

Vol 19 No.6 December / January 2021

united **EASEBOURNE**



Easebourne village and St Mary's Church magazine

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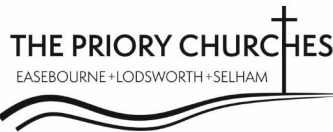
**The jolly Christmas image on the front cover was
designed by Gabby from Conifers School.**

The editors welcome contributions from readers, as well as your comments and suggestions. Do you have a family event to announce? How are you coping during lockdown? Has your business been affected? Tell us about working and studying online. We'd also like to hear from younger readers.

The deadline for the February issue is Friday 15 January 2021.

easebourne.united@gmail.com or Tel 816542

Letter from the Vicar



Dear Friends

As I write my letter this month two important things have happened. Firstly, we have entered a second national lockdown in England. This was a great disappointment to me and I'm sure to you as well – but protecting our wonderful NHS is so important; we all have our part to play. Secondly, and most importantly, there is a glimmer of hope in this awful pandemic – we might just have a vaccine ready to allow us out of this dreadful situation.

If like me, you find the transition from autumn to winter a difficult one, then each year the thought of Christmas always lifts our spirits. Even if the story that brought Christmas about is not your thing, then the season of peace, goodwill and family will certainly make a difference. As churches, we find this season gathers a much wider family than usual – a really wonderful part of our church cycle. Hope is a very powerful thing; Christmas has always been a light into the dark of winter. Advent is the journey that leads us there; full of carol services, Chrstingles and local social events. Without that hope, that light, life can feel endless – and that is why the news of a vaccine has been that moment of hope.

As I look forward, I don't know what Christmas will look like in our churches – will they even be open? But what I can be certain of, is that whatever happens, the spirit that has lead us this far will still be around in abundance. Family, friendship, community have all been the rocks on which we have been able to cope – and where these are absent for so many, then the church, with so many other community groups, have reached out to bring hope and light.

I feel optimistic that this lockdown will be the last. I also feel optimistic that the vaccines in development will be rolled out very soon. Finally, I have a growing sense of optimism that the glimmer of light we now see on the horizon will become a blazing sun. So yes, Christmas will be different - but with family, friends and my wider community, we can be confident that the real things that matter will always be there for us. So a peaceful and hope-filled Christmas to you all.

Please remember that due to Covid all church services are limited numerically to meet social distancing requirements. To attend services, especially over Christmas (if they are allowed), you must phone one of the church wardens to book your place. Contact details are on the next page.

Rev Derek Welsman

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

The Benefice of ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, EASEBOURNE

with St Peter's Lodsworth and St James Selham

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

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

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

*(Not during
 lockdown!)*

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

SERVICES AT ST PETER'S LODSWORTH

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

SERVICES AT ST JAMES SELHAM

1st & 3rd Sundays
 8.30am Holy Communion

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

Vicar: Revd Derek Welsman, Northgate, Dodsley Grove 812655
 Easebourne GU29 9BE Email: derekwelsman@btinternet.com

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

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Bellringers Joanne Blackwell 01798 860883
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Social Committee
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Visit the benefice website: www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

Date	Readings	Readers	Gospel	Intercessors TBC
6 December Advent 2	2 Peter 3: 8—15	Mike Wharton	Mark 1: 1—8	
13 December Advent 3	1 Thess 5: 16—24	Colin Patchler	John 1: 6—8 & 19—28	
20 December Advent 4	Romans 16: 25—end	John Backshall	Luke 1: 26—38	
24 December Evening Service	Isaiah 52: 7—10	Hilary Craig	John 1: 1—14	
25 December Christmas Day	Isaiah 9: 2—7	Wendy Trafford	Matthew 3: 1—12	
27 December Christmas 1	1 John 1	Ann Harfield	John 21: 19b—end	
3 January Epiphany	Isaiah 60: 1—6	Gill Welsman	Matthew 12: 1—12	
10 January Baptism of Christ	Genesis 1: 1—5	Peter Greaves	Mark 1: 4—11	
17 January Epiphany 2	Rev 5: 1—10	Alison Davis	John 1: 43—end	
24 January Epiphany 3	Rev 19: 6—10	Veronica Jull	John 2: 1—11	
31 January Candlemas	Malachi 3: 1—5	Roger Sked	Luke 2: 22—40	

N.B. All above subject to Covid restrictions.

Women's Fellowship

What a strange and unpredictable year we have experienced. We were hoping for our usual Christmas gathering but sadly it was not to be. With many of our members being on the vulnerable list or with shielding relatives, even small get-togethers have not happened. However, it has been good to keep in touch by phone or with 'doorstep visits'.

With news of a vaccine the future looks promising and we hope to be able to meet again in 2021. Wishing all of our members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

With best wishes to you all.

Sue, Ann, Daphne and the committee

CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021

(SUBJECT TO COVID RESTRICTIONS)

Sunday 6	Second Sunday of Advent		
	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	Third Sunday of Advent		
	9.00am	St Peter's	
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 16	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sunday 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 23	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Thursday 24	Christmas Eve		
	8.00pm	St Mary's	Christmas Eve Service
Friday 25	Christmas Day		
	8.30am	St James	Christmas Service
	9.45am	St Peter's	Christmas Service
	11.00am	St Mary's	Christmas Service
Sunday 27	1st Sunday of Christmas		
	9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 30	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
JANUARY 2021			
Sunday 3	Epiphany		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evensong
Wednesday 6	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

JANUARY 2021 (continued)

Sunday 10 Baptism of Christ

	9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 13	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Thursday 14	6.00pm	St Mary's	One PCC APCM

Sunday 17 Second Sunday after Epiphany

	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 20	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Sunday 24 Third Sunday after Epiphany

	9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 27	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Sunday 31 Candlemas

10.30am	St Mary's	United Service
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FEBRUARY

Wednesday 3	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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Sunday 7 Second Sunday before Lent

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

from The Social Gang

Afternoon Tea Attendees - Well, we are nearly at the end of 2020 and what a different year that has been for all of us. The Social Gang hope that you are all keeping well and let you know that we are all thinking of you and the happy times we always had at the Afternoon Teas and especially the Christmas one. Anyway, hopefully we will all meet again in the New Year, the earlier the better and we are all looking forward to that time. Meanwhile, we hope you all have as good a Christmas and New Year as you can in the "different" circumstances and keep fit.

