

Vol 19 Nos 10 May 2021

united
EASEBOURNE



Easebourne village and St Mary's Church magazine

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Thanks to Roger Sked for the photograph of wisteria
on the front wall of the Priory.

The deadline for the June issue is Saturday 15th of May 2021.

easebourne.united@gmail.com or Tel 816542

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

In my week off after Easter, and as 'stay at home' had finished, I decided to treat myself to a trip to Pulborough Brooks RSPB nature reserve. If you have never been, then it is certainly worth a trip; it is a real haven of peace. Sadly, because of ongoing covid restrictions, the hides are closed. But what you can do is walk around the nature reserve and soak up the wonderful sounds of bird life and nature.

If I am being honest, the trip was also prompted by a conversation I had had with my neighbour. As a keen birdwatcher himself, I had expressed to him my passion to see an Avocet, a beautiful wading bird and the symbol of the RSPB. He told me that there was a breeding pair over at Pulborough. So armed with my binoculars I set off. And there they were – not just one, but four. And I wasn't disappointed – they are truly wonderful to see. I had waited years for this moment – I had even previously been on a wasted trip to Church Norton near Pagham, because I had been told they might be seen there. And this is the thing about nature. There is so much to see that it can often take a lifetime to achieve. Next on my list is the

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. If you know where I can see one let me know?

Now is the time for nature. As I write this letter bluebells are just about to erupt. I have spotted my first Cowslips and wild garlic and have been serenaded by my first Chiff Chaff and Blackcap. The best bit is that this is all free to us – God's gift to us! And to top it all, we also have our own friendly Pheasant living in our garden. We named him Nigel, and he is magnificent. One afternoon he invited a couple of lady friends over – but we haven't seen them since - either his courting skills need developing or he has really bad breath - really not sure!

So, a time to enjoy. A time to give thanks. A time to explore!

Have great Spring everyone.

Rev Derek Welsman

Avocet © Bertie Gregory



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

The Benefice of ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, EASEBOURNE
with St Peter's Lodsworth and St James Selham

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

First Sunday 10.30am Family Eucharist
Other Sundays 10.30am Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays 10.00am Holy Eucharist

*Coffee is served in Church
after the 10.30am service
on most Sundays.*

*(Not during
lockdown!)*

Morning Prayer: 8.30am most weekday mornings except Wednesday & Friday

SERVICES AT ST PETER'S LODSWORTH

Second Sundays 9.00am Family Service
Fourth Sundays 9.00am Sung Communion
First Sundays 6.00pm Evensong

SERVICES AT ST JAMES SELHAM

1st & 3rd Sundays
8.30am Holy Communion

**During continued lockdown please check the churches' website
for updates on the times of services.**

Vicar: Revd Derek Welsman, Northgate, Dodsley Grove 812655
Easebourne GU29 9BE Email: derek.welsman@outlook.com

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Women's Fellowship
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Social Committee
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Visit the benefice website: www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

Date	Reading	Gospel	Reader
2 May Easter 4	Acts 8:26-end	John 15:1-8	Jan Harling
9 May Easter 5	Acts 10: 44 to end	John 15: 9—17	Peter Grieves
16 May Sunday after Ascension	Acts 1: 15—17 & 21—28	John 17: 6—19	Ann Harfield
23 May Pentecost	Acts 2: 1—21	John 15: 26—27 & 16: 4b—15	David Christie
30 May Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6: 1—8	John 3: 1—17	Veronica Jull

CHURCH DIARY

Church services will for now be advertised via our weekly bulletin and will also be available on the website (www.thepriorychurches.co.uk) If you are not receiving the weekly church bulletin by email please contact us via

stmaryseasebourne@hotmail.co.uk.

Keeping St Mary's Church safe

In this third lockdown it is a real blessing that churches have been allowed to stay open for services and private prayer, at the discretion of the incumbent and church wardens. In order to keep St Mary's church and those that use it safe, we have undertaken a further risk assessment, leading us to tighten up on and add more safety measures. To this end, and following government guidelines, it is now vital and essential that you enter the church building with a mask and/or face visor already being worn. Also, please ensure that your mask is being worn correctly – covering both mouth and nose. Hand sanitizing is a must and we are asking you all to be aware of the 2-metre distancing rule at all times – as you enter and leave church and also when receiving communion. Once seated please remain in your place whilst you wait for the service to start. You will now find Roger in the porch as you arrive, to check on masks and to open the main door for you, so that only he touches the door handle, ensuring further safety. Booking is still required and essential as the 2-metre distancing rule limits how many can attend in total. Numbers are lower at the moment, but as more are vaccinated and warmer weather arrives I'm sure more people will return to church.

Therefore, Roger and I will be being much more vigilant in enforcing these measures. Thank you to those of you who are coming to church for your own caution and vigilance, and for your patience and understanding. We are really grateful to you all for your support in following the above measures – they help to protect you and everyone else. These are difficult, worrying and trying times but by working together we can all do our best to keep St Mary's as safe as we can and open to all.

Thank you.

