

# *united* **EASEBOURNE**



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The front cover photograph shows the bridge over the Rother and Cowdray Ruins, both of which are listed structures. (See p. 23)

## Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

September sees the return to school for our children. For many children, they will not have been in school since the end of March. Through that period, our teachers did a valiant job in keeping the children connected to their education – but nothing really compensates for being in a classroom with your teacher and friends.

As you can imagine, for our two village schools, getting the children back will take a momentous effort from teachers and support staff and we thank them in advance for this. We can only imagine the stress this is causing? Both our head teachers - Mr Culley and Mrs Smyth - lead their schools with great vision and imagination; you only have to visit Easebourne Primary school or Conifers to see this. And the children thrive in this environment. So the challenge will be: how do we continue to deliver this level of education with all the restrictions that Covid brings? We must also remember how the teachers will cope with all this, many with young families. Will being back in school bring a greater risk of infection?

We hear from the news that the government are committed to

getting children back in school and I think we would all support them in this. What we need to do as a

community is support our schools as they work hard to deliver this. As church communities we need to pray for a safe return; for protection for teachers and staff against this awful pandemic. As wider communities we need to be aware of the children around us - the families working hard to get the children back. But most of all, to give thanks for our village schools – for all that they do for our children, for the work they do in supporting village life and for the wonderful sense of life and energy that education in our midst brings to us all!

Derek Welsman  
Vicar of St Mary's Church



**Please see p. 35 for details of how to 'virtually' attend our Sunday services at home.**



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

**SERVICES AT ST MARY'S**

<b>First Sunday</b>	<b>10.30am</b> Family Eucharist	<i>Coffee is served in Church</i>
<b>Other Sundays</b>	<b>10.30am</b> Holy Eucharist	<i>after the 10.30am service</i>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Holy Eucharist	<i>on most Sundays. (Not during lockdown!)</i>
<b>Morning Prayer:</b>	<b>8.30am</b> 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.**

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<b>Vicar:</b>	Revd Derek Welsman, Northgate, Dodsley Grove Easebourne GU29 9BE Email: derekwelsman@btinternet.com	812655
<b>Churchwarden:</b>	Mrs Alison Davis, Merrydown, Bepton Midhurst GU29 0LZ. Email: alitdavis@gmail.com	816642
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<b>Parish Administrator/PCC Secretary:</b>	Mrs Liz Bounton, 1 Bourne Way, Midhurst GU29 9HZ E-mail: stmaryseasebourne@hotmail.co.uk	816405
<b>PCC Treasurer &amp; Gift Aid Secretary</b>	Mr Eric Bounton, 1 Bourne Way, Midhurst GU29 9HZ E-mail: e.bounton@btinternet.com	816405
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmistress</b>	Mrs Mary Knight Practice on Fridays 6.00pm	812783
<b>200 Club</b>	Margaret & Mike Wharton E-mail: mike@mwassociates.eu.com	810474
<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	Mrs Ann Harfield	813810
<b>Bellringers</b>	Joanne Blackwell (ring on alternate Thursdays from 7.30 – 9.00pm)	01798 860883
<b>Social Committee</b>	Mrs Jan Harling	01798 342233
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*Visit the benefice website: [www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk)*



## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

### Winners in August draw

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £100</b>	<b>No 64</b>	<b>David Christie</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75</b>	<b>No 185</b>	<b>David West</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75</b>	<b>No 40</b>	<b>Johnny Culley</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 33</b>	<b>Jenny Nightingale</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 222</b>	<b>Peter White</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 140</b>	<b>Bryan Scholey</b>

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

Mike & Margaret Wharton,  
tel 810474, email [mike@mwassociates.eu.com](mailto:mike@mwassociates.eu.com)

Date	Readings	Readers	Gospel	Intercessors
6 Sept 13th after Trinity	Ezekial 33: 7—11	Roger Sked	Matt 18: 15—20	
13 Sept 14th	Genesis 50: 15—	John Backshall	Matt 18: 21—35	Caroline Hutchings
20 Sept 15th after Trinity	Isaiah 45: 9—22	Gill Welsman	Matt 20: 1—16	
26 Sept 16th after Trinity	Ezekial 18: 1—4 and 25—end	Mike Wharton	Matt 21: 23—32	Martin Dexter

### Wardens' Walk and W(r)ide

As 'Ride and Stride' has been cancelled this year because of the pandemic, the church wardens at St Mary's thought it would be good idea to have a smaller event renamed "Wardens' Wander and (W)ride". This would be a stroll around Chichester, visiting the many and varied places of worship. The date is Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of September. There might also be an organised Cycle W(r)ide around the local area. We would ask for sponsorship as in previous years, and if agreed, just the two teams, to sponsor wanderers or w(r)iders. Please let the churchwardens know if you want to participate, and in due course we will ask you for sponsorship.

As always we look forward to hearing from you. Contact details are on p. 2.

Roger and Alison

### *Women's Fellowship*

Hello to you all. Sadly nothing to report except to say that the Quiz scheduled for September 1st has been cancelled. Do stay in touch with each other, keep well, and stay safe.

Ann Harfield, Tel 813810

# CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

## SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 2      10.00am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

**Sunday 6      13th Sunday after Trinity**

8.30am      St James      Holy Communion

10.30am      St Mary's      Family Service

6.00pm      St Peter's      Evensong

Wednesday 9      10.00am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

**Sunday 13      14th Sunday after Trinity**

10.30am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

Wednesday 16      10.00am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

**Sunday 20      15th Sunday after Trinity**

8.30am      St James      Harvest Service

10.30am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

Monday 21      6.00pm      St Mary's      PCC Meeting

Wednesday 23      10.00am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

**Sunday 27      16th Sunday after Trinity**

**9.00am      St Peter's**

10.30am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

Wednesday 30      10.00am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

## OCTOBER

**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

### *Social Gang*

It seems a very long time since we all met for Afternoon Tea. Unfortunately we are still unable to let you know when we will be able to meet again, so until this date arrives, the Gang would like to send you our love and best wishes, and hope you will all keep well.

