

£2.00

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

# THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



Serving the parishes of Amberley with North Stoke,  
Parham, Wiggonholt and Greatham

# The Bridge Inn

## Music and Events December 2025/26



### Thursday 4th - Sloe Gin and Chutney Evening from 6pm

To kick start the season we are hosting another evening where you may bring along your own homemade Chutneys and or Sloe Gins for sharing and tasting. We will provide a giant cheese board with lots of tasty breads. There will be friendly and fun judging, with prizes to be won!



### Sunday 14th - Live Music Superstrings - 3-5pm

### Wednesday 17th - Carols and Chestnuts Evening 6:30pm

Carols around the tree with complimentary roasted chestnuts. Petworth Town band will be merrily playing for us to sing along and get into the Christmas spirit. Mulled wine to keep us warm and you never know it might just SNOW!

### Christmas and New Year Opening hours:

Christmas Eve 12-9pm (Food 12-2:30 and 6-8)

Christmas Day Drinks 12-2pm

Boxing Day - Closed

New Years Day - 12-5pm (Food 12-3)



### Friday 9th January - Special Anniversary Celebrations

To celebrate 20 amazing years at The Bridge Inn we would like to invite you to join us for a party, an evening of live music and Complimentary nibbles.

We will be here from 6pm with Music from 7pm



**Warmest Wishes Tash and Dave**



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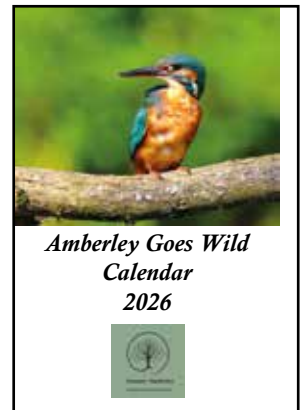
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Christmas at The Bridge Inn

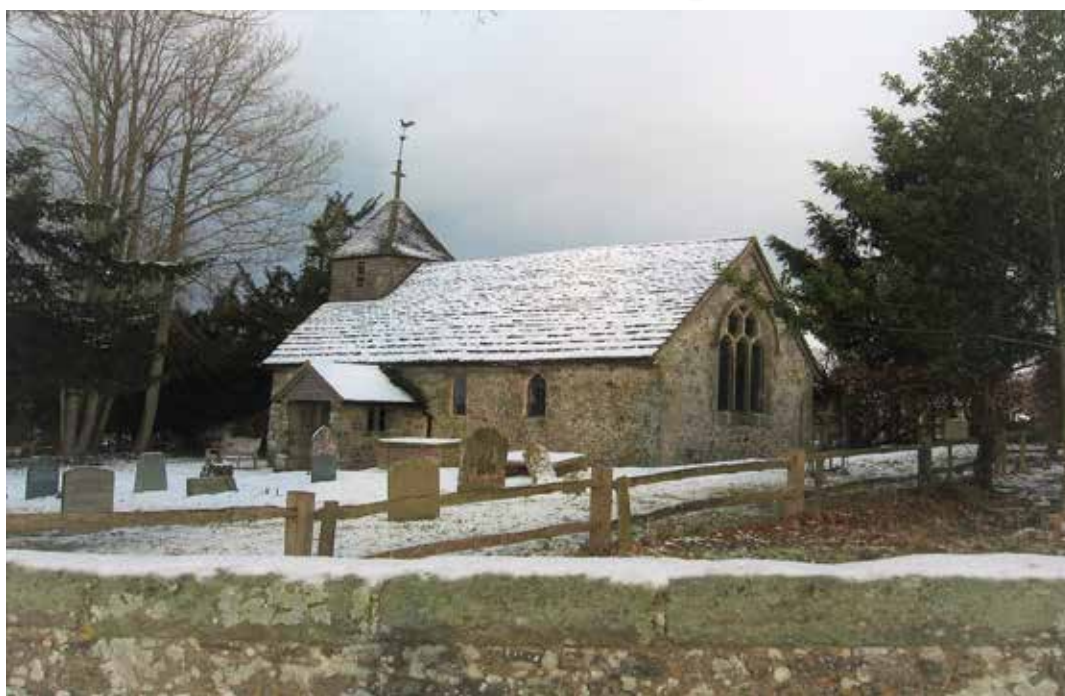


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# **Wiggonholt Church**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 6p.m.**

## **Carols by Candlelight in the Churchyard**



## **Followed by a Short Service of Holy Communion in the Church**

Collection in Aid of The Children's Society





## DECEMBER SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 7th DECEMBER		ADVENT 2
		Purple Array
9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
3.00pm	Evensong for the 2nd Sunday in Advent	Wiggonholt

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER		ADVENT 3
		Purple Array
9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley
SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER		
4.00pm	Blessing of the Crib with Carols	North Stoke

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER		ADVENT 4
		<b>Purple Array</b>
9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER		CHRISTMAS EVE
		Purple Array
3.00pm	Journey to the Crib from the Square to church	Amberley
6.00pm	Five Lessons and Carols in churchyard, followed by	Wiggonholt
7.00pm	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt

THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY		
Gold or White Array		
9.00am	Holy Communion with Carols and readings	Greatham
9.00am	Christmas service	Parham
10.30am	Christmas Communion service	Amberley

SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER		HOLY INNOCENTS
		<b>Red Array</b>
11.00am	Morning Praise	Amberley

## BIBLE READINGS



**Sunday, 7th December**  
*Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19*

**Sunday, 14th December**  
*Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

**Sunday, 21st December**  
*Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-end; Psalm 80:1-8, 18-20*

**Thursday, 25th December**  
*Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14; Psalm 98*

**Sunday, 28th December**  
*Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18; Psalm 124*

*January services and Bible Readings overleaf*

## Interregnum arrangements

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; alternatively send an e-mail to [amberleystmichael@gmail.com](mailto:amberleystmichael@gmail.com)

We seek help from visiting clergy to cover at least one Communion service each week. Elaine Corbett our Lay Reader (pictured), is taking 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 44).

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.





## JANUARY SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

### SUNDAY 4th JANUARY

9.15am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

### EPIPHANY Gold or White Array

Parham

Amberley

### SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY

9.15am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

3.00pm Evening Prayer at  
Candlemas

### PRESENTATION OF CHRIST Gold or White Array

Parham

Amberley

Wiggonholt

### SUNDAY 11th JANUARY

9.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Café Church

### BAPTISM OF CHRIST Gold or White Array

Greatham

Amberley

## BIBLE READINGS

#### Sunday, 4th January

*Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 72: 10-15*

#### Sunday, 11th January

*Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-end; Psalm 29*

#### Sunday, 18th January

*Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42; Psalm 40:1-12*

#### Sunday, 25th January

*Jeremiah 1:4-10 or Acts 9:1-22; Matthew 19:27-end;  
Psalm 76*

#### Sunday, 1st February

*Malachi 3:1-5; Luke 2:22-40; Psalm 24*

### SUNDAY 18th JANUARY

9.15am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

### EPIPHANY 2 White Array

Wiggonholt

Amberley

### SUNDAY 25th JANUARY

9.00am Matins

11.00am Holy Communion

### EPIPHANY 3 White Array

Greatham

Amberley

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## CHURCH NEWS



### We shall remember them

Around 60 people attended this year's Remembrance service in St Michael's churchyard on November 9. Conducted by Lay Reader Elaine Corbett, it included a hymn and the national anthem as well as prayers and a moving reflection.

David Lyon read aloud the names of those from the Wildbrooks parishes who died in both World Wars, and also the *Kohima Epitaph* (which is engraved on the Memorial of the 2nd British Division in the Kohima cemetery in northeast India). Captain Iain Miskimmin, of the Royal Engineers, read the "They shall not grow old" extract from war poet Laurence Binyon's *The Fallen*, and Ollie Clifford sounded the *Last Post* on the bugle prior to the two-minute silence, followed by the *Reveille*. Wreaths were laid by David Lyon, and by Tim Simpson on behalf of Amberley Parish Council.

Tea and coffee were served after the service and there was a collection for the Royal British Legion.



### Their names live on...

#### GREAT WAR 1914-1918

##### Amberley

Thomas Davis  
Frederick Duke  
Isaac Elcombe  
Percy George Hamilton  
William Charles Hammond  
Reginald Henry Jackson  
Ralph Jackson  
Herbert William Launder  
John Philby  
Frederick Quinnell  
James Searle  
Arthur John Smith  
Sydney Onslow Smith  
Alfred Wakeham  
Peter Wakeham

##### North Stoke

Frederick George Scott  
Alfred Dennis Knight  
Charles Upperton

##### Parham

Frank Ernest Austin  
Arthur Elliott  
Percival Drewett Lucas  
Reginal John Weller

##### Greatham

Charles Searle  
John James Searle  
George Dean

#### SECOND WORLD WAR

##### 1939-1945

##### Amberley

Alan Gosden  
Frederick Hamilton  
John Cunningham Jackson  
George Johnson  
Richard John Latham  
Andrew Wontner-Smith

##### Greatham

Michael Taperell

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Opening Hours: Thru-Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm

A selection of pots is also available at Amberley Village Stores.

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# CHRISTMAS AT THE SPORTSMAN, AMBERLEY

Rackham Road Amberley BN18 9NR 01798 831787

29 Nov **BRING A BAUBLE** for the Christmas tree

12 Dec 10-5 **LOVE FROM LOLA** fashion pop-up

18 Dec from 7.30 **Live music & open mic Christmas sing-a-long** with RetroTonic

20 December from 11am **SANTA PAWS** best dressed Christmas doggie competition!

31 December from 6pm **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY** music & dancing till late, takeaway  
curries/chilli served outside from our festival bar

### CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

**Christmas Eve** 10am-10pm Food as normal

**Christmas Day** 12-2pm Drinks only

**Boxing Day** 12-4pm Drinks only

**New Year's Eve Party** at the Pub till late

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 10AM-10PM

FOOD - MON-SAT 12-2PM AND 6-8PM

SUNDAY 12-5PM

### CHRISTMAS MENU AVAILABLE

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[www.facebook.com/thesportsmansussex](https://www.facebook.com/thesportsmansussex)



## PEOPLE & EVENTS

### Welcome...

To **Jacqueline** and **Jonathon Fallowfield-Cooper** who are the new owners of 2 Sportsman Cottages, Rackham Road

### Congratulations...

To **Tash** and **Dave Challis**, who celebrate their 20th anniversary at The Bridge Inn on January 9 with a party at the pub. All are welcome.

### Remembering David Linford

The funeral of David Linford will take place on Monday December 15 at 11.00 am at St Michael's.

David's wife Shirley started as our organist in March 2010 and David, who had a wonderful tenor voice, joined the choir at that time. Later, David acted as our verger and sacristan until just before his sudden death in late September. The Revd. Gerry Burgess will return to take the funeral, which will be followed by a wake in the church hall.

### Village Christmas Lunch

Amberley's popular Christmas Village Lunch in St Michael's Church Hall takes place on Wednesday, December 10 at 1pm

Delicious food, great company and a great festive occasion, all for just £12.50 per person.

Any profit goes to Médecins Sans Frontières and Sussex Air Ambulance.



### Pouring their last cuppa...

Jackie Read and daughter Kayleigh hung up their aprons on November 30 after ten successful years of running the Amberley Village Tea Room. They will be sorely missed by their many grateful customers.

### Subscription renewal time

Once again, we would like to thank our loyal readers for their continued support of the *Wildbrooks Magazine*. Assuming you would like to carry on having it delivered to your door, it is that time of the year when subscription renewals are due.



The good news is that the price remains unchanged and that annual subscribers continue to benefit from a £5 reduction on the cover price of £2 per copy if bought over the counter at Amberley Village Stores, or from one of the four Wildbrooks Churches.

Subscription payments of £15 can be made online to PCC of Amberley (sort code 20-98-74; account no: 13834387) using your surname + MAG as reference. If paying by this method, it is essential you advise Pam Keeble by e-mailing her at [pamwkeebble@gmail.com](mailto:pamwkeebble@gmail.com), confirming that payment has been made. Alternatively, cash payments or cheques (payable to PCC of Amberley – *not* Pam) can be dropped off at The Old Bakehouse, Church Street, Amberley BN18 9NE.

The other good news is that for those who receive their copies by mail – the cost has actually gone down by £3 due to lower postal charges. The annual subscription is now £36 (postage still accounting for £21 of the total).

