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NOVEMBER 2025

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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This month's front cover



An autumn scene on the Parham estate, pictured by Sarah Ffoulkes Roberts



All good gifts around us – harvest festival at St Michael's - p9



Up on the Downs for members of the Amberley Society - p20



Peddling popcorn: usherettes at the curry and film evening - p18



*Amberley Goes Wild
Calendar
2026*



Order your copy of
the Amberley Wildlife
calendar - p20



Coffee morning treats - p17



ST MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

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NOVEMBER SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS Gold/White Array

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

Sunday, 9th November Remembrance Red/Green Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.45am	Remembrance	Amberley

Sunday, 16th November 2 before Advent Red/Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Morning Praise	Amberley

Sunday, 23rd November Christ the King Red/White Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

Sunday, 30th November Advent 1 Purple Array

10.00am	Holy Communion United Benefice	Amberley
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Sunday, 7th December Advent 2 Purple Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
3.00pm	Evening Prayer	Wiggonholt

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday, 2nd November
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Luke 6:20-31; Psalm 149

Sunday, 9th November
Job 19:23-27; Luke 20:27-38; Psalm 17:1-9

Sunday, 16th November
Malachi 4:1-2; Luke 21:5-19; Psalm 98

Sunday, 23rd November
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 23:33-43; Psalm 46

Sunday, 30th November
Isaiah 2:1-5; Luke 24:36-44; Psalm 122

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

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

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 to ensure your name is on the list.





A fond farewell and a final service filled with joy

After 18 months of dedicated service, the congregation of Greatham Church bid a heartfelt farewell to the Revd Russell Dewhurst, who has recently been appointed Archdeacon of Hastings following his tenure as Acting Archdeacon of Chichester.

Revd Dewhurst, known for his scholarly sermons and warm pastoral presence, has been a monthly fixture at Greatham, celebrating Communion and engaging deeply with parishioners. Despite his commitments across multiple churches, he consistently made time to connect with the local community, delivering sermons that were both intellectually rich and spiritually resonant.

His homilies, often tailored to the liturgical calendar, drew on classical literature, poetry, and theology—featuring references to the Trojan Wars, the *Iliad*, and poignant verses on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday. Visitors frequently remarked that if all sermons were like his, they would attend church far more regularly.

A true polymath, Revd Dewhurst holds degrees in physics from Oxford and theology from Cambridge. He continues his academic pursuits as Professor of Canon Law at Cardiff



University. He resides in West Chiltington with his wife, a practicing barrister, and their young son, who attends a local school.

Among his memorable contributions to the parish was the baptism of Raphaella, granddaughter of Diana and Kees van der Klugt, during a regular Sunday service earlier this year.

His final service at Greatham took place on October 12, where he celebrated Communion for the last time. The following Sunday, he conducted the baptism of Inigo Englehart using the traditional 1662 Prayer Book liturgy. The church was filled with family, friends, and well-wishers, and Rev. Dewhurst delivered a stirring sermon directed at young Inigo and his godparents – captivating the entire congregation and even quieting the three-year-old for a moment.

It was a joyful and fitting send-off for a priest whose presence will be deeply missed in Greatham. His legacy of wisdom, warmth, and eloquence will long be remembered.

Rose Englehart

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CHURCH NEWS

WILDBROOKS BENEFICE HARVEST FESTIVAL

All good gifts around us...

Harvest Festival this year took place on Sunday, October 5. St Michael's Church was spectacularly decked out with fruit, flowers, berries, vegetables and decorative foliage, as befits the season, and the congregation was treated to a service led by not one, but a duo of Reverend Peals – husband and wife team, John and Jacqui.

A rich harvest of praise and thanksgiving! Gifts from parishioners of packets and cans, jars and bottles of wholesome harvest food were donated to be distributed later to families in need by Family Support Work, the countywide charity run by Chichester Diocese whom we regularly support.

We sang all the Harvest favourites – *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*... among others, though we felt keenly the lack of Shirley and David Linford following David's recent passing.

Following the service, everyone was ushered into the Church Hall for a celebration Wildbrooks Benefice Harvest Lunch, prepared and served by members of PEG, our Parish Engagement Group. On the menu: home-made cottage pie with vegetables followed by a selection of desserts prepared by Wildbrooks churches' members, and some delicious cheeses served with grapes. What a feast of harvest goodness!



To add a little jollity, there was a bottle tombola whose prizes ranged from Nutbourne and Nyetimber wine to washing-up liquid and tomato ketch-up. You pays your money...

La pièce de résistance was a harvest-themed quiz, compiled and beautifully presented by Sue Adams whose tricky and intriguing questions posed a challenge to all. Winners were treated to tiny pumpkins as prizes.

It was an absolute treat to welcome churchgoers from all four active parishes at the harvest lunch. And feedback confirmed that a good time was had by all. One guest even reported that it was the best cottage pie she had ever eaten...Well done PEG!

This was never intended as a fundraiser, but the total takings from the tombola and wine sales came to £130, which is being donated to Tearfund, a Christian charity tackling poverty through sustainable development in the poorest countries in the world. Visit: www.tearfund.org for more information.

Ros Simpson



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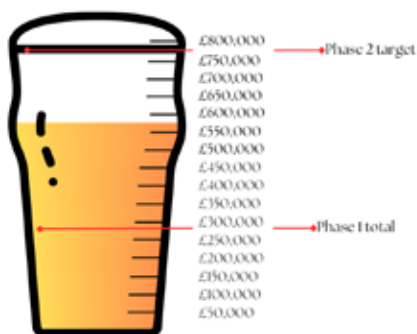
Contact Clare on
07895 302787

THE SPORTSMAN, AMBERLEY

Support the campaign to Save Our Sportsman and create a vibrant community pub



SAVE OUR SPORTSMAN PROGRESS PINT



We need your help!

We need £780,000 to buy the freehold of our lovely community pub to save it from closure and redevelopment into housing.

If you'd like to own a small part of a thriving local, you can buy shares and help Save Our Sportsman. Minimum investment £500
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PEOPLE & EVENTS

Welcome...

To **Pam Bates**, who has taken up residence at 12 Newland Gardens. We wish her every happiness in her new home.

Our condolences...

To **Caroline Bradley** and **Christopher Rendle** on the death of their mother, **Margot Rendle** (obituary on p14). And to **Alison Batchelor** and family on the death of **Hilda Newland** (obituary on p12).

In the event of an emergency...

Thanks to Jenny Robinson, Amberley has a high proportion of residents trained in CPR and seven defibrillators. We have just completed a year-long trial of our emergency response procedure and have decided to make the following changes.

With immediate effect, the advertised CPR number (07838 947521) is no longer in use.

In place of this, we have put in each defibrillator box a card listing the mobile numbers of some CPR volunteers. Each number is a direct contact to a trained CPR volunteer who can contact the wider CPR group and request assistance in the event of an emergency until an ambulance arrives.

If you require help from the Amberley CPR group please:

- Call 999 first
- Start CPR as soon as possible
- Send someone to get a defibrillator
- Call one of the mobile numbers on the card in the defibrillator box and give your location. We will send CPR-trained volunteers to assist you until the ambulance arrives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Jo Dickinson (07493 468937)

On behalf of the Amberley CPR volunteer group

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. The sign-up sheet is already in Amberley Village Stores so get your name down fast as this event is always a sell-out.

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

Subscription renewal time

As always, 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 pam-wkeeble@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.

Sportsman deadline extended

The deadline for those wishing to invest in the Sportsman community pub has been extended until the end of this month (November).

Another £11,000 would mean only nine loans would be required to complete the purchase of the freehold.

All the information, including the Share Application Form, is on The Sportsman website: www.thesportsmansussex.co.uk/invest.



Hilda Newland, 1939-2025

Hilda Newland, who has died, aged 86, at home at Strawberry Villa on Turnpike Road, had lived in Amberley for 65 years

Born in Slindon, Hilda was one of nine siblings and spent her early years immersed in the warmth of a large and loving family. She attended the local school, where her love of sport shone through - earning her numerous trophies and accolades.

After leaving school, Hilda began her working life delivering eggs by bicycle before becoming a devoted nanny to the Saunders family. In 1960, she married Bill Newland and moved to Strawberry Villa, a cherished home built by the Newland family. Together, they raised two daughters, Tracey and Alison.

Hilda was a pillar of the Amberley community. She played an active role in the Parent Teacher Association at Amber-



The Newland family on holiday at Butlins: Bill and Hilda with daughters Tracey and Alison

ley Primary School, where the girls were pupils, and was a familiar face at the Amberley Revels and village jumble sales. Her love of sport continued and she became an enthusiastic and skilled stoolball player with the Amberley team.

Many will fondly remember Hilda for the delicious strawberries grown in the market garden at the rear of the family home. One particularly memorable moment came when a helicopter landed on the grounds to collect strawberries for Amberley Museum, where Roger Moore was filming the James Bond movie *A View to a Kill*.

In the winter months, Hilda turned her attention to crafting holly wreaths and selling Christmas trees grown on the property, bringing festive cheer to the village year after year.

Family holidays were a treasured tradition, in later life shared with close friends Basil and Val Figg, and Melvin and Veronica Smith. Hilda was also deeply appreciative of the kindness shown by neighbour Ann, who faithfully delivered her daily newspaper.