Jan and the gang

## News from the Cowdray Estate

Jonathan Russell, CEO



We have been delighted to see more of our businesses re-opening during the past month together with welcoming back members of the team. The Estate employs approximately 200 members of staff with up to 150 additional seasonal staff. 90% of staff live within a 10 mile radius of Easebourne and whilst we have all stayed in close contact, the absence of a number of members of the team during the past few months has been strongly felt within what is a tight knit and highly engaged group.

Operationally a number of the businesses are encountering their peak season. Harvest continues on the farm together with calving of the dairy herd. To date the harvest on the Cowdray land located around Easebourne and Midhurst has been disappointing with the spring drought having had a greater impact than anticipated on the light sandy soils.



However this year the usually more challenging clay land around Bepton which we also farm is likely to deliver strong yields due to its ability to retain moisture.

In accordance with our long term sustainability plan, fields where arable crops have been harvested are immediately re-sown with either grass or cover crops which incorporate a wide range of species including Linseed, Crimson Clover, Oil Radish, Phacelia, Spring Oats and Vetch. The grass will be harvested in the autumn as an additional forage crop for the dairy cows with the aim of increasing the amount of feed grown directly on the farm. The aim of the cover crops is both to ensure that firstly we do not have prolonged periods of exposed soil and secondly to improve organic matter.

The polo team have been frantically busy as we attempt to condense 75% of the normal number of games played in to approx.-imately 50% of the season. Sadly the sport continues to be played behind closed doors and whilst the Gold Cup was hugely successful from a sporting perspective, the lack of spectators was a poignant reminder of the ongoing crisis. Whilst accepting that we are benefiting from lockdowns in Spain and France, the fact that the majority of High Goal teams are now stuck in the UK has allowed us to host a further tournament in late August/early September.

Forestry operations have continued largely unaffected and the team have moved to this year's large clear fell site in Minepits in the northern part of the Estate. Whilst sustainably managed and accredited, the objective for our coniferous plantations is

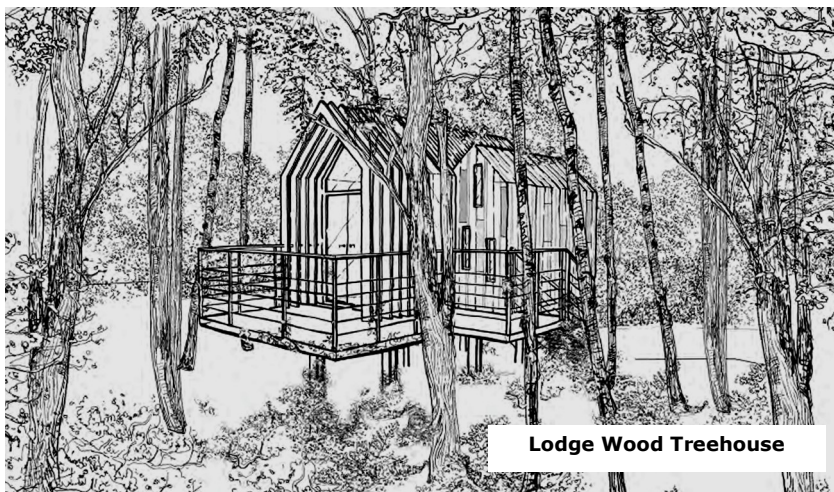
the production of quality timber which is used for a variety of uses from construction through to biofuel. In addition to mainstream timber production we also undertake one off commissions which this month have included pine poles for export to the US for the construction of teepees, and timber for repair works to a church steeple in Kent. During late July we broke our previous production record by dispatching over 2,250 tonnes of timber in a week. All felled areas are replanted.

Environmental and landscape works are embedded within our forestry activities. We have been delighted to welcome back our regular breeding pair of Honey Buzzards who this year have had two chicks. (See next page.) The Honey Buzzard is a red list bird species with only 41 known nesting pairs in the UK. The buzzards migrate from Africa every spring and are resident on the Estate from May until late September after the chicks fledge and are strong enough to migrate home. We are not permitted to disclose the location of the nest.

We were delighted after some two years and significant expenditure to receive a planning consent for the erection of five

Treehouses in Lodge Wood located between Cowdray House and Lawns. The Treehouse will operate on a self catering holiday cottage model. The planning process has been frustrating, and, in spite of local support, we suffered from conflicting attitudes towards the perceived impact on the landscape which arguably becomes a subjective issue. These challenges become problematic for a business such as Cowdray where we have an understanding of the balance between operating within, enhancing and protecting a landscape, but at the same time creating a sustainable commercial business which allows us to invest in these wider objectives.

Our aspiration is for construction to commence in the Autumn with completion by late Spring. The Treehouse will operate on a car-free basis with the guest reception being located in the former Model Farm (Rickyard) and guests then driven by buggy to their accommodation. The development is hugely exciting for the Estate and we hope that many local businesses will benefit.



**Lodge Wood Treehouse**



**Honey buzzard with 2 chicks**



**Barley Harvest on the Estate**



## Poet's Corner

Susie Pickard was going through some old papers left by her mother in 2006 and came across this newspaper cutting which attributed the following poem to an old lady who had died in a hospital in Essex. On searching the internet it would appear over many years that the poem has generated a wealth of urban legend as to its origins. However it was apparently written in 1966 by Phyllis McCormack. She was a nurse working at Sunnyside Hospital, Montrose. She submitted the poem anonymously to a small magazine intended just for Sunnyside with the title 'Look Closer, Nurse'. It is not surprising that a poem with such a universally powerful and though provoking message should take on a life of its own. It is especially poignant in the times we are now living.

