

Vol 20 No.1 June 2021

united
EASEBOURNE



Easebourne village and St Mary's Church magazine

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Thanks to Chris Deadman for the photograph of Snowhill House.

See the article on Page 14.

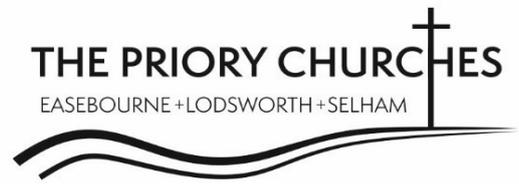
The deadline for the July/August issue is Tuesday 15 June 2021.

easebourne.united@gmail.com or Tel 816542



Egyptian goslings at South Pond

Letter from the Vicar



Dear Friends

If you stand on the Downs above Brighton, you will see the enormous offshore windfarm out at sea. This windfarm is part of an ambitious agenda to change the way we create electricity in our country, moving away from coal fired power stations. Sometimes when you listen to the debate about global warming, you can feel that nothing has been done. But when we reflect, we discover that lots has already been achieved. Who would have thought that our recycling bins would be fuller than our normal waste bins? How could we ever return to light bulbs in our houses that are not LED? These might seem like small things - and there are many more - but put together, they show the progress we have made, and are making.

But, and it's a big but – there is still so much more to do. Cars will soon be all electric. Many are already looking at ways of moving away from gas boilers in their homes. So as communities and church families we must surely all play our part.

So for 2021 and beyond our church council is setting at the heart of its agenda an ambitious project to turn our churches green. This might seem obvious, but like

so many things in life, it is only when we set these goals that things truly happen. Locally, villages have started to do the same – maybe now is our time to work right across our villages to achieve these important objectives.

So, for our churches we will be looking at how we operate in our world, reducing our carbon footprint – this will mean in our homes as well as our church buildings. We will assess how we can use our churchyards to support nature; creating habitats that encourage bees and insects to thrive. We will also endeavour to work with our parish councils and wider community, including our schools, to promote a greener way of life for us all.

The world is a beautiful work of creation – let us be the generation that didn't take this for granted, but worked with it, to build a better world for all, including the animal and plant kingdoms.

If you have thoughts and suggestions, then please let me know by emailing me at derek.welsman@outlook.com.

Many blessings

Rev Derek Welsman

**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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Organist & Choirmistress
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Practice on Fridays 6.00pm (not during lockdown)

200 Club Margaret & Mike Wharton 810474
E-mail: mike@mwassociates.eu.com

Women's Fellowship
Mrs Ann Harfield 813810

Bellringers Joanne Blackwell 01798 860883
(ring on alternate Thursdays from 7.30 – 9.00pm)

Social Committee
Mrs Jan Harling 01798 342233

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**To subscribe to United phone Ann Harfield 813810
or contact the editors by email—easebourne.united@gmail.com**

Visit the benefice website: www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

Date	Reading	Gospel	Reader
6 June 1st after Trinity	Genesis 3: 8—15	Mark 3: 20—end	Colin Datchler
13 June 2nd after Trinity	Ezekial 17: 22—end	Mark 4: 26—34	Simon Hendrie
20 June 3rd after Trinity	Job 38: 1—11	Mark 4: 35—41	Jan Harling
27 June—open air service at St Peter's			Wendy Trafford

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.

