

Vol 19 No.2 July / August 2020

united
EASEBOURNE



The magazine of Easebourne village and St Mary's Church

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The cover is a photograph by Dylan Walker of the new Roundhouse at Easebourne Park, created by Artizans of Wood

Midhurst Green volunteers need you!

We're delighted that the green volunteers have been able to start up again and already have been working around Easebourne, most recently tidying up the path from High Path up to Budgenor Lodge. It's making a real difference to our village.

We need more volunteers from the parish though - right now we're reliant on people from Midhurst and that can't continue.

Meet ups are on Tuesday and Saturday mornings for a couple of hours. It's a great way to spend some time in the great outdoors whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines. And there's free cake!

The schedule for the next few months is now available from the village clerk, so PLEASE ask for the list and see if you can find just a couple of hours in your diary to come and support this amazing initiative to make YOUR community a smarter place.

As we've said before, if we can't bring in our own village volunteers to help with our clean-ups and help in Midhurst too, then sadly this collaboration won't continue. West Sussex County Council will unfortunately not carry out the type of clearance that the volunteers do, so sitting back and waiting for someone else to make that path easier to walk down or cut back those brambles is not an option!

Please tell your neighbours, ask your friends and volunteer! You only need to bring your own gloves - all other equipment is provided and social distancing can be maintained throughout the sessions.

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

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The Easebourne Roundhouse – the ‘lockdown’ build story

We love working for communities - it’s really special knowing something you’ve created is going to be used and appreciated by so many people. The Easebourne brief asked for a bandstand, a pergola, an outdoor classroom, a stage that could be seen from the seating bank, a meeting place, and somewhere older children could hang out. So this building was always going to be multi-functional, multi-generational and very well used! [See front cover.]

The planning took over a year from the initial conversations with Ian Mills of Easebourne Parish Council through planning permission, structural drawings, building control and more. The preparation stage was fun – walking the woods and picking out timbers with Cowdray Head Forester, Nina Williams, you could almost forget the nervousness in the air. But the first week on site was incredibly tough; torrential rain and then coming home every night to the news about Covid-19 and worrying what that would mean for this project.

Then lockdown. The saving grace was we’d got the frames up before it happened. The next day we managed to collect almost all the materials we’d need for the rest of the build from Cowdray. The sticking point would be sheet material for the roof as, like many builders’ merchants, Travis Perkins closed their doors immediately.

Dylan became a team of one until the time came to raise the roof. When Travis Perkins reopened on April 27th we finally had the materials we needed to finish the Roundhouse. We’d normally have a team of four for that but managed to complete it in just five days with only Dylan and Max, both naturally socially distanced at opposite ends of long timbers!

Coronavirus changed everything – but it was still a really enjoyable build. We’ve had just the loveliest comments from people as they passed us while out on their allowed exercise. The community support has been incredible and it’s made us feel really proud to be in your park, creating something for your community.

And, in spite of everything, we completed the Roundhouse just a month later than we’d hoped. The best news is it’s immediately being put to good use. Councillor Mike Noble told us he’d already had a distanced meeting there with another councillor. He said,

Photo by Dylan Walker



“We sat inside the Roundhouse and it was fantastic – the photos I’d seen hadn’t done it justice. The shapes of the wood, the handrail and the roof structure is really quite beautiful. It’s something that, when this is all over, I know the whole community will be very proud of and will fall in love with!”

That makes us very happy.

Dylan Walker and Liza Nieddu

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“If you’re thinking of using them, I’d say ‘do it’! They’re fun to work with and they do a great job.”

Anne Dennig, Botany Bay Conservancy, Sussex

News from the Cowdray Estate from Jonathan Russell, CEO

As with the majority of businesses, the past few months have been extraordinary times for the Estate. Whilst we formally went into lockdown on 23rd March, the impacts were being felt as early as late February when we started adjusting or sequentially closing a number of our operations. The diversified nature of the Estate means that whilst a number of our activities have been, and remain, closed, a number have continued throughout relatively unaffected albeit with no less concerns for our staff and their families.

The Farm suffered most from the shocking winter weather and it was hard for the team not to become despondent as at one stage we had almost given up hope that we would ever plant crops on the outlying clay land at Bepton. However, having rained almost every day since the last day of the polo season on 23rd September, the weather finally broke and after a frantic month the farm was fully drilled.

A month later we are now suffering near drought conditions on the light land around Easebourne which is likely to result in an early harvest. The predictions on the effects of global warming through extreme weather patterns now appear to be a reality and unquestionably we will need to make both brave and radical decisions over crop selection in the future.



The dairy has continued to perform strongly and we are fortunate to have a milk contract aligned to Marks & Spencer who continue to support their producers. Whilst we have had production restrictions placed on us, this is a far cry from the desperate position for milk producers supplying the service

industry and we hope the market improves for them as lock down eases. The next big event for the dairy team will be the start of calving in August.



