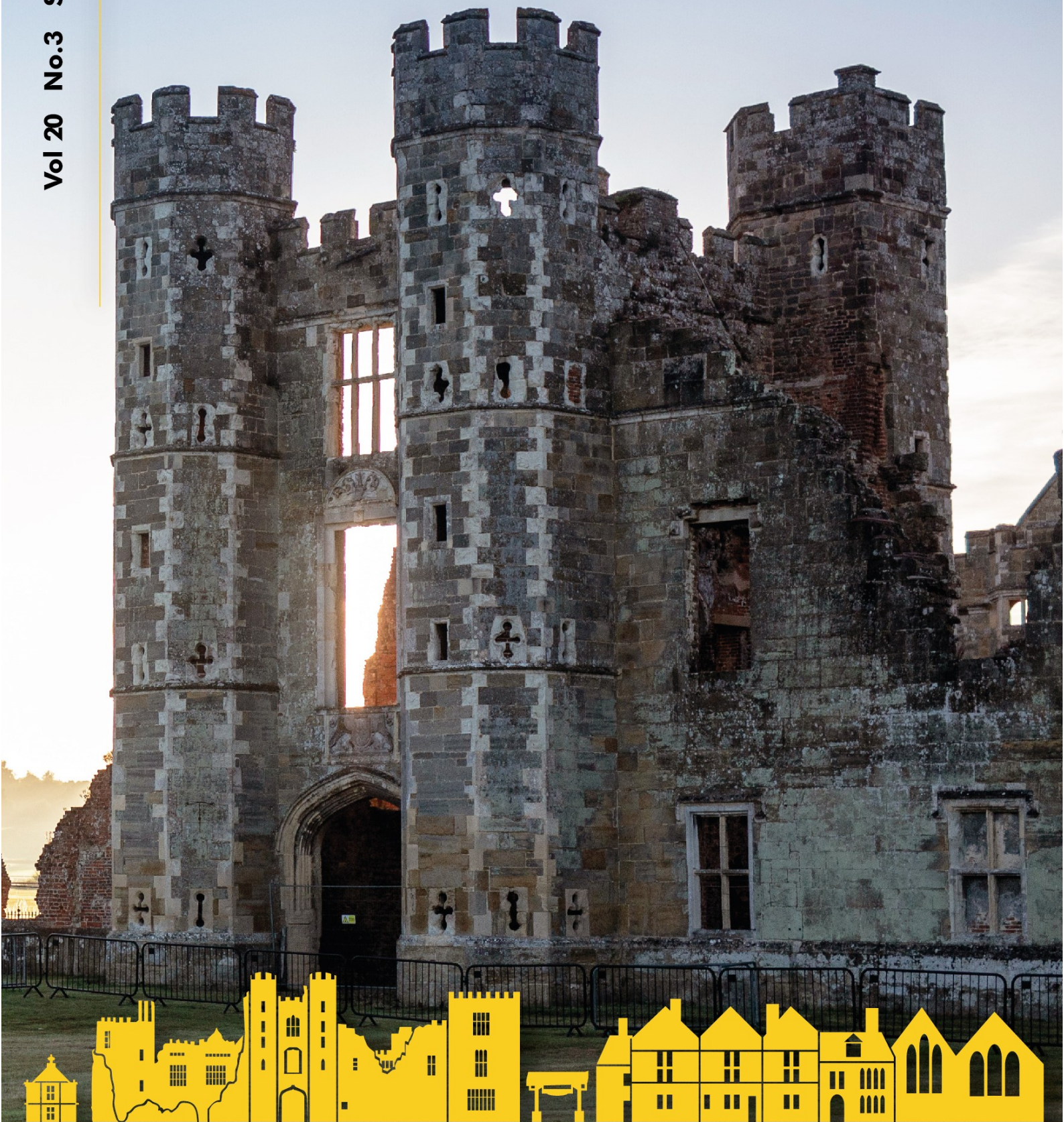


Vol 20 No.3 September 2021

# *united* **EASEBOURNE**



**Easebourne village and St Mary's Church magazine**



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**The cover photograph was sent to us by the Cowdray Estate.  
Read about the Ruins on p. 7.**

**The deadline for the October issue is Wednesday 15 September 2021.  
The editors always welcome contributions from our readers.  
[easebourne.united@gmail.com](mailto:easebourne.united@gmail.com) or Tel 816542**

# Letter from the Vicar



Dear Friends

As I write my letter this month, the news is full of exam results. How difficult it has been for young people doing their A Level's and GCSE's – our schools have really paid a massive price during this pandemic.

So, I imagine our schools return in September with a great deal of uncertainty. In our benefice, both Easebourne Church of England Primary and Conifers coped admirably during the last year and a half – and we will be praying for them across our churches as they return to a new term.

At Easebourne Church of England Primary school, we take very seriously our status as a church school. This means that we work hard to reflect in the life of the school the values of faith which have been passed down to us through the generations. The children will reflect upon how we live together, how we operate as a wider village community, and what our relationship should be towards God's creation.

The school splits its life around three major terms. Working in collaboration with the church, we have also sorted these terms into three key themes from

the bible: Faith, Hope and Love. Married to the school's core values of: Achieve, Build and Connect – these themes and values underpin all areas of teaching and school life. To help with the three themes of Faith Hope and Love, our three church families have funded the purchase of large plastic letters spelling out the words, which can be used around the school to promote these themes. They can also be used in collective worship and classroom teaching.

Certainly, over the period of Covid restrictions, the staff and pupils lived out in clear ways our core values. This led the children, under extreme conditions to **ACHIEVE** in their learning - **BUILD** their lives in relationship to each other and **CONNECT** their life at the school with the world that they are part of.

So, as we start a new term, we pray for our two schools, that with Faith, Hope and Love, the children will flourish together, encouraged by their teachers' wonderful skills and that all will Achieve, Build and Connect their lives.

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.*

**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

-----  
Vicar: Rev Canon 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

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

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

Women's Fellowship  
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  
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**To subscribe to United phone Ann Harfield 813810  
or by email—annharfield23@gmail.com**

*Visit the benefice website: [www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk)*



## CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Wednesday 1	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>14th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Family Service
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evensong
Tuesday 7	3.00pm	St Mary's	Macmillan Service
Wednesday 8	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Afternoon tea
Thursday 9	4.00pm	St Mary's	Wedding rehearsal
Saturday 11	2.00pm	St Mary's	Wedding
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>15th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Tuesday 14	2.00pm	St Mary's	Women's Fellowship
Wednesday 15	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	St Mary's	PCC Meeting
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>16th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 22	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>17th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 29	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Saturday 2	11.00am	St Mary's	Baptism
<b>Sunday 3 Oct</b>	<b>18th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	8.30am	St James	Harvest Service
	10.30am	St Mary's	Harvest Service
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evensong
Wednesday 4	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

## Derek Welsman is a Canon

At last! Recognition. But is he the right calibre? (A cannon joke!)

