

Vol 20 No.7 February 2022

united **EASEBOURNE**



Easebourne village and St Mary's Church magazine

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The photo on the front cover shows the lovely walled Scott Memorial Garden next to Midhurst Community Hospital (opposite Riverbank Health Centre). The editors would like to hear from any readers who can tell us something about the history of the garden.

The deadline for the March issue of United is Tuesday 15 February. We always welcome interesting articles and attractive images from our readers.

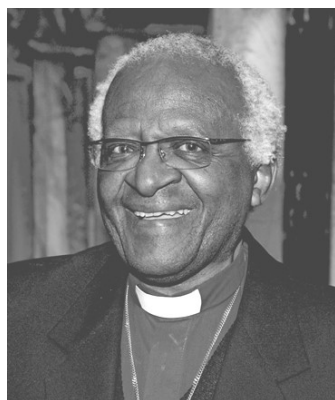
Send to: easebourne.united@gmail.com or Tel 816542



Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

Each generation has characters that stand out; for me, Archbishop Desmond Tutu was one such person. As a man of faith, he displayed love across political and cultural divides. He had the power to speak and be heard and above all, his smile lit up the world. It is sad, that the Archbishop of Canterbury is only selected amongst English Bishops – I think his presence and personality would have made a real difference across the Anglican Communion worldwide. His legacy is his work with apartheid, and his work at rebuilding South Africa beyond separation of colour. But he also leaves us with a legacy of wisdom that is breath taking. He said: “If you want peace, you don’t talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.” How wise and how true. He also said, “Without forgiveness, there is no future.” I suspect that in the potential hostility that could have arisen once apartheid ended, these words in context become even more powerful.



prepared to love and reach out. Desmond Tutu did both and we are richer as a humanity because of it.

As we approach Lent, it is often good to think of those who have inspired us. Who are the people of our lives who have shaped our journeys and straightened our paths? I always remember a priest called

Richard, who gathered me up at a young impressionable age and set me on a path of light. He died young but left a lasting legacy on my life. I think Richard, like me, would have agreed with Desmond Tutu when he said, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the

darkness.”

And that is what we work for and seek – that all may live in light. Easter will show us what light and love really mean, but before that we have a journey to make – can I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Lent.

Derek Welsman

The world needs people who are prepared to speak. But it also needs people who are

www.thepriorychurches.co.uk



Women’s World Day of Prayer

This year’s service is prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and will be celebrated all over the world - in 7 regions. The theme of the service is God’s promise, found in the book of Jeremiah: “I Know the Plans I Have for You”, focusing on freedom, forgiveness, justice and God’s peace, a sign of hope for all God’s people.

Our service will be held at Midhurst Methodist Church, North Street, Midhurst on Friday, 4th March at 2.30pm and you are warmly invited. Covid permitting, we plan to have light refreshments after the service.

For further information please contact Sian Mitchell—sianwyn51@gmail.com

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	<i>Coffee is served in Church after the 10.30am service on most Sundays.</i>
Other Sundays	10.30am Holy Eucharist	
Wednesdays	10.00am Holy Eucharist	

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

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

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

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

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

Women's Fellowship
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
or email—annharfield23@gmail.com**

Visit the benefice website: www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

Date	Reading	Gospel	Reader	Intercessor
6 Feb 4th before Lent	1 Cor 15: 1—11	Luke 5: 1—11	Irena Greaves	
13 Feb 3rd before Lent	1 Cor 15: 12—20	Luke 6: 17—26	Mike Wharton	Philip Jones
20 Feb 2nd before Lent	Genesis 2: 4b—9 and 15—25	Luke 8: 22—25	Phil Stringer	Martin Dexter
27 Feb Next before Lent	Exodus 34: 29— end		Hilary Craig	

N.B. If you are unable to do your reading, please phone Hilary Craig on 813923.