Roger Sked and Alison Davis, Church wardens

An Update from Chichester Cathedral

Over the last year, Chichester Cathedral faced many challenges and developed new means of staying connected with the wider community and providing means of support and resources. When public worship was suspended last March, the Cathedral began live-streaming a weekly Sunday service. As limited public worship returned, additional services continue to be live-streamed and made available on the Cathedral's website. Other special services are live-streamed including those on Remembrance Sunday, Advent & Christmas, Holy Week and more.

The Cathedral developed resources for worship and prayer at home, and has run online lectures, concerts, choral music, and arts events. It has continued to support its partners including Chichester District Foodbank, UK Harvest and Stonepillow. Earlier this year with the Sussex Pub Group and Pallant House Gallery, the Cathedral launched the Friday Lunch Club which offered a free two course lunch to vulnerable or isolated residents in the city.



As we look forward to the easing of restrictions, the Cathedral hopes to welcome back more worshippers, visitors and other groups in the coming months.

Like many other institutions there have been serious financial implications: one important way of providing regular support is through the Chichester Cathedral Friends. Through project funding

the Friends have made considerable contributions in maintaining and improving facilities and services and developing the Cathedral's mission. Current projects cover all areas of Cathedral life, including new toilet facilities in the North Transept (currently facilities are only available outside), new IT infrastructure, and improved Cathedral lighting. In normal times, the Friends like to socialise and have fun too! Events throughout the year include talks, day trips, lunches and holidays. Joining the Friends is a way to enjoy new experiences and friendships whilst supporting the Cathedral's work and sacred heritage. For further information, please visit www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

Cathy Clark

Communications Assistant, Chichester Cathedral

N.B. Ann Harfield tells us she has no outlet for milk bottle tops, so please don't leave any on her doorstep!

The Duke of Edinburgh at Cowdray Park

His Royal Highness Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh left a remarkable legacy in the history of the sport of polo, and he will be missed deeply. He was encouraged in his youth to play polo by his uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, and became a remarkable player. For several years in the 1950's, the cavalry officers used to play polo at Cowdray Park often attended by Philip and the Queen. However, in those post war years, travelling from Windsor to Sussex was no easy feat; so the idea of playing polo close to Windsor was brought up and with the permission of the Queen two grounds were started on land around Windsor Great Park. The two grounds were known as The Queen's Ground and The Duke's Ground. In 1955 Philip founded the Household Brigade Polo Club and was its president. The club, which changed its name to Guards Polo Club in 1969, was twice winner of the British Open Gold Cup. Unlike other amateur players, Philip took his job as a polo player very seriously, always hiring the best players of the time to represent his team Windsor Park. In 1957 and 1966,

Windsor Park won the British Open Gold Cup at Cowdray Park Polo Club. Windsor Park also played in Argentina and the US, reaching a final in a tournament in Boca Raton. Philip retired from playing polo in 1971 but he continued to support the game, frequently being seen in the Royal Box at Guards Polo Club alongside the Queen. After Prince Philip stopped playing polo, he took up carriage driving, a passion he shared with his granddaughter, Lady Louise Mountbatten, daughter of Edward and Sophie.

Many thanks to Michael Chevis for letting us use this photo from his archives.

Text is from Pololine.com





Poet's Corner

The Intruder by Sue Absolom

We wake in the mornings
Could be 4am, or 5 or 6
Our little tummies are rumbling
We're ready for our seed fix.

The lovely lady has filled up our pots
So we're eager to get up from our rest
She has conveniently hung them
Very near to our little nest.

Each morning we feed undisturbed
My relatives fly in and eat too
Uncle Longtail Tit, Auntie Great Tit
That is to name but a few.

Our neighbours also feed alongside
Robins, Chaffinches and Gold Crests
All come to our quiet little corner
With which we are so blessed.

We all fed quite happily until
An intruder found our quiet place
To us, he's big, brash, with bushy tail
And with whiskers on his face.



He darts about so quickly
From tree to shrub, back to tree
We can only look on in amazement
So acrobatic is he.

Why can't he find his own food
Doesn't he have his own store
Pinching the food from our beaks
He retreats, then is back for more.

He perches very precariously
Twisting his body this way and that
We're all hoping he falls off it
And makes himself look a right prat.

We've heard the kind lady mention
Getting an anti-squirrel feeder
But it will have to be state of the art
To outwit this little bleeder!!



Wild Flowers in the Churchyard

A small group of volunteers has trimmed part of the churchyard and sowed a range of flowers including poppies, hollyhocks, linseed, campion, foxgloves, ox eye daisies and other meadow flowers. This is part of a developing eco-church initiative to promote conservation on church land.

News from the Cowdray Estate

Jonathan Russell, CEO



COWDRAY

Benbow Pond is located on the outskirts of Easebourne and it is easily accessible from the main road to Petworth (GU29 0AQ). The pond itself is a starting point for many walks which wend their way through various footpaths passing by several veteran trees tucked away in picturesque countryside. Four of Cowdray's holiday cottages are within easy walking distance to the pond, and exotic black swans can be seen elegantly floating on the water. They are joined by Egyptian geese, moorhens and even cormorants. Many visitors take time to sit by the pond and enjoy the bird life and all that this stunning area has to offer whatever the season. *(See p. 34 for notes of what to feed the birds.)*

Across the water on the bank sits a memorial to the **3rd Viscount Cowdray**, which was built in 2000. John Cowdray ran the Estate from 1933 until his death in 1995. Within each window of his memorial sits an image of activities that he enjoyed including shooting, fishing, and polo. Adjacent to Benbow Pond is another permanent memorial to the 3rd Viscount Cowdray - **The John Cowdray Arboretum**, which covers an area of around 16 acres. The arboretum has a mix of over 1,000 conifer and broadleaf trees of 126 different species. These are planted in a 'Spoked Wheel' design. Visitors are encouraged to walk around and discover the variety of trees that the arboretum has to offer.