Our vicar Derek has recently been awarded the title 'Canon' by the Bishop of Chichester. The word 'Canon' is an honorary title. It is granted by a diocesan bishop to clergy (and sometimes to lay persons) who have served the church faithfully for a number of years, and who are worthy of some respect. Since the Latin word *canonicus* means "law" or "rule" it may be assumed that the life of the person who holds the title is a standard or rule that others would do well to copy.

In the early history of the church Canons were priests who shared a home and followed a "rule" or pattern of daily life. Later the word referred to clergy who were part of the life of a great cathedral. They helped to administer the cathedral and would elect certain church officials. Nowadays, in the Anglican church, there is still a slight connection with the local cathedral, where a Canon might be obliged to attend a meeting once

a year, but primarily the title is an honorary one with little or no duties attached. As referenced above, you might say, "Good morning, Canon Jenkins," in a conversation, although using his or her given name is more usual. Addressing an envelope would follow this form: "The Rev'd Canon W.R. Jenkins."

Anglican Canons are entitled to wear a distinctive style of cassock. The basic black of the vestment is trimmed with red satin; there are red buttons, a red cincture, and the short upper cape has a red lining (see photo). Wearing such a grand vestment is optional, and many Anglican canons in Canada choose not to do so.

The difference between church Canons and large weapons of war is all in the spelling: a "cannon" is a weapon; a "Canon" is a church official with an honorary title; and a "canon" is a church bylaw.

Contributed by Roger Sked

Date	Reading	Gospel	Reader	Intercessor
5 Sept -14th after Trinity	James 2: 1—10 & 14—17	Mark 7: 24—37	Colin Datchler	
12 Sept—15th after Trinity	James 3: 1—12	Mark 8: 27—end	Jan Harling	
19 Sept—16th after Trinity	James 3: 13—4:3 & 7-8a	Mark 9: 30—37	Phil Stringer	Martin Dexter
26 Sept—17th after Trinity	James 5: 13—end	Mark 9: 38 to end	Veronica Jull	Wendy Trafford

## Poet's Corner

### The Bitesize Olympics by Sue Absolom

The tension was building in the arena  
All ingredients had paraded through.  
The crowd buzzing with excitement  
To see how the competitors would do.

First was the SAUSAGE ROLL, on the bars  
And what a difficult manoeuvre he tried  
The CHEESE ROLL did his best to match it  
Lost his contents and was disqualified.

The APPLE TURNOVER came next  
for gymnastics  
Doing amazing cartwheels, back  
flips and more  
She came to a sticky end trying  
the splits though  
Her apple leaked, and she  
stuck to the floor.

The MARATHON BAR started his race  
But found the going too hot  
And, undignifiedly, was left  
As a gooey blob on the same spot.

The HOT CROSS BUN was in the boxing ring  
And ended up with such a whack  
From his fired up opponent  
'Don't get into such a FLAPJACK'.

The BANANA SPLIT .... did just that  
And had to be helped onto a stretcher.  
We all clapped her off the field  
And hoped she would soon be better.

The LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE went for the  
long jump  
An excellent leap, it really was grand  
But sadly no one could find her after  
As she had merged so well with the sand.



THE GOOSEBERRY made a FOOL  
of himself  
While in the swimming pools  
As did the ICE CREAM BOMBE.  
They dissolved completely, the fools.

THE CHEESY TWISTS did cycling  
It was going so well on the track  
Till the collision left them all in crumbs  
And they had to be swept into a sack.

The spectators had no complaints  
As when the Olympics was no more  
They had a feast of a lifetime  
Eating the remains of every competitor!

### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB August 2021 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**

**No 68**

**No 50**

**No 43**

**No 76**

**No 192**

**Anja & Ben Griffin**

**Jenny King**

**Bill Howkin**

**Marian Bradley**

**Chris Fairclough**

**Peter Allen**

**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.



## **Women's Fellowship**

At last, after 18 months, we were able to meet again, and we had our first gathering in July. We had planned to have a garden meeting but as the weather was excessively hot, we felt the George West Room would be much cooler, and so it was. While some members could not tolerate the heat, others had doubts about the confines of the GWR. In the end 7 members attended and enjoyed catching up over tea and cake. Derek joined us for tea and suggested that we have our next few meetings in the church. This we will do, and we meet again on Tuesday 14 September at 2.00pm, when Pam Stevens will talk to us about her time living in Petworth House.

Other dates are Tuesday 5 October, Tuesday 2 November—all in the church at 2.00pm.

### **Afternoon Tea**

The Social Gang are delighted to advise you all that Afternoon Tea will begin again on Wednesday, September 8 at 3.00 pm in the church (not the GWR). If you would like to join us, please telephone either Hilary Craig (813923) or myself on 01798 342233, at the same time letting us know if you would like a lift to and from the church. We are looking forward to seeing you all again after such a long time and with much love.



Jan Harling and The Social Gang

### **Our Church Choir**

We have a choir at St Mary's and we sing for most Sunday services and for weddings and funerals. We sing all the usual hymns and beautiful anthems. We members of the choir love to sing, and we know that the congregation is particularly pleased that we are all back to singing again. We really need more members—adults from all voice parts, but also young people. Mary our organist is an excellent teacher and she is happy to coach anyone who feels a bit rusty. She is also willing to have separate practice times and special instruction for young people. Children who are interested in music and are able to read fluently are welcome to apply. Our young people learn musical skills that last a lifetime.

Please contact Mary if you want more information. Her phone number is 01730 812783. You would be made most welcome.

## News from the Cowdray Estate

Jonathan Russell, CEO

### The Cowdray Ruins



The Cowdray Heritage Trust team who manage The Ruins are working hard to secure the future of this stunning Tudor house. The Cowdray Ruins is not only one of the country's most important Tudor houses with historical, social and political significance, but is also an important local landmark. It is both a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade I listed building.

In 2020, the Trust was awarded a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund of £45,200 enabling them to carry out an options and feasibility study. Fundamental to the project are innovative engagement and consultation activities with local audiences to help shape ideas and ensure everyone can play their part in local placemaking.

Throughout the summer, free tours have taken place called 'An Introduction to Cowdray Ruins' which offered a fascinating glimpse into life at Cowdray over the past 500 years, allowing visitors to see the front

of Cowdray Ruins and visit the Tudor Kitchen. Visitors were asked to fill out a questionnaire about their experience to help with the consultation process. If you were unable to attend the tours but would like to be involved in the consultation process, please email Sally Guile, Operations Manager at Cowdray Heritage Trust on [sally.guile@cowdray.co.uk](mailto:sally.guile@cowdray.co.uk).

Cowdray Ruins has a long and fascinating history. The original Cowdray House, which is now known as Cowdray Ruins, was created by Sir David Owen, who was thought to be the illegitimate son of Henry VII's grandfather, Owen Tudor. The house is known to have been visited by both King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I.

In September 1793, whilst undergoing repairs and refurbishments for the impending marriage of the 8<sup>th</sup> Viscount Montague, a devastating fire took hold and most of the property was destroyed. The Kitchen Tower is the only part of the house



to remain intact today and is now home to a stunning Renaissance Art Studio. Art courses are held in this hexagonal space located at the top of a spiral staircase.