With best wishes and much love to you all.

The Social Gang
(Gill, Gladys, Hilary, Tony, Jan, Jane B, Sue)

from Pam Newbury

This note is to thank everyone who has sent their good wishes and love to me over the past weeks. It has done a lot to keep me sane and to know that so many people care about me. I am feeling much better but as I don't feel up to sending Christmas cards this year, I thought I would use United to send you all my very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Much love to you all.

Pam

News from the Cowdray Estate

Jonathan Russell, CEO



COWDRAY

I had planned my report to start with our delight that on 1st November the Estate was back to a full complement of staff. However the danger of planning too far ahead meant that whilst my comment was technically correct, we had by that time received the news of the second lockdown. This has resulted in the closure of a number of activities resulting in having to again say a temporary farewell to a number of staff.

When at full capacity the Estate employs approximately 200 permanent members of staff with up to 150 seasonal staff who join us at various times of the year. The variety of roles is staggering from the more traditional of foresters, gardeners and trades through to the newer roles of social media managers, marketing, sales and events. I suspect that some 10 years ago the Estate could not have envisaged the roles we require today to deliver our diverse activities.

Whilst 90% of our staff continue to live within a 10 mile radius of Easebourne, it is now necessary for us to attract a more diverse range of skills with new members often more used to commuting long distances to their place of work. Although this is an important function of delivering a diverse business, there is a fine balance of ensuring that we remain an attractive local employer which continues to support the community. Housing a number of our staff is becoming more challenging in the eyes of HMRC but we continue to believe that it is a fundamental part of Estate life and we will defend our ability to house staff who are often required to work during unsocial hours and to react to emergencies.

At the same time it is important for us to celebrate long and loyal service. Last summer we held an emotional evening at which we celebrated the contribution of 17 members of staff who had all served in excess of 25 years. This year we have also been able to celebrate the remarkable achievement of Tim Dummer who reached 50 years of continuous service to the Estate.

All the team are committed to making the Estate an attractive and progressive place to work. We are a very close team and continuously strive to identify opportunities where we can reward and acknowledge the team's contribution, whether that be social events, sporting activities, exercise classes and even the popular monthly massages.

As a diverse business, a management challenge is for all staff to have an understanding of our activities, of how enterprises support these and their role in the process. As such we have a 'One Cowdray' approach whereby we are all encouraged to mix and experience the activities we undertake. Over the past two years this has included guided e-bike tours around the Estate which has given participants an insight into the scale and diversity of Cowdray.

We have for some time supported apprentices and students in our golf, works, forestry and farming departments. An aspiration for 2020 was to have been to create a Cowdray Apprenticeship model whereby we would provide opportunities for a year to move around our enterprises before being eligible for a permanent

apprenticeship. We hope to establish the scheme in 2021.

Another aspiration is the provision of low cost communal housing for our younger staff in the acknowledgement that housing costs are one of the greatest barriers to recruitment and retention. Again this is a project which will now require a longer term strategy.

Reporting on the businesses more generally, autumn is traditionally a period where the land based businesses are limited due to ground conditions. At the date of writing we are delighted to be 95% drilled on the farm which is a huge achievement by the team. We have been keen to learn the lessons of last year when at this point, following the start of the rains in September, we had not drilled a single field.

Whilst the foresters have started on the next major clearfell site, an important job for November is the locating of Christmas

Trees which we donate to various charities and institutions in the local area. Whilst an important job, the selection process for trees which make the grade is a hotly debated topic.

Calving is near completion on the farm with the cows now back to peak production levels in advance of the Christmas demand when the majority of our milk is sold via Marks and Spencers.

The greenkeepers at the Golf Course are taking advantage of the cessation of play to invest in the course and make sure that it is at its best for when golf can resume.

Sadly having held a number of small private events and weddings during the autumn, the lockdown has again meant that this part of the business is closed. However there remains significant demand for 2021 and the team are now planning to be exceptionally busy when we are finally permitted to do so.



Poet's Corner

Lest We Forget by Sue Absolom

The pandemic has weaved its way
Into every aspect of our lives
Remembrance Day another casualty
To mark lives lost, and those who survived.

As the days move toward Advent
We long for the return of the Light
And the birth of Our Dear Lord Jesus
To lift us from this seemingless night.

Unable to honour them as usual
The occasion much more subdued
But still they were remembered
By us all in quiet, reflective mood.

His tiny frame will bring Hope
And Mercy, Love and Peace
To a world that is suffering
From fear, loneliness and grief.

The young men so full of life
All eager to serve their Country
In two World Wars, and other conflicts
So that you and I might be free.

Come fill us, Baby Jesus
With your love and life anew
That we may carry your message
To the many, not just the few.

The survivors, many bent and aged now
Others bearing their scars with pride
Remember the horrors of that time
Paying tribute to all who risked their lives.

Give us Hope for the future
As you walk by our side
You said you would never leave us
And would always be our guide.

Every year we celebrate
By standing quiet and still
We will always remember them
Forget them? We never will.

