

united **EASEBOURNE**



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The front cover photograph shows Locks Cottages
on Old Buddington Lane. (See p. 15)

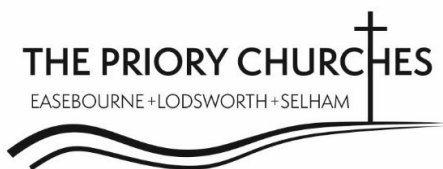
The editors welcome contributions from readers, as well as your comments and suggestions. New advertisers are also welcome. The deadline for the November issue is Thursday 15 October. easebourne.united@gmail.com

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

On the right you can see the new logo for our three churches. The logo is designed to reflect elements of our shared life. The wavy lines are like a field ploughed for growing; they could also be the hills that surround our villages and homes. They can also represent the water that flows through our parish - the rivers that have shaped our valley, the Lod and Rother.

From January 1st 2021 we begin a new and exciting time for our three churches as we become one parish. In practical terms this will make very little difference to our everyday life; still the same church families serving their villages with services and pastoral care. Behind the scenes though, the change will begin a chapter of much closer working together with one church council representing all three churches. This will mean that our focus will be across our three churches and their life, working closely together to deliver to our villages in a way we have never done before. The vision for this new working is: 'One church - three buildings'.



As you can see from the logo, our Christian faith is central to that new vision, and the cross stands proud above our names. The logo places the names of the villages that we are part of under the new name. This shows that each church is an equal partner and will support the work that we do right across the new parish. Lastly, and as stated above, the beautiful curves draw us into the wider context of our life. We are rural, we sit at the heart of the National Park; and we, as our rivers have always done, play our part in shaping the life that we all share together here in this place we call home.

Rural life is ever changing, and as a church we must recognise this. We too need to adapt, making sure that we use our resources to best fit the rural life that we are so proud to be part of. So the Priory Churches are proud to be 'one church with three beautiful buildings' - praying, worshipping and serving at the heart of village life.

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	Coffee is served in Church	<i>(Not during lockdown!)</i>
Other Sundays	10.30am	Holy Eucharist	after the 10.30am service	
Wednesdays	10.00am	Holy Eucharist	on most Sundays.	

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: derekwelsman@btinternet.com

Churchwarden: Mrs Alison Davis, Merrydown, Bepton 816642
 Midhurst GU29 0LZ. Email: alitdavis@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Mr Roger Sked, 3 Fox Rd, Easebourne GU29 9BH
 Email: rsked@btinternet.com 814948

Parish Administrator/PCC Secretary:
 Mrs Liz Bounton, 1 Bourne Way, Midhurst GU29 9HZ
 E-mail: stmaryseasebourne@hotmail.co.uk 816405

PCC Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary
 Mr Eric Bounton, 1 Bourne Way, Midhurst GU29 9HZ
 E-mail: e.bounton@btinternet.com 816405

Organist & Choirmistress
 Mrs Mary Knight 812783
 Practice on Fridays 6.00pm

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

Women's Fellowship
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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

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

Winners in September draw (TBC)

1st Prize - £100	No 68	Jenny King
2nd Prize - £75	No 205	Pat Broadbent
2nd Prize - £75	No 16	Liz Bounton
3rd Prize—£50	No 196	Judith Allen
3rd Prize—£50	No 194	Peter Allen
3rd Prize—£50	No 235	Piers Ouvaroff

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

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

Date	Readings	Readers	Gospel	Intercessors
4 October Harvest	TBC	Ann Harfield	John 6:25-35	
11 October 18th after Trinity	Isaiah 25:1-9	Peter Greaves	Matt 22:1-14	Wendy Trafford
18 October 19th after Trinity	Isaiah 45:1-7	Tony Craig	Matt 22:15-22	
25 October Bible Sunday	Colossians 3: 12-17	Simon Hendry	Matt 24:30-35	Minister

COME TO CHURCH—Either in person or on line

The congregation of St Mary's Easebourne is able to come to a real live service on either Wednesdays or Sundays. Everyone is socially distanced and must wear face coverings. (Phone Alison 816642 to book your place.) It is so nice to see all our friends again!

But there are still many of our readers who continue to isolate or are unable for other reasons to come to church. So for that reason you can 'attend' Sunday services every week by watching it on a home computer, tablet or smart phone.

Go to www.thepriorychurches.co.uk and scroll down to the bottom of the home page where you will see the words 'Morning Service' and a date at the top. Click on the red arrow and join the congregation in an actual service, which usually lasts just under one hour. Please help older people who cannot access themselves.

CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2020

Sunday 4 17 Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
10.30am	St Mary's	Harvest Service
6.00pm	St Peter's	Evensong

Wednesday 7	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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Sunday 11 18 Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	St Peter's	Harvest Service
10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Wednesday 14	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	St Mary's	Annual Parish Council Meeting

Sunday 18 19 Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Wednesday 21	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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Sunday 25 Last Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Wednesday 28	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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NOVEMBER

Sunday 1 All Saints Day

8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
6.00pm	St Peter's	Evensong

Thank you!

On behalf of the congregation of St Mary's Church, Ann Harfield and the editors would particularly like to thank the two church wardens, Alison Davis and Roger Sked. They have both worked incredibly hard during lockdown to give us information and to ensure we can attend church services safely.

News from the Cowdray Estate

Jonathan Russell, CEO



COWDRAY

The farm team finished harvest in late August with the focus immediately turning to the establishment of next year's crops. Our yields mirrored the national average by being approximately a third down which was disappointing for all. Whilst technology and agronomy have moved on significantly a year such as this reminds us that ultimately we are at the mercy of the weather which threw everything at us this year. (See photo p. 22)

Whilst a challenging year agriculture is an exciting industry to be part of as we plan for a future without direct subsidies and more challenging trade arrangements. This will force the majority of farmers to reconsider what we deliver from land with an aspiration of a more balanced environmental and sustainable approach underpinned by the on-going need to produce food. The Estate will therefore spend significant time over the next few years envisioning how our farming business will adapt to these changes.