Before the fire, the famous plotter, Guy Fawkes is known to have worked at the house, which in turn nearly implicated the Viscount in the famous Gunpowder plot. Since 1793, Cowdray Ruins have remained largely untouched, however the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Cowdray commissioned a restoration project between 1909 to 1914 which saved the Ruins from collapse.

From May 2007, Cowdray Ruins was opened to the public, and visitors were able to freely walk around the site and

enjoy the grounds. In 2018, several surveys were carried out on The Ruins, which resulted in areas being closed.

The Cowdray Ruins is now in the care of the Cowdray Heritage Trust, an independent charity responsible for managing the site. The trust is recruiting trustees to join the board and to help with the strategic direction of Cowdray Heritage Trust. The role is voluntary and involves fundraising, audience engagement and heritage management.

To find out more about Cowdray Heritage, visit: [www.cowdray.co.uk/historic-cowdray/](http://www.cowdray.co.uk/historic-cowdray/)

### **Sir David Owen by Andrew Guyatt**

Against the north wall of Easebourne church is the tomb of Sir David Owen. He was a very important figure in the early Tudor period as indicated by the fact that he had an effigy placed over him. However, despite being married three times, none of these ladies appear beside him. Although he had a famous father, Owen Tudor, Davy, as he liked to be called, was illegitimate being born in 1459 at Pembroke Castle. However, when his father was executed by his enemies two years later the family did not reject Davy. In gratitude he later constructed a tomb for his father in the Greyfriars' church in Hereford.

Owen also had had a grandson who in 1485, defeated Richard III at Bosworth Field and became Henry VII. David supported his nephew and was rewarded by being

knighted and having a marriage arranged for him with an heiress Mary Bohun. They married in 1488 and had four children. He was also a guest at St Paul's Cathedral when Katherine of Aragon married her first husband, Prince Arthur. On the death of her father John in 1492, Mary inherited Cowdray House, but she only lived another two





years. She left the estate to her son Henry, while David became a tenant for life of the property.

In his book "Cowdray and Easebourne Priory in the County of Sussex", 1919, Sir William St. John Hope, claimed that David Owen demolished the old manor house at Cowdray in 1520 and erected a new building which ultimately became the ruins we know today. However Bridget Howard believes this to be unlikely, since David Owen did not own the site, and instead suggested that this rebuilding was done thirty or more years before by his father-in-law. In support of this idea it seems that David himself built the chapel in 1492.

In 1527 he colluded with his son Henry in executing a deed making over the estate to the Treasurer of the King's Household, Sir William Fitzwilliam, upon Henry's death. There were further fraudulent transactions two years later when a license was given to enclose 600 acres as a park and to do some unauthorised building.

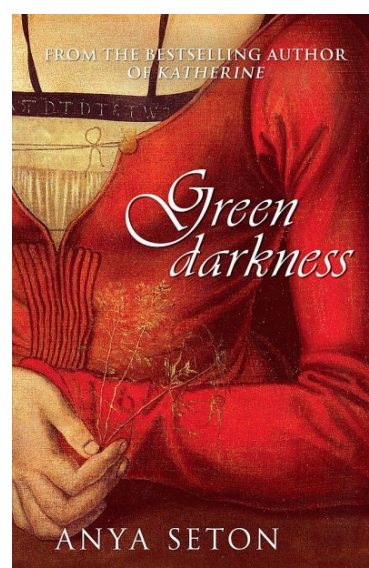
In David's will he left money to endow two priests to say Mass four times a week for Henry VII and his family. There were also resources to clothe fifty guests at his funeral with black gowns and hoods, and four services a year would be said in his memory. He left silver vessels, books and vestments to the church and its associated chapels at Fernhurst and Lodsworth, and paid for repairs to the roof at Easebourne church.

We do not know when he died, but by 1542 when his will was finally proved, the Reformation had swept away many of the practices of the church. Hopefully he never found out that his endowment to fund priests to pray for him had come to nothing.

*This article previously appeared in the February 2018 edition of United.*

## **Green Darkness** by Anya Seton

If you like historical fiction you might be interested to read this book, published way back in 1972, and six months on the NY Times best seller list. The story is set in 1552 after the Reformation, and much of the action takes place in Midhurst, either at Cowdray House or at the Spread Eagle Hotel. Anya Seton was an American author, but she spent many months here doing research. The heroine is the fictional Celia de Bohun, a chambermaid at the Spread Eagle, who is enamoured with the young chaplain to the Catholic Brownes who lived at Cowdray, and fictional friend of Madeleine Dacre, whose effigy is in St Mary's church. The book is in stock at Wheelers Bookshop in Midhurst.





## 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)  
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## la Piazzetta

Midhurst

Starting 3 September we are offering a free glass of Prosecco with a main meal from Monday to Thursday

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Anne Dennig, Botany Bay Conservancy, Sussex





## General Knowledge Quiz

*Compiled by Carole Sawyer*

1. What sports were added to the Olympics this year?
2. Where in the world would you expect to find a car with the vehicle registration code 'V'?
3. How many sides has a heptadecagon?
4. The logo for which popular app consists of a white telephone in a white speech bubble on a green background?
5. Which sport is featured in the 2003 film 'Seabiscuit'?
6. Which is the only letter in Scrabble to have a value of 5 points?
7. Which artist painted 'Lobster telephone' in 1936?
8. In which 'James Bond' film did Daniel Craig first play the starring role?
9. Who was Britain's youngest Olympian at this year's games?
10. If someone uses the letters MRCVS after their name, which profession do they have?
11. Aircraft flight recorders are often known by the misnomer 'black box' even though they are actually which colour?
12. The internal angles of a triangle will always total how many degrees?
13. To which animal does the adjective Porcine refer?
14. What does the computer-related acronym 'WWW' stand for?
15. Suncrisp, Golden Russet and Braeburn are all varieties of which fruit?
16. According to the idiom, what do 'birds of a feather' do?
17. Which English author created the priest-detective 'Father Brown'?
18. In which English county is Blenheim Palace?
19. Which word can come after 'dream', 'steam' and 'life' to form other words?
20. Where will the 2024 Olympics be held?

Answers on page 28





By the time you read this article, the Easebourne Parish Council organised "Picnic in the Park" on Monday 30th August will have come and gone. This will be the third running of this community event. It was pleasing to note that Easebourne Park's Roundhouse was used as part of the MADHurst events, where children's entertainer and magician, Nick Clarke, dazzled the assembled children with his magic tricks. It has been wonderful to see The Roundhouse being used for birthday parties, fitness sessions and mother and toddler groups. It is being used as an outdoor community centre.

The Parish Council has ambitious plans, funding permitting, to create a permanent toilet facility and a micro pop-up Community space in the Park. Early plans are as below. We emphasise, these embryonic plans have a long way to go before becoming reality and are very much dependent on raising the necessary funds from various charities, local authority and from the South Downs National Parks Authority. We will keep you posted as we proceed.