### What Do You See?

*What do you see, Nurses, what so you see?  
Are you thinking when you are looking at me –  
A Crabbit woman, not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit, with far away eyes,  
Who dribbles her food, and makes no reply.  
When you say in a loud voice, "I do wish you'd try".  
Who seems not to notice the things that you do  
And forever losing a stocking or shoe.  
Who un-resisting or not, let's you do as you will,  
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.  
Is that what you are thinking, is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, Nurse, you're not looking at me.  
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,  
As I use, at your bidding, as I eat at your will,  
I'm a small child of ten, with Father and Mother,  
Brothers and Sisters who love one another.  
A young girl of 16 with wings on her feet,  
Dreaming, that soon now, a lover she'll meet.  
A Bride soon at 20, my heart gives a leap,  
Remembering the vows I promised to keep.  
At 25 now, I have young of my own  
Who need me, to build a secure happy home.*

*A woman of 30, my young now grow fast,  
Bound to each other with ties that should last.  
At 40 my young sons have grown and gone,  
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn.  
At 50, once more babies play around my knee,  
Again we know children, my loved one and me.*

*Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,  
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,  
For my young are all rearing young of their own,  
And I think of the years and the love I have known.*

*I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel,  
Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.  
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart,  
There is now a stone where I once had a heart.*

*But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,  
And now and again, my battered heart swells.  
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,  
And I'm loving and living life over again.  
I think of the years all too few – gone too fast,  
And accept the dark fact, nothing can last.*

*But open your eyes, Nurses, open and see,  
Not a Crabbit old woman – look closer – see ME.*

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We heard recently from Alison Halliwell, our former assistant priest at St Mary's. She sends everyone her best wishes. If you would like to have a stroll round her amazing garden with its colourful beds, large pond, and views over Woolbeding countryside, please give Alison a ring on 812412. Ed.



## 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/](http://www.cowdray.co.uk/wellbeing/)

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



**Stephanie Goodfellow wins first-ever Easebourne Community Star award**

The winner of Easebourne's first-ever quarterly Community Star award is resident Stephanie Goodfellow. Stephanie, who has lived in the village for nearly 25 years, won the award for her wonderful support of Easebourne and the wider Midhurst community during lockdown. A member of the Midhurst Angels, she ran the volunteer pharmacy delivery team, working closely with the three local pharmacies, who made sure residents self-isolating across the area could continue to get their prescriptions. Stephanie also befriended a number of residents, doing their shopping, delivering treats and making sure they didn't face isolation throughout lockdown.

The Easebourne Community Star awards have been introduced by the Parish Council to recognise exceptional contribution of residents to the parish. The award will be given quarterly, with the next nominations to be put forward at the end of September. Parish Councillors, the School, and the Church will all be asked to put forward candidates but the award committee also welcomes nominations from any resident. If you want to nominate someone please email the Parish Clerk.

Mike Noble, Chairman of the Easebourne Parish Council, commented: "We introduced the awards as a way of recognising some of the incredible efforts of people around the Parish who are making a difference to our community. I'm

delighted to present the first award to Stephanie - it seemed only fitting that a Midhurst Angel should receive it after over three months of dedicated community support throughout lockdown."

Stephanie said: "I'm really proud to have the work we did recognised. Receiving the award makes me want to do more for our community."



**Crowdfunding campaign for CCTV at Easebourne Park attracts lots of donations**

Our award-winning park has really come back to life since the beginning of July when children could start using the play equipment again. Sadly, we've had a few instances of poor behaviour of late involving a small group of young people. As a result, we've had to increase security patrols, are in regular contact with the Police, and have recently run a crowdfunding campaign to help pay for much-needed CCTV. At time of writing we have raised over £1500 - a great contribution from residents. We'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has donated money to make sure we can protect this much-loved community asset.

## Flood relief scheme to go ahead thanks to grant from West Sussex

We are delighted to have secured £32,000 in funding from the West Sussex Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund awards to help with a flood relief scheme. The work will be carried out later this summer.

In February 2020, the culvert ruptured under two residential gardens, resulting in the River Ez taking a new course, flooding houses, businesses and temporarily blocked the A272 and A286 at North Mill Bridge. Local homes and businesses are at risk of flooding, which can occur within minutes of a heavy downpour. Sandbags remain at the front of houses all year round. The award will increase the capacity of a culverted watercourse system to stop

flooding to the highway and properties, funding two new manholes and replacing the historic brick culvert running under the residential gardens with a larger plastic pipe.

## Contacting the Parish Council

Finally, please note the Parish Council is still unable to hold public meetings due to Covid-19 restrictions, but is continuing to operate with decisions made by emails, telephone conversations and virtual meetings. If you have any questions for the Parish Council, wish to make any suggestions, or are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact Sharon Hurr, Parish Clerk (see below) or by letter to 1 Pennicott Road, Bersted, West Sussex, PO21 5AY.

**Parish Clerk: Sharon Hurr, [parishclerk@easebourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@easebourne.org)  
Tel: 07342 166188 Parish website: [www.easebourne.org](http://www.easebourne.org)**

**IPSHIRE AND KENT. JANUARY**

**EASEBOURNE.**

The annual supper of the Rother slate club was held at the Rother inn last week, when a company of about 60 sat down. The chair was occupied by Mr. F. A. Tallant.

The 1st Eastbourne Troop of Boy Scouts are now fairly settled in their new quarters in Dodsley-lane, and last week the Rev. E. and Mrs. Lascelles of Rotherfield House, arranged an entertainment for them there by Mr. Sidney Fielder, conjurer, &c., of South-sea, and also provided refreshments for them. We understand Mrs. Lascelles has also kindly offered to provide a clock for the room, which already looks very cosy and home-like.

ledge complain accommodation an Institute private residen

Mr. A. Radcliffe the fourth of the People," p Club on Friday when there was Mr. Dugmore tion which was four years ago photographs of that part of turer said, we time become ture was entit

## SCOUTING IN EASEBOURNE

This cutting from the West Sussex Gazette from around 1910 talks about the Eastbourne (sic) Troop who 'are now settled in their new quarters in Dodsley Lane.' Mrs Lascelles gifted them with a

clock and arranged entertainment by a magician!