Rector: Revd Canon Derek Welsman 01730 812655

derek.welsman@outlook.com

www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES at St Mary's, St Peter's, and St James for February 2022

DATE	EASEBOURNE	LODSWORTH	SELHAM
6 Feb 4th before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Evensong	8.30am Holy Communion 5th after Epiphany
13 Feb 3rd before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Family Communion	No service
20 Feb 2nd before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Celtic service	8.30am Holy Communion Sexagesima
27 Feb Next before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No service

N.B. Bold type denotes changes

Churchwardens:

Easebourne

Mrs Alison Davis 816642

Mr Roger Sked 814948

Lodsworth

Mrs Lynne Todd

01798 861399

Mr Deryck Hamon

01798 861850

Selham

Mrs J Colman

01798 861267

Mr Roger Comber

01798 861320

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Tuesday 1	2.00pm	St Mary's	Women's Fellowship
Wednesday 2	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Sunday 6 4th Sunday before Lent

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

Wednesday 9	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Afternoon Tea

Sunday 13 3rd Sunday before Lent

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

Wednesday 16	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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Sunday 20 2nd Sunday before Lent

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

Wednesday 23	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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Sunday 27 Sunday next before Lent

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

MARCH

Tuesday 1	2.00pm	St Mary's	Women's Fellowship
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Wednesday 2 Ash Wednesday

10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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Sunday 6 1st Sunday of Lent

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

Women's Fellowship

We ended 2021 with a Christmas lunch at the Greyhound Inn, and twelve members braved the torrential rain for a very enjoyable occasion.

Unfortunately owing to the rapid spread of the new Omicron virus it was decided to postpone the Coffee Morning in January. This would have been in aid of the Church Spire Fund, our chosen charity. We hope to arrange another date for this later in the year.

For our meeting on Tuesday 1st February at 2.00pm in St Mary's we are planning to watch a film.

Ann Harfield
Tel 813810

Afternoon Tea - Wednesday, February 9 at 3.00pm

Our next Afternoon Tea will be held on Wednesday, February 9 at 3.00pm in Church. If you would like a couple of hours of chat and friendship, please come along and join us. If you would like a lift, please contact Hilary (01730 813923), Jan (01798 342233), or Sue (01730 812105). Take care through the next few weeks and The Social Gang look forward to seeing you all again.

To all of you that supported the Stonepillow Christmas a very big thank you for your amazing generosity. Thanks to you we were able to send Christmas meals out to



seven units - the wherewithal for a complete fresh turkey dinner. You made it possible for cooked gammons, cheese, pies, fruit, and desserts, as well as the crackers, festive table settings for each unit so all would have a very well decorated table. Our wonderful volunteers peeled, chopped, blanched, wrapped, labelled and washed up, so that by 2.00pm on the 24th everything was being loaded into cars for delivery. On Christmas Day more volunteers served breakfast and then lunches to the 85 clients. If you have a moment please do go to **stonepillow.org.uk** to see some of the amazing work that the charity does to support the homeless. If you are interested in volunteering do get in touch. . Again a huge thank you.

Katharine Minchin 813586

Shopping list for February: Tinned meats, sugar, cheese, and black bin liners.

Poet's Corner by Sue Absolom

Love in a Vacuum



I saw her for the first time today
She was dressed entirely in pink
Working in the adjacent office.
She must be fairly new I think.

She has the loveliest eyes
And her black lashes are so long.
Her smile is as wide as the ocean
Makes my heart want to burst into song.

I'm certain I could make an impression
My own bright red jacket surely can't fail
We'd make an attractive couple
And off into the sunset we'd sail.

I'd heard she was good at her job
At everyone's beck and call.
If only we could get together
We'd make a clean sweep of it all.

Maybe I'm not good enough for her
Perhaps she looks down her hose, sorry,
nose at me.

A one-side love can be painful
I'll be patient and wait and see.

Finally my patience is rewarded.
We found ourselves in the same place
Which was in the works broom cupboard
Where we came face to face.

She smiled at me shyly
But her eyes shone alive and bright
We swapped our life stories
Until late into the dark night.

