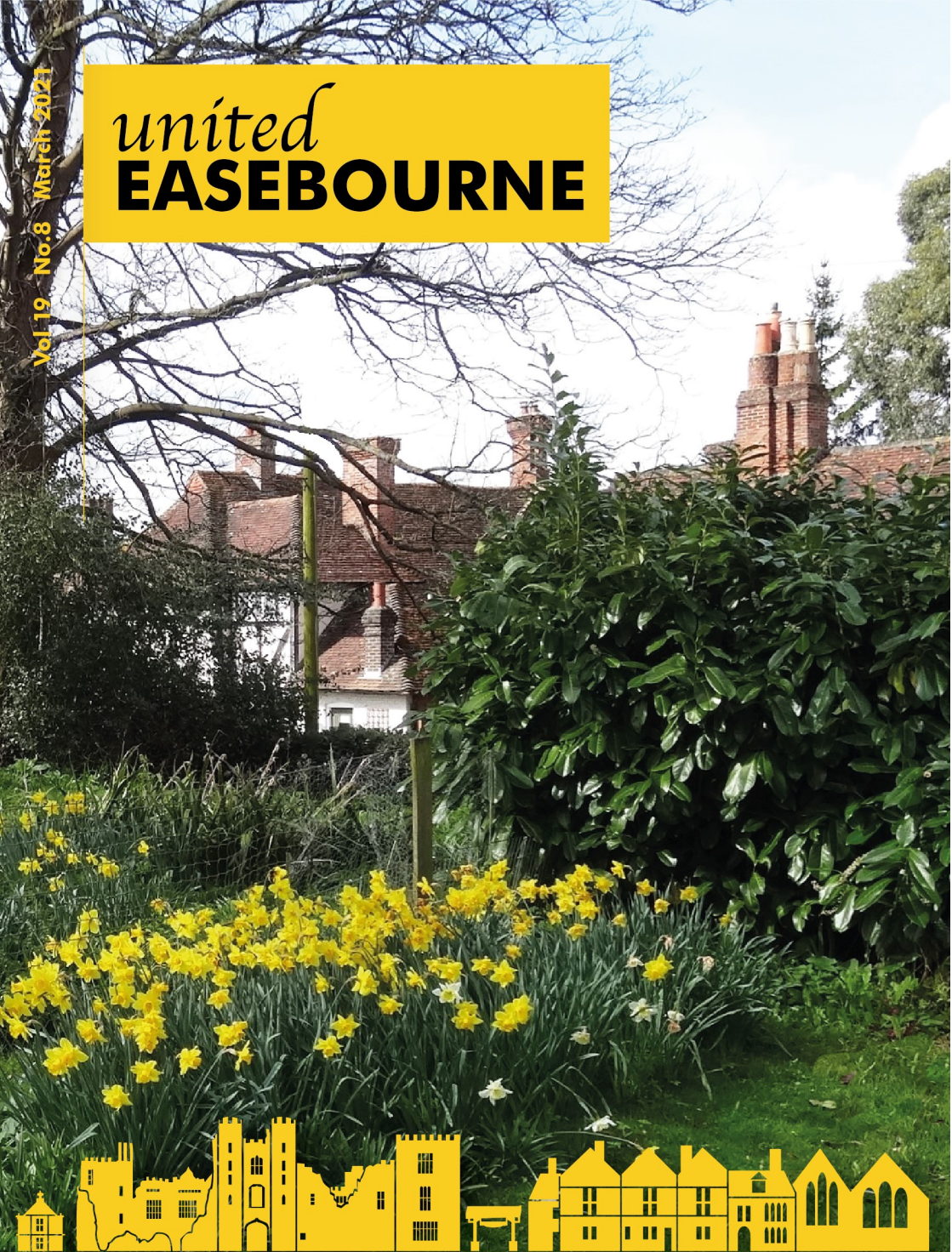


# *united* **EASEBOURNE**



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The springtime photograph on the cover shows Bunch Cottage behind the hedge, on the other side of the road. See p. 10

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.

The deadline for the April issue is Monday 15 March 2021.

**[easebourne.united@gmail.com](mailto:easebourne.united@gmail.com) or Tel 816542**

# Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

Last year, we managed to do a couple of weeks of Lent before the first lockdown happened. As you will remember, Lent and Easter were completely cancelled for public worship; I remember scrambling around trying to discover new ways of doing church online.

Lent and Easter are affected by Covid again this year. Thankfully, this time we have been able to keep our churches open. We have also learnt a great deal about social media – we have a good number of folks who watch our recorded Sunday service, and we have people joining me for zoom evening prayer. So, with all this in mind – what can Lent and Easter be for us this year?

Firstly, a good place to start would be to see Lent as a time for reflection. Life has changed, our experience of church has changed, maybe even our outlook on our humanity has changed. So, as we reflect through Lent we can ask ourselves - what has changed for us and what will that change mean as we look forward? We will all need to reflect, to learn lessons and build new realities going forward.

Secondly, I wonder if we should try and generate a greater sense of gentleness. If you are like me, then lockdown has

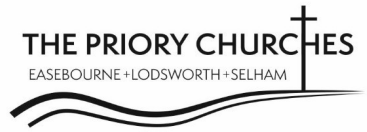
created in me emotions that I do not necessarily want or desire. I have felt anger – when I have no need to be angry. I have felt tired when I have no reason to be. I have felt frustrated – when frustration is the last thing I want. All these emotions and feelings are because lockdown is something I am not used to – so through Lent, I will be gentle with myself; I know the emerging Spring will help with this. Maybe this is something you need too?