Heading up the hill and keeping the field on the right, walkers get to a small kissing gate leading onto the Midhurst Way. Nearby is the impressive Queen Elizabeth Oak located in the Deer Park. It is so named because Queen Elizabeth I rested in the shade of this mature oak on her visit to the Estate whilst hunting in August 1591. In June 2002, the Tree Council designated the Queen Elizabeth Oak one of 50 great British trees in recognition of its place in the national heritage. According to the Woodland Trust, the tree is the third largest Sessile Oak tree to be recorded in the UK. Now a veteran tree with a hollow trunk, the tree is estimated to be over 1,000 years old. Its unusual shape with a



Three of the 4 resident black swans and the Cowdray Memorial at Benbow Pond.

short trunk and small canopy is from a long history of pollarding the tree throughout its life which has helped it survive so long.

Just above the Queen Elizabeth Oak is another huge hollow veteran Sessile Oak tree known as the 'Lady in Waiting'.

Thought to be slightly younger than the Queen Elizabeth Oak, it is still an impressive ancient tree. Another ancient tree within the same area is the Cowdray Colossus Sweet Chestnut. According to the Tree Register this is the largest Sweet Chestnut tree in England. With an enormous girth of 12.36 metres and still growing it has a height of over 26 metres. The trunk has grown a metre since its discovery in 1997 and placement on the Tree Register. Growing an average of 8cms wider a year, at approximately 450 years old this massive tree is set to get bigger

still. Nearby at the top of the hill, walkers can look down on Jubilee Avenue, which is an avenue of 60 lime trees planted to recreate an avenue shown on either side of a footpath on an Ordnance Survey map from 1808.

Cowdray Foresters and the Parks & Gardens team ensure that these veteran trees are well looked after, and that the whole area is beautifully maintained. Some of the oldest trees in Cowdray Park are protected by post and rail fences to protect the fragile root system of these ancient trees and prevent damage from animal and visitor footfall.

The Estate is a proud custodian of this area and is happy to be able to keep it open so that countless walkers can explore this hidden and picturesque corner of West Sussex.



The Queen Elizabeth Oak

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB April 2021 Draw winners



1st Prize - £100
2nd Prize - £75
2nd Prize - £75
3rd Prize—£50
3rd Prize—£50
3rd Prize—£50

Robin Sawyer
Margaret Pratt
Bryan Pierce
Peter Allen
Gavin Litchfield
Jenny King

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

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

Please note, winners will receive monies by bank transfer.

World Day of Prayer 2021



Last year this event was held at Midhurst Parish Church just a few weeks before the first lockdown. At that time we could not imagine that a year later life would still be in lockdown. But fortunately we had help from our technical wizard Jessica Butt to put our 2021 World Day of Prayer service on Zoom, which was prepared this year by the Christian women of Vanuatu - a group of scattered islands 1,100 miles to the east of Australia. Vanuatu is one of the first countries to start to pray on the Day of Prayer, helping to set off the wave of prayer. At least 55 ladies from the churches of Midhurst and Easebourne took part in the service with the theme "Build on a Strong Foundation" with readings and prayers from the women of Vanuatu.

We were informed about some of the financial support the World Day of Prayer movement allocates in grants to Christian projects internationally and here in the UK. It was not actually possible to pass

the collection plate around on Zoom but hopefully, using online banking or payments by text, the movement does get a healthy level of donations this year, to enable them to give these grants to various charities .

Music and singing is a very important part of the World Day of Prayer Service and we too were able to join in and sing along at home (muted on Zoom) to hymns we knew and some which were new to us.

Hopefully, next year, we will be able to hold our World Day of Prayer service in one of our local churches as before, but perhaps we need to seriously consider relaying it on Zoom as well, so that we can send our prayers to those who are unable to attend in person. Do join us in March 2022 when our service will be prepared by women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland!

Sian Mitchell



General Knowledge Quiz *Compiled by Carole Sawyer*

1. The Eurovision Song Contest has been given permission to let up to 3500 spectators into the venue when the competition is held in which city in May?
2. How many teeth does an adult human have?
3. What is the biggest state in America?
4. How many legs does a lobster have?
5. Who was Prime Minister on VE Day, in 1945?
6. What has just been banned from the centre of Venice by the Italian government?
7. Which TV quiz show returned in 2020 with Gino D'Acampo as presenter?
8. "S O S" is a common example of which electrical telegraph communication system?
9. What did the Romans call Scotland?
10. Marble is formed by the metamorphosis of which rock?
11. Jofra Archer was 26 in April 2021, but in which field is he famous?
12. At which place does the ship bringing Dracula to England land?
13. Au is the symbol of which chemical element?
14. Ena Sharples and Elizabeth of Glamis are types of what?
15. Why was this year's University Boat Race moved from the Thames to Ely?
16. In music, what is meant by pianissimo?
17. What is the surname of the chairman of the government's race commission who has recently published a report that has led to much division about its contents and conclusions?
18. In which country did polo originate?
19. Is it the male or female cuckoo that makes the 'cuck-oo' call?
20. Whose motto was "Tomorrow will be a good day"?

