

united
EASEBOURNE



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Thanks to these residents of Lutener Road for
hanging up the VE Day bunting!

Introducing the Roundhouse! by Carole Cantlon



EASEBOURNE
Parish Council

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that work on the next stage of the development of Easebourne Park is now complete. We're delighted to introduce 'The Roundhouse'.



We developed plans for it following feedback from our Parish-wide survey in January 2019. The concept was for a place to meet up with friends, to hold events in, or to shelter from the sun or rain! Most importantly, it should be a building that sits well within our National Park surroundings and that could be enjoyed by all for years to come.

After a lot of discussion, applying for grants, obtaining planning consent and fine-tuning the details, construction began in early March this

year. Many of you may have seen it slowing taking shape. We're incredibly lucky to have won enough funding and donations to make the whole project possible. Our sincere thanks

go to The Cowdray Estate, Chichester District Council, The National Lottery and The Grange Association.

We had a plan for many things that could happen along the way, but never one that covered a Pandemic. However, after a short period of inactivity, our amazing local designers and contractors, Artizans of Wood, set about slowly completing the project whilst adhering to the Government's social distancing rules.

After some equally amazing groundworks by another local company, ACS Ltd, we couldn't be

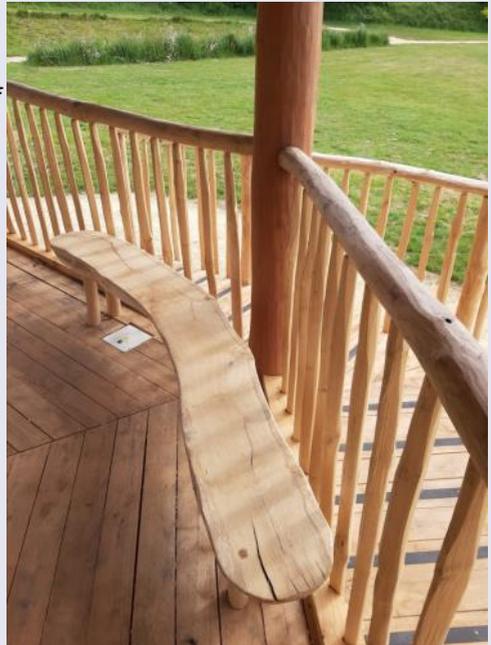
more pleased with the outcome and we hope you agree. It's a beautiful structure that nestles perfectly into the Park.

Whilst equipment in Easebourne Park is still taped off in line with Government guidelines, the Park itself is accessible and is a great place to take your exercise during the ongoing Lockdown. If you've not already taken a closer look at The Roundhouse, take a wander up.

Parish Clerk: Sharon Hurr, parishclerk@easebourne.org
Tel: 07342 166188 Parish website: www.easebourne.org



Footnote: While we want everyone to enjoy the Roundhouse, we would ask that it is used respectfully. It is disappointing that over the past couple of weeks we have had incidents reported to us of groups of teenagers gathering in the Roundhouse and the school car park, failing to adhere to social distancing, intimidating other Park visitors and leaving behind litter and cigarette ends. These incidents have been reported to the Police and we have increased the number of visits made by our security team. If you know any of those involved or see any future incidents of large groups, we would encourage you to report it to our security team, Protec, on 01730 810001. They are based locally and can respond within minutes. Please also follow up with an email, if possible. (Details below.)