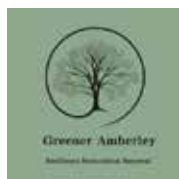
It is essential payments are made before the end of the year to ensure continuity of delivery.

### Jimmy Lee

It is with sadness we record the death of Jimmy Lee, a talented musician, singer/songwriter and poet. He ran the popular Blue Coconut Club in Pulborough for many years. From a turbulent childhood in Sussex to the folk stages of London and honky-tonks of America, his voice and songs touched hearts worldwide. A true pioneer of Americana, his legacy lives on through his music and spirit.



## *Amberley Goes Wild Calendar 2026*



To order your copies of the wonderful Amberley Goes Wild Calendar 2026, please e-mail Catherine on [cunninghampc@gmail.com](mailto:cunninghampc@gmail.com). Alternatively, calendars will be available at the Christmas Fair at the Church Hall on Saturday, November 29 and at the Greener Amberley Christmas Event on Thursday, December 18 for £10 (more, if you are feeling seasonal goodwill!). All proceeds will go to providing up-to-date audio-visual facilities for the Church Hall refurbishment.

**What a great way to celebrate our amazing local natural environment every day in 2026!**

### **IN AID OF ST PETER'S CHURCH PARHAM**

## **Bonfire Night success**

After a sodden Saturday afternoon, the moon came out and we had an amazingly clear evening for our Bonfire Night on November 1. All the early planning by Darren, Nick and Tim once again ensured their wonderful bonfire went up with a whoosh! It was really warming and lovely with over 60 of us filling our barn.

Everyone enjoyed hot soup, sausages, burgers and buns, cheese and frittatas, plus lots of other goodies that quickly disappeared, especially Valerie's chocolate biscuit cakes. It was lovely to catch up with newcomers from Rackham Street with Richard and Karen working hard to get everyone to buy raffle tickets, making over £150 in sales. A big thank you to all those who donated wonderful bottles and other items for prizes.

The fireworks went off with a colourful display under a cloudless sky with children wielding sparklers. The fire kept going and the bric-a-brac stall had Chloe and her team vigorously shaking the bucket for the cash. Phil and Jo kept us all supplied with food throughout the evening and we were so grateful to them and all those who helped in other ways, in particular, Amberley Village Stores.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who came from Amberley, Rackham and further afield, for their willingness to brave the weather and give Parham Church your support and donations. Over the last year we have had to spend more than £55,000 on the church roof and various other repairs, so we were delighted to learn that the evening had raised £670.

Events like these remind us of the strong bonds in our parish. Here's to more gatherings that can lift our spirits in these difficult times.

**EA Draffan**

## **Sloe gin and chutney**

The Bridge Inn is staging its popular Sloe Gin and Chutney evening on Thursday, December 4, from 6pm. You are invited to take along your homemade chutney or sloe gin for sharing and tasting, with Tash and Dave providing a magnificent cheese board with lots of tasty breads. There will be prizes for the winners.



## **A Spooktacular night!**

The nights are getting darker, there's a chill in the air...yes, it's Halloween – the scariest night of the year and you wouldn't want to come across these little monsters in the dark.

The Amberley children all looked fab-BOO-lous for a spooktacular night out trick-or-treating around the village.

As the old saying goes 'it you've got it, haunt it!'





## New Same Day Emergency Care unit opens at Chichester

St Richard's Hospital has opened a new Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) unit, revolutionising urgent care. Backed by a £6 million investment from University Hospitals Sussex, the facility provides same-day diagnosis and treatment by a multi-specialty team, reducing overnight stays and long waits.

Lead consultant Dr Neal Gent calls it "a game-changer," with over 300 patients seen weekly.

The new SDEC is ten times larger than its predecessor, featuring 18 clinical spaces, an open-plan design, and operating from 8am-10pm. It handles medical, surgical, urological, and orthopaedic cases, including chest pain, cellulitis, and abdominal issues, with referrals from GPs or hospital teams. Future upgrades include an Urgent Treatment Centre and an Acute Stroke Centre by 2027.

### ARTS SOCIETIES

## Festive talks

Festive season subjects are in store for members of the local Arts Societies attending this month's lectures.

Star of Wonder, Star of Light: New Evidence for the Star of Bethlehem is the intriguing title of the talk on December 2 for the West Sussex group. The real 'Star' did exist, but what it was and where it shone has been taken on trust for two thousand years. In fact, it aligns perfectly with prophecies in the Old Testament and the astrological readings of the Magi. The talk is at 2pm with coffee and tea afterward. Non-members are welcome for a payment of £10.

The South Downs group who meet the following day, on December 3 at 9.45am, will hear a lecture on Tudor Christmas, a twelve-day long festival, so beloved by English people that its traditions survived remarkably unchanged in an age of tumultuous religious upheaval. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served following the talk. Again, non-members are welcome, without the need to book, for £10.

Both groups meet at Fittleworth Village Hall.

### STORRINGTON FILM NIGHTS

## A star-studded line-up

Inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976, *Penguin Lessons* is this month's choice for the Storrington Film Night. Expecting an easy ride, he discovers a divided nation but after rescuing a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside-down. Starring Steve Coogan, it is being shown on Wednesday, December 17, at 7.30pm, in Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road.

*Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale*, starring Michelle

Dockery and Hugh Bonnenille, will be the first film of the New Year, on January 12. It follows the Crawley family and their staff, as they enter the 1930s.

In February, the choice is *The Roses*, starring Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch.

Tickets are £5 and can be purchased in advance 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 (07523) 322554.

## Raffle in aid of Amberley School

Amberley Primary school is having a festive afternoon of fun to raise funds for our wonderful village school.

There is a raffle with some incredible prizes; tickets (£1) are on sale from the school office or via Marisa on (07824) 322845 should anyone like to buy some.

Although the afternoon is not open to the public, should you wish to make a donation, monetary or by way of a prize for the raffle, it will be gratefully received and appreciated.

Many thanks and Merry Christmas.

**Friends of Amberley School Association (FASA)**

## Village lunch at The Sportsman

After the Christmas festivities and when the January days seem long and dark – that's the time to join your friends and neighbours for a delicious long lunch in the cosy atmosphere of The Sportsman.

Jo Westland and the team will be hosting an Amberley Village Lunch to brighten the winter day on Tuesday, January 13 from 12.30 with lunch at 1pm.

Two courses and coffee for £15.00. Sign up and pay at Amberley Village Stores by January 5 so they can cater for the exact numbers.

## Our thanks to the Model Bakery

From all at Amberley Village Stores, we would like to say a fond farewell to Peter, Phil and all the team at The Model Bakery, Steyning, who will have finished their long career in baking by the time the *Wildbrooks Magazine* appears this month.

We have enjoyed their bread for more than 27 years, and they will be sadly missed.

We wish Peter and Phil a long and happy retirement – you've certainly earned it.

**Colin, Lee and all at Amberley Village Stores**



PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## What your councillors discussed



### Highlights of the meeting held on November 11, 2025 at the Old School, Rackham

**Present:** Will Rydon (acting chair), Catherine Dugdale, Paul Slimming, Philippa Trumper, Claudia Fisher and Nigel Dean. Also in attendance: Vicky Spiers (parish clerk) and one member of the public.

Parham Parish Council convened its latest meeting with a busy agenda, addressing matters ranging from local infrastructure to planning applications and community initiatives.

Claudia Fisher opened proceedings with news from Horsham District Council (HDC). She announced the formation of the Rural & Market Town Alliance, a collaborative effort aimed at strengthening ties between rural communities. The alliance will include Billingshurst, Pulborough, Storrington, Steyning and Henfield. Its first initiative – a community toilet scheme – will see local establishments opening their facilities for public use, improving amenities for residents and visitors alike.

In a sombre moment, Fisher reported the passing of Helen Peacock, a long-standing HDC employee. The council expressed its condolences and instructed the clerk to send a formal message of sympathy.

Attention then turned to road safety. Councillors discussed a response from West Sussex County Council's Traffic Engineering Lead, Matt Gray, regarding a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the B2139. After deliberation, members agreed to apply for a reduction in the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph. The clerk was asked to contact residents who had previously supported a 40mph limit to confirm their backing for the revised proposal – a task acknowledged as time-consuming but necessary.

The meeting also addressed a blocked drain and ditch along Rackham Street. West Sussex Highways confirmed that no council-maintained drains exist on that stretch, suggesting the issue may lie with a landowner failing to meet riparian responsibilities. Councillors resolved to arrange a site meeting with the parishioner who raised the concern.

On vegetation management, the hedge at Pine Cottage has been cut back, but an overgrown hedge in Greatham remains problematic. Highways officials deemed it below the threshold for urgent action, a view councillors strongly contested. The clerk will photograph the site and escalate the matter. Catherine Dugdale highlighted safety concerns, noting branches protruding into the carriageway, forcing drivers towards the centre of the road.

The clerk presented the council's budget, which members

approved without amendment. A notable update came from HDC regarding the council tax base, which has risen significantly for Parham. The increase stems from five properties incurring a 300 per cent levy after standing empty for over a decade. As a result, the parish precept can remain unchanged for the coming year.

Among the planning applications discussed was a proposal for The Parlour in Greatham Lane seeking to convert stables, a tack room and an office into short-term holiday accommodation. Councillors questioned whether a 2014 planning condition prohibited such use and asked the clerk to investigate. Claudia Fisher raised ecological concerns, citing a February bat survey that found brown long-eared bats, yet the accompanying report lacked mitigation measures. Members agreed this omission must be addressed. Additionally, councillors noted the design includes multiple skylights and windows, with no reference to the South Downs National Park Authority's Dark Skies policy.

The council expressed no objection to new toilet facilities at the RSPB centre in Wiggonholt but recommended a pitched roof to match surrounding buildings, rather than the proposed flat design.

Members noted that the South Downs National Park Authority no longer issues notifications of tree works within the parish. The clerk will seek clarification on this policy change.

Finally, councillors agreed meeting dates for 2026: January 20, March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8 and November 10.

**Date of the next meeting:** January 20 (to be confirmed) at 7.30pm in the Old School, Rackham.

## Food waste collections

Food waste collections are coming to the Wildbrooks parishes. Horsham District Council will be adding weekly food waste recycling collections to your bin collections from next spring.

Collections are due to start from March. Your refuse and recycling collections will continue as usual every other week; these new food waste collections are an additional service.

Households will be advised in January about how the service will work, with delivery of starter packs from February, including a 23-litre grey bin with an orange lockable lid, a 5-litre internal kitchen caddy, an instruction leaflet and a roll of liners to get everyone started.

Once collected food waste will be transported, in bulk, to the Horsham Anaerobic Digestion Plant, operated on behalf of West Sussex County Council.

## Eco Hub and Repair Cafe

There will be no Amberley Eco Hub and Repair Cafe in December but it will resume in the New Year on Saturday, January 10 from 10am until 1230pm.



## Amberley Parish Council

### Highlights of the meeting held on November 13, 2025 in St Michaels Church Hall

A broad range of subjects, ranging from planning applications and infrastructure improvements to financial decisions and community initiatives were discussed by councillors..

The meeting opened with a review of planning issues currently under consideration. These included restoration works at Amberley Museum, alterations to Kennards on Hog Lane, and tree works at Amberley Cottage and Old Ale House. Lee Cresswell, chair of the planning committee will write to the South Downs National Park Authority to clarify the position regarding The Black Horse.

Reports on infrastructure confirmed that drains along the B2139 near The Cricketers had been cleared and hedges bordering footpaths were being cut back. The village pond was reported to be showing signs of recovery, with grass growth and rising water levels noted, although UK Power Networks were unable to encase exposed cabling until stream levels fall in spring. The Clerk would meet a contractor to address issues raised in the recent RoSPA playground inspection, and the asset register remained unchanged as no updates were received from councillors.

Work continued on the business plan required for the transfer of the car park asset from Horsham District Council, and the clerk hoped to submit details shortly. Meanwhile, the village bus service remains suspended pending essential repairs [subsequently resolved and back in service within a few days]. The bus committee was formalising its structure, and new safety notices would be installed inside the vehicle.

The Speedwatch group reported that reduced daylight hours had limited monitoring sessions, but plans were in place to publish more data, explore noise-monitoring equipment, liaise with police on acoustic cameras, and distribute leaflets to raise awareness.