Hilda was predeceased by her husband Bill and her elder daughter, Tracey, who passed away in 2016. She leaves behind her daughter Alison, grandchildren Daniel, William, Alex, and Georgie, and great-grandchildren Ruby and Charlie, all of whom will miss her dearly.

Amberley - a 'must have' book

Amberley is once again in print. Sam Mustow and Marcus Lyon have researched, designed and published a lavish hardback book on the village in association with the Amberley Society.

Amberley - Land, Water, People is a high quality, coffee table book featuring over 120 restored images sourced from the Amberley Society, West Sussex County archives, museums and private collections. Robert Hutchinson, author and historian, who lived in Amberley for almost five decades before moving to Storrington, has penned a short history of the village. The work also contains a timeline of all the significant events in and around Amberley since early humans chipped flint to make tools in Rackham woods 4,000 years ago.

The book is published as a limited edition, with a single print run of 100 copies. To order a copy, priced £50, scan the QR code on the advertisement, which appears on page 32. Orders will then be collated and you will receive an e-mail with payment details. The books will be delivered to Amberley Village Stores for collection.

If you wish to send copies to friends or relatives, or wish to have your own copies posted, fill out the shipping address section of the form and orders will be despatched before Christmas.

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Margot Rendle, 1936–2025

Margot Rendle, who has died aged 89, was a vibrant and much-loved member of the Amberley community, where she lived for nearly half a century. Her life was one of remarkable resilience, creativity, and compassion, spanning continents and careers, and leaving a legacy of kindness, humour, and service.

Born in 1936 in Worsley, Lancashire, Margot spent her early years in Whalley, near Blackburn. Her father, originally from Lancing, worked for Shell-Mex and BP and was a keen cricketer who once played for the Sussex Martlets. Her mother, Betty Sturgess, had a glamorous past as a West End actress, performing alongside luminaries such as Ivor Novello, Owen Nares, and Doris Keene.

The Second World War brought upheaval to the family. Margot's father joined the Black Watch and served in the Western Desert and India for six years. After the war, the family relocated to Sussex, settling in Rustington in 1947. Margot attended West Preston Manor School, where she developed a love for tennis and ballet, dreaming of becoming the next Margot Fonteyn. Tragically, her aspirations were cut short when she contracted polio during the 1950s epidemic.

Undeterred, Margot turned her creative energy to the stage. Encouraged by her mother, she joined the prestigious Worthing Repertory Theatre as an actress and student. There, she immersed herself in every aspect of theatre life – from acting to stage management, even scrubbing the stage floor. She shared the stage with stars like Marlene Dietrich, Joan Collins, and Diana Dors, and counted Andrew Sachs – later famed for his role as Manuel in *Fawlty Towers* – among her close friends. Margot fondly recalled sharing humble meals of baked beans on toast with Sachs at the local Lyons Corner House. Her favourite role was the flirtatious mermaid in *Miranda*, a part originally played by Glynis Johns, whom Margot met for advice. She remembered Johns as “so kind and generous,” a sentiment that reflected Margot's own nature.

In 1957, Margot married Bob Rendle, whom she met on a blind date at the Annual Police Ball at the Beach Hotel in Littlehampton. Bob was on leave from Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where he managed a vast agricultural estate in the Sabi Valley. The couple settled in Salisbury (now Harare), where their children, Caroline and Christopher, were born.



Margot with her beloved Muffin

Margot worked in television advertising, first as ‘Terri the Tyre Girl’ and later as a presenter—roles she embraced with her characteristic flair. The family later moved to a remote estate in the bush, where Margot kept horses and dogs. But political unrest under Robert Mugabe forced them to leave the country they had grown to love. “Africa is such a beautiful country and the people are so lovely,” she said in an interview last year. “It broke my heart when we had to go.” From Africa, the Rendles moved to Calcutta (now Kolkata), India, where they lived for 13 years.

Bob worked as a jute buyer, while Margot dedicated herself to charitable work. She taught English to Mother Teresa's novices (and met her on a number of occasions) and worked with The Good Companions, helping young women escape sex work by teaching them skills like sewing and lacemaking. She also served on the Prison Reform Committee, helping to establish a school in Alipore Jail for children of incarcerated women and advocating for the release of prisoners unjustly detained due to conditions like dementia or epilepsy.

Margot's compassion extended to animals as well. As treasurer of the All Lovers of Animals charity, she rescued and rehabilitated creatures great and small – from Vernon the Vulture to a racehorse found scavenging on the streets. Her beloved donkey, Muffin, rescued in India, subsequently became a local celebrity in Amberley, known for enjoying a bowl of cider at the Bridge Inn.

Returning to England in the early 1970s, the Rendles first settled in Angmering, where they were in partnership running the Merry England nursery. In 1976, they

moved to Amberley, purchasing The Cricketers on New Barn Road. The former quarry workers' pub became their cherished home for over 40 years. Margot filled it with life – horses, ducks, chickens, and of course, her donkeys, including Muffin, Toby, Charlie, and Bertie. The adjacent field became affectionately known as “the donkey field,” where Margot found joy in their company.



Margot pictured last year

Her love of theatre endured. She co-founded a local theatre group, staging light-hearted productions such as *Amberley Reveals* and *Amberley*

Reveals More in the chapel (now the Village Pottery) in Church Street. The troupe performed across West Sussex well into the 1980s and 1990s, bringing laughter and community spirit wherever they went.

Margot also co-founded the Amberley branch of the Action Medical Research committee and was a familiar face behind the wheel of the village minibus and delivering meals-on-wheels to elderly residents. Her commitment to service was unwavering, and her warmth touched everyone she met.

In a 2024 interview with this magazine, Margot reflected on her deep affec-



Margot playing Mertle May in *Any Good Gentlemen*

tion for Amberley: "Although people may come and go, the spirit of the village remains the same. The right people seem to be drawn to live here, making sure the warmth and generosity of the community is stronger than ever."

Margot Rendle is survived by her two children, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren, all of whom adored her. Her passing leaves a profound void in their lives and in the heart of the village she so dearly loved. A private family cremation will take place on November 10. A memorial service to celebrate Margot's extraordinary life will be held at St Michael's Church in Amberley at a later date.

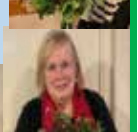
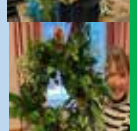
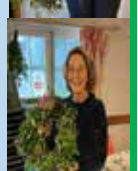
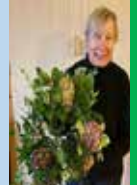
2025 CHRISTMAS ECO-FRIENDLY WREATH WORKSHOP

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- come & join us to make a wreath

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- part of Amberley advent calendar - all profits to Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice

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Macmillan Coffee morning raises a magnificent £1,900

Despite a somewhat damp start to the day, there was once again an excellent turn-out for this year's Macmillan Coffee Morning in St Michael's Church Hall on October 3. Arguably one of the best social gatherings of the year, there was brisk business for the coffee and a delicious selection of home-made cakes, flapjacks, biscuits, sausage rolls, quiches, soups, cheese biscuits and more.

A small army of helpers, organised by Sandie Conlon and Clare Attard, spent the morning serving visitors, selling raffle tickets and washing-up. There were also cakes to take home. Most of the prizes for the raffle were generously donated by local businesses as well as individuals, including another spectacularly decorated cake by Pat O'beirne, which was won by Grahame Joseph.

The sum raised was an astonishing £1,900 – a truly remarkable result for a coffee morning, bringing the total for the last three years to almost £6,000.

"Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the morning – all our wonderful helpers and all those who came to support us," said Sandie Conlon.



Photography: Mike Beck





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Spice up your life – Hallraisers' Film & Curry Night

After a lull to enjoy the glorious summer, the Hallraisers are back and ready to tackle the last part of the Church Hall refurbishment – the main hall itself. This is the most ambitious part of our work, encompassing new heating, lighting and audio-visual equipment, together with reimagined storage to remove the clutter from around the edge of the hall, a new floor and possibly even a stage for performances.

As with the refurbishment of the kitchen and bathrooms, we aim to raise 75% of the funding for the work through grants, with the remaining 25% through fundraising events and donations.

Our first fundraising event for this phase was a Film & Curry Night which proved to be a sell out. The fading church hall was transformed into a glittering cinema for the evening, classic film posters and gold stars lit up the tables, with usherettes serving ice cream and popcorn as the film started. A 'Golden Age of Hollywood' film quiz challenged guests, with Robin Wills' encyclopaedic knowledge ensuring his table won the prize of New Park cinema tickets.

The evening started with Michael Davey's famous (and delicious) curry, which was full of aromatic spices that brought a subtle warmth and just enough heat to keep things interesting, alongside dollops of soft, fluffy rice.

Next, everyone settled down to watch *The Man from Toronto*, a 1933 rom com which was filmed on location in Amberley. It was fascinating to see a bit of visual history – manual phone exchanges with switchboard operators connecting overseas call, cars starting to gain a foothold, the village parade complete with brass bands and a winning float celebrating the Empire. While much has moved on, it was also fascinating to see how little has changed – a village where everyone still knows each other, a talented vocal quartet, rumours spreading like wildfire and people staggering home after a convivial night out at The Black Horse.