**Parish Clerk: Sharon Hurr, parishclerk@easebourne.org
Tel: 07342 166188 Parish website: easebourne.org**

VE Day 75th Anniversary— Easebourne Remembers

Daily Mail

ONE PENNY

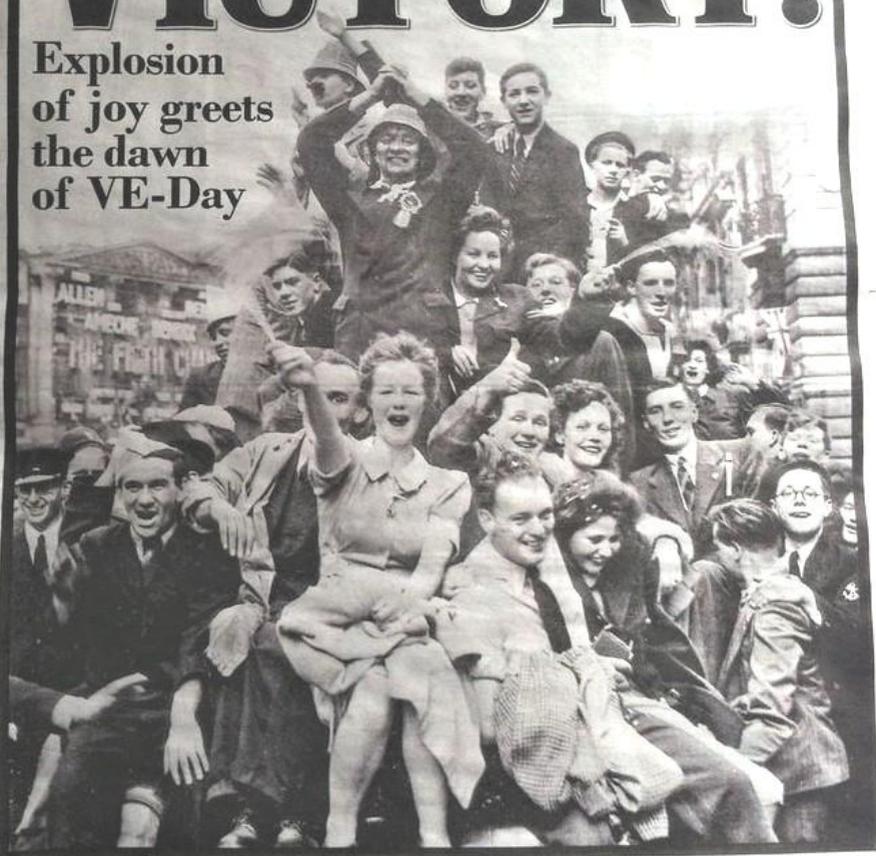
FOR KING AND EMPIRE

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945

**SPECIAL
PICTURE
EDITION**

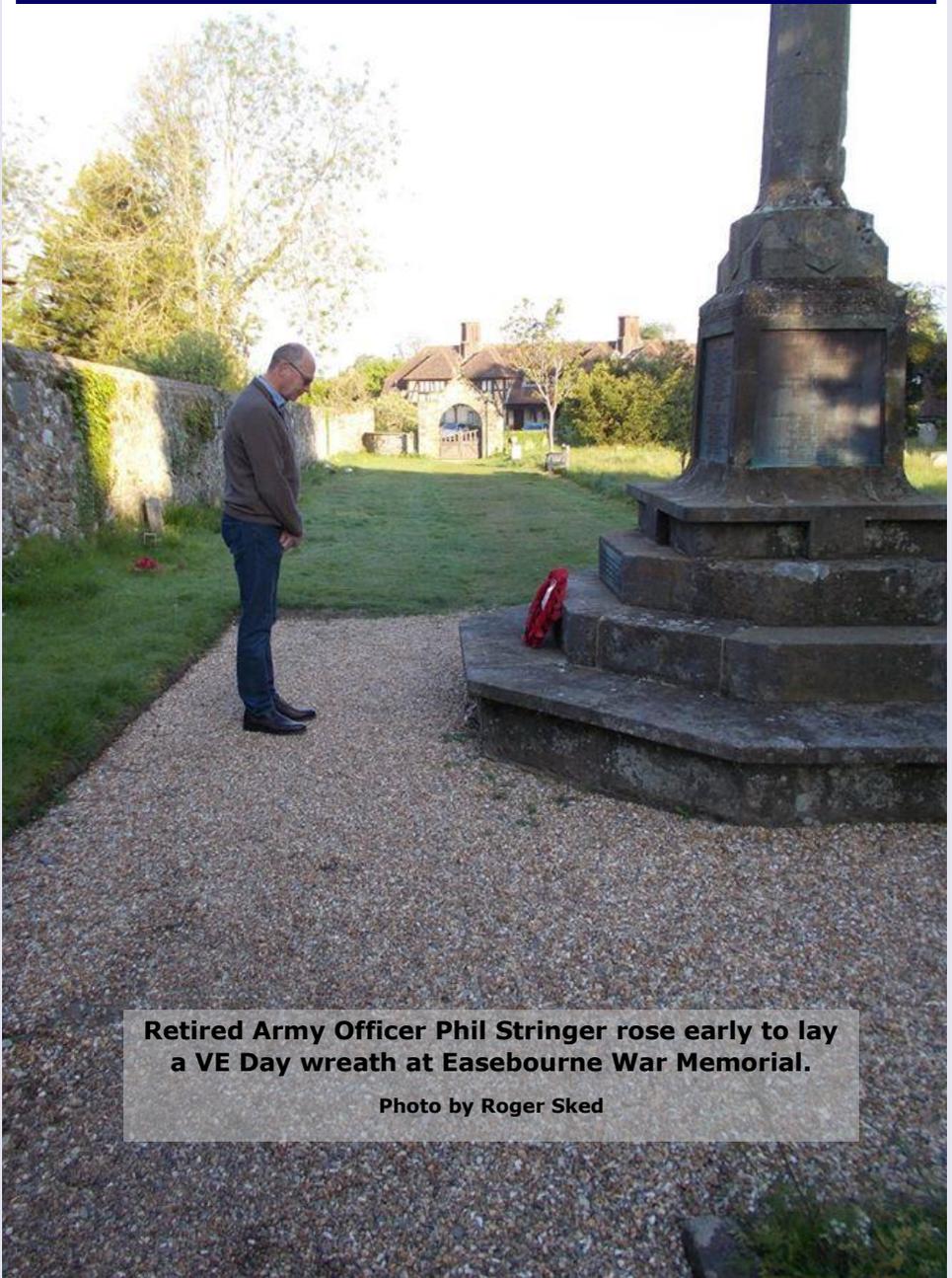
VICTORY!

**Explosion
of joy greets
the dawn
of VE-Day**



An outpouring of jubilation — and relief: Londoners thronged the streets of the capital as impromptu celebrations broke out ahead of VE-Day today. Waving flags and marching arm in arm, revellers sang songs, danced and cheered into the early hours as they gloried in victory over the Nazis

**VE Day 75th Anniversary—
Easebourne Remembers**



Retired Army Officer Phil Stringer rose early to lay a VE Day wreath at Easebourne War Memorial.

Photo by Roger Sked

Extract from a talk given by John Stringer at the Refectory in 1998

Extract from **'My Memories of Easebourne Life'**

I was eight when war was declared and 14 when it ended, so my boyhood was coloured by the military activities that took place in the village. After Dunkirk, the Avenue (Chestnut Avenue opposite the Priory) was full up with civilian buses, used to evacuate soldiers from the Channel ports. They still had their civilian names and often bizarre destinations, and were seen in between each pair of chestnut trees in the Avenue. They in time departed and their place taken each week on Thursdays with a large convoy of Canadians under driving instruction out of Aldershot. They were kindly men, and getting to know the instructors week after week meant generous gifts of tinned food from time to time. They were well fed, even if oddly at times – marmalade in mashed potatoes. We boys all sought to collect a complete set of aircraft cards from Sweet Caporal cigarette packets.



When the Atlantic War was at its height we had to work one half day each week on farm work – thinning sugar beet or hoeing turnips. Then, and in the school holidays, we often worked on farms alongside Italian prisoners of war, who lived in huts both on Bepton Common and at Cooksbridge, Fernhurst. They were big friendly men. They wore chocolate coloured uniforms with a big blue diamond patches of jackets and trousers. As years passed, so air raids diminished and the Midhurst air raid siren sounded less and less. Father was in the Eighth Army, and was blown up at the Battle of Monte Cassino, and returned home, legless, in 1943. He made good progress with his artificial legs. I recall our small cottage being cluttered with sets of artificial legs - usually already shoed and with socks kept up with drawing pins. When peace arrived in Europe, we built an enormous bonfire on the spot where the first golf tee is now. With no fireworks to buy and little money, we solved the problem by opening the ammunition stores at Cowdray Gardens (a commando camp) and borrowed many cases of thunder flashes which served us well that evening.

John Stringer who lived all his life in the village was Phil Stringer's dad.



Midhurst and Easebourne! You are invited to have a

STAY AT HOME PARTY!

Friday 8th May 2020

-  Decorate your house
red, white and blue
-  Enjoy a picnic in your
garden with good food and
games
-  Commemorate the
anniversary of Victory in
Europe with your family

Everyone at Midhurst Town Council, Cowdray Heritage Trust, Easebourne
Parish Council and The Royal British Legion wishes you a happy
VE Day Celebration.

Stay Home, Stay Safe



**Residents of Lutener Road
fell into the spirit of the day**



**We were tempted to
stop here for tea.**



**We met Holly, Wayne
and their son George in
front of their door, all
decorated for VE Day.**



**Trevor and Sue were
hanging out the Union Jack.**



Vanzell Road resounded to the sounds of Glenn Miller's big band played on a gramophone, while the residents enjoyed a socially distanced street party.



Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

Firstly, how are you all doing? I have been very busy, so for me, these past weeks have been a bit of a blur. I hope and pray that you are all safe and coping. A big blessing to all of you who are on your own and to the parents who are home schooling.

For us as a family, 2020 was going to be a big year. Like most people, our plans have changed and now this year will be remembered for very different reasons. Zoom was something I had never heard of – or to think of it, Microsoft Teams. Now I dream Zoom meetings!

Have you experienced the Zoom family quiz? Thankfully Gill and I won ours – the best question we set was: which king of England died in 1972?

If you are still working, then like me, you will have been having Zoom meetings for work. My longest meeting has been nearly four hours. Crumbs! you should try and stay awake for that long whilst looking at a screen which incorporates your own face. Thankfully people are learning – quite often the chair will limit such meetings to a max of one and a half hours; we all have to be thankful for small mercies.



Our children have been learning over the internet using varied forms of social media. Thankfully teachers seem to be more tech savvy these days. You see some quite remarkable lessons provided for children. How schools would have coped without the internet? That is probably true for most of us. I think we should clap at some point for the broadband engineers who keep our internet lines open each day?

My greatest sadness is not spending time with those I love. Who would ever of thought that a virus could create such problems for us all? Quite often it is the most simple of things that affect us. Yes, the telephone is good to chat on; yes, Zoom allows us to see a face – but real physical contact is so precious, especially once we

**VISIT OUR BENEFICE WEBSITE:
www.thepriorychurches.co.uk**

lose it. Can you imagine how wonderful things will feel once this is all over? We will need a party. We will need normality. I will need a McDonalds.

I hope you have been able to stay in touch with the church through our website

www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

(thanks Lynne and Rob Todd for updating it for us), or by joining our Facebook page 'The Priory Churches' which I will need to give you access to once you request it.

I hope, like me, you have

appreciated our editorial teams getting this magazine out – good work Team – very much appreciated.

So we go on together. Protecting the vulnerable, supporting those key workers who keep life going and caring for each other in a way that has not been seen for a long time.

May God continue to bless us all.

Derek

Derek told us there is no news yet on when the churches will re-open. Please look on the website www.thepriorychurches.co.uk for more information. There you can also find a link to Derek's regular lockdown services and blogs on YouTube.

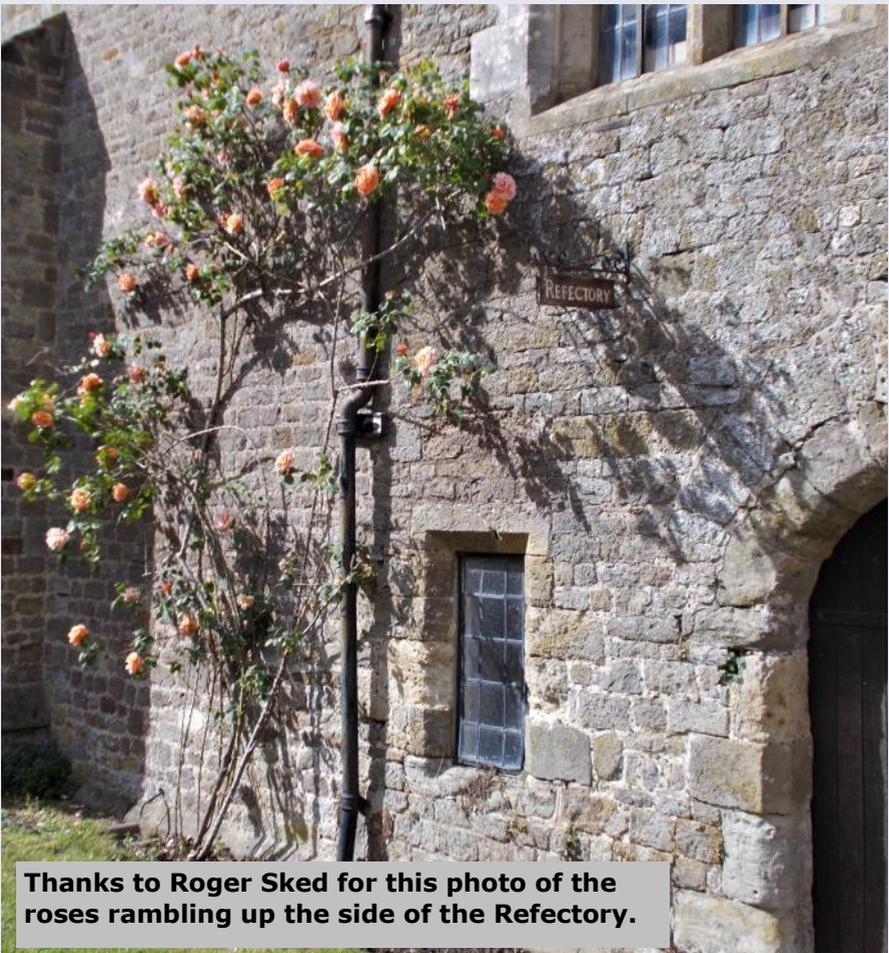
From the Social Gang

The Social Gang hopes that you are all keeping well and managing to cope with the current circumstances.

Regretfully, and probably not surprising, there will not be any Afternoon Tea or UNO Lunch events until further notice. Also, the Wine and Wisdom evening scheduled for July 1 has been postponed. However, when life gets back to near-normality, you will all be pleased to see the George West Room and Refectory in their newly decorated states. Also, the chairlift is working - thanks to Roger!!

So until the time when we can all meet again, love, best wishes and keep safe.

Jan Harling and the church social gang



Thanks to Roger Sked for this photo of the roses rambling up the side of the Refectory.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

Winners in May draw



1st Prize - £100	No 155	Eric Bounten
2nd Prize - £75	No 10	Ben Jull
2nd Prize - £75	No 119	Tina Litchfield
3rd Prize—£50	No 32	Jenny Nightingale
3rd Prize—£50	No 55	Mike Ohara
3rd Prize—£50	No 196	Judith Allen

If you would like to join the 200 Club please contact:

Mike & Margaret Wharton,
tel 810474, email mike@mwassociates.eu.com

Midhurst Angels

07538 839 703

Don't struggle alone
during COVID-19



Find help, support and
resources, local delivery
businesses and more at
midhurstangels.co.uk

Or email us: midhurstangels@outlook.com

The Midhurst Angels by Jeanette Sutton

I expect everyone has now heard of the Midhurst Angels, a large group of people who are helping the local community and supporting all those who need help. It arose quickly when it became clear that we had a pandemic on our hands. We had a website made thanks to Hooli Designs, and then a leaflet which was delivered by hand to all the neighbouring villages and all throughout the town giving a phone number and suggesting ways that they could help. Donations of money came from the Rotary Club and many private donations also.