Answers on page 12



The Sussex Historic Churches Trusts have announced the Ride & Stride will resume this year on **Saturday 11 September**; please could you

note this in your diaries. We are keen for walkers and cyclists to be sponsored to visit our local churches. Any money raised will be shared between the Trust and St Mary's. If you are interested, watch out for further information.

Covid-19 Vaccinations for Midhurst Area Riverbank Medical Centre



The Covid vaccination programme at the Riverbank Medical Centre is progressing well. In April we started to give patients their second vaccination for Covid 19. As ever, this is run with military precision. To date we have provided over 13000 vaccinations for our local community. Soon we will be contacting the 45-49 years olds and offering them their first jab. Once again, I can't speak highly enough of the staff here at Riverbank who have willingly come in on their days off and at weekends to help with the vaccination programme.

Dr Paul Fludder www.riverbankmedical.co.uk/covid-19-vaccination

Midhurst Memorial Hall Vaccination Hub



Midhurst Pharmacy Vaccination Hub at The South Downs Memorial Hall remained busy through April seeing between 750-990 patients daily from Fridays-Sundays all weekends. We are particularly grateful to not only our amazing staff at the Vaccination Centre but also to our Pharmacy staff who provide an interrupted full pharmacy service whilst we operate the Hub. Vaccine supply has been intermittent but looks to really ramp up again as patients will be coming for their second dose vaccinations. We have become a strong "family unit" at our Hub, celebrating birthdays and really looking forward to our shifts and catching up with each other. Having worked together we have become a well-oiled, slick unit that relishes a challenge! We are certainly going to need that spirit as we have some very busy weekends ahead as we move down to the final cohort to be vaccinated.

As ever, we are so grateful to The South Downs Authority for agreeing to let us use such a fabulous space. They have been so accommodating through these difficult times. We look forward to seeing our second dose patients as well as local residents in the following weeks.

Mr Raj Rohilla <https://midhurstpharmacy.co.uk>

General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. Rotterdam 2. 32 3. Alaska 4. Eight 5. Winston Churchill 6. Cruise ships 7. Family Fortunes 8. Morse Code 9. Caledonia 10. Limestone 11. Sport (Cricket) 12. Whitby 13. Gold 14. Roses 15. Hammersmith Bridge is unsafe 16. Very softly 17. Sewell (Dr Tony) 18. Iran 19. Male 20. Captain Tom Moore



WELLBEING AT COWDRAY HALL

Cowdray Hall & Therapy Rooms is a well-established centre for wellbeing. The centre focuses exclusively on inspirational workshops and events, weekly classes and one-to-one therapy sessions which promote self-development. At a time when the importance of holistic health is widely acknowledged, the centre provides a place where visitors can relax as well as focus on wellbeing.

Alongside Cowdray Hall sits three beautifully appointed Therapy Rooms for hire offering an accessible yet private space for a wide range of practitioners. From part-time therapists looking for a room with less commitment, to full-time professionals looking for a permanent home, we have pricing options which cater to all.

For further information on classes and events at Cowdray Hall and for more details on Cowdray Therapy Rooms, please visit:
www.cowdray.co.uk/wellbeing/

t: 01730 812423 e: therapy-rooms@cowdray.co.uk
Cowdray Hall & Therapy Rooms, Parkway, Easebourne,
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 0AW

Volunteering in your Parish

We often ask for volunteers to join activities throughout the Parish and this month is no exception. Now more than ever we need extra pairs of hands to keep our village tidy, keep our community safe and help plan for the future. Here are 3 ways you can really make a difference to where you live...

Can you help reduce traffic speeds in our village?

The Parish Council would like to re-launch a Community Speedwatch Initiative now Lockdown restrictions are easing and the days are getting longer. This is a proven way to increase awareness of the 30mph limit within the village and try to alter driver behaviour. You don't need to have taken part before, sessions are generally no longer than an hour at a time and there's just a very simple training exercise to complete before you can get your hands on a speedgun.

Volunteers always work in pairs, one operating the speedgun and the other recording details and a Parish Councillor is on hand to help too if needed. As you may have seen, the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership mobile speed camera van has been in the village a few times in the last month, but ultimately it's down to us as a community to do something about this. For more information or to put your name forward for training, please contact

the parish council (see below).

The Green Volunteers

You will have seen a small team of hi-vis wearing hard-working volunteers around the village on numerous occasions, trimming overgrown hedges, sweeping, mowing and generally making where we live a tidier place! Did you know that many of these volunteers don't even live in the village but come to help us from Midhurst? We have a handful of villagers who join these sessions but more hands would be extremely welcome. These sessions are Covid safe, all equipment is provided, and you just need to turn up with a pair of gardening gloves. Sessions take place on a Tuesday and a Saturday, usually starting at 8.30am and finishing by 10.30am. Look out for details of where to meet on the Parish Council website, Facebook page or on the Midhurst Green Volunteer site. You don't have to be a gardening expert - just enjoy doing something good for your community!

