderer (7)
8. Late actor, \_\_\_ Savalas (5)
9. Cook-house (6)
12. Group of performers (8)
15. Scatter (8)
17. Two-edged sword (6)
18. Stew (5)
21. Insinuated (7)
22. Cook using hot fat (5)
23. Lattice-work structure (7)

**Down**

1. Slandered (8)
2. Baby's bed (6)
3. Notable minster (4)
4. Eat hurriedly (4)
5. Kangaroo-like animal (7)
6. Pop group, \_\_ Music (4)
10. Pine for (5)
11. Tall perennial plant (5)
13. Immense (8)
14. US family of singers (7)
16. Attraction (6)
18. Explosive device (4)
19. Pelt (4)
20. Pimple (4)

**Solution on page 45**





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS/TIDE TIMETABLE

**1st Thursday**

**Yoga classes**, St Michael's Church Hall, (1) 9.30am and (2) 10.45am (and every Thursday at the same time)

**Chalkpath Theatre Workshop**, St Michael's Church Hall, 1.30pm-3.30pm (and every Thursday at the same time)

**5th Monday**

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

**6th Tuesday**

**Talk: *The Golden Section: Divine Proportion in Art and Architecture***, Arts Society of West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 2pm

**12th Monday**

**School half-term begins**

**13th Tuesday**

**CAMEO** (Come and Meet Each Other), St Michael's Church Hall, 2pm-3.30pm

**14th Wednesday**

**Film: *The Great Escaper***, Rotary Club film night, Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, 7.30pm

**18th Sunday**

**Music:** The Bridge Inn, 3pm-5pm

**19th Monday**

**Back to school**

**22nd Thursday**

**Concert:** Chichester Chamber Concerts (Dudok Quartet), Assembly Room, Chichester, 7.30pm

**26th Monday**

**SAGE talk:** Wild flowers in the Arun Valley, St Michael's Church Hall, 2pm

**Dates for the diary**

GRRC Members' Meeting April 13-14

Amberley Gardens Open June 9

### Littlehampton Tide Timetable - February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <sup>st</sup> High 02.41 Low 08.47 High 14.53 Low 21.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> High 03.17 Low 09.22 High 15.33 Low 21.39	3 <sup>rd</sup> High 04.01 Low 10.11 High 16.24 Low 22.32
4 <sup>th</sup> High 05.00 Low 11.18 High 17.38 Low 23.49	5 <sup>th</sup> High 06.27 Low 12.42 High 19.17	6 <sup>th</sup> Low 01.19 High 07.52 Low 14.03 High 20.29	7 <sup>th</sup> Low 02.36 High 08.55 Low 15.08 High 21.28	8 <sup>th</sup> Low 03.34 High 09.48 Low 16.00 High 22.21	9 <sup>th</sup> Low 04.23 High 10.38 Low 16.46 High 23.11	10 <sup>th</sup> Low 05.08 High 11.28 Low 17.32 High 23.59
11 <sup>th</sup> Low 05.54 High 12.16 Low 18.17	12 <sup>th</sup> High 00.45 Low 06.40 High 13.01 Low 19.04	13 <sup>th</sup> High 01.30 Low 07.26 High 13.46 Low 19.49	14 <sup>th</sup> High 02.13 Low 08.11 High 14.29 Low 20.34	15 <sup>th</sup> High 02.55 Low 08.57 High 15.14 Low 21.18	16 <sup>th</sup> High 03.39 Low 09.45 High 16.02 Low 22.07	17 <sup>th</sup> High 04.30 Low 10.39 High 16.59 Low 23.08
18 <sup>th</sup> High 05.31 Low 11.56 High 18.11	19 <sup>th</sup> Low 00.36 High 06.48 Low 13.24 High 19.51	20 <sup>th</sup> Low 01.58 High 08.25 Low 14.33 High 21.10	21 <sup>st</sup> Low 03.01 High 09.31 Low 15.28 High 22.02	22 <sup>nd</sup> Low 03.50 High 10.18 Low 16.12 High 22.45	23 <sup>rd</sup> Low 04.31 High 10.59 Low 16.50 High 23.23	24 <sup>th</sup> Low 05.06 High 11.35 Low 17.24 High 23.58
25 <sup>th</sup> Low 05.40 High 12.07 Low 17.57	26 <sup>th</sup> High 00.28 Low 06.12 High 12.34 Low 18.30	27 <sup>th</sup> High 00.54 Low 06.43 High 12.57 Low 19.00	28 <sup>th</sup> High 01.14 Low 07.14 High 13.21 Low 19.28	29 <sup>th</sup> High 01.38 Low 07.40 High 13.49 Low 19.51		