The forestry team has spent considerable periods of the month clearing dangerous and decaying trees. All landowners, large or small, have a duty of care to ensure their land is free from danger to third parties and the presence of dangerous and decaying trees represents a significant risk. The cost is significant and more often than not the removal of the trees requires specialist equipment working in the area of Loves

Farm. However an impact to us all will be the changes to the landscape and vistas as large areas of ash are cleared over the forthcoming years.



Operationally the Estate has been focused on property maintenance, catching up from the lockdown period. All properties are subject to a proactive maintenance cycle and this year is the turn of the Roundhouse adjacent to the Ruins, thought to have been used as a water tank for the original Cowdray House. The property is one of 116 Listed properties and structures the Estate maintains, requiring a specialist approach so that repairs and materials used are both sympathetic to the original structure and conform to the Listed status.

We were delighted to announce the awarding of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to the Cowdray Heritage Trust which will fund feasibility studies into envisaging what future types and styles of visitor attraction can enhance the Ruins as a destination and in turn create a sustainable enterprise. Once this element of the project is complete we will commence the next phase being the addressing of various outstanding repairs.



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

My Via Francigena Pilgrimage by Neil Wain

With my list of lockdown chores nearly done, I decided I needed a cycling challenge. I had ridden for up to a week before with friends, but this time I wanted something more ambitious – cycling along the Via Francigena. Less well known than the Camino de Santiago, this pilgrimage is primarily a walking route, but there is an established cycle route too from Canterbury to Rome. Not being back to work until the end of August, travel restrictions lifted, and cabin fever... My wife Julia clearly thought I had finally gone completely mad, but sometimes things just come together. Thursday, my 'pilgrim's passport' arrived; and **Friday 10th July**, Julia dropped me off at Canterbury. I had packed light, had the cycling route map on my app and on paper. With a loaded bike and a pocketful of hope I set off, waving goodbye to Julia. Destination: Rome!

I made good time to Dover, arriving before my ferry time. Off I pedalled! As I set foot on the deck, the ramp closed and England started to fall behind. This was, perhaps, the moment to reflect. I've told everyone what I'm doing, but will I be able to do it? I suppose I could always take the train and send postcards.



11 July The first morning started out slowly as I worked out how to get my pilgrim's passport stamped. What the heck, I would know I'd been there and that was all that mattered. I could collect stamps on the way! I set off, quiet apart from the racing cyclists passing me as if I was standing still.

The first real view of the trip: England from Cap Blanc Nez! The day went well, I got into a rhythm with the bike but by lunch time I realised that I would need to ride all day to make the distance required. What about the French tradition of stopping for lunch? Mistake. Pedalling after a long sit down and a full stomach was hard work!

The day ended at the Abbey Notre Dame in

Wisques, a beautiful convent with accommodation for pilgrims. A very friendly welcome, and I met my first fellow pilgrim, an Italian called Francesco, who had also started in Calais. I hope he is getting near to Rome now, his blisters were impressive enough already!

12 July The days developed into a routine: Early breakfast, riding by eight, coffee after nine-thirty, early lunch about noon, second lunch about two, drink stop as needed, and find a hotel about five. It worked most of

the time, but unfortunately the pilgrim hostels were either closed or full. (They give priority to walkers and only had very limited capacity due to coronavirus.) So it was a long time before I met another pilgrim.

18 July I crossed from France into Switzerland at the Col des Étroits, which meant climbing a hill of about 3,500 feet! Luckily the next 30 km was downhill to a very welcome Swiss beer.

We hear of Swiss efficiency, but the next day was extraordinary; the roads were as silk, and all downhill, apart from the climb to the cathedral at Lausanne. Descending towards Lake Geneva, I never seemed to reach the water's edge! At Montreux, I found a waterside cafe to quench my thirst. The weather was really heating up, 35°C+ plus by noon! Sadly, the downhill was at an end and the afternoon climbed gently, beside the railway track, heading into the Alps. Vague at a distance, beautiful mountains now became a frightening reality: I had to cycle over them! A night's rest at the last big town included careful planning. I would do the climb over two days and rest halfway. Ah, the best laid plans, etc...

But the weather was deteriorating. A waiter said there was a forecast for storms late the next day but unpredictable, but I

decided to GO FOR IT! The *Col du Grand Saint-Bernard* is 'a bit of a hill' as one cyclist from Burnley, Lancs said to me at the top. I had climbed over 6,500 feet. I

don't mind confessing to walking a few very steep bits. I spent five hours climbing an average 1-in-10 hill.

20 July What goes up must come down... 40 km down into Italy! I had to keep stopping to let the brakes cool down, and to admire the fantastic scenery. In

Aosta, whilst looking for a hotel, I met a cyclist I had met at the *Col St Bernard*! He was also on his way to Rome. We met at a 'road closed' sign the next day, where we decided to ignore the closure rather than along the detour, and braved the irate Italian road workers!

After the flat Po valley with its fields of rice, then climbing into the hills of Tuscany. Let me correct myself: the Mountains of Tuscany were over 3000 ft!

The countryside was beautiful, with tough climbing and searing heat. A thunderstorm broke out as I reached my hotel, and it really was impressive...

24 July It was still raining the next day. At one point I could hardly see and ended up sheltering in a car wash! However, the rain
(continued on p. 31)



Petworth Festival Autumn Special including the 10th Anniversary Literary Week

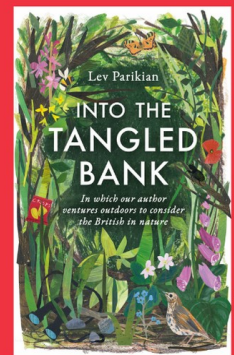
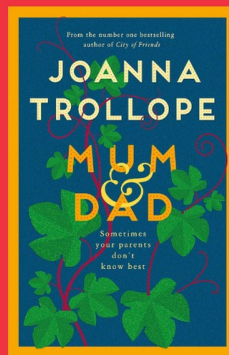
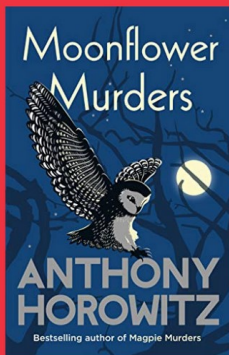
Filmed live in Petworth and streamed via

www.petworthfestival.org.uk



Friday 16 October - Sunday 1 November

A week of high profile musical events including **Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason, MILOŠ, Clare Teal, Tasmin Little and Patti Boulaye** followed by our 10th Anniversary Literary Week with **William Boyd, Anthony Horowitz, Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, Joanna Trollope, Martin Bell** and many more, with live online Q&A opportunities.