Sarah Jordan, the Scout leader, would love to hear from anyone with more information about the history of Scouting in the village.

Please contact Sarah at [sarahajordan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahajordan@hotmail.co.uk).



## Letting Down my Hair by Andrew Guyatt

'You need to get your hair cut.'

Unfortunately I had been ignoring this gentle coaxing by my wife for weeks until suddenly it was too late. Lockdown had started and the shop was shut.

Not that I have anything against my barber - he is a pleasure to listen to with a wealth of information about local politics. Also, despite the fact that I am no fisherman, I enjoy hearing about his expeditions to various rivers in search of relaxation and the perfect catch.

No, I was just being lazy and while many of my male friends suffer baldness, I still have vigorously spouting hair. All too soon flowing curls have begun adorning my neck. I also have a beard and moustache which have now turned white, so that I have been mistaken by a child in the supermarket for Father Christmas off duty. Not that I have anything against long hair in principle but to misquote an old advertisement, 'it looks better on a girl.' In my youth I often gazed wistfully at pony tail after pony tail but I still think this looks very odd on a man, particularly when his hair is grey.

I have one friend who has taken this to extremes. Several years ago he forswore the barber and the razor. Now he closely resembles an Old Testament prophet and his wife must have considerable difficulty locating his lips to give him his customary kiss.

On the theme of the Bible, there are warnings about men with

excessive hair. Samson's parents had sworn to God before he was born that his head would never be shaved. As the world's strongest man he must have been quite a sight with bulging muscles and flowing locks he could sit on. However when Delilah arranged a secret haircut for him he lost his strength and was captured by his enemies the Philistines. There was no special magic in the hair itself, but he had broken the sacred vow and for a time he was abandoned by God.



Another example was Absalom. He was one of the sons of King David, but he wanted the crown himself and rebelled against his father. The final battle was in a forest and Absalom was riding a mule. As he tried to escape, his mount led him under a great tree and his long and luxurious locks were caught up in the branches. The mule kept going and left him dangling helpless held by his hair until he was killed by the commander of David's army.

Perhaps the best advance until the lockdown is over, is to check your wife for scissors before retiring for the night, and never ride a mule through a wood.

# ? General Knowledge Quiz *Compiled by Carole Sawyer*

1. In which decade was the Channel Tunnel opened to traffic?
2. In chess what title is given to someone who has achieved the highest level of skill?
3. What is an alternative name for the aubergine?
4. Which British retailer was responsible for the creation of the ISBN book catalogue system?
5. What does the phrase 'Fourth Estate' commonly refer to?
6. What do you call a group of camels?
7. What is the most recent state to be added to the USA?
8. Who hosts 'A Question of Sport' and who are the two team captains?
9. Which microbe is the basis of the brewing and baking industry?
10. Which musical instrument has dampers, hammers and strings?
11. A species of animal that was once extinct in Britain has made a comeback; what is it?
12. What do Bluebell, the Watercress and the Severn Valley all have in common?
13. What does a theodolite measure?
14. What have you been doing if you finish by casting off?
15. What is a stinkhorn?
16. What kind of lights were first used in 1868 near Parliament Square?
17. What name is given to the technology of creating and reading codes?
18. What trees belong to the genus Quercus?
19. What type of stone is the Koh-i-noor?
20. The name of which Italian pasta can be translated as Little Worms?

Answers on page 18

## **'Up a creek without a paddle'**

Anthony Knight spotted a worker whose cherry picker failed and left him stranded high above the houses where he was working in Easebourne Street. Presumably he has by now been rescued.



## Henry Egerton Clunies-Ross by Phil Stringer

During lockdown I researched one of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves located beside the war memorial. Reading the inscription on the headstone I was curious what an Australian was doing in the King's African Rifles and why was he buried in Easebourne? Following an online search of publicly available records and contact with his family in Australia, this is what I pieced together.



Henry Egerton Clunies-Ross, known as Gert to his family, was born in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1891. He was the second eldest of four boys; Allan his elder brother, Robert, and Ian. He was awarded an arts degree from the University of Sydney and was employed as a journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald.

Before the Great War, Gert was an enthusiastic part-time soldier, but in 1915 he enlisted and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 5<sup>th</sup> May. His brothers Allan and Robert joined up as well. Gert sailed with 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force (AIF), on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1915 on-board HMAT

*Ceramic* bound for Egypt as part of preparations for the Gallipoli campaign.

However, he returned to Australia from Egypt after contracting enteritis in October 1915.

Once recovered, he helped organise the first Cycle Corps to leave Australia. The primary roles of the cyclists were to conduct reconnaissance and communications (message taking). They

were armed as infantry and could provide mobile firepower if required. He was promoted to Lieutenant in October 1915 and Captain in April 1916.

On 18<sup>th</sup> April 1916 he re-embarked as Officer Commanding 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Cyclist Company, ANZAC Cyclist Battalion on board HMAT A64 *Demosthenes* to return to France. When they arrived in England, his unit was disbanded, and he was made a machine gun instructor. He was deployed to France and served with 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF from 10<sup>th</sup> June 1917 during the Battle of Messines Ridge and subsequent engagements till August 1917.

He transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Kings African Rifles (KAR) on 24 September 1917, and left for Nairobi. His family believe Gert transferred to the KAR to

pursue a career as a professional soldier and he must have calculated this would be easier in the British colonial forces. At the time of his transfer, the KAR were expanding rapidly to face the German threat in East Africa. Gert joined his new battalion as the strategic drive was to pursue German forces who had withdrawn into

Portuguese East Africa to re-group. During these pursuit operations, Gert caught malaria.