The meeting welcomed Mike Attard who had been co-opted as a councillor. The council's resilience plan was expected to circulate for comments before January's meeting, and Horsham District Council had removed a rogue bin from the car park and a dumpy bag from the recreation ground. Water neutrality restrictions imposed by West Sussex County Council and Natural England were discussed, with councillors noting that time will reveal the full impact. Revised policies will be shared in advance over the coming months.

The clerk addressed complaints against him received earlier in the year, confirming that one had been dismissed and three were not upheld, and noted a petition signed by a small number of parishioners. Correspondence regarding local government reorganisation has been answered with a comprehensive update. Operation Watershed works in the Piggery middle and top fields, as well as east of Newlands Gardens, were now complete.

Financial matters were also addressed, with the council approving bank reconciliations for September and October, along with the 2025/26 budget and precept. A 16% increase was confirmed, and a letter explaining the reasons would be sent to parishioners. While the Financial Committee's recommendations were accepted, additional allowances proposed by the clerk were rejected.



**Pam Keeble, Tree and Pond warden since 2008, pictured here with some of her pond volunteers. She resigned in the autumn, having been threatened with legal action by the parish clerk**

Several key resolutions were agreed during the meeting. The decommissioned telephone kiosk in Amberley Square will be adopted, with a community survey to determine its future use. Meeting dates for 2026/27 were confirmed, and the Nature Recovery/Climate Change Committee will continue under the new name of the Nature & Environment Committee, chaired by Mike Attard.

Financial regulation changes were approved to expedite payments within budget, and a softwood option for the bus stop opposite The Sportsman was

agreed, with the clerk overseeing its installation.

Councillors also adopted NALC policies on staff grievance, discipline, and complaints, alongside the Civility & Respect pledge, and agreed to form a complaints and appeals panel.

Tree Warden responsibilities will transfer to the Nature & Environment Committee, with thanks extended to outgoing warden Pam Keeble. A South Downs National Park Authority grant for pond planting will now be used behind Newlands Gardens, subject to approval.

Residents raised several questions during the adjournment, including queries on the budget increase, pond planting species, and tree maintenance on the football field. The clerk confirmed that all pond species were native and approved by Natural England, and the chair assured that tree maintenance would be addressed soon.

Councillors also agreed to the formation of a staffing committee in principle.

**Date of the next meeting:** Thursday, January 15, at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall.



## OPEN DOORS ADVENT CALENDAR 2025

### Monday, December 1 (2pm-5pm)

Come to Highview, Rackham Road (three houses east of the Sportsman on the same side of the road) and make a personalised gift wrap accompanied by seasonal refreshments. Limited to 10 people, so please let Cyndy Kennett know if you would like a place: [cyndy@profact.co.uk](mailto:cyndy@profact.co.uk) or (01798) 831010. Donations to Freedom from Torture.

### Monday, December 1 (6pm-8pm)

**Cava and Canapés by Candlelight** to start December and Advent with some fizz and nibbles. Sue and Malcolm Pheasey invite you to Downsland, Turnpike Road. Meet some new neighbours and get together with old friends. RSVP [suepheasey6@gmail.com](mailto:suepheasey6@gmail.com) or on (01798) 839046. Donations to Freedom from Torture.

### Wednesday, December 3 (10am-1pm)

**Festive Card, Gift and Tree Decoration Ideas Workshop** in St Michael's Church Hall. Do come along and join Jax Feakins, Mary Leonard and Sandie Conlon for another fun and festive 'Arty Crafty' morning trying your hand at some simple and effective ideas on how to create your own cards, gift tags and simple tree decorations in readiness for Christmas. No experience needed and all materials plus mid-morning refreshments included for £15pp. Numbers are limited to no more than 18. For further information, and to book, please contact Sandie Conlon on (01798) 839320 or e-mail [sandie.conlon@btinternet.com](mailto:sandie.conlon@btinternet.com). Proceeds in aid of Myeloma UK (a blood cancer charity).



### Saturday, December 6 (10am-2pm)

**Model Railway in the Loft** at Downsland, Turnpike Road. Malcolm Pheasey invites enthusiasts of all ages (grandchildren especially welcome!) to visit his model railway. Please note that access is via a stepladder and not for the faint hearted. Refreshments will be offered. RSVP [suepheasey6@gmail.com](mailto:suepheasey6@gmail.com) or 01798 839046. Donations to Freedom from Torture.



### Sunday, December 7 (2pm-4pm)

**Tree Dressing on the Millennium Green – A celebration of trees.** Come along to Amberley Millennium Green to decorate some of our wonderful trees. Tree Dressing Day is based on many old customs from all over the world and was initiated by Common Ground in 1990. Please bring along homemade, natural tree decorations (no plastic, glass or glitter) to hang on the trees. There will be an opportunity to make natural tree decorations and enjoy hot drinks and s'mores toasted over a campfire. If you are unable to come to the event, please do visit the trees and add to the decorations if you wish. The decorations will come down on Sunday, January 4 and if

you wish to keep your decorations please come and collect them from the trees. Donations to the Amberley Millennium Green Trust.

**Monday, December 8 (10am-12 noon) Christmas Wreath making Workshop** with Jacqui Feakins in St Michael's Church Hall. This popular event is run by Jacqui and is usually over-subscribed by the time this diary goes to press. Do contact Jacqui at [jaxfs@aol.com](mailto:jaxfs@aol.com). Donations to Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice.

### Wednesday, December 10 (12.30pm for 1pm)

**Christmas Village Lunch** at St Michael's Church Hall. Full traditional Christmas lunch followed by mince pies or fruit compote and coffee and petits fours. Any profit from the £12.50 lunch will go to Sussex Air Ambulance and Médecins sans Frontières.

### Thursday, December 11 (7pm-9pm)

Mike Toynbee's famously difficult quiz at Brooklands, East Street to be enjoyed over a glass or two of wine and nibbles while you puzzle over enigmatic clues and ones so simple you will kick yourself when the answers are revealed. RSVP [mike@brooklandsamberley.com](mailto:mike@brooklandsamberley.com). Donations to Macmillan Cancer support.

### Friday, December 12 (7.30pm-9.30pm)

**Casino Royale Evening** – at 25 Newland Gardens (hosted by 22, 23, 25 Newland Gardens and Pickwick, Turnpike Road) announce that James Bond is returning to Amberley, along with Russell's famous home-brew. Dress code optional but it would be great if you could wear something black/white/sparkly. Donations to be split between Cancer Research and Amberley Millennium Green Trust. RSVP [kim.j.smith@icloud.com](mailto:kim.j.smith@icloud.com) so we can judge numbers.

### Tuesday, December 16 (10am-12 noon)

**Make Decorations at the Sportsman.** Lisa Carey invites you to make paper concertina Christmas decorations using pages from old unwanted books. Numbers limited to 20 and participants are requested to bring their own scissors.



# **Christmas Services in the Wildbrooks Benefice**



## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December,**

11.00am, St Michael's Amberley: Communion Service,  
with collection of Christmas Gifts for Family Support Work

## **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December,**

4.00pm: St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke: Blessing of the Crib with carols

## **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve**

3.00pm, Amberley: Journey to the Crib, from The Square to the Church

6.00pm, Wiggonholt: five lessons and Carols in the churchyard,  
followed by 7.00pm Communion Service

## **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day**

9.00am Greatham Church: Christmas Communion Service

9.15am St Peter's, Parham: Christmas Service

10.30am St Michael's, Amberley: Christmas Communion Service



# INTRODUCTION TO LINOCUT

Join Lisa Carey for a relaxing morning of creating linoprint blocks for printing your own greetings cards, labels, and wrapping paper.



THE SPORTSMAN INN  
AMBERLEY  
27th January 2026  
10AM - 1PM

All tools and equipment will be provided  
To book your place email [lisamcarey.lc@gmail.com](mailto:lisamcarey.lc@gmail.com)

**£45 PER PERSON**

## *Blessing of the Christmas Crib with Carols*

**SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER 4pm**  
*A Service with **children** in mind*

**THE REVD BARBARA STANTON**



## ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH STOKE

In the Church by candlelight: bring a torch

**REFRESHMENTS**



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST



Local, reliable electrician based in Storrington offering friendly service to the local area.

Proud member of the NICEIC Domestic Installer scheme. All work certified & guaranteed for 12 months.

- Consumer Unit Upgrades
- Cabin, Garage & Shed Wiring
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- Fault Finding & Rectification
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- Inspection, Testing & Certification



07922 240729 [chris@cjselectrical.net](mailto:chris@cjselectrical.net) [cjselectrical.net](http://cjselectrical.net)

PROUD MEMBERS OF  
**Checkatrade**  
Where reputation matters



sors. Lisa will provide a glue stick for each person, paper, twine and beads for the decorations. Please let Lisa know in advance so she can prepare the materials. Contact her on (07402) 757590 or e-mail [lisamcarey.lc@gmail.com](mailto:lisamcarey.lc@gmail.com). Donations for Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.



**Wednesday, December 17 (from 6.30pm)**  
**Carols and Chestnuts at the Bridge Inn.** Carols around the tree with complimentary roasted chestnuts. Petworth Town Band will be merrily playing for us to sing along and get into the Christmas spirit. Mulled wine will keep us warm and who knows? It might snow. Donations to St Peter and St James Hospice.

**Thursday, December 18 (6pm-8.30pm)**

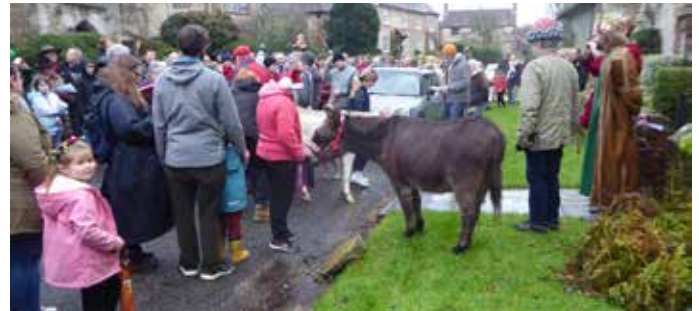
**Greener Amberley:** you are invited to join Greener Amberley in the Church Hall for a fun, green, Christmassy evening. You will learn of our work during 2025 and what we have planned for next year, enjoy a tasty green treat and a locally produced festive drink. You can also buy one of our very own Greener Amberley calendars to help fund new audio-visual equipment for the refurbished church hall.

**Friday, December 19 (6pm onwards)**

**Carol singing round the village.** Everyone welcome to join in. Meet at the bus shelter at Hurst Cottages at 6pm. We will sing for about two hours depending on weather conditions. Bring a torch and wear more clothes than you think you will need. Cyndy Kennett will provide the music. It would be helpful to have a rough idea of numbers: [cyn-dy@profact.co.uk](mailto:cyn-dy@profact.co.uk) or (07745) 407185. The collection will be for St Barnabas Hospice

**Afterwards, at around 8pm**

**Christmas Hospitality** at Suzie and Russell Coates, who will open their door to carol singers at Little Nailards in the Alley and offer refreshments after their musical efforts.



**Wednesday, December 24 (3pm)**

**The traditional Journey to the Crib.** This will start in the Square and make its way down Church Street meeting the shepherds and Three Kings on the way to the crib at St Michael's Church. Last year there were donkeys and sheep to meet on the way, but no camels. Refreshments afterwards in the church. Donations to the Lorica Trust.

## Christmas/New Year pub opening hours

### Support our local pubs

#### The Black Horse

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	9am-10pm (food 12 noon-2pm and 6pm-8.30pm)
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Closed
<b>Boxing Day</b>	9am-10pm (food 12 noon-6pm)
<b>New Year's Eve</b>	9am-5pm (food 12 noon-3pm) Celebration dinner, 6pm for 7pm (advance booking only)
<b>New Year's Day</b>	9am-10pm (food 12 noon-6pm)

#### The Bridge Inn

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	12 noon-9pm (food 12 noon-2.30pm and 6pm-8pm)
<b>Christmas Day</b>	12 noon-2pm (drinks only)
<b>Boxing Day</b>	Closed
<b>New Year's Eve</b>	12 noon-5pm (food until 4pm)
<b>New Year's Day</b>	12 noon-5pm



#### The Sportsman Inn

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	10am-10pm (food 12 noon-2pm and 6pm-8pm)
<b>Christmas Day</b>	12 noon-2pm (drinks only)
<b>Boxing Day</b>	12 noon-4pm (drinks only)
<b>New Year's Eve</b>	10am until late (party)

#### George & Dragon, Houghton

At the time of going to press, the pub was still closed for refurbishment, new tenants having taken over, but was expected to reopen before Christmas.