Lastly, I think we need to be hopeful. 15 million vaccinations by mid-February was ambitious, but it was achieved. As we move forward, more and more will receive their first jabs – each jab, is a step towards some form of normality; this is hope in a real sense.

And so as hope gains momentum, and we move forward reflecting upon our lives, with a gentle path pathed with the positives of who we are in ourselves and with family and friends – maybe, just maybe, Lent and Easter will enrich us in a way we have never encountered before?

May God bless you all.

Rev Derek Welsman



**VISIT OUR BENEFICE WEBSITE:**  
**[www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk)**

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

## with St Peter's Lodsworth and St James Selham

### SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

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

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

*(Not during  
 lockdown!)*

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

### SERVICES AT ST PETER'S LODSWORTH

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

### SERVICES AT ST JAMES SELHAM

1st & 3rd Sundays  
 8.30am Holy Communion

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

Vicar: Revd Derek Welsman, Northgate, Dodsley Grove 812655  
 Easebourne GU29 9BE Email: derek.welsman@outlook.com

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

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

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

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

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 Mrs Mary Knight 812783  
 Practice on Fridays 6.00pm (not during lockdown)

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

Women's Fellowship  
 Mrs Ann Harfield 813810

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

Social Committee  
 Mrs Jan Harling 01798 342233

Editors of *United*  
 Tina & Gavin Litchfield, 7 St John's Close, Midhurst GU29 9QB  
 Email: easebourne.united@gmail.com 816542

**To subscribe to United phone Ann Harfield 813810  
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*Visit the benefice website: [www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk)*



Date	Reading	Gospel	Reader
7 March Lent 3	Exodus 20: 1—17	John 2: 13—22	Ann Harfield
14 March Lent 4	Numbers 21: 4—9	John 3: 14—21	John Backshall
21 March Lent 5	Jeremiah 31: 31—34	John 12: 20—33	Simon Hendry
28 March Palm Sunday			Alison Davis

## CHURCH DIARY

As you are all aware the rules regarding the Covid pandemic change rapidly and we have therefore decided that the church services will (for now) be advertised via our weekly bulletin and will also be available on the website ([www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk)).

If you are not receiving the weekly church bulletin by email please contact us via [stmaryseasebourne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmaryseasebourne@hotmail.co.uk).

## Keeping St Mary's Church safe

In this third lockdown it is a real blessing that churches have been allowed to stay open for services and private prayer, at the discretion of the incumbent and church wardens. In order to keep St Mary's church and those that use it safe, we have undertaken a further risk assessment, leading us to tighten up on and add more safety measures.

To this end, and following government guidelines, it is now vital and essential that you enter the church building with a mask and/or face visor already being worn. Also, please ensure that your mask is being worn correctly – covering both mouth and nose. Hand sanitizing is a must and we are asking you all to be aware of the 2-metre distancing rule at all times – as you enter and leave church and also when receiving communion. Once seated please remain in your place whilst you wait for the service to start. You will now find Roger in the porch as you arrive, to check on masks and to open the main door for you, so that only he touches the door handle, ensuring further safety. Booking is still required and essential as the 2-metre distancing rule limits how many can attend in total. Numbers are lower at the moment, but as more are vaccinated and warmer weather arrives I'm sure more people will return to church.

Therefore, Roger and I will be being much more vigilant in enforcing these measures. Thank you to those of you who are coming to church for your own caution and vigilance, and for your patience and understanding. We are really grateful to you all for your support in following the above measures – they help to protect you and everyone else. These are difficult, worrying and trying times but by working together we can all do our best to keep St Mary's as safe as we can and open to all.

Thank you.

Roger Sked and Alison Davis, Church wardens

## Poet's Corner

### A Church Mouse by Sue Absalom

I flit and I scurry  
Looking this way and that  
I do have to hurry  
In case there's a cat. (There isn't...yet!)

I scamper round skirting boards  
And roam around pipes  
Rushing hither and thither  
If I get caught .....oh cripes.

I have to be so wary  
In case the Mouseman's at large  
He may lay a trap down  
Hoping into it I might barge.

He tempts me with Nutella  
Peanut Butter as well  
Does he think I am stupid  
I may be, but don't tell!

So many of my relatives  
Have gone missing I fear  
It has reduced our numbers  
By about half this year.

They could have just starved  
Nibbling wires isn't fun  
And the People don't stop now  
For a cake or a bun.

The crumbs that would fall  
To me was a feast  
Same with the Toddler group  
But all that has ceased.

The biscuits were kept out  
Now they're secured in a tin  
Same with the sugar bowl  
No wonder I'm thin!

I nearly did lose a whisker  
When venturing too far  
Trying to get my head through  
The lid of a jam jar!



In fact, I nearly fell in  
By my tail I was saved  
I must be more careful  
That was too close a shave.

I do miss the singing  
As they burst into song  
And when the organ did play  
My little foot tapped along.

Though our numbers are small now  
I am doing my very best  
To build up the Dynasty  
As to how, I'll leave you to guess!!



### Coming to church when you cannot get out

For those not able to come to church you can 'attend' online. Go to [www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk).

