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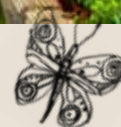


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Events 2025



Open Day - 20th / 21st April

A Cookery Masterclass - 1st May

ASA Exhibition - 21st May / 8th June

Sussex Day 2025 - 15th June

HSBA Exhibition - 18th June / 8th July

The Plant Fairs Roadshow - 6th July

Sussex Steam Rally - 12th / 13th July

Jaguar Day - 3rd Aug

Afternoon Tea Week - 13th / 17th Aug

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A magnificent hare



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“...this is a school that really does empower”

Tatler Schools Guide 2022



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APRIL SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 30th MARCH MOTHERING SUNDAY Purple Array

10.00am Holy Communion
United Benefice service Greatham

SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER White Array

9.00am Matins Greatham
11.00am Holy Communion Amberley

SUNDAY, 6th APRIL 5th SUNDAY OF LENT Purple Array

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

SUNDAY, 4th MAY 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER White Array

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

SUNDAY, 13th APRIL PALM SUNDAY Red Array

9.00am Holy Communion Greatham
10.30am Procession with donkeys from
The Square & churchyard service
Amberley

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday, 30th March

*Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-end; Luke 2:33-35
or John 19:25-27; Psalm 34:11-20*

Sunday, 6th April

Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8; Psalm 126

Sunday, 13th April

Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-end

Sunday, 20th April

*Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12;
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24*

Sunday, 27th April

Acts 5:27-32; John 20:19-end; Psalm 150

Sunday, 4th May

Acts 9:1-6; John 21:1-19; Psalm 30

FRIDAY, 18th APRIL GOOD FRIDAY Hangings removed

11.00am Good Friday Poetry readings
North Stoke
2.00pm Words and Music
for Good Friday Amberley

SUNDAY, 20th APRIL EASTER SUNDAY Gold or White Array

6:15am Holy Communion Parham
9.00am Holy Communion Greatham
9.15am Holy Communion Wiggonholt
10.30am Holy Communion Amberley



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People & Events



The replacement Village Bus, with coordinator Phil Greenwood and Elisabeth Tooms, one of the drivers

for wheelchair or mobility scooter users,” explains bus coordinator and volunteer driver Phil Greenwood. “However, we intend to have one fitted as soon as possible, and have already visited a local supplier to confirm requirements.”

For the time being at least, the bus will continue to be parked overnight in the village car park. Thanks to Steve Trott, the parish clerk, the car park barrier now has a high security padlock, and a police-recommended steering wheel lock will also be used on the vehicle itself. “While security can never be guaranteed, these measures should provide a good deterrent,” says Mr Greenwood.

He adds that particular thanks are due to Ian Wilson, the Slindon driver, who has worked tirelessly over the last few weeks in negotiating with the bus insurers and in sourcing the new vehicle. “I’m sure regular users will offer Ian their own thanks when they have the chance.”

While the replacement bus was being sought, the Village Bus drivers have been giving regular users lifts to the usual destinations to ensure some sort of continuity of service.

Village Bus is back in business

Amberley’s replacement Village Bus is expected to resume services on Monday, March 31. The previous vehicle, which had been in service since 2017, was stolen from the village car park during the evening of February 7 and was subsequently found burnt out and minus its engine. The culprits have not been traced.

Although not new, the replacement bus is in good condition and is reputed to have a smoother and more comfortable ride than the old one.

“Unfortunately, the new vehicle, which is shared with Slindon, does not currently have a ramp, so isn’t accessible



Change of clerk for Amberley Parish Council

Amberley Parish Council has a new clerk, Steve Trott (pictured above left), an energetic and well qualified resident of Arundel. Steve has picked up on his role as parish clerk with enthusiasm. He has taken over from Vicky Spiers, who is moving on to work from home as an aide to her partner’s business as well as continuing as clerk to Parham PC.

The Parish Council held a celebration at the Sportsman on March 8 to thank Vicky for all her hard work. In her 11 years as Amberley’s parish clerk, she has helped a host of parish councillors carry out their responsibilities – and has saved them from straying into the pitfalls which await the inexperienced. Jason Charman, PC chairman (pictured above right), thanked Vicky for her years of service, and expressed particular gratitude for her personal support when he took over the chair.



Tim Scriven, 1932-2024

Tim Scriven, who died on New Year's Eve after a long illness, was born in Hertfordshire in 1932 to a close-knit, loving family with an elder brother and younger sister, and grew up during the Second World War. His lifelong interest in all things mechanical and with wheels developed during this time, as he often passed military vehicles parked along the roadside on his way to grammar school.



His brother Guy was already there, along with his cousin and his oldest friends. He was something of a rebel as his brother was a star performer (academic and responsible as the eldest) so Tim had a hard act to follow. He enjoyed rugby and swimming, and the three great friends he made at school kept in touch and later shared a flat in London in the Swinging Sixties.

His National Service in the early 1950s was spent in Korea with the Skins (the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards). It was bitterly cold and quite a culture shock to a youngster of 18 far from home, but he learned to drive trucks there and thus qualified for a driving licence when he left the army. He joined Ford Motor Company in London in their export department and later became showroom manager in Regent Street. His family moved to Horsted Keynes in the mid-1950s and he met Angela in the early 60s through a mutual cricketing friend.

Tim and Angela married in 1964 and lived in Haywards Heath until Tim joined a Ford dealership in Worthing as sales manager which prompted the move to Coldwaltham. At the time Nicola was born in 1971, his career took him to Crawley as general manager where they sold Citroens and Toyotas. Lucy came along shortly after and there was always a different car to go out in as Tim had the chance to drive a wide range of vehicles, including briefly a Citroen Maserati and a Rolls-Royce. During these years he started a collection of die-cast model military trucks, tanks, Jeeps of all sorts as well as Corgi and Dinky toys.

On retirement Tim joined the Coldwaltham Parish Council with an interest in local bus routes, local housing development and also the Village Help Scheme, driving people to hospital and the doctors' surgery. Tim and Angela soon became regular worshippers at Wiggonholt Church where they became steadfast and valued members of the congregation. Tim was always willing to lend a helping hand, and pitched in enthusiastically on church cleaning day, looking after the brass (his particular forte), as well as helping with the Applefest events.

He had a wide variety of lifelong friends and was devoted to his family. It saddened him greatly that he outlived many of these people but of course that's what happens if one lives to 92.

Calling all gardeners

The Action Medical Research Committee will be holding a Plant Sale on Saturday, June 14, outside the Church Hall from 10.00-12.30. We would be very grateful for any seedlings, herbs or other plants you may be able to donate – so if you can help, please start sowing/potting soon.

The sale is running the same day as the Ecohub so it is a great opportunity to combine a visit. You can pop in and get your gardening tools sharpened, the electric mower fixed and have a cup of coffee and a slice of homemade cake.

The funds raised from the Gardens Open were greatly appreciated by AMR last year and contributed to 13 new grants for research into childhood diseases including cystic fibrosis, epilepsy and brain injuries. So please donate any plants you can, come and buy a different selection (!), support the Ecohub and enjoy a morning coffee with your neighbours.

AMBERLEY MILLENNIUM GREEN

Clocking up 25 years!

It's a special year for Amberley Millennium Green and the trustees have lots of exciting plans. We're creating a wild-flower meadow in part of the area that was left to grow long last year. This involves taking off the top layer off the grass and soil to expose the less fertile ground beneath. Work on this will start in late March. The area will then be seeded with native wildflowers with an area of longer grass left around the perimeter to form a boundary. Bear with us while work is underway: it may look unsightly for a while, but we're hoping we'll be rewarded with a glorious display in the summer.

To celebrate our 25 years we're also planning a 'Picnic on the Green' on Saturday, August 23. More details will follow at a later stage but keep the date as we'd love to see as many of you as possible in this family-friendly gathering. We can't promise good weather, but we can promise cake!

Another one for your diary is a ceilidh we are planning in the church hall on Saturday, October 11. Food, drink, music and dancing will be on offer so come and enjoy the "craic". As numbers will be limited, the event will be ticketed so watch out for further details in the summer. This will be our main fundraising event this year to help us press ahead with other plans, including the installation of some better signage on the Green and the creation of some beautiful hazel arches.

We look forward to celebrating with you all.

Amberley Millennium Green Trustees

Pie-and-a-pint is back

The George & Dragon at Houghton is resuming its popular Thursday night Pie-and-a-Pint deal. The price is £17 and includes either a pint of beer or a 125ml glass of house wine.