In the early days, finding food suppliers and getting prescriptions was a major worry for many people. All the supermarket slots became like gold dust and nobody wanted to queue for a prescription. Those people who were self isolating were particularly vulnerable not knowing how to get help. The Angels came to the rescue, delivering food parcels, collecting prescriptions, answering around 35 phone calls per day and explaining to people which shops would deliver food within the area.

As people built their own relationships with the shops that deliver, that query slowed down. The Town Council sent a leaflet round supporting the Angels and giving a fairly comprehensive (not totally comprehensive alas, but as many as they could) list of shops that delivered or might deliver, and all the Angel details. The area was divided up into sections and each area had its own chat group online to talk to each other.

Then a special group was made for the creation of masks. Around 30 mask kits have gone out to people with sewing machines and many hundred face masks with 3 layers of fabric have been made. The Angels Facebook page has helped with the distribution of most of these and they continue to be made and distributed free, primarily to care workers and shops. Then the surgery will offer them to vulnerable people and they are gradually reaching schools, the pharmacies and anyone who needs one. They are all free and almost entirely made of recycled fabrics in people's own stashes, and many, many pillowcases have been repurposed!



**Face Masks made by
Midhurst Angels**

In a joint effort with the Town Council the Angels then decided to spread some joy in the town and area and donated some lovely hampers filled with treats around the town. It's easy to get downhearted when in isolation and a little parcel of joy goes a long way.

If you need to contact the Angels for anything, they will deliver a letter, they will help you find a way to get your food, and they are there to chat and listen. Details are on the previous page.

Facebook: Midhurst Covid-19 Angels



**Vine House carers
wearing their masks**

May 2020 Update for Midhurst Foodbank

Our Foodbank operations have had to change considerably since our last report. To begin with, 80% of our volunteers were unable to help due to age or health restrictions which affected all aspects of our work from collecting donations from the shops, sorting and storing donations and delivering food parcels to individual homes.

The food bank is now working in a safer way, and with many new, much appreciated volunteers. Over this last week, we delivered supplies to nine families, and so helped 31 individuals. That is the equivalent of about 60 bags full of groceries in one week.

With the numbers of unemployed in the UK likely to reach over 6 million by the end of May, it is almost certain that the numbers of people we will be feeding each week will dramatically increase. As well as the food parcels available through referrals by local doctors, etc., boxes of food are being distributed to families whose children receive free school meals – a very urgent requirement while our schools are closed.

If you need help, contact with the Foodbank is by phone or email only, and the supplies are delivered by volunteers, not collected in person.

Tel: 07826 397732

Email : midhurstfoodbank@gmail.com



Rotary Club members Peter Nightingale (president) and Paul Mellings (right) with Rev Dave Willis (centre) helping in the storeroom.



Please continue to donate either by placing items in the baskets at Budgens, Tesco or Boots in

Midhurst, or now in a recently placed basket at The Larder, Lodsworth. There is also a collecting basket in the front garden of The Vicarage, June Lane.

If you have food donations at home but cannot get out to deliver, I am happy to collect (sticking to safe distancing) - just contact me on 01730 - 814490 or email

sianwyn51@gmail.com. Thanks go to everyone who is supporting the work of the Foodbank at this critical time, especially to the Rotary Club who have made a very generous donation of £1000 to the Foodbank. Thanks also to all those who drop funds into our collecting boxes when we are on the streets – without your help assistance such as that above could not happen.

Sian Mitchell,
volunteer for Midhurst Foodbank
and Helen Chapman, member of
Midhurst & Petworth Rotary Club

From the editors: We are glad to say that KerryType will be re-opening on 1 June, and the next issue will again be printed. We would love to hear from more of you for the combined July/August issue. We especially want to hear from school children this time. Please tell us how you are getting on with distance learning. Ask your parents to scan what you have written and email to easebourne.united@gmail.com. We will use your drawings and paintings when we have space. Please include your name, age, school and class.

Phone if you have any questions—Tel 816542. The deadline is Monday 15th of June. Thank you!

Why the rainbows?

In last month's United I was reading about the trend to display rainbows in windows, and they are indeed a cheerful and uplifting sight, and a promise of better times to come. Did you know that rainbows are mentioned in the Bible? If you look up Genesis and read the story of Noah, you will find the 'rainbow'.

Ann Harfield



Some jolly thank-you notes from the family at Holly Cottage, Easebourne Street





'Everyone In'
**A response to COVID-19
to get all rough sleepers
off the streets.**

Since March of this year, 54 rough sleepers across Arun and Chichester have now been placed in emergency temporary accommodation to provide them with a safer and supportive environment as part of the 'Everyone In' initiative, and 246 people have been accommodated across West Sussex as a whole. This has been a huge logistical exercise for local Housing Authorities in sourcing the accommodation and has challenged the third sector to work flexibly to support more people in different ways.

Stonepillow, the charity for the homeless based in Chichester, has risen to this challenge and this has been achieved by an amazing collaborative piece of work and planning between ourselves and many different organisations including Arun and Chichester District Councils, Turning Tides, Bognor Housing Trust, Sussex Police, Public Health England and so many others. The next step is to stop those placed returning to the streets by developing bespoke packages of support and trying to source appropriate secure accommodation. This is the true challenge particularly here where housing is scarce and affordable for single people. Our Rough Sleeper teams in Arun and Chichester are working hard on delivering this piece of work.

Stonepillow provide support 365 days a year across Chichester and Arun, offering a complete recovery journey focusing on improving health and wellbeing, and sustaining independent living.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the demands on our frontline services grow and change daily. Due to having to cancel all fundraising events, closure of our retail outlets and reduced income, we are asking for your help now more than ever to enable us to continue responding to the challenges facing people who are homeless and rough sleeping.

To donate, visit the Stonepillow website: <https://stonepillow.org.uk/how-to-help/donate/>



Due to these unprecedented times we need your help now more than ever! Swap your bed for a cardboard shelter, tent, stairs or cupboard... your sponsorship will enable us to provide essential support to local homeless people within our community. By taking part in the Little Big Sleep Out and raising as much as possible, you can help us to empower homeless and vulnerable people to make positive changes in their lives, and keep them safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Across the county there were people sleeping in baths, on trampolines, in sheds and cardboard shelters! We would like to thank everyone that took part in our first ever 'Little Big Sleep Out at Home' and we hope you all had as much fun as we did! The event was featured on South Today and mentioned by Jeremy Vine on Radio 2.

So far we have raised an amazing £13,372 and the donations are still coming in! We are truly grateful for all of your support to help raise awareness and vital funds for homeless and vulnerable people across West Sussex.