Near the bottom of the homepage choose the date of the service you want to view and click on the arrow to

watch it. You will also find links to the order of service, the weekly bulletins (pew sheet), and previous services, reflections and music. If you are in a care home, ask your warden for advice on how to take part. Get in touch with Derek if you need more advice. You will be very welcome! (See p. 2 for contact details.)

## Dr Vic Mitchell 1934—2021

An obituary, where does one begin? How do you summarise such an enigmatic, creative, enthusiastic, intelligent and compassionate man in just a few words. His knowledge was vast as many of you will know. He was always interested in the people around him and keen to share his many stories, some humorous, others fascinating. Often as he spoke, a deeply thought-out project or concept would unravel. Some such projects he was sadly unable to bring to completion. Most recently the concept of bringing modern ultrasonic technology into dentistry, and more locally the Guildford to Cranleigh Tram link which he was still campaigning for until the end of 2020.



He always worked tirelessly and intensely for the good of others, never

giving up and always enjoying the challenge before him. He never missed an opportunity or wasted a moment. His many achievements were recorded in his biography and printed in the Summer special edition of the village magazine, which he was very proud to see.

Vic's story is fascinating. He was born in 1934 and went to school in the leafy London suburb of Hampton. At the age of 17, Vic followed his dad's footsteps and enrolled at Guy's Hospital to study dental surgery. During his time at Guy's Hospital, Vic and his peers were heavily involved in the revival of the Ffestiniog Railway in Porthmadog, North Wales where Vic later became a long term Director.

It was also while he was a student in London that he first set eyes on his future wife Barbara. They enjoyed walking on the South Downs, where the young couple fell in love with Midhurst and its surroundings. Barbara and Vic married in November 1958 just after Vic qualified as a Dental Surgeon. They honeymooned in Switzerland – travelling of course by train! National Service as an RAF dentist in South Wales followed.

Vic and his new family moved to their forever home, Midleton Lodge, Easebourne, in December 1962. It was cold and draughty until Vic installed central heating and double glazing. But its lofty windows afforded excellent views over Midhurst and the South Downs. It was a wonderful home in which to raise his two daughters Caroline and Deborah.

Vic's interest in Rail continued and he and younger brother Richard built a narrow-gauge railway around the garden, which has given huge pleasure over the years to Vic and Barbara's five grandchildren and most recently 6 great grandchildren. Barbara sadly died in 2016.

Midleton Lodge also served for many years as Vic's dental surgery. From here Vic innovated 'The Illuminated Probing Handpiece' later patented. As a result the dentist's aid was exhibited at the Exposition de Innovation, in Geneva, 1972, where he was awarded a Gold Medal for innovation.

Vic designed various other products and innovations, which were highly regarded and could be seen exhibited widely throughout the UK including at the Energy Show, Olympia, 1977, where he was awarded a silver medal.

Eventually, his other interests took over and he completely retired from dentistry in the mid 80's. Among many other ventures, he and Barbara ran a successful business 'Mitchell Mouldings', encapsulating objects in acrylic, which were sold as far and wide as Harrods and Selfridges department stores. He also experimented with harnessing energy from rotting compost for use as fuel. His greatest customer being HRH Duke of Edinburgh whom Vic met at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth.

Vic's interest in railways gave way to his most successful venture – Middleton Press, through which he published, authored, and co-authored over 600 books, mostly on Britain's railways and tramlines. Middleton Press was always a family run enterprise and continues to be so, with daughter Deborah at the helm, continuing his quest to complete the 'Ultimate Rail Encyclopedia'.

In October 2019, Vic, as a founder volunteer of the 'First Railway Revival Scheme' back in the 50's, was invited to unveil a commemorative blue plaque at Haslemere station, to celebrate 150 years since its opening. (Pictured below.)



Vic is certainly hard to categorize. He was a devoted family man, dental surgeon, an inventor, local historian, an authority on trains and railways, an author and publisher.

Above all else we shall forever remember his loving nature, genuine kindness and zest for life.

February 2021  
Written by Caroline Pede  
Photos Emma Chapman

## Covid-19 Vaccinations for Midhurst Area

### Riverbank Medical Centre



The staff at the Riverbank Medical Centre are extremely pleased with the Covid-19 vaccination rollout which started in January. So far we have vaccinated in excess of 5000 patients. The staff as well as the volunteers have worked tirelessly, some working 14 hour days. We would like to extend a special thanks to all the volunteers especially Midhurst Angels, Midhurst Tennis Club, Tandem and the Rotary club. Over the coming months we will continue to vaccinate people in line with government guidelines. In the meantime we would encourage patients to look at our website for more information.

[www.riverbankmedical.co.uk/covid-19-vaccination](http://www.riverbankmedical.co.uk/covid-19-vaccination)

Dr Paul Fludder

### Midhurst Memorial Hall Vaccination Hub



Midhurst Pharmacy Vaccination Hub completed its third week of vaccinations seeing patients from a huge catchment area. Patients from as far afield as Polegate, 59 miles away, visited the site to receive their first Astra Zeneca Oxford Covid-19 Vaccination. Just this last weekend, working from a three-quarter capacity working day, the Midhurst Pharmacy hub successfully vaccinated just over 950 patients in just two days. We are hopefully getting more supplies of the vaccine from NHS England in the coming weeks to see greater numbers through our doors. We are so very grateful to the South Downs Authority for the use of the Midhurst Memorial Hall as it is perfect for our patient journey without accumulating large queues. The response we are getting from our patients is both very pleasing and uplifting. The Midhurst Pharmacy remains unaffected and maintains the same opening hours and pharmacy services.