Forestry will always be a significant part of the Estate’s business, primarily because trees cover over a third of the land. We initially stood the team down as the markets and sawmills closed however this was only short term and we are delighted that they are now operational again.

Our forestry objective remains the production of quality timber via long term sustainable management of the plantations. However we have witnessed a significant increase in orders from our sawmill from both industry and private purchasers looking to undertake home and garden improvements. We have created a new best seller of a softwood sleeper which is appearing in numerous gardens in the area.

Polo continues to be one of our biggest challenges as we race against time in an attempt to salvage a season. Cowdray, and particularly the Gold Cup, fits in to a global programme and therefore there is minimal flexibility for extending the season beyond late September. There has been considerable positivity over recent weeks in respect of the re-commencement of sport and we hope that polo at the elite level will soon be able to commence. Sadly we are anticipating that the majority of the season will be played behind closed doors.

We are hugely grateful to our **Farm Shop** team who have continued to operate the shop, supplemented by deliveries and collection, throughout the lockdown. There have been considerable pressures on the team, not least created by the sheer volume of purchases during the early stages, however we have been delighted to keep going and will be forever grateful to the small team who worked tirelessly to enable this.



The Golf Club was one of our first activities to re-open. We continue to open up further elements of the Club such as the Pro Shop and Driving Range, and it has been great for the team to welcome back Members and friends to enjoy the facilities. Whilst a low risk and outdoor sport, the early opening was facilitated by the excellent stewardship and guidance of the governing bodies, and the responsible approach taken by golfers.



Sadly there is a large part of our business which remains closed as we await clear guidance on how **tourism, leisure and hospitality** will re-open. This is understandably frustrating for the teams as we enter in to what should be the peak of our season.

Whilst I have touched on the visible elements of the Estate, there is of course a significant management and administration team who have continued to operate the business throughout the crisis, often juggling other pressures whilst working from home. The pressures for this team have been significant as we

continually analyse our commercial position to inform the decision making process.

The Estate employs approximately 200 permanent members of staff with a further 150 supporting us during peak seasons. Over 90% of us live within a 10 mile radius of the Estate and as such being physically present on a daily basis is engrained in us all. The Estate has therefore felt a very empty place for us over the past few months as we have worked remotely. However we are beginning to return with colleagues re-appearing in the **Estate Office and the Works Department** becoming operational over the next few weeks.

We have been delighted to play our part in supporting various community groups and charities who have provided assistance during this challenging time. We are very proud of a number of our staff who volunteered as delivery drivers to support those who were shielding or are vulnerable.

The decision to ensure that Lawns was permanently open has been well received and we are reminded of what an amazing asset the polo pitches, river and woods are for all of us who live in the area. A greater appreciation of our special environment must be one of the benefits to come from lockdown.

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

Are you a fan of Springwatch? - The BBC's yearly series of programmes that broadcast from across the UK opening our eyes to the emerging spring and summer. This year, the BBC did a marvellous job of filming from different locations whilst still under lockdown. From beautiful woodland in the New Forest, the rolling hills and mountains of Wales, to the west country and beyond.

The presenters kept making the point that spring this year had been different. Because of Covid 19, people have had to stay put – and for the first time in our lifetimes, because of restrictions, we have had more time for stopping and looking. Gill and I have certainly enjoyed making the most of 'being' rather than 'being busy'. We have re-discovered nature, through our walks and cycling, like never before. My personal highlights: Being on top of the downs above Didling with open meadows full of sheep, flowers and Sky Larks – a truly magical English scene. Or venturing for the first time into the Kingley Vale woods to witness the ancient Yew trees set



amongst the ancient and magical landscape.

The most remarkable event, though, happened as we watched the quarter finals of the Great British Sewing Bee on television (yes sadly I have succumbed to watching the Sewing Bee; who knows, I may enter next year!). Suddenly, over the volume of the telly we heard a weird and wonderful sound. Gill was convinced that I was looking at my bird song App on my phone – but no! From our garden we heard the unmistakable sound of the Nightjar! So from our garden this year we can report: Greenfinches, Bullfinches, Goldfinches, Blackcaps, Greater spotted woodpeckers, etc, etc – plus all the usual garden birds – and now a Nightjar. How wonderful a show Nature puts on for us – and all on our back doors.

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www.thepriorychurches.co.uk**

And now it seems that life is slowly being restored. From the 13 June our churches have been open for private prayer and funerals. There is a gentle idea that worship may return in July – but we will need to wait and see. So slowly, ever so slowly, life returns to some new kind of normal. We pray that not too many people's lives will be affected – there is talk of huge job losses. We certainly know the human cost of this tragedy. But let us hope that the changes that have been positive, become

something of the new normal – time to see the world around us, time for the planet to breathe. Maybe, we have to reflect on the truth, that life often throws up these 'opposites' where tragedy and blessing hang together?