View the full programme online and book your 'tickets' now!

Great deals on Festival Passes!

£4.99 to view a single event

Poet's Corner

DIY...ing! by Sue Absolom

It all started some months ago
We'd been in lockdown quite a while
Daughter decided to decorate her room
I wanted to grimace but managed a smile.

Her room had two lots of wallpaper
So a steamer was kindly borrowed
Which made the job so much easier
And the instructions were duly followed.

I am no good up a ladder
The first rung is as far as I go(es)
Which makes coving and ceiling a problem
But then, said Daughter, happy to do those.

The stripping was done, holes filled
Walls sanded, primed, undercoat too
This over some time, of course
Now the painting we're ready to do.

She did a good job on the high bits
I kept myself to the low
Final coat of Primrose Yellow
Now the room has a lovely warm glow.

Hooray, that job's complete
She's done a good job I must say
'Can we return to normal?' I ask
'No, Mum, let's do the hallway!'

Unfortunately we still had the steamer
So we set to and stripped the walls bare
More Polyfilla, more primer, more paint
More upheaval, and lots more grey hair!

When finished I had to admit
She'd put on another good show
The hall painted a subtle pale Lemon
Surely that's it, but 'Oh No'.

She has her eye on my bedroom
'We might as well get it done
We still have all the equipment
It'll look great, I promise Mum!'

We prepared to start over again
The same palaver as gone before
Stripping, filling and sanding walls
That hadn't seen daylight for two decades or more.

The room was finally transformed
With paint of a Lavender hue
Against white ceiling and woodwork
It looks really fresh and new.

'Oh good' I might hear you say
'They've finished' but that's not quite right
The new rooms show up the old carpets
So the next project's already in sight!!





More developments for Easebourne Park

It's been another busy month for the team looking after the park.

Thanks to donations from residents, Midhurst WI, the Lions Club of Midhurst, and United Easebourne magazine, we've now installed the CCTV cameras and hope this will help deter vandalism and anti-social behaviour. If it doesn't then we will have evidence we can use with the Police to track down those responsible. It's such a shame we've had to take this step but it will help protect such a beloved village asset.

By now the big feral conifers at the far corner of Easebourne Park, separating the park from the cemetery and the allotments, should have been felled and removed. This long-planned work has been coordinated with the County Council, South Downs National Park, Cowdray, St Mary's Church and the allotment authorities. It opens up the vista and creates more light for park users, Birthday House residents and many allotment holders.

We're hoping that any larger stumps that may have been left will be used for future carving. In time, the conifers will be replaced with native trees, plans for which we will share in due course.

We've also had the green light for a scooter track alongside the path between the play area and the Pond. We expect construction to take place during October. As well as being a fun place to play for the under 12s, the track will also have educational road markings. It will be made with a green slip-proof surface in tarmac for durability. The multi-route design will have a few gentle undulations and a mini-roundabout for interest.

A local business, Playsafe Playgrounds, has been contracted to do the work.

When we designed Easebourne Park it was always the intention of the Parish Council to have a scooter track. Only now have we had the funding thanks to a Community Infrastructure Levy grant (CIL funding) from South Downs National Park Authority.

We look forward to sharing photographs once it's been built; in the meantime, take a look at the design image. We hope you agree it will be a fantastic addition to the play park.

Do you know someone who deserves an Easebourne Community Star Award?

We're looking for nominations for our second quarterly Community Star Award. If you know someone

who has made a difference to our Parish, either over a long period of time or through something they've done in the past few months, we'd love to hear from you.

All you need to do is email the Parish Clerk at telling us who you are nominating and why. The only criteria is that they must live in the Parish - Easebourne, Henley or King Edward VII. Please also share your contact details so we can be in touch with you to find out a bit more. Nominations should be in by Friday 9 October.

Friends of Easebourne Parish (FREP) is looking for more members

Friends of Easebourne Parish is a volunteer group that has been set up to help keep Easebourne looking lovely by taking on work

such as litter picking, vegetation clearance, minor structural maintenance and other projects as agreed with the Parish Council. One example is cleaning up, painting and putting up a notice board on the inside of the bus shelter on the corner of Wheelbarrow Castle and Dodsley Lane. More recently, members got involved in the annual Parish litter pick.

FREP is now on the look-out for new members to join the group and help with other similar ad-hoc projects. It's a great way to get involved in village life, meet other residents and make a difference to our surroundings. You can give as little or as much time as you want. For further details please contact Caroline Milne, Membership Secretary caromilne@hotmail.com

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



The Cowdray Curse by Andrew Guyatt

Of all the historical legacy of Easebourne, the Cowdray Ruins are the most spectacular. These are the remains of an early Tudor mansion built over the site of a thirteenth century manor house. But to make matters more interesting, there is, according to legend, a curse over them.



Cowdray House before 1793

Originally owned by the Bohun family, the house was sold in two illegal transactions in 1527 and 1529 to Sir William Fitzwilliam, a distinguished courtier. He had been a naval commander and diplomat, and became the Treasurer of the Royal Household and Lord Privy Seal, and later was created the first Earl of Southampton. Then in 1536 Easebourne Priory, a notoriously corrupt convent, was dissolved and the prioress and nuns were expelled. As owner of the Cowdray Estate their whole property was made over to him.

It is then alleged that Sir William was confronted by the sub-prioress of Easebourne Priory while he was at dinner. She cried out 'a curse of fire and water on the male children and their heirs of he who takes these lands and it shall come upon him and his name will die out.'