Join the Council

The Parish Council remains two members short and so if you've ever thought about stepping up and getting involved in your community, please get in touch to find out more.

Mike Noble—chairman

Easebourne Park update by Ian Milne

Have you seen our new carving? If not, wander over to the North East corner of the Park (beside Birthday House) and see what local chainsaw carver, Nathan Blatherwick has created. He has not finished yet and there are more animals to come. Keep an eye as Nathan should be finishing in the coming weeks. And standing guard over this corner of the Park is Mr Brock, looking rather alert!

The Spring groundworks are now complete. The compacted ground has been given a good job, and is well on the way to recovery! Local company, ACS, undertook verti-drain treatment to the surface to aid drainage and to allow air to get into the ground to relieve compaction. Whilst the Park was closed during these groundworks, the big tractor with its rotating spikes at the rear, caused many children to stop and stare. What is it



about children and tractors? The Park looks much better for this treatment and we all hope that this will alleviate the issue of muddy patches we saw for much of the early part of 2021.



War Graves Week 21-28 May 2021

from Phil Stringer

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorate over 300,000 British and Commonwealth service personnel at more than 12,000 locations. For the first time running from the 21-28 May 2021, War Graves Week will shine a light on CWGC work and the people who keep remembrance of our war dead alive. Through a series of talks, tours and events, both physical and virtual, War Graves Week will bring an immersive and inclusive programme that will reveal CWGC's work and history in all its variety and demonstrate its continuing relevance today. You can get more details of events at cwgc.org.

In Easebourne, we have six World War One war graves in the churchyard and five World War II war graves at Glazier's Lane cemetery. Here are the stories of two individuals buried in Easebourne:

Leslie George WILLIAMS, Gunner, 1083558, 113th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 12th July 1941 aged 27. He was the husband of Irene Nellie May Williams of Havant, Hampshire. Leslie grew up in Hawkhurst near Royal Tunbridge Wells. He was drowned in an accident in Ashford, Kent while training with other soldiers on the South Coast. Before joining up he was the second gardener at Great Wigsell, Hawkhurst for six years, followed by five years in Lord Cowdray's garden at Cowdray Park and was a member of the Easebourne church choir. He was married for two years and his funeral was at Easebourne Church. He is commemorated on the Hawkhurst war memorial and the WW1 and WW2 tablet at St Laurence's Church, Hawkhurst.



Richard William Charles FOARD, Lance Bombardier, 924278, 144th Field

Regiment (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry), Royal Artillery. He was the son of William Charles and Phyllis Elizabeth Foard of Midhurst. LBdr Foard was killed in a road traffic accident on 15th June 1940. He was an only child and his father was killed during World War One. He joined the Territorial Army in 1938 and had been an apprentice car mechanic on the Cowdray Estate and lived at 134 North Street, Midhurst. The coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure. His funeral took place at Easebourne Church with floral tributes from "his mates



at Cowdray Estate Garage" and "all ranks 389 Battery, Sussex Yeomanry". LBdr Foard is commemorated on the Midhurst war memorial.

Listed Buildings in Easebourne— The Schoolmaster's House

from the archives of the late John Stringer, photograph by Chris Deadman.
Contributed by Phil Stringer and Chris Deadman

Listed 26.II.87, Grade II

Listing NGR: SU8983622876

House. Mid C19. Coursed sandstone with red brick dressings and quoins. Tiled roof. Gable end north east and south west. Tall red brick chimney stack. Two storeys. Three casement windows.



The History

George William Singleton and his wife Ruth were resident in 1905 in this 7-room house with their son George and two daughters Ruth and Una. George and Ruth married in 1885 in Alverstoke Hampshire and their first child, George, was born in 1886 in Wootton Bassett. By the time their first daughter Lucy was born in Easebourne in 1889, her baptism record lists George as the “Master of Easebourne Boys School”. Both George and his wife were teachers at the school, employed by the County Council. The Kelly’s Directory 1911 notes that George was the School “Master” but by 1915 the post was held by Frank Woodman.

Christine Deadman



Snippets from a Gardener's Diary by John Humphris

Magnolias

I did mention in the last diary about April being a fickle month, the most difficult month in the year for gardeners. First we have 'The Blackthorn Winter' followed by 'Buchan's Cold Spell' - this last was probably the worst I can remember with temperatures on two nights minus 4°C on April 6th and 7th. We can of course protect our early glasshouse crops with heating or fleece covering and many of the smaller garden plants cope well and recover quickly. Most at risk are the early magnolias and after this last particularly bad cold spell, it is worth considering which ones to plant rather than the impulse buying of those that look attractive in the garden centre or advertisements

The magnolia to avoid planting is *M soulangeana*, spectacular pink blooms making a great show but for the average

garden this becomes too large, and from our back and front gardens there are two enormous trees with every bloom spoilt by frost. You then have these very large trees taking up valuable space with the rooting area taking up valuable nutrition with very little able to grow beneath. Having said that, there are forms of *M soulangeana* that flower later and if you have a large garden or better still a woodland area it is worth planting *M soulangeana* 'Brozzonii' with exquisite white flowers, or *M soulangeana* 'Lennii' with rosy purple flowers. There are others to avoid such as *M denudate* with lovely white blooms, one in Dodsley Lane is regularly frosted despite being close to the house wall. However many of the smaller flowered forms such as the *M x loebneri* 'Merrill', in the Easeborne Churchyard, usually escape the worst of the frosty spells.