He was hospitalised in Lindi but was then evacuated to England in June 1918 and died of malaria and pneumonic influenza in Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital on



27<sup>th</sup> September 1918. Captain Clunies-Ross was awarded the Victory Medal, British War Medal and 1915 Star. Sadly, his brother Rob was killed a week later on 3 October 1918 in France, and is buried in Bellicourt British Cemetery. His brother Allan

survived the war although injured by gas.

The family believe Gert Clunies-Ross is buried in St Mary's Churchyard as he was engaged to be married to the daughter of the parish priest. Gert's mother travelled to England in 1919 to meet up with his eldest brother Allan, now commissioned and married, and to join him on his troopship home to Australia. While in Britain, the family confirm she visited Gert's grave in Easebourne.

This article has been published in Rhino Link – The Journal and Family History of the King's African Rifles and East African Forces Association.



**Roger Sked lays a wreath at the War Memorial on VJ Day.**

## Easebourne Primary School



It's the middle of August and the school summer break as I write this. Everyday life at Easebourne Primary School has been no less affected by COVID-19 than life in the community beyond. It isn't yet clear how things will be when we are back in September, around the time that you will be reading this. We will know better once the autumn term has started and so I will leave that update to the October issue.

In the meantime, I thought I would share some of the children's writing during COVID-19. Readers may remember our Tight Write initiative, a voluntary writing opportunity where children respond to a picture prompt with up to 50 words. It is wonderful when a picture excites a child and sets the cogs turning with the germ of a story. Some children write regularly and can submit twice or even three times to the same image, others engage occasionally and some are still to find the right moment.

The Tight Writes continued during Lockdown and below are seven of the images the children received. For each image, I have chosen one of my favourite pieces from those submitted by the children and hope that you enjoy them and agree with me that each leaves the reader wanting to read more.

\*\*\*\*\*



Who is that on the phone?  
It's John in Sydney. It's midnight for him.  
Ask him how he is.  
He says he is fine. Out there are lots of forest  
fires. Ask him how the grandkids are.  
Growing up fast he says.  
Give our love to them all.

By Luca, Year 1

Sounds of the Life of the Bogeyman

"Grun," groaned the monster as he got up.  
"Scrape," rubbed his feet on the dark cobbled floor.  
"Clonk clank clonk clank," jangled the jars on his belt.  
"Slosh," gurgled the slime in the jars.  
"AAAAAAHHHHHH," screamed the people, enslaved and in pain.  
These are the sounds of the Bogeyman.

By Bea, Year 4



Sophia scanned the crowd for her parents. She huddled down in a corner. Through the mist, a mythical polar bear glided towards her! A moment of trust passed between her and the bear. Too soon, the moment was over and the bear was gone. Nobody else had seen the silver bear.

By Cecily, Year 5



Whilst walking through the eerie woods, I discovered a creepy treehouse with a crooked ladder and haunted skulls, lurking in the fog. Beneath it, a tiger with huge, staring eyes and long, sharp whiskers, was ready to pounce. I gasped, the tree had legs and was lurching slowly towards me.....

By Lucy, Year 4



As I climbed the mountain shadows swarmed around me. When I reached the top, I heard a deep rumble like a giant clearing its throat. It was an avalanche! I was thrown off the mountain, down the cliff and landed in this giant hand.

"Hello?"

By Tabitha, Year 5



Sad and lonely, Luna floated into town; everyone around her stared, as children ran screaming. Her face turned scarlet and she looked down at her trusted broom. Soon, she came upon a pet shop. As two little eyes gazed at her, her heart felt like it was going to explode.

By Phebe, Year 6



### The Book of Reflection

I couldn't believe it; at the age of 20 I'd found the Book of Reflection, it was showing me as a baby. I waved my bag and she waved her teddy. Many years later....I took one more step. After 60 years of waiting, I was back. I waved my ragged bag at the book and my 20-year-old reflection waved back...

By Izzy, Year 6



Johnny Culley, headmaster

[www.easebourne.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.easebourne.w-sussex.sch.uk)

### General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. 1990's 2. Grandmaster 3. Eggplant 4. W H Smith 5. The press, journalism, newspapers or news media 6. Caravan 7. Hawaii (August 1959) 8. Sue Barker, Phil Tufnell and Matt Dawson 9. Yeast 10. Piano 11. The Large Blue Butterfly 12. Railways 13. Angles 14. Knitting 15. Fungus 16. Traffic lights 17. Cryptography 18. Oaks 19. Diamond 20. Vermicelli



## National Gardens Scheme

Patty Christie opened her garden to the public under the NGS scheme on Sunday 9 August to raise funds for the charities of

the NGS. Despite the heat there were lots of visitors and the plant sale raised over £200. Any plants left over were donated to other charities. Patty thanks all her helpers, the visitors and those who donated plants.

Patty Christie, Tel 813323

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### Report from Birch Trees Nursing Home

For the last few weeks at Birch Trees, we have been welcoming our residents' families into our garden for socially distanced visits. It has been an emotional time for all of us and seeing so many familiar faces again (in the flesh, not just on a screen) has been amazing. We have been operating an appointment only system for thirty-minute visits and this seems to work well. One of our resident's daughters, Mrs Tina Duval, wrote to us to say the following:

***"I would just like to say a huge thank you for my visit with Mum. Birch Trees have done a fantastic job of making the garden visit feel natural even with all of the PPE, safety measures and distancing, all of which was the best. Also a huge thank you to all of the staff who have looked after Mum through all of this."***

We have received similar sentiments from many of our visitors and we would like to say a

big thank you to all of them. They have been so extremely understanding throughout, and the lovely thank yous and gifts of biscuits and treats for the staff have meant so much to us and make us feel truly appreciated.

Our activities programme has continued with making clay flowers and models, growing tomatoes and peppers and cheese tasting amongst some of the favourites.