We now have our own private cupboard
And together we clean the workplace.
There's plenty of room for our family -
Henry Hoover Jnr,
and Little Miss Hetty Grace.

la Piazzetta
Midhurst

Starting 3 September we are offering a free glass of
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ITALIAN FOOD | 01730 817040 | lapiazzettamidhurst.com
4 West Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NQ

Friends of Easebourne Parish (FrEP)



EASEBOURNE
Parish Council

A big thank you to all the Friends of Easebourne Parish who have been undertaking many different tasks throughout 2021. This work includes:

- Litter picking throughout the parish
- Tending to the shrubs and trees and tidying the Park.
- Refurbishment, maintenance and cleaning of bus shelters in the village.
- Mass daffodil bulb planting in Easebourne Park
- Assisting the Midhurst Green Volunteers

We wish to thank the all those who have provided us with grants to purchase equipment—enabling us to diversify in the work we undertake. Those who have helped include Austen’s Home Hardware, The Boltini Trust, Chichester District Council, Easebourne Parish Council, South Downs National Park Authority, The Grange Community Association, and the West Sussex County Council Access Rangers.

During last year FrEP has also successfully raised funds to assist Easebourne Parish Council with some of the major improvements within the parish such as the Roundhouse in Easebourne Park, and the planters around the parish. Apart from the ongoing tasks carried out throughout 2021, with the introduction of more power equipment some of our volunteers will be clearing and maintaining footpaths, cutting back hedgerows and generally helping to make Easebourne Parish a great place to live.



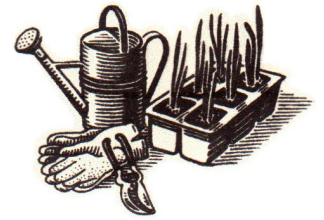
Planting apple trees at the Park

The first project undertaken by FrEP in 2022 involved the planting of eight apple trees, including the Egremont Russet, an old Sussex apple donated by an Easebourne resident. They are located near the sculptures in the north-east corner of the Park. This is the beginning of a larger project organised by Easebourne Parish Council named “Carbon Corner”, involving the planting of many more fruit trees in the same area. It is hoped that the majority of the funding for “Carbon Corner” will come from local residents wishing to offset their carbon emissions. Those wishing to donate should contact the Parish Clerk. (See below.)

Frank Davies and Ian Milne

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

Snippets from a Gardener's Diary by John Humphris



I am sure that many of you will be thinking about growing vegetables this spring. Those with allotments will have sown broad beans last autumn and many of these are growing well, despite the ever changing and fickle winter weather. What is more difficult is deciding the best time to sow for early crops, when the ground is often cold and wet. Sowing in early February or up to early March is never a good plan and it has been proven that often crops such as lettuce, carrots or beetroot when sown five or six weeks later will often catch up those early sowings. I have done this with broad beans and when timed right are as early as autumn sown.

What is also interesting at this time is sowing seed of all kinds of trees, shrubs and dividing herbaceous plants. February is the ideal month to get started if you have either a greenhouse, frame or other kinds of protection. To give an example; *Aesculus indica* 'Sidney Pearce' (a wonderful compact chestnut that flowers at a young age) with large seeds that need sowing early as large seeds soon lose their ability to germinate. From a February sowing in a cold greenhouse they will soon germinate and grow quickly. Several seedlings in a large pot can then be moved on and potted individually in pots large enough for its root system. For anyone raising young plants from seed this is the key stage, the period when they are most at risk from drying out. Once they are established in their individual pots they can be moved outside with the only protection needed being from late spring frosts. For those

raising a very small number of plants it is probably easier to just pot them on as needed, although careful watering will be needed. Ideally though, a small nursery bed is best where these plants can be lined out to grow on for the summer with only the occasional watering needed. There are many seed lists offering tree or shrub seed and these can be raised at a fraction of the cost.