Raj Rohilla



### 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. Tel 07538 839703.

Website: [midhurstangels.co.uk](http://midhurstangels.co.uk) Email: [midhurstangels@outlook.com](mailto:midhurstangels@outlook.com)





## WELLBEING AT COWDRAY HALL

Cowdray Hall & Therapy Rooms is a well-established centre for wellbeing. The centre focuses exclusively on inspirational workshops and events, weekly classes and one-to-one therapy sessions which promote self-development. At a time when the importance of holistic health is widely acknowledged, the centre provides a place where visitors can relax as well as focus on wellbeing.

Alongside Cowdray Hall sits three beautifully appointed Therapy Rooms for hire offering an accessible yet private space for a wide range of practitioners. From part-time therapists looking for a room with less commitment, to full-time professionals looking for a permanent home, we have pricing options which cater to all.

For further information on classes and events at Cowdray Hall and for more details on Cowdray Therapy Rooms, please visit:

[www.cowdray.co.uk/wellbeing/](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



### **Community Star Award**

The latest recipient of the Easebourne Community Star Award was Frank Davies.

Frank has been a huge supporter of volunteer activities within the Parish for a long time now and you will probably have seen him doing all manner of tasks from painting bus shelters and making notice boards for them, joining the Midhurst Green



Volunteer sessions, emptying Park bins, litter picking and even helping install the Village Gateways! Frank also sits on our Park Team and has become a bit of an expert in helping us apply for grant funding for various Community projects. A huge thank you Frank for all that you do for your Community! If you would like to get involved in future volunteering activities or nominate someone for our next Community Star Award please tell us more by emailing our village clerk.

### **Green Volunteering**

The Midhurst Green Volunteers have taken a break since the beginning of Lockdown but are now back up and running in certain locations and maintaining social distance as they work. If you'd like to get involved in their amazing work and help us keep the village looking clean and tidy, please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for information about their next sessions.

### **Sculpture Park continues to evolve**

Our tree trunk sculptures are continuing to take shape in the Park as Nathan battles with poor weather to complete the designs. Work will continue throughout

this coming month and we hope will be complete by the end of March.

### **Village development**

As you may be aware, locally-based housebuilder Metis Homes, in partnership with the Cowdray Estate, is bringing forward planning proposals for three allocated housing sites in Easebourne (the Former Primary School, the Cowdray Works Yard and land off Egmont Road). As outlined in the letter sent by Metis Homes to all households in the village shortly before Christmas, the three sites have already been identified as suitable housing sites by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) within its adopted Local Plan document.

Metis Homes has been working with SDNPA to draw-up draft proposals for the three sites which will be shared with the local community before planning applications for the sites are submitted to SDNPA. The Parish Council Planning Committee have also been in regular communication with Metis in order to understand the timelines and development proposals. Everyone will be able to share feedback on the proposals via an online public consultation process. The consultation will be held online via a new project website and all households in the village will receive a leaflet from Metis providing more information on how to access the website, provide feedback and contact the project.team with questions. For those without internet access, printed materials will also be available on request via a freephone information line and email

**Listed Buildings in Easebourne—  
Bunch Cottage in Easebourne Lane**

from the archives of the late John Stringer, photograph by John Harrison.  
Contributed by Phil Stringer



Listed 18.06.59, Grade II

Cowdray numbers. One building. C16 or early C17 timber framed building with the timbering exposed in the east wall with curved braces and painted brick infilling. South front refaced with stone with red brick dressings and quoins. Tiled roof. Casement windows. Two storeys. Five windows. Listing NGR: SU8937822587

**FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB**

**February Draw winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £100**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75**

**3rd Prize—£50**

**3rd Prize—£50**

**3rd Prize—£50**

**Gavin Litchfield**

**Anya & Ben Griffin**

**Jenny King**

**Ellen Wheeker**

**Mo Knight**

**Alison Davis**

**200  
CLUB**

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)

Please note, winners will receive monies by bank transfer.

## Birch Trees Nursing Home

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Birch Trees was visited by Dr Alex MacCallum carrying a very special package for us all in the form of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccination. Our residents and a couple of staff members received their first dose on this day, with the majority of our staff receiving it the following day at the surgery. With the vaccine comes a great sense of relief and a feeling of optimism that things will return to normal sooner rather than later, and the thought that we may be able to hug our loved ones again in the not-too-distant future.

While we are waiting for things to return to normal, we have been trying to keep busy with everyday life.

We celebrated New Year, Hogmanay, Valentines Day and Chinese New Year with enthusiasm. The residents made beautifully effective

decorations with the empty bottles from Christmas and some fairy lights, and turned them into stunning Valentines Day decorations. They also all received a silk red rose, heart shaped chocolate and a Valentines card from all the staff members!

With spring just around the corner, we look forward to the weather improving so we can plant some seeds in our raised flower beds and troughs. Perhaps photos of these efforts will make it into a future edition of the Easebourne United.