#### Riverside Tea Room, Houghton Bridge

Closed from December 22 until January 3



## What's on this Christmas

**Our round-up of carol services and concerts, not to mention pantomimes and much more, all of which are on offer locally during the festive season.**

### Concerts

Chichester Festival Theatre welcomes back **The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood** and the uplifting voices of the Chichester Cathedral Choir for its traditional, much-loved Christmas concerts – guaranteed to leave you feeling merry and bright. They take place at 7.30pm from December 2-6, with a matinee on Saturday, December 6 at 2.30pm.

Brimming with yuletide cheer, these concerts promise an evening of cherished carols and classic Christmas melodies, alongside some enchanting new arrangements. And of course there will be an opportunity for a gloriously uplifting sing-along with a medley of seasonal favourites.

The **Leconfield Singers** are performing at a Christmas concert – *A Winter's Tale* – at St Mary's Church, Petworth, on December 20 at 6pm.

### Carol services

There are once again two charity carol concerts at Arundel Cathedral. The first, in aid of **Canine Partners**, which trains assistance dogs with people who have physical disabilities, is on December 11 at 6.30pm. Tickets are priced £7-£15.

The second, in aid of the **Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance**, is on December 15 at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £15-£20. The concert will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

**Arun Choral Society** presents Carols in the Cathedral on Saturday, December 13 at 7.30pm, is a much-loved highlight of the local festive season. Set within the stunning architecture and candlelit beauty of the cathedral, this atmospheric evening brings together singers, audience, and community for an uplifting celebration of Christmas.

At **Chichester Cathedral** there are four opportunities to attend this year's carol services, with carols and music sung by the cathedral choir: December 18 and 19 at 6pm, and on December 20 and 22 at 3pm. All are welcome to these celebrations of Christmas. No booking is required – general seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis, with doors opening one hour before each service.

Here in the Wildbrooks parishes, **Amberley Primary School's** carol concert, is being held in St Michael's Church at 2pm on December 19, to which everyone is welcome.

With children very much in mind, the **Candlelit Blessing of the Crib** at St Mary the Virgin Church at North Stoke takes place on Saturday, December 20, at 4pm.

On Christmas Eve, there is a **Candlelit Carol Service** in the churchyard of the delightful Wiggonholt Church at 6pm, followed by a short service of Holy Communion. Earlier in the day, the now traditional **Procession to the Crib** from Amberley's Square to the church, complete with donkeys, shepherds and kings, sets off at 3pm.

Both **The Bridge Inn** and **The Sportsman** have special events to celebrate the festive season. The Bridge Inn's traditional and very popular **Carols & Chestnuts** evening takes place this year on Wednesday, December 17, complete with the Petworth Town Band, complimentary hot chestnuts and even the possibility of snow – if landlord Dave Challis gets his act together! The evening starts at 6.30pm.

Among the The Sportsman's festive events is **Santa Paws**, a best dressed Christmas canine competition at 11am on Saturday, December 20. And on New Year's eve there is a party with music and dancing, with takeaway curries/chilli served outside from its festive bar.

Also on New Year's Eve, **The Black Horse** has a celebratory tasting menu, priced at £120 per head.



**Santa Paws**

### Entertainment

Storrington Amateur Dramatic Society is performing *Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame's beloved classic reworked as a traditional pantomime. Featuring Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad, who is played by our very own Martin Carter, of Hog Lane, it is being staged at Sullington Parish Hall from December 3-6. Tickets are priced £12 for adults and £6 for children and performances start at 7pm, apart from Friday (7.30pm) and a matinee on Saturday (2pm).

At Chichester Festival Theatre, the festive Youth Theatre production this year is a reimagining of *Cinderella* with charming puppets, catchy original songs and some magical surprises. The production runs for just two weeks from December 17-31.

For younger children (ages 3-7 years), *The Three Little Pigs* runs from December 6 until December 28 in the Minerva Theatre.

*A Boy Called Christmas*, an enthralling, charming and magical tale that tells the true story of Father Christmas, is another festive production at Chichester Festival, running from 15th December 15-31.

*Robin Hood* at The Capitol Horsham, is currently on and runs until 4th Jan 2026. *Cinderella* is also the choice at the Pavilion Theatre, Worthing (December 4-January 4). And the Littlehampton Musical Comedy Society presents a traditional family pantomime, **Mother Goose**, at The Windmill





# Christmas Goodies

From Amberley Village Stores

(A)Turkey

(A)Chicken

(A)Beef

(A)Gammon

(A)Venison

(A)Home made pies

(A)Ham

(A)Smoked salmon

(A)Smoked Products

(B)Fruit

(B)Vegetables

(B)Bread

(B)Milk

(B)Eggs

£3 per delivery

unless subscribed to the free Delivery service

Order form (A) in by 7th December before 11.30am

Order form (B) in by 16th December before 5pm

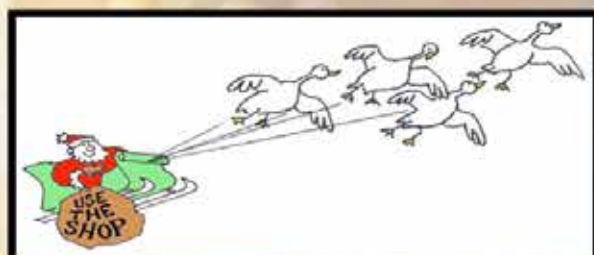
**Fruit & Veg(B), Butchers(A), W.Smokery(A) Milk(B)  
Delivery & C&C Tuesday 23/12**

**Bread(B) Collection from store ONLY 24/12**

Form- [Amberleyshop.uk](http://Amberleyshop.uk)

Telephone-01798 831171 8:30am to 10:30am Tuesday & Thursday

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







Entertainment Centre from January 15-18.

And **Fishers Farm**, at New Pound, near Wisborough Green, will be performing *Jack and the Beanstalk*, in addition to all the other festive activities – always popular with young families.

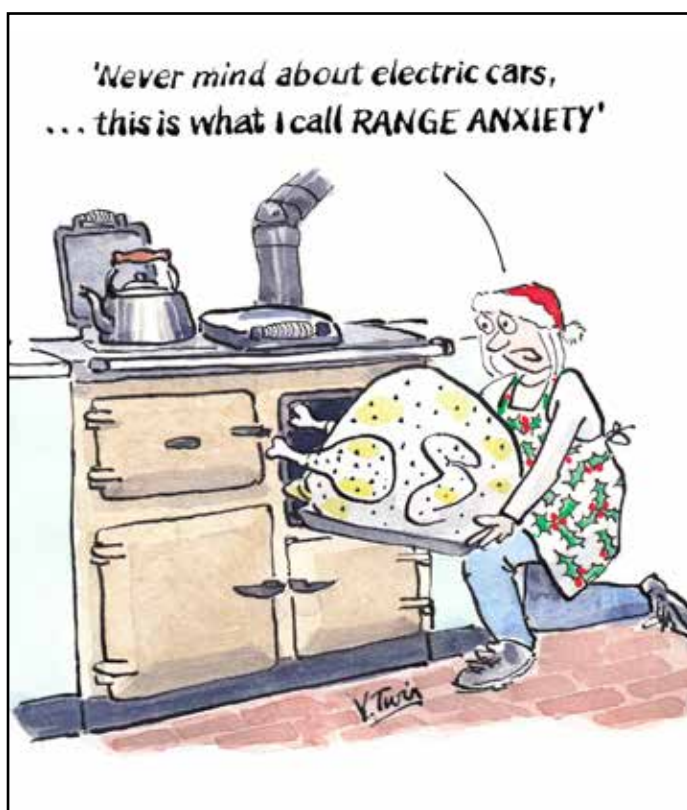
**The Wey & Arun Canal's** 40/50-minute Santa trips start on December 6. They include mulled wine and a mince pie for grown-ups and a drink, biscuit and present for children. All trips depart from the wharf behind the Onslow Arms pub at Loxwood, and operate at weekends of December 6-7, 13-14 and 20-21, with additional departures on December 22.

### Father Christmas experiences

Such has been the demand for **Amberley Museum's** popular Christmas Adventure weekends during December that tickets for the train to Father Christmas' Parlour have already sold out but there is still plenty to see and do for visitors.

At **Chichester Festival Theatre**, children can join theatre elves in Santa's Grotto for a behind-the-scenes tour of their enchanting workshop before believers meet Father Christmas himself. You can take an 'elfie and little ones receive an early Christmas present to place under the tree. Available from December 6-23. Best availability now on weekdays; limited availability at weekends.

And at **Riverside at Houghton Bridge**, Breakfast or Tea with Santa is on offer every weekend during December, although you will need to be quick as it is fast booking up.



### Christmas posting deadlines

Such is the efficiency of the Royal Mail these days, if you are planning to send Christmas cards overseas (assuming you can afford to do so with a minimum charge of £3.40), you now need to post them during the first week in December. For the record, a first class stamp is now £1.70 and second class is 87p.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

**Wednesday, December 17**

Second class

**Friday, December 19**

First class

**Tuesday, December 23**

Special Delivery (guaranteed Wednesday)

#### OVERSEAS

**Monday, December 1**

Africa, Asia & Far East, Australia, Caribbean, Central and South America, China, Middle East, New Zealand

**Tuesday, December 2**

Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Spain

**Wednesday, December 3**

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic and Poland), France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland and Turkey

**Thursday, December 4**

Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, US

● **Amberley Village Post Office** stocks the full range of Christmas stamps

## Your Christmas greetings to friends and neighbours



*Lillis and David Lyon  
And Family  
Wish all those in the  
Wildbrooks Parishes  
A Merry Christmas And  
A Happy & Peaceful New Year*



Valerie and Ian wish all their friends  
and neighbours a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



**Rob and Glenys Rowe  
wish all their friends and  
neighbours happiness  
and good health for  
Christmas and 2025**

Tim and Alison  
wish all their friends and neighbours  
a very Merry Christmas  
and a peaceful New Year



*Merry Christmas Everyone!  
We send our warmest good wishes  
and high hopes for a healthy and  
happy 2026.*

*Jacqui and Bob Middleton*



Steve and Cyndy  
wish everyone in the  
Amberley community  
a very happy Christmas  
and healthy 2026



Peter and Sally Rollinson  
wish all our friends and neighbours  
a joyful, peaceful and healthy Christmas  
with love and hope for the year ahead

Happy Christmas, one and all  
We really hope you have a ball  
And an excellent year ahead  
Whatever Rachel Reeves has said.  
Season's greetings to all our Wildbrooks friends

Marj, James and Tilly







## Your Christmas greetings to friends and neighbours



*To all our friends  
a joyful and peaceful Advent.  
Kel am wa entom bi khair.  
Neil, Zalfa, Thomas, Julian and  
Dorothy*

Fond festive greetings to our friends  
and neighbours from Mark, Mark  
and our new addition Ola, a  
4-year-old rescue toy poodle  
whom many of you will have  
met on Church Street  
or the beloved tea room!



**Janet and Mike**  
wish all their old friends and neighbours  
a very Happy Christmas  
and a Healthy New Year

Wishing everyone  
a very happy Christmas  
and a peaceful, healthy  
and prosperous New Year.

Adrienne and Phil



*Bel, Flo, Arthur and Marcus  
send love to the village and beyond  
for a peaceful Christmas and 2026*

Season's Greetings  
from John and Stella  
Swallow Barn




Dear friends and neighbours  
Jeff and Jaxx (and Poppy)  
wish you all a very happy Christmas  
and a healthy New Year x



Ahoy there!  
Simon and Rhona wish all their sailing  
acquaintances, friends and  
neighbours a suitably liquid festive  
season and plenty of plain sailing  
in 2026.




## Your Christmas greetings to friends and neighbours




*Wishing all our friends  
and neighbours  
a very happy Christmas  
and the best of good fortune in 2026.*

*With warmest wishes  
Tim & Ros*



Pat and Tim Ashby enjoyed Amberley  
from 1999 to 2022. Such a wonderful,  
friendly place to live. Tim now lives,  
with happy memories, at Barlavington Manor.

I wish a Happy Christmas to old friends,  
and extend a welcome to new residents!



**Warmest Wishes for Christmas and  
the New Year to all our Amberley  
friends and neighbours!**


**Catherine and Peter Cunningham**

**Amberley Place**

Wishing friends and neighbours  
a happy Christmas and hope  
that 2026 is a good one for all...

