

£2.00

SEPTEMBER 2025

THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



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



WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2025

St Michael's Church Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon

If cancer doesn't stop, neither will we!

Please join us again and be part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning to help support and raise funds for this most valued cancer support organisation. For each of the last four years we have managed to raise an amazing £2,000 and, hopefully, will be able to do the same again.

All offers of homemade cakes, savouries and preserves gratefully received for our cake stall or to serve with coffees and teas during the morning. And, of course, our amazing raffle returns once again with lots of wonderful prizes.

For offers of help and donations please contact:

Clare Attard (07876) 083845 or Sandie Conlon (01798) 839320

CHICHESTER CHAMBER CONCERTS



*Thursdays at 7.30pm
in the Assembly Room*

World class chamber music

Welcoming venue

Monthly October to March

Parking nearby

***Booking from
Chichester Festival Theatre
www.cft.org – 01243 781312***

***Full programme at
www.chichesterchamberconcerts.com
from August 2025***



Ofer Falk

Artists featured in the season:

**OFER FALK AND ECO GRADUATE
ENSEMBLE
AMATIS PIANO TRIO
CARDUCCI QUARTET
ORSINO ENSEMBLE
TRIO SITKOVETSKY
KLEIO QUARTET**

CONTENTS

Regulars

Calendar of services & Bible readings **5**
 Church news **7, 8**
 Nature notes **33, 34**
 Recipe **34**
 Editorial **37**
 Property Watch **38**
 Local information **39, 40**
 Diversions **41**
 Calendar of events & Tide timetable **42**
 Directory of local tradesmen & services **43**
 Parish Directory **44**
 Bystander **46**



SAGE's sizzling summer social - page 26

People & Events

9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 26

Special Reports

Author's first novel **21**
 Fizz & Fairy Cakes **15**
 Roving Supper 2025 **16**
 Gardeners get social **26**

Features

Focus on...St Michael's Church, Amberley **30**
 Reviving the village pond **24-25**



A man walks into a bar with a parakeet - page 46



Never too old to learn - page 9



Fizz and fairy cakes - 15

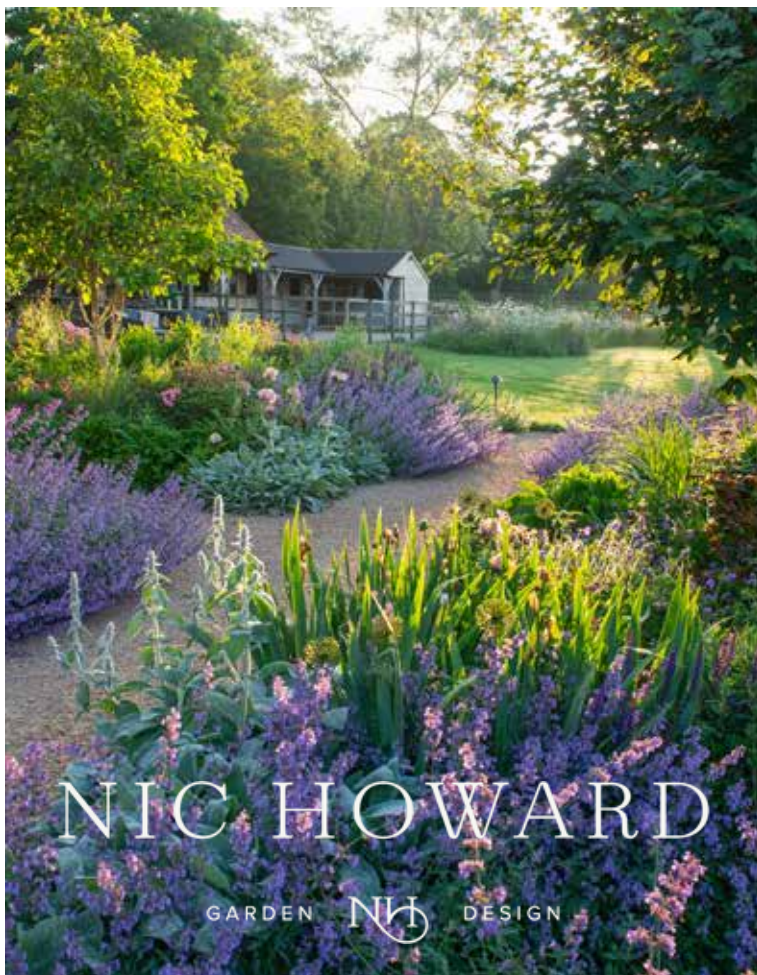
This month's front cover



A kingfisher, photographed by Pam Keeble



A place at the table: Amberley's Roving Supper 2025 - page 16



MULTI-AWARD WINNING GARDEN DESIGNERS, PLANTERS & KEEPERS

We Love Plants Ltd is a renowned, multi-disciplinary, award winning design studio founded by Director and Designer Nic Howard with an enviable reputation for creating luxury, timeless, beautiful, plant-focused gardens.

01883 744 020

hello@weloveplants.co

www.we-love-plants.co.uk

Instagram @nichoward



GOOD ADVICE

It's part of our DNA - Let us help make your next move a reality

Our team combines 150 years knowledge and expertise in the local sales and lettings markets, so when you need a valuation, just call us.

You'll be in professional hands.



With offices in
Storrington and
Pulborough



www.glproperty.co.uk

SALES | LETTINGS | LAND & NEW HOMES | AUCTIONS

01798 874033





SEPTEMBER SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER TRINITY 12

Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
4.00pm	Animal Service	Wiggonholt

SUNDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER HOLY CROSS DAY

Red Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley

Sunday, 21st September Apostle Matthew

Red Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Morning Praise	Amberley

Sunday, 28th September Trinity 15

Green Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

Sunday, 5th October Trinity 16

Green Array

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

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday, 7th September

Deuteronomy 30:15-end; Luke 14:25-33; Psalm 1

Sunday, 14th September

Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:13-17; Psalm 22:23-28

Sunday, 21st September

Proverbs 3:13-18; Matthew 9:9-13; Psalm 119:65-72

Sunday, 28th September

Amos 6:1a,4-7; Luke 16:19-end; Psalm 146

Sunday, 5th October

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Luke 17:5-10; Psalm 37:1-9

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, 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.



R.J. ELLIOTT & SON

**Complete
Decorating
and
Maintenance
Service**



Tel: 01903 732363

Mob: 07532 231345

Established over 40 years



**The Roost
at Stream Barn,
The Square,
Amberley, BN18 9SR**

Family or friends looking for quality self-catering accommodation in Amberley?

New conversion of an old farm building, offering stylish and comfortable self-contained studio accommodation for two. Located in an enviable position in the heart of the village, with unrivalled views. Modern utilities and furnishings, whilst retaining rural charm.

Weekly lets, long weekends, short and last-minute breaks.

**Contact: Sandie and Geoff Conlon on
(01798) 839 320**

www.selfcateringarundel.co.uk



M.D. Woodger

Domestic Boiler Maintenance
Service/Repair/Commissioning
of oil-fired boilers and Aga cookers
Registered OFTEC technician

Telephone

01730 894211 07795 831589 (mobile)

Rydon Landscapes

Garden Design and Construction

**1 Dora Cottage, Greatham
Pulborough**

Tel: (01798) 872359

Mobile: 07711 663862

**Enjoy the best of Sussex right here!
All locally-sourced**

- Tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries and raspberries (Nutbourne)
- Lettuces, beetroots and new potatoes (Thakeham)
- Cut flowers (West Chiltington)
- Sausages, pies and other meats (A & R Bailey, Warnham)

New opening hours

We are now open from 7.30am until 5pm on weekdays,
and from 8.30am until 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays

Order online: www.amberleyshop.uk

E-mail: info@avsshop.co.uk

Website www.amberleystores.co.uk



01798 831 171

**Opening hours: 8.30am-5pm
weekdays and 8.30am-4pm
Saturday/Sunday**

CHURCH NEWS



ST MARY NORTH STOKE

Annual Patronal Festival and remembering VJ Day

Our Patronal Festival took place at St Mary North Stoke on August 15. A service of Holy Communion was conducted by Canon Nigel Ashworth of Chichester Cathedral, who also led an Act of Commemoration for the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day on August 15, 1945, marking the end of the Second World War. The church's Elizabethan chalice of 1568 was brought from the Cathedral Treasury for the occasion.

We thank the Prayer Book Society - Sussex Branch, for enabling this service to take place while the Benefice is without clergy, by permission of the Rural Dean, Canon Paul Seaman.

Janet

Aidin On behalf of the Friends of St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke

Ride+Stride

This year's Ride+Stride takes place on Saturday, September 13. It's a day to explore historic churches in Sussex, get some exercise, and raise money for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust and participating churches. Participants can choose their own routes and modes of transport, whether it's cycling, walking, or even riding a horse or driving.

The funds raised can be split between Sussex Historic Churches Trust and the participant's chosen church or chapel.

As ever Ride+Stride is a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about safely as well as raising much-needed funds to supplement grant applications from churches across the county.

For more information: www.sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/

Inspiring Faith

Are you looking for a new way of exploring the Christian Faith? Inspiring Faith is a great new resource to help you grow in your Christian journey, whether you're learning on your own or with others. Discover scripture with ease, joy and curiosity

Wherever you are in your journey with Jesus, the hope is that this course will open your heart to his amazing love for you and strengthen you to live out the Christian life in his name. Whether doing this course alone or in groups, our team from across the Diocese of Chichester are praying for you as you take these next steps.

This is the first in a series of four. It introduces the elements of Christian life: the Bible, prayer, worship in church, and who Christians are. The series will then continue to introduce what Christians believe about God the Father, and creation; God the Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour; and God the Holy Spirit who sustains Christian living.

For the vast majority of people today, the language of Christian faith is completely foreign and unintelligible. We learn best when we learn with someone else.

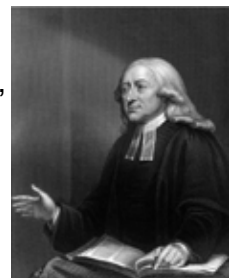
Inspiring Faith will teach those who do not know the language of faith. It will also refresh the faith of those who accompany another person who is seeking to know, love and follow Jesus Christ, drawn and inspired by the Holy Spirit who has been sent to us by God the Father.

Course website: <https://inspiring-faith.com/>

Animal blessing service

Wiggonholt's animal blessing service takes place in the churchyard on Sunday, September 7, at 4pm. Over the years, the gathering has welcomed everything from cows and sheep to horses and dogs – even a tortoise. All welcome (see panel on page 13 for details).

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."



John Wesley



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

A step back in time

Anyone walking past St Michael's Church on the first weekend of August might have seen a strangely archaic sight. A team of people armed with scythes, moving quietly through the churchyard, slicing through the grass meadow, with a quiet swish might seem to jump from the pages of Tolstoy. Although it might look like an activity from a bygone age, scything is on the rise for a very good reason – because it is a valuable tool in managing one of our most rare habitats, lowland meadow.



After scything, the grass and wildflowers were left for a week to dry, turning daily and allowing any seeds to fall back onto the ground to boost the wildflower meadow for next year. The dried grass and wildflowers were then baled. We will also be sowing yellow rattle seeds again in the au-

turn which will help to keep the grass shorter and less dense since yellow rattle is a semi parasitic meadow annual which attaches itself to neighbouring grasses through the root system and reduces the vigour of the grass. The scythed grass in the wildflower areas will then be mown monthly until the end of the grass growing season and once again before mid-March and before the wildflower meadows shows signs of regrowth.

excellent year for swifts which are insect feeders, with 35 being counted over the churchyard which is a good colony size.

Maintaining the churchyard for biodiversity, which is what we are doing, is not the same as 'rewilding'. It is a careful management plan. Next month we will explain more about why this is important and how it works.

Mel Edge and Michael Davey (churchwardens) and Cathy Briggs
On behalf of St Michael's PCC



Despite the severe drought this year the churchyard wildflower meadow stayed green and healthy. Due to the hot summer this has been a particularly good year for insects and butterflies which feed on pollen from the wildflowers and vegetation including nettles which are a food source for caterpillars of several butterfly species. Nettles also support a wide range of insects as well as spiders, moths and beetles.

Butterfly species that have been seen include comma, gatekeeper, small skipper, red admiral, meadow brown and holly blue and many moths, including the cinnabar.

Because of the insect abundance this has also been an



Some well-earned refreshments for the team of volunteers



Save the date: Saturday, October 4

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Welcome...