Comfort those who mourn
For lives lost in all warfare
For lives lost in all sicknesses
For all who have their own cross to bear.

A message from your church wardens

Roger and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you all for assisting us and supporting us during these past Covid months. It hasn't been easy for any of us as we all came to terms with the impact of this pandemic; the fear and anxiety, and the lockdowns leading to isolation and separation.

We would like to thank you for all the loving care and attention that you have delivered upon your church – tidying up, clearing, cutting and planting around the grounds, as well as cleaning inside, in most cases unseen and all socially distanced, thereby maintaining our church in its finest glorious state. You have also been an amazing church family supporting and looking after each other. Then when we were finally able to open the doors for services in July – we thank you for your understanding and patience as we coped with bookings, social distancing and carefully

planned seating at each service. Your messages of support and encouragement were gratefully valued and appreciated, together with your smiles as you entered church. A big thank you to you all from us both. We love serving God, St Mary's and you, the church family and wider community.

As we approach 2nd December, the weeks of Advent and the season of Christmas, and a new year, who knows what lies ahead. Roger and I would like to wish you all peace and blessings over the festive season and into 2021.

Roger and Alison, Church wardens

Report from Stonepillow from Katharine Minchin



Writing about Stonepillow Christmas in the middle of November with government guidance changing almost hourly does make it very difficult as to how to plan. There have been several government initiatives to try to get all the rough sleepers of the street and with the help of Chichester District Council all those who are happy to accept the offer have been housed. They are being given food parcels put together at the central unit of the Hub in St Cyriacs just by the car park, and then delivered by volunteers. If anyone would like to donate food the Hub is open to receive donations from 9.00 am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, or tell me and I will deliver for you.

Once again a huge turkey has been ordered (last year's was 18Kg; I am amazed it could walk!) and I have been working on plans A and B and C and D and E.....the final one allowing for whatever the government directions are by the 24th December. For the last few years many of our clients have, on the day, had

invitations from friends and family to share a festive meal with them. However I fear that this year that is unlikely to happen and as we now have over 140 clients in various units across the area in groups from 5 or 6 to over 20 the logistics of ensuring everyone has a proper Christmas roast dinner and not just a microwaved one is making me look for a darkened room with a damp towel wrapped round my head.

In past years the congregation of St Mary's have donated the collection from the carol service to Stonepillow for the provision of all the things that so many of us expect to see on our tables, from turkey and all the trimmings to cheeses, gammon, delicious desserts, nuts etc. However this year no carol service will be allowed so if anyone would like to contribute so that we can obtain all the Christmas goodies I would be very happy to collect the donation. Or if anyone would prefer to put it through my door I am at Kelross, Lutener Road. I am very happy to be contacted on 01730 813586.



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



Scooter Track opens in Easebourne Park!

This latest addition to Easebourne Park was officially opened on the 22nd October with the ribbon being cut by Jessica Riches from the South Downs National Park Authority. The track was designed and installed by local specialists Playsafe Playgrounds. The whole project was funded after the Parish Council was successful in applying for a grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund, which is managed by the SDNPA.



L to R: Chris from Playsafe, Jess from SDNPA, and Mike Noble

New Noticeboard for Henley

The Parish of Easebourne is very large geographically, compared to its neighbouring parishes. Right at the north end of the parish, just beyond Kind Edward VII estate is the tiny but lovely hamlet of Henley. The Parish Council is always keen to ensure that Henley is remembered when planning projects and improvements, and that its residents although small in number are well catered for. A recent project has seen the installation of a smart new noticeboard very much in keeping with the location, next to the Parish Council's telephone box defibrillator. The board was installed by Parish Council and Friends of Easebourne Parish volunteers.

Community Star Award

The Easebourne Parish Council introduced earlier this year the Easebourne Community Star Award, designed to recognize those Easebourne parishioners who are spectacular contributors to Easebourne community life. The latest winner is Sue Absolom, nominated by Rev Derek Welsman of St Mary's Church. Her citation is below. Derek said:

"Sue has been an absolute brick throughout the Covid crisis; she has made masks and given the proceeds to charity, she has also supported many lonely and vulnerable people in the village – all without fuss or bother; I can think of no one better for an award."

The award was presented to Sue by Mike Noble, on that sunny day just before the latest lockdown came into force. The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who wants to nominate someone for the next Community Star Award. Sue replied: *I am delighted to have received this Award. Thanks also goes to those others on the team who are doing much the same as myself.*



**Listed Buildings in Easebourne—
Sowter's Farmhouse in Easebourne Street**

from the archives of the late John Stringer, contributed by Phil Stringer

Listed 18.06.59, Grade II

C17 house, refaced with stucco in the C18. Red brick dentilled eaves cornice. Sash windows with glazing bars. Doorway with flat hood on brackets and door of six fielded panels. Projecting chimney breasts on end walls, the north east one with crow-stepped top. Two storeys. Five windows.
Listing NGR: SU9022323174

The Bridgers at Soutar's Farm

Soutar's was farmed until the early 1970's by the Bridger family. Percy Bridger came up from Devon with his wife to take over the tenancy in the 1880's. Later the farm was taken on by his son Dick and his wife Mary. Dick and Mary had three children, John, Robert and Margaret – all born in Soutar's Farmhouse. During the time that Dick Bridger was the farmer there he managed all three of the Cowdray Estate-owned farms in

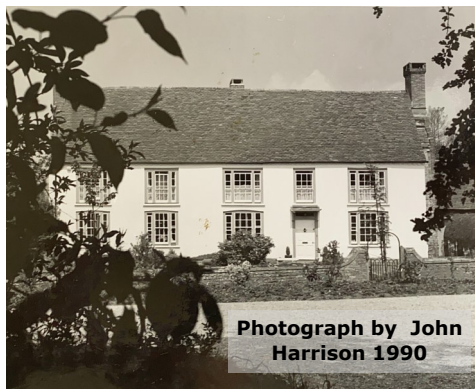
Easebourne Street, Soutar's, Belling's and Gosden's - 450 acres in all. It was a mixed farm of dairy, beef and corn. Mary lived well into her 90's and is remembered locally as she used to go out collecting firewood up Easebourne Street. Robert still lives in the village and he, as well as his sister Margaret who lives at Chithurst, told us something of their memories of living in that great house. (John emigrated many years ago and is a farmer in Australia.)