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Spinning workshop

Steve Kennett is holding a spinning workshop during the Easter weekend (April 19-20).

Participants will learn about the characters of wool and how to prepare it for spinning, the use of carders and how to use drop spindles and spinning wheels. "It seems a lot to learn, but with help, you will have made a good start," says Steve. "Furthermore, you will take your work home."

The workshop is being held at High View, Rackham Road, from 10am until 3pm, both days. If you would like to attend, let Steve know on (01798) 831010 (alternatively, e-mail steve@profact.co.uk)



Teaching the art of spinning: Steve Kennett, chairman of the Arun Valley Guild of Spinners and Weavers

ARUN VILLAGES FEDERATION

Governing Board vacancies

Are you looking for ways to 'pay it forward'? Would you enjoy contributing to the governance of two brilliant local primary schools?

The Arun Villages Federation Governing Board – which represents both Amberley Primary School and St. James' in Coldwaltham – is responsible for setting vision and strategy, holding the school leaders to account for the education of the children, and ensuring value for money. Our friendly team of Governors is looking to recruit new members. We're looking for:

- Energy, curiosity, the ability to interpret information and ask good questions
- Commitment to six meetings per year and participation in monitoring visits

Specialist knowledge of primary education is not necessary, as you'll be briefed on everything you need to know, and there is plenty of support on hand from other Governors. Confidentiality is key to the role with impartiality and discretion being of great importance.

We have Governors of all ages and with a huge variety of professional and personal skills. If you're wondering if you could contribute – the answer is yes, you definitely can.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Richard Charman, Chair of Governors, for an informal discussion: rcharman@arunvillagesfederation.com or (07541) 362 540

Talks

A talented garden designer, a king and an explorer

Three interesting talks are scheduled at the beginning of this month.

The first, on April 1, is about Gertrude Jekyll who, in 1882, wrote "remember that in a garden we are painting a picture". Being an accomplished watercolour artist she was familiar with the principles of colour and this talk for members of the Arts Society West Sussex will look at these principles in designing a border. The venue Fittleworth Village Hall and it starts at 2pm (doors open at 1.15pm).

The following day, members of the Arts Society South Downs have a lecture on a royal collector, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Charles I's accession to the throne in 1625. Charles I's obsession for collecting works of art began when, as a 22-year-old prince, he travelled to Spain and saw the magnificent collection of the Spanish king, Philip IV.

By the end of his reign Charles had amassed over 2000 works of art but in doing so he had bankrupted England and alienated his people. His life ended on the scaffold in 1649 and most of the collection was sold in what was known as 'The Commonwealth Sale' in 1650. The talk, also in Fittleworth Village Hall, is at 10.45am, with coffee served from 9.50am. Visitors are welcome and there is no need to book. Cost is £7 per meeting.

The third talk, on Friday, April 4, is the regular monthly gathering at Storrington Museum. The subject is the Antarctic explorer, Thomas Crean, an Irishman who travelled with both Scott and Shackleton and was deeply respected by both men. He volunteered to make a 35-mile solo trek on foot with only a couple of biscuits and a stick of chocolate to save two dying friends. He somehow completed the march in 18 hours and to this day is widely recognised as the single most selfless act of courage in the history of exploration. The talk is at 2.30pm and the charge is £8 for non-members.

Fittleworth Garden Trail

This year's Fittleworth Garden Trail is being staged during the Bank Holiday weekend of May 4-5. There will be a total of 13 gardens on display, plus the Winkcoombe Arboretum with over 800 trees and shrubs to be explored.

Tickets are priced £7.50 and are valid for entry to all gardens over both days, from 2pm-6pm. Children under 16 are free.

Attractions include a plant stall, and miscellanea and other local crafts in the Village Hall, where tickets will be on sale on the day. Sandwiches, cakes, teas and ice-creams will also be available.

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Easter music

Bach's *St John Passion*, Haydn's *Seven Last Words* and Handel's *Messiah* are all being performed locally this month.

The Arundel-based Hanover Band, recognised as one of Britain's finest period instrument orchestras, returns to the Norman church of St Andrew & St Cuthman's in Steyning, on Saturday, April 12, at 7pm to bring a special Passiontide performance of JS Bach's seasonal choral masterpiece *St John Passion*. It is being repeated on Friday, April 18 in St Nicholas Church, Arundel, at 7pm.

The band will also be playing a string quartet version of Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ* with Canon David Twinley and clergy colleagues reading the mystical words in St. Nicholas Church on Monday, April 14, at 7pm.

Handel's *Messiah* is being performed by the Leconfield Singers in Arundel Cathedral on Saturday, April 26 at 7pm, with tickets priced from £15-£30.

Other concerts this month include two special performances at Chichester Cathedral. The first, on Friday, April 4, features the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood with a spectacular programme celebrating the 'Best of British' symphonic and traditional music. It is described as a 'must-see rousing event'.

And on Thursday, April 10, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields together with countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo will be performing a programme combining some of the most beautiful and contemplative traditional Easter music from Handel's *Messiah*, with the European premiere of *Laika* by Golijov, which has been written specially for the singer.

The programme will also include Haydn's *Symphony No. 26 Lamentatione*, which was written for Easter week, incorporating a melody derived from an old plainsong of the *Passion of Christ* with this lament is woven across the movements.

The concert starts at 7pm and tickets are priced from £20-£60.

Truly, madly baroque

Following last year's highly successful Baroque Extravaganza, Chichester Music Society is sponsoring a second concert of Baroque music with the University of Chichester Conservatoire Baroque Orchestra and Red Priest. The concert includes music by Vivaldi, Purcell, J S Bach, Corelli, Handel and Telemann.

Red Priest, recently described as 'the wildly virtuosic little band', has been at the cutting edge of baroque music performance for over a quarter of a century.

The concert takes place on Tuesday, April 8 at 7.30pm in St John's Chapel, St John's Street, Chichester. Tickets costing £15 are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/chichester-music-society and will also be available at the door on the night (note cash sales only).

Season opening

Parham House & Gardens reopen for the new season on Easter Sunday and Monday (April 20-21), from noon until 5pm, and thereafter on Wednesdays, Thursday, Fridays and Sundays, plus Bank Holidays, until October 12. The cost of a single adult season ticket is £33 (£60 for a double).

On May 1, the first of a series of cookery masterclasses is planned in the Old Kitchen. Chef and food writer Valentina Harris is joining forces with Bake-Off finalist Miranda Gore Browne to stage cookery demonstrations, hands-on classes, and tasting sessions with local food and wine producers. They will continue throughout the season until October.



Old Way Arundel Loop Walk 2025


**Guided Pilgrim Walk Saturday 5 April
2025**

Between St Nicholas
Arundel, St Leonard South
Stoke, and St Mary North
Stoke.

Departing Arundel
10:30am, arriving North
Stoke for lunch (approx. 5
miles). Ends approx.
2:30pm. Limited transport
North Stoke back to
Arundel.

Those wishing to do a
guided walk back to
Arundel (an extra 5 miles),
will arrive approx. 5:00pm.

Suitable for average fitness.



**This is now our third year. If you would like to walk, please
register your interest with Janet Aidin (Friends of St Mary the
Virgin, North Stoke) The Old Rectory, Wiggonholt, RH20 2EL
Tel: 01798 872531 E-mail: janet@aidin.co.uk**

Buns in the Square are back!