There are so many excellent magnolias that flower that little bit later in the season and do not become too large and I would like to suggest a few choice varieties for autumn planting. Do not fall into the trap of pretty pictures and descriptions and then rushing out and planting when the sun shines in spring. Early autumn is so much better with plants well established before winter and any spring draughts.



Magnolia soulangeana 'Brozzonii'

For those that enjoy magnolias with flowers that hang beneath the foliage and are well scented, *M sinensis* is a good choice, with *M Charles Coates* even better. This is a hybrid raised at Kew many years

ago and flowers over a long period. A favorite of mine is *M wilsonii*, wide spreading with lovely scented white flowers. There is a form of this called *highdownensis* raised at Highdown by the late Sir Frederick Stern and is worth a visit in early summer to see this in bloom.

Then we have the group of yellow flowered forms, many raised in the USA, such as *Miss Honeybee*, fragrant pale yellow, *Yellow Bird*, *Daphne* and *Lois* - all choice large shrubs. Two pink forms for those who prefer this color are *Randy*

and *Raspberry Ice* and finally the deep purple *Magnolia liliflora Nigra*.

This is just a sample of the wide range of varieties available. It is so easy to just accept those that are easily propagated and available and therefore much cheaper. But, in the long term it is much better to select out these really choice varieties which will give much pleasure for many years.

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Midhurst Rother College is looking for work experience placements for the week Monday 12 July to Friday 16 July 2021.

The placements are for students in Year 10 or Year 12 who are working towards either their GCSEs or 'A' levels. Students require a taster of what the world of work in your industry would be like. The College would very much appreciate any time taken by yourself or another employee to provide this opportunity. It would also be beneficial to the students if you could take the time, during the week, to discuss the wider roles and career opportunities within your industry. We understand the commitment that this involves and appreciate the time taken to make it a complete success.

If you are interested in providing a work experience placement for one (or more) of our Year 10 or 12 students, please contact Sam Jones, Administrator for Careers, via email: samantha.jones@mrc-academy.org or phone: **01730 812451**

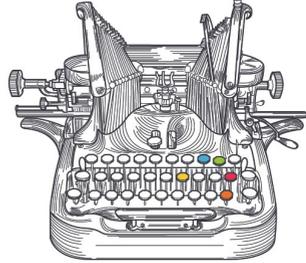


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We thought you might like to see this page of adverts from 'Midhurst Deanery News' - dated November 1952. Two of these businesses are still operating locally! Ed.

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Birch Trees Nursing Home

Birch Trees residents and staff would like to extend our thanks to Tracie and her team at Midhurst Funeralcare for their amazing donation of Easter eggs for us all. Easter weekend was lovely, with visits from our families, hot cross buns on Good Friday and a lovely roast dinner with all the trimmings on Sunday.

We would also like to thank everyone at Riverbank Medical Centre for arranging vaccines for our residents and staff. The majority of us are now fully vaccinated, and we feel very grateful to all involved for the amazing organisation and implementation of the vaccine rollout locally.

At the time of writing, today was an exciting day for our residents. An orderly queue was formed to visit Suzi, our much-missed hairdresser! She hasn't been able to visit us for five months, so as you can

probably imagine, the pile of discarded hair was large enough to stuff a decent sized scatter cushion. With all of our residents looking much better groomed, we had a game of "Guess the Word" this afternoon with our Activities Organiser, Vee (there were a few very funny mis-interpretations of her drawings!) and then a sing-a-long with a few of our favourite tunes.

We are now looking forward to the better weather so we can sit in the garden and perhaps do a few more outdoor activities, and hopefully garden visits with family members too if conditions continue to improve. Here's hoping!

Sarah Darnell, Care Practitioner
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CONIFERS SCHOOL

Conifers are delighted to be able to open their doors to prospective families to tour their wonderful school once again. With many school development and refurb projects having been brought forward during the lockdown, there is

lots

to see including:

- Refurbished Art and DT facility
- Refurbished Early Years playground with a new trike track area
- Pupil toilets and various classrooms have been completely refreshed and renewed.
- New outdoor learning areas such as a new bird hide and allotments.
- New reading corners
- New Tennis Court
- Refurbished children's library

In addition, staff have spent time creating an exciting timetable of co-curricular activities and clubs for the Summer Term ahead, offering extended wraparound care to all its families.



Whether you are looking for a Reception place or Year 3 entry for September 2021, or any other points of entry throughout the school, they look forward to meeting you. Tours will be individual per family to allow for safe, social distancing to continue and therefore places may be limited. We recommend booking via email or phone as soon as possible – admissions@conifersschool.com or call/text 07947791774.