I asked them why the discrepancy between

the name 'Sowters' and 'Soutars'. They said their grandmother disliked living on a farm with a name reminding her of a female pig – so she changed it to 'Soutars' (pronounced *sooters*). In the

kitchen was the anthracite-fired Esse cooker/boiler, a larder, a laundry with its big copper and mangle, a dairy and a scullery. Mary cooked four meals a day on that big Esse for the family – breakfast, roast dinner, tea, and supper. The copper in

the laundry was boiled up on Mondays to do the washing – washing clothes and winding the mangle was a big heavy job. The house also had a front room, a breakfast room, a dining room, a playroom and 6 or 7 bedrooms upstairs. When the two boys were very young they had a governess called Mrs Geeson who came to the house to teach them together with other little ones in the village. (Margaret, who is a few years younger, started school at Conifers.)



Soutar's had a huge cellar which always stayed cool. They used to raise two pigs every year which were killed in the autumn and preserved in saltpetre in big slate-lined crates in the cellar. One pig was for the family and the other given to the many farm workers.

The family had a servant (common in those days), and two Land Girls to help with milking the herd of around 100 dairy cows. The girls all lived with the family. One of the Land Girls was Mary, aged 19 at the time, who met her husband Les Harper, a Soutar's farm worker. After courting for three years Mary and Les married and continued to live in the village.



Robert, John and Margaret Bridger
at Soutar's Farm in the 1950's.

Back in the 40's when the Bridger children were little, the milk was put in churns which were transported by horse and cart to the railway station in Midhurst. Cattle

were driven from the farm to the water meadows at Ambersham, until increased traffic on the A272 made driving cattle on the road impossible. Farming methods have certainly changed a lot over the years!

Eventually the Estate took back the three farms so Robert then took on Verdley Farm in the north of the village. Robert met and married his wife Jill who had grown up at Upper Vining. After Dick died in 1984 Mary Bridger went to live at at Nutsey, the little house the Bridgers had built in 1940 for their cowman Charlie Eames. Jill sadly died some years ago of Motor Neuron Disease, and Robert now lives alone at Nutsey with his little dog Ella.

Jenny Smith has lived at Soutar's since 1998 and her two children grew up there. She has found documents to the effect that Sir Weetman Pearson, the 1st Viscount Cowdray, purchased the title to the house and farm in 1919. After the Bridgers left the house was sold by Cowdray in 1982 to a Mr Davis Dickson who must have modernized the house and installed central heating. He then sold it a couple of years later to Dr D E Marnion. When Jenny bought the house the barns behind were all derelict but the Estate has since renovated them and they have now all been converted to dwellings.

If you know any more about the history of this building, or any other old properties in Easebourne, please contact us. Our details can be found on p. 2.

Looking In – Some Observations

Memoirs by Christopher R Hill

The editors recently met an Easebourne man with a most interesting life, and fortunately for us, he has written and self-published his memoirs in a book that is now available to buy. As a taster, here are a few tidbits from his life story.

Christopher Hill grew up at Trotton Place next to Trotton Church and started school at in

Easebourne at Miss Gayford's (which is of course now Conifers School). He went on to Highfield School in Liphook and Radley College in Oxon. After graduation from Cambridge he spent some time at the Foreign Office in London and Germany. With his keen concern about racial injustice he

joined the Institute of Race Relations in London which took him to Rhodesia. There he was clearly in opposition to the politics of Ian Smith, the prime minister at the time.

Early one morning in 1966 there was a knock at the door and he was carted off to prison (for only a week). But here was an extraordinary coincidence. It happened that an English-born constable by the name of Fee, in the employ of the Rhodesian government, was sent to pick

him up. Despite the surreal situation, they got into conversation on the way. Not only was young Mr Fee from this area, but his father had been a local mechanic and used to service Christopher's mother's car!

After this experience, and still in his early 30's, Christopher returned to the family

home – his parents had by then moved to one of the big Victorian houses in Dodsley Grove. After a while he landed a 'temporary' appointment as lecturer in politics at York University – a post he eventually held for 27 years. He specialized in



southern African affairs and set up the post-graduate Centre for Southern African Studies at York. He travelled often to southern Africa where he was a close observer of the struggle against apartheid. During that period he met, among other activists, the anti-apartheid revolutionary Oliver Tambo, who was Nelson Mandela's predecessor as leader of the African National Congress. Christopher has a great love of the country of South Africa and owns a house

there where he spends time every year.

In the meantime his widowed mother was getting on, and the tall Victorian house in Easebourne was not very practical for her. It had a nice big garden so in 1977 they had a new single storey house designed and built for Mrs Hill, which is where Christopher now lives. After he retired, Christopher, who had always been an avid connoisseur and collector of art and antiques, went into the antique business. He continued to run his business whenever he was in the UK. He would still be in South Africa now but he was fortunate enough to get on one of the last flights out to the UK in April following the onset of the Covid 19 crisis.