Sir William did indeed die without an heir in 1542 and his earldom became extinct. However, he did not perish by fire or water but by natural causes while leading a

military expedition against the Scots.

However there is another explanation of the curse. Sir William had a half brother Sir Anthony Browne who also profited by the dissolution of the monasteries despite being a staunch Roman Catholic. He received Battle Abbey near Hastings and proceeded to demolish the church and turn the abbot's quarters into a private house.

During his first great feast at the Abbey it is claimed he was challenged by a monk who shouted 'by fire and water your line shall come to an end and it shall perish out of this land.'

After Sir William's death, Sir Anthony inherited the Cowdray Estate, but he did not have long to enjoy it, dying at Byfleet in Surrey in 1548. However once again his demise was due to natural causes and had nothing to do with fire or water.

Sir Anthony's son, another Sir Anthony, became the first Viscount Montague in 1554 during the reign of Mary Tudor, one of nine men to hold this title.* But for the next 239 years the curse remained dormant. Then in 1793 the first drowning occurred.

The Eighth Viscount, George Samuel Browne, who was just 24 years old, was enjoying the Grand Tour. One day he proposed going white water rafting on the River Rhine in a punt. The authorities did everything they could to stop him, even lining the river bank with soldiers while his servant grabbed him by the collar, but all in vain. He insisted on carrying on with his reckless plan and inevitably it ended in disaster with his death and that of his friend and his dog.

At the same time back home, Cowdray House burnt down. It was due to sheer

carelessness on the part of some contractors who were renovating the place and left a brazier alight in a room full of wood shavings. The whole building burnt down apart from the kitchen block but sadly there were no funds available to rebuild and it has remained a ruin ever since.

The estate eventually passed to George's sister Elizabeth, who had married a William Poyntz, but they lost both of their sons in a boating accident while on holiday at Bognor in 1815. Water seemed to have struck again!

As a romantic ruin which had been owned by a tragic family, Cowdray House attracted many tourists in the nineteenth century, including the painters Constable and Turner. Many strange stories circulated about it including an account of one viscount who supposedly went into hiding after shooting a priest dead during

mass. There were also reports of ghosts, including a woman dressed in white and even Anne Boleyn making a guest appearance!

But was this curse actually uttered? Looking at the evidence it seems entirely possible that it was fake news. Perhaps the story was invented and circulated in an attempt to lure more visitors to the Ruins in Victorian times. There does not seem to be any mention of the curse in earlier documents and judging by the success of Sir Walter Scott's novels, the Victorians had quite an appetite for romantic stories.

I do not intend to discourage any prospective ghost hunters at Cowdray but perhaps they would find the real history of the Ruins even more interesting.

**The large monument to Sir Anthony Browne and his two wives stands in Easebourne church.*



The Queen's
Golden Jubilee Award
2003



The Grange Centre Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9HD
Support for the not so young and not so able
in the Midhurst and Petworth area.

Our medical appointment car service has started up again. We provide door-to-door transport to and from doctors, dentists, opticians and hospital appointments. A Tandem volunteer will take you there and back by car or in a wheelchair equipped vehicle, depending on need. The service is based on a very moderate mileage charge.

OUR TELEPHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED
WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT 0300 030 3962
Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm and Saturday 9am to 2pm
Follow us on www.facebook.com/tandemMidhurst

Always a warm welcome

Listed Buildings in Easebourne



The 'village' of Buddington which included Buddington Farm and Madams Farm was mentioned in documents dating back to the late 11th century, and the taller part of this property was built in the late 17th century. The family who lives in C102 (the lower part of the building) has a wonderful view over the Downs from their hilltop position. They told us that the late Grace Glue, a long-standing member of St Mary's, used to live here. But they would love to know more about the building. Please contact the editors if you know someone who has lived there in the past, or if you can shed light on the history of this beautiful ancient building.

Contact the editors: easebourne.united@gmail.com Tel 01730 816542

Easebourne (West) The Locks

Locks Cottages (Nos C100 and 102) Listed 18.6.59, Grade II

*One building. No 100 at the north end is dated 1669 with the initials L.T.M. Stone rubble with ashlar quoins. Gable to the west front. Tiled roof. Casement windows of two and three lights with stone mullions. Stone doorway with drip mould and date and initials over. Three storeys. Two windows. No 102 (originally Nos 101 and 102) is a C18-19 addition of lower elevation. Stone rubble with red brick dressings and quoins. Hipped tiled roof. Casement windows. Two storeys. Four windows.
Listing NGR: SU8830623661*

Photographed by John Stringer



Easebourne Village Post Office re-opens!

Following the false alarm back in March (when we featured the village shop with its new Post Office signs on our front cover) we finally again have a post office in our village. But by the time we went to press that month we already had news of a further delay. According to Post Office Counters Ltd, the delay was due to rather vague 'technical and organisational problems'.

Locals will remember the closure of the post office in the village shop back in 2008 when Alex and Sharon Christou ran it. The reasoning by PO Counters Ltd was that, despite petitions signed by locals, this popular and well-used branch was just a few metres closer than one mile to Midhurst Post Office.

Shop owners Vikki and Kirisha Mahadevan have been busy during lockdown, but the installation of the post office counter way back in February has meant loss of valuable retail space.

So finally on 8 September at midday Vikki and Kirisha were joined by Ian Milne from the parish council, Francis Hobbs from Chichester District Council, the photographer from the Observer, plus a few customers. The reopened post office will feature a wide range of services and will be open in line with the shop's seven-day a week retail opening hours. (photos above by A V Knight)



? **General Knowledge Quiz** *Compiled by Carole Sawyer*

1. On which social media platform did Prince Harry and Meghan Markle announce they were stepping down as senior royals?
2. The English word for which popular spice takes its name from the Latin or French word for 'nail'?
3. Which bandleader shared his name with a British prime minister?
4. Which bird can fly the fastest?
5. In which city did George Floyd die after being subdued by police officers?
6. Which country has the peacock as its national bird?
7. Which city has given its name to a wheelchair and to a bun?
8. What fruit do you get when you cross a raspberry with an American dewberry?
9. What was the name of the document that ended the first World War?
10. Which film won Best Picture at the Oscars this year?
11. In what year was the Queen born?
12. What does Au stand for in the periodic table?
13. Following the departure of Sandi Toksvig, who replaced her as the new host of Great British Bake Off with Noel Fielding?
14. The culinary name calamari indicates a dish made from which food?
15. The Spree river flows through which major European capital city?
16. How many red balls are there in a game of snooker?
17. Which country legend known for 'Island in the Stream' and 'The Gambler' died in March 2020?
18. Which famous author was married to Anne Hathaway?
19. What is the name given to someone who studies plants?
20. What is the name of the Netflix documentary about Joe Exotic?