Looking forward, we are planning to hold a **Macmillan coffee afternoon on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm**. Details of this can be found on the Victoria Birch Trees Facebook page, or you can contact us for further information. Our residents have been helping to get our garden into shape in anticipation – by giving our benches a new lease of life and also decorating some new garden ornaments. We hope some of you can join us! (See photo next page.)

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

**Residents of Birch Trees preparing the garden for their Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on September 25 at 2.00pm**



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### **From the editors**

We hope you enjoyed reading the special bumper issue we produced for you in August. We distributed it free of charge to everyone (we hope!) within the boundaries of Easebourne parish. The idea was to introduce our magazine to residents who might not know of *United* and to invite them to subscribe. And thanks to you who did sign up!

As we said last time, a little magazine like this is only as good as its content, and we depend on our readers to send us interesting stories and tidbits of information. So don't be shy—we would like to hear from you. If you can't send us an email you can always phone us and we will find another way to write down your contribution.

It's not too late to subscribe, for the amount of £2.50, until the next annual renewal date of April 2021. Just give us a ring. The deadline for copy for the October issue is Tuesday 15th of September.

Tina and Gavin, Tel 816542

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### **TANDEM – ALWAYS A WARM WELCOME**

We are a Midhurst based Charity established in 1983 supporting the transport needs of the not so young and not so able in the Midhurst and Petworth area. Our core purpose is to provide transport with our Volunteer Drivers to medical appointments.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic we have not been able to operate this valuable service since March. We are members of the Community Transport Association and are taking their expert advice derived from Government rules about when we can start to operate again—we are hoping by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. With this in mind we need the following volunteer to start when we are able to recommence our service.

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Have you got approx. 30 minutes at the end of the day, Monday to Friday, to arrange these vital medical trips from your own home. You will only need internet access and we will supply you with a mobile phone along with full training. Please call Rebecca Piper on 01730 812463 to find out more.



## Listed Buildings in Easebourne

Last month The Midhurst Society appealed for volunteers to help add Easebourne properties to the listed buildings section of their website. Phil Stringer got in touch, offering access to the striking black and white photos and research conducted by his father John Stringer and John Harrison for an exhibition entitled "The Architectural Heritage of Easebourne" held as part of the Easebourne Church Open Days in 1990. The project will match the photos to the listing details. We will share them here over the coming months.

### Glaziers Lane – C27

Grade II Listed.

Cowdray Estate Number C27. 17th century or earlier timber-framed building with stone rubble infilling on a stone plinth. South front tile-hung. Tiled roof. Casement windows. Two storeys. Two windows.

A rare prayer book called *A Little Memorial* written by Father Arias and dated 1602 was found during internal renovations in 1963 by Leslie Howell and sent to the British Museum. (Source: West Sussex Gazette 26 March 1990)



Please tell the editors if you can tell us more about Cottage 27, or indeed about any of the older cottages on the Estate.



## Snippets from a Gardener's Diary by John Humphris

2020 is certainly a year like no other. First the Coronavirus, which will without doubt be with us into next year, and now a heatwave with temperatures set to beat all records. I can offer no expertise whatever on the virus, but have a long experience of dealing with extremes of weather.

Last year we paid a visit to the Beth Chatto Gardens in Essex, one of the driest parts of the UK. Beth Chatto herself designed part of the garden to be her 'Dry Garden'. The brief being that once established, no part of that garden would receive any artificial watering. This obviously shows a need to understand the range of plants that are ideal for such a garden and the Mediterranean Society Portugal, based in the Algarve, have annual conferences where this is discussed. Obviously southern Portugal has this problem every summer and mostly for long periods. Here where the weather is so unpredictable it is not such a major problem but it is well worth while growing, in at least part of the garden, plants that will cope with just such a summer as we are having. (See below.)

### Ron Wakeford

Like many people I have missed our produce and flower shows. The chance to see the range of fruit, flowers and vegetables grown locally and to exchange views and ideas with keen enthusiasts is an important part of the show scene and I thought it might be interesting to speak with one of our regular trophy winners. I called round recently to have a chat with

Ron Wakeford, who has been one of our most prolific trophy winners. His record is impressive; nine times winner of the Gayford Cup for the most points in the vegetable classes, eight times winner of the Harry Etherington Trophy for the best collection of vegetables. Three times winner of the Dave Gibbs Trophy for the best individual entry in the vegetable classes. Twice winner of the Jock Ledingham Trophy for Best in Show and finally three times winner of the Banksian Medal for the most points in the horticultural classes.



**Ron Wakeford**

It is quite obvious that being a regular trophy winner does not happen by accident and I asked Ron how he managed to produce such consistent results year on year. Timing and preparation are key, he was telling me, buying the best quality seed, seedlings, onion sets etc, sowing or potting at the right time in the most suitable compost is



Top left: Onion from Kelsey seed—a whopper at 700gr.  
Above: Red and white onions from sets or seed.

Left: Ron's shallots

Ron and Daphne's small back garden, proving that even during a heat wave you could have a blaze of colour. Ron grows all his prize vegetables in raised beds on the other side of the garden and in his greenhouse.



the first step. He was then keen to point out how important it was to feed, water, pot on at the correct time throughout the growing season. I suggested that this was not an ideal hobby for someone who enjoys going on holiday for a fortnight in the summer. No, he replied, the attention to detail on a daily basis shows the difference between those who just compete and those who are regular winners. I should add that because of health issues over a number of years, Ron's wife Daphne is a key figure in their success, and he wanted to point out how much of their success is due to her help and support.

Ron and Daphne have lived in Highfield Close for about 45 years now and raised their two children there. Ron was trained as a bricklayer, which was just as well as they were lucky enough to join the Self-build Scheme in Highfield Close in 1972. The plans for all the houses in the close were drawn up by fellow resident Denis Bicknell who was the Surveyor for Midhurst Rural Council at the time. Other members of the scheme came along with expertise in the various building trades—carpenters, plumbers, electricians, bricklayers, plasterers, labourers — and there are several residents of Highfield Close who also still live in the houses they built for themselves back in the 70's.

