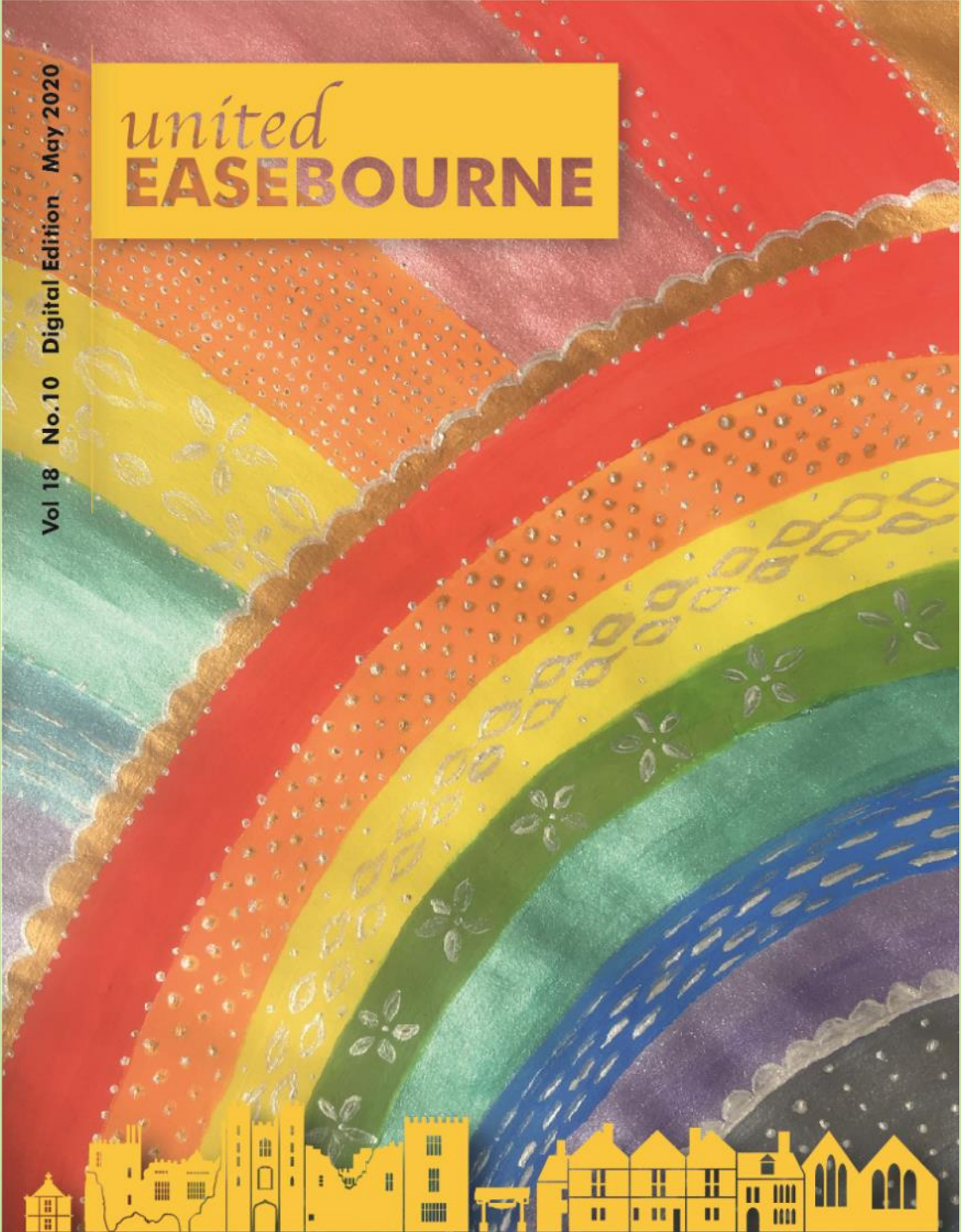


Vol 18 No.10 Digital Edition May 2020

united **EASEBOURNE**



The magazine of Easebourne village and St Mary's Church

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Thanks to Lisa Perry for creating
the beautiful 'rainbow' cover.

**Lockdown thoughts
from a Parish Councillor**
by Carole Cantlon



It's been over a month now since the Government introduced lockdown across the country. It's been a challenging time but we've also seen the Easebourne and Midhurst community operating at its best.

We've seen neighbours, friends and family supporting those who have had to self isolate.

We've seen the creation of the Midhurst Angels. This brilliant group of volunteers is helping people who are vulnerable and self-isolating across Easebourne, Midhurst and surrounding villages with chats, essential shopping deliveries and prescription collections. They've built a website where you can also find out which local shops and businesses are taking food orders for collection and/or delivery. You can find them at midhurstangels.co.uk or you can call them on 07538 839703.

We've seen local shops in Easebourne and Midhurst responding to the changing needs of people.

We've seen the Church, although the building is locked, remaining open to its congregation through social media, its website, email and phone.

We've seen people, in the vast majority, responding to lockdown requirements.

And, of course, we've applauded all the key workers, whether in the NHS, care, emergency services, local council services, shops, delivery firms, to name but a few! It's been lovely to take part in the Thursday evening 'Clap for the NHS' and to hear the sound of clapping, cheering and pots and pans ringing out in the village.

Parish Council changes:

We've postponed our annual litter pick and green volunteer sessions, which we hope to resume as and when the lockdown eases.

The joint VE Day 75th Anniversary Event with Midhurst Town Council, Cowdray Heritage Trust and Royal British Legion should have taken place on Friday 8th May. This has been postponed but we now invite you to commemorate this important date with an at-home picnic. You can read all the details in the attached poster.

We've had to 'rope off' the play equipment in Easebourne Park, but

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

you are still able to enjoy a walk round our special space, maintaining social distancing guidelines, of course. Work on the next stage of the park's development has continued after a short break (adhering to social distancing guidelines) and the wooden shelter is taking great shape. It's a wonderful structure and we look forward to an official opening ceremony at the right time.

Over the next few days you should receive a leaflet from Midhurst Town Council and Easebourne Parish Council about our response to COVID-19 and, in particular, sharing useful

contacts and information.

The Parish Council's monthly Planning and Finance meetings are now taking place by email. Our next full meeting is planned for 13th May and will take place virtually using online video links. If there is anything you wish to raise, please contact our Parish Clerk.

Please note that our Annual Village Meeting planned for the 27th May will no longer take place. We will review the Government guidelines during May to decide when Public meetings can be held once again.

Stay safe.

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

The new shelter under construction





Midhurst and Easebourne! You are invited to have a

STAY AT HOME PARTY!

Friday 8th May 2020



Decorate your house
red, white and blue



Enjoy a picnic in your
garden with good food and
games



Commemorate the
anniversary of Victory in
Europe with your family

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

Stay Home, Stay Safe



COWDRAY



EASEBOURNE
Parish Council

Easebourne Village Shop and Post Office

We were all looking forward to the reopening of the village Post Office, but it's now been postponed several times and the last we heard it should have been up and running in June. But because of lockdown there will be a further delay because they are not able to do the onsite training necessary with the restrictions of social distancing.

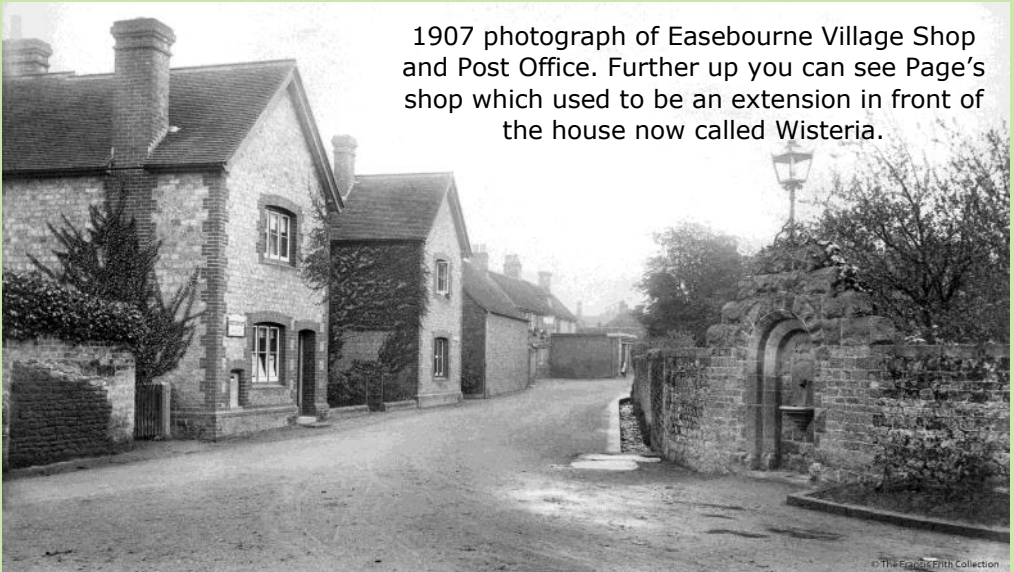
Kirisha and Vicky Mahadevan, the owners, told us that they are busier than ever in the shop during the Coronavirus emergency, working from 8.00am to 7.00pm seven days a week. (They do close at 2.00pm on Sundays.) Kirisha is mostly in the shop on her own while looking after their son Vikish, 5½, who has to do his

schoolwork and play at the back of the shop by himself while school is closed. Vicky is often away, helping a relative who has a shop in another village, but their friend Ben also lends a hand.