Answers on page 36



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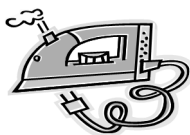
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Snippets from a Gardener's Diary by John Humphris

In the second of Monty Don's two programmes on Japanese gardens,

which has just been repeated on BBC 4, he concentrated on autumn colour for which many parts of Japan are justly famous. The very first time we visited Japan to see our son and daughter-in-law we stayed for three weeks returning home on the 1st November. I certainly thought that this would be an ideal time to see the autumn colour, but in fact on the day of our return home the trees were only just turning. Now I cannot remember if Monty made it clear about when the best time was to visit, although of course it does vary from north to south. But it is generally assumed to be not until the third week in November, and with a Japanese national holiday occurring around the 25th November this is the time when practically the whole population leaves the cities in droves to view the spectacular colours. The national parks around Mt Fuji are very popular and being only an hour or so from Tokyo are easily reached by car, coach, or train.

When I first became involved in leading tours to Japan, most were in the spring and were timed for the cherry blossom season. Because so many people wanted to visit at this time they tended to become spread out over a number of weeks. I remember one infamous year when one group went too early and hardly saw a blossom. The correct timing hardly varies in the areas around Kyoto and Tokyo with the last week in March and the first two weeks in April being ideal to see not only the most cherry

blossom but the widest range of other trees and shrubs. The problem with the autumn tours is as mentioned above getting the timing right. The end of November is not popular with tourists and when they tried running a tour in October with spectacular pictures of maples in glorious colour that were never seen during the trip visitors were naturally disappointed. There was also a lack of many other plants of interest to be seen, so autumn tours never really took off and the travel companies concentrated on the spring visits.

Nevertheless, I am sure small group tours at the right time with visitors given the right information, would be very popular, such as below. Although Japan is incredibly mountainous, most of the main island of Honshu where the major cities and populations live has a very temperate climate (the colder temperatures that encourage the colours to develop are always much later) and with most of the mountains clothed to the summit by a fantastic mix of indigenous colorful trees and shrubs and with these protected by large numbers of national parks the visitor is well catered for. These trees many of which are maple species, intermingle with many conifers and native bamboo. And this is the reason why the autumn colour is so spectacular with very large areas of mountains being seen from one viewpoint, and by following the winding roads can also be seen from so many different viewpoints, giving a totally breathtaking experience.

Plants of the Month

We cannot hope to compete with the autumn colour of Japan, except in gardens such as Sheffield Park. In our own gardens though, the wonderful range of small trees, shrubs and bulbs can give a lovely display when planted together in one area of the garden. Here are a few ideas:

Many varieties of Acer (the maples) give fine autumn colour. The varieties of Acer palmatum are all reliable. Choose the one you like best in a nursery or garden centre. Euonomus elatus is a native of Japanese woodlands. This spindleberry is one of the best for autumn colour with the added advantage of colourful fruit which open to reveal orange seeds. Beneath and around these shrubs is where autumn flowering bulbs will give added interest, such as colchicum, autumn crocus, nerines and Amaryllis belladonna. Most of the flowering bulbs of autumn are very reliable once established. The exception is the Amaryllis. I planted several bulbs of Amaryllis belladonna in our garden more than ten years ago and apart from some leaves showing in the spring, have never seen a flower until this year when suddenly one flower spike almost 3 feet long appeared and produced nine large exquisite flowers of a lovely soft clear pink.

Easebourne Garden & Allotment Society

Please note that the session on propagation scheduled for 7 Oct will NOT take place. Check in the next issue of United or contact the secretary to find out if our lectures on 11 Nov and 9 Dec will take place. egas@tinagavin.com or phone 01730 816542.



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Report from Birch Trees Nursing Home

As the summer draws to a close, we are reflecting on what a lovely summer we have had. The weather, initially so promising, quickly turned autumnal as we neared the end of August. A freak wind flurry snapped our new gazebo and made it dance around the garden, much to the amazement of the residents watching from the lounge window! Thankfully with everyone safely inside at the time, it was a spectacle rather than a drama.

Our residents have been keeping themselves busy with beautiful flower arranging displays. Pictured below are Josie Slade and Ann White with their remarkable efforts.

Perhaps it is a bit early to mention the 'C' word, but Christmas planning is well underway at Birch

Trees. Our residents have been making their own cards to send to family and friends, and clay Christmas tree decorations.

We have enjoyed admitting guests over the summer months in our garden but sadly due to the latest government figures and the rise in Covid 19 cases, Victorian Nursing Group have had to make the hard decision to close our homes to visitors once more to keep our residents safe. We hope this latest lockdown won't last too long. At least this time we all know one end of an iPad from the other, and keeping in touch with loved ones will remain a priority.

Sarah Darnell, Care Practitioner
sarah@victorianursinggroup.co.uk



Easebourne Primary School

As I write to you, we have survived our first week with all year groups back at school and it was wonderful to finally welcome them all back. The school feels complete once more.

There was no doubting the relief on many of the parents' faces - the family routine could get one step closer to 'normal' and the primary responsibility for their children's education had at last been shifted back to the teachers. The children, too, were happy to be back, many of them not having been in school since March, and the staff, who have been fantastic throughout, were glad to be doing what they were trained to do, albeit slightly differently!

The end of the academic year has seen an unusually large turnover at the school, with many new faces, both amongst the pupils and the staff, and school routines have also changed significantly.