The event raised £1,158 through ticket and bar sales and donations, which continued to come in for days after the event. This is a marvellous achievement and The Hallraisers would like to thank everyone who came to the event and donated so very generously. **Susan Watson**



Usherettes Catherine Cunningham and Susan Watson; below from the left: Michael Davey in curry mode; Mel Edge presents cinema tokens to Kate Bannister, representing the winning quiz team; film-themed tables; and Sally White and Michael Davey behind the scenes in the kitchen





CHICHESTER CHAMBER CONCERT

Trio set to delight

Described as having “a masterful blend of youthful vigour and mature artistry”, the Amatis Trio will be performing at the Chichester Chamber Concert on Thursday, November 6. The programme features Schubert’s *piano trio in E flat major Op. 100*; Liszt’s *Tristia (La Vallée d’Obermann)*; and Mendelssohn’s *piano trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66*.

As usual, the venue is the Assembly Room in North Street, with the concert beginning at 7.30pm.

CHICHESTER MUSIC SOCIETY

New season gets underway

The first concert of Chichester Music Society’s new season gets underway on November 18 with the charismatic piano duo, Nigel Clayton and Imma Setiadi. They will be performing an exciting, varied programme of duets which will include music by Gershwin, Debussy, Holst, Bizet, Rachmaninov and Ravel.

The concert will take place in the University of Chichester Chapel, at the Bishop Otter campus at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced £15, are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/chichester-music-society. Children and students have free entry. There are parking charges at the university but if you contact Chris Hough, at www.chichestermusicso-ciety.org.uk with your registration number and car make details he will arrange free parking.

On the following day (November 19), Nigel and Imma will be running master classes at the university with student chamber music groups. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend at no charge. If interested e-mail Cyndy Kennett at cyndy@profact.co.uk

STORRINGTON FILM NIGHT

A therapeutic coastal walk

The now controversial story of a husband and wife’s epic 630-mile trek along the South Coast path is the subject of this month’s film organised by the Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District.

The Salt Path stars Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs. It is being shown at 7.30pm on Wednesday, November 10 at Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road. After losing their home and facing a terminal diagnosis, Raynor and her husband Moth walked the path with very little money, documenting their struggle and eventual healing through nature.

As usual, there is a bar and a raffle during the interval, and anyone requiring transport should contact John Ollerton on (07523) 322554. Tickets are £5, and are available in advance from the Card Shop in Storrington, with any unsold tickets available at the door on the night.

Send season’s greetings via The Wildbrooks Magazine

You know it makes sense. Instead of traipsing round the streets delivering Christmas cards to friends and neighbours on Christmas Eve, why not save time and money by taking advantage of the *The Wildbrooks Magazine’s* popular ‘Season’s Greetings’ section? Since its introduction ten years ago, it has proved a real success. It not only cuts down on the cost of

cards, but also time and shoe leather! Furthermore, the rate has not increased unlike the cost of postage and greetings cards.

Most households in the four parishes read the magazine, so your message will be seen by friends and most of your neighbours. For a minimum donation of

Your Christmas greetings to friends and neighbours



£10 (you can, of course, be more generous) to any of the Wildbrooks Churches (specify which one you wish to support), you can display your Christmas and New Year greetings in a personalised message panel, with up to 35-40 words.

To reserve space, send your Christmas message to mike@brooklandsamberley.com or mail/deliver it to Brooklands, East Street, BN18 9NN. You can either pay by cheque (made out to PCC of Amberley) or online: PCC of Amberley (sort code 20-98-74; account no: 13834387) using your surname + Greetings as reference.

The deadline for inclusion in the December issue is November 17. This is also an opportunity to make a modest donation to one of the Wildbrooks Churches during the season of goodwill.

Christmas Fair

The St Michael’s Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday, November 29, in the Church Hall, from 10am until 4pm.

The perfect opportunity to stock up for the festive season at a range of local artisan stalls selling handcrafted products which make ideal gifts. There will be delicious treats on offer, too.

Children will be able to visit Santa’s grotto and share Christmas wishes.



The Amberley Society

As announced last month we shall have two talks in November, an evening one and the first of our lunchtime talks.

Tuesday 4 November 2025, 7.30 pm, St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley

A Wildbrooks Evening

Our talk tonight will be preceded by a showing of Amberley Wildbrooks, a film sponsored by the Amberley Society with grant from Mobil Oil Company; made by Geoffrey Gurrin and produced by Joe Doolan. Some of you may be unaware that the Amberley Society was formed initially, in 1977, to campaign – successfully – against Southern Water's proposal to drain the Brooks. The roughly 15min film was shown to the inspector at the 1978 public enquiry into Southern Water's plan but few people here will have seen it. It is being digitised and we hope eventually to make it available online.

The film will be followed by a talk by Sarah George, Nyetimber's Rewilding Manager:

The Natural Processes of Amberley Wildbrooks: A personal perspective

This will complement Sarah's hosting of the 'Walk on the Downs' which many of you would have attended on 30 September. Sarah comments that "whilst I am new to the Brooks, they have rapidly found a place in my heart and I am really enjoying learning more about them and the opportunities that there are for looking after this special area."

Additionally, Jim Glover and Chris Skinner will give a brief update on their activities relating to the Brooks.

Wednesday 19 November 2025, 11.30am, The Sportsman

Bell Carleton: vicar of Amberley 1721-1746

Ian Galbraith will talk about the 18th century Amberley vicar whose family spread all over West Sussex, and whose local legacy is impossible to miss.

Please let us know if you plan to attend this lunchtime talk and if so whether you intend to stay for lunch afterwards, by completing the form at www.amberleysociety.co.uk/events

Downs Farm walk

On a glorious late September morning, 33 Society members enjoyed a guided tour round Nyetimber's Downs Farm, hosted by Paul Gasson, estates manager, and Sarah George, rewilding manager.

Sarah and Paul explained what Nyetimber are doing on

their lands around Amberley. We could see the extent of their vineyard at Downs Farm, and the juniper plantings they had made. The views from Amberley Mount are spectacular but even more so from the farm, which is not publically accessible. So this was quite a special day. Many thanks to Nyetimber.

New trustee

We are delighted to announce that Fraser Wheeler has agreed to become a trustee of the Society. It is particularly appropriate given Fraser's activities and interests in Amberley's natural environment, and the incorporation of Greener Amberley into the Society.

Greener Amberley

The Amberley Society and Greener Amberley have agreed, on the basis of consistent objectives, to merge their efforts on the local environment. Greener Amberley will keep its name and will operate much as before, but within new governance arrangements, whereby Greener Amberley will be a committee within the Society, reporting to the Trustees. Catherine Cunningham and Fraser, current members of Greener Amberley, are also trustees of the Society. Our hope and expectation is that this arrangement will provide further impetus towards the sustainability of Amberley.

Ian Galbraith & Jeff Feakins
Co-chairs, The Amberley Society



*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. 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!



ADVENT CALENDAR 2025

Here is a glimpse of the first draft of the 2025 Amberley Open Doors Advent Calendar. You will see that quite a few dates are still vacant so I look forward to more people having open doors ideas and contacting me soon. What is looked for now are small scale events – coffee mornings, sherry and mince pie afternoons/evenings and if you have a skill to demonstrate that would be good too. In the past we have had photograph competitions, games evenings, story-telling and cookery demonstrations to name but a few. So if you think the Advent Calendar is a lovely thing to enjoy, as I am often told, why not dial up your enthusiasm a notch or two and open your door? The following dates are, at the time of writing, available for an event you may have in mind: December 2,4,5,9,13,14,15,20,21, 22 and 23.

If you have already got your event on the list, I need the following for the final version of the programme:

Date and Time ● Venue ● Brief description of the event
● The charity of your choice ● Contact details

Please say if numbers are limited; and if payment is required over and above a donation to charity.

And finally, if you are providing refreshments, do ask for an RSVP to help with the catering.

Looking forward to hearing from you at suepheasey6@gmail.com or call (07889) 712773 **Sue Pheasey**

AMBERLEY OPEN DOORS ADVENT CALENDAR 2025

Monday, December 1 (2-5pm)

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 or (01798) 831010. Donations to Freedom from Torture.

Monday, December 1 (6-8pm)

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 or on (01798) 839046. Donations to Freedom from Torture.

Wednesday, December 3 (10-1pm)

Festive Card, Gift and Tree Decoration Ideas Workshop in St Michael's Church Hall. Do come along and join Jax, Mary and Sandie 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 and it would be helpful if you could pay two weeks before the date for the purchase of materials. For further information, and to book, please contact Sandie Conlon on (01798) 8393320 or e-mail 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 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. Donations to Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice.

Wednesday, December 10

Christmas Village Lunch at St Michael's Church Hall at 1pm.

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 while you puzzle over enigmatic clues and ones so simple you will kick yourself when the answers are revealed. RSVP mike@brooklandsamberley.com Donations to Macmillan Cancer support.

continued overleaf



continued from previous page

Friday, December 12 (7.30-9.30pm)

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 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. 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 Donations for Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.

Wednesday, December 17

Carols at the Bridge Inn – further information in the December edition.

Thursday, December 18 (6pm-8.30pm)

Greener Amberley: you are invited to join Greener Amber-

ley 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)

Carol singing round the village. Everyone welcome to join in. Meet at the bus shelter at Hurst Cottages at 6pm. SWe 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 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 at the church. Donations to the Lorica Trust.