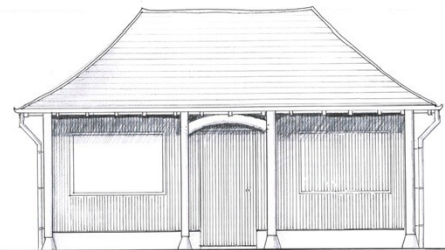
From September our public meetings will be moving from The Refectory to another venue. At the time of this going to press we

are still finalising the venue, but details will be published online and on the noticeboards as soon as we know.

Finally, as always, please keep an eye on our website and the village Facebook page for details of where the Midhurst Green Volunteers will be each Tuesday and Saturday. As a village we very much rely on these amazing volunteers to help us keep our paths, verges and vegetation in good order but we could always do with more pairs of hands. The schedule for the MGV from now until the end of the year is also now available on their own website but you can always contact your Parish Council for more information.

Mike Noble, EPC chairman

EASEBOURNE Park & Rd.  
Sketch elevation - JOSHUA FREEMAN SKETCH  
ARCHDENS July 2001  
SCALE 1:25 @ B3

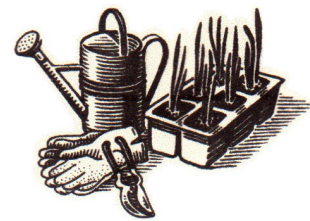


CEILING SPRINGS ROOF  
WOODEN CLARKS ROOFTHINGS ON WOODENLY DECK  
BROCK FRAME TO EXTERIOR, AND EXTENDED OVERHANG ON SOUTH SIDE ONLY

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



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



We visited Wisley a few weeks ago, not long after the opening of the new RHS Hilltop Centre. I was meeting someone from the administration department and had no idea that it would coincide with seeing this breathtaking new conception, which replaces the old glasshouse centre and admin offices. The RHS received four million from the Heritage Lottery Fund of which approximately half was spent on the new centre and its surrounding new gardens.

These gardens were designed by Matt Keightley, who has designed gardens at Chelsea and are in three distinct areas, with the wellbeing garden, a fruit and vegetable garden, and a series of attractive free standing beds all in their own individual style as you approach the entrance to the Science Centre. This incorporates the new library and restaurant with outside seating in the vegetable area, a series of individual beds so that visitors can wander among them and see the range of vegetables on display.

There is no doubt that the enormous amount of new planting over the previous few months in that area would have been very difficult to maintain had there been a long dry spell. With most of us complaining about the constant rain it was a blessing in disguise for the Hilltop Centre, and at the time of our visit the planting looked incredibly well established and full of vigour.

This was reflected in other parts of the garden. The new trial grounds, moved from Portsmouth Field and now in the area of the old plant centre, is much more accessible and away from the noisy A3.

There is talk of a new lake in that area to provide much needed irrigation for the gardens. The rose garden is now well established with one of my favorite small trees in full bloom close by. *Cornus kousa* and many of its varieties are so attractive throughout the summer with attractive fruits, and autumn colour to end the season. Another major new planting is the cherry avenue. This double avenue runs down to the new entrance and once you go through into the garden continues beyond. This planting is *Prunus yedoensis*, a lovely variety from Japan. I remember a wonderful group planted close to the glasshouses in Kyoto Botanical Garden.

Wisley and the RHS have moved on. It always felt very much in the style of a large private garden with privileged members enjoying their day out. With the new entrance, garden centre, shop and enormous car parking space it has now become a major tourist attraction. This will not be to everyone's taste, catering for the masses, but is a sign of the times where large organizations such as the RHS need to show that they are seen to be, for everyone and most importantly a new generation of gardeners who will have different ideas on what is important in their gardens.

### Plant of the Month

I love a plant that improves with age, that rises from the ground each spring unperturbed by whatever the weather decides to throw at it. That never seems to need dividing and never really outgrows its space. We have two that fall into this category, neither are very common and rarely seen in garden centres.

(cont'd next page...)



## GCSE and A Level Results

by Madeleine Hathaway



Midhurst Rother College

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Students and staff at Midhurst Rother College recently joined together to celebrate the awarding of GCSE and A Level grades. This year A Levels and GCSEs were awarded following Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) due to the cancellation of external examinations. As part of this process, students at Midhurst Rother College sat in -class tests, 'formal assessments' and completed coursework.

The results morning gatherings were an excellent opportunity to congratulate students for their hard work and perseverance in the face of disruption caused by the pandemic. There were many standout individual successes at the school at both GCSE and A Levels, with many of the Year 13s now set to take up their places at top Russell Group institutions, including the University of Exeter and the University of Birmingham.

Whilst the past eighteen months have been challenging, MRC has held together as a school community,

ensuring they make the most of every day and every opportunity for students to not only learn but to develop as individuals and responsible young people.

Principal Stuart Edwards says: 'Staff and students have worked brilliantly together and I am very proud of everything that has been achieved by the school. Many of those celebrating today will be joining our flourishing Sixth Form in September and we look forward to seeing them graduate in two years' time and continuing our tradition of going to some of the UK's top universities and taking up outstanding apprenticeships.'



Having said that the first one *Platycodon grandiflora* 'Mariesii' came from Aylings Garden Centre. Commonly known as the balloon flower, which are deep blue and with blue green leaves. It has been in flower for several weeks and the only downside is that the dead flowers need to be removed to keep it looking attractive.

Equally as attractive and possibly flowering for an even longer period this member of the onion tribe is unusual in flowering so late. *Allium angulosum* is part of the Chive family but

rather taller than the common Chive and also has the added attraction that the foliage remains green, attractive and possibly flowers for longer than the *plactycoden*. Still in flower with its small rich purple pink flowers gradually showing their full colour as they open, it is incredibly popular with butterflies, bees, hover flies etc.

## Birch Trees Nursing Home

As the old saying goes; "the only certainties in life are death and taxation". While the staff at Birch Trees may complain about the second of those things on pay day each month, the first is often also at the forefront in our minds.

We are all too aware that some of the people who come to us, sadly come as an end-of-life patient whether it be through terminal illness or just old age. Our aim is to make their final few weeks or days as fulfilling and as meaningful as possible for that person and for their loved ones. After



all, the end of life is still part of living and when the time comes, that transition should be as tranquil and

gentle as possible. It can be a difficult and emotional time for all involved, and we only have one chance to get it right.

Our activities lady Vee has many hats. One of those is that she is a trained Soul-Midwife. As a Soul-Midwife, Vee offers non-religious but spiritual support to our end-

of-life resident and their families. Her primary role is to provide comfort, continuous support and reassurance to the resident and loved ones, and guidance to our staff. She can work alongside religious leaders of any denomination if that is the person's wish, and will ensure that the environment is one of relaxation, using oils, soft lighting, nature sounds and comforting textures. The most important thing is to simply be present and to ensure the person's last wishes are fulfilled.