Kirisha told us that she is stocking the usual groceries, fruit and veg, newspapers, milk and eggs, and today she said she even has a supply of flour and yeast! They also have a good selection of wine and spirits and they do PayPoint. They keep some fresh meat in stock but if there is something you want give Kirisha a ring and she will try to get it in for you. The phone number in the shop is 858130.

Use it or lose it!

1907 photograph of Easebourne Village Shop and Post Office. Further up you can see Page's shop which used to be an extension in front of the house now called Wisteria.



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Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

We are all living through difficult and worrying times. The present situation we find ourselves in, is unprecedented; the spread of Covid 19 across the world has been swift and relentless – our prayers and thoughts go out to all those who have been greatly affected.

With our churches closed, life for me as a parish priest has been very odd. Not being able to celebrate Easter as would normally happen, was very weird – I hope you had a chance to find some form of worship online or on the BBC. As you will all know, as a priest I feed on personal contact – I love it on Sunday mornings greeting everyone; either stood in the road at Selham; balancing on the steps in the bell-tower at Lodsworth or just inside the door at Easebourne – for these moments I live! I also love gathering our communities of faith around the Holy Table – confessing our sins, hearing God's word, praying



for the world and sharing in bread and wine together. How we will celebrate when we can do that again in our churches!

Like you, at times, I have been frustrated – the initial panic buying; just how many rolls of toilet paper do people need? [See p. 46] I find social distancing hard; exasperated when the news shows people flouting the rules. I find the reporters on the daily news infuriating – asking strange questions and not listening to the answers!

But mostly I have been blessed. By hospital staff who work hard to treat the unwell. By shop keepers and workers, who have kept us fed. By bin

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

men and other people who support our local life. By volunteer groups set up across our country to help the vulnerable and weak. By tireless acts of love and kindness lived out in our communities. By all the people I see on my daily exercise who smile and say hello – the list can go on and on.

So I applaud you all – thank you for lifting my spirits. I pray for you all – that in a short time life can return to normal. My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones – please be assured, all those I have had

funerals with, that in due course, if needed, we will gather in church to give thanks for people's lives. And to my lovely wedding couples – your big day will happen, and we will celebrate your love for each other; it might just be what we all need!

Please stay in touch – please give me a ring if you need a chat. Please get in contact if you are in real need and please let us know if any especially need help.

May God bless us all.

Derek

Derek's online service—Sunday 19th April





*Under Church of England guidelines the three churches of our benefice are closed until further notice. If you go to **www.thepriorychurches.co.uk** you can find a link to Derek's regular lockdown services and blogs on YouTube.*

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

Winners in March draw

1st Prize - £100	No 175	David King
2nd Prize - £75	No 221	Gladys
Hardwick		
2nd Prize - £75	No 106	Philip Stringer
3rd Prize—£50	No 63	Ellen Wheeler
3rd Prize—£50	No 7	Pam Newbury
3rd Prize—£50	No 133	Caroline Nelson



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

Remote learning at Conifers



When we closed Conifers on 20th March the teachers were ready to spring into action and deliver lessons to the children using Google Classroom. The work continued and the children still earned stars and entries into the Good Work Book. Some children also learned new skills at home, including cooking for the family and ironing.



When we start the Summer term the teachers will start to deliver lessons using a live feed so that they can chat to the children and ensure that they are still making excellent progress. These are complicated times and here are a few tips for home learning:

- Work doesn't have to be perfect at all times. If you spot an error, encourage your child to look again at the work and correct using a purple (or similar) pen. Please try and avoid telling them that they have got it wrong.
- If you are unable to log on to a class meeting, please don't fret. There are many other things children can do and still be learning – a bug hunt in the garden, cooking, sorting out their rooms, pairing the socks from the laundry, playing shops or even making some instruments to play and writing a song!
- Children don't need to be occupied 24/7. Let them be bored. Given time they will create their own games. They may find an unexpected passion for knitting or design a wonderful Lego town.

- Pose questions to your children to encourage thinking 'out of the box'. E.g. how would you redesign the garden – we may have a budding Gertrude Jekyll or Capability Brown among us.
- Aim for tasks with no right or wrong outcome – even a cake that doesn't rise will be delicious!
- Please try to shield the younger children from the news.
- Aim for your child, no matter how old, to read to an adult once a day. This could be to a grandparent over Facetime.
- Practice times tables – the root of maths!



We are looking forward to opening the gates of Conifers very soon, but in the meantime we hope you all stay safe and well.

Emma Smyth, Head

Thanks to the NHS!



News from Easebourne Primary School



These are strange times for everybody and school is no different. I thought that readers might be interested, in this issue, to find out how the current situation has impacted on the primary school.

As I write this, it is the Friday before the summer term is due to 'begin' and we have been closed to almost all children for four weeks, the last two weeks of the spring term and the two weeks of the Easter holidays.

Over the month, apart from the two bank holidays, when we were fully closed, we have only had a handful of children in each day, generally the children of critical workers who are needed to do vital work.

Members of staff have been operating according to a rota, with two or three working with the children each day.

When we return, we plan to work, at least initially, in much the same way as we were doing before we closed for the Easter holiday. Class teachers, over the Easter holiday, have been working hard to prepare learning packs for the fortnight ahead, and teaching assistants have then come in to photocopy a set for each child.

A team of staff with gloves and sanitiser has then delivered these packs to the door of each child. From Monday, class teachers will send out a daily e-mail to families, looking

ahead to that day's learning, feeding back, lending the day a little structure and generally cheering everybody up! There are also additional materials on the school's virtual learning environment which children can dip into.

The staff have been brilliant and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them publicly, on behalf of all of our school families.

In theory, this is all great. But every one of us is currently subject to significant pressures and anxieties, and every one of our school families is being affected differently. There are the changes in social and working life and the sudden reorganisation needed to cope with children at home, the challenge of motivating and structuring learning time for the children, and understanding both what is expected from them and what it is reasonable and manageable to expect.

In addition, there are significant difficulties for families in organising access to the internet, affected not only by the number of devices in the household but also by the

number of adults and children who are trying to use them, not to mention the fact that the approach to learning has inevitably changed since parents were themselves at school.

Then, of course families are worrying about underlying health issues, within both the close family and the extended family, and are trying to follow guidance on how to keep safe. Families are also trying to manage sometimes very fragile finances with all the uncertainty, both short-term in providing for their family and long-term in terms of job security and what the future holds.

The long and the short of it is that we need, as teachers, to be realistic about what we can hope for from our children's formal learning in this period. Children will, with the support of their parents and remote support from their teachers, continue gently with their class learning, including reading, writing and maths, and many families are finding the daily structure that the learning packs we are offering is helpful.

But I suspect it will be the unexpected and informal learning that will be the most significant from this period – what it's like to spend so much time together, adjusting priorities as we reflect on the changing situation, feeling the pace of life slowing and horizons shrinking and the immediate environment, the here and now, being more noticed and valued as a result.

Parents have mentioned the unexpected pleasure in sharing household jobs with the children which they would never have done before like weeding the garden as a family and cooking together, and their children's surprising enjoyment of the huge increase in 'family time'. I hope that each of our school families finds that this difficult time offers up some treasures they will take forward with them.

On behalf of everybody at Easebourne Primary School, I wish you all well, keeping safe and finding some pleasure, however, simple, in each day.