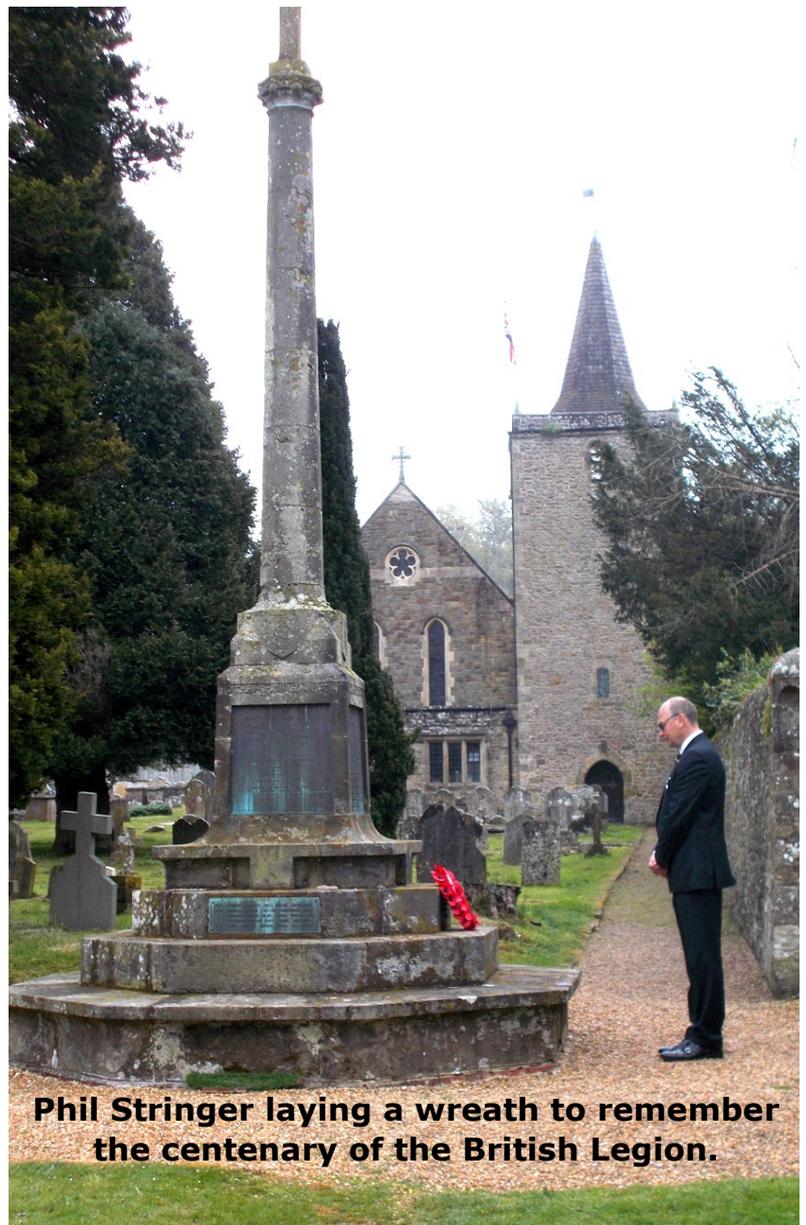
Roger Sked and Alison Davis, Church wardens

The Centenary of the Royal British Legion

The British Legion was formed from four ex-service organisations on 15th May 1921. Key national individuals in its formation were Earl Haig, the former Field Marshal and Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force and Fred Lister a former Lance Bombardier who was invalided out of the army in 1916.

Locally the first mention of the Midhurst and District branch (which included Easebourne) of the British Legion in the West Sussex Gazette was in February 1926. The branch had increased in size from 34 to 70 members, with the branch chair, Major General Sir J F Daniell KCMG and Secretary Lieutenant Colonel S M Rice CBE. The first reported public parade of the British Legion, Midhurst Branch was held on 23rd September 1926. 90 ex-servicemen were on parade and included the Midhurst machine gun section of 4th Battalion the Royal Sussex Regiment, the Grammar School Cadet Corps and the Midhurst Cub Scouts. A gift of a silk standard was made to the Midhurst Branch by the Midhurst and West Lavington Women's Institute, and it was dedicated at the Remembrance service that same year.

Phil Stringer
Poppy Appeal Organiser
Midhurst & District Branch



Phil Stringer laying a wreath to remember the centenary of the British Legion.

Poet's Corner

Springtime by Sue Absolom

(photo by Cass Duncan)

Have you taken a walk lately
In our lovely countryside
Whichever direction you go
Keep your eyes open wide.

The scenery is breathtaking
Whether you walk North, South, East
or West
Spring has at last made an appearance
And this part of Sussex
is looking its best.

The fields look like a patchwork
Not a stitch is out of place
Like the work of a good seamstress
Or the work of Our Good Lord's Grace.

The trees are bursting forth
With leaves of a delicate green
Surrounding their branches
with colour
They stand proud, tall and serene.

Under their majestic canopy
Nature's magic is beginning to show
Colour is gradually being applied
And the glorious picture
begins to grow.

Like an artist with her paintbrush
Each stroke is made with such care
Until each flower is completed
And is ready to face life's glare.

The Bluebells form a carpet
Of the deepest shade of blue
Can anything be as beautiful
As you take in this wondrous view.

In woodland, forest or glade
You will find their purple hue
How it gladdens your heart
And lifts your spirit too.

Buttercups and Dandelions
The humble Daisy as well
All adding more brilliant colour
To captivate us in the season's spell.