When we meet up again, I would love to hear your stories of nature and the lockdown.

Please remain safe – blessings on you all.

Derek

From the Social Gang

The Church Social Gang send their best wishes to you all and hope it won't be too long before we can all meet again. In the meantime, our very sincere love and keep fit.

Sue Absolom	Jo Blackwell	Jane Bricknell
Hilary Craig (01730 813923)	Jan Harling (01798 342233)	
Gladys Hardwick	Gill Ward	

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

Winners in June draw



1st Prize - £100	No 228	Sue Absolom
2nd Prize - £75	No 132	Anthony Nelson
2nd Prize - £75	No 81	Bob Lewis
3rd Prize—£50	No 63	Ellen Wecker
3rd Prize—£50	No 110	David Pack
3rd Prize—£50	No 51	Sara Dodds

If you would like to join the 200 Club please contact:
 Mike & Margaret Wharton,
 tel 810474, email mike@mwassociates.eu.com

Women's Fellowship

Hello to all our members, and hoping you are keeping well and finding all sorts of new ways to occupy your 'spare time'. Sue and Gill have made face masks and very pretty they are too—quite a fashion accessory. Has anyone else been busy in this way or making other craft items?

I am afraid handicrafts are not my thing, but I do potter in the garden and have a row of runner beans coming on well. At first, pigeons or something decided they liked the look of these and nipped off some of the growing tips. Fortunately I had some spare plants so all is going well so far. The rest of my garden is rather wild (like my hair) but it is bird- and insect-friendly. Something has been digging holes in my lawn (i.e. a patch of grass). Maybe a fox?

Do any of you have a hairdresser in your immediate family? If so, you are probably keeping your locks in good order. It is 18 weeks since my last visit to the salon. I do have a pair of thinning scissors which have been useful but I am no good at doing the back which is getting long, but not long enough to tie up.

Have you noticed that on recent TV appearances our Queen's hair looked so immaculate, as is usual. Maybe Prince Philip is a dab hand with the scissors?? I wonder if there are any spare slots!!

It may be awhile yet before we can have a proper meeting. As the lockdown eases perhaps we can arrange some tea/coffee get togethers in our gardens, a few people at a time and of course social distancing.

Stay safe, everyone.

Love and best wishes
Ann

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From the editors

We are very sorry that it was not possible to print the May and June issues of United. Also, although the April issue was printed, the new lockdown measures at the end of March prevented copies from being distributed. Those three issues were full of news and colour photos but not all of you have seen them. They are available online at www.easebourne.org or www.thepriorychurches.co.uk.

As you know this magazine is the last one before autumn—July and August are combined. Please think about what you can contribute to the September edition. We'd like to know how you and young people in the village have been coping. We'd especially like to hear from local businesses. And we're always interested in your stories or comments. Just email: easebourne.united@gmail.com.

Copy Date for the September issue of 'United' is Monday 17th of August. Send to Tina and Gavin Litchfield at **easebourne.united@gmail.com** or deliver it by hand to: 7, St John's Close, Midhurst GU29 9QB. Tel: 816542. Digital editions should continue to be available on the above two websites. Please send the link to this magazine to everyone with connections to our village. And tell us of anyone who would like to subscribe.



Face Masks from the Midhurst Angels

The Maskateers, as they are known, is a local group of women working with the Angels who have worked tirelessly to produce the face coverings for months now, and finally people are willing to wear them and happy to protect themselves and others whilst in the shops or on transport. We get regular requests at the Angels Facebook page or on the phone asking for masks, and if the people asking are still self isolating, we deliver.

We are delighted that a few others in the town and nearby are making bespoke and stylish masks for sale and that on the internet you can't go on any social media site without being offered masks of various styles and qualities. The Midhurst Angels masks are made from donated fabrics, carefully washed and ironed and have a special filter type fabric on the inside which gives it 3 layers of protection. They are made by volunteers hence we are able to give the masks away for free. We receive donations for the masks sometimes and we are grateful for this as the elastic and inside fabric has to be bought. We now package them in neat cellophane bags with washing instructions. Most shops now have them in a little box for you to help yourself.

We seem to be seeing the pandemic on the wane but the demand for masks is increasing, so for the time being we are still busy sewing sewing sewing!

If you need a mask and are not going out to get one or the boxes you have seen have run out, call the Angels and they will help out!

Jeanette Sutton
Tel: 07538 839703



The Peregrines of Chichester Cathedral—update

The female laid four eggs between 30 March and 6th of April, and they all hatched between 8th and 10th May. In the last issue, you saw 4 little balls of fluff, one week after hatching. By the time you read this, the four healthy chicks will have flown off.