Festive greetings from  
Tesh & Annali xx


The Cricketers




Rose and Robert Englehart  
would like to wish everyone in the  
Wildbrooks Benefice a very Happy  
Christmas and a Peaceful New  
Year. Do all come to the Christmas  
Service at Greatham Church on  
Christmas Day at 9.00am



*Wishing everyone a merry Christmas  
and a happy new year  
Amberley Parish Council*



*Best wishes for Christmas  
and the New Year  
to all our friends  
Ray and Rosemary Jackson*



*Wishing all our friends  
in Houghton & Amberley  
a very Happy Christmas  
and a Healthy New year!  
Angela and Chris*



## Your Christmas greetings to friends and neighbours



*Bob and Sally Hutchinson  
send all their friends in  
Amberley every good wish for a  
happy Christmas and a happy,  
healthy New Year*

Wishing everyone in Amberley a very happy Christmas and a happy, safe and peaceful 2026 . I'd also like to thank everyone for the kindness and help that they have given to both Suki and I over these last six months.

Claire



**Season's greetings to all  
friends and neighbours, and  
wishing everyone a healthy  
and peaceful 2026**

**Geoff & Heidi, The Granary**

*Wishing all our friends and  
neighbours a very happy  
Christmas and all the  
very best for the  
New Year  
Russell and Suzie*



Sarah and Mike  
Wish all our friends  
in the Wildbrooks Parishes  
a very Merry Christmas  
and all the very best  
for the New Year.



Wishing everyone a very  
Happy Christmas & a  
Healthy & Prosperous  
New Year."

Mary Leonard



Christmas wishes and a  
very Happy New Year  
from Riverside!



*And finally from your Editor...*

*I clambered up high to put things away  
But ladder and I crashed – oh unhappy day  
Operations and bedrest were the only cure  
But neighbours rallied round with friendship pure  
And for me now ground level holds most allure*

*Moral of this sad tale: Octogenarians should not be  
climbing ladders that fail!*







## Rewilding: getting the balance right for the public good

**Michael Finnigan, who grew up in Amberley and spent a lifetime involved in agriculture, reflects on the pros and cons of rewilding**

Our British countryside has evolved since creation and continues to do so, responding to geologic and climatic conditions which have allowed plant and animal species to evolve taking greatest advantage of opportunities presented. As conditions have changed, species have thrived, then sometimes declined and vanished in response to different conditions over time. Interactions between species have, in their turn, changed the composition of the landscape. In the last two or three centuries the rate of change has gathered pace, largely as a result of human activity, and changes are more apparent when they happen over a shorter time scale.

Rewilding is about removing human influence, and letting natural factors reshape the landscape, seemingly to return to a landscape which existed before the industrial revolution, and to reintroduce species which were able to exist in that environment, a reintroduction which in itself constitutes human interference on a massive scale.

It is hard to see how an ecosystem which existed when much of the country was effectively unaffected by human interference; and when the UK population was around six million, is relevant in a country which now has a population well over ten times that and growing rapidly. And a country which is only 62 per cent self-sufficient in food production at a time when the vulnerability of the global supply chain is demonstrated with alarming frequency. Re-introducing species which died out centuries ago into limited areas will result in isolated communities which will require continuing human management to survive in a re-created environment not natural to our time.

The management of land for conservation purposes offers opportunities to create favourable conditions for species, present or recently lost, under threat from changing agricultural practices. Deciding when land can be taken out of production and given to conservation management must take into account land quality. Taking our most productive land, which could be farmed in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner, out of production results in us having to import more food from countries which frequently lack our strict controls over environmental harm, and cause further environmental damage during food transportation.

There are many state and private initiatives which help and encourage land managers to continue to farm, but in ways compatible with environmental protection. Sometimes, but by no means always, this can be done at no cost. But we do need to recognise that incentives will be needed to encourage management practices for the public good, which are not always compatible with the need to produce our food at a price we are prepared to pay.

## AMBERLEY PARISH TRUST Annual Report for 2024/25

The Trust was set up in 1999 to ensure the provision of a village shop in Amberley. We do this through the vehicle of Amberley Shop Properties Ltd, a company wholly owned by the Trust, which has a 999-year lease of the shop premises. These are in turn leased to Colin Woods and Lee Stace who run the shop and Post Office as an independent business.

Trust income comprises rental from the shop and returns from an investment fund, the latter established through the generosity of local donors and a significant bequest from the late Bill Smith, a life-long resident. In the year ending 31st March 2025 Amberley Shop Properties Ltd, made an overall loss of £22,004 compared with a profit in the previous year of £52,345. This reflects changes in the value of the investment portfolio and support grants made to the Village Store in excess of rents received. The performance of the investment portfolio always reflects market conditions. However, these investments have shown a compounding return of 6 per cent over the past 15 years, and are currently performing better than last year.

On the 31st March 2025 shareholder's funds (owned by the Trust) including the value of the shop's lease, amounted to £524,650.

In the last year the Trust made the following grants to help maintain the Village store, totalling £3,085. This included: Post Office support of £2,640, advertising of £370, and repairs of £75.

The objective of the Trust is to ensure the long-term provision of a Village Shop. The Trust increasingly believes that in the future this will be best achieved by linking together other assets in the village around a Community Centre. The Trust is actively working alongside Amberley Parish Council and others to find a suitable site to accommodate this.

Colin recently gave the Trustees a frank overview of the many challenges that Lee and he face running a village shop in a constantly changing retail market. They and their small team, work very hard to provide an important service for our community and we for our part all need to support them by shopping at the store and Post Office whenever possible.

Amberley Parish trustees are Mrs A Garrity, Mr P Greenwood, Mr S Hoy, Mr J Feakins and Mr D Vokins. Mrs S Conlon is secretary to both the company and the Trust.

**David Vokins**

**Chair of the Trustees  
November 2025**

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# **AMBERLEY WELFARE TRUST**

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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)*



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## A fond farewell to Wendy Huggins – Amberley's secret painter

Wendy Huggins is an Amberley stalwart and a friend to everyone. After 15 years of living in the village and at the grand age of 87, Wendy is leaving us on 1 February to move to a retirement apartment in Hurstpierpoint.

We all know Wendy for her warmth, charming conversation and for her unwavering support of Amberley's charities and fundraising efforts. But behind closed doors, Wendy turns out to have a surprising secret – she is a talented chronicler of country life and has created over one hundred remarkable paintings, mostly depicting the flowers and landscapes of Surrey and Sussex. There is a delicate beauty to Wendy's work in the interaction of colour and shapes – both in the translucent watercolours and the darker, more dramatic acrylics.



**Wendy with daughter Gid, pictured at Glyndebourne**

Wendy received no formal art education and developed her style through experimentation, practice – and by studying books and YouTube videos.



Wendy was first inspired to paint some 50 years ago when, walking down the fairway on the golf course on a beautiful autumn day, the beech trees

**Overgrown lake at Amberley Castle** seemed to be raining gold. She remembers the vision and a feeling that came over her, that she just had to capture that moment. Finding herself busy with everyday life, Wendy then put her brush down for a while...but picked it up again some years later when she saw local artist Chris Forsey painting in the window of a little gallery in Dorking and was inspired by his style and subject matter.

Wendy says she likes to paint what is near-by and that her immediate surroundings provide a powerful and accessible source of inspiration. In particular, Wendy finds the village pond to be a perfect artist's picture, with the trees leaning over the water, the fields in the background and the changing colours: 'every hour and every day, every angle and every perspective is different', she says. Other favourites are a view through Amberley Castle's walls to the grazing sheep on the Downs and Amberley's hollyhocks lining Church Street, with their tall spears of vibrant flowers burning brightly on a hot summer's day.

Wendy describes her style as a natural process – 'loose and suggestive, textured and layered, creating movement and capturing the changing light and colour on the landscape'.



**The beauty of Amberley village pond**

We wish Wendy much happiness in her retirement apartment and hope that – liberated from the tedium of daily chores and admin – she is inspired to create a hundred more beautiful paintings and that one day, she will come back to Amberley to show them all.

**Susan Watson**



**Hollyhocks in Church Street**



**An imagined sunrise**



**Summer poppies**





## The 'Ghost Owl'

Scanning the Wildbrooks at dusk you glimpse a pale creature slowly and silently quartering the riverbank – a barn owl is out hunting.

The barn owl is primarily nocturnal but can sometimes be seen at dusk and at dawn. Its flight appears effortless, and its specially adapted feathers muffle any noise ensuring it can hunt silently. It is the brilliant white underparts that give it the folk name 'Ghost Owl' and while these may stand out to us, from a 'prey's eye view' they could be a passing cloud or moonshine. The golden colour on the back merges with the rushes and reeds alongside the riverbank.

The sound-absorbing feathers are not the only adaptation the barn owl has to enable it to hunt and find its prey – largely mice and voles – in the pitch darkness. The heart-shaped face of the owl helps to concentrate and focus the squeaks and tiny footsteps of small mammals towards the bird's ears, essentially acting like a sound dish. Try this out yourself by cupping your hands behind your ears and seeing how much more you can hear.

The ears themselves are positioned asymmetrically on the side of the owl's head with one slightly higher than the other. This arrangement helps to pinpoint the exact location of the unseen prey due to the minute time difference in the sound reaching each ear. The barn owl then dives into the long grass, talons outstretched to seize its unsuspecting supper.

The breeding success of barn owls is strongly influenced by their food supply so is dependent on both weather and populations of their prey species. The barn owl is not well adapted to the rain and struggles to hunt in poor weather conditions as its feathers get waterlogged. They will lay their eggs one by one over a series of days leaving them on a bed of their pellets – the regurgitated fur, feathers and bones – and start incubation.

This staggered approach to egg-laying means that when the chicks hatch there can be a significant difference in their ages (and therefore size). If the food supply is a little meagre, it is not unusual for the older larger chicks to eat their siblings – a bit gruesome but this makes good sense at a species level as it ensures that at least one chick survives to fledging. It seems remarkable that such ugly owlets somehow grow up to be such beautiful owls.

Sadly, barn owls in Sussex experienced one of the worst breeding seasons in decades in 2025. Monitoring by the Sussex Barn Owl Group found a significant drop in chick numbers, with just 28 ringed, compared to 224 in 2024. Researchers are analysing owl pellets to investigate the cause, but the poor breeding season is likely due to a food



It is the brilliant white underparts that give it the folk name 'Ghost Owl'

shortage, particularly field voles, possibly caused by overwinter flooding and then the dry spring.

We had no nesting barn owls at Pulborough Brooks this year, but we know we have at least one adult bird on site as it has been pooping a lot in West Mead hide where it occasionally roosts overnight. I'm yet to retrieve any pellets in the hide yet though, which are one of the slightly stinky but exciting natural treasures that I like to find.

Now is the time of year to take advantage of the earlier evenings and enjoy a cuppa on our café terrace, watching out for the barn owl as you admire the sun setting over the brooks.

**Anna Allum**

**Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB Wiggoholt**



The fury of the sea at Newhaven

## Our neglected oceans

December has a real indoors vibe. Short days, finishing work in the dark and inconsistent weather doesn't exactly motivate us to get out, even if we know it's good for us.

This poses a challenge for connecting with wildlife, which we know can increase people's desire to protect the natural world. Despite many species hibernating or migrating, there is still so much to see. To throw yourself in at the deep end, figuratively speaking, I encourage you this winter to explore our beautiful Sussex coast. That said, in reviewing my par-

Picture: Howard Kearley

Picture: Peter Brooks





ish magazine articles of this year, I realise I've not included any marine species. This is awkward. If our marine team find out they'll be livid. But also, we work hard to connect people with blue spaces, promote the value and wonder of the ocean and fight for its protection, so how could I have overlooked it?

The marine environment has long since suffered from a lack of attention in the conservation world and beyond despite the fact oceans account for around 70 per cent of the world's surface. At the risk of sounding like I'm defending myself, in a way it's understandable. We're terrestrial mammals, desperately under-resourced for the aquatic. We seek warmth, dryness, a firm foundation underfoot, and can align more easily with perils of the warm-blooded – and things with a face.

Many of us value coastal connections: beach trips, swimming, travel to warmer waters. But our oceans are not a luxury. They are a lifeline. A critical feature of our eco-system, which we and all other life on earth could not survive without. Our disconnect with the ocean environment is con-

tributing to its demise, and we must turn it around.