When their children were younger Ron became a Cub Scout Leader, then he restarted started the Scout Troop in Midhurst. Later he was District Scout Leader for about 15 years. When his health meant he could no longer do building work he took on gardening jobs as he had always been a keen gardener.

He became a member of the Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society and started winning prizes in 2011.

### **Planting Schemes for Heatwaves in August**

This has nothing to do with summer bedding schemes such as the wonderful baskets and containers in Midhurst. These depend on regular watering and feeding, almost on a daily basis in the extremely hot weather. I am talking about a group of plants that once established look attractive during August and never have to be watered. As none of these are very tall, no more than 18 inches or so, I envisage them being used at the front of a long border in front of a wall or shrub border and next to a paved or gravel path. Firstly is the *Calamintha nepetoides* with lilac white flowers, minty when crushed and loved by the bees. Ideally several plants spaced out and interplanted with two low growing plants. Firstly *Euphorbia myrsinites* with greeny yellow flowers in spring followed for the rest of the summer by long trails of glucose grey leaves, (hence the need for a gravel or paved path), also *Gypsophyla 'Rosy Veil'*, a cloud of clear pink flowers. Finally, to complete this picture, a late flowering *Allium* called *macranthum* which has rich purple flowers from grassy hummocks, the last of the alliums to flower and attractive for many weeks in July and August. What sets these plants apart is the ability to look attractive in the hottest conditions without any attention, apart from dead heading as needed.

John Humphris 810052



What an unusual year!

We began the 19-20 academic year in full throttle with our children enjoying trips to places such as The Winchester Science Centre, The Weald and Downland Museum and The Chichester Festival Theatre. In the autumn term our senior pupils took their entrance exams to their next schools and we enjoyed our wonderful Christmas celebrations both at Lodsworth Village Hall and St Mary's Church.

We returned to school in January and news began to unfold about a virus that had been detected in China and soon after in Italy. This will be a year that all the children will remember for many different reasons. On 20th March we temporarily closed Conifers and were unable to enjoy our end of term activities, such as the Spring fair and the Junior production of The Plastic Pirates.

We could barely believe that suddenly we would start learning from home, that school would not reopen for 12 weeks. Residential trips were sadly cancelled and some children would not return to Conifers this academic year.

It has been a complex time but with our small classes and the dedication of our teachers we delivered a full academic curriculum for all pupils in Reception to Form VIII, and by the end of the summer term 80% of our pupils were back in school.

But there is no doubt that face to face teaching, no matter how excellent the Zoom lessons were,



is irreplaceable—both from the chatter that you hear in the classroom to the social and emotional aspects of children being together. With this in mind, we are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils, from Toddlers to Year 8, back into school on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Our timetable has been gently tweaked to enable all lessons to be taught in bubbles, whilst keeping the breadth of curriculum intact and enjoyment of being in school as normal as possible – from PE, maths, science and Mandarin, to home cooked lunches, assemblies, early club and late stay - we are ready to roll.



Emma Smyth, headmistress  
[www.conifersschool.com](http://www.conifersschool.com)



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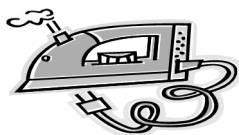
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COVID-19 has restricted almost all of our activities this year but hopefully our AGM will still go ahead on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of October



**Friends Of  
Midhurst Common**

at 7.00pm. Our speaker will be Kelly Porter from the South Downs National Park Authority, from their Planning Department and is Major Projects Lead. She will be talking about the SDNPA Local Plan policies and how it influences the open boundary between the proposed housing development on Bepton Road and Old Brickworks site.

### Nature Notes:

Greenfinch numbers are increasing judging by the amount of song compared to recent years around the edge of the Common. The reverse is true of the chaffinch; the RSPB is well aware of this. A family of quite rare Spotted Flycatchers has been observed over a period of time on the Common this year.

Common Spotted Orchids have been seen but not Bee Orchids. Smooth Cat's Ear has also been observed on the Common. Here are a few more:



#### **Birdsfoot Trefoil**

*Lotus corniculatus*.  
Member of the pea family. Very common.



#### **Common Centaury**

*Centaureum erythraea*. Native of Europe and UK, showing total indifference to Brexit!



#### **Evening Primrose**

*Oenothera biennis*.  
Fertilised by night-flying moths. Many reported health benefits, including as a cure for balding!



#### **Smooth Hawksbeard**

*Crepis capillaris*. An early colonist of open ground and thin grassland.

From Andrew Mitchell,  
Chairman Friends of Midhurst Common



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## Yellow Meadow Ants

by Michael Blencowe,

Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



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### *South Downs Skyscrapers*

If you're feeling boxed-in by buildings and overwhelmed by architecture, I've found the perfect escape route. Head up onto the South Downs and let the developed world be stripped away with every step. Yet here, in this ancient landscape, towering above the thyme and trefoils in the turf, you'll find some of the most impressive buildings in Sussex.



Ant hills are mini miracles of design and construction, the visible tip of the ant's underground empire. Soil is mined and carried, grain by grain, to the surface to construct this metropolis of mounds some of which can be centuries old. Every ant hill represents a separate colony of Yellow Meadow Ants – respected as the finest architects amongst Britain's 42 ant species.

Ant hills are high-rise heat-traps built to harvest the sun's warmth. This soil solarium houses a series of chambers; the colony's nursery. Here, worker ants tenderly tend to eggs, pupae and larvae – moving them around within the ant hill to keep them always on the sunny side.

With a strong division of labour, each colony is a 'superorganism' made of thousands of hard-working individuals serving a common cause – their colony

and queen. But life is far from peaceful. Every ant hill is a miniature kingdom at war with its neighbouring ant hills. Epic battles are fought daily on these downs, and every summer squadrons of winged ants take to the skies in an attempt to establish new colonies. It's a perilous mission – certain death awaits them if they land in occupied territory.