He has published other books over the years, mostly on politics, but he had been mulling over the idea of an autobiography for some time. He started writing it a couple of years ago but has had time during lockdown to finish it. His book, an attractive hardcover called *Looking In – Some Observations*, is now available at One Tree Books in Petersfield for the very reasonable price of £15. Or we can buy it directly from the author crhill764@gmail.com.

Christopher says he will split the profits between two charities – *Médecins Sans Frontières* and a children's feeding scheme in South Africa.



Midhurst Angels

The Midhurst Angels are a group of local volunteers, including members of Midhurst Town Council, community groups, local churches and charities. Their purpose is to help the community during this period of isolation. They can help support anyone struggling through the pandemic whether with grocery and prescription deliveries or with guidance on financial support, or even just as a friendly voice at the end of the phone. The phone number is 07538 839703.

Website: midhurstangels.co.uk.

Email: midhurstangels@outlook.com

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

1. What country has the longest coastline in the world?
2. Who won more caps for England, Wayne Rooney or David Beckham?
3. From which type of flower does a vanilla pod come?
4. What date is the second national lockdown due to finish?
5. How many members are there in the pop group Little Mix and what are their names?
6. On the periodic table, what symbol stands for silver?
7. Humans and chimpanzees share roughly how much DNA?
8. In which sport do competitors refer to 'catching a crab'?
9. Who were Alan Sugar's original advisers on The Apprentice?
10. Which oath of ethics taken by doctors is named after an Ancient Greek physician?
11. Spandau Ballet features which former East Enders actor in the line up?
12. Which lovable children's book character recently turned 100?
13. What is the oldest recorded town in the UK?
14. Which English 'Sir' has had No.1 records in the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's?
15. Aduki, borlotti and cannellini are all types of what?
16. Which historic Welsh castle is being used for filming this year's series of 'I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here'?
17. What is Astraphobia?
18. What is the only vowel not used as a first letter in a US state?
19. How old is the US President-elect?
20. Which mascot recently made its long awaited return to football?

and a few Christmassy questions.....

21. What stick would you put into a mulled wine?
22. Who wrote the Band Aid song 'Do they know it's Christmas'?
23. Bethlehem is a tiny village in which UK country?
24. 'Walking in the Air' is a song taken from which Christmas film?
25. At what point in the Christmas celebrations are you likely to hear the effects of Silver Fulminate?

Answers on page 26



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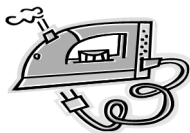
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The editors of United wish our readers a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Your comments, contributions and suggestions are always welcome. Tina and Gavin Litchfield



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The Poppy Appeal



A big thank you to all who managed to find a poppy tin or posted donations through my front door. Our new area organiser is Phil Stringer, and with the sudden imposition of the second lockdown it was very difficult to collect all the static boxes and return them to the collecting point in Crawley. It will be some time before we have a figure for Easebourne; I am very aware it will be well down on 2019. I am very grateful to the establishments that made it possible for people to make donations by mobile phone.

The Festival of Remembrance from the Albert Hall was, I felt, a truly moving tribute; very different from previous years but beautifully done. The Cenotaph the next day was equally moving in its stillness and silence. It was good to see that there were people who stood outside their front doors here in the village on both the 8th and the 11th to mark the two minutes silence. Let us hope that by November 2021 we will be able to show our appreciation for all the fallen in a way nearer to that of 2019.

Katharine Minchin

The Glue Family from Locks Cottages

John Backshall wrote to us prompted by the story in our October issue about Locks Cottages. John used to own the family business M & J Backshall on Dodsley Lane (which is now of course Ryarsh Prestige Car Sales). He wrote to us about Jack and Grace Glue who lived at 100 Locks Cottages: 'Jack Glue used to work for my father at the garage. Jack and Grace had three children Dick, Joy and Tom. Dick and Joy both still live in the area but Tom as far as I can remember worked for VSO and eventually married a young lady and lives abroad to this day.'

'Jack was a Japanese prisoner of war but would never talk about it as was his wont. When he came home he started working for my father and his job was to repair all the mowers that we used to repair. Jack would drive to Haslemere every Tuesday and collect mowers from Miles in West Street, Haslemere and also from Andrews of Hindhead. The back yard of the garage was full of mowers and were left outside every night and never any damage or mowers stolen. Those were the days. He would also enjoy a pint in The Holly Tree pub at the top of Easebourne Street which is now a private house, and he rolled his own cigarettes. The landlord of The Hollytree in those days was Harry Nash and his wife.'

'The day I married Mardell in 1967 Jack didn't want to come to the wedding so he decided to stay at work and keep the business open. That was the type of man he was. A great family that loved the village life and did so much for the village.'

John Backshall

Struggling to provide food during Covid 19?



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Our work continues to increase at Midhurst Foodbank, with added donation collection points as well as numbers of requests for help received. We have more volunteers now as over-seventies have returned and new helpers too which is a great help. We are thrilled that there will now be a collection basket at Wizzbits Toys in West Street, and donations bought in the shop or good condition used toys can be placed there. These toys will go out to children at Christmas. We are also hoping to have a collections basket in the newly opened Sainsbury's in Bepton Rd - watch this space.

On 9th December, we will be delivering food parcels to each local child in receipt of free school meals to help with their nutritional requirements over the Christmas holidays. In addition, each child will receive a Christmas goodie bag - courtesy of the Midhurst and Petworth Rotary Club - and our thanks go to them. We expect to deliver over 200 boxes in one day - which is a logistical challenge, to say the least. Let's hope for a dry day!!

Thanks to all our donators and volunteers, who support local families and individuals in time of need. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy 2021.