Jackie and Ian Haggis who live at Hurst Park took part in the SleepOut by spending the night in a gazebo in their garden. They said they were awakened after a chilly night at 6.00am by a large bird sliding off the metal roof. Time then for a cup of tea!



Two pairs of Haggis feet, with a collective age of 169, as they awoke from their night in their gazebo. It was all in aid of Stonepillow. To date they have raised very nearly £700!



Safe Space for victims relaunched in 'lockdown'

'Safe Space Sussex' is an online directory of local victim services, created by Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne. In response to the 'lockdown' and concerns raised around crimes like domestic abuse, this site has been upgraded and advice has been shared on social media (@SussexPCC) to help victims covertly reach out for help whilst stuck in isolation – search **#SafeSpaceSussex**.

It's vital that residents are aware of the support that is still available if they need it. Safe Space Sussex has been equipped with a new search tool so that within 10 seconds, victims of any crime can find the service they need. It also has a 'leave site now' button that users can press to quickly exit the site. Tailored guidance has been shared across social media community groups on how victims can access the new website covertly, using incognito tabs, as they may be living with their perpetrators during 'lockdown' and their search history may be monitored as a result.

Victims can also covertly let Sussex Police know they are in danger. The '55' technology is in place for those too scared to speak, to alert a call handler to the fact they need help by pressing 55 on their mobile phone once they've dialled 999.



There is still help and support available for all victims of crime during the Covid crisis. If you find yourself in an emergency where you think you or others may be in immediate danger dial 999. Sussex Police are always there for you when you need them. Don't suffer in silence.

If you would prefer not to contact the police you can report a crime anonymously via Crimestoppers online: [crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously)

Chestnut Avenue in early May

Difficult Times

I don't think I have ever felt more fortunate to live in Easebourne. The beautiful Rother Valley has been filled with sunshine, bird song, insect life and hedgerows and woods full of spring flowers. I have walked the numerous foot paths, and Basil the bearded collie and I have continued our morning runs, toiling and panting up the paths towards King Edward VII and then running back down towards the village nestled towards the bottom of the valley.

But today, having crossed Easebourne Park, I noticed a mum, evidently a key worker, dropping off her little boy at school. Usually at that time, the driveway would have been full of parents and children, the car park busy with small people ready for the familiarity of another day at school or nursery. From a distance, I watched mum doing the really difficult job of normalising another Monday morning in lock-down and, to my surprise, I began to cry.

From a distance, it appears that very little has changed. Cars are back on the roads, businesses are beginning to reopen, there are more people out and about. And to outward appearance, those of us who haven't been

unfortunate enough to contract Covid-19 are all fine too.

But for many people, there may have been a huge change in their emotional wellbeing, and perhaps their mental health. They may have already struggled with anxiety, only to find that this has become overwhelming as they listen to the distressing news reports. Others may be finding the loneliness of lock-down hard to bear, especially as for those shielding at home, there appears to be no end in sight.

And for others, the enforced period at home has highlighted the problems of their relationship with their partner, turning home into a tense and unhappy place. Children at home with parents who are either having heated arguments or threatening silences become worried and watchful, anxious about what will happen next. The incidence of domestic abuse has been increasing and a home that should feel like a safe place can become anything but that.

Perhaps this is a time when counselling can help you. Counsellors locally have adapted to the need to see people remotely, either using Zoom or talking on the phone. Individual

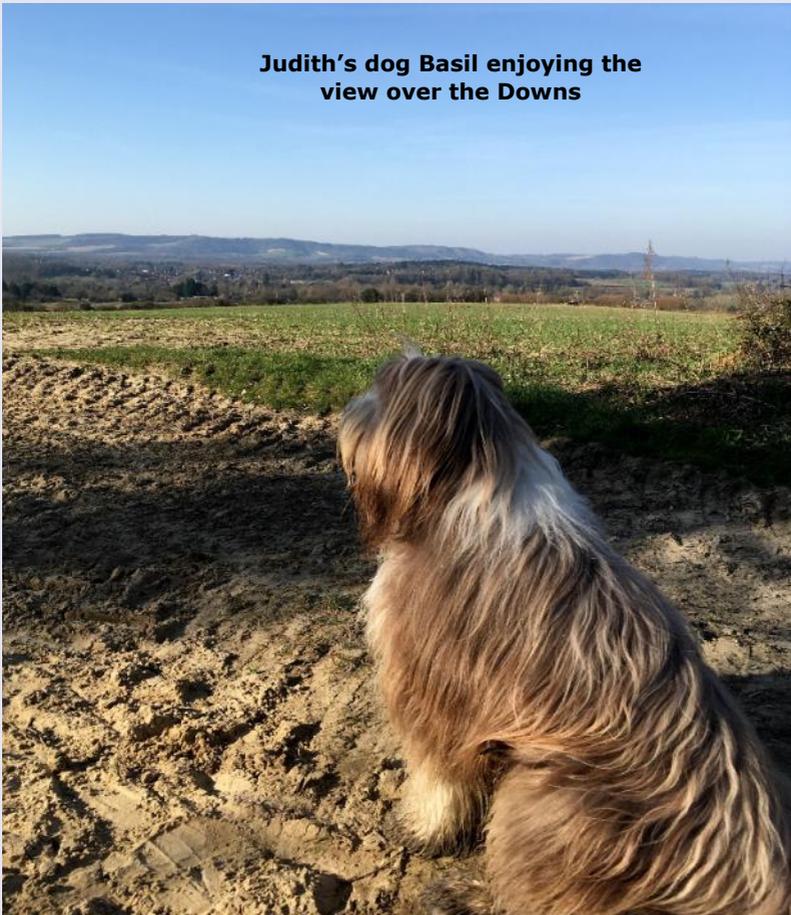
counselling can provide you with a confidential space to talk through your worries, and to help you develop strategies for managing a little more easily. Couples therapy using Zoom allows couples to work with a counsellor together in a 3-way conversation, so that the tensions of home life can be eased and family life made more manageable for all.

If you feel you could be helped by speaking to a counsellor, the

British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists <http://www.bacp.org.uk/> will provide you with a list of local counsellors who will be happy to help you. Meanwhile, let's hope it won't be too long until we are able to resume a more normal life again.

Judith Macdonald-Lawson
Couples Psychotherapist and
Family Mediator
<http://www.judithmacdonald-lawson.co.uk/>

Judith's dog Basil enjoying the view over the Downs



Lockdown Blogs



Please tell the editors how you've been occupying yourselves during lockdown, and your thoughts on the pandemic. Have you or has someone you know been ill? Have you been separated from family and friends? Are you home schooling or working from home? Send to easebourne.united@gmail.com with photos if possible.