The Birds are singing merrily
Amongst the blossom on the trees
As we listen to the buzzing
Of the busy, busy bees.

Nature is at its most stunning
Now the sun has warmed the earth
Don't miss out on Spring's glory
And give thanks for its rebirth.

We've all been in lockdown so long
And now some restrictions are lifted
Take a walk round our countryside

.....safely
And see with what
we have been gifted.

News from the Cowdray Estate

Jonathan Russell, CEO



Regenerative Agriculture at Cowdray

At Cowdray, holistic management is key to the Estate's ethos and at the heart of this is an environmentally focussed approach to looking after the land. In recent years Cowdray has embraced Regenerative Agriculture. The aim of Regenerative Agriculture is to put in place practices that serve to regenerate or materially improve the underlying soil ecosystem as well as the wider biodiversity of farmed land.

“Regenerative Agriculture is a buzzword in farming at the moment - the potential is massively exciting,” said David Ulliyott, Cowdray Farm Manager. “We have been following the basic principles of Regenerative Agriculture for about two years now, but we are still at the start of a long journey which certainly has had its successes and its knockbacks. We are particularly determined to reduce reliance on any synthetic inputs. “

There are four main principles to Regenerative Agriculture. The first is to improve functional soil health and biodiversity. This is the core part of regenerative practice that runs through all elements of the system. As cultivations are reduced or changed, crop root mass and nutrients are left behind, more organic matter is applied, and the use of synthetic inputs is reduced, so soil health improves. At Cowdray, full utilisation is made of the organic manures that are produced in the dairy. Manure is spread on the fields, which in turn helps to improve soil health. The dairy is being integrated into the wider business plan and organic manures from the dairy are seen as a resource as opposed to a byproduct. Soil health is also key to helping the land cope with extreme weather conditions, which are witnessed more and more. David said: “As we progress with Regenerative Agriculture, improvements in the soil conditions will



Multi-species crop cover on a Cowdray farm

help the land cope with unpredictable weather patterns. Through improved filtration and soil quality the land is better placed to cope with extreme rainfall or long periods without rainfall.”

The next key pillar is maximising green cover. At Cowdray, a concerted effort was made this year to establish cover crops to ensure there was minimum bare ground or stubble left across the farm going into winter. The cover crops consisted of 72 hectares of mixed-species cover consisting of buckwheat, crimson clover, oats, linseed and oil radish, and 102 hectares of hybrid ryegrass. The aim of cover crops is to provide stabilisation to the soil, aid water retention and leave behind nutrients.

The third principle of Regenerative Agriculture is minimising cultivations and soil disturbance. This is a balance between minimising how much the soil is worked and providing effective deep cultivation to aid percolation and allow water to drain. A newly purchased low-disturbance sub soiler has been put to particularly good use at Bepton allowing the underlying soil

structure to be restored to aid drainage whilst not overly working the topsoil.

And the final principle is the reduction and minimisation of synthetic inputs. At Cowdray, there are many areas where we have already reduced synthetic inputs, but this continues to be a key area of focus for the longer term. The measures already in place, which will be expanded upon, include later Autumn drilling of cereal crops, introducing cover crops and using organic manures – the dairy at Cowdray produces an excellent source of slurry and manure that provides organic matter.

“Regenerative Agriculture is the future of farming”, David said. “Post Second World War the agriculture policy of Europe was to maximise food production. In a lot of ways conventional farming became reliant on man-made fertilisers and plant protection products.

“Regenerative Agriculture is a move back to the original principles of farming – look after the soil and the soil will reward you.”



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



1st Prize - £100	No 197	Judith Allen
2nd Prize - £75	No 77	Bob Lewis
2nd Prize - £75	No 214	Hilary Craig
3rd Prize—£50	No 39	Sharon Sawyer
3rd Prize—£50	No 45	Joanne Blackwell
3rd Prize—£50	No 110	David Pack

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.



Covid has hit National Garden Scheme really badly as visiting gardens has been stopped. To keep fundraising we have done some lovely garden visits virtually, but

sadly without the lovely cakes. But gradually we are coming back to normal.

You have to book a time slot on our website www.ngs.org.uk to find a garden. That means our garden owners can stay safe. Our leaflets are now slimmed down to save costs, but the beautiful gardens are there waiting to welcome you.