To **Richard** and **Karen Ward**, who are the new owners of 9 Rackham Street, Rackham; **Paul Chiappe** and **Sacha Newman**, who have moved into Mavic in Church Street, Amberley; **Kiya Lish** and **Sasha David**, the new occupants of 3 Crossgates; and to **Mark** and **Deborah Hogan**, the new owners of Kennards on the corner of Hog Lane.

We wish them all every happiness in their new homes.

Best wishes..

To **Stella Kemp**, who is recovering at home from an emergency hip replacement at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, and to **Mark Shenton**, who is also now on the mend after a fall at home following a dislocated hip.

Congratulations...

To **Sienna Jay**, of Turnpike Road, and a former pupil of Amberley Primary School, who has graduated from Loughborough University with a first-class honours degree in English Literature.

To **Oscar Ferris**, another pupil of Amberley School, who passed his A Levels with flying colours, achieving BBC & B in AS Level. He has secured a place at his first choice university and will be taking a gap year to travel before starting his course in Business & Finance. As a student with dyslexia he has proved anything is possible!

And to **Honor Campbell**, Patricia Morley's granddaughter, who got her first choice of university, and will be studying psychology at Glasgow.

Parish councillor resigns

Fraser Wheeler has resigned as an Amberley parish councillor. "I have been uncomfortable with the direction of travel of the APC on a number of fronts," he posted in a Gagggle statement.

Dorset House merger

From this month, Dorset House Prep School at Bury has become part of the Lancing College family of schools.

"At the heart of this new partnership are shared values and ethos: supporting and inspiring children to achieve their best through excellent teaching and fostering a lifelong love of learning," a joint statement on the merger announced.

Dorset House will remain independent with its own identity, and will complement Lancing's existing prep schools in Hove and Worthing.

Lancing College and Dorset House have a long-standing relationship which already sees Dorset House pupils attend the college for science, music, drama and scholarship days.

Opera on our doorstep

A performance of *La Traviata* is being staged in the pavilion at Denmans Gardens, Fontwell, on October 11 at 7pm. In aid of Hostage International, the proceeds are going towards the charity's essential work in providing specialist support for those affected by kidnappings and arbitrary detention. Patrons John McCarthy and Judith Tebbutt will be among the audience. Tickets cost £25.

Cambridge graduate proves age is no barrier to learning

In a remarkable display of lifelong learning, 66-year-old Amberley resident Martin Carter has graduated from Cambridge University's Wolfson College with a degree in French and Italian, earning an impressive 68.9 per cent – just shy of a First Class Honours.

Carter, who began his studies at the age 62 after retiring as a chartered accountant, shared his journey on BBC Radio 4's *Today Programme*, urging older adults to embrace language learning. "If anybody tells you that learning foreign languages is beyond the over 60s, tell them it simply isn't true," he said. "Stop making excuses not to get started."

His time at Cambridge was more than academic. Carter immersed himself in student



life, performing in plays and films alongside younger peers. "I had a very strong USP," he joked, recalling his dramatic on-stage death as Earnshaw in *Wuthering Heights*. "I was beginning to think they'd had enough of me!"

The curriculum extended far beyond grammar and vocabulary. During his third year abroad, Carter studied literature, culture and history at the Université Paul Valéry Montpellier in France and at the Università degli Studi di Genova in Italy. Reflecting on his experience, he described it as "the best four years of my life."

Carter's story is a powerful reminder that intellectual curiosity and personal growth have no age limit.

**APPRECIATION****Elizabeth Lyne, 1936-2025**

Elizabeth Lyne, who died in April, aged 88, was surrounded by the warmth and affection of her family. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, teacher, musician, and friend, she lived a life defined by energy, kindness, and no-nonsense good humour.

As a young child in wartime Britain, Elizabeth learned early on the value of hard work, resilience, and resourcefulness. These traits stayed with her throughout her life, especially during the busy years raising four daughters in Amberley – all born within five years of each other. Add to that a live-in mother-in-law, no dishwasher or automatic washing machine, it's fair to say she had her work cut out.

Saturdays often found her in the kitchen of Holly Tree Cottage, knee-deep in laundry, mastering the twin-tub washing machine while keeping the household running like a small factory. But she was never confined to the domestic sphere. As a primary school teacher at several local schools, Elizabeth brought the same energy and creativity into the classroom. Her teaching style was direct, effective, and often delightfully unconventional.

Music was a cornerstone of Elizabeth's life. She was a gifted pianist, cellist, organist, and singer, and for many years she served as the organist and choirmaster at Amberley Church. Whether leading a hymn at lightning speed (especially when the sermon had run long) or corralling her children into the bell tower to help save the local bellringing tradition, she approached music with joy, dedication, and more than a little flair.

Outside of work and music, Elizabeth was a keen tennis and badminton player, a passionate gardener, and a lifelong lover of nature. A walk through a bluebell wood or a field of wildflowers was her idea of heaven. One especially treasured memory is of a visit to the Lost Gardens of Heligan for her 80th birthday, where she dazzled everyone with her deep knowledge of plants. A climbing fuchsia purchased on that trip still thrives in her memory.

Family was at the heart of her world. She loved her daughters deeply, but she had a particularly soft spot for her sons-in-law, who were allowed – even encouraged – to tease her. Over time, they compiled a tongue-in-cheek



Elizabeth, pictured in Tintagel in 2016, around her 80th birthday

list of her least favourite things, ranging from Southern Water to Kevin Pietersen. Mealtimes were often filled with laughter over her famously “compiled rather than cooked” meals.

Her eight grandchildren, and later her six great-grandchildren, brought Elizabeth immense joy. She forged unique and cherished relationships with each of them, offering warmth, humour, and a deep sense of belonging, even for those living as far away as Australia. In their words, “she brought the whole family together no matter how far apart we might be.”

After the death of her much loved husband, John, who was head teacher at Amberley Primary School for almost a quarter of a century, Elizabeth faced widowhood with courage and characteristic pragmatism. She resisted old age as long as she could – refusing to sit at the “old people’s table,” giving up her car only reluctantly, and keeping her mind sharp with puzzles. And while she never lost her direct manner (what one cousin called her “endearing outspokenness”), in her later years, she also softened, often moved to happy tears by music, family, or a simple kindness.

She maintained her humour and spirit to the end. When help was needed, her familiar phrase – “Darling, while you’re up...” – would inevitably be directed at someone who very much wasn’t.

In her final days, Elizabeth found peace and comfort surrounded by her family. She died knowing she was very much loved and appreciated, and that she had given everything she had to her life and those in it. It seemed to her daughters that, keenly as they miss her, she was ready to go.

Among her funeral wishes was a copy of Joyce Grenfell’s poem *If I Should Go*, which ends with a line that captures Elizabeth beautifully:

“Weep if you must, parting is hell. But life goes on, so sing as well.”

And sing we shall — with love, with memories, and with gratitude for having known such a remarkable woman.



Elizabeth and John at Holly Tree Cottage in 1967, with their four girls (from the left): Sarah, Rachel, Jessica and Teresa

PHILIP JONES

Registered Heating Engineer

& Plumber

Heating Installations

Powerflushing Specialist

Bathrooms and General Plumbing



Mob: 07778 303 592

Tel: 01903 872811



Jane Bellinger

Professional Cordon Bleu Chef



Dinner parties Canapes

Luncheons Weddings

Picnics Buffets

Afternoon teas Desserts

St. Anne's Cottage, The Street, Bury RH20 1PA

Tel: 01798 839433

Info@janebellinger.com

www.janebellinger.com



**TURNER'S
GARAGE**
01798 831 417

Your local garage since
1920



REPAIRS – SERVICING – MOTs
TYRES – EXHAUSTS – BRAKES
BATTERIES – PARTS

Bury Common
Pulborough
West Sussex
RH20 1NP



E-mail: workshop@turnersgarage.org.uk

Southdowns Firewood

SEASONED HARDWOOD LOGS

CUT TO SIZE

Free local delivery

**FREE BAG
OF KINDLING
WITH EVERY
2m³ LOAD**



TEL: 07793 500129

www.southdownsfirewood.co.uk



Riverside South Downs

Two terraced gardens, restaurant,
bike & e-bike hire, boat hire,
venue and lodge hire (April-October)

Now open 10am-4pm seven days a week

01798 831 066

info@riversidesouthdowns.com

Houghton Bridge, Amberley, BN18 9LP





John Rezin, 1926-2025

John Rezin, who has died just two months after his 99th birthday, was born in London, the son of Mabel (short for Mary-Isobel) and John Morrison Rezin. John Morrison was a tailor in Savile Row, a skill carried down from John's grandfather, who ran a gentlemen's outfitters in Cork. His grandfather on his mother's side was a renowned chess champion, and John remembers chessboards all over the house with in-progress games played by postcard correspondence as far away as Germany and Switzerland.

Following the outbreak of war in 1939, John and his younger sister, Greta were evacuated to Amberley Farm in Ifield, on the outskirts of Crawley. On his last visit some years ago, the old tuck-shop was still there, but Ifield village had become part of the sprawling mass of London over-spill.

John went back to London during the blitz when his father was on Home Guard duty, and later in life recalled memories of rations, smog and tank traps. In one incident, an incendiary bomb came through the bedroom window and John and a neighbour carefully used a fine spray to extinguish it – too much water at once could have exploded it.



Aboard HMS Glasgow

cruiser visited a number of Far Eastern countries following the fall of Japan.

Returning to England, he took an opportunity to study and asked to join other members of the Rezin family and start a new life in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Here he met and married Jillian, and fathered two children, Jacqueline (Jan) and David. John is survived by his second wife, Anne, whom he married 50 years ago and was a surrogate father to her children, Hamish and Fiona.



John qualified as a chartered secretary and was later made a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries as he rose up through the ranks of Rhodesia's Electricity Supply Commission. He eventually became 'The Secretary', for the organisation, helping to distribute power across the entire country for around 30 years.

In the late 1970s John and Anne took the difficult decision to leave Rhodesia due to unrest and return to the UK with their two young children. They first moved to Pulborough and then Amberley, when Anne's aunt passed on

the house they have lived in ever since.

His final job was chartered secretary for RTZ (Rio Tinto Zinc, the global mining company), based in London's St James's Square.

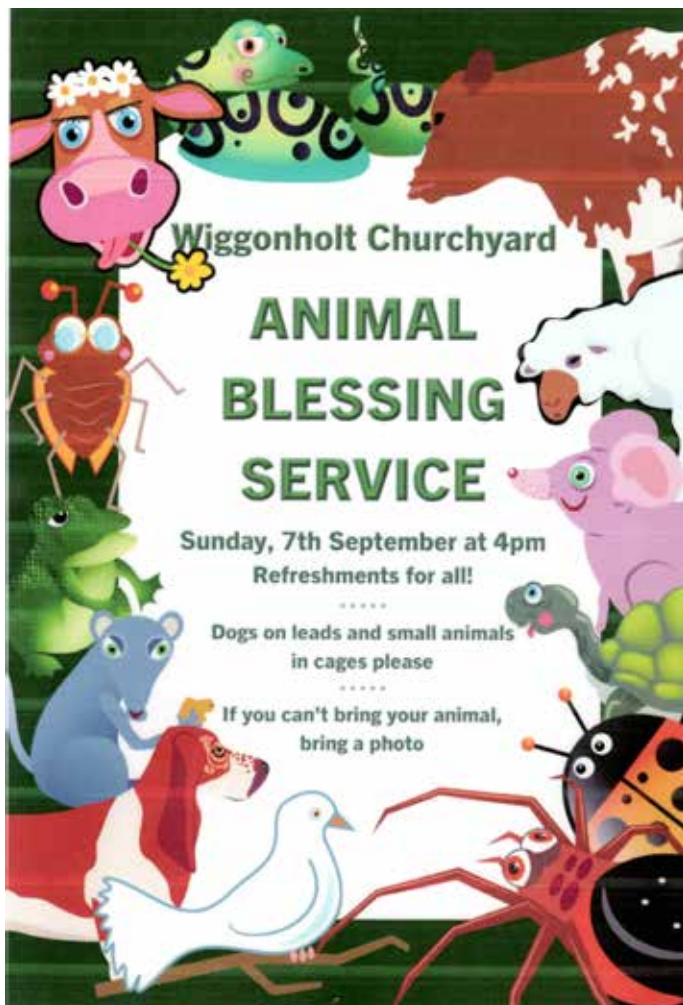
John was a gifted tennis player, a keen swimmer and an avid dinghy sailor in Rhodesia. He took up golf on their return to the UK.