This type of end-of-life care may not be for everyone, the choice is always with the person and perhaps also their family. Some people come to us with a very good idea of exactly how they want the end of their life to be and we will do everything in our power to follow those wishes. We are extremely lucky that we are supported by the wonderful Midhurst Macmillan team and Riverbank Medical Centre to ensure a pain-free passing. It is always a difficult subject to broach as no one likes to think about their own mortality or those they love but if you ever need us, we are here.

**Sarah Darnell, Care Practitioner**

**Birch Trees, Hollist Lane T: 01730 813260**

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



"Matabeleland to Southern Rhodesia - an extraordinary adventure" will be the title of a talk being given by Jill Baker to Midhurst U3A. It will take place via Zoom on Tuesday 21st September at 2 30 pm. Her talk will give a deeply personal account of being brought up in what was first Southern Rhodesia, then Rhodesia and now Zimbabwe. This presentation will discover, discuss, argue and try to find answers by making sense of this country's history. This talk will be unique as Jill is in Australia and cannot travel due to Covid restrictions but we can still be 'with her' because of zoom. Non U3A members are welcome to participate as well. Please email [midhurstzoom@gmail.com](mailto:midhurstzoom@gmail.com) for an invitation to the talk. Please visit our website [www.midhurstu3a.org.uk](http://www.midhurstu3a.org.uk)

It might have seemed rather quiet on the Stonepillow front over the last terrible months of Covid with all the restrictions but, in many ways, the work of the



charity has increased. Since March last year there have been several government-backed initiatives to get as many homeless as possible off the streets. Stonepillow seized the opportunity and by the end of March had housed another 40 homeless from the area, and in another round just before Christmas, managed to identify and house another 30. In the first instance both Butlins and Travel Lodge provided the rooms with government initiative funds. As you can imagine this has necessitated quite a few more staff to be taken on to meet the needs of the clients from increasing the mental health team, to the number of support workers required to support clients in hostels and in their own accommodation.

In an average week Stonepillow is now getting through 275 pints of milk, 21 dozen eggs, 22 jars of coffee, 10 bags of sugar, 10 litres of cooking oil, 40 packs of mince, 20 packs of chicken, 26 packs of bacon, 10 tubs of butter and huge amounts of fresh fruit and veg. These amounts are bound to rise as a new women only hostel was opened a few weeks ago in Bognor, and as more clients are housed in their own accommodation the charity provides them with a start up package of groceries, as well as the white goods and everything necessary to a new home.

Parker Food Services now run a food account for Stonepillow. To donate food call or email Parkers with this Reference Number: **STO002**. Their address is: Parkers Foodservice Limited, Unit 2, Hill View, Eastergate Ln, Eastergate, Chichester PO20 3SJ Tel: 01243 542195 Email: [info@parkersfoodservice.co.uk](mailto:info@parkersfoodservice.co.uk)

The shopping trolley has also now been re-instated at the back of St Mary's Church to receive donations.

Katharine Minchin



News from  
The Midhurst Society

The next talk will be on Wednesday 22 September at 7.00pm at the Grange Centre (Please note the new time and venue). The talk called 'In the Dock with the Magistrates Court' will be given by Aimee Blattman-Esswood, a local magistrate, and she will talk about the British justice system. Entry is free for members, and £3 for visitors, or two people for £5 .



## Patronal "Pop-up" Church Fete Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August

The breakout church fete proved a huge success – the day was warm and sunny, and the church family and village came together to celebrate our shared life. The outcome was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all. Teas, scones and cream, and cake were served in church, beautifully decorated with flowers and filled with organ music and happy chatter as people caught up with friends and family. Outside everyone was having fun winning bottles on the tombola, buying raffle tickets, picking up bargains on the bric-a-brac and CD stalls as well as competing to gain the highest score in quoits, skittles and golf putting, as well as choosing which colourful hand knitted toy or garment to buy. Children loved the playing games and trying to win a pint pot of toys and sweets on their tombola. It was so joyous to see so many gathered after the many difficult months of Covid and lockdowns. Friends met up again and there were huge smiles all round.



Mary entertained on the organ

Many thanks to all who gave their time to help support and run the fete and to all who came to make it a very memorable and social occasion.



Cosima, age 7, scored in putting



Visitors relaxed in the shade





Beautiful knitwear  
and stuffed toys  
handmade by these  
ladies



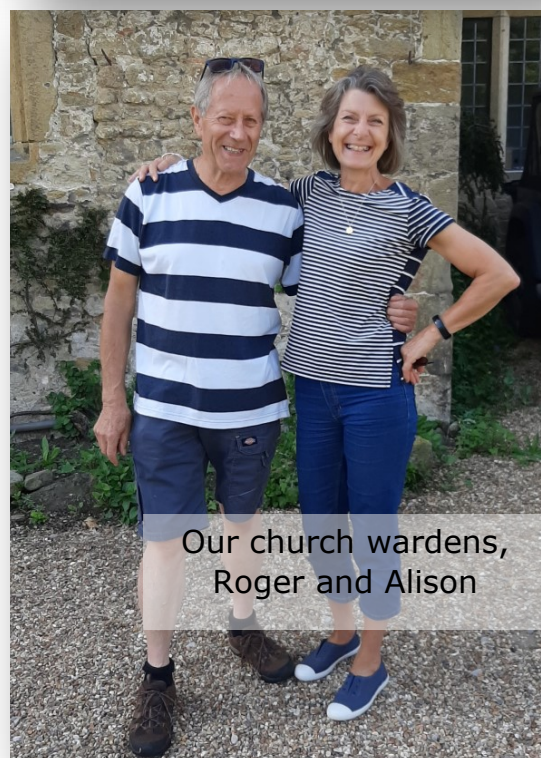
Sue V and Ann  
enjoying tea and cake



Derek the vicar is  
always on call



Sue A and Gladys made  
coffee and tea to go  
with the yummy cakes



Our church wardens,  
Roger and Alison



# Death's-head Hawk-moth

by Michael Blencowe,

Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



**Sussex**  
Wildlife Trust

In August I was sent a photo of a giant caterpillar seen in an Iford garden. The colourful caterpillar, garish yellow with flamboyant blue chevrons and spots, was shuffling along on its stumpy legs like a miniature conga-line in search of a party.



The caterpillar would have buried itself in some soft Sussex soil and, within its cocoon, would have undertaken an amazing transformation. Around November, a completely different beast will be emerging from the Iford earth and into the night skies: a moth. But, with a 12cm wingspan and ornate patterned wings, this is no ordinary moth. Its beauty should be admired and respected if it wasn't for one small thing. Stamped on its thorax is the spectral image of an eyeless human skull, an eerie façade that has given it its name: the Death's-head hawkmoth.