Johnny Culley, head teacher

From the editors: We would love to hear from school children for the June issue. Please write to us and tell us how you are getting on with distance learning. Ask your parents to scan what you have written and email to easebourne.united@gmail.com. We will use your drawings and paintings when we have space. Please include your name, age, school and class.

Phone if you have any questions—Tel 816542. The deadline for the June issue is Friday 15th of May. Thank you!

Notes from some children

Sisters who go to Easebourne Primary School, Ava (aged 10, Foxes class) and Tula (aged 7, Squirrels class), have written about school at home:

It feels strange not being able to go to school but it's nice being able to see Mummy and Daddy more and we're enjoying home schooling so far.

We can see photos on the Easebourne School Moodle* and it's great to see everyone's work and the fun things our friends have been doing. We miss our friends but being able to chat to them on FaceTime and Zoom makes us happy.

And from their grandparents:

We feel so thankful to live in this wonderful place in the Downs - lots of places to walk nearby. We have been doing loads of gardening and this glorious weather has encouraged us to do more!

I have read bedtime stories to my grandchildren at 6.30 over FaceTime which has been so nice - great way to keep in touch and relieve a little pressure on their home schooling Mum!!

* Moodle is the school online system that assists with learning and interaction between the teachers and students.



Why the rainbows?

People have been putting the colourful pictures of rainbows on their windows to cheer up passers-by. The rainbows aim to make people smile and to offer a message of hope. Rainbows are used as a symbol of peace and hope as they often appear when the sun follows a heavy rainfall. They serve to remind us that there is hope and light to follow even after dark times. The current trend appears to have started in Italy but has also been adopted by the US, Canada and Spain, where people have adorned their windows and balconies with colourful pictures.



We have been collecting rainbows round the village lately:

**Some cheery rainbows
and thank you posters!**





Lockdown Blogs

We asked some of our readers to tell us how they've been occupying themselves during lockdown, and their thoughts on the pandemic.

Alison Davis, who lives at Bepton, often walks in Severals Wood. She spotted lots of colourfully painted hearts hung on branches throughout the woods. The editors walk on Midhurst Common and we also found lots. Such a cheerful sight!



Martin Dexter went on to the website of www.rotherhill.co.uk/. They are up and running online. Martin ordered this veg box and some garden supplies. You cannot browse in the garden centre but they are doing a very efficient click-and-collect service. The editors placed an order for sacks of compost and gro-bags. They phoned us back and gave us a time to go along to collect our goods. Such a welcome service!



Rosemary and Julian Cartwright are enjoying the peace of their garden with so few planes overhead and so little traffic. It's wonderful, they said, to sit in the garden and really hear the birds sing. Rosemary wanted to show you this delicate and very early clematis—one of the Alpina variety. This one called 'C. White Columbine'.

When asked for some words about life in this corner of Easebourne under the Covid shutdown there seemed little to say. My wife and I go shopping for food and that is about it. I worry about the shopping; she worries less. We are both nearer 80 than 70, an age of indeterminate frailty for the virus currently troubling the world. We follow government guidelines and hope it is enough. And while some of this is a worry the concerns are at times trivial. When will I get my next proper hair cut? Will I have to cut my own hair? Perhaps in answer to that question my sister-in-law sent me a video of a man cutting his long shaggy grey locks with a pair of sheep shears. It was how he always cut his hair, about once a year by the looks of it.

We spend a lot of time in our garden looking after our dwindling flock of Soay sheep, including three new lambs, trying to keep fencing and



paddocks up together, mowing, weeding, pruning and planting. Certainly Hollist Lane is quieter with less traffic. Voices can be heard as people walk and cycle by. We can chat to neighbours when they are out for some exercise. And hasn't the weather been wonderful for all that? At night, stars seem brighter. I don't think it's my imagination.

On Thursday evenings we join with unseen neighbours making a noise in support of the NHS and others like care workers, bus and train drivers doing essential services and volunteers taking the time to make a difference to so many lives. Some clap their appreciation or bang on pots. I blow a whistle that sounds like an old American train. I would love to have one of the klaxons from a WWII ship that went through a series of whoops when something good happened. The signal was uniquely British. It was also a signal of unity, the message that we are all in this together, doing our best, playing our part.

We are fortunate to be living here and thankful for the community spirit which exists in our corner of Easebourne.

Edward Fischer
Hollist Lane

Home Brewing

I've been making beer now for over 40 years. Not always successful, but most times agreeable. I started brewing while living in Farnborough, getting supplies from the Home Brew shop, which now has a warehouse on the Hawley Estate. Beer seemed the way forward and I collected CORONA (!) bottles because they have a good reusable screwtop lid.

After a few leaks, disasters, I went to Crown cork bottles, bought from the back doors of local pubs. A chance find by the side of the road?? I came across Grolsch swing top bottles, and have since switched entirely to swingtop. (I have several 100 new unused crown corks if anybody can use them.)

To brew your need, 2 x 25ltr plastic barrels, one with a tap fitted, (unless you can use a syphon), bottles and stoppers, and a warm environment. And a supply on malt and sugar.

I tried lager - it was OK; Guinness was too fizzy; barley wine - Oh My! Sometimes 3 to 4 pints a night! Very strong, but never a hangover. I now alternate between a strong Scottish bitter and a dark ale, which believe it or not, is flavoured with chocolate! Brewing 40 pints takes about a week. I bottle mine, charging all the bottles with a sugar solution. (I like fizzy beer.) It's then left in the bottles to clear - a warm environment again is best. Once cleared, it has to be poured carefully because if there's too much yeast sediment at the bottom, while not unpleasant, it will make the beer cloudy and your bowels active!

Roger Sked
Fox Road



Juggling life under lockdown

Life has definitely changed in the last month - I'm now working from home like everyone else at Hooli and it's going well. We have daily team meetings via zoom which really helps to keep us connected. It's a great way of catching up on what everyone's working on plus it's just nice to still be able to chat and see each other.

Our two girls have adjusted well to home schooling and Easebourne Primary School has been amazing at keeping parents updated. We receive daily emails from class teachers every morning which helps provide guidance and structure to each day plus the teachers are available at certain times via email if we get stuck! The school even put together an Easter activity booklet so all the children had things to do at home over the Easter holidays, and these were hand-delivered to each pupil by the teachers.

It's not just the girls who've had adjustments to make around home

schooling. My husband is also working from home so we now take it in turns to work and help the children with their school work. Some days are obviously harder than others and it's a whole new routine to get used to but we're enjoying the time together.

It's important to us that the girls get as much school work done as they can. But we also know that making sure they have time to play and have video calls with their friends is also essential to making the whole situation more enjoyable for them.

We're fortunate to live in a lovely village with beautiful surroundings so we can still go for walks together or spend time in the garden. Hopefully this gorgeous weather will continue too!

Stay safe everyone and look forward to the rainbow.

Lisa Perry
Hooli Designs

Some funnies from Jan Sayers—Mothers' Union

Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of some of those useless things hanging around the house. Bring your husbands.

A chap told us he had bought a couple of lovely gifts for his wife—a new belt and a new bag. 'Oh, she will be pleased', we said. 'Yes', he replied. 'And I hope the Hoover will work better'.

Finally—something we all know about. A senior moment. I made a list. I checked it twice. I left it at home...

'What is that bird doing?' I asked Tony. We were watching a blue tit at the very foot of our little Judas tree. We had agreed that we needed to remove some moss that had grown about 4 inches up the base – but now we had a little gardener doing it for us!

She (I assume it was a female) came back many times and flew off with a big green beard almost as big as she, until she had denuded the tree and she presumably had lined her nest somewhere over the fence.

She then started to take dog and cat fur which we put out in a little pot for that purpose, so now the beard was yellow (from Pippa the dog) or black (from Mowgli our cat). Eventually she must have finished her nest.



We now have a different pair of blue tits looking at our tit box. I hope they decide to stay. We had a pair last year but missed the grand exodus as we were away on holiday. That could be a bonus for staying put this year!

Keep safe, everyone!

Hilary Craig
Highfield Close

Our kids told us we need to get on Zoom. Well, we did it! And we have had a couple of really nice family get-togethers during lockdown. The first was while Gavin's daughter Sarah was visiting us from New Zealand. Even with the 13 hour time difference we met up with her husband and 10-year-old son in their house near Wellington, and with Gavin's son, wife and almost 4-year-old in Balham.