He and Anne have been involved in many events and clubs throughout Sussex but his biggest love was sailing. He enjoyed years of weekends in and around the Solent, with family holidays in France and the Channel Islands. He and Anne were still sailing up until comparatively recently and he celebrated his 99th birthday with an outing on his own boat (in the rain), a walk to the top of High Titten and a hearty meal followed by a dram or three of whisky surrounded by family.

He leaves a number of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and will be missed by many more. Anne Rezin would like to thank everyone in and around Amberley for supporting them over the last few years – especially during Covid – and for helping them both to remain at home.



A walk to the top of High Titten on his 99th birthday



THE SPORTSMAN, AMBERLEY

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

Open seven days a week 10am-10pm
Breathtaking views of the Amberley Wildbrooks
Five comfortable B&B en-suite rooms
Rotating selection of local cask and keg ales
Coffee, tea and wifi

**FOOD MON-SAT 12-2.30PM AND 6-8PM
SUNDAY 12-3.30PM**



www.thesportsmansussex.co.uk

THE SPORTSMAN BEERFEST IS BACK!

**Thursday 2 October to
Saturday 5 October 2025**

- Carefully selected cask and keg ales from near and far
- Food specials
- Music

www.facebook.com/thesportsmansussex



THE ARTS SOCIETIES

Visual trickery and all you need to know about ballet

A whistle-stop tour of the art that fools, surprises and amuses the viewer and everything you need to know about the Royal Ballet in 60 minutes are the subjects of this month's talks for members of the two local Arts Societies.

Bertie Pearce's lecture for the South Downs group on September 2 on the universal delight in being deceived begins and ends with the Belgian surrealist, René Magritte, and encompasses Trompe L'oeil, Banksy, Bridget Riley, Arcimboldo and Escher to name a few. Members are advised to hold on to their seats and be ready to be 'visually fried'.

Ballet must be the most accessible art form there is, but it has its baffling side. Another line up of women in white? Does he really fall in love with a swan? Couldn't we have subtitles when they start gesturing at each other? Sarah Leyton's lecture for the West Sussex branch on September 3 covers all the striking features of ballet, from pas de deux, to Royal Ballet specialities like fast feet and traditional mime. Set in the context of the Royal Ballet's history and performing tradition it's based on years of articles and events shared with dancers, choreographers and ballet masters.

Both talks take place in Fittleworth Village Hall with the South Downs talk starting at 10.45, and that for West Sussex at 2pm.

Trinity Sunshine Choir

Do you know people experiencing memory problems? 'Music can make it easier to recall memories when we hear pieces that are significant to us – like a particular song'*. Singing can improve one's brain activity, wellbeing and mood.

The Storrington-based Trinity Sunshine Choir – which is looking for a new leader – is a dementia-friendly choir, but open to anyone. The choir usually meets on the last Wednesday of the month. The next scheduled dates are: September 24, October 29 and November 26.

Sessions start at 10.30am with coffee and a time to chat and make friends. Singing starts at 11.00. It meets at Trinity Methodist Church, Thakeham Road, Storrington, RH20 3NG.

Contact Robert Gamble at: robertgamblerc@gmail.com or call (07958) 232874.

* *Dementia UK*

New opening hours

Amberley Village Stores is now opening half an hour earlier on weekdays, at 7.30am, and closing at 5pm. At weekends, it opens at 8.30am and closes at 4pm.



Happy anniversary to the Green!

This year marks the 25th anniversary of all Millennium Greens, and events have taken place across the country. We decided to hold a picnic on our Green, with an invitation extended to the entire Amberley Wildbrooks community to participate. The weather was mild, warm, and not excessively sunny, ideal conditions for a picnic!

While friends and families picnicked under the trees, they listened to live music by Barry Ruffell and Ruth Stevens from The Rude Mechanicals; played garden games, a scavenger hunt, and a tree ID quiz around the Green.

The cake and ice cream stall provided much needed sweet treats for the revellers; many thanks to all those who baked such delicious snacks, and to Amberley Village Stores who provided the ice creams.



The Trustees raised approximately £130 towards the maintenance costs of the Green and perhaps we have started an annual event to be enjoyed by all residents?

Thanks to everyone who came to make this a special event and for all your positive feedback.

Please keep your diaries free for the next AMG event on Saturday 11th October when we are organising a traditional ceilidh with a live band and caller. The tickets will include a supper, and you will be able to buy drinks on the night. Let's dance our way into Autumn!

Tickets will be available soon.

Keep enjoying the Green and helping us to maintain it!

The Trustees

THE MALAWI SCHOOLS PROJECT

Fizz and Fairy Cakes in the garden

The sun came out just in time to welcome guests to the Fizz and Fairy Cakes event at Amberley Place on July 19.

Visitors strolled around the upper garden, sitting in the shade among the flowers to enjoy their chilled sparkling wine and fabulous fairy cakes, taking in the view from the terrace, or exploring the secret informal garden down the wooden steps on to the scarp.

The musical entertainment was provided by local singers and included a variety of musical theatre numbers, blues songs and English folk.



As always, the Amberley community was most supportive and over £1,300 was raised from takings on the day and generous donations. The trustees of the Malawi Schools Project would like to thank them and all the helpers on the day, as well as everyone who donated delicious cakes and, of course, our performers.

The Malawi Schools Project (MSP) supports school and university students in the Mpasa district in the south of Malawi. It is an extremely poor and often overlooked area, where people scrape by on subsistence farming and there are few opportunities to escape the cycle of poverty. Access to education empowers young people to learn skills which can generate income and support families and communities.

The new MSP website has details of all the initiatives the charity has undertaken, along with information about Mpasa and background stories from our students:

<https://themalawischoolsproject.org.uk>

MSP is a small, locally based charity and all money raised goes directly to help our students. Thank you again for your support.

Catherine Cunningham





Amberley Roving Supper 2025

Glasses were clinking, drinks fizzing as laughter rippled through one of Amberley's most beautiful gardens where the evening began — the first stop on Amberley's enchanting roving supper, made possible by the generous hosts David and Lillis Lyon.

When everything settled, Dave Curry, microphone in hand, stood before the crowd to offer a warm welcome and explain the night's unfolding mystery. Applause followed, and guests disappeared all at once, with envelopes in hand revealing information about their first course weaving their way through to one of the many homes across Amberley.

Introductions were made and conversations ignited over delicious appetisers designed to calm rumbling stomachs and spark the evening's social energy. Envelopes were again opened to reveal information on the main course and the guests were then off again, some on foot and some by car, through the village towards their hosts. Another home, and another round of culinary delight awaited, each dish served with a side of intrigue and warm company.

As night fell, everyone reconvened to the church hall, now glowing with fairy lights and alive with energy. Tables filled with desserts — sweet treats, grapes, cheeses — welcomed guests one final time. The air buzzed with cheerful noise, and smiles were everywhere. Raffle tickets changed hands, and generous guests leaned in to support upgrades to the church hall, from a long-hoped-for dishwasher to main hall improvements.

It was a loud, lovely, joy-filled evening — a perfect mix of food, friendship, and a little village magic that wrapped up the night just right.

Building on the success of 2023, the evening once again proved to be a wonderful way to connect with neighbours old and new — and to feel part of something special in this warm, generous village. There's truly nothing quite like it.

Chloe Squires
(Granddaughter to Lynne and Dave Curry and Roving Supper volunteer)



Hallraisers' Autumn Events

Whether you're mourning the end of summer or gleefully digging out your fleecy socks and warm, woolly jumpers ... diaries at the ready! Here are your top dates for the autumn!

Michael's Film and Curry Night

Thursday, October 23, from 6.30pm-9.30pm, Church Hall, Amberley

After receiving rave reviews for the delicious curry he prepared at the Roving Supper, Amberley's Churchwarden Michael Davey is expanding his culinary skills and hosting a Film and Curry night on Thursday 23 October.

Cosy up and enjoy Michael's delicious curry – as well as a slice of Amberley life from the 1930s in the form of a charming rom-com called *The Man from Toronto*. Filmed on location in Amberley in 1933, it stars the divine Jessie Matthews and the hilarious Ian Hunter and Fred Kerr – a real treat for classic movie buffs.

It also gives a fabulous insight into 1930s rural Amberley and includes a village parade, complete with brass bands and floats. Maybe you will spot your house - or even your parents and grandparents!

The bar opens at 6.30pm, with curry served at 7pm. The film starts at 8pm, with a runtime 1 hour 17 minutes. Ticket price: £20 per person, including curry, a drink and the film.



The film is shown by kind permission of Grahame Joseph. Please e-mail susan.watson10@gmail.com to book your tickets now – this event is likely to be a sellout!

Hallraisers' Christmas Market

Saturday, November 29, from 10am to 4pm, Church Hall, Amberley

Why not start the advent season at the Hallraisers' Christmas Market, which will return on 29 November 2025.

Once again, the Church Hall will be filled with the fragrant scents of spiced apple juice, mince pies and festive ginger-bread. Stock up on festive gifts at local artisan stalls offering handcrafted gifts, festive treats and unique decorations, while children can enjoy visiting Santa's grotto and sharing their Christmas wishes. What's not to love!

A 'pawsome' day out...

A fun dog show is being held at the Mount Noddy Animal Centre at Eartham on Saturday, September 6.

Registration is from 10.30am and the event runs from 11am until 4m. There is food and refreshments, stalls offering dog-related products and services, and activities including face painting and a treasure hunt. Entry is £1 and children and car parking is free.

Among the many categories, there will be prizes for the dog with the most expressive eyes, waggiest tail, best golden oldie (8 years+), best rescue dog and top dog of the day. All breeds and crossbreeds are welcome with some obvious exceptions.

The postcode for the centre is PO18 0LL.

A29 landslide impasse

Efforts continue to resolve the issue reopening the A29 at Church Hill, Pulborough, to two-way traffic following a landslide in December 2022.

As the land either side of the road is in private ownership, West Sussex County Council is unable to carry out any works without either the explicit permission of the land-owners or a directive from the court that they are to allow WSCC access.

The Magistrates Court held a short hearing in June, following which the full hearing of the appeal from the landowners of the affected embankments will now be heard early next year. Meanwhile, temporary traffic lights continue to control the traffic in each direction.

**AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held on July 10 2025, in St Michael's Church Hall

Present: Jason Charman (chairman), Tim Simpson, Fraser Wheeler, Graham Smith and Hazel Allinson. Also in attendance: Paul Marshall (chair of West Sussex County Council), Steve Trott (clerk), and nine members of the public.

A wide range of local issues were discussed, from government reorganisation and infrastructure concerns to environmental grants and community maintenance. The meeting opened with remarks from West Sussex County Councillor Paul Marshall, who addressed the anticipated reorganisation of local government structures. While details remain unconfirmed, it is widely expected that West Sussex will be divided into eastern and western unitary authorities, replacing the current district council system. Councillors posed questions about the implications of this shift, though Mr Marshall emphasised that formal decisions are still pending.

In other matters, St Michael's Church raised concerns about damage to its boundary wall following the removal of built-up soil at its base. The parish clerk, speaking on behalf of the council, expressed regret over the incident but stated that the council did not accept liability.

The clerk also reported minor damage to two trees on the recreation ground, believed to be caused by strimming. A letter has been sent to Amberley Cricket Club to address the issue. Meanwhile, visibility concerns at local junctions were tackled: the hedge at Corner Cottage, obstructing sightlines from School Road on to the B2139, has been trimmed on behalf of Amberley Castle, which owns the cottage, and a resident of Stoke Road at Houghton Bridge raised similar concerns about overgrowth affecting visibility from low vehicles. Jason Charman has been tasked with speaking to the relevant property owners.

Efforts to maintain public pathways continue, with Ruffs Path and Croft Path recently strimmed. Nyetimber had begun clearing brambles from Croft Path and agreed to quarterly meetings with the council to improve communication. Additionally, Nyetimber will clear ponds and streams on its land adjacent to the recreation ground.

Flooding issues near the Cricketers, in New Barn Road, had also been addressed. Although West Sussex County Council Highways confirmed that initial works were completed in February, contractors have recommended further improvements, which are now being considered.

Environmental initiatives received a boost with the approval of a £7,800 grant from the 'Pounds for Ponds' programme, administered by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The funding will support pond desilting, stream clearance, and the installation of trash screens. However, the grant does not cover new benches, verge protection, or signage. A separate application for a bus shelter opposite the Sportsman, intended for schoolchildren, was unsuccessful due to high demand.