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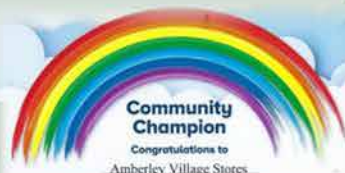
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PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held on September 23, 2025 in Rackham Old School

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

Significant updates were shared regarding the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation. Claudia Fisher, who is both a parish councillor and a member of Horsham District Council (HDC), informed the meeting that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) would be submitting a proposal to central government advocating for a single unitary authority. In contrast, HDC is proposing the creation of two separate unitary councils. Under HDC's plan, one authority would encompass Adur, Arun, Chichester and Worthing, while the other would combine Crawley, Horsham, and Mid Sussex.

During the public adjournment, a resident raised concerns about a persistent drainage issue along the eastern side of Rackham Street. Water from a ditch frequently spills on to the road and freezes during winter months, posing safety risks. It is believed that a pipe near Skinner's Cottage may be blocked, preventing proper water flow to the stream south of Rackham Old School. The council resolved that the clerk would contact West Sussex Highways to investigate and address the blockage.

Additionally, the clerk was asked to follow up with Highways regarding an overgrown hedge along Greatham Lane, which has become a nuisance for pedestrians and drivers alike.

In matters of traffic safety, the council discussed the proposed reduction of the speed limit along the B2139. The clerk reported that WSCC's Matt Gray has requested a new application, including fresh evidence of community support for a revised 50mph limit. Councillors expressed frustration, noting that if residents supported a 40mph limit previously, it was reasonable to assume they would support 50mph. The clerk was instructed to seek advice from Paul Marshall, the local county councillor and leader of WSCC, and to raise concerns about the lack of consultation on recent speed limit changes on the A283 and Bury Hill, which may set precedents affecting the B2139.

The council also noted the lack of response from Parham Estate regarding requests to allow residents to cycle through the grounds, despite two e-mails being sent.

Among the planning applications discussed was the proposed change of use at Woodsyrd (land east of Rose Cottage) from equestrian to residential with a forestry tie, including the conversion and rebuilding of an old stable block and outbuilding into single storey, two-bedroom home. Councillors felt unable to support the application, mainly due to a lack of technical details on the waste and water systems.

In response to an application relating to Northpark Wood for new access on to Rackham Street for the dispatch of timber, including 60m of forest track with the provision to stack timber, the South Downs National Park Authority ecology officer had advised that the site was located within the Parham Park Site of Special Interest (SSSI) and was within/immediately adjacent to a large parcel of ancient replanted woodland. An ecological impact assessment was therefore required to be carried out to detail the designated sites, habitats and species to be affected directly and indirectly as a result of the proposals and provide a detailed avoidance and mitigation strategy. As the submitted site plan indicated tree felling would be required, a 10 per cent net gain in biodiversity would be required unless any Biodiversity Net Gain exemptions could be fully justified.

Finally, the council discussed website security following a report that a Storrington councillor was blocked from accessing Parham PC's website. Vision ICT advised that an SSL certificate, which would remove the "Not Secure" label, costs £50 plus VAT annually. Although the site does not handle sensitive data, councillors agreed that the current label was inappropriate for an official site. The clerk will contact Vision ICT to request inclusion of the certificate within the council's existing service package.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, November 11, at 7.30pm in Rackham Old School.

Your Church Hall needs you!

The Hallraisers are giving the Church Hall a fresh look and a new coat of paint in November, while the fundraising for the full renovation continues.

We have some volunteers with paintbrushes at the ready ... but we need more! Can you help?

If you have some experience of painting and decorating and some spare time – or if you have any of the items in your shed that you could lend or give to the volunteer team to save on costs (paint brushes, rollers, trays, dust sheets, masking tape etc) – please get in touch with Sarah Wheeler at sarahwheeler1@live.com



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Meadows in crisis

At this time of year, after its late summer hay cut, the grass in Amberley churchyard might look unremarkable. But if you look closely, you'll notice that it's not just grass growing. This is the return of a surprisingly rare habitat. Wildflowers are being carefully managed and encouraged, for the sake of nature, and people, too.

It is a well acknowledged fact that Britain is among the most nature-depleted countries in the world. This is not a recent collapse, but a result of a long decline. One of the habitats that has been wholly decimated by human hands are our meadows.

From the 1940s, with farmers under pressure with a duty to feed the nation from a domestic supply, the ironically named 'Green Revolution' saw our countryside transformed. The small field structures dominated by pastoral grazing were almost completely replaced by more intensive systems using chemical "improvement" of our grassland pastures.

As a result, since the 1930s we have lost 98 per cent of our lowland meadows. While high levels of nutrients in the soil might sound like a good thing for plant growth, this abundance creates the perfect conditions for a minority of generalist grass species like Yorkshire fog and cocksfoot to dominate, to the exclusion of a biodiverse sward. Other species, adapted to the less fertile conditions of the past, cannot compete.

But why is it so important to preserve and rescue lowland meadows, and other biodiverse habitats? They are special for the sheer abundance of wildflower species and the insects and small mammals they support, in

turn providing food for birds and bats. But we should put wildlife aside for a moment, to realise just how much we rely on "healthy habitats" (excuse the buzzword) in our everyday lives.

Part of the reason that we now face increasingly regular and catastrophic flooding, heatwaves, and wildfires, is that our natural systems, originally resilient to these phenomena, are so degraded that they cannot adapt to change. Canalised watercourses pour water into overloaded drains and baked soils provide a hearth for fire. It has been recently discovered that Australia's rainforests are now emitting, rather than absorbing, carbon dioxide, due to dead and dying trees.

Nature-based solutions

It is impossible to overstate the value of ecosystem services which we have previously taken for granted, but

now this is changing. Farmers, for example, are turning away from pesticides in favour of 'integrated pest management', creating habitats to encourage populations of predatory insects which will control pests. Major corporates such as water companies, insurers and airlines are providing massive investments into these 'nature-based



solutions' to protect their businesses. You don't have to look far to see such benefits.

Through a dry summer, where parts of the country, such as Gloucestershire, received less rain than the dictionary definition of a desert, the wildflower meadow in Amberley churchyard remained green, the sward buzzing with life. The stunning array of native species, oxeye daisy, lady's bedstraw, black knapweed, yarrow and common vetch, required little maintenance or watering, and provided nectar for our pollinating insects. *continued overleaf*



continued from previous page

The flying insects were snatched mid-air by bats and screaming swifts, the latter thriving in their colony in the eaves of the church despite their national declines. Back on the ground, the tall grasses provided shade and kept the ground cool, retaining moisture and protecting the rich array of life in the soil, reducing the risk of dead vegetation and parched ground causing wildfires. The resilience and resultant benefits of a healthy ecosystem is astonishing, but what are we aiming for when we talk about recovering nature in the churchyard?

Beyond rewilding

For many people, nature recovery is synonymous with the infamous, and not always welcome term “rewilding”. It has many definitions, broadly referring to the restoration of natural processes to create healthy, balanced ecosystems. The result of this technique are areas left for, and managed by, nature.

It is part of the national solution to the biodiversity crisis we face, but not the whole solution. If you are used to cropped lawns, the long grasses and flowers in the churchyard may at first seem an alarming change, and some people are concerned that we are aiming for a rewilded wilderness.

Rewilding replaces human management with species like grazing cattle to create a wilderness mosaic of habitats and replicate the impact of wild herbivores like the extinct Auroch. Our team of calloused, blistered, tired volunteers might object to the term!

What might look wild is the result of hours of poring over hand drawn maps and discussing how we best balance the needs of the humans and wildlife that use the churchyard. The same kind of discussions are happening throughout the countryside (and our urban areas too), from farming estates to back gardens.

Making space for nature is more than just a luxury, it is part of ensuring that we can continue to benefit from the land in the face of growing pressures from climate change and overextraction. It isn't a simple balance to achieve, and it is always evolving, but the benefits of getting it right are enormous.

Why churchyards?

In the face of a biodiversity crisis and climate change, it is forgivable to feel rather powerless. This feeling even has its own name, “eco-anxiety”. However, in a nation of gardeners, it is possible to find surprisingly high biodiversity in our villages, towns and cities, particularly compared to intensively managed rural areas.

Green does not automatically equal good, and much of our nation's countryside can be likened to “green deserts”,

as impermeable to wildlife as our urban areas, highlighting the need to create habitats wherever we can. Gardens make up around seven percent of Sussex's land cover.

If you add in community greenspaces, the figure is more like ten percent, presenting a huge opportunity for making space for nature. As our landscape becomes ever more subdivided by development, wildlife-permeable urban areas, with corridors and stepping stones, are becoming an urgent necessity.

Churchyards like Amberley are an important part of that picture and highlight the challenge of making space for nature without negatively affecting the human use of these places. We are particularly conscious that the churchyard is a burial ground, visited by relatives and friends of those who lie at rest there.

At Amberley, we aim to maintain a balance between the wildflower areas, which are mainly in the older parts of the churchyard where the graves are no longer tended,



and the tended areas, which are kept neater. This balance is an ongoing journey and if you have concerns about a particular grave that you are looking after, please tell the churchwardens, as things can always be adjusted.

There is particular value in these ancient burial grounds. Churchyards like ours are uniquely valuable thanks to their historic management. These ancient spaces are particularly special as they are among the miniscule number of remaining grasslands which have never seen the addition of artificial fertilisers. These quiet, contemplative corners of the countryside are the last few spaces where, with care, lowland meadow habitat can be restored, creating a beautiful, traditional space for people and nature.