It is quite amazing to see how these young plants grow. Once in the open ground growth is rapid, and by October from a February sowing many plants are ready to be planted out. If this is a young tree, to be planted in a lawn, preparation is best done well beforehand. Remove the turf in a circle or square at least a metre in size, dig out the top spit and place to one side. Fork over the subsoil until it is well broken up and add in some compost. Replace the top soil which you will now find will be much higher than previously but will settle after a few weeks and can be trod firmly before planting.

If you are planting a young tree it is a common mistake to plant too deeply, never ever bury part of the stem below ground. When finally planted and firmed in, where the root ball joins the stem should be at ground level. With a sturdy young tree often they do not need staking but may need protection from rabbits. Now to the most important next step, always keep that circle or square around the tree clear of all weeds or grass for at least the first five years. Trials by many botanic gardens have proven that the growth rate when this is done is improved considerably and

if combined with an annual feed of general fertilizer, even better.

With many herbaceous plants that need dividing February/ March is a good time. Discard the old woody centre and split up the vigorous side pieces. These can often be planted in established borders as needed or if you have divided some old clumps and have a surplus, a

different approach is needed. These can be lined out in spare ground to grow on. Remember they need to be planted much deeper than a tree Always make sure to plant deeply and make sure the new growth is below ground level and as always tread in well around each plant.

John Humphris
810052

Easebourne Garden & Allotment Society **Meetings in Cowdray Hall GU29 0AW at 7.30pm**

(Please note that future meetings will take place on Thursdays.)

Thursday 10 February—The speaker will be renowned horticulturalist Jim Buttress VMH talking about ‘Central Royal Parks’.

N.B. Our Handbook for 2022 will be available in the new year with details of all our talks and events, and the schedule for the August Produce Show. Contact the secretary if you would like to join our friendly local garden society. Phone Tina 816542 or email egas@tinagavin.com

Plant of the Month

About ten years ago now I bought a plant from Hillier Garden Centre at Liss. This was labeled Nandina. This is the Chinese / Japan Sacred Bamboo (not a bamboo but a shrub) and I have grown this from seed many times but what is different with this particular plant were its bright red berries which are unusual as most plants of this species rarely produce fruit in this country. It was planted in our garden and every year since has fruited profusely each winter. A visit to Wisley produced the correct identification, the self same plant labeled Nandina domestica ‘Richmond’ although an attractive foliage plant very few are as reliable for fruiting as this selection which is also self fertile.





WELLBEING AT COWDRAY HALL

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

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

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

www.cowdray.co.uk/wellbeing/

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



Quiz—A Glance back at 2021

Compiled by Carole Sawyer

1. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle welcomed their second child this year, what is her name?
2. Who won the Great British Bake Off?
3. Which pop band returned with a new album 40 years after their first new release?
4. Boris Johnson devoted a surprising amount of time in a speech to the Confederation of British Industry to talking about which cartoon character?
5. Which 90 year old Star Trek actor became the oldest man to travel in space?
6. A natural event meant I'm A Celebrity had to cease filming over a number of episodes – what was the event?
7. The first female jockey won the Grand National—what was her name?
8. Who was the president of the Cop26 summit in Glasgow?
9. What did Japan's Princess Mako do in October which meant she lost her royal status?
10. What was the fastest-selling album?
11. Where in Cornwall was the G7 summit of world leaders held in June?
12. What type of natural threat has hit Spain's La Palma island for much of this year?
13. A meeting of which town council became an unlikely internet sensation when it descended into chaos?
14. Which event in modern pentathlon is being replaced after controversy at the Tokyo Olympics?
15. Which English football club was sold to a Saudi-led consortium?
16. At the end of November, which country became the world's newest republic?
17. The Omicron variant was first reported to the World Health Organisation from which country?
18. What did Tom Daley do during the Olympics that 'kept him sane'?
19. What did China announce families would be allowed to do from August to stem its failing population?
20. Teams or individuals from which country won the following competitions: The Great British Bake Off, Strictly Come Dancing, Eurovision and the Euros?

Answers on page 20



The House system at MRC is designed to promote competition across all subject areas as well as to support our rewards and behaviour systems. All tutor groups belong to one of our four houses – Austen, Kipling, Tennyson or Woolf.