After a break last year, you can
once again enjoy hot buttered
hot-cross buns, coffee or tea
in The Square, Amberley,
Good Friday - 18th April
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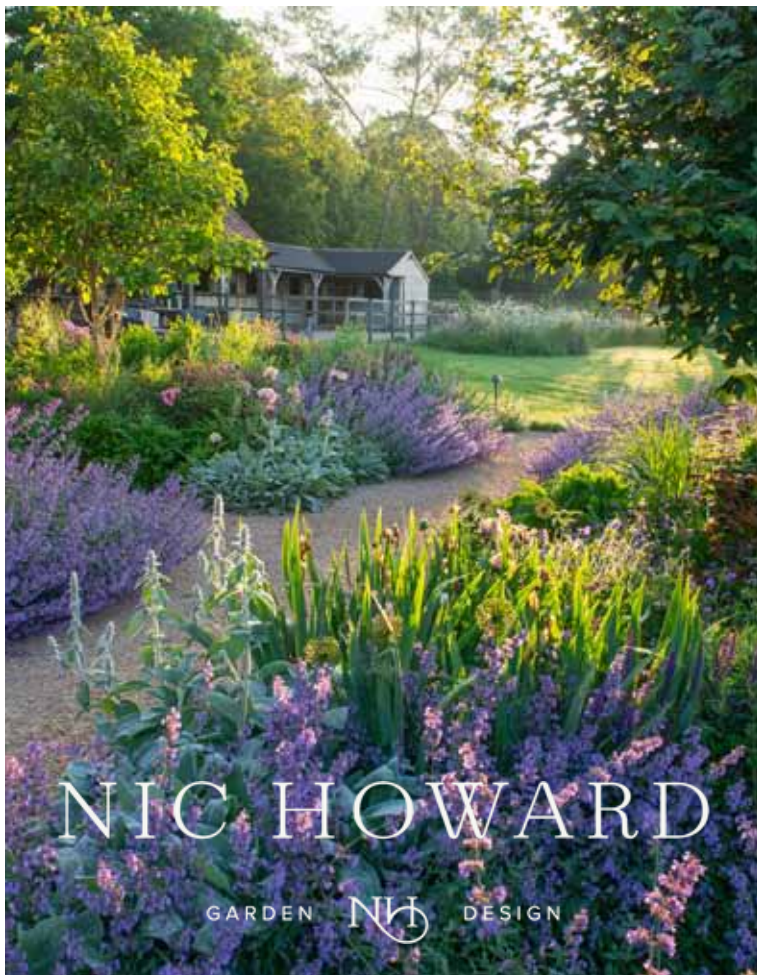
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Amberley Goes Wild Calendar 2026

March Submissions

Thanks to all those Amberley residents who have submitted their beautiful Sussex wildlife images, during March 2025, for entry into the calendar selection for 2026. Please participate and send your images to wildsideuk1@gmail.com: subject AGW2026



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THE AMBERLEY SOCIETY

Embarking on a new era

At a well-attended annual general meeting of the Amberley Society on March 18, a new constitution was unanimously adopted, two co-chairs were elected and there was a presentation to retiring chairman Grahame Joseph.

As part of a restructuring of the society, the committee felt the constitution had become outdated and recommended that the society becomes a registered charity which opens new opportunities to further and deliver on the aims of the society, namely the conservation and improvement of the amenities, character and interests of Amberley and its surroundings. The new constitution document can be viewed on the Amberley Society website: www.amberleysociety.co.uk

The two new co-chairman, Ian Galbraith and Jeff Feakins, were unanimously elected, as were the members of the committee, who will become trustees under the new constitution: Catherine Cunningham, Grahame Joseph, Pam Keeble, Tim Simpson, Joe Thompson and Mike Toynbee.

In his final chairman's report, Grahame Joseph said long before he took over in 2007, there were planning problems with the Drewitts Farm development. "After all these years there are still ongoing, unresolved issues and yet another new planning application from O'Brien Homes."

The South Downs National Park Authority's Local Plan was being revised and we were alarmed to see in the Land Allocation Assessment for potential new housing that the East Street Farm fields were proposed for 25-45 new Affordable Homes.

"Our previous allocation in 2014 was for six new homes which formed part of the Amberley Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2032. The latest large allocation does not comply with the SDNPA's Medium Dispersed Development Strategy and the land is outside of the Neighbourhood Boundary in open countryside.

"The main argument against this development became apparent after Alex Briggs identified the chalk stream running through the site. The environmental importance of this 'Priority Habitat' is explained in his excellent Chalk Stream report.

"Another major concern was with the access through the village and entrance via Hurst Cottages. Sustainability and flood risk are big issues, and others included Relative Tranquillity, Dark Night Skies and Landscape views. An alternative proposal was put forward for the land to be used for a new nature reserve to conserve and enhance the chalk stream. The aspiration for a new Community Centre remains. Amberley Parish Council has also strongly objected to the proposal. It may take up to 18 months before the result of our objections are known.

"As the Society moves forward my hope is for it to thrive and through the understanding of what makes the village and its surroundings special, continue to achieve its aims," he concluded.

In paying tribute to Grahame, Mike Toynbee, said the society owed him a huge debt of gratitude for the immense amount of time and effort he had put into the society. Apart from organising three meetings a year – well in excess of 40 over the years – he also escorted numerous groups around the village on guided tours. Among his many achievements was the saving of the suspension footbridge at North Stoke, enlisting the help of the Gurkhas to facilitate its repair.

There was then a presentation of two pictures of Grahame and Di's home – Wisteria Cottage – both painted by Peter Daughtrey.

Following the AGM, there was an illustrated talk by Jim and Chris Glover on why the Amberley Wildbrooks are arguably the most important wildlife site in Sussex.

STORRINGTON FILM NIGHT

The Critic

This month's choice for the Storrington Film Night on Wednesday, April 9, is *The Critic*, which was due to be shown in January but was postponed due to adverse weather conditions.

Starring Mark Strong, Lesley Manville and Ian McKellen it is a thriller set in 1930s London. When a feared and vicious theatre critic finds himself suddenly in the cross hairs of the Daily Chronicle's new owner, he strikes a sinister Faustian pact with a struggling actress who is desperate to win his favour.

The screening is at 7.30pm, in Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road. Tickets, priced £5, are available from the Card Shop in Storrington, with any unsold tickets available at the door on the night. As usual, there is a bar and a raffle during the interval. Anyone requiring transport should contact John Ollerton on (07523) 322554.

The final film of the current season, on May 14, will be the award winning *Conclave*, starring Ralph Fiennes.

Storrington Film Nights are organised by the Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District.

Tennis Club open day

If you enjoy a game of tennis, want to improve your game or have children who would benefit from some expert coaching, Storrington Tennis Club Day is staging an open day on Saturday, April 5. It will give people the opportunity to try the facilities, access junior coaching and test some tennis rackets and tennis equipment. There will also be an exhibition match and a BBQ.



PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held on March 11, 2025, at the Old School

Present: Heather Cartwright (chairman), Will Rydon, Catherine Dugdale, Philipa Trumper, Paul Slimming, Claudia Fisher and Nigel Dean. Also in attendance: Vicky Spiers (parish clerk) and two members of the public

An application for a reduction of the speed limit along part of the B2139 is being prepared by the parish clerk. She reported to councillors that she was awaiting a notification of support from the local county councillor, Paul Marshall, and would shortly be contacting neighbouring parish clerks for support before asking the wider community, which forms a large part of the application process. The two residents who attended the meeting said they would support any such proposal. It was noted that from December 2020 to December 2024 there had 17 accidents between Amberley football field and New Town Road, Storrington, with four rated as serious.

It was noted that the parish noticeboard outside the entrance

to the Old School was in a poor state of repair, and councillors agreed that some remedial repairs were required before it was potentially relocated.

The council also noted that there had been several complaints regarding an overgrown hedge in Greatham, resulting in vehicles having to move out further into the road and increasing the risk of an accident. The clerk was instructed to write to the relevant landowners.

It was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged with the applicant for Woodsyard, on land adjacent to Rose Cottage in Rackham Road, to discuss plans for a change of use from equestrian to residential with forestry tie, including the conversion and rebuilding of an old stable block and outbuilding into a single storey, two-bedroom home.

Following the resubmission of plans for a smaller single storey side extension at Meadow Cottage, 7 Rackham Street, together with a new front porch, the South Downs National Park Authority had approved the application.

Councillors discussed and agreed a £100 donation to St Peter's Church, Parham, towards the substantial cost of repairs to the church roof.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in Rackham Old School at 7.30pm

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Due to the success of the 1st Roving Supper in 2023 we're roving again...

Amberley's Roving Supper '25 on Saturday 28th June

**Our evening will start with a reception kindly hosted by David and Lillis Lyon at
Oak Tree House at 6.00pm.**

Host a supper course and rove around our beautiful village, all served in different homes with different guests, before heading back to St Michael's Church Hall for dessert/cheese.

Once again this will be an exciting way to catch up with old friends and make new ones – whilst raising important funds for our St Michael's Church Hall!

You can host/rove alone or join up with a friend, or if circumstances don't allow you to host you can simply rove. We will also take into consideration mobility, location and dietary requirements...our aim is for this to be a fully inclusive evening so everyone can get involved.

If you hosted a course last time you will know it is great fun, you can host 6 or 8 people (including yourselves) for either a starter, main or dessert, with surprise guests and then enjoy being hosted on other courses through the evening.

Hope you can join us for another special evening, what's guaranteed is fabulous food, stimulating conversation and the thrill of meeting new people in our big-hearted community.