Public queries during the meeting highlighted ongoing concerns about maintenance responsibilities. One resident asked who was responsible for the upkeep of the roadside near the churchyard and church wall on Church Street. The council clarified that this falls under the church's jurisdiction, and the clerk, along with Tim Simpson, would follow up with church representatives. Another resident inquired about road surface and verge maintenance in the same area, which the council confirmed is the responsibility of WSCC Highways.

Jenny Robinson requested defibrillator training for the cricket club, and the clerk will contact Paul Mustow to arrange this. A separate query was raised about the purchase of a trailer to transport the mower used for grass cutting near the pond. Graham Smith confirmed that the trailer should be acquired by the end of August, although progress is delayed pending the Millennium Green Trust's decision on purchasing a new mower.



Improved sightline when emerging from School Road on to the B2139

A suggestion from a member of the public proposed that parish councils meet independently of clerks to discuss shared concerns. The clerk advised that such meetings would be unlawful, but noted that clerks are already collaborating

through formal associations to discuss local government reorganisation and devolution. However, no concrete actions could be taken until official decisions were made.

David Lyon had written to the clerk confirming that he had referred the clerk to the HDC monitoring officer due to an item of this meeting agenda being held in confidence.

In a final note, the council agreed to lift a communication suspension previously imposed on a member of the public due to vexatious behavior, effective from August.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, September 11 at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall.

Operation Crackdown What really happens?

We often hear the myth that Sussex Police's Operation Crackdown just means "a warning letter and nothing else" – but that's not the case.

Every report is reviewed and logged by the police. Repeated reports about the same driver or vehicle can lead to police visits, penalty notices, or even prosecution when evidence supports it.

PCSOs have Section 59 powers. If a vehicle is used anti-socially, a PCSO can



issue a formal warning. If the same driver or vehicle is reported again within 12 months, the vehicle can be seized. Your reports really do matter.

They help the police identify hotspots, dangerous drivers, and tackle behaviour before it escalates.

So, if you see careless or anti-social driving, keep reporting it – your information makes a difference!



Architecture & Building Surveying
Planning & Listed building applications
Reinstatement cost assessments
Party wall surveyors

Rural • Urban • Coastal • Historic • Contemporary

Contact Kevin or Phil on 01243 774764
email enquiries@sloaneandbrown.co.uk
www.sloaneandbrown.co.uk



The Square, Amberley

Tel: 07384 294003

Open daily except Wednesdays

www.amberleyvillagetearoom.co.uk

E-mail: laura.jackie.tearoom@gmail.com

Southdowns Pest Control

All aspects of pest control
Rats, Mice, Moles, Wasps, Fleas, Rabbits Pigeons, Gulls
All bird-proofing installed
Fully insured Family run



NPTA

Contact: Paul Ward

Tel: 01903 882561 / 07883 072988

E-mail: southdownspc@gmail.com

www.southdownspestcontrol.net



QUALITY LOCAL INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DECORATOR



- Over 30 years' experience
- Fully insured
- References available
- No VAT

For a professional service, contact:

Jonathan Capelin

(West Chiltington)

01798 817402



High Day and Holiday Local Accommodation for Visiting Friends and Family

Contact Susan to discuss your requirements

Your perfect countryside escape



A luxury modern retreat
nestled in the South Downs
National Park

southdownsstay.co.uk Email: info@southdownsstay.co.uk

Amberley's Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday, October 3

We are looking for volunteers to help on
the day and to contribute cakes, savouries
and prizes. Can you lend a hand?

Call Sandie Conlon on (01798) 839320

or Clare Attard on (07876) 083845

Marion Scotcher DipCFHP, MPSPract(FHP)

FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Tel: 01798 875588 Mobile: 07967 973784

1 Bridge Cottages, Greatham
Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2ES

Home Visits by Appointment

Treatment in the comfort of your own home for:

- ◆ corns ◆ callus ◆ fungal treatments ◆
- ◆ toenail cutting service ◆ pedicures ◆



The Night Lagoon

Getting a first novel published is tough. Agents are overwhelmed with submissions and publishers are cautious. It's a crowded marketplace and many debut novelists are not actually writing their first novel – rather, it's their third, fifth or tenth novel but only the first to get published.

Against this intense competition, Jo Morey found herself not with just one – but with several agents interested in her debut novel, *The Night Lagoon*, which says something about Jo's storytelling ability and the quality of her writing.

Published in June this year, *The Night Lagoon* has already received several positive reviews including in *The Times*, where it was picked as book of the month and described as a 'luscious ... extraordinarily vivid' debut. *The Literary Review* magazine called Jo's writing 'lush and colourful' and *Good Housekeeping* has also included it in its '20 Hottest Books of the Summer' listing.

The book is set in Belize and it's the story of an Oxford professor and expert on orchids, Ellis Wylde who falls ill at his 70th birthday party and is rushed to hospital. His daughter Laelia and her partner decide to stay in Ellis's isolated rainforest lodge, looking after it until Ellis can return. But events take a sinister turn – there are plot twists, shady characters and an exploration of the darkest side of human nature. As Jo says, it's also not a great place for someone who needs to charge her hearing aids.

I first met Jo at an author event in a cozy bookshop – Chapter 34 – in Shoreham-by-Sea. Later, we met again in Amberley, where Jo told me more about the inspiration for her novel and her approach to getting the book published, as well as how she explored her own hearing loss through the main character, Laelia.

Jo is a local girl – she was born in Shoreham and lived in Rackham before recently moving to Pulborough with her family. Indeed, West Sussex is threaded through the novel – while the principal setting is the hot and sultry Belize jungle, there is also a quintessential English scene on West Wittering beach, with a picnic of peanut butter sandwiches and ginger beer, outside a pink-and-white striped beach hut.



Jo told me she has been writing since childhood – she started on a clunky, oversized word processor that her dad brought home from work - but once she graduated (she studied English Literature and French at Leeds University) real life caught up: she worked as a headhunter and was busy with family life, so writing went on the backburner.

The impetus came in lockdown, when her eight-year-old son penned his own novel *The Big Red Dinosaur*, which he sold online and made £1,000 for Marcus Rashford's food charity. Participating in the Faber Academy writing course and the Curtis Brown Break-

through Mentoring Scheme also strengthened Jo's motivation to write and connected her with a network of writing friends.

The story of *The Night Lagoon* had, however, been simmering in Jo's imagination since she travelled to Belize some 15 years earlier. The mystery of the Belizean jungle inspired the novel's backdrop and sowed the seeds for the story to be told through a dual narrative: the contemporary voice of Laelia and the 1980s voice of her botanist father.

Once she had drafted the novel, Jo returned to Belize to carry out more detailed research: reading 1980s academic papers on orchids, trekking through the jungle on horseback and speaking with Mayan healers. Jo also worked with Belizean writers including Joey Garcia, who was particularly supportive in ensuring the book authentically reflects Belizean life and culture.

Jo herself describes the book as a psychological thriller – an 'exploration of memory – the secrets we hold and the lies we tell ourselves to keep

continued overleaf



Trekking through the jungle in Belize with her family



continued from previous page

going and get through'. She describes her writing process as messy and iterative – drafting, rewriting and polishing as she goes along.

Jo lives with a hearing impairment and constant tinnitus, which started in her early 30s after she spent an evening in a nightclub, standing by a massive speaker, with the music blasting out. Drawing on her own experience of isolation that the condition brings, Jo decided to give Laelia, the novel's protagonist, hearing loss and tinnitus to accentuate her feelings of separation and loneliness in the jungle. Jo also hopes that putting a hearing impaired person at the centre of the novel will help to address the stigma and misconceptions around deafness.

So how do you follow a brilliant first novel? Jo is already working on her second novel – which is set on the North Island of New Zealand and will be published next summer.

The Night Lagoon will certainly be a book club favourite – and one I will suggest for The Sportsman's new book club, when it meets in September. Its setting in the lush Belizean jungle also makes it perfect for a film adaptation. It's published by Harper Collins and available in hardback, kindle and audiobook. I thoroughly recommend that you get a head start and read it now before it hits the big screen!

In conversation with Susan Watson

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

North Stoke's enchanting summer concert

At the close of July, the Friends of St Mary's, North Stoke, hosted a truly memorable summer concert in the church. The Magnard Ensemble took to the stage, offering a captivating selection of music for wind quintet. With flawless technique and palpable joy, the group delivered a performance that showcased both their artistry and connection as a group.

The evening opened with Darius Milhaud's *La Cheminée du roi René*, followed by the gentle richness of Samuel Barber's *Summer Music*. The second half brought a modern twist with Sally Beamish's evocative *The Naming of Birds* and culminated in the powerful and nuanced *Wind Quintet* by Carl Nielsen, composed in 1922.

Adding theatrical flair were dramatic readings from Matthew Bannister and Yvette Byrne, whose contributions added depth and dimension to the programme. The evening's charm extended beyond the music – Jane and David Lock welcomed guests with signature warmth, inviting all to enjoy their stunning garden and hospitality. The ensemble's leader shared heartfelt reflections on stage, celebrating the unexpected beauty of the evening's shared experience.

Unlike the familiarity of string quartets, wind ensembles bring



a distinct variety of tone and texture. As the Magnard Ensemble explained to Sussex Newspapers in a pre-concert interview: "String quartets are all the same in a way... but for a wind quintet you've got a flute which is completely different to an oboe which is completely different to a French horn... So we discovered that we needed to spend hours just finding what our own sound was... and after spending time together we found we could make something really special."

And indeed, at North Stoke, they created something very special – a musical evening of skill, spirit, and genuine connection that left the entire audience uplifted.

The legend of Dylan

In 1961, an unknown 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in New York City with his guitar, and forges relationships with musical icons on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking performance that reverberates around the world.

A Complete Unknown, starring Timothy Chalet and Edward Norton, is the first choice of the new season of Storrington Film Nights, organised by the Rotary Club of Storrington and Pulborough District. It takes place on Wednesday, September 10 at 7.30pm in Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road.

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. There is a bar and a raffle during the interval. Anyone requiring transport should contact John Ollerton on (07523) 322554.

Next month's film, on October 8, will be *Bridget Jones - Mad about the Boy*, starring Renée Zellweger.

Amberley School shines at PopUp art exhibition

Children from Amberley CE Primary School were among 18 schools in the area who participated in a PopUp Art Exhibition in Fittleworth Village Hall organised by the Young Arts team from The Arts Society West Sussex.

Opened by Stewart Collins, artistic director of the Petworth Festival, it was a magnificent showcase for the art that is being taught in local schools.

Prior to the exhibition, workshops were run in some of the schools, including Amberley, studying the work of Yayoi Kusama, a Japanese artist, with the invaluable input of Maureen Wells. The work was displayed to great effect at the exhibition, with its bold colours and use of coloured dots for which Kusama is well known. White frames were left out during the exhibition for children to have fun creating their own installation.

The exhibition also featured Rebecca Egan's beautiful



Mixed Feelings self-portrait. Rebecca, from Horsham's Farlington School, was runner-up in the prestigious national Arts Society A Level competition. Predictably, it attracted much attention.

One person who was particularly impressed with the portrait, as well as the high standard of work at the exhibition was Arundel and South Downs MP Andrew Griffith.

CITY MUSIC SERVICES PRESENTS

LA TRAVIATA

BY GIUSEPPE VERDI

PERFORMED BY PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR CITY SINGERS

DENMANS GARDENS, SUSSEX, UK
SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2025
DOORS OPEN 5:30PM
PERFORMANCE AT 7PM

TICKETS £25
 INCLUDES A 20 MINUTE INTERVAL

HOSTAGE INTERNATIONAL PATRONS JOHN MCCARTHY CBE AND JUDITH TEBBUTT WILL BE JOINING US ON THE NIGHT.
 PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE CHARITY'S ESSENTIAL WORK IN PROVIDING SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY KIDNAPPINGS AND ARBITRARY DETENTIONS.

SPECIAL REDUCED ENTRY TO THE GARDEN OF £5 PER PERSON, PAYABLE AT THE DOOR ON THE EVENING ONLY. ENTRY FEE TO BE DONATED BY DENMANS TO HI



Locations of parish defibrillators

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

In emergency, the Amberley CPR number is:

07838 947521



The value of pondlife

Almost every village once had its pond. For centuries, they were an indispensable part of rural life, essential for farming practices and for providing water for livestock. Their prime use was for horse transport where the horses could be refreshed and the wheels of the wagons could be soaked to make them run true – as shown in this vintage photograph from the Amberley archives.