There is something fascinating about the unknown of the big blue, and once you start to investigate, you realise how truly epic it is. Although much is out of sight from land, the diversity of healthy UK waters has such colour and vibrancy, from royal blue lobsters to 90s-neon corkscrew wrasse, and other-wordly nudibranchs.

In winter it's wild. The drama of furious waters, crashing waves and freezing sea-spray. Watching, huddled in layers, a freezing cold nose and the promise of an after winter-walk's too-hot-yet chips. Heading to the water's edge for stone-sprinkled sand and shell treasure discoveries. And there's nothing like a stomp along a windswept beach to galvanise a slumped after-Christmas-dinner bunch.

So, this December, why not skip a shopping trip, dodge the odd social occasion, push that deadline. Instead, head to the sea.

**Kerry Williams**

**Communications Officer – Conservation,  
Sussex Wildlife Trust**

#### RECIPE

## Apple Mincemeat Filo Pie (Pastis Gascon)

by Alexina Anatole from *Sweet*

Hidden inside this crispy, buttery filo pie is a delicately sweet apple and mincemeat filling with a boozy kick. This makes the perfect light dessert after a festive feast. Pastis Gascon is a fundamentally rustic yet flouncy French apple pie that's soft and mildly boozy on the inside and shatteringly crisp on the outside from the use of filo pastry. It's the kind of low-fuss, relatively light dessert that is perfect for using up any leftover mincemeat once Christmas has passed.

#### Ingredients

For the filling

1 Bramley cooking apple, peeled, quartered and cored

2 Pink Lady apples, peeled, quartered and cored

Juice of ½ lemon

Around 140g (4½ oz) mincemeat (give or take)

1 tbsp caster (superfine) or granulated sugar, plus extra for sprinkling

3 tbsp Armagnac (or brandy)

#### To assemble

6–7 filo (phyllo) pastry sheets

85g (3¼ oz) butter, melted

To serve icing (confectioners') sugar crème fraîche

#### Essential kit

You will need: 30cm (12in) round pie dish

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 170°C fan/190°C/375°F/gas 5. Place a baking tray in the oven to heat up. Thinly slice the apple quar-

ters crossways and place in a medium bowl. Squeeze over the lemon juice, then add the rest of the filling ingredients and toss together.

To assemble the pie, cover the filo sheets with a slightly damp dish towel while you work, so that they don't dry out. Brush the pie dish with a thin layer of the melted butter, sprinkle with a teaspoon of sugar, then add a sheet of filo to the bottom of the tin, letting any excess overhang. Brush this filo layer with more butter and sprinkle with more sugar, then place a second sheet of filo over the top, rotating it slightly so that the excess hangs out at a different angle. Repeat with 2 more layers of filo.

Fill the pie dish with the apple mincemeat mixture, leaving any excess liquid behind in the bowl. Lay a sheet of filo on your work surface, brush with the melted butter, sprinkle with a teaspoon of sugar and scrunch it up, then arrange it on top of half of the pie (if your sheets are really big, then you may choose to halve them). Repeat with another sheet of filo, placing this on the other half, creating a full pie 'lid' and tucking in any overhang, like a messy bedsheet. Drizzle any remaining melted butter over the top.

Place the pie on the preheated baking tray and bake until the pastry is cooked through and golden brown, around 45 minutes. (Check it halfway through the cooking time and turn the oven down to 160°C fan/180°C/350°F/gas 4 if the pastry looks as though it's getting dark quite quickly.)

Allow the pie to cool for 15 minutes before serving warm, dusted lightly with icing sugar and with a spoonful of crème fraîche alongside.

This is best served with tangy French crème fraîche (or sour cream), but cold double (heavy) cream is also lovely.



## EDITORIAL

### Division and discontent

The official minutes of Amberley Parish Council's November meeting read like a model of calm efficiency. Yet behind the bland record lies a very different reality: an astonishing outburst by the parish clerk lasted nearly fifteen minutes and required the intervention of the CEO of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils, who happened to be at the meeting. It was an extraordinary moment – but not an isolated one. This dispute has been simmering for months.

The current clerk, who took over earlier this year from Vicky Spiers – a respected figure who served for a decade without controversy – has, to put it mildly, ruffled feathers. Some long-standing volunteers have walked away. Two councillors have resigned. These are not minor tremors; they are signs of a deeper fault line in the way the council is being run.

Let us be clear: no one questions the clerk's competence or ability to get things done. Efficiency is not the issue. The problem lies in approach and attitude. Parish clerks are appointed to serve councils, not to run them. Yet, by all accounts, this distinction has blurred. Some describe the clerk's manner as arrogant; others see it as an overreach of authority. Whatever the label, the effect is the same division and discontent.

The minutes note that four complaints were lodged against the clerk: one dismissed, three not upheld. Technically, that clears the slate. But the fact these complaints were raised at all speaks volumes. Add to that a petition – dismissed because it was signed by "a small number of parishioners" – and the picture becomes harder to ignore. These are not isolated grumbles; they point to a growing unease about governance and respect.

As someone who has lived in Amberley for forty years, I cannot recall a time when the parish felt so fractured over council affairs. This is not about personalities; it is about principles. Our elected representatives owe it to the community to confront this issue head-on. Silence and procedural niceties will not heal the rift. Leadership will.

Amberley deserves a council that works with unity and transparency, not one mired in internal conflict. The time for hoping this blows over has passed. It is time to act. **Mike Toynbee**

**Deadline for the February issue is**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**

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

**or e-mail [mike@brooklandsamberley.com](mailto:mike@brooklandsamberley.com)**

### Logs to burn

Here's a word to make you wise  
when you hear the woodman's cries;  
Never heed his usual tale  
That he's splendid logs for sale  
But read these lines and really learn  
The proper kind of logs to burn.

Oak logs will warm you well,  
If they're old and dry.  
Larch logs of pinewoods smell  
But the sparks will fly.

Beech logs for Christmas time;  
Yew logs heat well;  
'Scotch' logs it is a crime  
For anyone to sell.

Birch logs will burn too fast;  
Chestnut scarce at all;  
Hawthorn logs are good to last  
If cut in the fall.

Holly logs will burn like wax,  
You should burn them green;  
Elm logs like smouldering flax,  
No flame to be seen.

Pear logs and apple logs,  
They will scent your room;  
Cherry logs across the dogs  
Smell like flowers in bloom,

But ash logs all smooth and grey  
Burn them green or old,  
Buy up all that come your way  
They're worth their weight in gold.

*First published in Punch in 1920*

## Property Watch

Homes for sale and to rent locally

### Amberley



**High Street** 4-bedroom house  
(GL&Co, Storrington)

**£1,795,000**

**Church Street** Grade II listed 3-bedroom detached house  
(Jackson-Stops, Chichester)  
**£1,150,000**

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

**£860,000**

**Turnpike Road** 4-bedroom detached house  
(GL&Co, Storrington)

**£850,000**



**Church Street** Grade II listed bedroom cottage  
(GL&Co, Storrington)

**£825,000**



### Houghton

**Off B2139** 4-bedroom detached house  
(GL&Co, Storrington/Jackson-Stops, Chichester)

**£950,000**

**Off B2139** 4-bedroom detached house  
(Batcheller Monkhouse, Pulborough)

**£850,000**

**Off B2139** Grade II listed 3-bedroom barn conversion  
(British Homesellers, National)  
**£650,000**

### Houghton Bridge

**Riverside** 4 x 2-bedroom lodges  
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**£175,000 each**

### Rackham

**Off Rackham Road** 5-bedroom period farmhouse  
with 15 acres  
(Henry Adams, Storrington)

**£2,000,000**

**Rackham Street** 3-bedroom semi-detached house  
(Batcheller Monkhouse, Pulborough)

**£700,000**

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## LOCAL INFORMATION

## Refuse & Recycling Calendar Dec/Jan

Household refuse collections (**Amberley/Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt**): collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Tuesdays, December 2 and 16**, on **Wednesday, December 31**, and on **Tuesdays, January 13 and 27**; mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be collected on **Tuesdays, December 9 and 23**, on **Wednesday, January 7**, and **Tuesday, January 20**. Collections for garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be on **Tuesday, December 9, Wednesday, January 7 and Tuesday, January 20**.

For **Church Street and Hog Lane**: collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, December 3 and 17, Friday, January 2**, and **Wednesdays, January 14 and 28**. Garden waste (brown top bins for registered



users only) will be collected on **Monday, December 8, Tuesday, January 6 and Monday, January 19**. Collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Wednesday, December 10, Thursday, January 8 and Wednesday, January 21**.

## 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 (closed Tuesday)

**Littlehampton: Mill Lane, Wick, BN17 7PH**

9am-

4pm (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). No trailers

Appointments are required at all local recycling sites. Bookings can be made at any time online by visiting [www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle) or by calling (01243) 642106.

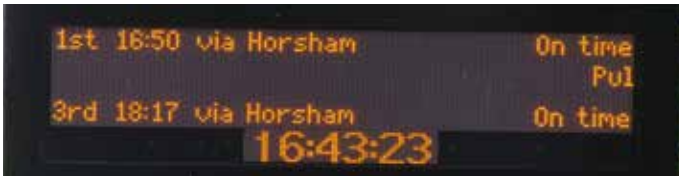
## Village Bus Timetable

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). 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 June, 2025)

#### 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 Pheasey



## The Post Office is now your local bank

No need to drive miles to your nearest branch

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### OPENING HOURS

● Monday & Friday 9am-1pm ● Closed Wednesday

● Tuesday 1pm-4pm ● Thursday 1pm-5pm

### BANKING

Banking available for all major banks ie cash withdrawals, paying in cash and cheques etc

### FOREIGN CURRENCY

Euros on demand. All other currencies can be ordered and received within 24 hours

## 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)



## CHRISTMAS DIVERSIONS

1. *O star of wonder, star of light* comes from which carol?
2. Who banned Christmas?
3. How many gifts were given in total in *The Twelve Days of Christmas* song?
4. Why is Boxing Day so called?
5. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
6. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
7. In *Home Alone*, where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?
8. In which country did eggnog originate?
9. What colour suit did Santa wear until Coca Cola rebranded him in red?
10. What plant is generally known as the 'Christmas flower'?
11. What fruit is used to make a Christingle?
12. In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play six of the characters?
13. Who composed the music for the ballet *The Nutcracker*?
14. How many tips do traditional snowflakes have?
15. In the movie *Love Actually*, which character sang *Christmas is all Around*?
16. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?
17. What was traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
18. Which city has been donating Trafalgar Square's Christmas tree to London every year since 1947?
19. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign?
20. What is the best-selling Christmas single of all time?
21. What decoration do elves traditionally have on their shoes?
22. *Miracle On 34th Street* centres on what real-life department store?
23. Which Christmassy song plays at the end of the 1988 film *Die Hard*?
24. What fruit is traditionally put inside a Christmas stocking?
25. Traditionally, when should you start making a Christmas pudding?
26. Who was killed off in the 2012 *Downton Abbey* Christmas special cliffhanger?
27. In *Elf*, what's the first rule in the Code of The Elves?
28. What gift did Harry Potter receive from the Dursleys during his first Christmas at Hogwarts?
29. In the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* what was the gift given on the seventh day?
30. What is the fruit bread of nuts, spices, and dried or candied fruit, coated with powdered sugar or icing known as in Germany?