Sian Mitchell, volunteer



APPEAL FOR DRIVERS

Volunteer as a driver to ensure that Tandem can continue to provide these critical services to all in need.

Tandem is a Midhurst-based charity, founded in 1983, that provides transport to medical appointments for the not so young and not so able in the Midhurst and Petworth areas. You would use your own car and we would pay you a mileage allowance. The service is demand-driven with no fixed schedule, so drive when and if you can. So if you have some spare time please let us know. **To find out more please phone.**

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Easebourne Primary School

As I write this, we are halfway through the second lockdown. Waiting for children's test results has become an anxious feature of daily life. So far, however, we have been relatively fortunate in only having one confirmed case to date amongst our staff and pupils so only one Bubble, in our Early Days Nursery, has had to be burst, with pupils and staff being sent home for 14 days. With the second lockdown, we have made further adjustments to various areas of the school. We had already moved to two lunch sittings from one, but now most of our classes are eating in their classrooms and trolleys with plates of food are gently rolling around the school, spreading the smell of school lunches! We have also further tightened restrictions on which adults are permitted to enter the building.



Rosa from Y4 running to raise money for Dementia Support.

Despite these anxious times, there is much still to be excited about. It was lovely, for

example, to hear about a pupil going MAD and *Making A Difference* recently. Rosa

(Y4) took part in a 5k run/walk and raised a massive £275 for the charity,

Dementia Support! This is no mean feat for an eight-year-old, especially as she did it during a torrential downpour! Rosa had a support team of parents plus her sister, Cecily, encouraging from her bicycle. Well done, Rosa!

Another inspiring effort came from Liam (Y6) who explained in our newsletter what he had done to help others earlier this term. 'After growing my hair for just over two years I have been able to donate 13 inches to the Little Princess Trust. The Trust makes wigs for children and young people that have lost their own hair through cancer treatment. It costs £550 for a wig to be made.' Liam, when I last looked at his fundraising webpage, had raised £375. A fantastic effort, Liam!

We would normally go down to St Mary's Church for three services this term – Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. We are still holding these services but one class is representing the school at each. For Harvest Festival, our youngest children - Dragonflies Class (YR) - went down by minibus where they met our wonderful vicar, Derek. He led a lovely service, using a stained glass window in St Mary's to tell the parable of the sower. The service was filmed and streamed to the rest of the school. Although the children weren't able to sing, they managed, using Makaton, to



sign to a recording of a harvest song and it really was a heart-warming video. The food donated by parents into our food trolley outside the school and taken down to the church several days earlier was later taken down to Stonepillow in Chichester, the charity that helps the homeless. (See p. 9) Our oldest children joined Derek and the church-wardens at the war memorial outside St Mary's to mark Remembrance Day. The Chair of our school council, Charlie, laid a wreath and Nate read a poem after Derek had read the names from the memorial and led us in prayer.

Our school council met for the first time just after half-term. They introduced themselves and explained why they had stood for election in their classrooms in the hope of becoming one of their class's representatives on the council. Elizabeth (Y5) explained, "I like listening to other people's ideas and I want to make the school a better place." Lower down the school, Carlo (Y2) told the meeting, "I want to help the school and make it even better than it is already." My favourite answer, though, was probably Miriam's (Y1) who said, "So I can talk with the headteacher." One of their first jobs was to meet with the sales rep from a company that produces outside play equipment as this is the year when we finally start to replace the ancient playground equipment in the grounds, using our PE and Sport Premium funding. This, inevitably, was a virtual meeting which will be followed up by a site visit by a company rep. It will be interesting to

see what sort of haggling goes on once the children have found out what their classmates would most like!

As well as the school council, other children are working on initiatives for the school. Mrs Clipston has held the first meeting with this year's eco-council and it will be great to see what they achieve. House captains are beginning to think about their charities to support next term (Love Term) and how to raise funds in these strange times. A further group is emerging to promote human rights, working towards the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Awards. Children applied, explaining why they would be good candidates and their first job will be to produce an anti-bullying leaflet for the school to make sure that bullying, when it does happen, is dealt with, reported and effectively managed.

Finally, we learnt who had won last year's local Rotary Club Young Writer Competition. Congratulations go to Ruby (Y4 at the time) who discovered that she had won last year's writing competition, as judged by the Midhurst & Petworth Rotary Club. Ruby's poem was judged as the best entry from our school linked to the title 'Connections'. It seems an appropriate way to end this update. (See next page.) I hope you and your families keep safe this winter.

On behalf of everybody at Easebourne Primary School, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

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

Connections by Ruby (Y4)

*Connect, I connect with my family the most,
they're the BEST thing I ever had.
Occasionally we are grumpy
but actually inside we still love each other.
Now, I love my family and I thank my family for what they've done -
you should too.
Nice; nobody is always nice but everybody should try.
Everybody should love each other in a family
or you're not really together, are you?
Caring, that's what makes a family -
if you don't show care, you don't have love and that's not a family.
Today is another normal day where me and my family are working hard
but at the end of the day we are coming together.*

Iced Lemon Meringue Cake

I make no apology for giving you this recipe again, as an alternative Christmas pudding. My family have been asking for the recipe and it was for Christmas 2011 that I last gave it to you. It can be made weeks in advance, frozen and brought out when required.
Katharine Minchin

Ingredients:	Make meringue with 4 egg whites and 225g caster sugar
3 large lemons plus 1 more if you need it	
3 whole eggs plus 2 egg whites	Cook as 2 or 3 large circles on baking parchment 140° for 2½ to 3 hours.
400g caster sugar	
85g butter	Make lemon curd in the usual way with 175g caster sugar, butter, juice and rind of 3 lemons – about 180ml ideally. When butter has melted, add 2 egg yolks and the remaining whole egg whisked together.
300ml double cream	Bring to thickened stage very gently about 20 mins or until it coats the back of the spoon.
200g full fat cream cheese	
rind of 2 lemons (optional)	

Whip cream lightly, add cheese mixture and the cooled lemon mixture.