I had originally intended to shine a blue light on my house in Fox Road on Thursdays to show appreciation to the NHS. Unfortunately the lighter evenings ruled that out. As an alternative I bought some Blue Theatrical hair cream. The instructions on the tub, imported from China, were most amusing! *"Not to hurt the hair easy to wash, natural stereotypes are not rigid. After the net [wet] hair, take a small amount of mud [crème?] in palm of your hand, circle rubbing uniform, try to get on your finger, and then gently pull the finger form [from] the hair root from the bottom up to smear evenly."*



Roger Sked

As you can see, it is VERY blue! Set hard once styled, it stayed very firm. The good news is it washed out very easily with ordinary shampoo. If anyone wants to try it, I have some left.

Note from the editors:

A big hurrah to Roger who seems to be driving all round Easebourne and Midhurst every day in his little van, delivering things, doing errands for people, and of course looking after the church in his capacity of church warden.

Thank you, Roger!

Some photos from Conifers



An English lesson with company



Science—making and testing a sundial



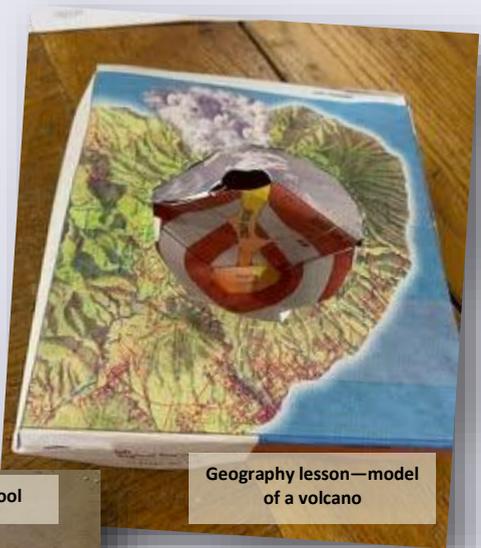
Zoom Spanish lesson



Celebrating VE Day



Castle making



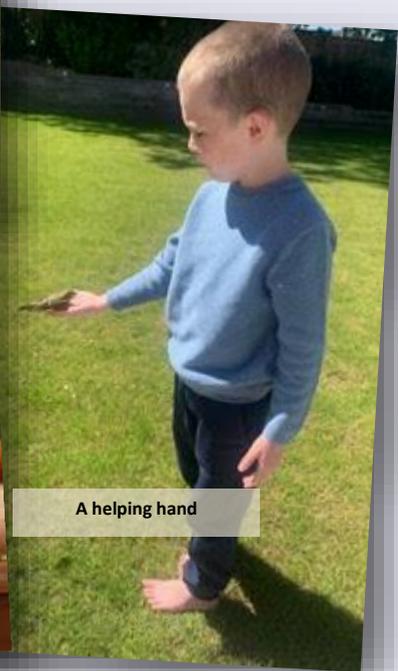
Geography lesson—model of a volcano



Art and Forest School



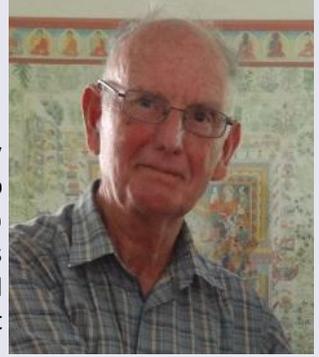
Making a theatre and writing scripts



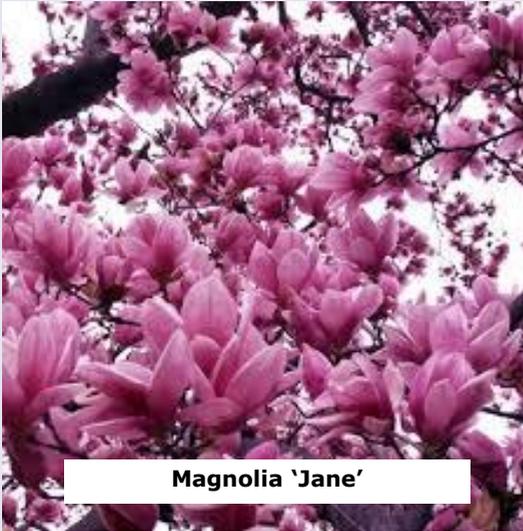
A helping hand



Snippets from a Gardener's Diary by John Humphris



It is difficult to think of many pleasant things to say about a coronavirus outbreak that confines everyone to their homes, and also prevents any kind of travel to enjoy our garden visits and countryside. On the plus side, I cannot think of a time when the weather and gardens came together in such abundance. Perhaps it was the torrential rain we had in the previous months, the mild conditions and then the still warm days to enjoy being out in our gardens. The magnolias are the first to mention. If ever there was a year to make sure you grow the right variety this was it. *Magnolia soulangiana* grows just too large for the average garden and although spectacular in bloom, its flowering period in early April makes it prone to late frost and so it proved this year. There it was in full bloom and, bang, one night of frost and every flower had gone. If you only have room for one magnolia choose one that flowers later or opens its blooms over a long period. We have *Magnolia 'Jane'* which is one of the many crosses raised at the National Arboretum Washington DC in the 1950's, and named after the staff or their family. This was a cross between *M liliflora* x *stellata* and inherits from its *liliflora* parent the repeat flowering so important with a frost prone family, with fresh buds opening regularly throughout spring and early summer.



Magnolia 'Jane'

For a sheltered warm spot close to the house there is nothing better for continuous flowering in early spring than the coronilla. We have two of these small shrubs, one of which was bought from Aylings Garden Centre as *Coronilla valentine* Glauca. This is the most wonderful soft yellow and has been in flower since mid January, just beginning to fade in mid May. The second coronilla I raised from the Hardy Plant Society seed, collected in Greece five years ago - a spectacular mustard yellow mound, only having one flowering but flowering with the Mexican orange blossoms white scented blooms they make an attractive combination.



Coronilla valentine Glauca

Flowering a little later is an unusual member of the iris family called *Sisyrinchium striatum*. In our heavy soil these have formed large clumps of iris like leaves with an incredible number of slender spikes; the flowers are white (although they are described as straw yellow) and open continuously. Close by is another of those choice Japanese small shrubs called *enkianthus* with bronze cup shaped flowers. As an added bonus the autumn color is reliable year on year. Finally I must mention yet again Merrist Wood Cream. This sport from the *cistus* family needs a sheltered position preferably close under a wall. If it likes you it will produce a regular daily procession of creamy yellow flowers over a very long period.