**Sarah Darnell, Care Practitioner**  
**Birch Trees, Hollist Lane T: 01730 813260**

E: [sarah@victorianursinggroup.co.uk](mailto:sarah@victorianursinggroup.co.uk)





## Remote Learning focus: Reception Class

Remote learning can be tough on children, particularly for four and five year olds in Reception Class (and for their parents too!). At Conifers, their children have continued to be taught remotely each day. Reception class have enjoyed daily reading sessions with their class teacher, continue to work on their curriculum topics and also benefit from a range of fun off screen learning activities too – they've even had an online lesson with a goat!



Identifying birds in  
the back garden



## CONIFERS SCHOOL

Continuing with their learning and curriculum focus is important during lockdown and the children have been so enthused learning all about Winter and the polar caps this term. They have also read many books and stories together which are linked to their theme for this term. They have just finished reading a book together called 'Penguinpig' which is all about staying safe on the internet, something else of great importance for all children. The children were then asked to create their own animals.

In Reception, Conifers introduce languages and swimming weekly whilst making even more of their onsite facilities, including the Forest School. Having moved up from the Pre-School, the children also become part of the wider school community by joining their house system. This provides the opportunity to take part in regular house activities and competitions.

Chloe Pestell, Marketing and Admissions

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## FROM THE EDITORS

We are always grateful to receive contributions from our readers. Do you have more stories of local history? 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 April issue is Monday 15th of March. (Always the 15th of the month before publication.)



**The new subscription period starts in April.** We are keeping the subscription price at £5.00/year for ten issues. (More if you are a postal subscriber.) Please have your money ready to give to the person who delivers your magazine. And please do invite your friends and neighbours to subscribe.

**easebourne.united@gmail.com or Tina and Gavin 01730 816542**



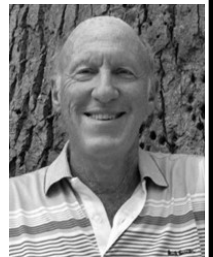
### Rotary Project in Scottburgh South Africa

A few years ago Sarah Morley, daughter of Rotarian Hazel, got involved helping the local community while on holiday in South Africa. By luck the hotel in which Sarah was staying was the meeting place of the local Rotary Club. This led to the start of a project to provide a playground at a rape crisis centre at a hospital in Scottburgh, KwaZulu Natal, SA. As a result, Rotary Clubs from Scottburgh SA, Godalming Woolsack, Midhurst and Petworth, and the Rotary District 1145 joined together to fund the project. The work began a year ago, although delayed by Covid restrictions. Easigrass was installed to the surface area, and the local gardening club collected plants and organised paving. The centre was opened at the end of Dec 2020. On 25<sup>th</sup> January this year ninety attendees from 6 countries including UK, Latvia, Ghana, India, USA, South Africa met over Zoom to hear a report from Sarah on how the project began through to completion.

Helen Chapman, Midhurst and Petworth Rotary Club

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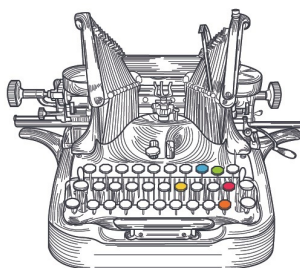
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## Mothering Sunday versus Mother's Day

No, they are not the same thing. Mothering Sunday is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent which, this year, is the 14<sup>th</sup> March. Mother's Day is the second Sunday in May and was started by Anna Jarvis of Grafton West Virginia. She wanted to honour her mother who had died and give others the opportunity to remember theirs. She lobbied so hard that in 1914 the president of the USA, Woodrow Wilson, made it an official holiday. However, by the time Anna died in 1948 she rather regretted what she had done and called it Hallmark Day!

Mothering Sunday gained popularity in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to honour the Virgin Mary and from that the mothering aspect. People would go back to their mother church in which they were baptised or to the cathedral, the mother church of the diocese. It then became a traditional the day on which domestic staff could go home to visit their mothers. Another name for Mothering Sunday was Refreshment Sunday. This was in recognition that the readings at Matins and Evensong are from Exodus, Chapters 42 and 43 and were about Joseph and his brothers coming to buy corn in Egypt because of the famine, and the gospel reading at the communion service from St John, Chapter 6 which tells of the feeding of the 5,000. The middle Sunday of Lent became a day of relaxation and a time to enjoy good food. Simnel Cake (from the Latin word *Simila* meaning fine flour) was the traditional celebration cake of Mothering Sunday, not Easter day. The eleven balls that are traditional round the top represent the eleven tribes of Israel saved by Joseph, and the "eleven who went to heaven", (the eleven apostles but not Judas).