Sandwich together the meringue circles. Freeze for at least 6 hrs or overnight then thaw for 30 mins.



Friends Of Midhurst Common

COVID-19. Apologies for starting with Covid but as I write this we are caught in the middle of our second period of lockdown. Apart from personal restrictions, this means we have to cease all Heathland working-party maintenance activity again. Nature is taking over a bit but the Heathland will be maintained

Heathland work. Our efforts to remove unwanted pine and silver birch continues. Bracken and rhododendron try to take over. Gorse was cut back at our last outing around the periphery of the Old Bowling Green/Old Primary School Playground. If COVID regs permit we should be using a brush-cutter in December to cut back an area of mature heather to stimulate fresh

new growth creating more varied habitats for wildlife. The heathland pond area by the wooden bridge has now filled with water again – this became quite dry in the Summer and is left completely alone so as not to disturb this important habitat for invertebrates.

Does anyone remember seeing Bowls being played on Midhurst Common? How many of the sculptures have you seen? The newsletter can fill you in with more information.

Regular updates and our **Autumn Newsletter** are on our website: www.friendsofmidhurstcommon.co.uk

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Andrew Mitchell, Chairman
Friends of Midhurst Common Email:
friendsofmidhurstcommon@yahoo.co.uk

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

Winners in November draw

1st Prize - £100	No 14	Jackie Haggis
2nd Prize - £75	No 72	Margaret Pratt
2nd Prize - £75	No 20	Brian Spires
3rd Prize—£50	No 130	Veronica Jull
3rd Prize—£50	No 131	Veronica Jull
3rd Prize—£50	No 89	Eamon Gorman

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

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Please note, winners will receive monies by bank transfer.

Report from Birch Trees Nursing Home

It is a common misconception that when you move into a nursing home it's the end of the road. That life becomes dull and monotonous, governed by routine, watching the TV with endless cups of tea. At Birch Trees, life is just not like that. It's true that some of our residents have complex conditions that limit them in some way, but why should we let that get in the way of fulfilling their hopes and dreams?

Michael, a long-time car enthusiast, has often said he would like to have a ride in a BMW sports car but as he can no longer walk and is very frail, he felt that this is something he wouldn't be able to achieve. When our Operations Manager Andrew found out about this, he insisted we should attempt to organise this for Michael.

On a beautiful sunny Autumn day, a convertible BMW M4 arrived to pick Michael

up and take him for a spin. Once hoisted into the car by the staff he was taken out for a ride in the countryside, with the roof down of course! Not a day has gone by since where he hasn't mentioned this experience with the biggest smile on his face.

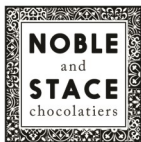
So please don't ever feel that life in residential care for a loved one is dull, or that our residents will no longer be able to fulfil their ambitions. We are here to help them to continue living their lives as independently as possible, and as the individuals that they are.

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



General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. Canada 2. Wayne Rooney, he won 120, David Beckham won 115
3. Orchid 4. December 2nd 5. Four (Jade Thirlwall, Perrie Edwards, Leigh-Anne Pinnoch and Jesy Nelson) 6. Ag 7. 98% 8. Rowing
9. Nick Hewer and Margaret Mountford 10. Hippocratic Oath 11. Martin Kemp 12. Rupert the Bear 13. Colchester 14. Sir Cliff Richard
15. Beans 16. Gwych Castle 17. Fear of thunder and lightning 18. E
19. 77 20. Gunnersaurus (Arsenal) 21. Cinnamon 22. Bob Geldorf and Midge Ure 23. Wales 24. The Snowman 25. When pulling a cracker (It's often the chemical used on the friction strip that makes the bang!)



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Snippets from a Gardener's Diary by John Humphris

Ever since I can remember there have been arguments over the preparation of the ground for vegetables. In estate gardens it was standard practice to double dig each year incorporating manure or compost in perhaps a quarter or less of the kitchen garden, depending on the crops grown. It was also standard practice to leave the area untilled where brassicas would be the next crop and just kept weed free ready for the various greens to be planted as they became ready. The rest of the vegetable garden was prepared by single spit digging. The area that was double dug was always for potatoes and beans with other crops rotated around this system.

In more recent years there has been a flurry of activity and many books extolling the virtues of a no-dig policy. It does of course depend on access to good quality manure or compost and a greenhouse or frame to grow your plants on, ready to be planted out when ready. For the average allotment holder or someone using their small back garden it can be difficult to know which method is best to use. It all depends on what crops you are keen to grow. If you intend to grow just a few lettuce, beetroot and beans, that is easier to prepare for than large quantities of potatoes and brassicas.

Although I can see the value of a no dig policy, I am certain that soil for vegetables does need thorough

preparation every few years. Top soil left unworked will lack structure. The wide range of living organisms, beneficial bacteria and fungi, including earthworms, need a buildup of humus in the soil. This soil will be easy to cultivate, break down easily for seed sowing, and encourage vigorous growth.

It will also hold moisture and, more importantly, oxygen in the soil. If it does not breathe, nutrients cannot be taken up. Plants look sick and gardeners think they have a disease when often they are just not growing well. I know that Mark Saunders at Fittleworth House has practiced a semi no-dig policy for many years. He has of course access to a large greenhouse and a range of frames to harden young plants ready for being planted out and of course incorporates manure or compost as required.