Answers: page 43

### Quick crossword

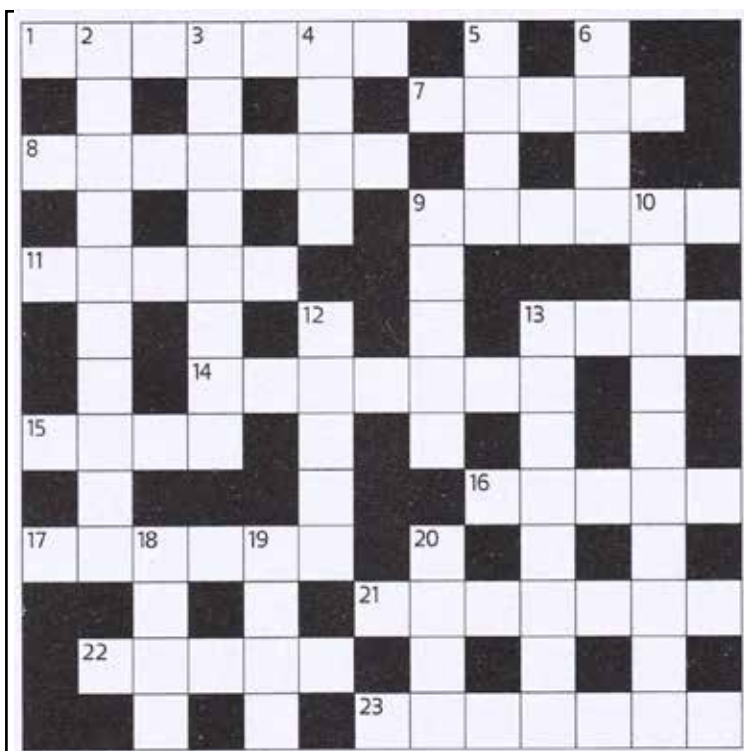
#### Across

1. Pain-killer (7)
7. Airman (5)
8. Desert (7)
9. Smashed (6)
11. Jammed (5)
13. Love excessively (4)
14. Proposed candidate (7)
15. Flat-bottomed boat (4)
16. Rental agreement (5)
17. Drawing implement (6)
21. Holiday home (7)
22. Fad (5)
23. Predicament (7)

#### Down

2. Swap (10)
3. Billy Joel song, *An \_\_ \_ Man* (8)
4. Holy picture (4)
5. Funeral carriage (4)
6. Fastener (4)
9. Trade name (5)
10. Keeness (10)
12. Tiny (5)
13. Elected representative (8)
18. Close (4)
19. Part of the eye (4)
20. Rice wine (4)

Solution: page 43





# DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

***INDEPENDENT PREP SCHOOL  
FOR CHILDREN FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 8***



*Part of the Lancing College family of schools from September 2025*



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*House of Commons  
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The Labouring Man is a country inn offering stylish rooms, a relaxed atmosphere, with great food and drink.



Our restaurant is open six days a week for lunch or dinner and Sundays from 12 noon until 4pm, with the bar open seven days and evenings per week. Our food is all home-cooked



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**[www.labouringman.com](http://www.labouringman.com) [thelabouringman@gmail.com](mailto:thelabouringman@gmail.com)**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

### DECEMBER

#### 2nd Tuesday

**Talk:** *New evidence for the Star of Bethlehem*, The Arts Society West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 1.30pm

#### 3rd Wednesday

**Talk:** *A Tudor Christmas*, The Arts Society South Downs, Fittleworth Village Hall, 9.45am

#### 4th Thursday

**Storrington Village Christmas Evening**, 4.45pm-8pm

**Sloe Gin and Chutney Evening**, The Bridge Inn, from 6pm

**Concert: Carducci String Quartet**, (Chichester Chamber Concert), Assembly Room, Chichester, 7.30pm

#### 6th Saturday

**Christmas Adventures**, Amberley Museum, from 10am\*

#### 7th Sunday

**Christmas Adventures**, Amberley Museum, from 10am\*

#### 8th Monday

**Christmas Wreath-making workshop**, St Michael's Church Hall, 10am-12 noon\*

**Festive quiz night**, The Sportsman, 7.30pm\*

#### 10th Wednesday

**Amberley Village Christmas lunch**, St Michael's Church Hall, 1pm\*

**Amberley CE Primary School Christmas Fair**, 3pm-5pm

#### 11th Thursday

**Amberley Millennium Green** annual general meeting, The Old Surgery, The Square, 7.30pm

#### 13th Saturday

**Christmas Adventures**, Amberley Museum, from 10am\*

### Littlehampton Tide Timetable December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Low 01.03 High 07.34 Low 13.38 High 20.01	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> Low 02.02 High 08.27 Low 14.32 High 20.53	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Low 02.55 High 09.16 Low 15.23 High 21.43	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b> Low 03.45 High 10.05 Low 16.12 High 22.34	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b> Low 04.35 High 10.54 Low 17.01 High 23.27	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b> Low 05.24 High 11.44 Low 17.51
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b> High 00.18 Low 06.14 High 12.33 Low 18.41	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b> High 01.10 Low 07.05 High 13.24 Low 19.32	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b> High 02.01 Low 07.56 High 14.15 Low 20.24	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> High 02.53 Low 08.50 High 15.10 Low 21.18	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b> High 03.48 Low 09.48 High 16.07 Low 22.16	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b> High 04.45 Low 10.51 High 17.07 Low 23.19	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b> High 05.42 Low 11.57 High 18.08
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b> Low 00.22 High 06.42 Low 12.59 High 19.13	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b> Low 01.22 High 07.42 Low 13.54 High 20.14	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> Low 02.16 High 08.35 Low 14.43 High 21.04	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b> Low 03.03 High 09.21 Low 15.28 High 21.47	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b> Low 03.46 High 10.00 Low 16.08 High 22.25	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b> Low 04.25 High 10.36 Low 16.45 High 23.02	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b> Low 05.02 High 11.11 Low 17.21 High 23.38
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b> Low 05.37 High 11.46 Low 17.57	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> High 00.12 Low 06.13 High 12.20 Low 18.32	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> High 00.46 Low 06.47 High 12.55 Low 19.07	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b> High 01.22 Low 07.22 High 13.32 Low 19.41	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b> High 02.00 Low 08.00 High 14.12 Low 20.21	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b> High 02.42 Low 04.44 High 14.58 Low 21.06	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b> High 03.31 Low 09.37 High 15.52 Low 22.00
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b> High 04.29 Low 10.37 High 16.54 Low 23.03	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b> High 05.34 Low 11.48 High 18.07	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b> Low 00.16 High 06.45 Low 13.00 High 19.21	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b> Low 01.28 High 07.54 Low 14.06 High 20.30			

**TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON** Compiled  
by Hazel Allinson

#### 14th Sunday

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

**Christmas Adventures**, Amberley Museum, from 10am\*

#### 17th Wednesday

**Carols & Chestnuts evening**, The Bridge Inn, 6.30pm

**Film:** *The Penguin Lessons*, Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, 7.30pm

#### 19th Friday

**Amberley Primary School carol concert**, St Michael's Church, 2pm (all welcome)

#### 20th Saturday

**Christmas Adventures**, Amberley Museum, from 10am\*

**Santa Paws**, best dressed Christmas Canine competition, The Sportsman, 11am

**Christmas Concert:** The Leconfield Singers, St Mary's Church, Petworth, 6pm

#### 21st Sunday

**Christmas Adventures**, Amberley Museum, from 10am\*

#### 24th Wednesday

**Journey to the Crib**, start from The Square, Amberley, at 3pm

*\*Booking essential*





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

## JANUARY

**9th Friday**

**Special anniversary celebration,**  
The Bridge Inn, from 6pm

**10th Saturday**

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

**13th Tuesday**

**Amberley Village Lunch,**  
The Sportsman, 12.30 for 1pm\*

**14th Wednesday**

**Film: Downton Abbey,** Sullington  
Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington,  
7.30pm

**15th Thursday**

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

**20th Tuesday**

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

**27th Tuesday**

**Craft session:** An introduction to  
linocut, The Sportsman, 10am-1pm\*

*\*Booking essential*

**Littlehampton Tide Timetable  
January**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Low 01.03 High 07.34 Low 13.38 High 20.01	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> Low 02.02 High 08.27 Low 14.32 High 20.53	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Low 02.55 High 09.16 Low 15.23 High 21.43	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b> Low 03.45 High 10.05 Low 16.12 High 22.34	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b> Low 04.35 High 10.54 Low 17.01 High 23.27	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b> Low 05.24 High 11.44 Low 17.51
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b> High 00.18 Low 06.14 High 12.33 Low 18.41	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b> High 01.10 Low 07.05 High 13.24 Low 19.32	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b> High 02.01 Low 07.56 High 14.15 Low 20.24	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> High 02.53 Low 08.50 High 15.10 Low 21.18	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b> High 03.48 Low 09.48 High 16.07 Low 22.16	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b> High 04.45 Low 10.51 High 17.07 Low 23.19	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b> High 05.42 Low 11.57 High 18.08
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b> Low 00.22 High 06.42 Low 12.59 High 19.13	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b> Low 01.22 High 07.42 Low 13.54 High 20.14	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> Low 02.16 High 08.35 Low 14.43 High 21.04	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b> Low 03.03 High 09.21 Low 15.28 High 21.47	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b> Low 03.46 High 10.00 Low 16.08 High 22.25	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b> Low 04.25 High 10.36 Low 16.45 High 23.02	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b> Low 05.02 High 11.11 Low 17.21 High 23.38
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b> Low 05.37 High 11.46 Low 17.57	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> High 00.12 Low 06.13 High 12.20 Low 18.32	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> High 00.46 Low 06.47 High 12.55 Low 19.07	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b> High 01.22 Low 07.22 High 13.32 Low 19.41	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b> High 02.00 Low 08.00 High 14.12 Low 20.21	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b> High 02.42 Low 04.44 High 14.58 Low 21.06	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b> High 03.31 Low 09.37 High 15.52 Low 22.00
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b> High 04.29 Low 10.37 High 16.54 Low 23.03	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b> High 05.34 Low 11.48 High 18.07	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b> Low 00.16 High 06.45 Low 13.00 High 19.21	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b> Low 01.28 High 07.54 Low 14.06 High 20.30			

**TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON Compiled  
by Hazel Allinson**

**Locations of parish defibrillators**

1. On the Amberley Church Hall wall near the churchyard gate
2. In the bus shelter in The Square, opposite Amberley Tea Room
3. To the left of front door at Amberley Primary School
4. In the bus shelter at Hurst Cottages
5. On the left wall of the Sportsman Inn
6. Inside the entrance and to the right at Newland Gardens
7. At the cricket ground pavilion
8. There is also one outside to the right at Rackham Old School. This is not covered by the Amberley CPR responders but is checked at regular three-month intervals as are the others in Amberley.

**Advice on what not to do...**

Mike climbed up the ladder to put things up high  
And not for one moment did he think he would fly  
But unsecured, said ladder did fall  
And down came Toynbee, dignity and all.  
With two broken bones and a dislocated ankle  
(To be honest the humiliation sorely did rankle)  
But Peter and Alison to the rescue came  
And off to hospital much to his shame  
Toynbee went, where he underwent hours of operation  
And for a week in bed he was compulsorily stationed.  
When he came home, Mike's neighbours leapt into action  
With food and lifts to Brighton, to name but a fraction  
Of the kind gestures Toynbee's friends have made.  
But the moral is octogenarians on the ground should have stayed!



### Accommodation: B&B (graded)

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

### Accommodation: Self-catering

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

### Catering Services

**Jane Bellinger**, professional *cordon bleu* chef for functions, parties, etc 01798 839433

### Electricians

**CJS Electrical**, installation, inspection and certification 07922 240729

### Estate Agents

**GL&Co**, houses for sale and to rent, free valuations 01903 742354

**Jackson-Stops & Co**, properties in every location 01903 885886 / 01243 786316

### Funeral Directors

**W. Bryder & Sons**, 5th generation, family run independent business 01798 342174

### Garages, car servicing, repairs

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

### Garden

**Rydon Landscapes**, garden design and construction 01798 872359 / 07711 663862

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

### Hairdresser (Mobile)

**Catherine Rowland**, for all your hairdressing needs 07846 699319 / 01403 242280

### Heating oil / fuel / boiler engineers

**Amberley Oil Syndicate**, collective buying power for heating oil 01798 831845

**M.D. Woodger**, all types of domestic boiler maintenance and Agas 01730 894211

### Home / household

**Dressing Rooms**, curtains and hand-made soft furnishings 01903 741251

### Logs

**Andy Johnson**, seasoned logs cut to size; free kindling with each full load 07793 500129

### Painting / decorating

**Jonathan Capelin**, quality interior and exterior decorator 01798 817402

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

### Pest Control

**Southdowns Pest Control**, everything from wasps to moles 01903 886125 / 07883 072988

### Plumbing/Heating engineer

**Philip Jones**, heating installations, powerflushing specialists 01903 872811/07778 303592

### Public Houses

**The Bridge Inn**, Houghton Bridge 01798 831619

### Public Houses (continued)

**The George & Dragon**, Houghton 01798 831559

**The Labouring Man**, Coldwaltham 01798 873337

**The Sportsman Inn**, Amberley 01798 831787

### Retail

**Amberley Village Pottery**, hand-made pottery, gifts etc 01798 831876

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

**Willmers of Pulborough**, electrical appliances 01798 872866

### Schools

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

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

### Tea Rooms

**Riverside South Downs**, Houghton Bridge, boat and bike hire 01798 831066

### Wellbeing

**Connect Reflexology**, Old Forge Surgery and home visits 07895 302787

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

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

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

## Answers to Diversions (see page 38)

1. *We three kings of orient are* 2. Oliver Cromwell in 1647 – he considered feasting and revelry on such a holy day to be immoral and anybody caught celebrating Christmas was arrested. The ban was lifted after Cromwell lost power in 1658 3. 364 – one for every day of the year apart from Christmas day! 4. It was traditionally a day off for servants and a day when they would receive special presents from their masters. Traditionally given to the poor and servants the presents were called a 'Christmas box' hence the name Boxing Day 5. Germany 6. Four: former business partner Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future 7. Paris 8. Thought to have originated from the early medieval Britain; "posset," a hot, milky, ale-like drink. By the 13th century, monks were known to drink a posset with eggs and figs. 9. Green 10. Poinsettia 11. Orange 12. *The Polar Express*. He plays Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa Claus 13. Tchaikovsky 14. Six 15. Billy Mack, played by Bill Nighy 16. Three – Dancer, Dasher and Donner. 17. A silver coin (generally an old fashioned sixpence) 18. Oslo (Norway) 19. Capricorn 20. *White Christmas* by Bing Crosby (50 million copies) 21. Bells 22. Macy's 23. *Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!* performed by Vaughn Monroe 24. Oranges (or tangerines) 25. The last Sunday before Advent (five weeks before Christmas Day) 26. Matthew Crawley, husband of Lady Mary 27. Treat every day like Christmas. 28. A 50 pence piece 29. Seven swans-a-swimming 30. Stollen or Christstollen