Plant of the Month

Hilliers Manual describes this as the best June flowered shrub you can grow and the Calico Bush or Mountain Laurel is for some unaccountable reason rarely seen, although I remember seeing large old bushes in Cowdray House gardens. *Kalmia latifolia* is native of the southern states of the USA with pink flowers opening in June. The buds give the impression of sugar icing and very attractive well before they open. The plant in our front garden is probably ten years old and has not yet reached two metres.

Easebourne Garden & Allotment Society Programme

Sadly, all our springtime events and both coach trips have had to be cancelled. If you have paid a deposit for one of the coach trips and not yet had a refund, please contact Linda. Unfortunately the Plant Sale on 23 May also had to be cancelled.

We hope the Produce Show on 1 August will go ahead as planned, but please check later once we are free to move about again. Events later in the year may take place:

6 Sept—visit to the Prairie Garden

7 Oct—afternoon workshop on propagation

11 Nov—AGM and talk

9 Dec—Christmas Social and talk

Linda Ohara, bookings secretary. Tel 858023. lindajane.chapman@virgin.net

Tina Litchfield, secretary; Gavin Litchfield, treasurer. Tel 816542.

Email egas@tinagavin.com



Sign seen on the Chestnut Avenue. A happy ending! They found her!

Friends of Midhurst Common

So what happens on Midhurst Common during a coronavirus 'lockdown'?

As our COVID-19 lockdown continues there is plenty going on in and around Midhurst Common to keep those interested in maintaining the Common busy:

- The Heath Team cannot work as usual so instead, we are monitoring how the habitat evolves with only Nature's management. Regular photos are being taken to record this
- Our regular volunteers who keep particular Rights of Way from becoming overgrown and impassable continue their work whilst having their daily exercise or walking dogs.
- There has been some digging activity by young cyclists to create ramps for their cycle tracks. Some of this has involved damage to historic banks created around 200 years ago to form an enclosure for use of residents of the Pest Houses. This has also brought litter to the area and some damage to trees. Our committee is doing its best to consider ways of educating this group to reduce further damage and reduce risk to walkers by the cyclists, whilst not attempting a total ban as we recognise that this kind of recreation may have been going on for generations.
- I have been in contact with the South Downs National Park Authority Planning Officer with reference to the proposal by Metis Homes to erect 72 dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping on the site of the West Sussex County Council Depot and Former Brickworks, Bepton Road, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9QX. Our concern is that with their plan of open access to the Common from the housing estate, the Common will be altered by significantly increased human activity, making it less favourable for wildlife and the peace and tranquillity enjoyed there by those who use it at present.
- Even in these days of restricted movement, for those able to enjoy their daily exercise by visiting the Common, the views especially from Sunset Hill are as glorious as ever.
- Litter is increasing. Jean Hicks has been organising Litter Clearances twice a year for many years and it is noticeable that this

has not been possible this Spring. It remains difficult to imagine that anyone who goes on the Common can show such disrespect of the area to deposit and leave their debris behind – human activity cannot always be explained or understood.

Our twice yearly Newsletter for members of the Friends of Midhurst Common is just about to be published. If you are interested or concerned about any of the above topics please email me at friendsofmidhurstcommon@yahoo.co.uk.

Why not become a member? It costs £5/year, i.e. just under 10p/week. Membership allows you to be part of a group specifically interested in maintaining the Common and developing it as we think appropriate. Check out our website: www.friendsofmidhurstcommon.co.uk.

Andrew Mitchell, Chairman
Friends of Midhurst Common



Reed Warblers and Sedge Warblers

by Michael Blencowe,
Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

I bless the rains down in Africa

It's amazing how a song can transport you someplace else. I can't hear 'Africa' by American soft-rockers Toto without drifting back 35 years to a school disco in Plymouth. Right now I'm sat by a Sussex reedbed listening to two songs simultaneously pouring from deep in the reeds. These songs also take me back to my childhood and Saturday mornings spent birdwatching beside similar reedbeds in South Devon.



These summer singers are two small brown birds; the Reed Warbler (left) and the Sedge Warbler (below) and their songs make me feel strangely nostalgic for a place I have never been; Ghana, where these warblers will have spent the winter before returning to

Sussex each spring. Reed Warblers are rather plain whereas Sedge Warblers sport a streaky back and stripy head with a heavy 'eyebrow' that fixes them with a permanently intense expression. But these identification features aren't important because you'll rarely see these secretive birds. But, boy, will you hear them! Because when they start singing they just can't stop.



The Reed Warbler's song is a loud, repetitive stuttering chatter of jumbled phrases that just doesn't seem to go anywhere. It sounds like one of those warehouse-sized 1950's computers churning out

data. The Sedge Warbler's song is similar but much more energetic and erratic with added harsh 'churrrs' and whistles giving the overall impression that it urgently needs a straightjacket and heavy medication.

These complex songs have a simple message; 'Hey ladies, my territory is so rich in insects that I don't have to spend much time hunting for my food; I can waste my time just singing'. It's the loudest, longest, craziest song that will seduce a feathered female. Sedge Warblers raise their family in a no-thrills nest low in vegetation but the Reed Warbler weaves an incredible deep hammock lashed together with spider silk between the stiff stems of the tall reeds. The whole cradle will rock as the reeds bow in the breeze.

In August, after raising their families, their warbler thoughts drift back to Africa where drums echo and wild dogs cry out in the night. The warblers will gorge themselves with aphids and, with a fat belly full of fuel, take off from Sussex and head over Iberia, North Africa and the wide Sahara to Ghana; a 3000 mile journey. I always imagine a Ghanaian naturalist pausing momentarily each autumn to observe these returning visitors. Do his thoughts drift to the Sussex riverside where they spent the summer? When the rains return to Africa in the spring they will summon the insect food that will again power their tiny warbler wings back to England to add to my Sussex summer soundtrack.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, *Wildlife* magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

The Peregrines of Chichester Cathedral—update

For the past 19 years a pair of peregrine falcons has nested in one of the spires of the cathedral, and over the years have raised over 40 young. There is a live webcam in place on the nest, jointly funded by the Cathedral, David Shaw Wildlife, and the Sussex Ornithological Society. This year the female laid four eggs between 30 March and 6th of April, and they all hatched between 8th and 10th May. It's fascinating to watch the parents bringing food for the young ones, and to see them daily grow in strength and size. Keep watching here: <https://www.carnyx.tv/LiveCameras/WildlifeCameras/Chichester.aspx>



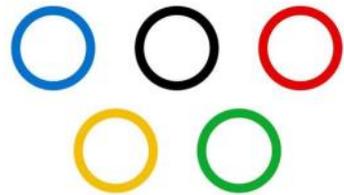
The female on the nest in the spire of Chichester Cathedral on 30 March just after laying the first egg



The female feeding her hungry brood on 20 May which all hatched between 10 and 12 May. They grow so quickly.