Midhurst Speedwatch Group

Spurred on by the success of the Easebourne Speedwatch Group, residents who live near the A272 Petersfield Road in Midhurst would like to do something about the noise and speed of motorcycles, especially on the weekends. For details contact Patty Christie, email pattychristie49@gmail.com.



Friends of Midhurst Common—July 2020 report

COVID-19 restrictions still do not allow for our Heath Team working parties on the last Friday of every month. The heathland area of the Common is looking a bit different this year with the seedling conifers, silver birch and rhododendron in greater abundance than normal – Nature certainly has a way of taking over and filling spaces. This is OK, but it is the heathland that we are trying to preserve which is mainly heather. We will be considering again soon where we go from here.

Bracken is a very successful fern on parts of the common. For centuries it has been used as animal bedding. It has a low pH, high Nitrogen and potash content and can be used as peat-free compost. If consumed by cattle in large amounts it can cause anaemia with blood in the urine. If ingested over months, it can be carcinogenic, causing bladder tumours in cattle. In sheep it can cause a type of blindness. (Photo next page.)

These concrete posts shown on the next page demarcate the line of the old railway from Petersfield, arriving through Bepton and into Midhurst past the site of the old brickworks site and on to the station by the Wedglen Industrial Estate. The station opened in 1860, and the last train to Midhurst was 1955. The Midhurst Whites Brickworks

ran from 1913 – 1985. It is interesting to note that Metis Homes are proposing building dwellings on this and the redundant WSCC depot on Bepton Road. Take a look at their Pre-Planning Application online and see what you think.

With the sunny May we had, we have had quite a bit of litter on the Common and in particular around the ponds. Disposable barbecues should not be left behind and as a potential fire hazard should not be used at all on Midhurst Common. Spread the news if you can.

In August we hope to have an evening Bat Walk at 8pm. This is the last report before the September issue, so please email me for more information.

Our AGM is on 1st October at 7.00pm with Kelly Porter from the South Downs National Park Authority as our speaker. She is from their Planning Department and is Major Projects Lead. She will be talking about the SDNPA Local Plan policies and how it influences the open boundary between the proposed housing development mentioned above with our Common.

As ever, if you have any questions, email: friendsofmidhurstcommon@yahoo.co.uk and I will endeavour to get back to you within 48 hours.

Andrew Mitchell, Chairman
Friends of Midhurst Common



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News from the Primary School

When I last wrote, the summer term was about to begin. At that stage, we were taking in the children of keyworkers, along with children whose situations made them vulnerable in some way, and these children were coming in for anything from one day to five days each week. Alongside the in-school provision, class teachers were also e-mailing their classes on a daily basis and sending out fortnightly learning packs which detailed home learning for the class to work through.



Since then, the number of children in these groups has risen as the demands on keyworkers have increased, and families have begun to struggle with a range of issues created by the pandemic. In addition, the Government asked primary schools, after half-term, to bring in their youngest children (YR and Y1), along with their oldest (Y6). This has been managed in Bubbles of no more than 15 children, with class teachers and teaching assistants teaching in parallel, connected by Google Classroom through their interactive whiteboards.



That still leaves four year groups at home, working through learning packs, teachers connecting with families through daily e-mails. We have also started to introduce weekly assemblies using Zoom which families are invited to attend alongside our Bubbles from their classrooms. Class teachers have also been experimenting with social get togethers using Zoom, simply giving the children a chance to see each other and interact in a relaxed atmosphere.





Most recently, the Government announced that primary schools would not now be expected to bring back the remaining four year groups as

had been suggested. After much discussion amongst staff and with governors and County advisers, we decided that we had the capacity, in terms of both staffing and space, to bring back our Year 5 pupils for the last four weeks of the year. That still means that the vast majority of children from Years 2, 3 and 4 will not have been in school since Friday, 20th March and will not return until September. These are, as the news reporters and politicians keep reminding us, unprecedented times.



One of my personal responses over the lockdown period has been to take a photograph of

a flower in the garden each day and post it for my family on Instagram. I have always enjoyed flowers and plants, but, having this daily close focus has made me much more aware of the intricacies surrounding a flower - its structure, colouring, opening pattern, etc.

In the school, we have a long frieze designed by Emma Yarlett to support the school's use of the resource

Understanding Christianity which we use in class with the children.



The frieze was generously given to us by St Mary's Church and depicts seven core themes from Christianity, including Creation.

This is one of my favourite parts of the whole frieze and shows paint pots filled with things to celebrate about the world around us, like stars, fish, birds, planets and night. There is a paint pot of white snow and another crammed to the brim with giraffes!



Inspired by this part of the frieze, I set the children the a *Paint Pot Challenge*, to fill a paint pot with something in the world around

them that brings them pleasure and the paint pots started to come in! There are spiders and sunsets, ripples and tortoises. One of my favourites, which I could completely understand, was simply entitled *Bed!* The wall next to the frieze is beginning to fill up and the lovely thing about this display is that, when it is full, the paint pots can simply be changed as more come in so it can be an ongoing reminder of the best bits of life at a time when it is all too easy to dwell on the worst.