Mother's Day, apart from USA, is also celebrated in Australia, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey and Belgium on the second Sunday of May. In Thailand it is the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, which is the birthday of the present queen. Mothering Sunday is also observed in Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

### **Traditional Simnel Cake — ingredients**

<b>225 gr (8 oz) plain flour</b>	<b>85 gr (3 oz) candied peel</b>
<b>A pinch of salt</b>	<b>170 gr (6 oz) butter</b>
<b>1 tsp nutmeg</b>	<b>170 gr (6 oz) caster sugar</b>
<b>1 tsp cinnamon</b>	<b>3 eggs</b>
<b>340 gr (12 oz) currants</b>	<b>milk to mix</b>
<b>113 gr (4 oz) sultanas</b>	<b>560 gr (20 oz) marzipan</b>

### Simnel Cake — method

Sieve together flour, salt and spices, add the cleaned currants, candied peel and sultanas. Cream the butter and sugar until very light and fluffy. Beat in each egg separately. (If it shows signs of curdling add a little of the flour at the same time.) Stir in the remainder of the flour, adding a little milk to achieve a dropping consistency. Put half the mixture into a greased and lined 8 inch tin. Smooth the top carefully and cover with a round of half the marzipan. Put the remainder of the cake mixture on the top and bake in a slow oven at Gas Mk 3/165°C/ 150° C fan. It will take about 3 hrs depending on the thickness of the cake. Put on a rack to cool. When cold cover the top of the cake with the remaining marzipan having made 11 little balls which then go round the edge. Beat an extra egg well and brush the marzipan top and the little balls, and brown under a hot grill.



## General Knowledge Quiz

*Compiled by Carole Sawyer*

1. Who is the new Vice President of the US?
2. Who is the current England test cricket captain?
3. With which device are earthquakes recorded?
4. In which country would you find 8 of the world's 10 highest mountains?
5. By what term is Double Cream known in the USA?
6. What were the surnames of Welsh artists Augustus and Gwen?
7. Where in the human body are the Lachrymal Glands?
8. Where in London would you find Speaker's Corner?
9. Who is the patron saint of music?
10. Which vegetable did Sir Walter Raleigh bring to England?
11. The name of which ocean means peace?
12. Which Spanish opera singer performed a duet with Freddie Mercury on 'Barcelona'?
13. What is a baby rabbit called?
14. Joseph Smith Jr founded which religious movement?
15. Who did Queen Elizabeth II surpass as Britain's longest serving monarch in September 2015?
16. 'The Chronicles of Narnia' is a children's book series written by which author?
17. What is England's largest county with no coastline?
18. What was Sri Lanka called before the country's name changed in 1972?
19. In which month is St Patrick's Day?
20. What colour is found on 75% of the world's flags?

## Notes from a Midhurst Rother College Student

by Rudy Tiplady, age 12



**Me 'studying hard'**

Since the first Lockdown started everyone has been forced to stay at home and schools subsequently shut down making most children do online learning. It's been portrayed as quite a difficult thing, and while most of the time yes, that is the case, sometimes there are major benefits. Like the ability to do the work quick and then do other stuff (although this strategy has proven to sometimes cut into other lessons); or the ability to eat food whenever you want. Better yet, the

ability to talk to your friends whenever you like.

However, you can easily get distracted especially considering I never leave my room (unless my mum forces me to.) Quite often I will find myself playing with my hamster (or playing video games...).

Pretty much daily my mum forces me to go on a walk which is for my 'mental and physical health'. I'm sure she is right but I would much rather be sitting at my desk playing video games. Sometimes she forgets but then she makes me go on a longer walk the next day because she treats health like a maths equation. The one problem with spending 23 hours a day in one room is the fact that random stuff builds up, I just have an abundance of stuff in my room, ranging from YuGiOh\* cards (a Japanese trading card game) to a random spare keyboard and mouse. I would tidy it up, but I feel like I have better things to do (e.g., sitting practically motionless playing video games).



**Arlo the hamster**



**Me on a walk. As you can see, I am "enjoying it"**

In the morning before the first lesson, we have to attend tutor online. This is mainly just showing the day's live assembly instead of what happened in the first lockdown which was just talking about recent events (news, covid-19 updates, etc.

# Easebourne Primary School



In these challenging times, unexpected acts of generosity are particularly heartwarming and February has seen the school at the receiving end of four such acts of generosity which I thought readers would be cheered and interested to hear about.

We are very aware of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the children at the school and are introducing a new *Education 4 Safeguarding (E4S)* curriculum after half-term. This is built on four cornerstones, one of which is Emotional Health and Wellbeing. We want our E4S curriculum to be delivered through different engaging media, with rich texts at its very centre. With this in mind, we have been looking to start to build a library of powerful books, available to all classes. I am delighted to announce that we have been generously supported in this initiative by three local organisations – Easebourne Parish Council, the United Parish Magazine and the Lodsworth Magazine. Between them, they have contributed an incredible £1,250 towards resources to support E4S (**Act of Generosity #1**). A lot of books have already been ordered and £250 has been set aside to purchase the revised version of 'Real Love Rocks' a key Barnardo's resource for Year 6 pupils which educates them on the dangers of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and how to avoid it.

The school was fortunate enough to have a further financial windfall just before half-term when Ruby L (Y4) came in to give me a dull manilla envelope (**Act of Generosity #2**). The contents of the envelope were anything but dull - £200! Ruby told me the story behind this remarkable sum.

Last year I decided to raise some money for Easebourne School, my dad Jamie and my sister Florence helped as well. As we all know it has been a tough year throughout lockdown with everyone being extra careful, there has been less opportunity for school fundraising events. We thought that it would be a nice idea to show our appreciation for all the brilliant teachers and staff by raising some money and donating it to the school. It took us about six months to raise £200. I managed this by earning money from doing lots of chores and selling some unwanted items. I am extremely pleased with our achievements and would love for the money to go towards improving our school environment.

An incredible effort, Ruby – well done! It just goes to show what a difference you can make if you put your mind to something. We are thinking how Ruby's donation might be used.