Due to capacity numbers are limited, please book promptly to avoid disappointment.

Please lookout for the link to the online form in the Roving Supper Gagggle mail message. If you have any general questions about the evening, are not on Gagggle mail or require a link to the booking form please email dave.lynn@icloud.com Closing date will be 14th June, however, due to the popularity of our 2023 event we expect spaces to fill up fast. When you have completed the booking form you will then be contacted and provided with payment details. Booking is confirmed when payment has been received.

If you require a hard copy of the booking form, please email mandydfay@gmail.com



Gardens open during April under the NGS (National Garden Scheme), all within about 30- to 45-minute driving distance. For further details refer to the NGS *Yellow Book* or visit www.ngs.org.uk

April 3, 10, 17, 24
(10am-4pm)

The Old Vicarage, The Street,
Washington, RH20 4AS

April 5, 15, 19, 29
(2pm-5pm)

Peelers Retreat, 70 Ford Road,
Arundel, BN18 9EX

April 12, 13
(2pm-5pm)

Rymans, Appledram Lane South,
Apuldram, PO20 7EG

April 12, 13
(1pm-4pm)

Sandhills Farm House, Nyewood Road,
Rogate, GU31 5HU

April 18
(10.30am-3.30pm)

Judy's Cottage Garden, 33 The Plantation,
Worthing, BN13 2AE

April 23, 30
(2pm-5pm)

Fittleworth House, Bedham Lane,
Fittleworth, RH20 1JH

April 27
(2pm-5pm)

Manor of Dean, Tillington, Petworth,
GU28 9AP

April 27
(11am-4pm)

Denmans Garden, Denmans Lane,
Fontwell, BN18 0SU

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

Sunday: 12.00 - 2.30pm

These times maybe subject to change without notice.

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OR JUST GIVE US A CALL - WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND EVENTS IN THE WILDBROOKS BENEFICE 2025

Palm Sunday 13th April



0900 Holy Communion Greatham
10.30 am St Michael's Palm Sunday
Procession with Donkeys. Meet in The Square,
Amberley to walk to the Churchyard for an outdoor
service. (weather permitting). Refreshments.

Good Friday 18th April



Enjoy hot buttered hot-cross buns, coffee or tea
in The Square, Amberley,
from 9.30am until we run out of buns!
suggested minimum donation £2.50
in aid of St Michael's Hall Fund



11.00 am Poetry at St Mary the Virgin,
North Stoke
2pm St Michael's, Amberley: The Cross of Christ
- Words and Music for Good Friday

Easter Sunday 20th April – celebrating the Resurrection



6.15 am Parham Sunrise Holy Communion
9.00am Greatham Holy Communion
9.15am Wiggonholt Holy Communion
10.30am St Michael's, Amberley Family Communion
Service with eggs!

**Before...****...and after**

A makeover to be proud of – our new-look Church Hall kitchen

“A village is made by its people” the Rev. Noel Staines wrote, rather pleasingly, in his 1960s guide to Amberley.

Not surprisingly then, it was Rev. Staines who built the Church Hall in 1964, when he converted a maze of outbuildings that originally belonged to the vicarage, using funds from the sale of the Clarkson Room to create a village hub where people could gather to connect, socialise and celebrate.

Since then, the Church Hall has been the venue for many village activities and functions, helping Amberley to develop its identity as an open and welcoming community. It also delivers some important civic duties – it is one of the designated emergency refuges in the event of a village disaster and is used for all official village functions, including a polling station, public meetings and Parish Council meetings.

However, after decades of use, the Church Hall needed some TLC. The main drain was blocked, meaning waste water had to be poured away outside. The loos weren't accessible by people with limited mobility and the kitchen had running water but little else - the oven didn't work and the fridge actually heated things up!

In 2023, Churchwarden Mel Edge brought together the Hallraisers – Michael Donovan, Sheena Skinner and Susan Watson – with the aim of raising funds to modernise the Hall, to create an asset that could be used by the community in the coming decades.

We organised a wide variety of fundraising events to pique everyone's interests, including a tree walk, a Wellbeing Fair, a Scent Soirée in the Castle, a Burns' Night Supper, a Midsummer Celebration in the gardens of Oak Tree House and a Bastille Day luncheon. Our fundraising events are illustrated across these pages and were supplemented by grants – together with some very generous individual donations, bringing the total raised to almost £50,000.

After two years of fundraising, the refurbishment of the Church Hall toilets and kitchen is now complete. Thank you to everyone who supported us on our fundraising journey. As Rev. Staines said 'a village is made by its people' – we would not have our sparkling new loos and kitchen without you.

Fundraising for the third phase – the main hall – starts with the Roving Supper on Saturday, June 28. **Susan Watson**

Church Hall Open Day - Saturday, April 5

The Hallraisers invite you to drop in to an Open Day (there will be tea & cake!) in the Church Hall on Saturday, April 5 between 3pm and 6pm, when you can take a look at the renovations and give your ideas for the third and final part of the renovation – the main Hall itself.





Putting the fun into fundraising

Some of the many events held during the last two years by the Hallraisers in aid of the Church Hall



**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, NORTH STOKE****A church of 'exceptional beauty and interest'**

It's high above a loop of the River Arun where the river breaks through to the South Downs. A sign at the entrance to the hamlet reads "Church only" for there is no through road. Since the brown heritage sign by the Boathouse vanished a couple of years ago, no-one would know one of the finest churches in the county was there. It was not always so. This was once a major church with a distinguished history.

This is not the first time it has been isolated. Much has happened to the church since it was built in about 1180. In 1909 the Surveyor of Chichester Cathedral, Philip Johnston, reported:

"The building (which ... is of exceptional beauty and interest) stands now in very urgent need of careful and conservative restoration."

He illustrated his report with a photograph showing the church almost choked in ivy with a stove pipe pushed through one of its fine 13th century windows. During the 19th century, he reported, the interior had been roughly disfigured and mutilated. Help came through a sensitive restoration by a discerning architect.

If you came this way now you would only see everything a country church ought to be, and you would fully acknowledge its 'exceptional beauty and interest'.

North Stoke was a hamlet granted to the Norman Marcher Lords who became, through marriage, Earls of Arundel and later Dukes of Norfolk. The church was later gifted to Tortington Priory whose priests came north over the river to say Mass at North Stoke. This was the only route as Houghton Bridge was not built until 1438. There was a ford. Although the river is faster now, in the right conditions the bar has been glimpsed even to the present day. In the 1920s the archaeologist Hadrian Allcroft got the local scoutmaster, an exceptionally tall man, to plunge in with a snorkel and observe the "solid bar of flints and chalk" laid ten or twelve feet at its widest. There may also have been a ferry across the Arun and now there is a metal bridge. Nowadays that journey from Arundel (Tortington) via South Stoke to North Stoke is retraced annually in a walk which follows part of the Old [Pilgrim] Way to Canterbury. (This year on Saturday 5 April.)



The Elizabethan chalice is still in use

With the coming of the road bridge, North Stoke was even



further off the beaten track. After the Reformation it was still the parish church and its beautiful Elizabethan chalice of 1568 is still in use. Subsequent to Johnston's restoration work, it was re-assigned from the benefice it shared with St Leonard South Stoke to Amberley, where it remains to this day in the Parish of Amberley-with-North Stoke.

The Norfolk Estate, with its continuing links to the Roman Catholic denomination, farmed North Stoke. By the mid-1980s the church had been declared redundant and it ceased to be a parish church of the Church of England. In limbo until 1992 it was then vested in the Churches Conservation Trust which takes on the care of exceptional redundant churches. The Trust consolidated the first restoration, with the lovely result we now see. However, in 2006 there was an amazing find. A student of Sussex University found the Church's lost dedication – to St Mary the Virgin. This confirmed the original status of the church, and the significance of its early stained glass. In December 2007 it was rededicated by the Bishop of Horsham and the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. On that wonderful and stormy day the waiting congregation saw a bird sweep through the chancel and out of the south door. Many viewed this as a good omen for the rededicated Church.



In 2008 the Trust formed a group of volunteers (The Friends) to care for the church and to help the Trust raise money towards its upkeep.