On behalf of everybody at Easebourne Primary School, I wish you all well and hope that you can still enjoy the best bits of each day.

Johnny Culley, Headteacher



Snippets from a Gardener's Diary

by John Humphris



For many years Lord Windlesham was chairman of the Prison Parole Board for England and Wales. He was a great believer in rehabilitation for prisoners, with retraining and learning new skills high on his agenda. He was very keen on careers in horticulture, and to develop this idea he set up the Windlesham Trophy for the best prison garden in England and Wales, to be awarded annually. The initial rounds were judged by a team from the prison service but he was concerned that the judging was seen to be impartial, so the RHS were asked to provide a team to judge the final rounds both in the north and south of England. This team of three judges assessed two or three gardens in the south of England and the same number in the north. The competition has been running since the early nineties and I was asked to join the panel of judges around the year 2000 and continued for more than fifteen years.

For each one of those years during July and August we spent two weeks, one in the south and one in the north, travelling by train and taxi to various prisons as far apart as Dartmoor in Devon and Acklington in Northumberland,

north of Newcastle and close to the Scottish border.

There were many other prisons in-between including Ford prison near Arundel. An annual highlight was the winning prison's presentation of the trophy by the RHS President, which involved the catering team of prisoners, more training for rehabilitation, providing a slap up meal.

Many prisons of course had always kept their grounds in good order with annual bedding and providing vegetables for the kitchens. None of the inmates were obliged to work in the gardens and all of them were volunteers who wished to learn and hopefully find a suitable post once released. The numbers in each prison garden varied with often twenty or thirty inmates keen to be outside. The standard of horticulture also varied according to the skills of the prison warden allocated to manage these often



The garden at HM Prison Whatton

very large areas, and also at the same time provide the level of training needed to achieve the high standards required to be a possible winner of this much coveted trophy. Each year the number of prisons entering the competition varied, usually between twenty to thirty. The prison service then sent their own internal judges to short list these down to the final four to six prisons. Several were in the finals every year with a combination of a very keen governor and a warden in charge of the grounds who often was also a trained gardener. Foston Hall in Derbyshire, one of the few women's prisons, won the trophy twice. This old estate with the gardens managed to very high standards found a team of female gardeners very willing to be involved and many of them had never gardened before, and yet they took up this challenge with great enthusiasm.

I mentioned HM Prison Acklington in the north of England. Because of the size of the grounds they employed a trained horticulturist to manage the area and organize and train the very large team to look after it. They also won the trophy twice, but without a doubt during my time judging another Derbyshire prison called Sudbury were the highfliers of this competition.

This was an open prison for men nearing the end of their sentence and it was common practice for men on very long sentences, twenty years plus, to spend the last two years at Sudbury. It was all about training for land-based industries, and they not only raised their own plants which were sold on open days, but put on wonderful bedding displays, rows of

hanging baskets along the main buildings, all with a trickle irrigation system to each one and probably the best composting system I have ever seen. They had up to twelve bays to accommodate the large amount of waste material. This was turned two or three times each year, covered over and allowed to heat up before being ready to use. This was turned into compost for potting and the hanging baskets, which were then fed by using the liquid run off from the compost bays. This was run along channels and collected in tanks sunk into the ground. Their aim was to be totally self sufficient, with as little waste material as possible having to be removed from the prison. Food waste was the biggest problem and it was not until the arrival of Big Bertha that this problem was brought under control. This machine was about 4 metres long with a series of rotating metal discs. Food waste was fed in one end and slowly rotated for several hours until it poured out into a bucket at the other end. It was still not ready to be used, but by adding to the compost heap, one year later it was being added in the same way as their standard compost.

One of the other regular short-listed finalists was HM Prison Whatton in Nottinghamshire (see photo). This was for vulnerable prisoners. Many were artistic and clever, and the gardens reflected this with many innovative and naturalistic planting schemes. This is where we met Mr. Skinner, the warden in charge of grounds. He had a wonderful way of getting the best out of people and encouraging the team of gardeners to work together. Somehow

he had got hold of the Dutchman, whose parents ran a major nursery in Holland and who we had first met at Acklington, which had a special wing for vulnerable persons. In a prison where there was a lack of horticultural skills among the warders, having someone like the Dutchman to organize the planting schemes and train the other prisoners was very useful. As the years went by, we would find him at different prisons when judging for short listed finalists until eventually Whatton became his regular home.

the funniest was the young man from a prison in the North of England who was moved to HMP Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. He had no idea that the Island was so far from the mainland and he was desperate to get away. One night he made his escape over the wall and then swam the local river. When he arrived on the other side and clambered up the bank he thought he was on the mainland. He was eventually found totally disorientated and wandering around having no idea where he was.