Then on Easter Sunday we had a big family meeting with my American family. My son, my brother, his son and family in California (-8 hours), including a brand new little great nephew; my niece and her family in Tuscon (-7 hours); my three sisters and their families in Michigan (-5 hours); my son in Fulham, and us (GST).



Tina and Gavin, editors

KerryType Limited

PRINT, DESIGN & COPY CENTRE

In line with Government advice KerryType sadly had to temporarily close on 24th March, something that in over 40 years we have never had to do. We felt it would have been impossible to adhere to safe social distancing as we are a customer-facing business. We are also not deemed as an essential business. Like most businesses in Midhurst and Easebourne we rely heavily on local customers and the community in providing us regular work. Most of that work has now come to a halt.

Donna and I are keeping ourselves busy having had the company phone line diverted to our home and regularly



Lexi, the KerryType dog

checking the emails so we can at least keep customers informed as to our current business situation. I have started to do all the jobs that you put off for 'another day', like painting the garden shed, cleaning the patio and, of course, gardening. Maintaining our campervan 'Nessie' in the hope that when travel

restrictions are lifted, we will be able to have a few weekends away. Donna has been busy cooking, baking, freezing, and reorganising cupboards.

We take our daily exercise round Tangmere, where we have lived for 29 years, with our Labrador Lexi. Keeping in contact with friends and family via social media and video calling, texting and emailing, looking out for vulnerable neighbours.

Plans for reopening KerryType will of course be based on the lifting of restrictions, and we very much look forward to working with the community as soon as is possible. On a personal note I very much hope that when we come out of these extremely challenging and difficult times society reflects and is more compassionate and tolerant towards all people.

Stay safe and see you soon.

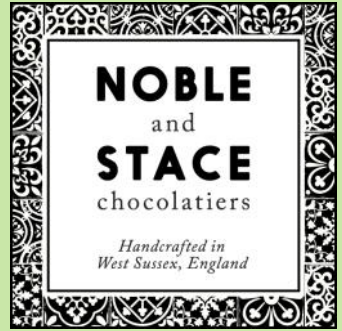
Darren & Donna Clarke

From the editors:

We are sorry not to be able to produce a printed magazine this month, especially for our many readers who are not on the internet. We hope you enjoy our more colourful digital edition. We look forward to Darren and Donna opening KerryType again. They give our magazine fantastic service.

Tina & Gavin

As a chocolatier, Easter is a very busy time of year and although this year was obviously different in many respects, it was still busy! Gone were the Easter Masterclasses and Easter Markets. Instead there were 'click & collect' requests from people in the surrounding villages and online orders from across the UK, from people wanting to send Easter chocolates to friends, family and loved ones that they couldn't be with. We also created a new limited edition 'Lockdown Tablet', although given the response I think it could become part of our Tablet range for a long time to come!



Mike Noble
of Noble & Stace, Chocolatiers

And here is a little poem from Noddy:

Among the Easter greetings we received, one was a childhood memory.
Noddy may not be in fashion but it brought a smile to our faces.

Happy Easter
Happy Spring
Happy happy
Everything



Making Face Masks

I have been making face masks for the last few weeks and giving them away. I have felt everything in between heroic and mad during this time. But is it a good idea? This is a really vexatious issue but I make them anyway because I do believe it to be a worthwhile activity and, as they say, every little helps.

The thing that prompted me to make masks from home was the fear that people with someone sick in their family would have no protection. If you are in lockdown and somehow or another, maybe whilst shopping, one of you catches the virus, then the rest of your household will likely catch it too. I did some research and what I read made me decide that having a mask, if properly and sensibly used was a good idea and would give better protection than no mask. I also discovered that a double layer of fabric, especially something like pillowcase fabric, is pretty good. I then started using fabric I found online which is less porous than woven fabric so the outside is made of that. Some I make from old stashes of fabric I have had for years. This is especially for people who want to make it clear that it is a DIY mask.

Some of the masks I and other local women have been making go to community nurses. I don't mind who has them, if they help to stop the spread of the virus, it's a good thing.

With careful handling, washed after every use, and a blasting with a hairdryer, it's better than no protection. But it's open to discussion and I do appreciate that some people prefer not to wear them.

I make mine from this pattern, mask 2 is easy

<https://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Cloth-Face-Mask/>

Jeanette Sutton



I've also been making masks. I bought a 100m roll of elastic—much more than I need. If you want some elastic for face masks, give me a ring on 816542. Tina, editor



How you can give to Midhurst Foodbank during the COVID 19 Crisis

We at Midhurst Foodbank, a satellite of The Chichester and District Foodbank run by The Trussell Trust, were preparing to send out food boxes to support local families during the Easter holidays. Owing to the Covid 19 crisis and the subsequent early closure of schools, these parcels went out a week earlier than planned and all had to be delivered as no face to face collections could be made at our base at St Anne's Hill.

As well as this, many of our Foodbank volunteers were prevented from helping due to age and health restrictions. But with the help of members of the Midhurst and Petworth Rotary Club and Midhurst Angels, a record number of 288 school lunch boxes were delivered to financially vulnerable families in our local area.

The Midhurst Foodbank is still giving help to those in need, and over the last two weeks, 15 food parcels have been delivered in our locality, supporting 39 people.

As we look ahead, we expect larger numbers to turn to the Foodbank for help. The people of Midhurst have been very generous with their donations deposited in baskets at Budgens, Tesco and Boots, and there is now a basket at the end of The Vicarage drive in June Lane.

Financial donations have also been made. See next page to find out how to donate. Recipients of help from the Foodbank have been so glad of the support in this time of crisis with many sending in text messages of grateful thanks. For help from the Midhurst Foodbank please phone: 07826 397732 or email sianwyn51@gmail.com.



How you can give to **Midhurst Foodbank** during the COVID 19 Crisis

Giving Food

Donations of food can be given at Tesco and Budgens in the baskets provided. There is also a collection basket in Boots for personal items. There is currently also a box located on the drive at the Vicarage on June Lane where you can drop donations. You can find a list of what is most needed on the website...

<https://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

You can donate food without leaving your home using Bankuet. They will buy and deliver the food directly to the warehouse in Chichester.

<https://www.bankuet.co.uk/chichester>



Giving Money

Financial donations are always appreciated. Midhurst Foodbank is one of the four foodbank centres that make up Chichester District Foodbank. As such, we share much in common, including employed staff, a central store and a bank account. Food is regularly supplied to Midhurst from the central store when Midhurst supplies are low. Your financial donation to Chichester District Foodbank will be used to feed people across the district and support the smooth running of the foodbank centrally.

If you feel strongly that you would like your donation to be limited to use in supporting the work of the Midhurst centre, then you are able to do so.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please make sure that you gift-aid your donation (allowing us to claim an additional 25% directly from the government at no cost to you).

You can donate money in the following ways...

- **Charity Checkout** – One-off or regular giving online, using your card. Gift-Aid option available. 'Message' option allows you to specify for Midhurst.
<https://chichesterdistrict.charitycheckout.co.uk/#1/>
- **Bank Transfer** – Sort code: 40-52-40 Account number: 00024991
Account name: Chichester District Foodbank
To Gift-Aid download and return the Gift-Aid form found at
<https://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/104/2018/05/New-Gift-Aid-Form.pdf>
To specify Midhurst put this in your reference at the point of transfer or email info@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk with the details of your transfer and your request.
- **Other ways** – Details about giving as you shop, legacies and fundraising can be found at <https://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives.



Snippets from a Gardener's Diary by John Humphris



At our last garden club meeting in March, our speaker unfortunately had his dates mixed up and did not arrive to give his talk. Just to fill in for this I gave an off-the-cuff talk on the history of Sutton Place and my time there as head gardener. We arrived there in September 1983 and remained until my retirement in April 2002. This was arguably the most intensive period for the house and its gardens in its history, and having found an article written in 1998 about this history and its later developments I thought it might be interesting to include it in this month's issue.

A Short History of Sutton Place Estate and Gardens

by John Humphris

Edward the Confessor, last of the Anglo-Saxon Kings, had a hunting lodge on the estate where St Edwards Catholic Church, built in 1875, now stands. He hunted frequently and heard Mass daily. He died in 1066 and a well in the churchyard marks the site. During the Middle Ages the Manor which grew up near the well remained Crown property. In the early 1500's the Manor came into the possession of Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII. She died in 1509 leaving the Manor to her grandson Henry VIII.