The moth's baleful birthmark has, for centuries, struck fear into the hearts of superstitious humans who have seen it as a messenger of the Devil. And, according to legend, this rare moth seems to have put in regular appearances throughout history. Even learned naturalists once claimed that the moth was a "foretelling of war, pestilence, hunger, and death to man and beast." Legend has it that the appearance of a number of Death's-head hawkmoths signalled the start of the French Revolution in 1789. The moth appeared in the bedchamber of King George III: a visitation

that allegedly tormented the crazed monarch and sped him to his demise in 1820. The Death's-head's notoriety has continued to seep through the centuries in art and literature. It appeared prophesying doom in Thomas Hardy's

'Return of the Native' (1878) and was an instrument of evil in Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' (1897). In the surrealist film 'Un Chien Andalou' (1929) it gave life to Salvador Dali's nightmares. In 1968's English horror 'The Blood Beast Terror' Peter Cushing was on the trail of a monster that was half-woman and half-hawkmoth. In 1991 the moth was seen perching on the lips of Jody Foster on posters advertising 'The Silence of the Lambs'. In the film its cocoons were placed inside serial killer Buffalo Bill's victims as a grizzly calling card (the hawkmoths that actually appeared in the movie were a different species to the ones that appeared in the original story; only a minor point but it did ruin the movie for me somewhat).

Like all moths the Death's-head hawkmoth is harmless. It is a largely African species which some years undertakes an amazing migration north, arriving on extremely rare occasions in Sussex. Of course, its links to death and destruction are just superstitious claptrap. But with a Death's-head on the loose in Sussex this Autumn I'd keep your windows closed, just in case.

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

During August I led a couple of guided walks around Midhurst Common as part of the MADhurst activities. Here is a description of the route:



## Friends Of Midhurst Common

- As we leave Carron Lane car park and walk through the cemetery we will see evidence of how treecreepers keep warm on the coldest winter nights
- From there we will see the Pesthouses, allotments and a historic paddock surrounded by a bank to demarcate the area. The vegetation is different within the enclosure – in what way and why?
- On now to the sandpits where we will imagine what the landscape looked like pre-brickworks and consider why this is an area where a rare plant is growing
- Visit the ponds and consider the possibility of creating habitat for Sand martins and kingfishers
- We now walk along the old railway line towards Bepton

- Follow the Serpent Trail northwards past a tree in which a woodpecker has nested
- Point out a historic Boundary Stone
- Up to the top of Sunset Hill to see the work the Friends of Midhurst Common Heath Team have been doing to maintain the heathland
- Back home, stopping at the new information board

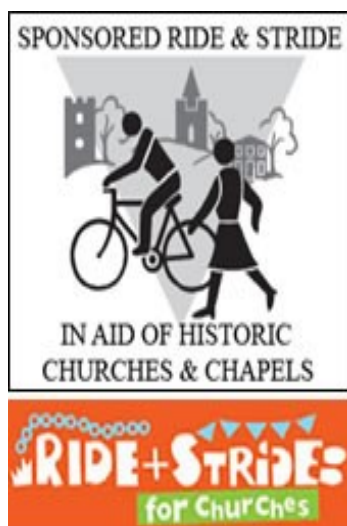
If you would like to get a group of between 8 and 15 people together, I would be happy to repeat this guided walk for you. Email me dates and times you would like to do it and I will do my best to fit in with that.

Andrew Mitchell – Chairman

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

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## Ride and Stride 2021



The annual Ride and Stride event helping to preserve Sussex churches will take place on Saturday 11 September 2021. The idea is to ride, walk or run to a number of churches in your locality to raise money for the church of your choice and the Sussex Historic Churches Trust – your contribution will be equally divided between the two.

Sponsor forms are available from your church or Phil Stringer (Tel 817301) For more information see the website: [www.sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk)



Alec Penny won the Gayford Cup



## Easebourne Garden & Allotment Society Produce Show on 7th August

Tina won Best in Show!



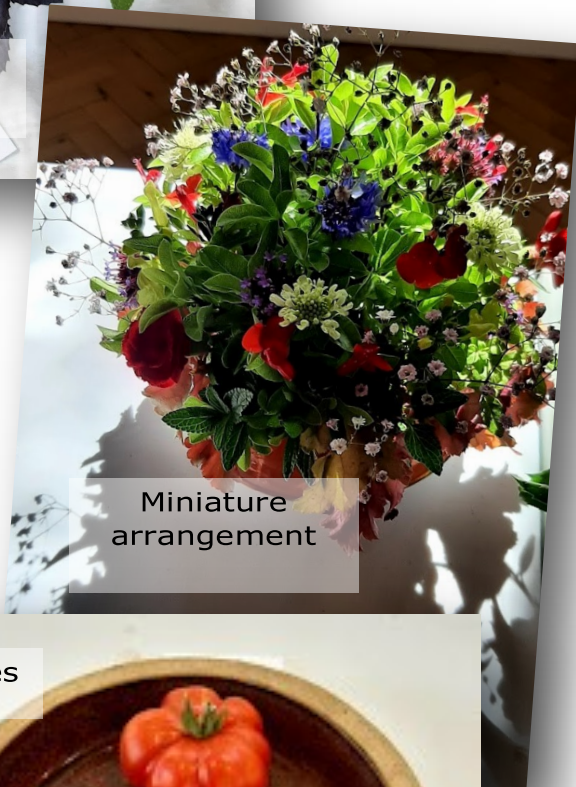
Display of garden herbs



Displays of cut flowers



Miniature arrangement



Displays of tomatoes





## **Easebourne Garden & Allotment Society Annual Show 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at Cowdray Hall**

Firstly can I thank everyone who put in an exhibit at the show—we had around 140 entries. Apart from the prize winners the contributions from everyone made for an attractive range of widely different exhibits, and so interesting for all the members who were also able to meet up with friends and neighbours they had not seen for a long time.

John Humphris, Chairman

### **Winners of Trophies, Awards and Prizes**

- The Gayford Cup for most points in the vegetable classes—Alec Penny
- The Lilian Etherington Cup for most points in the Dahlia classes won by Malcolm Hutchings
- The Harry Etherington Cup for the best collection of vegetables—John Etherington
- The Harral Cup for the most points in fruit, flower, and cake classes—Jill Halfhide
- Jock Ledingham Trophy for best in show—Tina Litchfield for arrangement of foliage
- Dave Gibbs trophy for best individual entry in vegetables—John Etherington for five onions
- RHS Banksian Medal for most points in horticultural classes—Molly Etherington
- The Fiona Gowar Prize for baked goods and preserves—Karen Heath



### **Open Classes**

- Five large onions—John Etherington
- Five small onions—John Etherington
- Marrow—Lucinda Davies
- Open novelty class—Frank Davies

Because of problems with bookings at Cowdray Hall our meetings will now take place there on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. The first meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> November - the speaker and will include the AGM. The Christmas social evening will be on 9<sup>th</sup> December. The speakers for the meetings are still to be confirmed. In the new year 2022 our first meeting will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. We are now going to explore having an afternoon meeting on a Thursday in March 2022 starting at 2.30pm. The date and speaker will be confirmed later.





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## Listed Buildings in Easebourne—The Manor House

Contributed by Phil Stringer and Chris Deadman.