Down under the ant hill, other ants work on the aphid farm. Root-feeding aphids are herded and 'milked' for their honeydew – a hi-energy drink which helps fuel the colony. Ants also obtain a similar sugary syrup from the caterpillars of Chalk Hill Blue butterflies. When these caterpillars are ready to pupate they are carried underground and adopted by the ant colony. Upon emergence, the subterranean homesick blue butterflies scramble back to the surface and escape to the summer skies.

Ant hills don't just benefit ants; their angles and aspects create a unique micro-habitat on chalk downland. Their sun-baked slopes are great for basking butterflies, grasshoppers and lizards and their soft, sifted soil is loved by mosses, grasses and flowers. This softness is also their vulnerability. Every ant lives in fear of the great winged terror from the sky – the green woodpecker. Its brutal bill and sticky harpoon tongue can cause carnage in a colony. Winged monsters, kingdoms at war – it's a veritable Game of Thrones out there on the South Downs in September.

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## **Broadcasting of Services by Anthony Knight**

After numerous experiments and two unsatisfactory Sunday broadcasts we have concluded that the very slow internet speed available over a mobile phone link in the church is not sufficient for the live transmission of video signals. It has therefore been decided that we will record the Wednesday services and that they will be nearly identical to the service on the following Sunday. This gives me time to edit the recordings before uploading them to You Tube and the church website for broadcasting over the coming weekend.

A number of technical issues have been resolved, including the synchronising of

sound and vision and the formatting of video material for use on You Tube. Now everyone, even if they are self-isolating, shielding or in quarantine can join in our weekly services. They can be viewed with an internet browser on computers, tablets and mobile phones by going to

**[www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk)**

If anyone can suggest a way of getting a high-speed broadband link into the church (we have considered installing a 'phone line, but that would require cash and a faculty) then we will be interested to hear from them.

### **COME TO CHURCH—Either in person or on line**

**The congregation of St Mary's Easebourne is now able to come to a real live service on Sundays (or Wednesdays). They are all socially distanced and must wear face coverings. But there are still many of our readers who continue to isolate at home or in care homes, or are unable for other reasons to come to church.**

**For that reason, Anthony Knight has made it possible for everyone, whether you are a regular churchgoer or not, to 'attend' our Sunday services every week, by watching it on your home computer or tablet or smart phone.**

**Go to [www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk) and scroll down to the bottom of the home page. There you will see the beginning of the video showing Derek our vicar, with 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.**

**As Anthony mentions above, the service is actually videoed on the Wednesday before the Sunday, but Derek's service is identical on Sunday and he will preach the same sermon.**

**We cordially invite you to join us and we would ask you to help older people to come along as well. If you have any questions, or if you want to attend in person, please contact one of the church wardens. You can find their contact details on page 2. (You need to book your place to ensure that distancing is maintained.)**

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Call Michael on 07734 982525 for more information and details of events.

### Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

**At Birch Trees Nursing Home in Hollist Lane  
on Friday 25 September at 2.00pm  
Go to our Facebook page for more information:  
[www.facebook.com/victoriabirchtrees](http://www.facebook.com/victoriabirchtrees)**

### PETWORTH HERITAGE WEEKEND

The weekend will still be going ahead on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September and some of the venues including Petworth House, Coultershaw and Burton Mill open with social distancing measures. However, we are also planning an exciting 'Digital Experience' of places of interest around the town that will bring to life many of the stories about Petworth and will be a taster of what is to come in 2021.

Have a look at our webpage for more information:

[www.petworthcommunity.org/petworth-heritage-weekend](http://www.petworthcommunity.org/petworth-heritage-weekend).

PETWORTH FESTIVAL

A decorative graphic consisting of a series of white musical notes and stems on a dark background, flowing across the top of the banner.A small icon of a computer monitor with the text "LIVE ONLINE!" and musical notes on the screen.

**2020 Petworth Festival Special**  
**including the 10th Anniversary Literary Week**  
**Friday 16 October – Sunday 1 November**

A simple line drawing of an open book, showing its pages.

Full programme announced 17 September  
**[www.petworthfestival.org.uk](http://www.petworthfestival.org.uk)**

A simple line drawing of an open book, showing its pages.

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## EMERGENCIES Police Ambulance Fire 999

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Southern Water	0330 303 0368	Police (non emergency)	101

### USEFUL NUMBERS

Riverbank Medical Centre	812121	Out of Hours NHS	111
Woodcroft Dental Clinic	812053	St Oswald Dental Surgery	812022
Newspaper delivery (Dummers)	813348	Red Cross Petworth	0800 028 0831
Community Hospital	819100	St Richards Hospital, Chichester	01243 788122
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

RecyclingSite, Bepton Road—Opening hours from 1 April—Thurs to Monday 9.00—18.00, closed Tuesday & Wednesday. See <http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org/recycling-sites/midhurst>  
**NOW FULLY OPEN AFTER LOCKDOWN**

### EASEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Noble, Chair Clerk—Sharon Hurr	Tel: 07342 166188 parishclerk@easebourne.org
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### TRANSPORT

Stagecoach Buses	0345 1210190	Midhurst Yellow Bus	07879 556568
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	Tandem Bus	813962

### VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Garden & Allotment Society www.easebournegardens.org	810052	Midhurst & Easebourne Youth Football Club	816415
1st Easebourne Scout Group	Sarah Jordan	sarahjordan@hotmail.co.uk	
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	Enquiries to www.girlguiding.org/interested OR 0800 1695901		

### SCHOOLS

Easebourne C of E Primary School Johnny Culley, Head teacher	813266	Early Days Nursery Annie Beadle	815046
Conifers School Mrs Emma Smyth, Head teacher	813243	Midhurst Rother College	812451

*All telephone numbers are STD code 01730 unless otherwise stated. Please inform the editors of errors or omissions – [easebourne.united@gmail.com](mailto:easebourne.united@gmail.com)*

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