One of Henry VIII's most favoured courtiers, Sir Richard Weston, was given the estate as a royal gift about 1520, and Sir Richard decided to build a completely new home on a site half a mile to the south of the old one, and Sutton Place,

one of our most important Tudor Manor Houses, was born. It was in the unfortified style built of brick and terracotta with the building work carried out by Italian craftsmen brought over from Italy until its completion.

It was to become the home to the Weston family for almost 400 years, but unfortunately, due to their Catholic faith and being on the losing side in the Civil War, the family wealth gradually diminished. Land was taken away as the centuries went by until the estate was reduced to its present size of around 1,000 acres. There was also a disastrous fire in the 1560's shortly after a visit by Queen Elizabeth I. This started in the gatehouse, an enormous structure which enclosed the north courtyard, and spread to the east wing doing consid-



erable damage. Eventually in the 18th Century the gatehouse was pulled down leaving the house as it is seen today.

Although let to various tenants at the beginning of the last century the house still remained in the hands of the family. But what proved to be the final tenancy began in 1900 when Lord and Lady Northcliffe moved in. A keen gardener, Lady Northcliffe brought in Gertrude Jekyll to advise on the garden, which at that time only consisted of the west walled garden, built at the same time as the house. This has a small Tudor Garden at one end which Gertrude Jekyll redesigned, adding a number of new flower borders on the south front of the house. The major development was the extension to the lawn on the south side. This became known as the 'Great Lawn' covering an area of some four acres, and was enclosed and formalized with Yew buttressed hedges.

Behind the hedges was a second area, almost as large, where Lady Northcliffe planted thousands of daffodils, known as the 'Fields of the Cloth of Gold' after a meeting of Henry VIII and the King of France at the field of that name.

In 1919 the estate was sold for the very first time in its history and bought by the Duke of Sutherland. The family were great entertainers and in the period between the two world wars, Sutton Place was a regular visiting place for the rich and famous. Many members of the royal family came to stay including Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson who were close friends. Also a keen gardener, the Duchess continued to develop the garden preserving the Gertrude Jekyll borders and developing the newly cleared woodland with plantings of trees and shrubs. The war years signified considerable change, and in the 1950's the estate was purchased from the Duke by J Paul Getty who had visited and stayed with the Duke and Duchess on a number of occasions. He lived in the house until his death in 1976. There is a well known story of J Paul Getty installing a pay phone for his guests when he realized how much international phone calls were costing him.

A less well known story was told to me in person by the head gardener in J Paul Getty's time. In the walled garden at Sutton Place there were kennels which amongst other animals housed a pet

lion. J Paul Getty was accustomed to take the lion for a walk on the estate. On one occasion he had walked down the South Drive to the river and was close to the head gardener's cottage when it began to rain. He decided to seek shelter and duly knocked on his door. The gardener recounted that the rain persisted and Mr Getty asked for a lift back to the main house. They set off with Mr Getty in the front passenger seat and the lion reclining on the back seat, breathing down the gardener's neck. Mr Getty happened to remark on the smallness of the car, to which the gardener replied 'Well, Mr Getty, we can't all afford to own a Cadillac'. For about four years after his death, Getty Oil kept an office on the estate with the

staff being much reduced and most of the flower and vegetable garden areas were grassed over.

In 1980 Getty Oil decided to sell the estate, and it was bought by a second American, Stanley Seeger. The contrast with J Paul Getty could not have been greater. Stanley Seeger had a fine art collection displayed in the house, with a regular series of concerts performed by some of the finest artists in the world. He also had a great enthusiasm for the landscape and environment. He brought in Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe to produce a great new landscape scheme for the estate and gardens, and a period of feverish activity began.

A new 13-acre lake was built on the field adjoining the north front of the house. A second walled garden was also built to balance with the existing 16th century walled garden to the west of the house. The south walk was redesigned with the surreal garden and its giant abstract sculpture by Ben Nicholson another addition. Within two years most of the hard landscaping had been completed with much of the planting to follow carried out by contractors.

There was a sudden realization that all this intense activity had been carried out by outside organizations with few in-house staff available to carry out essential day to day work. As is the nature of



landscape contactors the planting, although carried to Susan Jellicoe's design, included considerably more plants than required and within a year it became a dense jungle.

Although there were a number of estate workers, most of the gardeners had either retired or left, and the next stage of the garden development was on a knife edge. This was the stage when I was appointed as head gardener, to try and bring some kind of order from the chaos. The first problem was a lack of skilled gardeners. I had mostly inherited estate workers and the cowman who had been made redundant but proved to be an excellent vegetable grower. Most importantly we needed an assistant head gardener; when Martin Ives was appointed he was the first of a number of professional gardeners we added to the team over the next few years. The range of plants put into each bed was extraordinary - seven plants when it only needed three, or three plants when it

only needed one. Perennial weeds had also been brought in and one of the herbaceous borders had to have every plant dug up, split to remove the weeds and lined out in the nursery for one year while the border itself was cleared. As you can imagine it was around two years before some kind of organization was in place and this coincided with the demise of the Trust set up by Stanley Seeger.

There had been little control of spending which had increased at an alarming rate, and it was decided to sell the estate. Within three years of my arrival we had a new owner, the American philanthropist, Frederick Koch.

Fortuitously Sutton Place became available at just the right moment as the new owner was keen to display his 19th century art collection in England. A charitable foundation was set up to administer house and garden, and its first task was the restoration of the house itself which had been gradually crumbling



away since the devastating fire in the gatehouse. This restoration, the first in its history, was to take nine years to complete with the house covered in scaffolding and blue plastic. To give a flavor of the incredible work load involved, each window (and there were more than sixty) had a support lintel made of English oak put in place when the house was built in 1521. All had to be replaced with a stainless steel support. Much of the terracotta and brick had also weathered badly and had to be either replaced or taken out and reversed. Initially there was great difficulty finding suitable skilled craftsman with English Heritage who were overseeing the project using some of their trainees. This was never going to be satisfactory and Albert, one of the most skilled medieval stone restoration craftsman in the country was recruited. He had been doing restoration work on churches all over the country and when he was finally extracted from this, he travelled each day with his assistant from his home in Burgess Hill for more than eight years until the work was completed.

This was the signal for further developments to take place in the garden. The Rose garden, ornamental vegetable garden, Miro Pool Garden, Ellipse Garden and the Plane Tree garden were all added to the existing Jellicoe landscape, with a large collection of standard fruit trees planted on the daffodil fields. The woodland garden which ran down to the River Wey was planted with a wide range of trees and shrubs, and an adjoining field became the new Arboretum. The garden now covered an area of some sixty acres, and it was now almost ten

years since the restoration had begun. The blue plastic was removed. The scaffolding came down, and there was this gleaming spanking new-looking 16th century grade one listed house in all its glory. The servants' quarters had been converted into the new art galleries and once the collection was in place we were ready to open to the public.

To most people, a blaze of publicity and advertising widely was the next step, and I was sure that would happen. Frederick Koch though always declined any kind of publicity and when I was discussing this with our land agent, he suggested I talk to friends working nearby at RHS Gardens Wisley and suggest that a group of them visit the garden. And so, on a drizzly evening in mid June, I took a group of gardeners and admin staff on a tour of the grounds and to see the newly restored house. Word of mouth spread incredibly quickly afterwards and soon a format for visits was agreed. One group each day up to thirty people, a conducted tour of the house, lunch, followed by a conducted tour of the gardens. It had a wide appeal, with historical and horticultural groups from across the country being regular visitors. We were soon fully booked April to September, and also opened once a year for the National Garden Scheme.

There was to be no fairy tale ending. After a number of really interesting years open to the public, American tax laws changed and it was decided that the funding of charities in any other country apart from the USA would not continue. We managed to stay open until the end of the year that the news broke, and

then the gates closed for the foreseeable future. We had every hope that house and gardens would be handed on to English Heritage who had overseen every stage of its development. But it was not to be; the estate was put on the market and sold to a private owner.

Footnote. We were fortunate to move to Easebourne a few months before the sale of Sutton Place took place.

Easebourne Garden & Allotment Society Programme

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

Unfortunately the Plant Sale on 23 May is also cancelled. Some of us have been raising plants and have a bit of a glut, or maybe there's something you need, so do contact us and we'll try to organize a swap system.