John Humphris 810052

A sense of humor was essential for a good prison warder and there were endless funny stories to be heard. One of

Plant of the Months

July and August can be difficult months for keeping the garden looking attractive and unless you have lots of annuals, not many are in flower. The Spanish Oat - *Stipa gigantea* - is one of those imposing grasses that looks at its best in those months. If you have the room, three plants spaced out so that other late perennial plants can be planted around them. The spikes open glistening purple in June, a lovely contrast with *Dictamnus*. As the season progresses, they turn harvest yellow, and if you have a range of *Salvia*, *Phlox* or other late perennials you will have a long season of interest.

Easebourne Garden & Allotment Society Programme

Sadly, all our springtime events had to be cancelled this year including the annual Plant Sale in May. As we go to press it is very doubtful that the Produce Show on 1 August will go ahead as planned. Events later in the year may take place. Contact John or a member of the committee for information.

6 Sept—visit to the Prairie Garden, probably on—but no car sharing.

7 Oct—afternoon workshop on propagation

11 Nov—AGM and talk

9 Dec—Christmas Social and talk

Please contact John (810052) or the secretary for more information.

Tina Litchfield, secretary; Tel 816542. Email egas@tinagavin.com

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



Sussex

gardens open for charity, 2020

This year has been desperate for our garden openings. Because of Covid the gardens listed in the 2020 NGS Handbook have been unable to open, and the amount we've raised this year for our charities is only 2% of our usual income. But

now a few gardens are able to open with social distancing.

My garden in Guillard's Oak will be open on Sunday 9 August from 1.00 to 5.00pm. We won't be able to serve tea, and you must book your slot and pay in advance on the NGS website: ngs.org.uk/view-garden/35026. Please do support us if you can, and visit other gardens to support our charities.

Also, look on the website to see gardens that can be viewed 'virtually'.

Patty Christie
Tel: 813323

We are troubled with pigeons in our garden. They trample all over the flowers, gobble up all the bird seed, and make a terrible mess. So we googled 'how to frighten pigeons'.

Mr Google suggested we place a fake peregrine falcon in the garden, so we got one delivered from Amazon.

So did it work?

Ed.

Our garden at 7 St John's Close. Note two pigeons and a blackbird next to the Peregrine Falcon!



My Front Lawn

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



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Plant it and they will come

Do you remember that Kevin Costner movie, *Field Of Dreams*? Kev plays an Iowa farmer who, after hearing strange voices, transforms his land into a baseball pitch and summons the ghosts of a long-dead baseball team. Ridiculous. Yet, when I bought my first home eight years ago and stood on my new, perfectly manicured 15ft by 20ft suburban front lawn, all I could hear were voices in my head telling me to destroy it.

Rumours spread of my debauched gardening plans. My new neighbours eyed me with suspicion – especially when they overheard that I was planning to hire a stripper for the weekend.

The clattering of the petrol-powered turf stripper was only drowned out by my maniacal laughter as I razed the 300 square feet of lawn to mud. You could hear the house prices dropping all along the cul-de-sac. The neighbourhood watched from behind twitching curtains as I carefully broadcast native wildflower seeds over the bare soil. Through the wet winter my front lawn looked ready to host a re-enactment of *The Battle of Agincourt*. And then spring came.

Meadow Buttercup, Oxeye Daisy, Cowslip, Yellow Rattle, Lady's Bedstraw, Crested Dogstail, Red Clover, Ragged Robin. The ground erupted into a riot of colour. And then the wildlife arrived. Bees, bee-flies, beetles,



burnets and butterflies. Unusual species appeared too: Wall Brown and Brown Hairstreak butterflies, Ghost Moths, Wasp Spiders and a lone Common Spotted Orchid. On summer days my mini-meadow sang to me; a choir of buzzing bumblebees and chirruping grasshoppers. My own nature reserve; beautiful, wild, endlessly fascinating and filled with life. I am genuinely bemused as I watch my neighbours struggle with their lawnmowers each week. Why go out of your way to kill something when you can just sit back and let it live? I simply swing my scythe and mow my meadow once at the end of the summer. I imagine I look like that shirtless bloke from Poldark (although I actually resemble a chunky but cheerful Grim Reaper).

Wildflower meadows were once a

widespread feature of the English countryside but since the 1930's we have tragically lost 97% of our flower-rich fields. Many have been improved with fertilisers, re-seeded with faster growing grasses or ploughed for arable crops. This in turn has caused a massive decline in many species of wildlife that depend on them. By creating my own humble field of dreams it feels as if I am summoning the ghosts of the English countryside and giving them life. And then, last month, I turned the corner to see a deer, an actual wild Roe Deer, lost in suburbia but stood seemingly at home in my meadow. Ridiculous.

If you're interested in creating your own wildflower meadow search 'Sussex Wildlife Trust' and 'garden wildflower meadow' online.