Classes are seen as Bubbles and if a child or member of staff in a Bubble tests positive for COVID-19 then the rest of the Bubble will have to self-isolate at home. So we have changed many of the school's procedures so that we keep the Bubbles as distinct from each other as we can to minimise the impact of a positive test.

Drop-off and pick-up times have been altered so that they are now staggered, and we are using as many different entrances to the school as we can. We have moved to two lunch sittings to help spread the children. The corridors in the school building are almost all one-way. Thanks to the school's extensive grounds, children are able to play at breaktimes in

areas allocated to their Bubbles.

After-school clubs, a key feature of our provision, have been reduced to an offer of one club each week to each Bubble.

Assemblies are managed remotely, with classes meeting up via a Zoom meeting. Children come into school in PE kit on days when they have PE to minimise changing, and, of course, handwashing has become a key routine.

COVID-19 guidance in all walks of life, as you know, is extensive and frequently updated and there is understandable confusion amongst parents. Parents are, for example, concerned about when not to send a child in to school, and whether what they have heard on the grapevine about another child in their child's class being tested means that their child shouldn't come into school. The season of coughs and runny noses is approaching and this makes decisions even more difficult. And then there are the difficulties encountered by parents when trying to get a test.

Minimising additional visitors is part of our risk assessment and we are restricting meetings with parents where possible, but providing a room for these meetings where they are important. Again, we are fortunate to have a large building which makes this possible. Windows are open, social distancing is in place and sanitiser is to hand. Parents can choose to wear masks for the meeting if they would like to.



We are gradually contacting our volunteers to see whether they would like to return to work at a distance from the children. Most support the children with reading, so distancing is not ideal, but their genuine interest and their encouragement will be very valuable, particularly for those children who have been off-site for nearly six months.

You can probably see from the above that things are much changed and what I have described is probably not primary school as you will remember it, but the building is busy and happy and the school feels complete once more.

Johnny Culley, headmaster
www.easebourne.w-sussex.sch.uk

Alma Chevis RIP

After living at Pendean House for her last six years Alma Chevis passed away peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of Wednesday 2nd September.

Having previously spent her life in Easebourne, and her married life at Behar, Alma was well known to many through her involvement with the WI and her time working at Maides and Richard Greens in West Street, Midhurst. Knitting was one of her passions and even now her great grandchildren are wearing cardigans made for Alma's grandchildren. In retirement she joined the local knitting group who made woollen hats, gloves and scarves for the homeless.

Always looking after her husband George, who passed away 19 years ago, and her children Michael and Martyn, she took great pleasure in preparing the most wonderful Sunday lunches for the family with vegetables

grown by George on his allotments. Michael and Martyn would help prepare the veg and bake cakes after Sunday School in Easebourne church (which has been the focus for many celebrations and events over the generations). When the grandchildren came along they couldn't believe the variety of vegetables presented, (whether they liked them or not!!) The family would go for long walks through the countryside and play games in the playing field at the bottom of Chestnut Avenue on the summer Sunday evenings.



There was a service at Easebourne Church on Monday 21st September followed by a committal at Chichester crematorium. Alma will be missed but the memories of the gifts of love she gave her family will never be forgotten.

(Contributed by her family)

*Please tell the editors about your family events for inclusion in United.
 easebourne.united@gmail.com or Tel 816542*



CONIFERS SCHOOL

New Beginnings...

For Conifers School, nestled at the edge of Cowdray Park, and their school community, 2020 has proven to be a time of new beginnings in so many ways.

During the peak of the pandemic, when many schools were forced to close, they embraced change and new skills were rapidly learnt by staff, parents and pupils alike in order to continue providing their children the highest quality of education, albeit remotely, that they would normally receive. Curriculum and lesson plans were remodeled and teaching a class, or individual, via video call on Zoom, and setting lessons via Google Classroom, became the new normal. Staff and pupils rose to these new challenges; staff were creative and innovative with numerous, excellent solutions to this new style of teaching and their pupils impressed in how they so readily embraced the new online classroom as they excelled and adapted quickly whilst learning new skills.

Pupils were described by Deputy Head and Year 2 Class Teacher, Rebecca Thorpe, as being 'absolute superstars throughout'. They never once complained, were supportive towards each other, shared ideas within their Google online classroom chat, and helped each other as they usually would do in school. The new and unfamiliar contexts in which they were working encouraged the children from Reception through to the Prep school years to work

much more independently, analysing and following instructions and working out ideas and concepts.

During their online video staff meetings, it was frequently mentioned by different staff from across the school, about how pupils were really engaged, working hard and producing some truly excellent work. What's more, and most importantly, they ensured that they celebrated success with their pupils and that they were proud of their achievements, even more so whilst at home.

As the Conifers school community returns to school, embracing the new normal, it is clear that the heart of the school, the children, the buzz of their being, their laughter echoing around the school and the complete joy that they bring each other and to the staff, allows some sense of normality. As always with a Conifers pupil, they embrace challenge and love adventure and as such, they have conquered everything that this past six months has put in front of them. Meanwhile, daily cleaning routines,



teaching in 'bubbles', handwashing, visiting the sanitizing station regularly and being ever mindful of the constantly changing government guidelines are all second nature to the Conifers staff who have also ensure that pastoral care and the well-being of their pupils is at the forefront of their minds in equal measure to academics.

September 2020 has also brought about another, and very exciting, new beginning for Conifers School. It was announced at the start of term that the school has proud new Proprietors and education group, Quo Vadis Education. The acquisition means that Conifers will come under the management of QV Education's founders who have a wealth of experience in successfully managing independent schools. Its founders are Aaron Stewart (CEO), a former pupil at Conifers with two children who currently attend the school, and James Polansky (Co-Founder), who is also the Headmaster of Boundary Oak School in Hampshire. This transition in ownership will bring many benefits, not least that Conifers will be able to meet the challenges that face all schools with a deeper team of school leaders and oversight. Financially, the school can be confident in its future and Conifers staff will have the opportunity to share best practice, further raise standards of achievement and expand the range of opportunities that we can offer our pupils.