We were also incredibly grateful to workers from the Cowdray Estate (**Act of Generosity #3**). Last term, the School Council consulted with the rest of the school on the sort of KS2 adventure playground they would like to see much of our saved PE & Sport Premium money spent on, eventually coming up with a really exciting plan and negotiating a little bit of 'extra spend' in their dealings with the company installing it, Creative Play! We had also elected to remove by ourselves the old playground, left over from the site's days as the Midhurst Intermediate School, to save a little extra money and gain an additional element for

the playground. The new equipment was due to be installed over half-term, but COVID had meant that our plans to remove the old playground had gone awry. It was at this point that Cowdray stepped in, lending a team of men and a digger to remove the playground not just from the ground but also from the site. A real life-saver – thank you!

Thanks to our last Act of Generosity, artistic things are now in the offing as our Art & Design Lead, Theresa Daley, put in a successful bid to the Midhurst Art Society which came up trumps. They have generously agreed to support two initiatives, one which will enhance the school and one which will enhance the children **(Act of Generosity #4)**. Both will kick off in the second half of the spring term and I hope to share more news of these two projects in a future issue.

Finally, I thought I'd leave you with one of the winning entries to a recent Tight Write. If you remember, each fortnight, children are asked to submit a piece of writing to accompany a given picture, using no more than 50 words. This one's by Bella (Y3D) and seems particularly relevant at the moment.

*SuperFive Save the World*

The world was in trouble, a virus was killing people but luckily SuperFive were here to save the day. Social Distance Sam, Facemask Freddy, Washing Hands Henry, Vaccine Vanessa & Lockdown Lisa. SuperFive spread the word, if you follow these rules, you can beat the virus and be a superhero too!

*Johnny Cowley*



#### General Knowledge Quiz Answers

- |                  |                        |                |                  |                    |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kamala Harris | 2. Joe Root            | 3. Seismograph | 4. Nepal         | 5. Heavy Cream     |
| 6. John          | 7. Eyes                | 8. Hyde Park   | 9. Saint Cecilia | 10. Potato         |
| 11. Pacific      | 12. Montserrat Caballe | 13. A kit      | 14. Mormonism    | 15. Queen Victoria |
| 16. C S Lewis    | 17. Shropshire         | 18. Ceylon     | 19. March (17th) | 20. Red            |



## Struggling to provide food during Covid 19?



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#### Midhurst Foodbank update

Midhurst Foodbank continues to be very active in responding to the needs of the community. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, we have fed 100 people, 58 adults and 42 children. These are challenging times for everyone, but for those who have lost hours of work or indeed a job, with the subsequent implications on mortgage and rent payments, life can be incredibly hard. There can be nothing worse than to experience an empty cupboard and a hungry family. With the current lockdown restrictions still in place, many families find their homes full with all the family members, putting enormous demands on food supplies.

We are fortunate, in Midhurst, to have a foodbank run by over 60 volunteers, who give generously of their time. We are able to adequately respond to requests for food throughout the week, sadly however, only by phone. All food has to be delivered, due to Covid 19 restrictions. As volunteers, we loved sitting to chat over tea and cake to those who came for food on Friday afternoons. We look forward to the return of such days. In the meantime, it is reassuring, that the needs of the hungry can always be met. We have a generous community who continue to donate to the foodbank on a regular basis. Since Christmas, we have been able to include some fresh fruit and vegetables as well as eggs when delivering food parcels. Without the generosity within our community both from volunteers and donors, we could not support those in need.

Liz Willing (Midhurst Foodbank Coordinator)



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**Metis Homes Planning Application** for 75 new dwellings at the Bepton Road WSCC Depot and Old Brickworks site. SDNPA has supported this development in principle but there are still a number of concerns, including impact on The Common from approx. 200 new residents. Reference: SDNP/20/05059/

**Bog allotment** - written by **Jean Hicks**

As this lock down is going to be quite a lengthy session, it did occur to me that some of you may, at some future time, be looking for a new walking destination As many of you are aware, Murray Marr has spent several years bringing the allotment site in Bepton Road into a wildlife haven. It is now well worth a visit and an ideal place to wander round. There are varying habitats now established within the site and, with the help of a colleague, Murray has a

number of different species of willow growing well. The allotments in Bepton Road are situated adjacent to Pitsham Lane and opposite the Bridleway leading on to the Common. The Bog Allotment is tucked at the end of this site, the entrance being slightly separate from the last allotment. A couple of pallets have been converted into an entrance gate. If you see others there working please ensure social distancing. When reaching the bottom of the site, close to New Pond, the ground becomes quite wet, so watch where you are treading and keep within the boundary of the site. As Winter turns into Spring, it will be interesting to watch the changes on the site and welcome the return of both birds and pollinators. Enjoy your walk.

Jean

[www.friendsofmidhurstcommon.co.uk](http://www.friendsofmidhurstcommon.co.uk)

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Anne Dennig, Botany Bay Conservancy, Sussex

## Brimstone Butterfly

by Michael Blencowe,

Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



**Sussex**  
Wildlife Trust

This lockdown has certainly felt harder because of the winter. Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed the bleak beauty of the season: bare trees, frosted landscapes. But now I need something to get my heart racing. I need a sign – some hope in these challenging times, a promise of those dynamic spring months ahead, a flash of colour. In March my light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming butterfly.