For now, the churchyard is quiet. Last month volunteers with scythes cut and removed the hay, important to avoid nutrients building up in the soil, and it will be occasionally mown through the winter. Come spring, the wildflowers will quickly start to bloom and the cycle will begin again.

Alex Briggs on behalf of churchwardens Mel Edge and Michael Davey, St Michael's PCC

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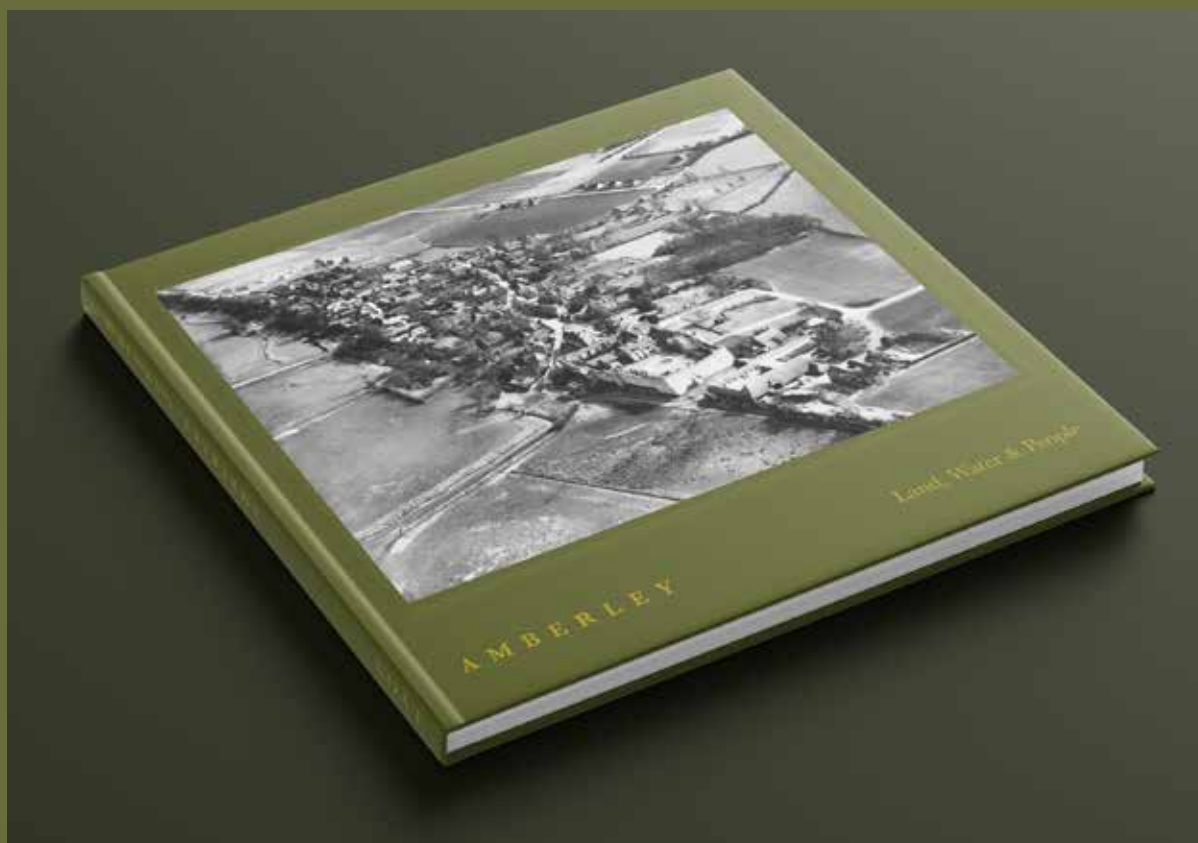
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Finch fiesta as more head south

As I'm wandering through the wooded heathland, admiring the autumn colours and spotting fungi, I'm suddenly hit on the head by a falling pine cone. More seem to be raining down from the top of the conifers and I manage to catch one noticing how it has been prised apart. I look up to see half-a-dozen chunky birds flying off, chatting to one another with loud 'chip, chip' calls. My first encounter with crossbills this year.

At this time of year our family of finches are often boosted by visitors from the north. Here are a few to look and listen out for on a walk this month.

Crossbills have uniquely shaped bills where the top mandible crosses over the bottom one. This specialised bill enables them to prise apart the cones of their favoured Scot's pine and larch to get to the seeds within. Crossbills are unpredictable and nomadic; moving around as the food supply in their breeding area dwindles. Some years we'll suddenly get large numbers of crossbill roaming around in search of food – these are known as 'irruptions'. There have been good numbers of crossbills in the area so far this autumn – as I've been out and about updating my fungi trail on the wooded heathland at Pulborough Brooks, I've often heard (then seen) flocks of a dozen or so flying overhead. Look, too, in the pines in Rackham woods.

Feeding high in the conifer canopy, they can be tricky birds to see, but thankfully they are quite vocal, calling as they fly with a loud 'chip, chip' call. Look for them flying over and hopefully they'll land at the top of a tree which is in view. The alternative is to locate them as twirling pine seeds (and occasional cones) drop towards the woodland floor. I still have my caught pinecone in my collection of natural treasures. They are beautiful birds – the males brick-red and the females olive-green – so it's worth being patient to catch a glimpse.

Finding a hawfinch will always be a special day and you've a better chance in the winter months when our small breeding population is boosted by continental birds. They are our largest finch – more than three times the weight of a goldfinch with a gigantic parrot-like beak. Hawfinches are fond of the kernels of seeds such as hornbeam, yew and cherry – few birds have the strength to crack open cherry stones. I remember when one of our regular visitors, who did bird ringing as part of his scientific research, showed me the scar on his hand that had been left by a hawfinch's beak!



Bill of fare: the crossbill's ability to prise apart pine cones as a food source

They, too, are handsome birds with soft colours of ashy pink, rust, beige and fawns. Last winter, there were large numbers of them feeding around Rewell wood, off to the left as you descend the A29 from Whiteways – a real treat if you can build yourself up for the steep climb up the north-facing slope from Fairmile Bottom. But well worth the effort.

We'll move on from our largest finch to our smallest – the lesser redpoll. In the topmost branches of birches and alders, a small flock of acrobatic birds can be seen hanging on slender twigs. They are mainly streaky brown but sport a black bib and a crimson patch on their forehead from which they get their name. Males sometimes have a rosy blush on their chest too – especially as we move from winter through to early spring.

They breed in small numbers throughout Britain but accumulate in small flocks in the winter. We've been seeing a flock of 20 or so feeding happily on the birch trees on the 'zig zags' at Pulborough Brooks. In cold winters, you may also find them in your gardens enjoying the seed in your bird feeders, alongside Goldfinches and Siskins.

Anna Allum

Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB Wiggoholt



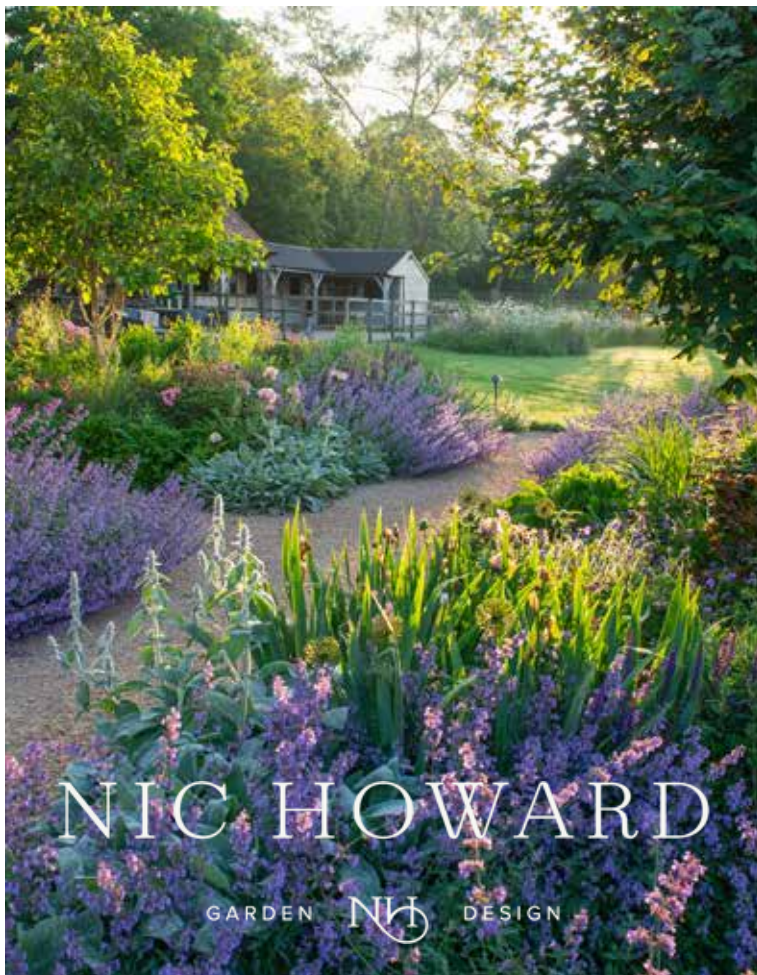
Picture: Vanda Pellins

The much-maligned spider

From hallowe'en bunting to sensationalised stories, spiders have an unfair, creepy-crawly-villain reputation. The shift into autumn often reignites a focus on indoor spider sightings, and with it a renewed batch of clickbait fearmongering. Some of those getting the worst of it are the false widows.