## Crossword solution

**Across:** 1. Aspirin 7. Pilot 8. Abandon 9. Broken 11. Stuck 13. Dote 14. Nominee 15. Punt 16. Lease 17. Pencil 21. Caravan 22. Mania 23. Dilemma

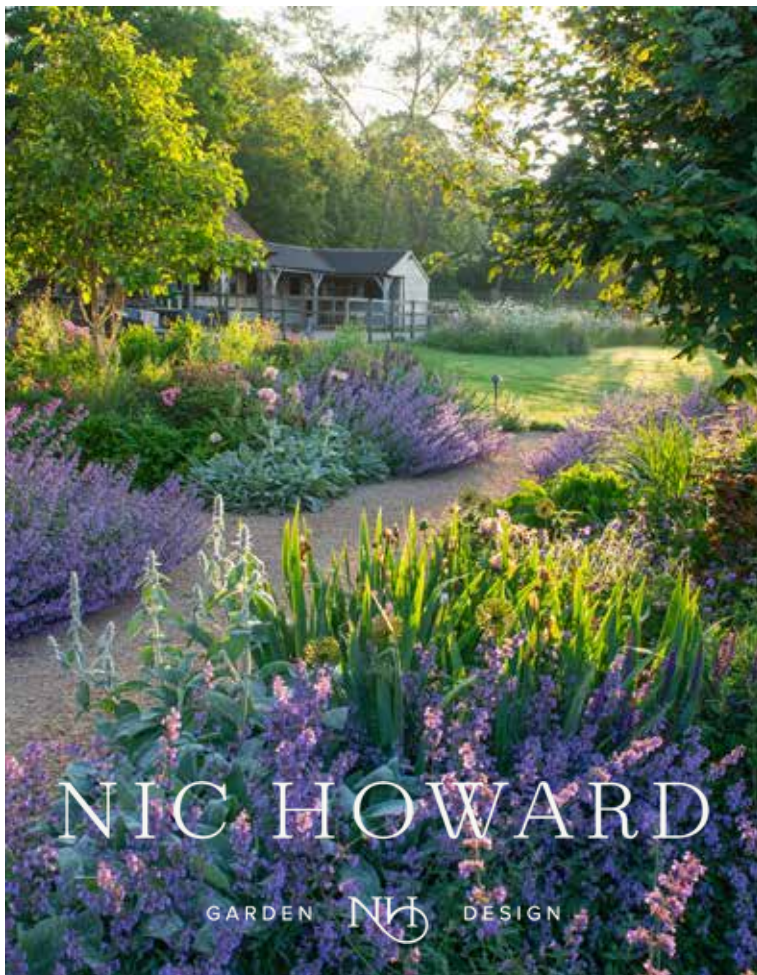
**Down:** 2. Substitute 3. Innocent 4. Icon 5. Bier 6. Hook 9. Brand 10. Enthusiasm 12. Small 13. Delegate 18. Near 19. Iris 20. Saki



## PARISH DIRECTORY

Churchwardens:	Amberley	Melanie Edge (mel.edge@me.com).....07973 163369
		Michael Davey (Secretary) (mpdavey@gmail.com).....07749 690024
	Greatham	Diana van der Klugt (dianavanderklugt@btinternet.com).....01798 875663
		Robert Englehart.....01798 872502
	Parham	Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com).....07909 640948
		Jill Sloan (Secretary) (jill@jsloan.com)..... 07517413481
	Wiggonholt	Cathy Folwell (cathy.folwell@icloud.com)..... 01798 872546
		Jenny Sadler (jen@southernclanes.co.uk)..... 01798 874613
St Mary The Virgin North Stoke (acting chair)		Janet Aidin (janet@aidin.co.uk).....01798 87253
Parish Magazine Editor and Advertising		Michael Toynbee (mike@brooklandsamberley.com).....01798 831114
Parish Magazine Distribution & Subscriptions		Pam Keeble (pamwkeeble@gmail.com)..... 01798 831050
Amberley CE Primary School		Paul Armitage.....01798 83161
Amberley Church Hall Bookings		Adrienne Greenwood (ad.greenwood@btinternet.com).....07746 488615
Amberley Good Neighbours Emergency Service		Cyndy Kennett..... 07745 407185
Amberley Oil Syndicate		Jill Couling (amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com).....01798 831845
Amberley Parish Council Clerk		Steve Trott (clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk).....07767 301299
Amberley Parish Trust		David Vokins.....01798 839086
Amberley Society		Ian Galbraith (ian@ecomis.com).....01798 839006
		Jeff Feakins (feakster@aol.com).....01798 831538
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)..... 07909640948
Cricket Club		Keith Dalmon.....01798 83188
Home Safety Checks		West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.....03458729719
Member of Parliament		Andrew Griffith (andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk).....0207 219 4557
Millennium Green Trust		Judy Agate (judy@greencaterpillar.org).....07525 48474
Neighbourhood Watch		Malcolm Pheasey.....01798 83904
Parham Parish Council Clerk		Vicky Spiers (clerk@parham-pc.org.uk).....01903 20894
Police		Non-emergency number.....101
Rackham Old School Association		Sue Bulloch.....01798 872038
Rackham School Hall Reservations		Jennifer Hooper.....01903 742695
Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE)		Elisabeth Tooms (toomsfirth@btinternet.com).....01798 839232
Stoolball Club		Sandra Turner.....01243 82125
Village Bus		Philip Greenwood.....01798 831803
Village Lunch Team Leader		Sarah Wheeler (sarahwheeler1@live.com).....01798 831194
West Sussex County Councillor		Paul Marshall..... 033 022 23841





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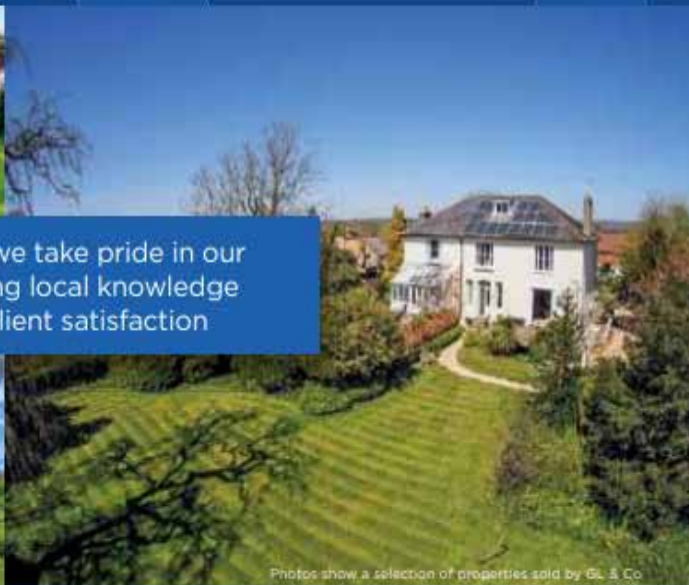
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## From Hallraiser to entrepreneur

Cleanse your crystals and balance your chakras! Bystander's favourite well-being goddess Sheena Skinner may have left Amberley for the beach life (Hove, Actually) but she has not been resting on her laurels. Rather, Sheena has been building her new business which revolves around The Norrag – a luxury mat we can all rest on – when we are doing our yoga, breathwork and meditation.



In common with other successful entrepreneurs, Sheena has outsourced the production of The Norrag to India (appropriately, also the birthplace of yoga) where the mat is 'made slowly and with intention', Sheena tells Bystander. 'Every stitch, every fold and every element is designed to support deep rest because when something is made slowly and with intention, it carries a different energy'. (Look out Gwyneth Paltrow – you have competition!)

'Norrag' means 40 winks in Gaelic and the name was inspired by Sheena's dad, who was often found taking a restorative nap around the house when Sheena was growing up. If you didn't get a chance to check out The Norrag at the Hallraisers' Christmas Fair, you can read more about Sheena's fledgling lifestyle brand – which already has a cult following in Amberley – on her website, thenorrag.com. Namaste!

## Repaint Ye Thinnerers!

Did you notice a very professional looking crew giving some painting love to our bleak, bedraggled yet strangely beautiful Church Hall last month? This was not a team of highly paid decorators – but some dedicated volunteers who gave the Hall a glowup while funds are being raised for the full renovation.

In fact – it was the drama group, which Suzie Coates attends and who use the Hall for their weekly workshops, who suggested the glowup, raising the funds for the work at their Christmas shows. As Amberley's ladies and gentlemen 'of experience' have been banned from climbing ladders since our beloved editor fell off one, they assigned high level painting duties to Mark Brown, leaving the rest of the team to deal with the walls.

The ever resourceful Sarah Wheeler, who led the painting team, managed to beg and borrow the other items that were needed, even thinning down some of the paint to make it go further, meaning that the whole job cost just £398.87 – what a bargain!



Left: Mark Brown, up the ladder, with Russell Coates, Sarah Wheeler and David Pringle. Above: Suzie Coates with a laden wheelbarrow

Let's hope that karma finds a way to reward the drama group for their dedication...perhaps the Amberley Players will storm Shaftsbury Avenue with this year's Christmas production!

Bad news though...the team is not available to hire for general painting duties!

## The Ego has landed

A parish clerk's job should be to oil the wheels at council meetings, working cheerfully and competently in the background to ensure the agenda flows smoothly, so discussion can focus on issues that really matter to members of the community. Yet there was no wheel oiling at the Amberley Parish Council meeting last month – rather, the clerk took it upon himself to thrust a stick in the spokes of the wheels. The meeting ground to a halt and descended into a level of chaos not seen since the Handforth Parish Council lockdown special ('you have no authority here, Jackie Weaver').

The clerk increasingly shouted and cut across people – and suddenly he turned the conversation to himself...council members had disrespected his role and he needed to defend his position...he wanted mediation...a 'staffing committee' was to be set up (Really? For one staff member?), yet he felt 'uncomfortable' with certain councillors sitting on that committee. Things became so heated that Trevor Leggo, CEO of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils, also in attendance, had to intervene to close down the discussion, saying he had "never seen such an argumentative clerk" and suggesting disciplinary action may be appropriate.

The clerk's extraordinary outburst followed some individual letters of complaint and a petition from 32 villagers about the inappropriateness of his conduct and behaviour across a range of issues. There have also been three resignations from volunteer positions in the village, since the clerk's appointment.

As the old adage goes – once is an accident, twice is a coincidence and three times is a trend that needs to be monitored and managed. There is no doubt that the clerk knows his onions – his knowledge of process, procedures and the nature of council business is clearly excellent – but his overbearing tone and the lack of respect he shows others is not a good fit for many kind and gentle Amberley parishioners and volunteers. Let's hope we see some monitoring and managing so that our parish council meetings are never again dominated by one person's ego and vanity.



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