Durford Abbey Barn, Petersfield GU31 5AU is opening on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June from 1.30-5.30pm. On the same weekend, Lordington House PO18 9DX near Chichester is open from 1.30-4.30pm. It is worth going to see their guinea fowl if the fox hasn't got there first. Fittleworth House RH20 1JH is doing their regular once weekly on Wednesday afternoons. They are loving the booking system as they can talk to everyone. Go to Pest Cottage in Carron Lane GU29 9LF on Friday 11th and Sunday 13th June from 2.00 – 6.00pm. It was originally situated on the outskirts of town because of the plague, but now it is safely Covid free. It is one of our most eco-friendly gardens. Here in Midhurst, 54 Elmleigh GU29 9HA is opening on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June. It is an amazing urban garden crammed with interest.

But check out other gardens that are getting ready to welcome you. More and more we are being told how beneficial gardens and nature are, so what better way to enjoy with someone else doing the hard work!

Patty Christie
Regional Co-ordinator
Mobile 07951 071019



General Knowledge Quiz

Compiled by Carole Sawyer

1. What does “www” stand for in a website browser?
2. What geometric shape is generally used for stop signs?
3. What is Cynophobia?
4. Which is the only edible food that never goes bad?
5. What famous US festival hosted over 350,000 fans in 1969?
6. What is the collective noun for a group of giraffes?
7. What is David Schwimmer’s character in Friends called?
8. Which year was the Premier League founded?
9. Who directed the film Psycho?
10. What type of animal is a Flemish Giant?
11. Which Central American country has a name which translates to English as “The Saviour”?
12. Who has won more tennis grand slam titles, Venus or Serena Williams?
13. The plant Nicotiana Tabacum is more commonly known by what name?
14. Which First Lady of Argentina did Madonna play in Evita?
15. What does the French fashion term “pret a porter” translate to in English?
16. What spice is made from the seeds of the plant whose leaves are called cilantro?
17. According to the proverb, how do still waters run?
18. If it rains on St Swithin’s Day, how many days is it supposed to rain?
19. Which country touches the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal?
20. Which county gives its name to a horse known as a Punch?

Answers on page 24

The editors welcome contributions from readers, as well as your comments and suggestions. Do you have a family event to announce? Any nature notes? A nice seasonal photograph? We would like to hear from you. The deadline is Tuesday 15 June.

easebourne.united@gmail.com



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

Park Plans

The sculptures continue to be carved and we understand that they should be completed soon. Once they are finished, a tidy-up of that corner of the Park will be undertaken. In October or November, we hope to plant a small orchard of fruit trees in this area of the Park, producing wonderful colourful blossom in the Spring. At the same time, the ambition is to plant hundreds of daffodils in the Park thus ensuring a splash of colour next March and April. We may need some volunteers to assist - more of which later in the year. Plans continue to develop on the creation of amphitheatre style seating next to The Roundhouse. We are also at the early stages of investigating an alternative full access entrance to the Park from Wheelbarrow Castle and the possibility of toilet facilities. At the moment, we would not expect these projects will come to fruition until 2022 at the earliest, when funding has been established and planning consent granted.

Picnic-in-the-Park 2021.

As the UK becomes ever more successful in mitigating the worst effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, we foresee the opportunity to hold another Picnic-in-the-Park, possibly in September before the schools



return. Plans are in their early days, but we are seeking a suitable date and when we have done so, will advertise widely around Easebourne Parish. This will be the first opportunity to use The Roundhouse for community live entertainment.

Park Security.

As the summer evenings lengthen, we are seeing more people using the Park. Thankfully, there has been no recurrence of the mindless vandalism and criminal damage to the Park since the night of 19/20 March. The Parish Council has increased security patrols and increased electronic surveillance of the Park in response to those events. However, it needs all of us to keep a watchful eye over our cherished Park. Accordingly, if you see any anti-social behaviour, please firstly report it to Pro-Tec Security on 01730 810001 or 07795 203 248, or alternatively, the Cowdray

Security Team on 07730 096270, or finally call PC Dave Phillips, the Neighbourhood Youth Officer on 07776 490067. Of course, if needed, 999 is available in an emergency.

Bring on a long, hot Summer in Easebourne Park!



Try Croquet, a game of skill, tactics and fun that is good for your health and wellbeing. Come and join us on one of our Taster Days. We provide everything you need to take part in this popular outdoor activity. Free tuition sessions are run every week by our experienced and friendly team.