From Jan Sayers—Mothers' Union

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear all about the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

An elderly single woman died last month. She requested no male pallbearers in her handwritten instructions for her memorial service. She explained: 'They wouldn't take me out when I was alive, so I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead'.



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? General Knowledge Quiz

1. The leatherback is the largest species of which major reptile order?
2. 'My Bed' was exhibited at the Tate Gallery in 1999 and consisted of a bed with bedroom objects in an abject state; who was the artist?
3. What does the HP stand for in HP sauce?
4. With a land area of just over 2000 square miles, Prince Edward Island is the smallest province of which Commonwealth country?
5. In computing what does DMA normally stand for?
6. Which 60's rock group recorded 'Lighter Shade of Pale'?
7. In which European city would you find Orly airport?
8. What names were given to the three tunnels in the movie 'The Great Escape'?
9. A couple celebrating their crystal wedding anniversary have been married for how many years?
10. Which British fashion designer does one associate with the invention of the mini skirt and hot pants?
11. What was discovered by the Mcdougall Brothers in 1864 after an experiment with phosphatic yeast?
12. French artist Edgar Degas was famous for painting which particular subject?
13. What do Americans call an Estate Agent?
14. What is the non-emergency number to call police in the UK when it's less urgent than a 999 call?
15. Which sport involves tucks and pikes?
16. Who won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel 'The Grapes of Wrath'?
17. What is a group of geese called?
18. What type of food is paneer?
19. Which England footballer was famously never given a yellow card?
20. What is Chandler's last name in the sitcom 'Friends'?

Answers on p. 29

Poet's Corner

Masked Up by Sue Absolom

How will we recognise each other
When wearing our protective gear?
Will masks and gloves be compulsory
In case someone comes too near?

We could get quite paranoid
If people invade our space
And get too close for comfort
Passing right by our face.

Now, who is that over there?
Is it somebody I know?
They do look quite familiar
Should I risk it and say hello?

No, I don't think I know them
But then again maybe I do.
Is there something about them
That would give me a clue?

Is it the way they're walking
Or even their height and size
Perhaps I would be able to tell
By looking into their eyes.

Then I might be accused of staring
So best not do that I think
Could stop and say 'good morning'
Or would it be alright to wink!

I could smile at them sweetly
But who the heck would see
I could even stick my tongue out
The only one who'd know was me.

I admit it's very worrying
When someone steps off the path
Rather than walk past you
If it wasn't so serious I'd laugh.

Shopping is a new experience
Good job we Brits like to queue
As long as we're social distancing
But then, there's not much else to do.

Made it back to my home
Safe and sound, I hope.
Protective mask and gloves off
Now where's the antibacterial soap?

Continue to pray for one another
Even as lockdown begins to ease
Still helping and caring for others
While keeping yourselves safe and well,
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Notes from Harvey Tordoff, Vice Chairman Midhurst Society

It might seem, since we cancelled our public talks, that we have been inactive during Lockdown, but in some areas we continue to beaver away. We devoted many hours to the production of our latest **Midhurst Magazine** (Issue 31) to mark the 60th anniversary of our formation. If you paid for this with your annual subscription, and have not yet received a copy, please let us know. Copies are available to purchase at Dummers and the Bepton Road Spar Shop, or can be bought through our website.



The Midhurst Society

We have also responded to many **Planning Issues**, and in this I have been greatly assisted by new member Keith Tregunna. We offered our support during the consultation of two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) issued by SDNPA, on **Affordable Housing** and **Sustainable Construction**. We lodged a detailed and complex response to **Metis Homes** on their proposal for the old **Brickworks and Works Depot** in Bepton Road, explaining why in its present form the proposal is unacceptable.

We objected to the proposal by **Cowdray Estate** to apply yellow paint to the window frames of **Capron House**. We objected to the proposals for the conversion of **Dunford House** into two dwellings. The descendants of **Richard Cobden** are still hopeful of preserving the House and its artefacts for the nation.

We offered helpful suggestions to the Church Commissioners when they applied to SDNPA for advice on the future of **West Lavington Church**.

Currently, we are looking at two more issues, both relating to **Cowdray Estate**. There is a proposal to relocate the **Estate Works** from Easebourne to **Kennel Farm on Selham Road**. Our concern here is with traffic flow, and there have been several local objections.



We are awaiting clarification from the Estate as to whether the intention is to use Selham Road as the main access, or whether Works traffic will be routed via Estate roads from the A272. In another planning application, **Cowdray Estate** has applied for consent to construct **twelve tree houses** at various locations to provide unique visitor accommodation.. At this stage we are still reviewing the proposal.

Many thanks for your continued support, and we look forward to the day when we can meet again.