Listed 18.06.59, Grade II. Manor House. House l-shaped C17 or earlier timber framed building, with the timpering and plaster infilling exposed on the NW and SE walls, but re-faced on the street frontage in 1778 with coursed stone set in galletting with red brick dressings, quoins, stringcourse and dentilled eaves cornice. Tiles roof. Casement windows. Initials 'EEE' with the date 1778. Listing NGR: SU8948 622591

The Midhurst Society has provided this useful link to all the listed buildings in Easebourne: [www.midhurstsociety.org.uk/history/listed-buildings-easebourne/58/](http://www.midhurstsociety.org.uk/history/listed-buildings-easebourne/58/)

Manor House (EEE1778) and Behar (EE1789) were situated on land the copyhold of which was called Broad Stone and Perry Garden. This meant the properties belonged to the Lord of the Manor and the people who lived there were tenants of the manor. It also meant the Lord had the right to take fees from new tenants, and to receive a payment called a 'heriot' on the death of one of their tenants. The official record of the transfer was

written up in the manorial court rolls. The term “copyhold” comes from the tenants being provided with a copy of the court roll entry as proof of their tenancy.

So, at the Manorial Court held in March 1766, Richard, Thomas, and George Grevatt paid a fine of £13 when the transfer of the copyhold from their deceased father, William Grevatt, was registered. Richard and Thomas then surrendered their two parts to their uncle, William Todman, who paid a fine of £6 and the yearly rent charge was 16 shillings. William Grevatt's will describes the copyhold tenancy as *“one Messuage or Tenement Buildings Garden Orchard and Premises with the appurtenances called Broadstone situate lying and being in Easebourne Street aforesaid near the Church there and also one Close or parcel of Land with the Appurtenances called Perry Garden situate in Easebourne on the south part of the Garden and Orchard in the Manor of Easebourne Priory”*.

Following the death of William Todman, his wife, Mary, and eldest daughter transferred their share to Mary's son in law Edmund Etherton. At the same court George Grevatt surrendered his one third share to Edmund Etherton. At this point the Copyhold which had been divided three ways on the death of William Grevatt, came to

Continued on p. 28

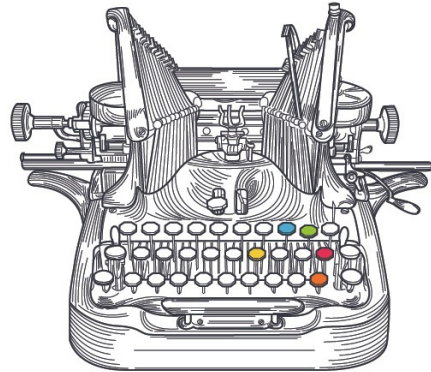




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be in the possession of a single person i.e., Edmund Etherton.

In 1789 on the death of the copyholder Edmund Etherton, "*three Heriots three Geldings colour black*", were seized for the use of the Lord of the Manor, and his wife Elizabeth was admitted to the copyhold. There is no mention of the specific properties known today as Manor House (EEE1778) and Behar (EE1789) in the copyhold records until the will of Elizabeth Etherton, dated 1831.

In Elizabeth's will the house marked "EE1789", was to be inherited by her niece Olive Osgood and the house "EEE1778" to be inherited by her great

niece Hannah James. Living in Behar at the time of writing her will, the house "EEE1778" is described as "untenanted" and had been "in the occupation of Joseph Greenhill" brewer.

A fine of £56 was paid when the death of Hannah Sanders (nee James) was presented to the Manorial Court held in November 1879. The Manor House was then transferred to Hannah's sister Jane, and subsequently on Jane's demise in 1880 it passed to her eldest son Henry Warner who was admitted to the copyhold after paying a fine of £28. Seven years later in 1897, the last record of "EEE1778" appears in a Easebourne Priory Court Book entry when a "Presentment of Alienation" was recorded which merged Henry Warner's Copyhold into the freehold of the Manor of Easebourne Priory.

Note: The source for this article is "The Copyhold of Broad Stone and Perry Garden", a privately printed booklet by Sue Coward dated February 2008. In the booklet, Sue not only describes the copyhold transfers in some detail, but it also charts some of her ancestral past with family connections to Edmond Etherton.



---

## **General Knowledge Quiz Answers**

1. Skateboarding, Surfing, Karate and Sport Climbing
2. Vatican City
3. Seventeen
4. WhatsApp
5. Horseracing (Seabiscuit was the name of a champion US racehorse)
6. K
7. Salvador Dali
8. Casino Royale (2008)
9. Sky Brown (skateboarding)
10. Vet (Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)
11. Orange (Bright so as to be found easily after an accident)
12. 180 degrees
13. Pig
14. World Wide Web
15. Apple
16. Flock together
17. G.K.Chesterton
18. Oxfordshire
19. Boat
20. Paris



## News from Easebourne Primary School



Although I am writing this as we are about to start the new academic year, so much happened at the end of the summer term that readers will have missed a significant chapter of life at Easebourne Primary School if I don't cover some of it here!

**Foxes and Otters** finally went off to Condover Hall in Shropshire for their 4-night residential. (Because of COVID, it had had to be postponed three times!) The children had a great time. *We all pushed ourselves to the limit with our bravery, reaching new heights (literally!) every day. In particular, we found abseiling, trapeze and sensory trail really challenging, but we all tried our absolute best.* On their return, however, there was a positive case of COVID and the two classes had to self-isolate, resuming virtual learning but returning early in the final week. The children all agreed, however, that the residential had been worth it.



The penultimate week of the summer term was given over to **Community Week**. This was marvellously supported by Cowdray Estate. **Dragonflies** visited Cowdray Home

Farm. The visit started with a tractor and trailer ride from the works yard down a bumpy track.

Farmer David introduced the children to some newborn calves. He also showed them some big farm machinery including tractors and the combine harvester. He showed the children all of the different products that come from the wheat they grow and the cows they milk.

**Hedgehogs** visited Cowdray's Parks and Gardens team. The children were given gardening clothes and set to work planting bedding plants. They were introduced to the tractor and mower which were used for cutting grass. The class had a go at digging fence holes and the morning finished with a very important litter pick!

**Squirrels** visited the Cowdray Works Department. They looked around at the machines and were told how some of them worked. The children were then given materials like wood, screws, screwdrivers and a drill to enable them to make a bird box. They hope that the birds will enjoy nesting in the boxes as they have decorated them so that they will attract birds during the winter months.

**Rabbits H** met George, the Cowdray Forager. He told them about which plants were edible and which were not. He also taught them about how they grow. They learnt that you should always pick edible leaves from higher up in a tree, because you don't want to be eating dog wee! You also should pick the smaller leaves because they're not so bitter from the chlorophyll.

Next, they looked at stinging nettles, which are a super food! When nettles have tiny flowers, you can't eat them, but you can make rope and tea out of them. You can eat the smooth, little, baby stinging nettles though. If you boil nettles, the needles will dissolve, but you should never eat older ones. Did you know there is a nettle called a dead nettle which won't sting you?

The class also went on a trailer ride, and met Janey, the Head of Cowdray Polo, and Charlotte and a polo pony called Harry.

Charlotte showed them the tack that a horse needs to wear for polo: a saddle, bridle and bandages for their legs. The children were also given a Cowdray polo shirt to wear and keep which was an amazing treat! They also saw a little bit of a polo match.