While many ponds have fallen into neglect or have been filled in and built over for housing or agricultural purposes – Amberley is in the happy position of having a thriving village pond, sitting at the foot of the castle. It starts as a small lake in the gardens of Amberley House, continuing as a stream that drops down behind the Post Office cottages and into the village pond, before carrying onwards by the white willow and black poplar, and out into the Wildbrooks.

It is an important part of our landscape, both historically and ecologically, and has been maintained regularly by a stalwart group of volunteers, led by our pond warden Pam Keeble, with advice from Paul Stevens from the Arundel Wetland Centre. Under the aegis of the Parish Council, the volunteers carry out regular checks and seasonal tasks, to ensure the pond is a thriving ecosystem.

However, the pond needed some major conservation work and Amberley Parish Council was awarded a £7,800 grant from 'Pounds for Ponds' – a fundraising initiative by the South Downs National Park Trust – to carry out the rehabilitation. This included desilting the pond, clearing, widening and recutting the outflow stream and restoring the pond to its original size. A small island has been created



Pete Birchall with Amberley pond warden Pam Keeble

as a haven for ducks, moorhens, frogs and toads and a low bund added to the pond front edge, with a filter added upstream, to minimise silting in the future.

The work has provoked some robust discussion – but a delve into the Amberley archives shows this is not the first time there has been heated debate amongst villagers. In 1991, the Parish Council received a



**You can lead a horse to water...and you can make it drink!
The village pond circa 1920s**

letter from Ceres Esplan – a nature enthusiast and author of a book on medicinal herbs – who wrote: “The village pond is a refuge for wildlife at the end of the heavily grazed or sprayed fields. It supports an excellent section of birds and insect life and should be left as it is. Tidied, it would invite more parking in an already overparked area and also only add to the suburbanisation and grimness of ideas of ‘townies’ to over-tidy rural places.”

The Parish Council appointed Peter Birchall – aka ‘Pete-the-Pond’ – to carry out the work. Pete seems to have worked with everyone – from local authorities to royalty to a host of celebrities – he counts Paul McCartney, Roger Daltrey and Steve Coogan among his customers. Pete also knows our pond well, having already carried out remedial work here, including replacing the outlet pipe when it was vandalised last year.

I caught up with Pete as he oversaw the conservation work, accompanied by his parakeet, Mango. “It’s an ancient pond which records show goes back at least 3,000 years to before Saxon times, when it was probably used as a watering hole for the village and even for food, as these ponds were often filled with fish,” explained Pete. “It’s a vitally important pond – not only of historic value, but also because of the longevity of its wildlife.”

“My passion is to put ponds back into our countryside and to improve existing ones, working on the back of The Mil-



A section of the Roman path uncovered during the works

lion Ponds Project – a 50-year vision with the aim of ensuring the UK has at least one million ponds in the landscape, about the same number that existed in 1900,” he continued.

“The aim here is to restore the Amberley pond to its former glory and increase biodiversity over time. We’re opening up the small stream out of the pond, to improve the flow and create more light. We’re also taking out the bad plants such as hemlock and stinging nettles which have overgrown the wildflower areas and lifting the good plants – purple loosestrife, gypsywort, water mint, water dock and yellow irises – while the work goes ahead. We will replant these, as well as adding new plants of local provenance, which will increase biodiversity overall. We’ve even found



Paul Fouracre used his kayak to measure the depth of the pond

quite a rare plant – celery leaf crowfoot, a self-seeding perennial. We repurpose everything we take out – plants, logs, sticks – to create natural habitats for wildlife. It involves a lot of labour-intensive handwork!

“We’re also reusing the silt from the pond to build a new trackway, creating a management area that will make maintenance easier. We’ve even unearthed what we think was a cobbled Roman pathway – we know there was a Roman presence in the area – and also a Victorian bottle dump!

“I am passionate about the work I do. Ponds are one of the most important habitats on the planet and every pond enhances the biodiversity of the area. But it’s also about making a visually lovely focus point for the village. I see each pond project as creating a new piece of art, for both nature and people.

Susan Watson



Dave Cole, Peter Rhodes and Graham Stevenson pictured last year helping to clear some of the surrounding undergrowth

The Labouring Man

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



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



01798 873337

www.labouringman.com thelabouringman@gmail.com

**SOCIETY OF AMBERLEY GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS**

Nothing better than an evening in an English country garden

More than 50 members of the Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE) gathered for a delightful summer social, enjoying an idyllic August evening in the picturesque garden of Sarah Fish at Bishops, Church Street.

The event was marked by lively conversation and a warm, convivial atmosphere, with guests mingling over glasses of wine and beer and non-stop refreshments. True to tradition, the catering did not disappoint. Committee members and volunteers served an array of gourmet treats including sausage rolls, blinis, smoked salmon bites, Parmier pastries, homemade fudge, and decadent chocolate-coated strawberries.

The gathering highlighted the community spirit and shared passion for gardening that defines SAGE, offering members a chance to relax, connect, and celebrate the season in one of Amberley's most charming settings.

Photography: Mike Beck



Your local Member of Parliament



ANDREW GRIFFITH MP

*Working hard for residents
of Arundel & South Downs*

- Regular surgeries
- Attending local events
- Visits to Parliament

*House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA*

www.AndrewGriffithMP.com



Storrington
Physiotherapy Clinic

**Move Better,
Feel Better,
Live Better!**

Please call **01903 743 538**

for more information

or email us at

office@spc-physiotherapy.co.uk

www.spc-physiotherapy.co.uk



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

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

- Consumer Unit Upgrades
- Cabin, Garage & Shed Wiring
- Decorative & Security Exterior Lighting
- Garden Lighting & Design
- Fault Finding & Rectification
- Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment
- LED Lighting Upgrades & Solutions
- Inspection, Testing & Certification



07922 240729

chris@cjselectrical.net

cjselectrical.net

PROUD MEMBERS OF
Checkatrade
Where reputation matters



Amberley Goes Wild Calendar 2026

September submissions



Thanks to all those Amberley residents who have submitted their beautiful Sussex wildlife images during the last couple of months for entry into the calendar selection for 2026. Please participate and send your images to: wildsideuk1@gmail.com Subject: AGW2026



AMBERLEY OIL SYNDICATE



Syndicate members can claim their **FREE** oil voucher, worth £75, which can be deducted from their next boiler service or emergency call-out.

Vouchers are available from:

Chris Hough on 07803 766841 or e-mail
chris@michaelmas.org.uk

For enquiries about prices, contact:

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

Willmer's of Pulborough
established 1876



Superstore prices with great local service

Personal service and advice for all your domestic appliance needs

Plus recycling of your old equipment, if needed

We deliver, we install, we care



View the full range of appliances in store

Many more brands available

Monday-Friday	01798	64 Lower Street
8.30am-5.30pm		Pulborough
Saturday	872866	RH20 2BW
9.00am-1.00pm	www.willmers.com	

The Bridge Inn

Houghton Bridge

Real Ales, Real Food, Real Pub

Tash and Dave Welcome you back to The Bridge Inn

Opening Hours

Wednesday to Saturday all day from 12pm

Sunday 12-5

Live Music every month – see our website for details

Please see our website for latest information www.bridgeinnamberley.com

Or call on 01798 831619 e-mail bridgeamberley@btinternet.com

Home cooked food and excellent ales served in a warm and friendly atmosphere!

**ST MICHAEL'S AMBERLEY****A 1,000 years of history**

Amberley has worshipped on the site occupied by St Michael's for a thousand years. Bob Hutchinson rounds-off our series on the five Wildbrooks churches

The West Saxons were among the last Christian converts in England and St. Wilfred was rewarded for his missionary zeal in 686, with grants of land in Amberley and fifteen other Sussex locations - property later enjoyed by the bishops of Chichester.

A small wooden or stone church was erected on the ridge above the Wildbrooks. Significantly, of the 816 churches in England dedicated to St. Michael, many are near expanses of open water. The River Arun was called the 'Tarrant' until the 16th. century, from the old English Tri-santon, or 'the trespasser', because it flooded the Amberley and Pulborough wetlands.

The Domesday book of 1086 listed 'Aldred the priest' and 'William the cleric', indicating the benefice was then a minster church, serving a wider area. Their names imply that one was Saxon and the other Norman.

A new stone church, without a tower, was erected in the mid-12th. century, probably by masons who built the second phase of Steyning church in c.1140. Amberley had a shallow chancel, with a semi-circular east end with a tall, round-headed door in the nave's north wall. Because of the number of ordinations at Amberley, Bishop Ralph Nevill lengthened the chancel around 1230, with Early English lancet windows. He also added the south aisle, with a piscina (used for washing sacred dishes) beside an altar at the east end. Construction of the tower began in the mid-13th century.

Before the Reformation, the interior of Amberley church was colourful, filled with wall paintings, stained glass, and images of saints. A screen separated chancel and nave, topped with the Holy Rood - the figure of Christ crucified, attended by the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John. Before the 15th century, churches did not have seats in the nave. Everybody stood during services except the old or sick, who squatted on low steps at the base of walls or columns. Hence the saying: 'The weakest go to the wall'.

All this changed around 1550. Wall paintings were white-washed over, stained glass smashed and Rood screens dis-



• The church in 1917, with two toddlers (doubtless bribed), to add life to the picture.

mantled. The liturgy was changed to emphasise the importance of God's Word. A new window was inserted into the north wall of the nave to provide light while sermons were delivered.

Fourteenth-century wall paintings depicting the Passion of Christ, including the Scourging, Crucifixion and Resurrection, survive by the chancel arch. Another subsidiary altar had been positioned at their foot, alongside the one in the south aisle. These murals were overpainted by black letter texts from the Book of Hebrews. These were removed in 1967, revealing the paintings. Happily, a roundel with the heads of the Virgin and Child remains in the south aisle, together with three consecration crosses, anointed by the bishop after the church (or south aisle) were built.

A survey of the church in 1602 revealed that the chancel roof was letting in rain and its timbers were rotting. It had sunk in height and "seemed dangerous". The nave roof had holes that needed "to be stopped to keep out pigeons". Floor paving was broken and tower's lead roof decayed. In November 1636, the churchwardens complained that the "Communion Book is not of the last edition" and there was no book for the service on 5 November, commemorating the defeat of the Gunpowder Plot.

Another survey in 1724, reported that repairs were "very much" required to the seats, windows were broken and part of the south-east wall of the chancel had "tumbled down."

An engraving of the church interior in 1820, shows wooden box pews, circular kneelers, and a tall pulpit with a sounding board above. Alongside, a bracket in the wall held a sandglass timer: sadly

stolen in the last 40 years: 17th century congregations would have felt cheated if the vicar delivered a sermon lasting less than an hour.



Amberley church was radically changed during the tenure of Revd. George Clarkson, who became vicar on 17 July 1840 and served for 57 years. In later years, a neighbouring rector referred to him as “very kind, but a little eccentric.” In 1864-5, Clarkson restored the church at a cost of £800, stripping out the box pews, which were recycled as pig troughs. Stone floor slabs were removed to pave local barns. The 12th century square Purbeck marble font was repaired and moved to its present position.



The brass to John Wantele, 1424, was taken up from the south aisle floor and mounted on the wall. He is depicted wearing a tabard with his coat of arms, originally coloured with wax resins. Medieval armies were small, but once everyone donned their helmets, there was little chance of telling friend from foe. Hence, the complicated science of heraldry, whereby the wearer could be identified in the confusion of battle.

Another notable memorial is on the west wall of the nave: the relief tablet to Joan Stratton, died 1919, by the sculptor Eric Gill. The epitaph “Dear Child” was inspired by the plaque to Joan Lister, 1688, in the cloister of Westminster Abbey.

A colourful window fills the blocked northern doorway: “Entombment” by R. Anning Bell, dedicated to and based on a painting by his friend, the Amberley artist Edward Stott, died 1918. It was erected the following year with the figures modelled on Amberley residents.

Amberley has worshipped on this site for more than 1,000 years.

The peace within today remains infinitely palpable.

New chamber concert season

Chichester Chamber Concerts new season opens on October 2 with a lovely programme by the English Chamber Orchestra Graduate Ensemble, directed by solo violinist Ofer Falk. They will play Holst’s *St Paul’s Suite*, Dvorak’s *Romance in F minor Op 11* and Beethoven’s *Violin Concerto in D major Op 61* (arranged for solo violin and string ensemble).

This is followed on November 6 by the Amatis Piano Trio with a programme of Schubert, Liszt and Mendelssohn. In December, the Carducci Quartet will perform a Shostakovich programme in honour of the 50th anniversary of the composer’s death.