Contact Alan on 01798 813563 or alanandanne@talk21.co.uk
Or visit www.rothervalleycroquet.co.uk



The 2021 Petworth Festival 14-31 July

Building on the success of previous years the Petworth team has put together a wonderfully varied series of events ranging from the classical virtuosity of pianists **Isata Kanneh-Mason** and **Imogen Cooper** and musician-of-the-moment, saxophonist **Jess Gillam**, to the **music of Paul Simon**, stomping blues in the hands of **The Blues Band** with its evergreen front man Paul Jones, and top author/comedian **Adam Kay**, whose show *This is going to hurt* has already been seen in London's West End.

'Things are looking very hopeful for this coming year as we speak' says Artistic Director Stewart Collins, 'and unless things divert from the official roadmap, we are genuinely anticipating 17 days of performance that will look very much like recent festivals – if not even better! Having said that we are taking every possible measure to ensure that audiences will feel comfortable after the-year-like-no-other we are emerging from, but the message is that the doors are open, you are very welcome and the incredible joys of live performance and live music making are just weeks away.'

The full programme of 40 events will be announced on 18 May and the box office opens on 15 June. Keep up to date at www.petworthfestival.org.uk

PETWORTH
FESTIVAL

2021

Petworth Festival

Wednesday 14 –
Saturday 31 July*

Highlights include

ADAM KAY

THE BLUES BAND

CHINEKE!

CHRISTIAN LINDBERG

EMMA JOHNSON

IMOGEN COOPER

ISATA KANNEH-MASON

JESS GILLAM

MARK PADMORE

SUSAN BULLOCK

And many more...

Main image: Jess Gillam
(photo: Robin Clewley)

BOX OFFICE OPENS 15 JUNE - TICKETS AND FURTHER DETAILS AT

www.petworthfestival.org.uk



*Subject to Government Regulations

Listed Buildings in Easebourne—Snowhill

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

Listed 18.06.59, Grade II

Listing NGR: SU8946722640

Now flats. Stone rubble with ashlar quoins, red brick dressings and stringcourse. Tiled roof. Casement windows. C19 gabled addition at west end. Two storeys. Five windows.



Snowhill is one of the larger listed properties in Easebourne. The 1911 Census records it as having 11 rooms. A kitchen was to be counted as a room, but not a scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom nor a warehouse, office or shop. Some residents have been:

William John Philips was resident at Snowhill in 1878. He was born in Petworth 1817. The 1851 Census records him as being a Surveyor of Taxes for the Inland Revenue residing in Newcastle under Lyme. It was noted that at age 34 he was a widower. Marrying his second wife in May 1857, his job with the Inland Revenue took him throughout the country; his children being

born in Brighton, Kensington and Hammer-smith where in 1871 he had become an Inspector at the Inland Revenue. By the time of the 1881 Census, he had returned to this area, residing in Easebourne, and had become a Retired Inland Revenue Officer. He died in September 1886.

Ivor Richards was resident at Snowhill in 1890. He and his older sister, Emma, had both been born in Terwick. Ivor had studied at Oriel College, Oxford and at the time of the 1901 Census he had moved to St Martin in the Fields, London and was working as a Clerk in the General Post Office.

Continued on p. 16

Snippets from a Gardener's Diary by John Humphris



Growing Cherries and Rhubarb

I was asked the other day about forcing rhubarb, and almost immediately another question on pruning cherries and other stone fruits.

Growing cherries well is not easy. Most gardeners I have spoken to have old specimens already in their garden, usually neglected, because, particularly the sweet cherry, being very vigorous, it is difficult to prune correctly. When to prune is critical with all stone fruits including plums. They should not be pruned in the winter dormant period because of the danger of bacterial canker and silver leaf disease. Early summer through to July is the best time, and reducing the number of shoots by a third is a good rule of thumb, and also pinching out the tips from the very strong annual shoots

Many large gardens with a walled garden have them growing trained on a south/west facing wall. The shelter is important for cherries being early flowering, and they often do not pollinate well in a cold wet spring. There are cherries available on a semi dwarf rootstock that are also self fertile, and for anyone keen to have success with them buying in new stock is well worthwhile. This is true especially if you have the ideal site, on good soil and not in a frost pocket. Also, if you are prepared to go to the trouble of protecting them from spring frost and from birds when the crop is ripening, good crops can be grown, but, and there is often a but,

consider if it is worthwhile to go to all that trouble.

Acid cherries are easier to grow well being not so vigorous, and they tolerate a wider range of conditions. For those that like to have fruit to eat straight from the tree these are not for you, but the fruit is ideal for cooking. Pruning is similar to the sweet cherries and often with the advantage that they do not need pruning so regularly.