Among six species of false widow spider in the UK, three are most common. The smaller of the two is native; the rabbit

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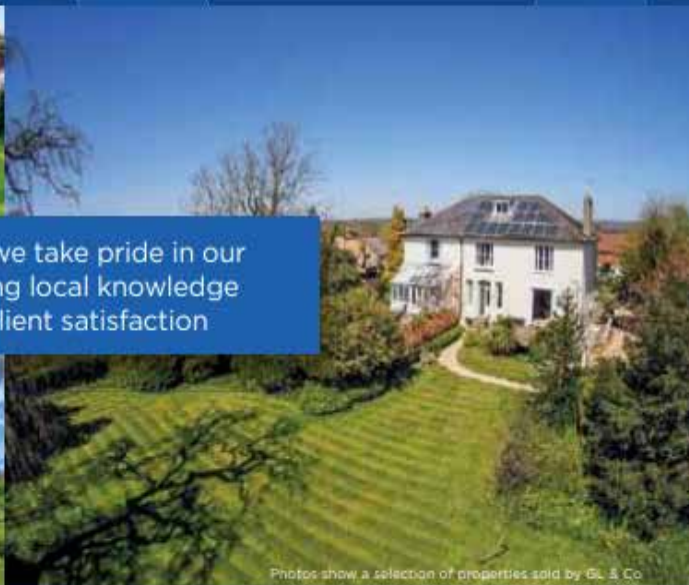
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continued from page 33

hutch and the cupboard spiders. The largest of the three, at 10-14mm body length, is the noble false widow. Although technically non-native, this species is pretty much part of the furniture, having arrived in the 1800s. They are mostly brown in colour with varying pale shades and patterns on the abdomen, which sometimes look 'skull-shaped'; an awkward addition to the PR nightmare.

The latter two species have been known to deliver a bite to humans. However, like most spiders, they are not typically aggressive, sometimes biting in defence when handled. As ever, medical advice should be sought if you are concerned or vulnerable, but the bite is said to be comparable to a wasp sting.

Despite the clue in the name, false widows are often aligned with black widow spiders. These non-UK species have a more potent bite, which can cause illness in humans, though to continue the arachno-advocacy, they are similarly passive in behaviour.

As with many vilified creatures, alarmism can lead to misidentification and incorrect reporting. One confusion species

for the noble false widow is the missing sector orb web spider. One way to differentiate them is by the webs: the latter produces the famous concentric circle-style (often with one sector missing!) whereas noble false widows create criss-crossing, messy looking 'tangle' webs.

Contrary to the aspersions, spiders make excellent house guests. They are private, tidy and keep unwanted flying insects to a minimum, which is especially helpful if you have houseplants. If you have a spider in your home this autumn, at best, leave them be and observe their fascinating habits. If it's necessary to move them, do so gently, using a glass and piece of card, and carefully pop them outside, preferably in a similarly protective building, such as a shed, or nearby vegetation.

Tolerance and coexistence are vital for effective conservation, whether in our wider ecosystem, or in our own gardens and homes. With our urban environment expanding, we must continue to make space for nature, especially those who, like the false widows, are so wrongly maligned.

Kerry Williams

Communications Officer – Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Picture: Ben Andrew/rspb-images.com

RECIPE

Christmas party coming up?

Some quick and easy nibbles

Ingredients

See recipe method, below, for all the ingredients you'll need for your canapés.

Method

1. Bloody Mary shots with horseradish: For 10 shots mix 700ml tomato juice with 50ml vodka, juice from one lemon, a good splash of Tabasco and vegetarian Worcestershire sauce in a jug. Season then chill. To serve, pour into 10 shot glasses, add a thin cucumber stick to each as a stirrer, and top with a small spoon of creamed horseradish.

2. Quails' eggs with sesame dukka: Toast 1 tbsp each of cumin and coriander seeds and 85g hazelnuts, then whizz in a food processor until finely chopped. Mix with 50g sesame seeds and salt to taste, then serve in small bowls with 24-36 hard-boiled quails' eggs, halved, alongside for dipping.

3. Mini avocado tarts: Buy mini croustade cases from the supermarket, then put a small spoonful of sour cream in each case. Finely dice ripe avocados and mix with a little lime juice, some poppy seeds and finely snipped chives, then pile on top of the sour cream.

4. Parsnip chips with maple-mustard dip: Peel a parsnip per person, then cut into chunky chips and roast with sunflower oil and seasoning at 220C/200C fan/gas 7 for 20-30

mins until crispy and golden. Mix a 200ml tub crème fraîche with 2 tbsp grainy mustard, 2 tbsp maple syrup and some seasoning and serve the hot parsnip chips alongside for dipping.

5. Halloumi dippers with chilli pineapple salsa: For the salsa, finely dice 200g fresh or canned pineapple and mix with 1 finely chopped red onion, 1 finely chopped red chilli and juice of 1-2 limes to taste. Use a 250g pack halloumi per 5-6 people, slice into chunky strips, thread onto small soaked wooden skewers and grill, turning, until crispy. Serve with the salsa.

6. Greek kebabs with houmous & tzatziki: Cook and cool bought falafel, then skewer each one with a chunk of cucumber, small cube of feta and a cherry tomato. Serve with pots of houmous and tzatziki on the side.

7. Crunchy poppadoms with mango chutney: To feed a crowd, finely shred 3 peeled carrots, dice ½ a cucumber and finely slice 4 spring onions. Mix together with a squeeze of lemon juice and 1 tbsp toasted mustard seeds. To serve, pile into bought mini poppadom crisps, top with a small dollop of mango chutney and scatter with coriander leaves.

8. Fig & blue cheese skewers: Skewer wedges of fig and cubes of blue cheese onto small cocktail sticks or skewers, then drizzle with a little runny honey and scatter with thyme leaves to serve.



The Rise of Northwood

Popular with dog walkers, ramblers and those who love bluebell woods in the spring, Northwood, part of the National Trust's Slindon Estate, has undergone a major transformation during the past decade

Northwood, which once stood at the heart of the Slindon Estate, was mostly cut down during WWI for timber and the land then farmed from WWII onwards. The ancient woodland left standing was small and disconnected, isolating much of the wildlife left behind. The Rise of Northwood project has been returning Northwood to a wooded landscape over the past decade, reconnecting woods cut off from each other almost 100 years ago.

By 2025, the project has created 62 acres (25 hectares) of woodland and a further 111 acres (45 hectares) of wood pasture on previously arable farmland. The project began with taking back arable farmland in 2013, planting 13,000 trees with the community, and allowing areas to naturally regenerate by protecting from deer pressure.

Woodland has developed to a point where the protection from deer has been removed and there is now extensive grazing in place with shorthorn cattle. A new management plan has been drafted to shape the next ten years of Northwood and continue to improve the quality of the habitats that have been created.

The landscape has been returned to its pre-WW1 shape and has seen a dramatic rise in species richness, diversity and abundance. With increased public access and art pieces in the landscape, it has become a more welcoming and engaging space for locals and visitors from further afield. The project area will continue to change and develop with time, only serving to further increase the richness and special nature of this traditional estate.

Why is the National Trust doing this?

The rise of Northwood is about turning back the clock and letting nature return. A hundred years ago Northwood was a great woodland with soaring beech and oak trees and an understory of hazel coppice and wild flowers. At a time of great sacrifice this land yielded timber and 20 years later grew food to feed the nation.

Now, thanks to a generous bequest, The NT has the opportunity to let the woodland rise again. Not only will it reconnect isolated islands of ancient woodland and refix lost wildlife corridors, it is the perfect opportunity to connect people to their local landscape, trees, wildlife and heritage.

On top of this wealth of benefits, the project plays its part in combatting climate change, too, as the young trees capture and store carbon: a win for wildlife, people and ultimately our planet.



One of the many paths through the woodland at Northwood

How has this all been possible?

The Slindon Estate received a bequest from Mr John Springthorpe-Hunt. He was very fond of the South Downs and his generosity has been acknowledged by naming the community planted woodland in his memory: Springthorpe Wood.

There's also been the hard work and dedication from National Trust volunteers and the local community who've made this project the success that it is today. This includes 5,680 volunteer hours, involvement from 10 local schools with 320 educational hours, 36 engagement events and over 1,000 visitors from the surrounding area.

Additional support and funding from the Forestry Commission and Natural England have helped to expand beyond the original scope, planting even more trees and creating wood pasture.

How you can get involved

The main tree-planting part of the project has now been completed. However, we're always in need of volunteers to help survey and monitor Northwood and support the wider estate. Go to our volunteer page to find out more about volunteering opportunities on the Slindon Estate and how you can get involved. No experience is needed – you can learn as you go.

Visiting Northwood

Come and discover Northwood for yourself: stroll through fields full of tree saplings, dip in and out of ancient woodland, sweep along grassy verges and watch Northwood begin to rise right in front of your eyes.

The project area is located 1½ miles north of Slindon and is accessible by a network of public footpaths and public bridleways. Permissive pathways also run directly through Northwood, allowing you to explore it even further.

Limited parking is available at the end of Nore Wood Lane (a narrow road off to the right just beyond Slindon College) so if you fancy a longer walk, park up at Slindon village and walk down the lane or check out our Rise of Northwood Ramble Walks Trail.