To cheer us up...

Prediction: There will be a minor baby boom in 9 months, and then one day in 2033, we shall witness the rise of THE QUARANTEENS.



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Money Laundering

I was never quite sure what this entailed but I do know now. Put all your cash and notes (not the old paper ones) in a bowl, add very hot water and washing up liquid or hand wash, give it a good swirl round, and pat dry. Keep the money in a clean container. You can then safely pay for shopping, etc, which is so kindly brought by many of our young friends (thank you, Hannah!), and so many others who are all going the extra mile in these uncertain times.

Ann Harfield

Some funnies from Jan Sayers—Mothers' Union

A young husband was in big trouble when he forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife told him 'tomorrow there had better be something in the driveway for me that goes from 0 to 200 in 2 seconds flat. The next morning the wife found a package in the driveway. She opened it and found brand-new bathroom scales.

After the Christmas and New Year festivities the wife gingerly crept onto her bathroom scales to weigh herself. She pulled a sad face. Her husband asked 'What's the matter? Are you overweight?' 'Well, not if I was six inches taller.'

When you feel like drowning in life remember your life guard walks on water.

Bring Back the Hairdressers! by Sue Absolom

Do excuse me a moment
As I push the hair from my eye
Time for a fringe trim I think
But it always goes awry.

Why does it end up lopsided
However hard I try
To keep the scissors accurate
It's still crooked, why oh why.

The length will have to grow
Pigtails and plaits will be fine
Just like my schooldays
Though the face has aged over time!

If a guy loses control of the Clippers
There may be some new styles
From Mullets, Mohicans, or a complete
Mess
At least they would raise a few smiles.

Then there's the follically challenged
How they must be laughing at us
They look no different at all
And wondering why all the fuss.

There is a lady I know
A very good friend of mine
Took scissors to her husband's hair
He now resembles Einstein!

If she can persuade him
To grow a thick moustache too
And explain The Relativity Theory
It won't be a total disaster, it's true.

We'll end up like relics from the 70's
When Flares and Flower-power did rule
With long hair and ponytails
We will all look so cool.

Our hair will either grow bushy
And make us like Jimi Hendrix
Or long and straight as a die
To resemble Folk singer Julie Felix.

Please bring back the Hairdressers
We're in a tricky situation
And before too many embarrassing
photos
Are passed round the congregation!

Please continue taking care
Our Lord has us under His Wing
And when this is all behind us
By Heavens, His Praises we'll sing!



? General Knowledge Quiz

1. The tallest building in the world is located in which city?
2. Name the current UK Chancellor of the Exchequer.
3. Which three nations will co-host the Men's 2026 FIFA World Cup?
4. Sister Michael is the terrifying Head Mistress in which TV comedy about Northern Irish schoolgirls?
5. Which food is most common in the standard Western diet?
6. What is the world's most populous country?
7. Which soft drink is commonly associated with Scotland?
8. Which sporting event for injured veterans did Prince Harry launch in 2014?
9. What was the name of the tower block when Del Boy and Rodney Trotter lived in Only Fools and Horses?
10. What name is used to refer to a group of frogs?
11. The Hay Wain by John Constable depicts a rural scene on which river?
12. Gary and Martin Kemp were in what band?
13. At what age did Boris Becker win his first Wimbledon and also Pele win his first World Cup?
14. If you completed the Three Peaks Challenge, which three UK mountains would you have climbed?
15. What is the name of the classic 1972 arcade game based on table tennis?
16. Originally Amazon only sold which product?
17. The Grand Union Canal in England starts in London and ends in which city?
18. Which singer had 2007's best selling album 'Back to Black'?
19. Which county cricket club does England star Jofra Archer play for?
20. What is the least valuable piece on a chessboard?

Answers on p. 40

Copy Date for the July/August issue of 'United' is Monday 15th of June. Send to Tina and Gavin Litchfield at **easebourne.united@gmail.com** or to 7, St John's Close, Midhurst GU29 9QB. Tel: 816542.

The good news is that KerryType will reopen with limited hours on 1 June so expect to produce a printed edition next time, but we intend to continue to create a digital edition, either for the church's website:

www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

or the website of Easebourne Parish Council:

www.easebourne.org

Please send the link to this magazine to all your friends, and send in your contributions for the late summer issue.

Our Advertisers

The Covid 19 pandemic and consequent lockdown involving the closure of many businesses has had a drastic effect on many local businesses. With this in mind we will continue to publish details of our advertisers here although many will have ceased trading during the lockdown. Once we are all able to move about freely we would encourage everyone to support these local businesses.

The editors



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2. Rishi Sunak
3. Canada, USA and Mexico
4. Derry Girls
5. Red Meat
6. China
7. Iron-Bru
8. Invictus Games
9. Nelson Mandela House
10. An Army
11. River Stour
12. Spandau Ballet
13. Seventeen
14. Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike
15. Pong
16. Books
17. Birmingham
18. Amy Winehouse
19. Sussex
20. Pawn



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The recycling site in the Bepton Road opened again on Monday 11 May. Hours are 9.00am to 6.00pm, from Thursday to Monday. (Closed Tuesday and Wednesday.) Only garden waste and general household waste will be accepted at the moment. Garden waste means green waste such as grass cuttings and hedge trimmings.

General household waste (or “black bag” waste) is the types of items that are collected in your kerbside collection such as food or non-recyclable packaging, and does not include electrical items, textiles, bulky items, furniture or general recycling. General household waste items brought to the sites at this time will be sent to landfill. We hope to be able to accept other items soon. Please continue to use your household collections for recycling and general waste where possible, and only visit the site if the journey is essential.

Only cars will be allowed on site. Trailers and large vehicles such as vans and pickups will not be allowed access at this time.

The number of vehicles accessing the sites will be restricted. Visitors should expect long delays at sites and should delay their visit to avoid the first couple of weeks if possible. There will be no pedestrian access at any of the sites under the current social distancing measures. Social distancing barriers will be in place. Visitors will be directed into enclosed bays to dispose of their waste. Only one person will be allowed to get out of a vehicle. Please travel to the sites alone if possible. If other people travel to the site with you, they must remain in the vehicle.

Site staff will not be able to help unload your waste and recycling. Please do not bring anything that you cannot safely remove from your car on your own.

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To subscribe to United phone Ann Harfield, 813810
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Note: the three churches are still closed during lockdown.

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All telephone numbers are STD code 01730 unless otherwise stated. Please inform the editors of errors or omissions – easebourne.united@gmail.com

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