This is a good time of year to talk about forcing rhubarb and to check on how well your plants are looking at the moment. Very often, as they are rich feeders, plants become quite starved. Clean up the old leaves and make sure they are weed free for a good area around your plants. Feed with a general fertilizer and give them a good soak followed by a mulch of manure or compost. By the autumn your plants will be growing strongly and you can check for the best crowns to force - have available a forcing pot or some other container with a removable top. The crowns now need exposure to frost or a good long cold spell before covering. Usually in an average year the beginning of February is a good time. Place the pot over the crown and check weekly for the new growth. Some growers put straw in the pot to warm things up more quickly, but it is important to wait until the leaves are close to the top before picking. This will give you the maximum length of bright pink new shoots which are much tastier when cooked and a few weeks earlier than the rest of the crop.



Paeonia 'Rock's Variety'

Plant of the Month—Paeonia suffruticosa 'Rock's Variety'. I have shown this before and show it again to encourage readers to buy one if they get the chance. It makes a large shrub with attractive foliage and enormous blooms, opening lilac and gradually fading to white with yellow stamens.

Paeonia mlokosewitschii or 'Molly the Witch' as is commonly known. This is in flower at the moment mid May. I raised it from seed about five years ago. (Beth Chatto have them for sale at £20 and five years old.) it is a plant of exceptional beauty and although long lived it is at its best in flower for only a short time.

John Humphris

Chairman, Easebourne Garden & Allotment Society
01730 810052

Snowhill *continued from p. 14*

Emma Richards, his sister, had been resident in Easebourne since 1891 but is noted as being the private resident at Snowhill in 1899. Living with Emma during this time were her nieces Barbara (6 yrs) and Mary (2 yrs) who had both been born in Sitapour (Bengal, India). Emma's sister, Blanche, married Henry Butts in 1884. Henry worked in various legal capacities in India. In the aftermath of the Indian Mutiny of 1858, there was a re-organisation of Indian finances and as the Official Settlement Officer in 1871, Henry was the author of the "Report of the Land Revenue Settle-

ment of the Lucknow District". In 1892 he became the District and Sessions Judge for Faizabad. Unfortunately, Emma's sister, died on 28 December 1888 after giving birth to her daughter Mary. As Emma's nieces were resident with her according to the 1901 census, it might be assumed that Emma was looking after the children whilst her brother-in-law worked in India.

Henry Butts retired in 1893 and returned to live in Easebourne in 1901 and became a Justice of the Peace for Sussex. On the night of the 1911 census both his daughters (Barbara and Mary) were staying with him. Henry died in Epsom aged 85.

Adonis Blue

by Michael Blencowe,

Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

On Sussex Wildlife Trust's Malling Down nature reserve just fifteen minutes' walk from the centre of Lewes, something is stirring. Something rather beautiful. Something rather... blue.

The Adonis Blue must be in with a good chance of being crowned our most beautiful butterfly. The male's dazzling, electric blue wings are an insult to all other butterfly species who consider themselves blue. Believe me - you haven't experienced blue until you've watched a male Adonis Blue fly past. And, like many other famous Lewes residents, our Adonis Blues also have a colourful and somewhat odd life history.

During the larval stage of its life cycle, the Adonis Blue caterpillar exudes a sugary sweet secretion and, amazingly, sings an enticing siren's song. This drives local ants into a frenzy and they fall under its spell. With its sugar-drunk, loved-up ant admirers in tow, the caterpillar cruises the Lewes Downs with the ants protecting it against parasites and predators. Each evening, when the caterpillar retreats to the soil, the ants bury it – effectively tucking it in for the night. It's amazing what devotion you can get around these parts in return for a drink and a song.

When it's time for the caterpillar to pupate, the ants stand guard over the chrysalis too in an underground chamber, and when the adult butterfly emerges they escort it to the surface. Without so much as a thank you for their loyalty, the butterfly unfurls its wings and deserts

them for the skies above – no doubt leaving the ants wondering how they're going to explain themselves to the queen when they get home.

The existence of this wonderful butterfly is only made possible due to the Sussex Wildlife Trust's careful management of Malling Down. The Trust's rare breed sheep, which you can see from Lewes High Street, graze the reserve to ensure the correct habitat is maintained for this rare species. An important factor in the Adonis Blue's life cycle is heat, and if the grass here gets too tall the temperature at ground level drops. Without the grazing management, the fantastic downland habitat would disappear, along with all the amazing species that depend on it.



www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage.