Conifers is an exceptional school that stays in the hearts of those who are lucky enough to have had experienced it during their lifetime, whether that be as a pupil or member of staff. Conifers has been educating children since 1934 and with the new ownership will continue to do so

for many years to come. One of the new owners, Aaron Stewart, says of the school 'The trust that has built up over the years between pupils, staff and parents has created an atmosphere like no other. Happy, confident children thrive at Conifers and great teachers love working there, because the setting, class sizes and ethos allow for the fundamental principles of teaching and learning to flourish: deep knowledge and understanding of every child in a trusting and respectful environment.'

2020 has turned out to be a year of 'new beginnings' in numerous ways, most of which stemmed from the pandemic. However, from uncertainty, fear and concern has come a bright future, an even stronger community and the start of a wonderful new journey for Conifers. Headmistress Emma Smyth said: "We are now in an exciting new chapter of our school's history, with new investment and team at QV, together with the foundations that have been laid over the years, our school will go from strength to strength – it's an extremely exciting time to be part of our school community."



For more information about Conifers school, visit

<https://www.conifersschool.com/>

Emma Smythe, head mistress

Our AGM scheduled for 1st October has had to be postponed due to Government COVID restrictions – we hope to hold it in March 2021

I am pleased to say that our Heathland Management Team under the leadership of Jean Hicks and Wendy Pegler has now been out attending to the pine and birch which seem to have grown well over the summer. Please contact if you wish to be part of this regular Work Party. (See photo of recent activity.)

Observations: Nuthatch have been heard giving their 'spring whistle' song on the edge of Midhurst Common near to Carron Lane – unusual at this time of year.

The ling or common heather is looking very good at present with many Bumble and Solitary bees seen whilst we were pulling the conifers and cutting back the birch trees. Sphagnum capillipholium – the Red Bogmoss is growing well in the damp area in the middle of the Heathland. This is an active peat growing area – doing its bit to lock away carbon.



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Andrew Mitchell, Chairman
Friends of Midhurst Common Email:
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The Midhurst Society

Midhurst Society

The Midhurst Society has not been idle this year despite having to cancel its monthly talks programme for 2020. Members receive e-newsletters, can view daily bulletins of local interest on its Facebook pages, and twice a year the magazine.

The latest issue provides news on the Society's campaigns, topics of historic interests, a new walk from Richard Williamson, and amusing tales and anecdotes from the dreaded lockdown period. Issue No. 32 will be available for £3 from Dummers, The Museum, and the Spar at Texaco. For further information see www.midhurstsociety.org

(continued from p. 8)

dropped the temperature and I was smiling as I cycled along, soaked to the skin. How very English, to enjoy the rain! Tough roads up to San Gimignano, of Tea with Mussolini fame. A beautiful place where I had planned to stay, but it was so crowded I moved on quickly to Siena instead.

25 July The next day proved one of contrast. Company along the way and perhaps the toughest test in the afternoon. Hard but pleasant cycling, having met an Italian pilgrim cycling as we passed out of the Roma gate. Too much chatting and not enough pedalling saw me behind schedule at lunch time, so we parted ways as Mario thought I was too tough for him.

26 July The heat and the hills were gruelling, so I was very glad to reach my destination, Radicofani. There, the problem hit: no accommodation. What an emotional low. I had to cycle a further thirty kilometres to the next hotel. Arriving, exhausted, after 7.30pm was quite a trial, so can you imagine the joy when the waitress welcomed me by name and plonked a beer in front of me! To cap it all, she sat me with a group of pilgrims for dinner. What a gem, and what a day of highs and lows.

This was perhaps my first true challenge of a pilgrimage. Before, I had met some great people and had challenges, triumphs, and

minor disasters, but not in the company of a group. The day had been draining, but it ended with fantastic companionship offered by strangers who welcomed me with open arms. In fact, they were strangers to each other as well - only two of the six having met the day before, and that only made it feel more real to be a pilgrim.

28 July I arrived in Rome at lunchtime. Maybe the pope would be free for lunch? Rome was uncharacteristically quiet, and easy to navigate as I followed the cycle path along the Tiber. I found my way to St Peter's square without problems and presented my pilgrim's credential at the office of the 'Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi' and received my testimonium, certifying completion of the pilgrimage. The only remaining chores were to find my hotel and package up my bike to fly home.

Completing the pilgrimage and arriving home was a mixture of emotions: elation on finishing, satisfaction and pride for accomplishing the challenge, relief at not having to ride my bike for a while, sadness at having finished and putting my bike away, and wonderful joy at returning to Julia and this lovely place we live.

Would I do it again? Just let me know when you want to go and I'll be there!

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A Happy Birthday Present

I had hoped to celebrate my 80th birthday with a family and friends party, but Covid-19 intervened so the party has been postponed. However, I did receive a rather unusual present from our family. I am heavily involved with the WW2 Hawker Typhoon aircraft. It is sad that none remains in flying condition, but the present was the chance of a flight in a Spitfire.

On the hottest day of the year so far, we drove to Goodwood and were admitted, suitably anti-Covid masked, to the Boulton Flight Academy building. After a briefing session, we were admitted to the hangar. I was dressed in a flying suit, life-jacket, two pairs of gloves, a precautionary sick-bag and a large “bone-dome” helmet. I was getting hotter all the time. Then I was introduced to Jim Schofield, my pilot. He is a very highly-qualified F35 test pilot and instructor, so I was in good hands. Outside the hangar was Spitfire TR9 dating from November 1944, so younger than me, both of us getting very hot in the scorching Sun. (I had done my initial flying training in Singapore, so I am used to hot cockpits.)

After climbing into the rear cockpit I was helped to strap in and asked to demonstrate my knowledge of safety procedures. There were two sets of harness, one to attach me to the parachute on which I was sitting, the other to attach me to the aircraft. I had often read about the close-fitting Spitfire cockpit and there was little room to operate controls at the sides of the cockpit and it was necessary to prevent one's left leg from interfering with the throttle, mixture and propeller controls. I had quick look around the

instrument panel pedals and wound the canopy shut. A Go-Pro camera was mounted at the top of the instrument panel, so I now have a video record of my flight. Then, with a cloud of smoke, the Merlin engine burst into noisy life and we were off towards the end of runway 14 which, apparently unknown to the Boulton people, is the one used in the official film of the first Hawker Typhoon operational mission in 1942.