The Friends also try to make this important survival better-known. They have a series of events each year, currently a Midsummer evening of poetry and song (June 24) and a major concert and reception, this year on Saturday, July 26. The patronal festival is on August 15, and the blessing of the Christmas Crib (the work of an Amberley artist) takes place just before Christmas. Each Good Friday at 11am we have readings of devotional poetry in the church, and three years ago we started what is now a flourishing poetry group on the last Tuesday of each month. Importantly, for the past 18 years the Church has belonged to the Small Pilgrim Places Network, which singles out places of quiet contemplation and beauty in a busy world. Through this, the remoteness and isolation of St Mary the Virgin North Stoke has finally come into its own.

Janet Aidin

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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)

Know your Sussex

More little known facts about our county

What did the Romans ever do for us?

Well, actually, quite a lot locally. Chichester, or Noviomagus Reginorum as it was known, was established shortly after the arrival of the Romans in AD 43. The Roman road of Stane Street started at the east gate and connected the city with Londinium (London). At no point does the road lie more than six miles from the direct line from Chichester to London Bridge. Today the Roman road is easily traceable on modern maps, much of the route having been followed by the A3, A24, A29 and A285. Stane is simply an old spelling of 'stone' (Old English: stān) which was commonly used to differentiate paved Roman roads from muddy native trackways.

Other public buildings in Chichester were also present: the public baths are beneath West Street, the amphitheatre under the cattle market and the basilica is thought to be beneath the cathedral.

Fishbourne Palace, near Chichester, is the biggest single Roman site yet unearthed in Britain. It covers six acres. The palace, as large as Nero's Golden House in Rome, was constructed in the first century AD, and occupied until a disastrous fire in about 270AD. The greatest treasures of the site are its mosaics, which include the celebrated Boy on a Dolphin (pictured right).



At Bignor is a large Roman courtyard villa which has been excavated and put on public display on the Bignor estate. It is well known for its high quality mosaic floors, which are some of the most complete and intricate in the country. It reopens to the public for the season on April 5 (open daily except Monday and Tuesday). And at Lickfold, Wiggonholt, sandwiched between the A283 and a layby, are the remains of a Roman bath house.

Words and music

William Blake wrote *Jerusalem* while living in a cottage at Felpham (between Bognor and Clymping) from 1800 and 1804. The preface to his sometimes strange work on Milton, was put to music by **Sir Hubert Parry** in 1916 to become one of the most loved anthems of all time.

Edward Elgar composed his famous *Cello Concerto in E minor* while living at Brinkwells Cottage (1917-1920), near Bedham (Fittleworth). He and his wife, Alice, retreated to the isolated cottage from a London torn by the horrors of the First World War. In addition to the cello concerto, he found peace and inspiration also to write the *Violin Sonata String Quartet*, and *Piano Quintet in A minor*.

Shipley Windmill, better known today as the fictional home

of the hero of the BBC Television series *Jonathan Creek*, was owned by the writer, poet, politician and historian **Hilaire Belloc** from 1905 until his death in 1953. He and his wife, Elodie, lived in the adjacent house, Kings Land. During his lifetime, Belloc wrote nearly 150 books, ranging from historical biographies to *The Bad Child's Book of Beasts* and *Cautionary Tales for Children*.



This yew tree, in a corner of the churchyard of St Giles' Church, Coldwaltham, is more than 3,000 years old (that's 1000BC) and has been authenticated as one of the ten oldest trees in the country. The Editor here is dwarfed by its massive girth.

Organiser of coronations and state funerals

The Dukes of Norfolk hold the hereditary position of Earl Marshal, which has the duty of organising state occasions, such as coronations, state funerals and the state opening of Parliament. Norfolk is one of only two hereditary peers automatically admitted to the House of Lords, without being elected by the general body of hereditary peers (the other being the Lord Great Chamberlain). As the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk is head of the College of Arms, through which he regulates all matters connected with armorial bearings and standards, in addition to controlling the arrangements for state functions. He is also one of three claimants to the title of Chief Butler of England.

The faithful trug's royal recognition

Queen Victoria was a fan of the Sussex trug after they caught her eye at the Great Exhibition in 1851. She ordered a consignment for the Royal Family which was hand delivered by **Thomas Smith** of Herstmonceux, the inventor of the trug, who

walked from his home to Buckingham Palace with a wheelbarrow full of the baskets. The trug is actually a reinvention of the traditional Anglo Saxon trog – a boat-shaped basket made from heavy wood until the mid 1600s. Mr Smith carefully redesigned the trog using sweet chestnut and cricket bat willow, making it light while also strong and sturdy – and thus the trug was born.





Cattle were once a familiar sight through the village en route to and from the brooks. And it was not uncommon for children to help in the fields – this youngster pictured taking a refreshing drink of water

Property Watch

Homes for sale and to rent locally

Amberley

New Barn Road 6-bedroom detached house with swimming pool
(Jackson-Stops, Chichester) **£2,750,000**

High Street 4-bedroom detached house
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,850,000**

Church Street 4-bedroom detached house
(Hamptons, Chichester) **£1,750,000**

East Street 4-bedroom detached house
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,250,000**

School Road 2-bedroom house
(Sims Williams, Arundel) **£895,000**

Church Street Grade II listed 2-bedroom cottage
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£825,000**

Church Street Grade II listed 2-bedroom thatched cottage
(Jackson-Stops, Chichester) **£800,000**

East Street 2-bedroom detached house
(Comyn & James, Pulborough) **£700,000**

Hurst Cottages, East Street 3-bedroom bungalow
(Joe Graham Property Sales, Bognor) **£565,000**

Houghton Bridge

Riverside Four 2-bedroom lodges (sold separately)
(Parkmove, nationwide) **£175,000-£185,000**

New Barn Road 4-bedroom detached house
(King & Chasemore, Storrington) **£650,000**

Houghton
Off B2139 4-bedroom detached house
(GL&Co, Storrington/Jackson-Stops, Chichester) **£1,100,000**

B2139 3-bedroom semi detached barn conversion
(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£700,000**

Rackham

Off Rackham Road 5-bedroom period farmhouse with 15 acres
(Strutt & Parker, Chichester) **£2,300,000**

Rackham Street 3-bedroom detached house
(Jackson-Stops, Chichester) **£1,250,000**

To Rent

Parham

Parham Estate 4-bedroom former farmhouse
(GL & Co, Storrington) **£3,000pcm**

Houghton

South Lane 3-bedroom semi-detached house
(Tod Anstee, Chichester) **£2,350pcm**

Off B2139 3-bedroom house
(Crossmeads, Chichester) **£1,675pcm**

Wiggonholt

Rural location 3-bedroom detached house
(GL & Co, Storrington) **£3,000pcm**

WHITE STORK FESTIVAL

A local celebration of success

The White Stork Project at Knepp is an undoubted success. Just five years ago the first two breeding pairs of white storks successfully nested at Knepp, the first time in 600 years that white storks had bred in the wild in the UK.

In 2024 there were 19 nests at Knepp, producing over 90 eggs and fledging 53 chicks, and in March this year there were already two new eggs. To witness it and to be awe-inspired, the LIVE White Stork webcam is available 24/7: <https://www.youtube.com/live/s0liN8AzykQ>, and check out their flight paths at <https://whitestorkproject.org/our-storks/>

The white stork is an iconic symbol of nature revival with the potential to help engineer positive change on our local Wildbrooks, and the wider Arun catchment area. Greener Amberley is closely involved with others in trying to facilitate such change. To mark this, an idea was born to launch the



'White Stork and Nature Revival' festival, a first-ever community event of its kind, to celebrate the white stork on return from its extraordinary migratory journey across Europe and Africa.

The obvious location in the area for the festival is Storrington, which has close historical ties to the white stork (as reflected in the village sign!). The name

Storrington is derived from its old English name, Estorchetone, meaning the home of storks, and referred to in



The Doomsday Book. Storrington, together with Knepp Wildland, is honoured to be the only UK village to join the European Stork Villages Network <https://www.storkvillages.net>, so there is an important international dimension to this, too.

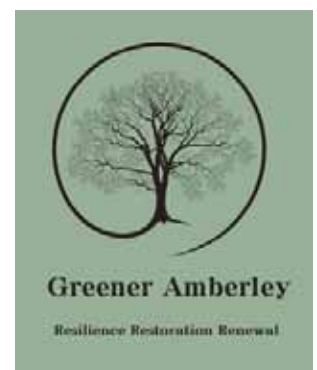
A catalytic partnership is in train between Storrington & Sullington Parish Council and the White Stork Project (managed by the Knepp Wildland Foundation charity), to make this festival happen. They are keen to unite local communities behind it, and Greener Amberley wants to help.