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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**

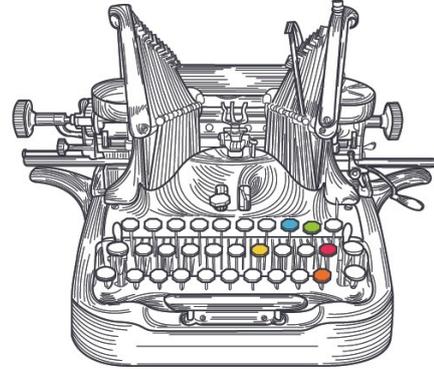


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On 15 April we had our Annual General Meeting, this year by Zoom. The committee of seven members was all re-elected for another year. Following the Treasurer's report, it was decided that there will be a ZERO membership fee this year. Registration of your membership is still essential though – send me an email if you wish to join or re-join

We get several requests each year from local residents checking if they can forage on the Common or collect firewood. The fact is that the Common is owned by the Cowdray Estate and the last person with Commoner's rights to graze animals or gather materials was in the 1950's. It should also be noted that decaying wood is part of the essential ecosystem of the area which we are trying to maintain.

On the Common, Murray has spotted Bullfinches singing, Marsh Tits,



Friends Of Midhurst Common

Treecreepers, Green Woodpeckers and Nuthatches. Jean Hicks reported on the need to get back onto the heathland area to remove the invasive conifer and birch which had hardly been touched last year because of the COVID restrictions

We are really pleased to say that we have very good and supportive relationships with the Cowdray Estate and South Downs National Park Authority. In the assumption that COVID restrictions are according to plan, the next Heath Team work days will be Wed 9 June and Fri 25 June – let us know if you would like to join us

Andrew Mitchell – Chairman

www.friendsofmidhurstcommon.co.uk



News from The Midhurst Society

Talk on Thursday, 24th June at 7.00pm at the Memorial Hall, Midhurst

Ian Gledhill returns to take us away from it all on a summer evening trip to San Francisco in a live presentation. Please check our website in case it is necessary to change the venue.

www.midhurstsociety.org.uk



Spreading Joy – Reading for Pleasure at Midhurst Rother College

Reading for pleasure has always been promoted at Midhurst Rother College and never more so than during the past year when it was vital to keep students reading. We all know that if you want your child to be brilliant, you should read to them when they are young and if you want them to be outstanding encourage them to keep on reading.

During lockdown the online library showed its true value. Students who could not access books from the actual school library or buy them were able to choose from thousands of titles, to read on any device. The stock includes audio-books for those who prefer to listen to a story. This service is still there for every student, making books truly available to all.



This photo shows our paired reading groups in action. These take place during tutor time twice a week. A buddy system is used to encourage our Year 7 students to read aloud and engage with books. Each student is paired with a Sixth Form volunteer who gives up his or her time to help. As a result, reading sessions are a treat where bonds are formed between year groups. Year 7 students make wonderful progress and gain in confidence nurtured by their Year 12 reading buddy.

The Learning Resource Centre Manager circulates links to author events, free books, radio podcasts and organisations that support the mental health of young people, through our website. This information can be seen on the MRC website under Library: Find Time to Read. All this and more helps keep reading strong and current in the school. During the pandemic a great deal was learnt about promoting reading online that will help to carry young readers forward, stronger and more resilient, into the new school year.



The Learning Resource Centre at MRC

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MIDHURST FOODBANK

The foodbank in Midhurst continues to be busy. To date, we have carried out 143 deliveries this year, feeding 414 individuals. The local area foodbanks (Midhurst, Petworth, Chichester and Selsey) have fed a total of 2601 individuals since the beginning of the year.

All foodbanks depend entirely on donations for the supplies they use. We, in Midhurst, are very fortunate to have a very generous community. The supermarkets in the town both have donation baskets and also Nationwide and Boots. Lodsworth Larder also donate. In addition, the churches in the town all have places where food donations can be left. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who collect from these sites every week. The food is then taken to the warehouse where the volunteers weigh all bags and check that they are in date before putting them on the shelves ready for distribution. We also have individuals who bring

donations to the warehouse on Tuesday mornings as well as book groups, churches and schools who regularly collect for us. We have potatoes donated by a local farmer and eggs funded by a local donor. If our donations are insufficient to meet the needs of our clients, we are able to order supplies from Chichester Foodbank warehouse.