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### Property Watch Homes for sale locally

List compiled from Rightmove



#### Amberley

**Church Street** 2-bedroom cottage  
(GL&Co, Storrington)

**OIEO £850,000**

**High Street** 3-bedroom detached cottage  
(Sims Williams, Arundel)

**£750,000**

**Swan Meadows** 2-bedroom apartment (new build)  
(Fowlers, Storrington)

**£256,000**

#### Houghton Bridge

**B2139** 2-bedroom cottage  
(Sims Williams, Arundel)

**£250,000**



**AT YOUR SERVICE (LOCAL TRADESMEN AND SERVICES)**

**Accommodation: B&B (graded)**

**Woodybanks Cottage, Amberley**, lovely views across Wildbrooks; private sitting room, AA 4-star silver rating 01798 831295

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**The Roost at Stream Barn, Amberley**, Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence. (See advertisement for details) 01798 839320

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**Turner's Garage, Bury**, MoTs, tyres, exhausts, brakes, batteries, shop 01798 831417

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**We Love Plants**, Nic Howard Garden Design, inspirational outdoor spaces 01883 744020

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**Amberley Oil Syndicate**, collective buying power for heating oil 01798 872371

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**Richard Sawyer**, painter and decorator, roof repairs etc 01403 783115

**R J Elliott & Son**, complete decorating and maintenance 01903 732363 / 07903 260048

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

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

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**Robert Sadler**, locally-based registered osteopath 01798 874736

**Storrington Physiotherapy Clinic**, Filipa Barnes & Sean Case 01903 743538

To advertise in these columns, contact Mike Toynbee on 01798 831 114 or e-mail [mike@brooklandsamberley.com](mailto:mike@brooklandsamberley.com)

**DIVERSIONS ANSWERS (see page 43 )**

1. Britannia Bridge and the Menai Suspension Bridge 2. *My Fair Lady* 3. Jack Nicklaus, the golfer 4. Stone 5. *Mary Rose* 6. *The Daily Telegraph* 7. Caves 8. Volleyball 9. Turtle 10. Jersey 11. Aramaic 12. Marble 13. Haka 14. Elba 15. Fishbourne 16. *The Washington Post* 17. Portsmouth 18. Three roads 19. Sodium and Chlorine 20. Amazon 21. Venus 22. Jaw 23. Isle of Wight 24. The Boston Tea Party 25. Koran 26. Denmark 27. The Godfather 28. 1945 29. Colorado 30. Noodles

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

**Across**  
1. Mercury 4. Bower 7. Wastrel 8. Telly 9. Galley 12. Ensemble 15. Disperse 17. Rapier 18. Broth 21. Implied 22. Baste 23. Trellis

**Down**  
1. Maligned 2. Cradle 3. York 4. Bolt 5. Wallaby 8. Roxy 10. Yearn 11. Aster 13. Enormous 14. Osmonds 16. Appeal 18. Bomb 19. Hide 20. Spot