Pilot Jim was anxious to take off quickly because of the risk of overheating the engine on such a hot day. With a great roar from the engine we accelerated over the grass and leaped into the air. We climbed out over Tangmere and then Arundel, admiring the castle and cathedral below in excellent visibility. After we turned West towards the Isle of Wight came the magic words “you have control”. I had already noted how only very small control movements were required to manoeuvre the aircraft and I was amazed at how sensitive and responsive the controls and aircraft were. No wonder the WW2 pilots loved flying Spitfires. The aircraft seemed to respond as much to intentions as it did to movements of the stick and rudder. We proceeded towards the Solent at 220knots, overflying the forts, as I got used to the precise handling of the aircraft, managing to make turns



without gaining or losing height. (Instructors are very hot on that.) Below us were many boats and yachts, some obviously very expensive, enjoying such a beautiful day at sea. As we approached the Needles I was looking out for my sister and brother-in-law in their boat. who were waving a brightly coloured flag.

We swept over the Needles lighthouse and flew along the white cliffs of Tennyson Down before turning North. I had asked to visit Needs Oar Point at the mouth of the Beaulieu River, where my Typhoon-flying uncle had been operating on D-Day. Looking down at the peaceful Park Farm fields it was hard to believe that they had been the busiest airfield in England in June 1944 with two long runways. Then we were back over the Solent; it was time for some aerobatics. Jim flew a victory roll (slow) then a barrel roll. He then checked that I was still OK before offering a loop. The Spitfire dived to 300 knots then pulled smoothly up and over until West Wittering and its sandy beach were above my head. Down we went again as I was pressed into

my seat by a force of 3g and we levelled out. Lastly. Jim demonstrated the agility of the Spitfire in a flick roll, with the scenery rotating very rapidly all around us. When you are so tightly strapped in, it is the outside world that moves, not you.

Now it was time to return to Goodwood. The airfield circuit was busy with other aircraft so we circled the Goodwood racecourse (horses) as the wheels came down before the classic Spitfire curved approach (the pilot cannot see well over the long nose when landing) to Runway 14. Bump bump and we were down, then back to the hangar, winding back the cockpit hood only to admit more hot air. Once in front of the hangar there was a brief burst of power, then the propeller slowed to a stop and the engine and exhaust ticked and clicked as they cooled down. What an experience that was!

While I was in the air Mary was talking to some spectators. They asked if she was worried about someone of my age flying in such an old aircraft. "Of course not, they got back didn't they?" The Spitfire was the

sixteenth different aircraft that I had flown. It was a pleasure and a privilege to fly in it and actually to fly it myself. Yes, it was an experience never to be forgotten. If you ever get the chance – take it!

Anthony Knight



Anthony with West Wittering beach above his head!

The Tawny Owl

by Michael Blencowe,

Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



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Not What They Seem

Once upon a time, we were terrified of Tawny Owls. They were a portent of evil in fairy tales, folklore and just about every scary story, film or poem that needed a creepy cliché. But in today's crowded marketplace of international terrorism, climate change and saturated fats, the owl's powers to scare us are fading.

Recently, it appears this spokesman of the supernatural has got itself a new publicist.

Its modern image is one of a cuddly pin-up, more Harry Potter than Hammer Horror.

But stand in the woods on a moonlit night and listen for an unseen owl's ethereal call. It's an ancient, unnerving sound that still speaks to something buried deep within us and ignites a primeval fear. The

Tawny Owl is the largest and commonest of our island's five owl species, typically nesting in holes in old trees in our remaining woodlands. But what is it about this bird that has given us the willies throughout history? Let's start with those huge, lifeless black eyes that seem to stare into your very soul. An owl's eyes are not spherical but tubular like two telescopes and give amazing vision at low light levels. However, the eye's stretched shape and position on the owl's face presents a narrow field of vision. To compensate, a Tawny Owl has special bones and blood



vessels in its neck so it can perform that freaky, Exorcist-like head twist. This gives the bird the ability to scan all around without having to move their bodies and arouse detection by prey.

And in the world of a nocturnal hunter, silence and stealth are everything. Special serrated feathers slice the air, allowing it to fly as silently as a phantom and aerially ambush its victims. Incredible hearing achieved by asymmetrical ears allows

them to accurately pinpoint the rustle of a nervous vole below. They can hear fear.

And then there's that disembodied voice arising from the darkness. The male's far-carrying baritone 'hooo-huhuhuhooo' and the female's squawky 'kerr-wik' response are like a mis-matched duet between

Johnny Cash and Janet Street-Porter.

These calls help establish, maintain and defend a breeding territory and from October the birds are at their most vocal. Of course, Tawny Owls really couldn't give two hoots about scaring us but throughout history these spectral calls have provided a soundtrack to our deepest fears. In a society which is becoming increasingly detached from nature, it's time to get out into the woods this Halloween and allow ourselves to be unsettled once again by these mystical birds.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. Instagram 2. Cloves (Latin 'clavus', French 'clou') 3. Ted Heath 4. The homing pigeon 5. Minneapolis 6. India 7. Bath 8. Loganberry 9. Treaty of Versailles 10. Parasite 11. 1926 12. Gold 13. Matt Lucas 14. Squid 15. Berlin 16. Fifteen 17. Kenny Rogers 18. William Shakespeare 19. Botanist 20. Tiger King

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Royal Surrey Hospital	01483 571122	Social Services Chichester	01243 752999
District Councillor Mr Francis Hobbs fhobbs@chichester.gov.uk	07968 027833	Chemist MH Pharmacy	813255
Easebourne Village Stores	858130	Cowdray Shop & Café	815152
Midhurst Town Council	816953	Grange Centre	0333 005 0398

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