**Rabbits D** visited Cowdray Works Department. They painted primed surfaces with water-based paint and continued a part-built wall, filling buckets with a weak mix of cement and laying bricks with a trowel. *I learnt when you build a wall you need to smooth the cement and fill in the gaps. My favourite bit was building the wall and kicking it down.* The class also had the opportunity to meet Jason. He brought along six gundogs to demonstrate their skills. *I liked it when Jason shot the rocket and the dogs chased after the scent to find the dummy.*

**Badgers Class** met Jason, who is a deer stalker. He taught them all about the

three species of deer in the forest: roe, muntjac and fallow. Then they met Nina, the Cowdray Head Forester. *Nina told us about her job which was looking after trees and making tall thin trees and short fat trees.*



The class also met Tim at the Cowdray Golf Club, who taught them a few points about the golf clubs and gave them some tips about playing. *We liked trying to hit a target but it was much harder than Tim made it look.*

Nellie, Rosa and William (from Badgers Class) and Mrs Nixon walked to

Cowdray Farm Shop to interview Rupert Titchmarsh, the manager of the farm shop and café. *He told us that they use as little single use plastic as they can to help the environment. They also try to avoid shipping from different countries.* After their interview with Rupert, our three Badger interviewers met Lord and Lady Cowdray and found out a lot of interesting information during their interview.

- Lord Cowdray explained that managing the estate can be very difficult at times because farming is so weather dependent.
- The Estate is 16,000 acres in total. It extends from Fernhurst in the north down to West Dean and the borders of Goodwood in the south.
- Before COVID, 190 people worked on the Estate. Now there are 145 people. Most come from the local area.



Sometimes, such as during the Gold Cup, there may be a few more as we're extra busy.

- Although the number does vary a little, there are currently 336 Cowdray properties in the estate.
- Lord Cowdray's great-grandfather and grandfather were Liberal MPs and the colour for the Liberal party at the time was yellow, so, by painting the woodwork of the estate's properties yellow, they were showing their support for their political party.
- The children asked about stories or legends attached to the Cowdray estate. They were told about Lady Montague, who died in 1764. Her ghost is supposed to walk between the ruins and the house, though Lord and Lady Cowdray have never seen her.
- When asked about their favourite parts of the estate, Lord Cowdray's was the forestry, which is about 6,000 acres, whilst Lady Cowdray loves the area around Benbow Pond, the Queen Elizabeth Oak and the land surrounding the ruins.
- Their favourite time of year on the Estate is the summer when we're getting ready for the harvest which is always busy and exciting and the weather is usually good.

During Community Week, our **EcoWarriors** also went down to meet Derek, Phil Stringer (St Mary's eco lead), and Roger Sked (churchwarden) at St Mary's Church to learn about a churchyard challenge for next year from St Mary's. Our Eco-Warriors have been asked to regularly survey the wildlife and plants in the part of the churchyard that

has been left to become a wild meadow. This area of the churchyard, below the war memorial, has had seeds of wild flowers, collected by the congregation, broadcast across it and already looks to have an interesting range of plants. We look forward to finding out what our Eco-Warriors discover!



Friday's finale was Estate Blitz Day. After a number of visits to the school and much discussion, workers from the Cowdray Estate tackled a wide range of significant jobs around the school site. They made many improvements during their long day, including restoring our crumbling raised beds, levelling and making safe paving, giving the labyrinth a short back and sides, replacing missing fence rails by the car park, painting sheds, sorting the unstable steps up to the entrance and creating and painting planters for EYFS.

We are so fortunate to have this strong relationship with the Cowdray Estate and are very grateful to them for all they do for us.

**Dr Vic Mitchell**  
**March 1934 - Jan 2021**

The family invite you to a  
Memorial Service  
to celebrate  
Vic's Wonderful life

St Mary's Church, Easebourne,  
GU29 0AJ

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**2.30pm**

Followed by tea and cake in the church



The family have suggested that any kind  
donations in memory of Vic go to Macmillan  
Cancer Support- Midhurst.  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Philip-Pede](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Philip-Pede)  
There will also be a retiring collection plate.

### The Day in the Life of a Postman

My day starts by getting up at 4.30 in the morning, and finishes most days at 2.15 in the afternoon. I arrive at the Royal Mail Delivery Office in Grange Road is for a 6.15am start. A Royal Mail lorry will arrive and the mail is taken from that and sorted by hand into what are called frames. Parcels go into cages with round names on, and some may need redirecting. Once this is completed the rounds can start.

There is one day in the week when I don't finish until 6.15pm. I go back out for a planned route to collect mail from post offices, post boxes, and businesses, and I make sure I am back to put all that mail onto another Royal Mail lorry which has arrived at the office. This mail is taken to the Jubilee Mail Centre in London for sorting, be it in this country or abroad. Once this lorry has gone my working day is over.



I have been a Midhurst postie for about 13 years now. I deliver to businesses and homes and in Midhurst town, going round with a trolley, and I collect from post boxes on route. And now with COVID, it is possible to collect COVID tests, as well as parcel collections from people who are now using the new parcel collection service. Later in the day a lorry returns to take all the mail and the parcels that have been collected. Once this has gone, I go back out on my route to deliver the parcels not delivered earlier. Then I finish for a break.

There are 18 postmen and women at the Midhurst office, all working five days a week. These individuals are divided into three groups and in each group there is a float to cover for days off. Holidays can be taken two at a time, and those on holiday are covered by reserves. Sunday deliveries have recently been introduced because of

the high demand for parcels on account of internet shopping. Christmas is always very busy and everyone is on duty during the busy times. A lot of what we deliver is leaflets which bring a lot of revenue for Royal Mail. Our uniform is provided.

There are so many enjoyable moments in my working days. I get to meet people from all walks of life. I really enjoy talking to people, which even if I'm busy I still try and find time to do, especially with those

that have not been out as much during COVID lockdown. Sometimes I might be the only person they see from day to day. Weather is something a postman has to live with. We have all the wet weather gear, but, of course, it's much nicer working when the sun shines. I'm very pleased to have worked through all the lockdowns and to have supported people in the community if needed.

Contributed by a Midhurst postman



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Riverbank Medical Centre	812121	Out of Hours NHS	111
Woodcroft Dental Clinic	812053	St Oswald Dental Surgery	812022
Newspaper delivery (Dummers)	813348	Red Cross Petworth	0800 028 0831
Community Hospital	819100	St Richards Hospital, Chichester	01243 788122
Royal Surrey Hospital	01483 571122	Social Services Chichester	01243 752999
District Councillor Mr Francis Hobbs fhobbs@chichester.gov.uk	07968 027833	MH Pharmacy Midhurst Pharmacy	813255 813231
Easebourne Village Stores	858130	Cowdray Shop & Café	815152
Midhurst Town Council	816953	Grange Centre	0333 005 0398

RecyclingSite, Bepton Road—Opening hours from April —Thurs to Monday 9.00am—6.00pm, 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	
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### VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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

### 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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