The New Year kicks off with the Orsino Wind Ensemble (a line-up of star wind players), with a performance by the Trio Sitkovetsky in February playing Bruch, Mozart and Brahms. The season concludes in March with the young and highly commended Kleio Quartet performing Beethoven’s *Op 95*,

Mendelssohn’s *Op 44 No 3* and a short, new work by Saariaho.

Details of the full programme and how to buy season or one-off tickets online can be found at <https://www.chichesterchamberconcerts.com/> Tickets are also available from Chichester Festival Theatre Box Office. Under 25s are admitted free.

If you would like to consider becoming a patron or sponsor of the concerts or just wish to make a donation, contact Philip Wake (treasurer) at 43 North Street, Chichester, PO19 1NF, who will forward all the details (philip@wakefamily.co.uk). Donations are extremely valuable in helping to maintain the high standard of concerts and performers in our seasons.

Anna Hill

Chairman, Chichester Chamber Concerts

The Brunels: a remarkable family

Three generations of the Brunel family, one of England’s finest engineering families – are the subject of Storrington and District Museum’s monthly talk on Tuesday, September 2.

The father, Marc Brunel, provided the boots for Wellington’s army and the ship’s blocks for Nelson’s navy, and also responsible for the first tunnel under the Thames.

The son, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, built the Great Western Railway as well as the three largest ships in the world at the time – the *Great Western*, the *Great Britain* and the *Great Eastern*. Grandson, Henry Brunel, another great engineer but less well-known today, helped design Tower Bridge and other structures, along with another ship.

The talk, by Bill McNaught, in the Old School, School Lane, Storrington, starts at 7.30pm. The charge for members is £6 and £8 for non-members. All are welcome.

Sportsman Beerfest is back

The Sportsman’s popular four-day Beerfest is planned for October 2-5.

Pulborough Osteopathic CLINIC

REGISTERED OSTEOPATH
Member of the Statutory Register of Osteopaths

Robert Sadler BSc (Hons) Ost

For the treatment of :

Neck and back pain / stiffness

Postural tension, workstrain & sports injuries

All joint and muscular pain / stiffness

Sciatica and migranes

For an appointment :

Tel: (01798) 874736

Fax: (01798) 875989

Mob: 07808 571991

rsadler@pulboroughosteo.co.uk

www.pulboroughosteo.co.uk

Dressing Rooms

BESPOKE WINDOW TREATMENTS & SOFT FURNISHINGS

Personal and bespoke design service
in the comfort of your own home

Handmade curtains, blinds, cushions,
bedspreads etc

Wide range of fabrics, trimmings,
poles tracks

Full installation service available

Free initial consultation

Call Karen on **01903 741251**
Mob: **07974510292**
www.dressingyourrooms.co.uk

The George & Dragon, Houghton

TEL: 01798 831559

Email: info@thegeorgeanddragonhoughton.co.uk

www.thegeorgeanddragonhoughton.co.uk

WELCOME TO THE G & D!

"BY ALL THESE LOVELY TOKENS SEPTEMBER DAYS ARE HERE, WITH SUMMER'S BEST OF WEATHER AND AUTUMN'S BEST OF CHEER." - HELEN HUNT JACKSON

PIE & A PINT IS BACK!!

Thursday Nights! Enjoy a delicious Pie with a *Pint/125ml *House Wine!! (*restrictions apply)

Please do check our website for further info or just give us a call.

BAR OPENING TIMES

Monday & Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday - Saturday: 12.00 - Close

Sunday: 12.00 - 5pm

KITCHEN

Monday & Tuesday CLOSED

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

Sunday: 12.00 - 2.30pm

These times maybe subject to change without notice.

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



Survival strategies: mimicry, colour and masters of camouflage

Much of the time, our nature documentaries and magazine articles focus on the 'superstars' of the natural world; the fastest, largest or fiercest creatures. So, this month I'll shed some light on some of the sneakiest creatures – the mimics and the masters of disguise.

Every creature needs a survival strategy, a way to escape from a predator or to lure in prey and some animals have found ingenious ways to survive by mimicking the sounds, appearance or behaviours of other species or the world around them.

You may have noticed, particularly in insects, that yellow and black is a popular colour scheme – we're all familiar with the yellow and black stripes of social wasps who are a constant (perhaps unwelcome) feature in the summer months trying to steal your packed lunch. Yellow and black colouration (or black and red patterns) are often seen as warning colours in nature – a good way of signalling that you might be dangerous. One form of mimicry is called Mullerian Mimicry where multiple dangerous or unpalatable species have evolved to resemble each other – such as wasps and bees. This reinforces the warning signal, making it easier for predators to learn to avoid them all.

Another example of this is the yellow and black striped cinnabar moth caterpillar which munches on ragwort. This insect absorbs the toxins from the ragwort, and while it is immune to them itself, it makes it very distasteful and even poisonous to potential predators, such as birds. The toxins are retained through pupation and into the adult stage where the red and black coloured moth is also avoided.

The second type of mimicry is about clever trickery and is known as Batesian Mimicry where a harmless species evolves to resemble dangerous or unpalatable species in order to deter potential predators. Harmless hoverflies are often wasp or bee mimics, several longhorn beetles also have yellow and black patterns on their wing cases and are, indeed, known as 'wasp beetles' and 'hornet beetles'.

One of the highlights at Pulborough Brooks at this time of year is the wasp spider. The female mimics a wasp's

colouration to avoid being eaten – the warning colours suggesting she might have a sting. She can't do any harm to us, although a male wasp spider must take a risk if he wants to mate with her – the smaller males are occasionally eaten by the female as a tasty snack to give her the energy to lay lots of eggs.

Mimicry can also involve sounds; I've often heard our jays making mewling calls that mimic those of a buzzard – perhaps to make themselves more intimidating to predators or to scare off competitors. More fascinating still is the evolution of ultrasonic clicks in some tiger moths who use them to jam the echolocation calls of bats. Bats use echolocation to build up a sound-based picture of their environment and to locate prey; by jamming the bat's calls using their own ultrasonic sounds they can cause bats to misjudge distances or become disoriented and thus avoid getting eaten.

Another tactic is to use colour as camouflage. The female crab spider, *misumena vatia*, can change colour to blend in with her background. She does not spin a web but is an ambush predator, lying in wait on top of flowers and pouncing on unsuspecting flies. Depending on the flower colour, she can change from yellow to white and vice versa so she is better hidden – although this transformation can take a couple of days.

But I think the best masters of disguise are moths. With 2,500 species in the UK alone there's a huge variety of shapes, colours and patterns and some of the most convincing camouflage in the natural world. There's the buff tip moth who is the perfect mimic of a snapped off silver birch twig. The merville du jour (translates as 'best of the day') whose mint green, black and white patterning blends in perfectly with a lichen-covered branch and the chinese character who looks exactly like a small bird dropping!

Take some time this month to seek out some of the smaller, unsung heroes of the natural world and take a moment to consider the tactics they use to survive.

Anna Allum

Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB Wiggonholt



The importance of a bug-hotel

A minibeast staple of childhood bug hunts, and comprising 30 UK species, woodlice can be found in gardens all year round.

Not lice at all, but terrestrial crustaceans, meaning they have hard exoskeletons, woodlice are related to crabs and shrimps. Favours damp habitats to avoid drying out, these helpful critters can be found under rocks, logs and in compost heaps, doing what they do best: recycling. Nothing is off the menu, as woodlice will consume dead plant and animal matter, fungi, lichen, and with full zero-waste commitment – even their own faeces.

Woodlice have an extraordinary series of common and nicknames, with a survey once collecting 250 regional variations; chuckypig, slater, pillbug, monkeypea and woodpig, to name a few. It's not known why woodlice have so many alternative names, but a lovely theory is that it's due to their accessibility to children playing in gardens, who come up with imaginative names which stick over time.

A critical habitat for woodlice is dead wood, whether fallen or dead trees, rotting stumps, logs or stick piles. A sometimes-overlooked environment, dead wood is often a microcosm bursting with life.

Fungi are a hugely important partner in the dead wood cycle, by both contributing to the decay process and feeding on the dead wood itself. Many insects rely on this habitat, including saproxylic beetles, which burrow into the softer surfaces to avoid predators, their grubs feeding on the decaying wood. Insectivorous birds, such as woodpeckers, then benefit from this. Bats utilise holes in standing dead wood to roost, and feed on flying insects attracted to the damp environment it can create. And the decaying wood itself recycles nutrients back into the soil.

With such an impressive ecosystem to support, it is important to leave dead wood and resist any temptation to clear it away. On a large scale, it can contribute to a diversity of woodland understory, creating different angles and textures as you peer through the forest, increasing not only the ecological value, but the mystical aesthetic of our ancient Ebernoe reserve, for example. On a smaller garden scale, it can provide a bug-hotel-style feature and a vital home for the important wildlife we don't always notice; a chuckypig paradise.

Kerry Williams
Communications Officer – Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Home sweet home: dead or decaying wood is the ideal habitat for woodlice

Picture: Alan Price

RECIPE

Marrow, date and apple chutney

The traditional British marrow can be used in various dishes, from stuffed marrows to roasted vegetables. The mild flavour makes it versatile for both sweet and savoury recipes. This chutney recipe, with apples and dates, is a great way to use up some summer garden produce.

Equipment and preparation: you will need a piece of muslin and eight sterilised jars with vinegar-proof lids.

Ingredients

- 1.8kg/4lb marrows, peeled, seeds removed, chopped into small chunks
- 4 onions, chopped into small chunks
- 3 apples, peeled, cored and chopped into small chunks
- 225g/8oz sultanas or raisins
- 225g/8oz stoned dates, roughly chopped
- 600ml/20fl oz malt vinegar
- 900g/2lb soft brown sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp ground ginger
- 2 tbsp mixed pickling spices, secured in a piece of muslin



Method

Put the chopped marrow, onions and apples into a large preserving pan, add the rest of the ingredients including the bag of spices and stir together, then place over a medium heat. Bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat and simmer gently from 1½-2 hours, or until well blended and thick.

Take the pan off the heat, cool and remove the muslin, squeezing the liquid from the bag. Spoon it into sterilised jars with vinegar-proof lids, filling them to within 1cm/½in of the top. Ensure the rims are clean, screw on the sterilised lids and store in a cool place for up to 12 months.

Once open, store in the fridge and use within one month.



SLINDON COLLEGE

Independent School | Day and Boarding | Boys aged 8-18 | Specialist Learning Environment



Scan for
Open Morning
information



Maximum class size of 10 | Individualised curriculum pathways

In-house therapists and specialist dyslexia teachers

Broad range of enrichment activities

Flexi, Part-time, Weekly boarding | Award winning pastoral provision



THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

www.slindoncollege.co.uk

Arundel | West Sussex

CReSTeD

Amberley Pottery

Country pottery for the table and all domestic use, with 'one-off' pieces made to order for special occasions and personal collections.



Telephone: 01798 831876

Email: caroline@amberleypottery.co.uk

Website: <http://amberleypottery.co.uk>

Opening Hours: Thru-Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm

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

CONNECT REFLEXOLOGY

Reflexology

De-stress and encourage self-healing with a deeply relaxing reflexology treatment that will help balance body and mind.

Appointments at The Old Forge Surgery:

Tuesday 9am - 1pm
Wednesday 1pm - 5pm

Home visits available locally by appointment

Contact Clare on
07895 302787

W. Bryder & Sons

est. 1863

The Gables
Tillington
GU28 9AB
Tel: 01798 342174

95 Lower Street
Pulborough
RH20 2BP
Tel: 01798 872000

Email: wbryderandsons@hotmail.co.uk

**5TH GENERATION LOCAL FAMILY RUN
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

24 Hours Service
Private Chapel of Rest
Monumental Stones supplied
Pre-Paid Funeral Plans available
Grave Maintenance service

EDITORIAL

Progress or pitfall?

As Sussex stands on the brink of a major local government overhaul, the proposal to create unitary authorities for East and West Sussex – alongside Brighton & Hove, which is already unitary – has sparked both optimism and concern. The plan, part of a broader push for devolution and streamlined governance, promises to reshape how services are delivered across the region. But is this consolidation a leap forward or a step too far?

The case for change

- **Efficiency and clarity:** Replacing the two-tier system with unitary authorities means one council per area handling all services – from education to waste collection. This could eliminate duplication, reduce bureaucracy, and make it easier for residents to know who's responsible for what.
- **Cost savings:** Proponents argue that merging councils could lead to significant financial savings.
- **Joined-up services:** A single authority could better coordinate infrastructure, housing, and transport. This is especially relevant for areas like West Sussex, where fragmented planning has led to disconnected housing developments.
- **Stronger regional voice:** With a Mayoral Strategic Authority on the horizon, unitary councils would have clearer representation in regional decision-making. This could attract investment and give Sussex a louder voice in Westminster.