EDITORIAL

Safeguarding the Wildbrooks

Not for the first time, the Amberley Society is actively engaged in helping to preserve the Wildbrooks, which are experiencing ecological decline due to a combination of climate change impacts and historical land management practices.

It is almost 50 years since the society was established in 1977 to campaign – successfully – against Southern Water's proposal to drain the brooks. It was a landmark decision, when environmental considerations took priority for the first time over agriculture.

As a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the brooks are particularly vulnerable to rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and increased flood risk. These changes threaten its unique wetland habitats, rare species, and peat soils.

A recent assessment by Natural England highlights that under medium to high emissions scenarios, up to 100 per cent of the site's designated features could be adversely affected or lost by the 2060s. Additionally, historical drainage of the marshland has disrupted natural hydrology, further degrading habitat quality and reducing resilience to climate stressor.

To reverse this decline, a multi-pronged approach is needed. Restoration efforts should focus on improving water quality by reducing nutrient inputs and enhancing sewage treatment. Rewetting and restoring natural hydrology can help maintain wetland conditions and support rare species.

Adaptive management strategies, such as those outlined in Natural England's RAD (Resist-Accept-Direct) framework, offer tailored responses to climate risks for each habitat feature.

Engaging stakeholders in long-term planning and expanding biological monitoring will also be crucial for tracking progress and refining interventions. Conservation organisations like the Sussex Wildlife Trust are already working on nature-based solutions, including natural flood management and habitat restoration, to build resilience across the region.

With coordinated action, Amberley Wildbrooks can be safeguarded for future generations.

Mike Toynbee

**Deadline for the combined
December/January issue is**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

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

or e-mail mike@brooklandsamberley.com



On seeing two swallows late in October

Lone occupiers of a naked sky

When desolate November hovers nigh

And all your fellow tribes in many crowds

Have left the village with the autumn clouds

Careless of old affections for the scene

That made them happy when the fields were green

And left them undisturbed to build their nests

In each old chimney like to welcome guests

Forsaking all like untamed winds they roam

And make with summers an unsettled home

Following her favours to the farthest lands

O'er untraced oceans and untrodden sands

Like happy images they haste away

And leave us lonely till another may

But little lingerers old esteem detains

Ye haply thus to brave the chilly air

When skies grow dull with winter's heavy rains

And all the orchard trees are nearly bare

Yet the old chimneys still are peeping there

Above the russet thatch where summers tide

Of sunny joys gave you such social fare

As makes you haply wishing to abide

In your old dwellings through the changing year

I wish ye well to find a dwelling here

For in the unsocial weather ye would fling

Gleanings of comfort through the winter wide

Twittering as wont above the old fire side

And cheat the surly winter into spring **John Clare**



Property Watch

Homes for sale and to rent locally



Amberley

Church Street 5-bedroom detached house
(Stride & Son, Chichester) **£2,300,000**

High Street 4-bedroom house
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,795,000**

East Street 4-bedroom detached house
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,350,000**

New Barn Road 5-bedroom detached Edwardian house
(Fowlers, Storrington) **£1,250,000**

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**

Off B2139 4-bedroom detached house
(GL&Co, Storrington/Jackson-Stops, Chichester) **£995,000**

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**

Greatham

Brook Road 3-bedroom semi-detached house
(RH & RW Clutton, Petworth) **£495,000**

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 - November

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, November 4 and 18**; mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be collected on **Tuesdays, November 11 and 25**.



For **Church Street and Hog Lane**: collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, November 5 and 19**; garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be collected on **Mondays, November 10 and 24**; collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Wednesdays, November 12 and 26**.

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

Village Bus Timetable

On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Village Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers. We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver will pick up and set down at your door on request (especially useful when you are returning home with shopping), or anywhere else en route. The fare is a flat-rate £3 per return journey (£2 single fare). Bus Pass Holders, and children under 16, travel free. Wheelchair users are welcome, but always ring ahead. To arrange a pick-up from your home, use of the bus for other community activity, or to discuss becoming a volunteer driver, please call Phil Greenwood on (01798) 831 803.

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

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



LOCAL INFORMATION

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

Southern Trains Timetable (from 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



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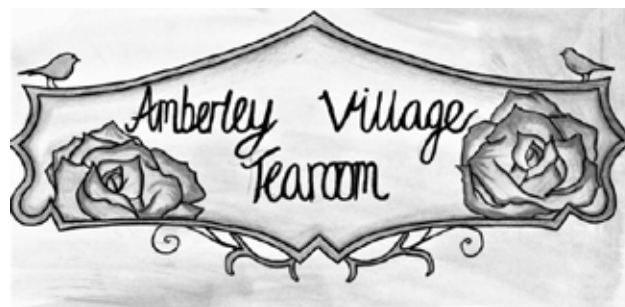
● Tuesday 1pm-4pm ● Thursday 1pm-5pm

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NOVEMBER DIVERSIONS

1. Who was recently named as the first female Archbishop of Canterbury?
2. The title heroine of which Thomas Hardy novel is arrested at Stonehenge?
3. Who is the 'Leader of His Majesty's Most Loyal Opposition'?
4. Which 1972 novel by Richard Adams opens in Sandleford Warren?
5. The chief tributary of the St Lawrence River shares its name with which Canadian city?
6. Who was Nicholas Breakspear?
7. On which Mediterranean island would you find the Costa Smeralda?
8. Because of his popularity in Britain, after which 19th-century Italian general and patriot was a Peek Freans' biscuit named?
9. What type of aircraft competed for the Schneider Trophy?
10. The arrival of the Queen of Sheba opens Act III of which composer's 1749 oratorio *Solomon*.
11. What was the name of the tree that 'the jolly swag-man' camped beside?
12. What in Cockney rhyming slang is money?
13. Which 16th century Italian statesman gave his name to a word meaning unscrupulous political cunning?
14. The once German colony, known as South West Africa, was renamed by the UN in 1968 as what?
15. Which is the oldest classic in British horse-racing and where is it run?
16. Where would you find Judges, Kings and Chronicles?
17. In which street is the Bank of England?
18. What is cappalletti?
19. How many players make up a Ryder Cup team? (a) 8 (b) 12 (c) 16
20. What is the capital of Uruguay?
21. What is the smallest British bird?
22. Collective noun for ravens?
23. Which opera singer was known as the 'Swedish Nightingale'?
24. Who composed the theme music for the film *Elvira Madigan*?
25. Who starred in the 1968 film *The Odd Couple*?
26. Which English town is famous for its pork pies?
27. *I got you babe* was a hit in 1965 for which duo?
28. In which country was the first marathon run?
29. Which actress died last month, famous for her role as Hyacinth Bucket?
30. From which country does the cheese cambozola originate?

Answers: page 43

Quick crossword

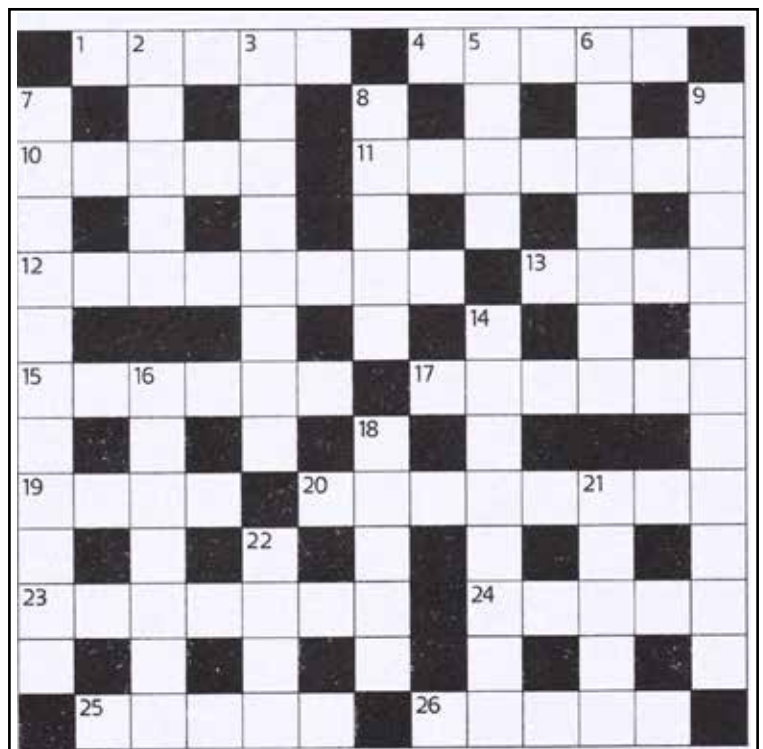
Across

1. Scratch (5)
4. Stage comedy (5)
10. Eighth Greek letter (5)
11. Old saying (7)
12. Guitarist's pick (8)
13. Mounted game (4)
15. Hire (6)
17. Hit rock..... (6)
19. Drying oven (4)
20. Elegant (8)
23. Rudolf ____, ballet dancer (7)
24. Take pictures (5)
25. Shade of brown (5)
26. Type of drum (5)

Down

2. Wrinkled fabric (5)
3. Chain ____, Diana Ross hit (8)
5. Nautical cry! (4)
6. Thin cigar (7)
7. Author of *Carrie* (7,4)
8. Gush (5)
9. Irregularity (11)
14. Indian shoe (8)
16. Religious traveller (7)
18. Desire (5)
21. Finely-ground grain (5)
22. Variety (4)