On sculpted, vibrant yellow wings the brimstone butterfly makes his elegant entrance into the New Year on those bright March days when you feel the warmth of the sun on your face. Its distinctive yellow wings have given birth to a legend – that this 'butter-coloured fly' was the inspiration for the word butterfly. This claim may be a myth and it's also untrue that these March brimstones are the first signs of the year's new life. By the time brimstones appear in March they are already on their last (six) legs. Fresh brimstone butterflies emerged from their chrysalises in late summer, so by now they could be seven months old – and in butterfly years that's ancient. Admittedly, almost all of that time they've been asleep in a hedge, sheltered from the storms under holly and ivy. Yet despite the worst winter weather they always emerge immaculate in the spring. They must be made of Teflon. When they

awake the (bright yellow) males search for a mate, they mate, the (pale yellow) females lay eggs and then both die. Still, an adult life of over ten months earns them the title of our longest-lived butterfly. An insect OAP.

The brimstone's caterpillars feed on the leaves of buckthorn and alder buckthorn, unobtrusive shrubs which, like the butterfly, are widespread across Sussex. When I first became the proud owner of a garden it was only a matter of days before I evicted the

gnomes and planted an alder buckthorn. The following spring I was excited to watch a brimstone laying her tiny skittle shaped eggs and I studied the caterpillars as they hungrily defoliated my tree, content in the knowledge that I was doing my bit to raise the following year's brimstone brigade.

My first brimstone sighting each year doesn't exactly mean that spring is starting but it's certainly a sign that winter is starting to end. And, after the tough winter that we've all just suffered, that's good enough for me. Either way, this beautiful yellow butterfly is a welcome messenger of what's to come – the first sulphurous spark to ignite the blaze of spring. Let's hope that with the spring comes hope for a brighter year for us all.

[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)



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

### The Winter Garden

As most of you will receive your magazine at the end of February it seems a good time to take stock of this last winter in the garden. Because of the lockdown very few of us have had the opportunity to travel far, so the garden has become very important, even when only viewed from inside the house. I cannot remember a winter with more unpleasant days, days of endless rain or days when it seemed as if the clouds were sitting close to the roof tops. And then as I write, a cold snap with bitterly cold winds from the east and sharp frosts. It has certainly seemed like a very long winter with limited chances to travel far and see friends and family, so for those with a decent sized garden, but few winter plants or interesting small evergreens, I would like to suggest some to give cheer in the darkest months and which can be planted now.

To me the star of this winter is the Witch hazel, *Hamamelis mollis* 'Pallida.' This was raised at Wisley as long ago as 1932 and given an Award of Merit in that same year. Its flowers are described as pale yellow but ours is a rich yellow, stands pruning well and is very frost hardy, flowering without fail through the most unpleasant weather.

Many skimmias are attractive small shrubs, but for winter effect *Skimmia rubella* is the best. This is evergreen with deep pink buds which open to pale pink flowers in early spring and makes a tidy bush. You will see it regularly in garden centres during the winter months as it is ideal for the impulse buyer. Ours is more

than ten years old and apart from an occasional trimming over needs little attention.

The only daphne that is truly winter flowering is *Daphne bholua* from the mountains of Nepal. Seed was collected on a number of expeditions many led by Tony Schilling, formally the curator at Wakehurst Place. He planted large numbers of them in the valley garden at Wakehurst where they have made large specimens. They were also planted by Sir Peter Smithers in his garden in Switzerland after taking part in one of these expeditions. Some of the best of these seedlings were selected and named, such as *D Gurkha*, *D Jacqueline Postill*, *D Peter Smithers*, and *D Darjeeling*. Beautifully scented, they are ideal for a sheltered corner near the house where they can be seen from indoors. Although large eventually, they stand pruning well and most importantly flower through January and February. In my experience the flowers are very frost hardy and cope well with icy winds.

Many years ago I was given a young plant of *Camellia transnokoensis*. I had never heard of this camellia before, which I gather came from the mountains of Taiwan, and then it started appearing at the early spring flower shows in London. Although many camellias in mild winters will have odd flowers through the winter months, I would never consider them winter flowering, so it was with some surprise to see *C transnokoensis* starting to open its pretty red buds to small delicate white flowers in January and



continuing to flower throughout that month. Again a sheltered corner makes all the difference.

Just a quick mention of two small mound-forming evergreens that look attractive in winter near the house. The first is another daphne, so unlike the one mentioned above that you would not think it the same species. This is *Daphne*

*pontica* 'Albowina' or 'Phillipi', reaching about one metre wide and high with the flower buds appearing through the winter. These open soft yellow green in early spring. The second is *Pittosporum Tom Thumb*, about the same size as the daphne, with rich shiny bronze foliage. Totally unperturbed by whatever extremes of weather come along, it is one of our favorite small shrubs.

Recently I mentioned how attractive Swiss Chard and other varieties were in the vegetable garden during the autumn months and into winter. Unfortunately the constant rain with often windy conditions finally reduced them to a soggy heap. A new planting is now needed along with many other spring vegetables - more next month.



---

Jackie Haggis sent us this photograph. Do seagulls really perch in trees? Well, says Jackie, they do at Benbow Pond!





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Woodcroft Dental Clinic	812053	St Oswald Dental Surgery	812022
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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 John Humphris, chairman	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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