The risks and realities

- **Loss of local identity:** Critics fear that merging councils could dilute the unique character of towns and villages. Rural communities, such as ours, worry about being overshadowed by urban centres like Brighton, especially if boundaries shift eastwards.
- **Democratic deficit:** The postponement of county council elections and the rapid pace of change have raised concerns about transparency and public engagement. Some argue that decisions are being made without sufficient consultation.
- **Uneven service provision:** Not all areas may benefit equally; smaller towns risk being sidelined.
- **Complex transition:** Reorganising councils is no small feat. The logistics of merging staff, systems, and budgets could be disruptive and costly in the short term.

Change is inevitable, but it must be thoughtful. The idea of unitary authorities in Sussex has merit, especially if it leads to better services and stronger regional leadership. Yet, the process must be transparent, inclusive, and sensitive to local identities. As consultations continue, residents should seize the opportunity to shape the future of their communities – not just react to it.

West Sussex deserves a governance model that reflects its diversity, empowers its people, and prepares it for the challenges ahead. Whether this proposal delivers on that promise will depend not just on policy – but on how well it listens.

Squashes at the farmers' market



Market squashes (do the Brits call them "marrow"?) conjure a carnival of painted shapes self-sculpted by the genius of seeds. Like books, the squashes have pulp inside, enclosed by hard or soft covers.

Some species hold a hollow zone where sound can play. Dried gourds become instruments, and a thumped pumpkin will mumble autumn syllables. A crook-necked squash can become the baton that conducts Zucchini's unfinished symphony. Still, Fall does mean

the party's over. We select our squash, haul it home to grill or bake--or cut up raw. Next Summer's vines are already blue-printed in seeds as the soil rolls over, exhausted, in need of dreams.

Hans Ostrom

Marrow, the garden giant

Green and vast, a summer prize,
A plump form hidden from the skies.
Growing long beneath the sun,
A gardener's quiet, fruitful fun.

Beneath the leaves

A heavy weight, a gentle mound,
On fertile soil, deeply bound.
The marrow sleeps, a verdant sphere,
Until the harvest draws near.

Deadline for the October issue is

Tuesday, September 16

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

or e-mail mike@brooklandsamberley.com



Property Watch

Homes for sale and to rent locally



000

Amberley

Church Street	5-bedroom detached house (Stride & Son, Chichester)	£2,300,000
Church Street	4-bedroom detached house (Hamptons)	£1,650,000
Rackham Road	5-bedroom detached house (GL&Co, Storrington)	£1,495,000
New Barn Road	5-bedroom detached house (Fowlers, Storrington)	£1,550,000
Church Street	Grade II listed 3-bedroom detached house (Jackson-Stops, Chichester)	£1,150,000
School Road	2-bedroom house (Sims Williams, Arundel)	£879,000
Church Street	Grade II listed 2-bedroom cottage (GL&Co, Storrington)	£825,000
East Street	2-bedroom detached cottage (Batcheller Monkhouse, Pulborough)	£750,000
Hurst Cottages, East Street	3-bedroom bungalow (Joe Graham Property Sales, Bognor)	£550,000
Newland Gardens	2-bedroom flat (Henry Adams, Storrington)	£285,000

Houghton Bridge

Stoke Road	4-bedroom house (Savills, Petworth)	£1,175,000
Riverside	Four 2-bedroom lodges (sold separately) (Parkmove, nationwide)	£175,000-£185,000

Houghton

Off B2139	5-bedroom detached house with swimming pool (Henry Adams, Storrington)	£1,950,000
Off B2139	4-bedroom detached house (GL&Co, Storrington/Jackson-Stops, Chichester)	£995,000
Off B2139	3-bedroom semi detached barn conversion (Henry Adams, Storrington)	£695,000

Rackham

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



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

September 4, 11, 18, 25	The Old Vicarage, The Street, Washington, RH20 4AS (10am-4pm)
September 6	The Cottage, Potts Lane, Pulborough, RH20 2BT (10am-4pm)
September 7	Parsonage Farm, Kirdford, RH14 0NH (2pm-6pm)
September 9	Bignor Park, Bignor, RH20 1HG (2pm-5pm)
September 14	Rymans, Appledram Lane South, Apuldram, PO20 7EG (2pm-5pm)
September 21	Meadow Farm, Blackgate Lane, Pulborough, RH20 1DF (1pm-5pm)

LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse & Recycling Calendar - September

Household refuse collections (**Amberley/Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt**): Collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be on **Tuesdays, September 2, 16 and 30**; non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Tuesdays, September 9 and 23**.



For **Church Street and Hog Lane**: collections for garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be collected on **Mondays, September 1, 15 and 29**; non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Wednesdays, September 3 and 17**. Collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, September 10 and 24**.

Amenity Tip Opening Times

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

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

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

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

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

Village Bus Timetable

On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Village Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers. We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver will pick up and set down at your door on request (especially useful when you are returning home with shopping), or anywhere else en route. The fare is a flat-rate £3 per return journey (£2 single fare). 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



The Post Office is now your local bank

No need to drive miles to your nearest branch

Use the shop to help subsidise the Post Office

OPENING HOURS

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

● Tuesday 1pm-4pm ● Thursday 1pm-5pm

BANKING

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

FOREIGN CURRENCY

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

Local Farmers' Markets

Storrington Community Market

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

Chichester

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

Ford

Ford Airfield

First Saturday (7.30am-2pm)

Steyning

High Street Car Park

First Saturday (9am-1pm)

Arundel

Town Centre

Third Saturday (9am-1pm)

Pulborough Village Market

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

Petworth

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



SEPTEMBER DIVERSIONS

1. What term is used in golf for achieving a hole in three under par?
2. Who currently holds the record for the most Wimbledon Men's titles of the modern open era?
3. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize? And what was her nationality?
4. In his song *American Pie*, Don Mclean refers to "the day the music died". This is believed to refer to whose death?
5. What does a deltiologist collect?
6. Where was Spandau Prison located and who was its last inmate?
7. Which is the only country to have a map of itself on its national flag? (Clue: it's a Mediterranean island)
8. Who managed the Beatles prior to his early death in 1967?
9. Who wrote the songs *Layla* and *Wonderful Tonight*?
10. Which country currently holds the presidency of the European Union?
11. In which film did Jodie Foster play a character called Tallulah?
12. Who managed Nottingham Forest FC for 18 years?
13. Who was the first British winner of the Formula 1 championship?
14. Which country has the most southerly point of South America?
15. On which island of New Zealand is Wellington located?
16. Who coined the phrase 'Beware the Ides of March'?
17. Who sang the hit theme song *Rawhide*?
18. Billy J Kramer was lead vocalist with which group?
19. How many gigabytes are there in a terabyte?
20. In Cockney rhyming slang, what's a 'Merry Go Round'?
21. What is the fifth letter of the Greek alphabet?
22. What is London's tallest building?
23. Name the ballet dancer who requested political asylum while in Paris with the Kirov Ballet, in June 1961?
24. What is the principal ingredient of taramasalata?
25. What does the acronym QANTAS stand for?
26. What symbol is used to denote a 70th anniversary?
27. What nations make up the G7 (Group of seven major industrial countries)?
28. Which city will host the 2028 Olympics?
29. What is the world's largest country in terms of area?
30. What role in the Opposition does our local MP, Andrew Griffith, hold?

Answers: page 43

Quick crossword

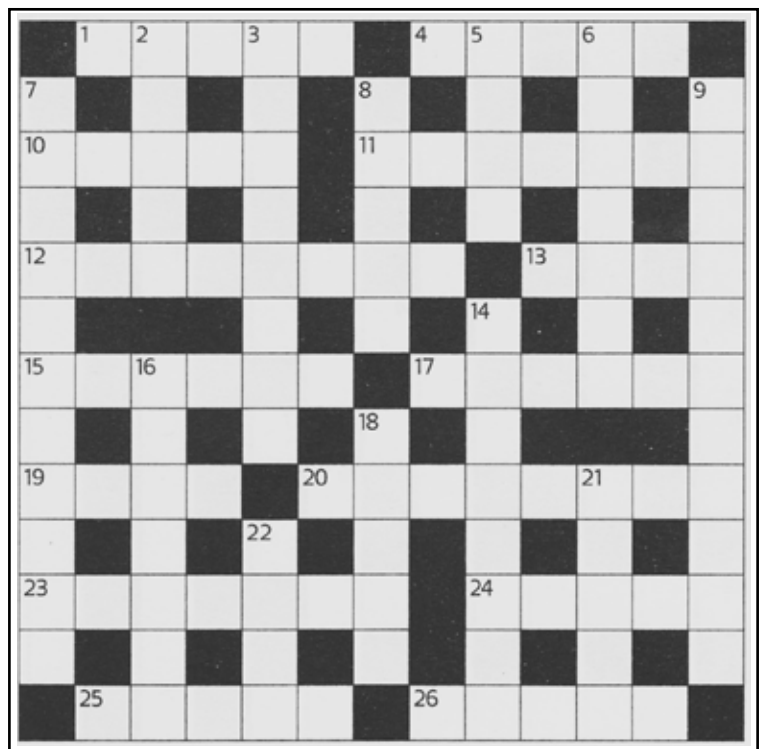
Across

1. Month (5)
4. Scent (5)
10. Qatar's currency (5)
11. Ancient match (7)
12. Infirmary (8)
13. Operatic prima donna (4)
15. Board ship (6)
17. Fire-breathing monster (6)
19. Respite (4)
20. Member of the raccoon family (8)
23. Gun-rods [anag] (7)
24. Feel (5)
25. Colorado ski resort (5)
26. Celebration (5)

Down

2. Bottomless pit (5)
3. Coal mine (8)
5. Medieval club (4)
6. Hoisting (7)
7. Study of antiquities (11)
8. Implore (5)
9. Early battleship (11)
14. Volcanic island west of Java (8)
16. Manual air pump (7)
18. Slightly drunk (5)
21. Tilting contest (5)
22. Leg joint (4)

Solution: page 43





CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

2nd Tuesday

Talk: Everything You Need To Know About The Royal Ballet In Sixty Minutes, The Arts Society West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 2pm

3rd Wednesday

Back to School, autumn term begins

The Late Summer Italian Kitchen Masterclass, Parham House, 10am*

Talk: The Art of Visual Deception, The Arts Society South Downs, Fittleworth Village Hall, 10.30am

6th Saturday

Vintage Tractor Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Fun Dog Show, Mount Noddy Animal Centre, Earham, 11am-4pm

7th Sunday

Vintage Tractor Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Cricket: Amberley v Gully (home), 1.30pm

8th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm

9th Tuesday

Parham Parish Council meeting, Rackham Old School, 7.30pm

10th Wednesday

Guided tour of the House, Parham House, 10am*

Film: A Complete Unknown, Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, 7.30pm

11th Thursday

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

12th Friday

Goodwood Revival (until Sunday)

Simple Sourdough for Beginners Masterclass, Parham House, 10am*

Littlehampton Tide Timetable – September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 st High 05.16 Low 11.32 High 17.52	2 nd Low 00.17 High 07.05 Low 13.00 High 19.42	3 rd Low 01.55 High 08.27 Low 14.47 High 20.56	4 th Low 03.24 High 09.33 Low 15.51 High 21.55	5 th Low 04.13 High 10.26 Low 16.33 High 22.40	6 th Low 04.53 High 11.08 Low 17.12 High 23.22
7 th Low 05.30 High 11.49 Low 17.48	8 th High 00.04 Low 06.07 High 12.30 Low 18.26	9 th High 00.44 Low 06.45 High 13.08 Low 19.05	10 th High 01.24 Low 07.25 High 13.47 Low 19.46	11 th High 02.04 Low 08.06 High 14.26 Low 20.28	12 th High 02.44 Low 08.47 High 15.07 Low 21.11	13 th High 03.27 Low 09.32 High 15.51 Low 21.59
14 th High 04.17 Low 10.23 High 16.45 Low 22.59	15 th High 05.22 Low 11.33 High 17.58	16 th Low 00.25 High 06.56 Low 13.14 High 19.39	17 th Low 02.06 High 08.42 Low 14.42 High 21.16	18 th Low 03.19 High 09.55 Low 15.47 High 22.16	19 th Low 04.14 High 10.44 Low 16.34 High 23.02	20 th Low 04.56 High 11.26 Low 17.15 High 23.42
21 st Low 05.34 High 12.05 Low 17.50	22 nd High 00.21 Low 06.08 High 12.41 Low 18.25	23 rd High 00.56 Low 06.41 High 13.15 Low 18.58	24 th High 01.27 Low 07.13 High 13.43 Low 19.29	25 th High 01.53 Low 07.43 High 14.06 Low 19.58	26 th High 02.15 Low 08.13 High 14.26 Low 20.28	27 th High 02.40 Low 08.42 High 14.51 Low 20.57
28 th High 03.07 Low 09.13 High 15.22 Low 21.32	29 th High 03.42 Low 09.52 High 16.00 Low 22.18	30 th High 04.31 Low 10.51 High 17.00 Low 23.30				

TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON

COMPILED BY HAZEL ALLINSON

13th Saturday

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

Miniature Steam Show, Amberley Museum, from 10am

14th Sunday

Miniature Steam Show, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Cricket: Amberley v Zambucca Tigers (home), 1.30pm

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

21st Sunday

Autumn Bus Show, Amberley Museum, from 10am

24th Wednesday

Guided tour of the Needlework, Parham House, 11am*

26th Friday

Open Morning, Dorset House School, 9.30am-11.30am

28th Sunday

Land Rover Day, Amberley Museum, from 10am

**Booking essential*

Dates for the diary

Sportsman Beerfest **October 2-5**

Macmillan Coffee Morning **October 3**

Harvest Supper **October 4**

Amberley Millennium Green Ceilidh **October 11**

La Traviata, Denmans Gardens **October 11**

Film & Curry Night **October 23**

Hallraisers Christmas Market **November 29**

Amberley Village Christmas lunch **December 10**



AT YOUR SERVICE (LOCAL TRADESMEN AND SERVICES)

Accommodation: B&B (graded)

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

Accommodation: Self-catering

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

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners

Barden Clean, professional, environmentally friendly cleaning service 07452 950509

Catering Services

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

Electricians

CJS Electrical, installation, inspection and certification 07922 240729

Estate Agents

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

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

Funeral Directors

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

Garages, car servicing, repairs

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

Garden

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

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

Heating oil / fuel / boiler engineers

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

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

Home / household

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

Logs

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

Painting / decorating

Jonathan Capelin, quality interior and exterior decorator 01798 817402

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

Pest Control

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

Plumbing/Heating engineer

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

Public Houses

The Bridge Inn, Houghton Bridge 01798 831619

The George & Dragon, Houghton 01798 831559

The Labouring Man, Coldwaltham 01798 873337

The Sportsman Inn, Amberley 01798 831787

Retail

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

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

Willmers of Pulborough, electrical appliances 01798 872866

Schools

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

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

Tea Rooms

Amberley Village Tea Room 01798 839196

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

Wellbeing

Connect Reflexology, Old Forge Surgery and home visits 07895 302787

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

Robert Sadler, locally-based registered osteopath 01798 874736

Storrington Physiotherapy Clinic, Filipa Barnes & Sean Case 01903 743538

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. An albatross (also known as a double eagle) 2. Roger Federer (8) 3. Marie Curie who was born in Poland but later became a naturalised French citizen 4. Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J.P. 'The Big Bopper' Richardson, who all perished in plane crash in 1959 5. Postcards 6. West Berlin and Rudolph Hess 7. Cyprus 8. Brian Epstein 9. Eric Clapton (about Pattie Boyd) 10. Denmark 11. *Bugsy Malone* 12. Brian Clough (1975-1993) 13. Mike Hawthorn 14. Chile 15. North Island 16. William Shakespeare in his play *Julius Caesar* 17. Frankie Laine 18. The Dakotas 19. 1,024 20. Pound (£) 21. Epsilon 22. The Shard 23. Rudolf Nureyev 24. Fish roe 25. Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services (hence no 'U') 26. Platinum 27. Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States 28. Los Angeles 29. Russia 30. Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade

Crossword solution

Across: 1. March 4. Smell 10. Riyal 11. Lucifer 12. Hospital 13. Diva 15. Embark 17. Dragon 19. Lull 20. Kinkajou 23. Grounds 24. Touch 25. Aspen 26. Party **Down:** 2. Abyss 3. Colliery 5. Mace 6. Lifting 7. Archaeology 8. Plead 9. Dreadnought 14. Krakatoa 16. Bellows 18. Topsy 21. Joust 22. Knee



PARISH DIRECTORY

Churchwardens:	Amberley	Melanie Edge (mel.edge@me.com).....07973 163369
		Michael Davey (Secretary) (mpdavey@gmail.com).....07749 690024
	Greatham	Diana van der Klugt (dianavanderklugt@btinternet.com).....01798 875663
		Robert Englehart.....01798 872502
	Parham	Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com).....07909 640948
		Jill Sloan (Secretary) (jill@jsloan.com)..... 07517413481
	Wiggonholt	Cathy Folwell (cathy.folwell@icloud.com)..... 01798 872546
		Jenny Sadler (jen@southernrcranes.co.uk)..... 01798 874613
St Mary The Virgin North Stoke (acting chair)		Janet Aidin (janet@aidin.co.uk).....01798 87253
Organist & Choir Trainer (St Michael's, Amberley)		Shirley Linford.....01903 783692
Parish Magazine Editor and Advertising		Michael Toynbee (mike@brooklandsamberley.com).....01798 831114
Parish Magazine Distribution & Subscriptions		Pam Keeble (pamwkeebble@gmail.com)..... 01798 831050
Amberley CE Primary School		Paul Armitage.....01798 83161
Amberley Church Hall Bookings		Adrienne Greenwood (ad.greenwood@btinternet.com).....07746 488615
Amberley Good Neighbours Emergency Service		Cyndy Kennett..... 07745 407185
Amberley Oil Syndicate		Jill Couling (amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com).....01798 831845
Amberley Parish Council Clerk		Steve Trott (clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk).....07767 301299
Amberley Parish Pond & Tree Warden		Pam Keeble.....01798 831050
Amberley Parish Trust		David Vokins.....01798 839086
Amberley Society		Ian Galbraith (ian@ecomis.com).....01798 839006
		Jeff Feakins (feakster@aol.com).....01798 831538
Amberley Village Stores and Post Office		Colin Woods.....01798 831171
Amberley Welfare Trust (Village Surgery)		Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com).....01798 831340
Bell Ringers (Amberley) Tower Captain		Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com)..... 07909640948
CPR Emergency Number		07838 947521
Cricket Club		Keith Dalmon.....01798 83188
Home Safety Checks		West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.....03458729719
Member of Parliament		Andrew Griffith (andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk).....0207 219 4557
Millennium Green Trust		Judy Agate (judy@greencaterpillar.org).....07525 48474
Neighbourhood Watch		Malcolm Phasey.....01798 83904
Parham Parish Council Clerk		Vicky Spiers (clerk@parham-pc.org.uk).....01903 20894
Police		Non-emergency number.....101
Rackham Old School Association		Sue Bulloch.....01798 872038
Rackham School Hall Reservations		Jennifer Hooper.....01903 742695
Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE)		Elisabeth Tooms (toomsfirth@btinternet.com).....01798 839232
Stoolball Club		Sandra Turner.....01243 82125
Village Bus		Philip Greenwood.....01798 831803
Village Lunch Team Leader		Sarah Wheeler (sarahwheeler1@live.com).....01798 831194
West Sussex County Councillor		Paul Marshall..... 033 022 23841

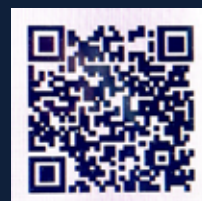


DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

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



OPEN MORNING
FRIDAY 26th SEPTEMBER
9.30 am - 11.30 am



FIND OUT MORE
[DORSETHOUSESCHOOL.COM](https://www.dorsethouseschool.com)

T 01798 831456
The Manor, Bury, RH20 1PB

*PART OF THE **LANCING COLLEGE** FAMILY OF SCHOOLS
FROM SEPTEMBER 2025*

Parham

HOUSE & GARDENS

Open Wed, Thur, Fri & Sun

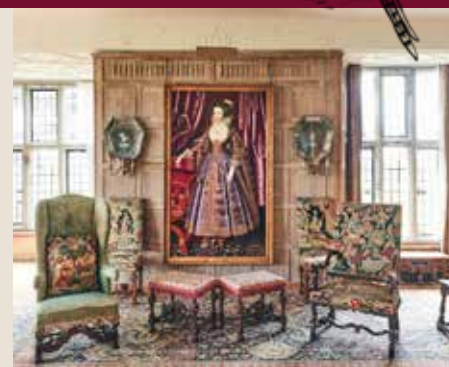
12pm - 5pm | House from 2pm

TRIPADVISOR & GOOGLE ★★★★★

Tripadvisor
Travellers'
Choice Awards



Set within an ancient deer park below the South Downs, Parham is one of the country's finest Elizabethan Houses.



- Historic Elizabethan Home
- Four-Acre Walled Garden
- The Greenhouse
- The Pleasure Grounds
- Joannas Boutique Tearoom
- Garden Shop and Gift Shop

Parham House & Gardens
Pulborough, West Sussex
RH20 4HR • 01903 742021
w3w/// this.songbird.contain



Tour of the House



Wed 10th Sept & Thu 2nd Oct

Enjoy a pre-opening tour led by one of our knowledgeable guides. Pre-booking only.

All tours begin at 11am and meet in Fountain Courtyard. Arrivals are welcomed between 10.45 and 11am. The tours last up to an hour and 30 minutes.

All tour tickets include admission (or re-admission) to the Gardens (from 12 noon) and the House (from 2pm).

www.parhaminsussex.co.uk



Season of mists, mellow fruitfulness...and marrows

Hercule Poirot may have struggled to grow marrows in his retirement...but climate change has made September in the Wildbrooks more of a summer month than in Keats's day, coaxing our marrows to grow to impressive sizes!

Showing off this twenty-five pounder, Mary Leonard has some showstopping recipes to make the best of this big boy – look out for Mary's delicious marrow chutney and other marrow delicacies at the harvest festival next month!



Interestingly, marrow is botanically classified as a fruit, specifically a type of berry – so in writing one of the best-known first lines in English poetry, perhaps Keats was also inspired by an abundance of mellow marrowness!



SAGE's sizzling summer social

The Society of Amberley Gardening Enthusiasts held its summer social on a gloriously sunny evening in August, in Sarah Fish's gorgeous garden in Church Street. The drinks flowed, the guests mingled – and emboldened by a few glasses of wine, the conversation turned to advancing years. One guest was asked why her face suddenly looked so wrinkled ... 'they're laughter lines' said the guest.

Andrew Griffith at the cutting edge?

Who would have thought that the 1974

slasher movie, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, would have been a source of inspiration for an ostentation of politicians (if that's the collective noun for right wing parliamentarians) from across the globe.



First, there was the president of Argentina, Javier Milei, wielding his chainsaw as a symbol of his promise to slash the size of the state. Milei then gave Elon Musk – who oversaw sweeping cuts to programmes in the United States – a chainsaw engraved with the words 'Viva la libertad, carajo', which translates as 'long live liberty, damn it'. Now our own MP Andrew Griffith, Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade, has revved up his chainsaw and taken it to labour's 'job killing, trade union inspired' bill. In the video (watch it on YouTube!) Andrew appears to have employed a stunt double with a different chainsaw to actually cut through the bill – perhaps he was afraid that wielding the vicious chainsaw himself would result in him losing an arm and a leg...or even his seat.

A parakeet walks into a bar...

There's nothing as refreshing as sipping a cold drink with your buds...I mean birds ...after a hard day's squawking in Church Street.

Mango, the parakeet, and his owner, Pete Birchall, have been rehabilitating the village pond and turned up at The Sportsman after work, to enjoy a cold pint – apparently Mango is particularly partial to a sip or two of shandy. This may sound like a hoot and Mango may be the original party animal ... but what happens if he has a few sips too many? Well, the best remedy in the case of a hangover would be parakeet-amol – apparently it's Mango's preferred tweetment.





JACKSON-STOPS

PROPERTY EXPERTS SINCE 1910

Successfully selling property in
Arundel and the surrounding
South Downs villages.

If you have a property to sell please call us on:

ARUNDEL*
01903 885886

*Virtual Offices

CHICHESTER
01243 786316

jackson-stops.co.uk



EMSWORTH*
01243 370300