It is a family-friendly event with local artists, mellow music, and refreshments all day, and, furthermore, it's free. There will be interactive stalls, and opportunities to engage in talks and conversation. Greener Amberley will have a stall, so come and visit us.

The event will kick-off at 10.30am on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5, with the festival naming ceremony, and run through to 4.30pm, in and around the Chanctonbury Leisure Centre (RH20 4BG). Parking will be available at the Hormare field, accessible from the A283 into Hurston Lane).

All involved look forward to welcoming you on the Bank Holiday...

Fraser Wheeler



Pictures taken by wildlife photographer Richard Sharman in 2022 during the breeding lifecycle at the Knepp Estate

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Ode to a nightingale

Spring is underway; the leaf buds are starting to burst on our oak trees, the undergrowth is highlighted by the yellow flowers of primroses and lesser celandines, birdsong is increasing and we're welcoming new arrivals to the nature reserve. One of the most eagerly anticipated spring arrival is the nightingale.

'Our' nightingales will have spent the winter in Africa, south of the Sahara in Senegal or Guinea Bissau, perhaps in the company of pelicans. They have travelled north, negotiating a number of dangers en route including a desert crossing, a flight across the Mediterranean the chance of bad weather blowing them off course or an encounter with a predator.

But despite these perils our nightingales arrive; and I can legitimately claim them to be ours as migration studies using satellite tracking have shown that nightingales are site faithful – they return to the same place to breed. Nocturnal migrants, such as nightingales, are able to use the stars as a guide. The males arrive first, choose their favourite spot and then start to sing. And it is, of course, the song that makes this rather plain-looking bird so popular.

It really is quite some song, full of rich melodious notes, piping whistles, frog-like croaks and even a section that sounds like machine gun fire. Apparently, the more complex the song, the more attractive the male is to the female, so he sings through the night in order to tempt a migrating female to fly down for a closer look.

As well as impressing the females, the song of the nightingale has inspired poets, songwriters and authors for centuries. In Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale, the nightingale's song is not only beautiful but has more special powers. The emperor of China hears about the bird living in the forest with the most glorious voice and summons her to court. While impressed by her song, he is rather disappointed by her drab appearance and instructs his master craftsmen to make him a songbird out of gold. The mechanical songbird delights the emperor and the nightingale returns to the forest to raise a family. Several years pass, the mechanical bird breaks and the emperor falls mortally ill. The nightingale hears the news and returns to the court. She sings to the emperor and her joyous song causes death himself to depart. The emperor returns to full health and rules the kingdom more wisely for many years to come.

A lovely story, but my favourite is Oscar Wilde's *The Nightingale & the Rose*. I can't do it justice with a summary so encourage you to read it. I'll just say that it involves a poor love-struck student, his beloved, the nightingale and a cynical green lizard. It is a beautiful tale but I will warn you that it does not end well for the nightingale, the student



Supreme songster: but numbers are down by an alarming 90 per cent

or love in general! It is interesting that in both stories the singing nightingale is female.

Despite its iconic status we're in danger of losing the inspiring song of the nightingale, for its decline over the past few decades has been alarming 90 per cent of British nightingales lost due to habitat change both here and overseas, plus the perils of migration.

But it is not all doom and gloom. We have a stronghold for nightingales here in the Arun Valley, so be sure to head out on an evening walk later this month

and listen out for its song. But be cautious about who you invite on your walk – 'going to listen to the nightingales' was once a euphemism for sneaking off into the dark for a romantic liaison!

Anna Allum

Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB Wiggoholt

Bluebell bliss

Like many people, bluebells are a blast of nostalgia for me. I remember woodland days out as a kid; clambering up trees and scrawling thrilling finds like 'woodpigeon' in biro in soggy exercise books. Bluebell season always required a visit.

There's not much like the all-encompassing violet thwack of bluebells in ancient woodland. Sickly-sweet scent in your nostrils, the hues of the rich indigo carpet somehow also hanging in the air, and the understory buzzing with busy pollinators, who, just like you, are making the most of this abundant explosion.

We love a limited edition, a special experience that we must make the most of. Like one-off characters in your cereal box, like happy hour, like nightingales. And bluebell fever is no different. Every April and May, Sussex woodlands erupt with millions of these vivid beauties, announcing that



Telling them apart: the native bluebell on the left and the more invasive Spanish variety on the right

spring truly, finally, fabulously, has sprung. This early flowering provides a welcome bounty for struggling wildlife and allows bluebells to make the most of the sunlight before the woodland canopy becomes too dense.

continued on page 33



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MORE INFORMATION

www.slindonhouse.co.uk

Slindon House, Top Road, Slindon,
Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0RH

continued from page 31

Like many of our native wildflowers, the British bluebell is up against it. At risk from habitat loss of precious ancient woodland, and threatened by a changing climate, the plant is also in competition with an interloper; the Spanish bluebell. A non-native species, the thuggish Spanish bluebell tends to out-compete its native counterpart for resources such as light and space. It can also hybridise with our native species, diluting the native bluebell's characteristics. So how can you tell these two species apart?

The native bluebell, *hyacinthoides non-scripta*, has narrow leaves and tubular bell-shaped flowers of deep-violet blue which curl back at the edges. The flowers are generally down one side of the stem, which has a distinctive droop to it. The Spanish variety, *hyacinthoides hispanica*, has broader leaves and a paler blue, conical-shaped flower. The stem is upright and covered with flowers on all sides. A big difference between the two is the Spanish has no scent, while the native plant smells sweet.

The idea of plants 'escaping' your garden invokes notions of under-the-cover-of-darkness creeping, but it's easier than you think for non-native species to go astray. Uncovered cuttings and garden waste can easily blow into communal areas or can be carried by animals, to proliferate in new, wild areas. If choosing to plant bluebells in your garden, it's best to choose the UK species for this reason. In a small way you could be supporting our native variety to recolonise our wild woodlands, and to keep them smelling sweet.

Kerry Williams

Communications Officer – Conservation

- Among the best places to see bluebells locally: Angmering Woods (access via Crossbush or Patching); Slindon Estate (access on the right from the road linking Slindon and Eartham); and Waltham Park Road, Coldwaltham (on the right as you approach the B2138).

How to avoid a cat-astrophe

Much as we love our cats they are a real menace when it comes to their hunting habits. It is, of course, natural for them to hunt birds, mice etc. But the sad thing is that they are one of the reasons we are seeing fewer and fewer small birds in Amberley and across the country as a whole

There are a considerable number of cats in the village (10-plus in Church Street alone) and they are often out and about at peak hunting times ie dawn and dusk.

Research shows that you can significantly reduce



the damage inflicted on the bird population by:

- Keeping cats in from dusk to after dawn and particularly during April and May when songbirds are nesting
- Putting a collar and bell on your cat.
- Feeding them a good high protein diet

Some people think that a collar will be dangerous and get caught and strangle the cat. There are collars with safety clips which pull apart if they are caught on eg a branch.

Jeffrey the Cat has worn a collar and bell for the last five years and has lost a few on his way round the village. They are not expensive and can add a little sartorial flair to the well-groomed cat!

So please, think about how you can prevent your cat from killing our precious birds.

Sarah Wheeler

February rainfall

It may come as a surprise after what appears to have been a dull, dreary and damp winter that the rainfall in February was less than half than during the corresponding month in 2024 – 73.7mm (3in) compared with 173.5mm (6 7/8 in). Despite the reduction in the amount this year, there were nevertheless 16 wet or damp days and 12 dry ones, and a distinct lack of sunshine.



Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey

What is ash dieback?

Ash dieback, a fungal disease affecting ash trees, is a significant concern in West Sussex, with the potential to kill up to 95 per cent of ash trees over the next 15 years, impacting the county's landscape and wildlife.

Nearly 21 per cent of broadleaved trees in West Sussex are ash, covering 12,276 acres (4,968 hectares)

The disease is highly destructive and can cause rapid physiological decline and mortality in ash trees of all ages.

It was first identified in the UK in 2012, but it's likely that it was present since at least 2005.

Ash dieback symptoms include dead branches, blackening of leaves, discolored stems, and eventually, trees may drop limbs, collapse, or fall.

- Do report new cases of the disease to the Forestry Commission through their Tree Alert service.



EDITORIAL

Milestones...

Last month saw the completion of Phase 2 of St Michael's Church Hall renovation, the first anniversary of the reopening of The Sportsman, the delivery of the replacement Village Bus and the formal resignation of the chairman of the Amberley Society after 17 years at the helm. Significant moments for everyone involved.