However you choose to proceed, having the ground prepared and ready for the new crop in early spring is important. And then we have the thorny question of when to start sowing. Too early is often a mistake, with seedlings sitting there in cold wet soil, but it is still important for the crop to have time to develop. A garden frame and or protective fleece can make all the difference, especially so if you do not have a greenhouse or plastic tunnel. There are so many options with vegetable growing and it is important to choose the method best suited to the time you have available and the time you want to spend in the garden or allotment.

Plant of the Month

A camellia that starts to flower in October and continues flowering through November into December is unusual for that species, and that is what makes *Camellia sasanqua*, unique in the family. For many years 'November Pink' was the only variety, but the hybridists have been busy and there are now a range of pretty blush variations, many with a nice scent. We have a blush pink variety in a large pot which has been flowering for weeks. For those with an area of light woodland, this is the ideal placement, giving some protection and flowering for many weeks.

**Camellia
sasanqua**



I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and we look forward to seeing all our members in the New Year. Phone me or Tina (816542) if you want to pick up a Dobies seed catalogue.

John Humphris, 01730 810052

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Support the Midhurst Green Volunteers

The Midhurst Green Volunteers have been operating now for almost 2½ years and rely on a team of volunteers organized by Graham Pooley. During the last year, the scope of the work has been expanded to include Easebourne and the volunteer numbers have consequently increased. The work, which is carried out on unloved public land, includes weeding, mowing verges, trimming back overhanging hedges and branches, clearing leaves and edging pavements to make the pathways wider. The aim is to make the town look 'cared for' and more pleasant and safer for pedestrians.

We are always looking for more volunteers and hope that we may be able to recruit additional helpers for 2021. If you are keen to assist, the time



**The Green Volunteers
in action**

commitment is up to you. Join us when you can on either Tuesdays from 9.00 – 11.00am or Saturdays from 8.00 – 10.00am.

We are happy to accept help whenever you are able to offer it. The schedule (Plan of Action) is organized by Graham and can be viewed on the website:

midhurstgreenvolunteers.org.uk.

If you wish to support but are unable to join in, you can also support our aims by making a donation to assist with the purchase of much needed equipment. For 2021, this includes an additional strimmer, a long-reach trimmer and an extra cordless lawn mower.

To volunteer or to donate, please visit the website where you will find all the information you need. Alternatively, contact Graham Pooley:

grahampooley.gp@gmail.com Tel:01730 810340

Long-Tailed Tits

by Michael Blencowe,

Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

The Ties that Bind

“Who are these people?” You’ve hardly seen them all year yet here you are, paper hat askew, squashed between them on the sofa at Christmas. On a branch out in the cold darkness of the garden, also sandwiched between aunts, brothers, cousins and daughters, a tiny bird is asking a similar question.

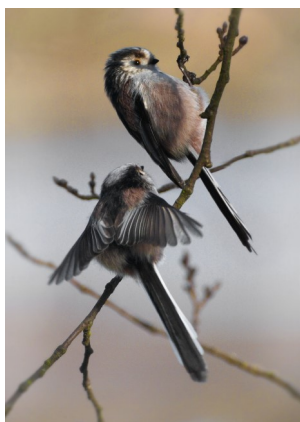
Long-tailed tits and humans are two of Britain’s most social species. And just like a visit from your relatives, the arrival of a long-tailed tit flock in your garden can turn tranquillity into chaos. It’s like someone has emptied a box of feathered fireworks over the fence. They manically bicker on the bird feeder and swing

acrobatically upside-down on the fat balls, all the while trilling, rattling and screaming ‘eee-heee-heee’ like a troupe of Michael Jackson impersonators. What you’re witnessing is a group of roving relatives, roaming the neighbourhood to pillage your peanuts. This posse of outlaws consists of in-laws, brothers, sons and daughters. With their gorgeous pink, black and white plumage and those ridiculously long tails, these flying lollypops must qualify for Britain’s cutest bird. Then, suddenly they’re gone and the pulse rate of the garden returns to normal.

By late winter the extended family will drift apart to find new partners, ready to start new families. In March, the foundations are laid for an epic

construction. Moss building bricks are lashed together with ropes of sticky spider’s webs. The walls rise, a camouflage cladding of lichen is added to the roof and a cosy filling of a thousand feathers lines the interior. The end result looks a crocheted stomach and soon there will be plenty of rumbling from inside as eight

hungry chicks demand to be fed. But raising a large family can take its toll. The constant hunt for insects can exhaust a parent almost to breaking point. And that’s when something unusual and wonderful happens. Their family arrives to save them. Aunties and uncles who have not been successful raising their own family that year will selflessly help the parents and feed their



nephews and nieces.

Once the children have flown the nest the whole gang remains together and joins with other siblings to form your chaotic neighbourhood feeding flock. But the biggest challenge of the year still awaits: winter. Freezing night-time temperatures exact a heavy toll on our garden birds. And that’s why at Christmas, hidden deep in a hedge, you’ll find the extended family of long-tailed tits huddled together on a frosty branch, sharing their warmth and surviving. Like them, we can all extend a warm wing to surround and support our family and friends this Christmas, whether near or far. Because none of us can get through this on our own.

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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 October—Thurs to Monday 9.00—16.00, closed Tuesday & Wednesday. See <http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org/recycling-sites/midhurst>

EASEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Noble, Chair Clerk—Sharon Hurr		Tel: 07342 166188 parishclerk@easebourne.org	
Stagecoach Buses	0345 1210190	Midhurst Yellow Bus	07879 556568
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	Tandem Bus	0300 030 3962

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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

SCHOOLS

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

All telephone numbers are STD code 01730 unless otherwise stated. Please inform the editors of errors or omissions – easebourne.united@gmail.com

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