By the time you read this, we will have had our AGM on 15 April - by Zoom this year. I will report on that in next month's magazine.

For now, all is quiet, with our first Heathland working party going on to Midhurst Common on 23 April – St George's Day! Did you know that he was a Roman soldier who died on 23 April 303 AD. He has come to symbolize the victory of good over evil. Take a look on our website for information on what work we do on The Common and to read our Spring Newsletter.



Friends Of Midhurst Common

Now that Spring is here and COVID restrictions are getting less, I suggest you take a walk over Midhurst Common. We have many lovely new wooden signposts to point you in the right direction along the many Public Footpaths and a few Bridleways. If you have any questions, please send an email to the address below.

Andrew Mitchell – Chairman
www.friendsofmihurstcommon.co.uk

Easebourne Primary School



I write this as the Easter holiday draws to a close and children (and adults!) prepare for the summer term. The country is moving steadily along Boris Johnson's roadmap but we will remain cautious at school and I do not anticipate any significant changes just yet. Encouraging developments include more of the school's staff having their first vaccine as the age for adults gradually falls, and some second injections even starting to happen. In addition, all staff have a supply of lateral flow tests to enable them to self-test at home twice weekly. We have also encouraged our parents and carers to take up this opportunity – the more asymptomatic adults that are able to self-isolate, the safer the community.

Looking back to last term, we supported Comic Relief again, with this year's theme of *Superheroes*. Children came into school in their superhero's secret identity, like Superman arriving as Clark Kent or Ms Marvel arriving as Carol Danvers, so they wore their own clothes to school. In the afternoon, children had the chance to design a mask for their superhero so that they could go home in role. I became Tomato Man and the children dreamt up some wonderful superpowers for me, including the ability to squirt ketchup, eat vegetables very quickly and drop special tomatoes on people below to make them kind as I fly past. Tricky to know which I liked best but I decided that I would choose the last one, especially as I already have the first two!

Our Eco-Council, led by Jacky Clipston, our Science Lead, was very busy last term. They ran an Eco Code competition which was won by Ava, beating off fierce opposition, including Chloe and Ruby L, as joint runners-up. Ava's entry was chosen as the winner as her Eco Code, best reflected our environmental mission statement (Water, Plastic and Electricity) and demonstrated the areas in which Easebourne has committed to becoming more sustainable.

In partnership with Cowdray Golf Club, students who were at school during lockdown decorated bird boxes. These boxes were made and delivered to school as part of Cowdray Golf Club's environmental mission. It is hoped that the bird boxes will encourage more birds to nest and reduce insects that are a pest to the greens in a more sustainable way and therefore reduce the need for chemicals. Cowdray Golf Club will compile a map of where each child will be able to find their decorated box in due course, so watch this space! Hopefully we will be able to work with Cowdray Golf Club again as they work towards a more sustainable golf course.

Meanwhile, in Rabbits, the children have become concerned about reducing single-use plastic in our environment and, as their first step, looked at how we might make small, manageable changes in our lunchboxes and wrote to all parents. Writing for a purpose is a key part of our

English curriculum and, although many of our children take hot lunches, we wanted everybody to be aware of the children's work and the problem of single-use plastic. We were really proud of their work on this initiative.

At their last meeting, the School Council agreed that a good next project would be to develop the school's courtyard along with a nature area outside in the grounds. An initial idea was to buy a bird feeding station to be paid for out of the money raised for the school by Ruby L (Y5) earlier in the term over Lockdown. Hopefully, the birds will get to know about this safe feeding space and start to visit it regularly over the summer term. As an Easter treat, Hedgehogs and Rabbits also enjoyed some time this week with nine 5-day-old chicks!

I hope this gives you a flavour of the environmental initiatives at the school. Jacky Clipston and her Eco-Councillors have recently achieved their Silver Eco-Schools Award and last term were preparing their application for the final stage, the Green Flag Award. Hopefully, we may have some news about this shortly and I hope Jacky will let you know about it in the next issue.

One of the ways in which COVID has affected schools, is by shutting down most fundraising events, reducing additional income when school budgets are already stretched. I mentioned above Ruby's fundraising for the school. Later in the term, a second pupil, Bailey C (Y3), embarked on a campaign of taking on jobs and household chores, earning a little bit of money each time. Bailey eventually reached the princely sum of £132 which he then donated to the school. It is inspiring to have children at the school who are prepared to work hard to give something back. It's not just the children who have stepped up, though. The school received a wonderful windfall over Easter when Becky, a mother at the school, through her local business, Perfect Motion Physio, kindly offered to run a 45 minute Pilates Zoom class for parents on Easter Monday. This was wonderfully supported and raised over £1,000.

Finally, right at the end of the term, we welcomed Heidi Coates back from maternity leave to teach Squirrels Class and it was very exciting to see her back.



After a very successful talk in January and February presented on Zoom, Midhurst U3A this month has Jenny Mallin whose talk is entitled "**A Grandmother's Legacy**". This talk will take

place on Tuesday 18th May 2021 and will start at 10.30pm **Please note change of time.** Those members wishing to attend should apply to midhurstzoom@gmail.com for an invitation.