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General Knowledge Answers

1. Turtle
2. Tracey Emin
3. Houses of Parliament
4. Canada
5. Direct Memory Access
6. Procul Harum
7. Paris
8. Tom, Dick and Harry
9. Fifteen years
10. Mary Quant
11. Self-raising flour
12. Ballet Dancers
13. A realtor
14. 101
15. Diving
16. John Steinbeck
17. A gaggle
18. A fresh cheese common in South Asian cuisine
19. Gary Lineker
20. Bing

Cotdray Tales from Pete Carver

Pete started working for the Estate as a woodsman in 1962. He has put together a collection of stories and anecdotes, and has kindly allowed us to share some of them with you.

Beater's Revenge

The late Tom Sawyer was a beat keeper on the Estate before going away to manage a shoot in Oxford as a single handed keeper. Tom returned as Head Keeper after Sid Holman retired in the early 1970's.

Tom was ex-military so he was always smartly dressed and knew how to act and talk to his Lordship and his guest on a shoot day. But he reverted to the old sergeant major when dealing with his beat keepers and beaters. He liked a practical joke as long as it wasn't on him.

Some of his jokes went a bit too far and this one backfired on him. One day he tied a guy's bike high in the rafters of a Dutch barn in the works yard, and then hid the ladder. The guy had to walk home and back to work the next day. Nothing was said and done for at least a week until Sawyer came out of the Working Men's Club on Saturday night and found that the steering wheel of his Landrover had been chained to the clutch and brake pedal so that he had to walk home.

Another time after he had upset someone else, he jumped into his Landrover after visiting a friend late at night, and sat on a big bunch of stinging nettles.

One of the perks on a beating day was being able to catch the odd rabbit for the pot, especially in the kale fields. On one occasion I had managed to bag a nice half-grown rabbit on the game cart. Tom made quite a thing about it and made me feel uncomfortable. So I threw the rabbit into a large patch of brambles and said if he wanted it he could go and get it – and I walked off.

Every time we went beating Tom would mention that day and that bloody rabbit. I'm a great believer of what goes round comes round, and my day came on the last day of the season. Sawyer had invited all his cronies and hangers-on to a cock shoot, and I said to the other beaters that I needed a live rabbit. Somebody managed to get one and also a live cock pheasant. At the end of the drive, I managed to slip out the side of the wood and headed for Sawyer's Landrover, where I deposited both rabbit and pheasant in the passenger's side footwell and closed the door. I made my way back to the other beaters telling them what I had done.

Sawyer and his mates made their way to the vehicles. He opened his door and put his dog in and got in himself with all of the beaters watching. You have never seen a guy covered in so much feather, fur and dog snot. Sawyer looked straight at me and said, "Carver, was it you who did that?" I replied, 'You said you wanted a rabbit so I gave you one.'

No more was said.



Hello from Hooli

Hello. It's such a simple word. We use it all the time and think almost nothing of it. But one of the things we've learned through lockdown is that it's actually a really important word. It's the start of many a good conversation and it's great at filling those awkward first moments on a Zoom call!

Lockdown's been strange in so many ways. It certainly wasn't a reality we imagined in January when we moved from our old offices in Capron House to our new West Street home. Yet we realised the other day that Rachel, Lisa, Luke and Rob have now been working remotely at home for longer than we worked together with Julia in the new studio. Trying to retain the collaboration and teamwork that's such a big part of what we do has been our biggest challenge. And of course that comes right back to lots of talking – and starting with 'hello'.

One of the things we loved about the new studio was that people would just pop in to see us. I can't tell you how much we miss that. Julia's been the only one who's kept going in to the office so she (and the dogs) get to wave at people as they go past and mouth 'hello' at them through the window (we're back to 'hello' again!). But we all recognise the isolation's been tough – personally, professionally and emotionally.

So our lockdown experience has also reinforced the importance of keeping businesses talking and helping our clients to

stay in touch with their customers. Emailers, websites and social media have all grown in importance and are vital in retaining relationships when people can't just pop in to see you. It's easy to think that everything has moved online and that print is done for – don't overlook it though as a

way to communicate. When everything else in life is reduced to lines on a screen, it can be lovely to receive something you can actually touch and feel. And doing things a little differently can really help you stand out from the crowd.

Our last big takeaway from lockdown is the relevance of local and

there've been so many good examples of it. Where the national chains struggled, local businesses changed the way they did things so they could keep supporting the community. Midhurst Business Network has reached more people than ever through Zoom and made sure there's a forum to talk with experts about the business support available at the moment. Midhurst Angels made life a little easier for those hardest hit by the virus and local businesses helped them to do that.

There's been a lot of bad about the last few months but there've been hints of amazing too. We want to keep that when lockdown ends – and maybe even amazing starts with 'hello'.

Julia Hughes and Rachel Keeling
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Many thanks to Martin Jones
from Hurst Park who sent in
this photo of a Roe Deer taken
recently on Pound Common.



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Social Committee
Mrs Jan Harling 01798 342233

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