## PARISH DIRECTORY

Churchwardens:	Amberley	Melanie Edge (mel.edge@me.com).....07973 163369
		Michael Davey (Secretary) (mpdavey@gmail.com).....07749 690024
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		Robert Englehart.....01798 872502
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		Jill Sloan (Secretary) (jill@jsloan.com).....01798 872163
	Wiggonholt	Cathy Folwell (cathy.folwell@icloud.com)..... 01798 872546
		Jenny Sadler (jen@southerncranes.co.uk)..... 01798 874613
St Mary The Virgin North Stoke (acting chair)		Janet Aidin (janet@aidin.co.uk).....01798 872531
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Amberley Parish Pond & Tree Warden		Pam Keeble.....01798 831050
Amberley Parish Trust		David Vokins.....01798 839 086
Amberley Society		Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com).....01798 831340
Amberley Village Stores and Post Office		Colin Woods.....01798 831171
Amberley Welfare Trust (Village Surgery)		Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com).....01798 831340
Bell Ringers (Amberley) Tower Captain		Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com).....01903 742340
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Millennium Green Trust		Judy Agate (judy@greencaterpillar.org).....07525 484749
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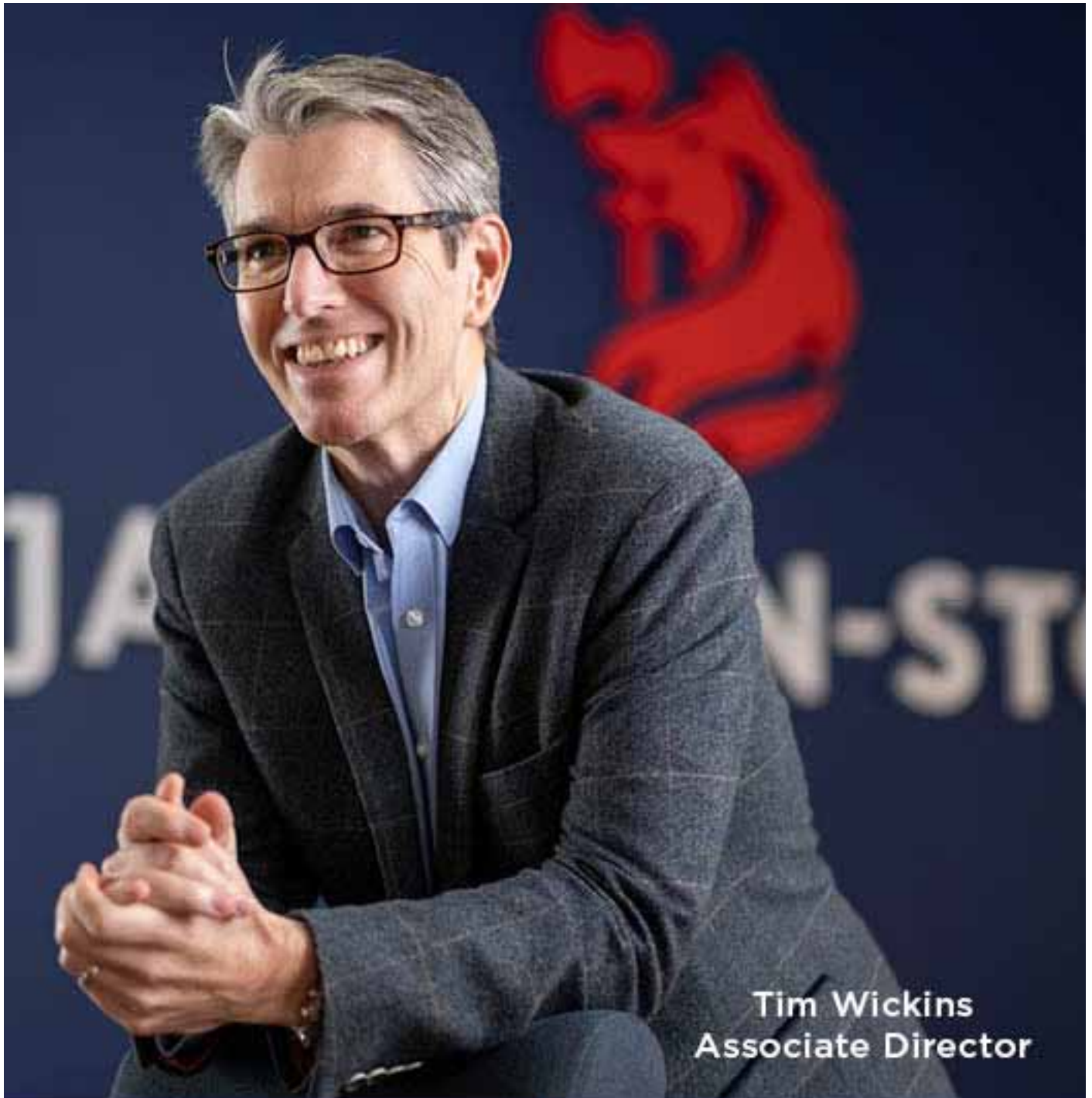
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