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NEWS FROM MIDHURST FOODBANK

The Foodbank in Midhurst continues to provide food to many more families than this time last year. Since the beginning of the year, we have carried out 120 deliveries, feeding a total of 355 individuals. In addition to the weekly support, on Tuesday 23rd March we delivered holiday lunch boxes—these go to families whose children normally receive a free school meal during term time, and are provided by the Trussell Trust, from their Chichester Foodbank which supports the Midhurst Centre.

Nearly 60 volunteers helped to arrange and carry out the distribution of more than 150 boxes to 90 families in the Midhurst and local area.

As at Christmas, the Midhurst & Petworth Rotary Club offered essential, practical help with distribution and their generous support, along with that of the people of Midhurst, also provided each child with an Easter egg. This was a wonderful surprise, judging by the immediate texts of thanks that were received following the deliveries.

Local support for the food bank has been unprecedented throughout the year. Not only are the usual collection points in supermarkets and shops regularly filled, but the support of the young people of Midhurst Rother College has been outstanding – following on from their incredible donations made at Christmas, they have made another very generous donation, this time in lieu of Red Nose Day, thus ensuring that the shelves of the Midhurst Foodbank are well stocked with seasonal and essential supplies for those of our community who will really appreciate them.

The Foodbank in Midhurst continues to be incredibly well supported by the community. In addition to the donations mentioned, we have received a sizeable donation from a local trust. Without this support from everyone, the work of the foodbank would be impossible.

Liz Willing, Midhurst Coordinator
Karen Lovett, lunchbox coordinator



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Searching for Extinct Animals

by Michael Blencowe,

Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Sussex
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A wonderful museum lurks unassumingly on Brighton's Dyke Road, the tree-lined residential avenue that connects the city to the rolling chalk hills of the South Downs. It was here, in the illuminated cabinets and cases of The Booth Museum of Natural History that my story started. A display of the bones, eggs, fur and feathers of extinct animals reconnected me with my childhood obsession with lost species. It was the starting point for a journey which led me deep into the caves of New Zealand looking for the bones of the mighty extinct Moa – birds which stood over 12 feet tall. I hike mountain ranges in search of the South Island Kōkako, a bird known as the 'Grey Ghost'; which some believe may still exist. In San Francisco I seek the remaining sand dunes where the diminutive Xerces Blue butterfly once flew and in a dimly lit museum storeroom, I am granted an audience with the holiest of extinct relics – the mummified head of the legendary Dodo. Although my quest leads me to Copenhagen, Helsinki, Paris and New York I was surprised to find that, if I was searching for extinct animals, there was a story right on my doorstep.



Sussex was the last known whereabouts of Ivell's Sea Anemone, declared extinct in 1997. This delicate creature once existed in Widewater Lagoon near Shoreham and is known from nowhere else on the planet. Widewater's faded information panel

contains a drawing of this mythical beast. Grey and tubular, the illustration resembles a section of somebody's small intestine or a really long sock with wiry tentacles poking out of one end.

I headed off in search of the only remaining specimens of this species, stored deep in the basement of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Here I was handed a jar with a domed glass stopper. Inside the jar was a solution of 75% ethanol and floating in that ethanol was ...nothing. I put on my glasses and raised the jar up to the storeroom's light bulb and only then could I make out the anemone, a miniscule, thin squiggle suspended in the solution. After giant Moa bones and mummified Dodos there was no

disguising my disappointment. I had harboured a hope that maybe I could be the man to gallantly re-discover Ivell's Sea Anemone in Widewater lagoon. The fact that I couldn't re-discover it in a jar two inches from my face didn't inspire me with confidence.

Undaunted, I carried on my quest and, armed with a snorkel, a faulty torch and an inflatable lilo in the shape of crocodile I bravely waded into Widewater. You'll find the rest of this story and many more of my adventures in my new book '*Gone: A search for what remains of the world's extinct creatures*', published on 27 April and available everywhere.

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Sweetcorn or peas – tinned, defrosted frozen, or fresh

Fresh greens – all types of chopped up fresh salad leaves

Oats – rolled oats and even instant porridge oats

Seeds – bird seed or supermarket-bought seeds for human consumption.

Rice – both cooked and uncooked

Please **don't feed bread to geese and ducks**. It fills them up and makes them less likely to eat natural sources of food which keeps them healthy. Over time, geese and waterfowl fed on bread can become malnourished and even overweight – bad malnutrition can lead to deformed wings, which prevents them from flying. Also avoid chips, crackers, sweets and mouldy food.



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National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	Tandem Bus	0300 030 3962
VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS			
Garden & Allotment Society John Humphris, chairman	810052	Midhurst & Easebourne Youth Football Club	816415
1st Easebourne Scout Group	Sarah Jordan	sarahjordan@hotmail.co.uk	
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	Enquiries to www.girlguiding.org/interested		OR 0800 1695901
SCHOOLS			
Easebourne C of E Primary School Johnny Culley, Head teacher	813266	Early Days Nursery Annie Beadle	815046
Conifers School Mrs Emma Smyth, Head teacher	813243	Midhurst Rother College	812451

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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