Solution: page 43





CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

1st Saturday

Bonfire Night, The Old Rectory, Rackham, (in aid of St Peter's Church, Parham), 6pm

Hallowe'en Evening, Amberley Museum, 6pm-9pm*

4th Tuesday

Talk: Art Deco - Whatever happened to Art Nouveau? The Arts Society West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 1.30pm

Talk: A Wildbrooks Evening, (Amberley Society), St Michael's Church Hall, 7.30pm

5th Wednesday

Talk: Art of Uzbekistan, The Arts Society South Downs, Fittleworth Village Hall, 10.45am

6th Thursday

Concert: The Amatis Trio (Chichester Chamber Concert), Assembly Room, Chichester, 7.30pm

8th Saturday

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

9th Sunday

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

10th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

12th Wednesday

Film: *The Salt Path*, Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, 7.30pm

18th Tuesday

Concert: piano duets, Chichester Music Society, Chapel, Bishop Otter Campus, Chichester, 7.30pm

19th Wednesday

Talk: Bell Carleton: vicar of Amberley (1721-1746), The Sportsman, 11.30am



Littlehampton Tide Timetable



November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1st Low 00.52 High 07.24 Low 13.29 High 19.49
2nd Low 01.54 High 08.17 Low 14.21 High 20.38	3rd Low 02.42 High 09.03 Low 15.06 High 21.24	4th Low 03.26 High 09.46 Low 15.48 High 22.08	5th Low 04.08 High 10.29 Low 16.32 High 22.53	6th Low 04.52 High 11.13 Low 17.16 High 23.39	7th Low 05.37 High 11.58 Low 18.03	8th High 00.25 Low 06.25 High 12.43 Low 18.51
9th High 01.14 Low 07.14 High 13.30 Low 19.41	10th High 02.05 Low 08.06 High 14.23 Low 20.35	11th High 03.04 Low 09.04 High 15.24 Low 21.38	12th High 04.10 Low 10.14 High 16.36 Low 22.55	13th High 05.25 Low 11.38 High 17.57	14th Low 00.13 High 06.42 Low 12.50 High 19.15	15th Low 01.17 High 07.47 Low 13.48 High 20.14
16th Low 02.11 High 08.37 Low 14.35 High 21.01	17th Low 02.55 High 09.20 Low 15.17 High 21.42	18th Low 03.34 High 09.58 Low 15.54 High 22.19	19th Low 04.11 High 10.33 Low 16.30 High 22.54	20th Low 04.45 High 11.05 Low 17.03 High 23.24	21st Low 05.19 High 11.34 Low 17.37 High 23.55	22nd Low 05.52 High 12.03 Low 18.10
23rd High 00.25 Low 06.26 High 12.33 Low 18.43	24th High 00.57 Low 06.58 High 13.05 Low 19.16	25th High 01.31 Low 07.33 High 13.42 Low 19.52	26th High 02.10 Low 08.14 High 14.24 Low 20.37	27th High 02.58 Low 09.06 High 15.17 Low 21.33	28th High 04.00 Low 10.11 High 16.28 Low 22.40	29th High 05.20 Low 11.26 High 17.53 Low 23.55
30th High 06.34 Low 12.37 High 19.03						

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

25th Tuesday

SAGE Christmas Social, St Michael's Church Hall, 3pm-5.30pm

29th Saturday

Christmas Fair, St Michael's Church Hall, 10am-4pm

**Booking essential*

Dates for the diary

Christmas Adventures, Amberley Museum

December 6-7, 13-14, 20-21

Christmas wreath-making workshop
December 8

Amberley Village Christmas lunch
December 10



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The George & Dragon, Houghton 01798 831559

The Labouring Man, Coldwaltham 01798 873337

The Sportsman Inn, Amberley 01798 831787

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

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Robert Sadler, locally-based registered osteopath 01798 874736

Storrington Physiotherapy Clinic, Filipa Barnes & Sean Case 01903 743538

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

Answers to Diversions (see page 41)

1. Dame Sarah Mullally 2. Tess of the D'Urbervilles 3. Kemi Badenoch 4. Watership Down 5. Ottawa 6. The only English pope (Adrian IV) 7. Sardinia 8. Garibaldi 9. Sea-planes and flying boats 10. George Friderik Handel 11. Coolabah 12. Bees and honey. As bees are the epitome of work, work produces money, the possession of which is sweet 13. Niccolo Machiavelli 14. Namibia 15. The St Leger, dating back to 1778 and run at Doncaster 16. The Old Testament 17. Threadneedle Street 18. Ring-shaped pasta that resembles a hat which is cappello in Italian. The small dough hats are filled with cheese, typically ricotta and parmesan, and sometimes pork or other meats. 19. 12 20. Montevideo 21. The goldcrest, which measures about 9cm long and weighs just 5-7 grams 22. An unkindness 23. Jenny Lind 24. Mozart (Piano Concerto No21 in C) 25. Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau 26. Melton Mowbray 27. Sonny and Cher 28. Greece, inspired by an ancient legend of a messenger running from the battlefield of Marathon to Athens. 29. Dame Patricia Routledge 30. Germany

Crossword solution

Across: 1. Score 4. Farce 10. Theta 11. Proverb 12. Plectrum 13. Polo 15. Employ 17. Bottom 19. Kiln 20. Graceful 23. Nureyev 24. Shoot 25. Usher 26. Snare

Down: 2. Crepe 3. Reaction 5. Ahoy 6. Cheroot 7. Stephen King 8. Spout 9. Abnormality 14. Moccasin 16. Pilgrim 18. Crave 21. Flour 22. Type



PARISH DIRECTORY

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Made in Amberley

Lights, camera, action! If you enjoyed the 1930s rom-com *The Man from Toronto* at the Hallraisers' Film & Curry Night last month, you'll be interested to know that Amberley has provided a cinematic backdrop on more than one occasion.

A delve into the archives reveals that in 1956, there was *Person Unknown* – a film noir about an investigation into a mysterious explosion that killed a quarry worker, with the plot taking a sensational turn when the dead man is exposed as a Russian spy. It was part filmed at Pepper's



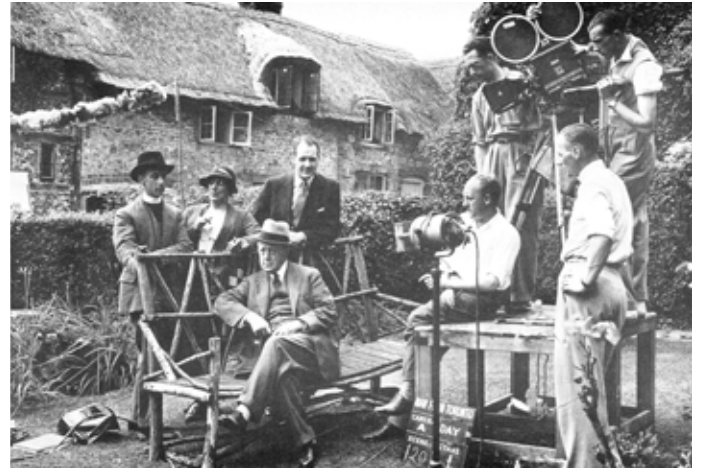
Detectives question the stationmaster at Amberley Station for that *Person Unknown*

chalkpits as a low budget short (ah yes, those were the days, when you peered through a fog of cigarette smoke to watch a B-film before the main feature).

The Chalk Pits (now Amberley Museum) also provided the backdrop for the fourteenth Bond outing – *A View to a Kill* – as the still suave but aging Roger Moore saved the world

Contribute to Bystander!

Have a quirky moment, overheard a gem, or a slice of everyday life to share? Bystander is your space in *The Wildbrooks Magazine* for diary-style glimpses into our community. Whether it's funny, touching, or just plain odd, we'd love to hear it. Keep it short, keep it real, and send your submission to the Editor (mike@brooklandsamberley.com). You might just see your story in print!



Filming a scene from *The Man from Toronto* in Hog Lane from the evil Zorin, who planned to destroy Silicon Valley by blowing up a disused silver mine – which was actually the chalkpits.

Perhaps Amberley is not quite the Hollywood of West Sussex – but from rom com to film noir to action thriller – we have certainly seen a piece of the action. All right, Mr DeMille, I'm ready for my close up.

Postcard from Saint Helena

What do you know about the tiny remote island of Saint Helena, a volcanic speck in the middle of the South Atlantic ocean? Perhaps you know it as home to Jonathan – a 192-year-old giant tortoise and the world's oldest creature, who lives happily with his partner, Frederik, in the gardens of the Governor's Mansion. Or as Napoleon Bonaparte's resting place – he was exiled to the island after his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo and died there in 1821.



Now there is a new famous name in town – or at least a name with a well-known Amberley connection.

Rob Rowe's daughter, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, was last month elected to the government as First Minister of the island (equivalent to the post of Prime Minister) having secured 72 per cent of the votes cast.

Married to a Saint (as the islanders are called), Rebecca is a conservation scientist who served as Operations Director for the St Helena National Trust and established the St Helena Research Institute before entering politics this year. Even *Private Eye* approves of Rebecca's appointment – which is some endorsement indeed!

Bystander sends our congratulations to The Hon. Dr Cairns-Wicks and hopes that she can persuade the UK government to adopt a less cavalier approach than in its previous relations with Overseas British Territories of giving away Britain's key strategic assets in the Indian ocean.



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