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

6 Sept—visit to the Prairie Garden

7 Oct—afternoon workshop on propagation

11 Nov—AGM and talk

9 Dec—Christmas Social and talk

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

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

Email egas@tinagavin.com



Sussex

gardens open for charity. 2020

What a difficult year it is for The National Garden Scheme. It is very sad that our garden owners, who have worked so hard to prepare their gardens, have now been forced to cancel garden openings because of the Coronavirus. This does mean, of course,

that we will be unable to support the charities that rely on us, and an 80% drop in donations is expected. Making a donation through our West Sussex Just Giving Page is a wonderful way to show your support for our garden owners and help us raise vital funds.

If you do decide to make a donation in lieu of visiting a garden can we ask you to mention the gardens you are particularly sorry not to have visited this year.

There are now lots of “virtual gardens” on [NGS.org.uk](https://www.ngs.org.uk) have a look and enjoy!

Patty Christie

Friends of Midhurst Common

by Andrew Mitchell

I have been aware of Midhurst Common since 1982 when I moved to Midhurst to join Aubrey and George Melville as veterinary surgeon at what is now known as The Woodland Vet Centre. For most of that time I have lived in Carron Lane and have many memories associated with The Common:

- Being disorientated and lost there in the early days!
- The sound of the hooter at 5pm announcing the end of the working day at Midhurst Whites brick factory. The bricks were made from local sand and lime from Cocking. Bricks were made there between 1913 – 1985
- Walking family pet dogs there, starting with our Cairn Terrier, Fergus and then a long line of miniature Schnauzers, finalising with Bertie who enjoys his time there at some point every day
- Beavers, Cubs, Scouts/Brownies, Guides activities on the Common as our children went through the various stages
- Sussex Wildlife Trust Fungus Forays and other educational walks with Robin & Wendy Crane and their supporters
- Walking through the Common to the Shamrock at Bepton (now the Country Inn)
- Sitting on the bench at the top of Sunset Hill which is dedicated to our dear friend and neighbour for over 30 years, Tony Beck and his dog Sam
- Family and friends who visit and walk there with us are always in awe of such a spectacular area so full of natural history and tales of local residents activities there over thousands of years
- Sian getting her car stuck in the woods at the top of Carron Lane and having to call for emergency tow out by George Melville – all the while berated in Welsh by her Auntie Jennie for being so careless
- Hurricane 1987 – did this have a name?

So, as you see, Midhurst Common has been an important part of our family life over many years. My working life was pretty much all-consuming timewise so I never became much involved in the management of the area. I have however been a member of 'The Friends of Midhurst Common' (originally 'The Campaign to Save Midhurst Common') since its inception some 35 years ago. In August last year I fully retired from work in the vet practice and found myself volunteering to be Chairman a couple of months later.....

Since then I have:

- enjoyed the new challenges and have volunteered (weather permitting) regularly for the 'Heath Team'
- been involved in creating a Bat Walk in August
- considered how to involve youths in activities rather than simply shoo them away to somewhere else
- arranged some maintenance of Rights of Ways
- developed walks through the Common which can be followed on your smart-phone with points of interest pin-pointed as you walk along which should increase knowledge and awareness by local people
- I have attended a South Downs National Park 'Pathwatch' meeting to learn about monitoring human activity on the Common

I hope to liaise with Cowdray Estate and their long-term management plans for this special area. And In July I hope to attend a course on Community Habitat Mapping at RSPB Pulborough Brooks.

I am content in my new role as Chairman but would be very happy to contest my position with as many others as would wish to take it on at the AGM on Thursday 1st October 2020. Please join The Friends of Midhurst Common – it costs only £5 a year. You will get regular newsletters, and a chance to be directly involved in looking after this special area for the whole community to enjoy at present and for future generations. Our regular activities have all been cancelled till further notice as a result of the Government restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keep an eye on our web-site: www.friendsofmidhurstcommon.co.uk
Or email: friendsofmidhurstcommon@yahoo.co.uk



Egyptian Geese on Benbow Pond

Egyptian geese were introduced as an ornamental wildfowl species in this country in the 17th century, and escaped into the wild. They are now successfully breeding in a feral state and are now experiencing a population explosion. The warmer weather of the last 20 years is thought to have improved their survival rate and to be the reason for the sudden jump in numbers.

In our March 2019 issue, Mary Shotter reported on the Egyptian geese who had taken up residence on Benbow Pond. As Mary told us, this striking looking bird appears in artwork on ancient Egyptian tombs.

We visited Benbow Pond on 14th April and saw this pair with six goslings. But we also spotted a number of 'teenagers' so clearly they are now raising a second brood.

We have also noticed a pair on South Pond in Midhurst, who have successfully raised five youngsters. This pair must have migrated over from Benbow Pond.



You say you want a revolution

Circling high in the blue skies above Sussex is one of the world's deadliest predators. Peregrines are hunting above us. Scanning the avian traffic in the Sussex airspace, their incredible vision locks on to an unsuspecting bird passing below and the Peregrine instantly negotiates one of the most sophisticated aerial manoeuvres possible. They stop flying. With wings and feet tucked in tightly, peregrines drop from the sky at an unbelievable speed – hurtling earthwards at up to 200 mph - the fastest creature on our planet. Everything, even the eyelids and nostrils on this bird are built for speed. Like a bomb made out of muscle and feathers, it'll decimate any victim in its path.

We're fortunate to still have these amazing birds here in Sussex. During WW2 their taste for pigeons (including those carrying wartime messages) saw Peregrines treated as if they were on the payroll of Mr Hitler himself. The Secretary of State for Air declared war on these falcons and issued the 'Destruction of Peregrine Falcons Order'. The birds were slaughtered, their nests destroyed. After we gave Adolf the old heave-ho, Peregrines were left alone and numbers began to recover. But they were to face an even more deadly threat than the British Government; Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (or DDT to its friends).



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

Farmers worldwide had started spraying a variety of wonderful new chemical insecticides all over the countryside to improve yields. These invisible poisons hit the bird at the top of the food chain the hardest. In 1958 there were 650 pairs of Peregrines in Britain. Six years later there were 68. Concerns over their decline sparked an investigation that led back to the source of the Peregrine poisoning and the world's eyes were opened to the reality of the damage that these chemicals could cause to our environment and to us. Rachel Carson wrote 'Silent Spring', the environmental movement was born and green was upgraded from a sort of yellowy-blue colour to an entire way of life.

Today, perched on our cliffs and cathedrals, high above the organic food-filled shelves in kitchens across Sussex, the killer that kick-started the environmental uprising stands defiantly overlooking us all like a beaked Che Guevara. A feathered testament to revolution, strength and tofu veggie burgers.

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

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

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

The Peregrines of Chichester Cathedral

For the past 19 years a pair of peregrine falcons has nested in one of the spires of the cathedral, and over the years have raised over 40 young. There is a live webcam in place on the nest, jointly funded by the Cathedral, David Shaw Wildlife, and the Sussex Ornithological Society. It is so interesting to watch the parents taking turns to sit on the eggs, and later to bring food to the chicks. This year the female laid 4 eggs between 30 March and 6th of April. If you keep watching you may be lucky enough to watch the fluffy babies as they hatch. (Last year the first one hatched on 8 May.)

Keep watching here: <https://www.carnyx.tv/LiveCameras/WildlifeCameras/Chichester.aspx>

Lest We Forget - Victory in Europe Day 75th Anniversary – Friday 8th May 2020

by Phil Stringer stringers4@btinternet.com

The current Covid-19 emergency has curtailed plans for the marking of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. What follows is a list of names of men from our village, or from further afield, who are buried or commemorated in our village. Men from the village served in all branches of the armed forces and fought in a number of the key campaigns of the Second World War.

The first recorded death occurred in October 1939 following the attack by a German U Boat, U-47, at the Royal Navy anchorage at Scapa Flow in Scotland and the final death of an RAF pilot, who won the DFC during the “Channel Dash” of the German battlecruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, two years after the end of the war. The following public sources were used: Ancestry (register of births, deaths and probate records, find a grave), Commonwealth War Graves Commission, War Memorials Online and the Imperial War Museum Register of UK War Memorials. If anyone has further details or corrections, I would love to hear from them.

Second World War Roll of Honour – Men Buried and Commemorated at Easebourne

Men Buried at Easebourne

EVANS, Howard Geoffrey

Captain, 204904, 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died 25th September 1945 at King Edward VII Sanatorium of his injuries, aged 37. Son of Ernest Sydney and Hilda Martha Evans of Purley, Surrey. Buried in St Mary's New Churchyard, Glazier's Lane, Easebourne. Capt Evans is commemorated on the Whitgift School World War 2 memorial.