The Hallraisers are to be congratulated on having successfully raised close on £50,000 over a three-year period to fund smart new toilets and a fully refurbished kitchen. As well as securing a number of grants they have organised an impressive 21 events, ranging from a fun-filled Burns Night dinner and Midsummer Celebration to a well-stocked Christmas Fair. The third and final phase is to upgrade the hall itself.

The Sportsman celebrated its anniversary with, appropriately, a beer festival, such was the success of a similar event held in the autumn of last year. With Roger Agate the driving force behind the community campaign to save the pub, ably assisted by Kate Maguire who has been responsible for the successful marketing programme, and business manager Jo Westland for the day-to-day operations, the momentum is being maintained but more investors are needed if its future is to be guaranteed.

The arrival of the new Village Bus following the theft and subsequent destruction of its predecessor is welcome news for those who rely on the service which is run by volunteer drivers. The team, led by Phil Greenwood, are to be thanked and congratulated for having kept the show on the road for almost two months by providing lifts in their own cars for regulars. It is another example of the splendid community spirit we enjoy here in the Wildbrooks parishes.

Going above and beyond the call of duty equally applies to Grahame Joseph, who formally stood down as chairman of The Amberley Society at last month's annual general meeting after an unprecedented term of 17 years in the role. Among his many achievements was ensuring that the pedestrian suspension bridge at North Stoke was saved and not replaced by a standard beam bridge. With the help of the late Major Reggie Trench, he succeeded in enlisting the help of the Army, whose Queen's Gurkha Engineers completed the repair and restoration. Many will recall we celebrated its completion at a party at their camp in the field with the Gurkhas preparing a typical meal as well as entertaining us with their traditional Khukuri dance.

Apart from organising three meetings a year for members, researching planning regulations when the society felt the need to respond to controversial applications, escorting countless groups around the village, giving them an insight into its history, buildings and natural environment, he also served as chairman of the Amberley Welfare Trust. A hard act to follow.

Mike Toynbee



Smiling is infectious

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling, too.
I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

Attributed to Spike Milligan

Deadline for the May issue

Wednesday, April 16

**Contributions should be sent to
The Editor, Brooklands, East Street,
Amberley, BN18 9NN**

or e-mail mike@brooklandsamberley.com

LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse & Recycling Calendar - April

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, April 1, 15 and 18**; collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Tuesdays, April 8 and 22**.



For **Church Street and Hog Lane**: collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Wednesdays, April 2, 16 and 30**; mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be collected on **Wednesdays, April 9 and 23**. Collections for garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be on **Mondays, April 14 and 28**.

Amenity Tip Opening Times

Billingshurst: Newbridge Road, RH14 9HZ
9am-6pm (closed Thursday and Friday)

Bognor: Shripney Road, PO22 9SX
9am-6pm (closed Thursday and Friday)

Chichester: Coach Road, Westhampnett, PO18 0NX
9am-6pm (closed Tuesday)

Littlehampton: Mill Lane, Wick, BN17 7PH
9am-6pm (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). No trailers

Appointments are now required at all local recycling sites. Bookings can be made at any time online by visiting 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/

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

1st 16:50 via Horsham	On time
	Pul
3rd 18:17 via Horsham	On time
16:43:23	

Southern Trains Timetable (from December 15, 2024)

Monday-Friday

From Amberley to London (Victoria except here shown): 05.55 and then at 18 and 48 minutes past the hour until 21.48 then 23.05 (change at Three Bridges).

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

From London Victoria to Amberley: 05.54, 06.35, and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 22.35.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins

From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis except as shown): 06.42 (PH), 07.13, 07.58 and then at 28 and 58 minutes past the hour until 22.28 then 22.51 (P&S), 23.28, 23.53 (C).

PH – Portsmouth Harbour; P&S – Portsmouth & Southsea;

C – Chichester

Saturday

From Amberley to London: 06.29, 06.48 and then at 18 and 48 minutes past the hour until 21.48 then 23.04 (change at Gatwick Airport).

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

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

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins

From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis except as shown): 06.43 (PH), 07.28, 07.58 and then 28 and 58 minutes past the hour until 22.28 then 22.51 (P&S), 23.28, 23.53 (C).

PH – Portsmouth Harbour; P&S – Portsmouth & Southsea;

C – Chichester

Sunday

From Amberley to London Victoria: 07.58, and then at 58 minutes past the hour until 21.58.

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 24mins

From London Victoria to Amberley: 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): 09.02B, 09.58PH 10.58 and then 55 minutes past the hour until 22.56B and 23.55B.

B – Bognor Regis; PH – Portsmouth Harbour.

Compiled by Malcolm Phasey



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DIVERSIONS - APRIL

1. At which city do the Blue Nile and the White Nile meet?
2. On July 25, 1965 at the Newport Folk Festival what did Bob Dylan bring on stage that startled the audience?
3. Two lines from *If* by Rudyard Kipling are inscribed above the entrance to which UK sporting venue?
4. In which capital city is the presidential palace of Casa Rosada located?
5. Which British mammal makes a shallow lair called a form?
6. Balsamic vinegar is made using which fruit?
7. The astronaut who was the first to hit a golf ball on the moon?
8. St George is the patron saint of England, Bulgaria, Ethiopia and which capital city?
9. What sweet Californian grape is also known as Primitivo?
10. Sugarloaf Mountain overlooks which capital city?
11. Who was the first woman in Greek mythology?
12. A pink fir apple is actually a type of what?
13. What type of food is Monterey Jack?
14. Cardinal Wolsey was archbishop of this city from 1514 to 1530 but he never visited it. Which city?
15. US city where Starbucks was founded in 1971?
16. At the Olympics, a diploma is awarded to the top how many finishers in a particular event?
17. In the 1969 film *The Italian Job* in which city does the central theft take place?
18. What type of cheese is traditionally used in an Alfredo sauce?
19. The first faces seen on Channel 5 TV in March 1997 belonged to which pop band?
20. Which country has lost the men's FIFA World Cup final on penalties twice?
21. Which bird appears on the Canadian one-dollar coin?
22. What two animals are on the coat of arms of Australia?
23. The leatherback which can exceed eight foot in length is the largest living species of which animal?
24. What is the only London borough that lies both north and south of the River Thames?
25. The common name for the flag hoisted by a ship that is about to sail?
26. The highest-priced property square on the Monopoly game board?
27. What is the only state in the USA that has just one syllable in its name?
28. Who is the only former Spice girl never to have had a British number one single as a solo artist?

Answers on p39

Quick crossword

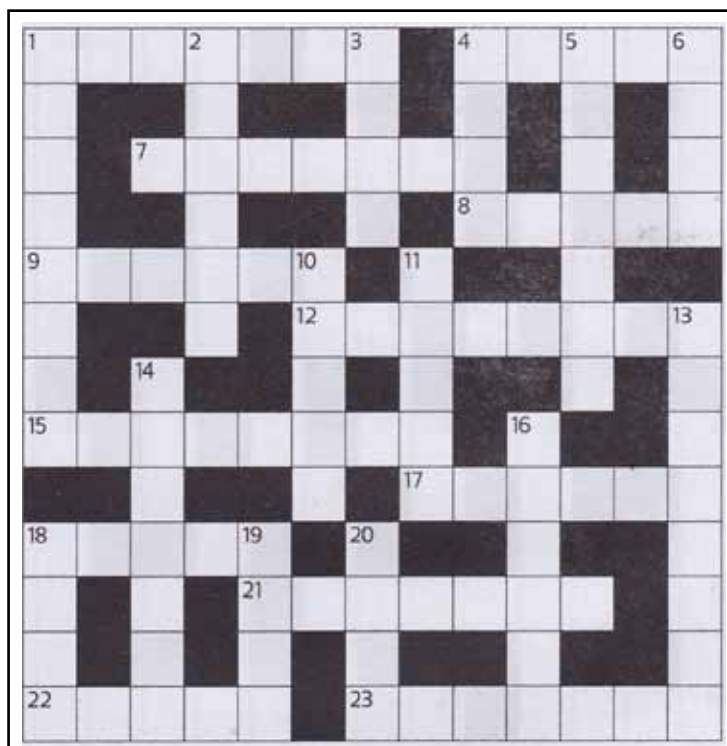
Across

1. Chivalrous (7)
4. Clog (5)
7. European country (7)
8. Singer, ___ Carpenter (5)
9. Follows (6)
12. *Change* ___, Irving Berlin song (8)
15. Dependence (8)
17. Bird of prey (6)
18. Leader of the Argonauts (5)
21. Sinister (7)
22. *The ___ Faces of Eve*, film (5)
23. Boxer (7)