If you would like to support our work, you can either donate goods or money. All cash/cheques given are paid into a bank account held by Chichester District foodbank and used specifically for Midhurst. Details of ways of donating can be found on the Chichester Foodbank website:

chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk, give help, save money. In addition to the weekly deliveries, the school lunch box initiative has to be financed. Every little helps!

Liz Willing, Midhurst Coordinator

General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. World Wide Web
2. Octagon
3. Fear of dogs
4. Honey
5. Woodstock
6. A tower
7. Ross Geller
8. 1992
9. Alfred Hitchcock
10. Rabbit
11. El Salvador
12. Serena Williams
13. Tobacco plant
14. Eva Peron
15. Ready to wear
16. Coriander
17. Deep
18. Forty
19. India
20. Suffolk

Easebourne Primary School



Now that the summer term is in full swing, school feels very busy, with lots going on! We are very fortunate to have a supportive parent body. Recently, two parents have raised money for the school. Perfect Motion Physio raised an amazing £455 through an Easter Monday Pilates fundraising session. This led to a similar event - an Energising Hypnosis Fundraiser from Soelie of South Downs Hypnotherapy - which raised £155. Thanks to further parental support from Kathryn Bishop, our large flowerbed at the front of the school is looking fantastic.

We have also begun to welcome back those volunteers whose situations make a return to school a comfortable option, and it is lovely to feel further life being breathed into the school. Mindful of the impact of COVID, our SENDCo, Gemma Ralph, has recently put together a webinar, 'Anxiety, helping our children to cope', to support parents at home. I have mentioned our Tight Writes before – a fortnightly challenge to write about a picture in less than 50 words. Tight Write #47 was different in that a staff challenge was added. Ten of us competed to write about a fascinating image and our Year 6 pupils discussed and decided which they felt were the best! Miss Glanville's entry

was placed third, Mrs Daley's was second and Miss Lunskey's was first with this lovely entry which, very unusually, was in the form of a poem.

*Wind stirs grass atop the hill,
For a moment, the world stands still...
One brave knight, lance in hand
Prepares to defend her sacred land.
As her foes draw ever nearer,
Her dread becomes ever clearer.
One last breath; clean sweet air
She cannot win if she does not dare.*

The school has been focused on progressing through the Eco-Schools award system and our Eco-Coordinator, Jacky Clipston, will write with an update in a future issue, but I can give a taste of some of the environmental initiatives that have been taking place.

With so much happening outside in nature at this time of the year, we have started a nature table, one of the oldest primary school ideas in the book. It's in its infancy and definitely evolving but children are enjoying bringing in findings from their garden. It's also ephemeral, by its very nature; as items are added, so other items will be removed, often because their

condition has inevitably deteriorated. What is lovely to see is children looking closely at nature indoors and discussing it together.

Thanks to a donation of an old bird feeding station for our courtyard, along with feeders and bird food from various sources, we now have the potential to attract birds



into the centre of the school and we already have one regular visitor, a pied wagtail.

Meanwhile, Hedgehogs Class, spurred on by a visit from Graham, a local man who has looked after rescue hedgehogs for years, and his hedgehog friends, have adopted a hedgehog from the Wildlife Trust. They will be receiving a cuddly toy, information and stickers to help them remember how to look after nature. Further up the school, 3H wrote letters to all of our parents and carers about reducing single-use plastic in lunchboxes at school.

In music this term, the children are enjoying learning to play gamelan instruments. Gamelan is the traditional ensemble music of Java and Bali in Indonesia and is played at ceremonies at village festivals and to accompany dance. The children have to show the same care and respect that is given to gamelan instruments in Indonesia and understand that it is culturally rude to play gamelan while wearing their shoes and that they

should not step over any of the instruments.

Back in April, Dragonflies Class celebrated St George's Day – they dressed up as kings, knights, princesses and dragons and had lots of exciting activities to do throughout the day. They could make clay dragons and split pin knights, decorate shields, and use their pencil control to draw scales on their dragons. Playtimes were exciting with lots of roleplaying, rescuing princesses and slaying dragons.

St George is the best knight because he killed the dragon and saved the princess!

(Louis)

Finally, our KS2 classes are enjoying tuning in every Monday to an online stimulus lesson given by Pie Corbett, children's author, which sets up the learning in writing for the rest of the week. The first few weeks of the term were given over to poetry and the children have produced some powerful writing which we hope to gather together as part of a celebration of writing across the school at the end of the year.

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