FOARD, Richard William Charles

Lance Bombardier, 924278, 144th Field Regiment (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry), Royal Artillery. Died at home on 15 June 1940. Son of William Charles and Phyllis Elizabeth Foard of Midhurst. Buried in St Mary's New Churchyard, Glazier's Lane, Easebourne. LBdr Foard is commemorated on the Midhurst war memorial.

INGHAM DFC, Bernard

Wing Commander, Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve, 41 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Awarded DFC July 1942 as Flight Lieutenant, 129 Squadron based at RAF Westhampnett. Died on 6th August 1947. Son of Alfred Jackson and Marion Ingham. Husband of Joan Mary Ingham of Llanelly, Carmarthenshire. Wg Cdr Ingham is buried in St Mary's New Churchyard, Glazier's Lane, Easebourne.

IZZARD DFC, Colin Roy

Flying Officer (Air Bomber), 156641, Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve, 578 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Awarded DFC in 1943. Died of injuries received during the war on 24th February 1947 aged 29 at King Edward VII Sanatorium and his funeral was held three days later at St Mary's Easebourne. Son of Roland and Caroline Izzard and husband of Cecelia Izzard. FO Izzard is buried in St Mary's New Churchyard, Glazier's Lane, Easebourne, and is commemorated on Hitchin War Memorial.

WILLIAMS, Leslie George

Gunner, 1083558, 113th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 12th July 1941 aged 27. Husband of Irene Nellie May Williams of Havant, Hampshire.

Men Commemorated at Easebourne

BALDOCK, John Frederick

Lance Bombardier, 823072, 98th (Queen Mary's) Field Regiment, The Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry. Died between 25th May 1940 and 27th February 1941 in the French/ Belgium campaign, aged 44. Son of Lilly Baldock and husband of Mabel Ellen Baldock of Easebourne. LBdr Baldock is buried in Lille Southern Cemetery and commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour.

BALL, Anthony

Sergeant, 6341023, 466 Battery, 41st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 1st November 1943 aged 33. Son of Stephen William and Louisa Jane Ball, husband of Barbara May Ball of Easebourne, Midhurst, West Sussex. Sgt Ball is buried in Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery and is commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour.

BREWER, Ronald George Stephen

Musician, RMB/X/1015, Royal Marines, died 29th March 1942 aboard HMS Trinidad as part of an escort to convoy PQ013 to Russia. He was born in Midhurst on 15th August 1922. Msn Brewer is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Easebourne War Memorial, and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour.

COOK, Reginald James

Lance Sergeant, 1078097, 61st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 30th October 1942 aged 30. LSgt Cook is buried at El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt and is commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour.

DOWLING, George William

Lance Corporal, 6410546, 5th Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Died on 20th October 1944 aged 20. Son of George and Blanche Dowling of Chichester Sussex. LCpl Dowling is buried at Faenza War Cemetery, Italy and is commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour and the Memorial to the Old Boys of Midhurst Grammar School.

FRENCH, Cyril Vincent

Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), 151308, Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve, 90 Squadron Royal Air Force. Died 5th March 1944. Buried St Hilaire-de-Gondilly Communal Cemetery, Cher, France and is and commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour and the Memorial to the Old Boys of Midhurst Grammar School.

GLUE, William Frank

Sergeant, 854456, 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 10th May 1943 aged 28. Son of Levi and Emily Glue of Midhurst, West Sussex. Sgt Glue is buried at Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia and is commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour.

HESELTINE, Richard

Sergeant (Pilot), 60 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died 30th August 1940 as a result of an aircraft accident in the Bay of Bengal in Bristol Blenheim L1545. Husband of Mary Margaret Heseltine of Stotfold, Bedfordshire. Sgt Heseltine is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial, Easebourne War Memorial, the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour and the Memorial to the Old Boys of Midhurst Grammar School.

HOYLE, John Edward

Captain, 121189, 4th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, Mentioned in Despatches. Died 27th February 1945. Son of Reverend Charles Edward and Avis Lucy Hoyle of Easebourne, Midhurst, Sussex. Capt Hoyle is buried at Reichwald Forest War Cemetery, Germany and is commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour (Paid for by Mrs Leach and Rev CE and Mrs Hoyle (£8/8/0), written on by Helen Hinkley, calligrapher from 6 High Path Easebourne, and framed by Edward Barnsley of Froxfield, Petersfield).

LEACH, Michael Robert Onebye

Lieutenant, 126410, 12th (Yorkshire) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (10th Battalion The Green Howards). Died in Java on 2th March 1946 aged 27. Son of Robert Onebye Leach MC and Marjorie Alice Leach. Husband of Sheila Winifred Leach of Graffham, Petworth, West Sussex. Lt Leach is buried in Jakarta War Cemetery, Indonesia and is commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour (Paid for by Mrs Leach and Rev CE and Mrs Hoyle (£8/8/0), written on by Helen Hinkley, calligrapher from 6 High Path Easebourne, and framed by Edward Barnsley of Froxfield, Petersfield).

SIMPSON, Stanley

Leading Seaman, P/JX133851, *HMS Royal Oak*, Royal Navy. Lost with battleship at Scapa Flow 14th October 1939, aged 25. Son of James and Elizabeth Simpson of Midhurst. Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Southsea, the Easebourne war memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour.

WALLER, Donald George

Private, 5504474, 1/4th Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment. Died 8th April 1943 aged 25. Son of George James Waller and Margaret Waller. Husband of Muriel Waller of Easebourne, West Sussex. Pte Waller is buried at Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia and commemorated at Easebourne War Memorial and the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour.

WALKER DFC, Derek Ronald

Wing Commander(Pilot), 39952, 182 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died as a result of an aircraft accident 14th November 1945 aged 30. Son of Horace Edward and Ethel Nora Walker. Husband of Diana Barnato Walker of Chelsea, London. Wg Cdr Walker is buried at Englefield Green Cemetery and is commemorated on the Englefield Green War Memorial, Easebourne War Memorial, the St Mary's Easebourne World War 2 Parishioners' Roll of Honour and the Memorial to the Old Boys of Midhurst Grammar SchoBack row: Sgt Ben Coates, Sgt N Dabbs, Sgt Wally Stringer



Photo from the Stringer Archive

Front: David Stringer (John Stringer's twin brother), Brendan, Barbara, Mrs Dabbs with baby Dabbs, Molly with another Dabbs baby, and John Stringer (Phil's dad). The dog is the Stringers' dog Rex.

Time and Distance

by Anthony Knight

Those of you who have been following the “Live Lent” series of daily reflections will have been reminded of the Biblical creation stories and of some of the memorable Psalms describing the wonders of creation, especially of the Sun, Moon and stars. The authors of those accounts did not have telescopes, they knew nothing of Copernicus, Kepler, Newton or Einstein. To them the stars appeared as lights in heaven, apparently moving regularly past a fixed, central Earth. How far away were they? There was no way of knowing.

Can you imagine explaining to Moses, or the Psalmists, that looking up into the night sky is looking into history? All of the stars visible to our eyes are in a local group, the galaxy that we call the Milky Way. Although some of its stars appear to be close together we are seeing an optical illusion. The distances between stars are huge, even those that are part of double or triple star systems are separated by many millions of miles, others that form part of familiar asterisms, such as Orion, are separated by billions of miles and only appear to be close together because they happen to line up to form recognisable patterns.

In space, distance is time. The closest naked-eye star to us, apart from the Sun, is Sirius (alpha Canis Majoris). Sirius, one of the brightest stars in our sky, is 8.6 light-years away. That means that we see it as it was 8.6 years ago. We have no way of knowing what Sirius, or any visible star, is doing right now. Even our Sun is 8 minutes and 20 seconds away at light speed. Our galaxy is approximately 106,000 light-years across, so when we look into the night sky we may be seeing objects as they were over 100,000 years ago. We can see even further into the past.



For hundreds of years astronomers debated the nature of “faint fuzzies”, glowing clouds, generally only visible through telescopes. A few, however, can be seen with the naked eye. Later in the year those observers blessed with a dark night sky may be able to see the great “Nebula” in Andromeda. Such things were originally thought to be clouds of gas within our own galaxy but astronomers, such as Edwin Hubble, proved that they were distant galaxies, containing billions of stars. They are unbelievably far away. The Andromeda Galaxy (no longer a “Nebula”) was shown to be 220,000 light years away – we can see really ancient history in the sky. Recent photographs taken by the Hubble Space Telescope (named after Edwin) have revealed galaxies up to 32 billion light years away.