Solution: p39

Down

1. Jean-Paul ___, French fashion designer (8)
2. Hugh ___, comedy actor (6)
3. Mountain lake (4)
4. Bird's bill (4)
5. Supervise (7)
6. Enthusiastic (4)
10. Backbone (5)
11. Short (5)
13. Old maid (8)
14. Wall coating (7)
16. Detective (6)
18. Jerk (4)
19. Not any (4)
20. Edith ___, French songstress (4)





CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

1st Tuesday

Talk: *The Subtle Science and Exact Art of Colour in English Garden Design*, The Arts Society West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 2pm

2nd Wednesday

Talk: *Charles 1 - King and Collector*, Arts Society South Downs, Fittleworth Village Hall, 10.45am

4th Friday

Talk: *Tom Crean - Unsung Hero of the Antarctic*, Storrington & District Museum, 2.30pm

5th Saturday

Storrington Tennis Club Open Day, Greyfriars Road, 10am-4pm

Walk: Arundel Old Way Loop Pilgrim Walk (guided), departing St Nicholas Church, Arundel, 10.30am

St Michael's Church Hall Open Day, All welcome, 3pm-7pm

8th Tuesday

Workshop/Concert, Chichester University Baroque Orchestra & Red Priest, St John's Chapel, Chichester, 7pm

9th Wednesday

Film: *The Critic*, Sullington Hall, Storrington, 7.30pm

12th Saturday

GRRRC Members' Meeting, Goodwood

Eco Hub & Repair Cafe, St Michael's Church Hall, 10am-12.30pm

Bach's St John's Passion, Hanover Band, St Andrew & St Cuthman's Church, Steyning, 7pm

13th Sunday

GRRRC Members' Meeting, Goodwood

Music: Super Strings, The Bridge Inn, 3pm-5pm

Littlehampton Tide Timetable – April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
		High 01.51	High 02.31	High 03.13	High 03.59	High 04.57
		Low 07.50	Low 08.35	Low 09.20	Low 10.09	Low 11.13
		High 14.12	High 14.55	High 15.41	High 16.35	High 17.45
		Low 20.12	Low 20.56	Low 21.43	Low 22.38	Low 23.56
6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
High 06.15	Low 01.38	Low 02.53	Low 03.49	Low 04.32	Low 05.09	Low 05.42
Low 12.50	High 07.59	High 09.24	High 10.16	High 10.58	High 11.36	High 12.12
High 19.16	Low 14.17	Low 15.21	Low 16.10	Low 16.49	Low 17.24	Low 17.57
	High 20.55	High 21.56	High 22.40	High 23.19	High 23.56	
13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
High 00.30	High 00.58	High 01.21	High 01.42	High 02.08	High 02.38	High 03.11
Low 06.14	Low 06.45	Low 07.16	Low 07.46	Low 08.14	Low 08.44	Low 09.22
High 12.44	High 13.11	High 13.34	High 14.00	High 14.27	High 15.00	High 15.39
Low 18.29	Low 19.01	Low 19.31	Low 20.00	Low 20.28	Low 21.01	Low 21.45
20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
High 03.55	High 04.58	Low 00.12	Low 01.46	Low 02.56	Low 03.46	Low 04.30
Low 10.12	Low 11.21	High 06.51	High 08.13	High 09.13	High 10.03	High 10.50
High 16.33	High 18.05	Low 12.52	Low 14.18	Low 15.18	Low 16.06	Low 16.50
Low 22.46		High 19.43	High 20.50	High 21.43	High 22.31	High 23.15
27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th			
Low 05.15	High 00.00	High 00.45	High 01.28			
High 11.36	Low 05.58	Low 06.44	Low 07.31			
Low 17.35	High 12.23	High 13.10	High 13.56			
	Low 18.20	Low 19.06	Low 19.52			

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14th Monday

Haydn's Seven Last Words, Hanover Band Quartet, St Nicholas Church, Arundel, 7pm

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm

19th Saturday

Spinning Workshop, High View, Rackham Road, 10am-3pm (also Sunday)*

27th Thursday

Music: Chichester Chamber Concert, Galliard Ensemble, Assembly Room, 7.30pm

26th Saturday

Wedding Fair, Slindon House, 11am-3pm

Handel's Messiah, Leconfield Singers, Arundel Cathedral, 7pm

Dates for the diary



White Stork and Nature Revival Festival, Storrington **May 5**

Goodwoof, **May 17-18**

Amberley Revival **May 24**

Action Medical Research Plant Sale **June 14**

Amberley Roving Supper **June 28**

Village Picnic, Millennium Green **August 23**



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To advertise in these columns, contact Mike Toynbee on 01798 831 114 or e-mail mike@brooklandsamberley.com

Answers to Diversions (see page 37)

1. Khartoum 2. An electric guitar 3. Centre Court at Wimbledon – "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those impostors just the same" 4. Buenos Aires 5. Hare 6. Grapes 7. Alan Shepard 8. Moscow 9. Zinfandel 10. Rio de Janeiro 11. Pandora 12. Potato 13. Cheese 14. York 15. Seattle 16. Eight 17. Turin 18. Parmesan 19. The Spice Girls 20. France (to Italy in 2006 and to Argentina in 2022) 21. Loon (hence the nickname of the coin, the "Loonie" 22. Emu and Kangaroo 23. Turtle 24. Richmond 25. *Blue Peter* 26. Mayfair 27. Maine 28. Venus 29. Victoria Beckham

Crossword solution

Across: 1. Gallant 4. Block 7. Austria 8. Karen 9. Trails 12. Partners 15. Reliance 17. Falcon 18. Jason 21. Ominous 22. Three 23. Fighter

Down: 1. Gaultier 2. Laurie 3. Tarn 4. Beak 5. Oversee 6. Keen 10. Spine 11. Brief 13. Spinster 14. Plaster 16. Sleuth 18. Jolt 19. None 20. Piaf



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The game of Kings...

The King of Games is still the Game of Kings – the delightful thwack thwack of the ball resounding from David Lyon's tennis court on warm afternoons announces that the tennis season is upon us again. But it turns out the tennis has long been popular in Wildbrooks – and Bystander's favourite tennis story comes from 1483, when two residents of Wiggonholt, John and Robert Shory, were fined 2d apiece for being 'common players at tennis against the regulations'.

Archery was an important part of medieval warfare and the English kings conscripted large numbers of longbowmen into their armies, making the practice of archery compulsory on Sundays and holidays. Other leisure activities, such as football or tennis that might distract men from their archery practice, were banned. It would seem that John and Robert were swept up in tennis fever and fined for batting a ball on Wiggonholt common on a Sunday instead of buckling down to archery practice – and we thought Keir Starmer was a killjoy!

A holy hole-in-one...

Overheard during one of the popular Friday evening gatherings at The Sportsman... A golf-loving vicar wakes up one sunny Sunday morning and decides he would prefer to be on the golf course than in church. He asks the curate to take the service and drives to a golf course in the next county, where is he unlikely to be recognised by any of his parishioners.

He tees off on the first hole and a sudden gust of wind takes the ball an extra 100 yards, to give a 450-yard hole-in-one. An angel sees God smiling. "Why on earth did you do that?" he asks. "Who is he going to tell?" replies God mischievously.

Your PUBLIC duty to drink more...

If life wasn't hard enough, it now seems Sir Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves have declared war on pubs. From this month, every pub landlord will have to pay an extra £800 per worker thanks to Labour's punitive hike to Employer National Insurance. And that means for the average pub, they'll have to sell an extra 1,300 pints to pay this tax. Which basically means we have all got to drink more...



A posh version of our favourite pub spotted in upmarket Jakarta ... sticky rice instead of sticky carpets?

Bright sparks

A friend of Bystander's in the village who has acted as an invigilator at exams over the years has come up with a list of some of the more interesting and baffling answers in GCSEs from 16-year-olds:

Q: Name the four seasons. (Geography)

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A: If you are buying a house, they will insist you are well endowed.

Q: What are steroids? (Biology)

A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

Q: What is the fibula?

A: A small lie.

Q: Give the meaning of the term *Caesarean Section.

A: The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q: What is a seizure?

A: A Roman emperor.

Q: What is a terminal illness?

A: When you are sick at the airport



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