We cannot see back as far as the “Big Bang”, although evidence for it can be heard on any short-wave radio in the form of Cosmic Background Radiation. At that moment of creation, if indeed it did happen that way, not only was the universe created but so was Time. We experience only a snapshot of time, just a few hundred years. We can look into the sky and see history, as far back as billions of years ago. How amazed would those ancient authors have been to know and to see what we now know and see! However, I doubt if anyone could ever devise a better commentary on the wonders of time and space than the author of Psalm 8:

1 O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Isolation by Sue Absolom

Now we're in isolation
How do we keep amused?
Jigsaws are ok for a while
Cryptic Crosswords have me confused.

Knitting is out of the question
I can only make up a square.
And have you seen the instructions?
Deciphering the pattern's a nightmare.

Painting and Drawing are out
Unless it involves a straight line.
Lowry's Stick Men I admire
And doodling I can do just fine.

So what to do with oneself?
All doom and gloom on the telly.
I know it's serious and all that.
Please would someone tell that to my belly.

It seems to want feeding
Every time I sit myself down,
Which seems to be most of the time now.
It no longer makes hunger sounds.

The Devil sits at my shoulder
"Go on, have another one, do.
The pack's already been opened -
McVities Choc Biscuits are calling to you".
(Other brands are available)

If it's not biscuits it's crisps-
So moreish on tongue and the mouth.
Before long the packet is gone.
If I'm not careful parts of me will sag
south.

I had so many good intentions -
Clean cupboards, drawers, that kind
But the enthusiasm didn't last long.
Shut door, out of sight, out of mind.

Exercise I had better do
To counteract all this eating.
I know, I'll do my Pilates -
I promise there'll be no cheating.

Hands on hips, stand on one leg
While holding 'core muscles' in tight.
Focus on your breathing
While turning head to left then right.
(repeat 4 times each side)

If you can do this without wobbling
You're almost a natural I think.
Maybe not as elegant as a Flamingo
But after this, certainly as pink!

When this is all behind us
And we're allowed out and about
You may not recognise me -
I've grown a little bit stout.

Certain bits seem rather flabby
Much more than they used to be.
Oh no, can't bear to eat rice cakes
Or have more salad for tea.

I'll do my walk instead
And however long it may take
Guess what's waiting when I get home -
Cup of tea and large cream cake!

Please take care everyone
Keep well and positive too
Our Lord is watching over us
And will see us safely through.



RECYCLING

I've just de-canned and thrown away

Stuff I bought...seems yesterday...

Of course, I don't set out to hoard

But some past crisis urged I stored

Foodstuffs...now the end IS nigh

I find years over their 'sell-by'.

Dragged from cupboards, brown & streaky

Caused by tins of Cock-a-Leekie

Now distended - somewhen burst...

To dribble over Canned Bratwurst,

Sheets of lasagne and Linguini...

Odd legumes called Cannellini...

Plus Macaroni, Noodles, Penne...

Ironic - now shops haven't any.

Yet still I look at dates and chuck

To make room for - with any luck -

The goods I'll pick-up on the sly...

When I go forth....to Panic Buy!...

© Tony Douglass . March 2020



In the Beginning by Steve Turner

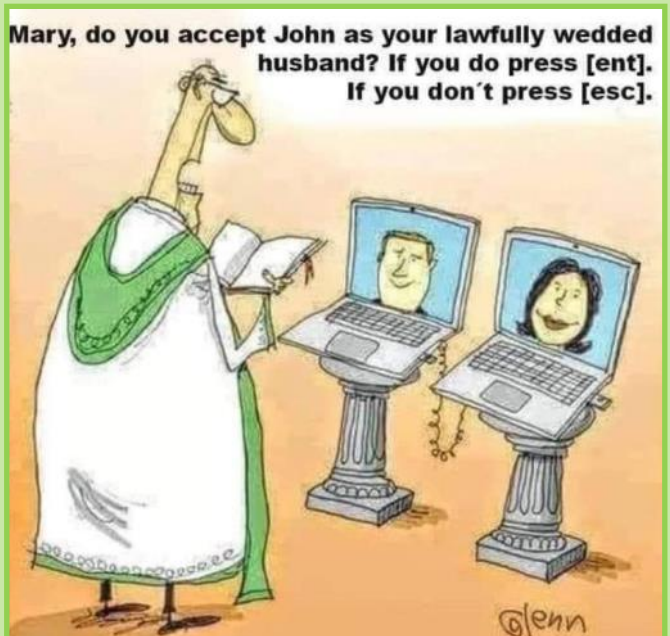
God said WORLD
And the world spun round.
God said LIGHT
And the light beamed down.
God said LAND
And the sea rolled back,
God said NIGHT
And the sky went black.

God said LEAF
And the shoot pushed through.
God said FIN
And the first fish grew.
God said BEAK
And the big bird soared,
God said FUR
And the jungle roared.
God said SKIN

And the man breathed air,
God said BONE
And the girl stood there,
God said GOOD
And the world was great,
God said REST
And they all slept late.

Contributed by Jo Bennett

**Thanks to Irena and
Peter Greaves for this!**



Loo Rolls!

Someone passed on to us a link to a website with this interesting commentary by the journalist Will Oremus writing for 'OneZero' on the phenomenon of the scarcity of loo rolls experienced all round the western world a few weeks ago. He said that unlike things like hand sanitizer, masks and ventilators, toilet paper serves no special function during a pandemic. The manufacturers crank out the same amount of the stuff because consumer usage remains constant.



However, in many countries shoppers did engage in some panic buying, alongside tins of beans and packs of pasta, etc. Because packages of loo rolls, a low value product which occupies a lot of shelf space, customers quickly noticed scarcity so, in panic, scooped up whatever they could find of it. It became a media event so the panic continued for a bit until our cupboards were full of it. (We still didn't use any more than usual.)

What happened, though, is that with public buildings like offices, shopping centres and airports closed down, supplies of toilet paper in those places started piling up. Loo paper sold for commercial consumption is a completely different product, supplied on huge rolls for special dispensers on big pallets, and often even produced by different paper mills. The manufacturers of such a relatively low-value product could not suddenly change the production to satisfy the temporary demands of the domestic users. In our homes we have no more need for these mammoth rolls than office buildings and airports need 'Puppies on a Roll' or 'Andrex Quilted', attractively packaged for the supermarkets.

To sum up, this writer maintains that shortages of loo paper had much less to do with hoarding and more to do with variants in the supply chain.

The Editors

? General Knowledge Quiz

1. What country is sushi from?
2. What is a polytheistic religion?
3. The Tate is a network of four art museums; two are based in London, give the other two English locations.
4. Whose autobiography is entitled 'Long Walk to Freedom'?
5. Google Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Explorer are different types of what?
6. Which animal can be seen on the Porsche logo?
7. Which desert is the largest in the world?
8. What was the name of the rock band formed by Jimmy Page?
9. When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79AD, which city did it cover in lava and ash?
10. Which cartoon character was the first to get a star on Hollywood Boulevard?
11. Why are French, Spanish and Italian called Romance languages?
12. In Cockney rhyming slang terms how much money is a 'pony'?
13. Which nationality is the artist Frida Kahlo?
14. Which boxer was known as 'The Greatest' and 'The People's Champion'?
15. Who is often called the father of the computer?
16. What animals are pearls found in?
17. About how many countries are there in the world?
18. Who succeeded David Dimbleby as presenter of Question Time?
19. Which famous astronaut once said 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'?
20. Often on television, what is the first name of Boris Johnson's father?

Answers on p. 49

Our Advertisers

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

The editors

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

We don't yet know if it is possible to produce a printed edition, but we intend to continue to create a digital edition, either for the church's website: www.thepriorychurches.co.uk or the website of Easebourne Parish Council: www.easebourne.org

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



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General Knowledge Answers

1. Japan
2. One that has many gods
3. Liverpool and St.Ives, Cornwall
4. Nelson Mandela
5. Web browsers
6. Horse
7. The Sahara Desert
8. Led Zeppelin
9. Pompeii
10. Mickey Mouse
11. Because they have roots in Latin which was spoken by Romans
12. Twenty-five pounds
13. Mexican
14. Muhammad Ali
15. Charles Babbage
16. Oysters
17. 195
18. Fiona Bruce
19. Neil Armstrong
20. Stanley



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