Students show pride in their house through the annual subject house competitions and the three headline competitions in Sport, Drama and Music. All students have the opportunity to get involved in house events throughout the year and also to contribute to the final standings through their behaviour and attendance.

Recently the photography department held their house competition. Students were invited to submit 3 photos as entry, within the theme of "Autumn". Images could be straight 'out of camera' or with editing as well. There were a huge number of entries and Andrew Hayward, Teacher of Photography at MRC was delighted with such a response. A selection of the winning entries can be seen online if you go to <http://easebourne.org/parish-history/parish-magazine/>

The College also takes part in the annual Rotary Young Photographer Competition.

MRC Students are fully involved in their house and have the opportunity to become further involved by becoming elected as a House Captain in Years 7-11, or a House Leader in Year 12. These roles allow students to have a say in college life through their meetings, and also to lead and encourage other students to become involved in events and activities. Our houses also support our rewards policy, ensuring that all students are recognised for their achievements on a continual basis.

The College is well decorated with bright and inspiring logos throughout House corridors. House Captains are also celebrated with photos in their house areas and wear their captain badges and ties for all to see. Students tell us they enjoy the system and are proud to represent their house in different events. Our new MRC proud cards also support the sense of pride in a student's house by getting it right and going above and beyond in all areas of college life.

Visit to Winchester College by Madeleine Hathaway

Year 10 linguists from Midhurst Rother College were invited to a festive French day at Winchester College last month.

Ms Charpentier and Mrs Good accompanied twenty-five students for a very interesting day at our partner school. On arrival the students had a tour of the campus, to look around the longest established boarding school in England. The tour was conducted through French of course and so allowed the students to practise their listening and comprehension skills.

Friday 10 December was Winchester's last day of term and MFL teachers generously put on lessons in French after the tour. Students enjoyed revising vocabulary through quizzes and were able to show off their speaking skills too!

Finally, the visitors took a short walk from the college, past the beautiful cathedral to buy a late lunch at the stalls on the city's Christmas market. There was time to browse and choose a gift or souvenir to bring home. At MRC we are very hopeful that we can recommence our annual trip to Christmas markets abroad in December 2022!



Join the Midhurst Society!

Our first talk of 2022 is on **Thursday 17 February at 7.30pm** when Neil Hart DL from Bepton will talk to us about his year as High Sheriff of West Sussex. He will come in full court dress and he tells us he will bring his ceremonial sword!



The Midhurst Society was formed about 60 years ago to encourage and promote high standards of planning and architecture in the locality and to improve features of historic and community interest. We have an active committee working hard on these issues, liaising with local councils and the National Park Authority. We publish an excellent magazine twice a year, and other publications about Midhurst, Easebourne, and the surrounding villages.



We meet ten times a year for interesting talks in the Memorial Hall on the third Thursday of the month, and you can find this year's programme on our website: midhurstsociety.org.uk. There is time at each meeting to socialise with a glass of wine. (Please wear a mask if restrictions are still in place.) Entrance is free for members and £3 for visitors. If you decide to join the Midhurst Society on the night, your entrance fee will be deducted. (The membership form is on our website.)

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MIDHURST FOODBANK



The Christmas period was very busy for Midhurst Foodbank. We delivered 158 lunch boxes to cover the Christmas holidays for children in receipt of free school meals. Each child also received a bespoke goodie bag with Christmas food and gifts, all locally donated. This is a huge operation, as all the boxes are delivered by volunteers, but very much appreciated by those who receive this food.

In addition to this, the regular requests for food was great. We fed 145 individuals in the month before our Christmas closure, significantly more than a few months ago. Midhurst Parish church took responsibility for feeding those in crisis over the festive period and five requests were received. There is no doubt

that those within our community who struggle to make ends meet have been pushed into poverty due to the rise in the cost of living combined with the loss of £20.00 a week benefit. Many people who haven't needed our help for many months have found that, sadly, they need our support once again.

We are very fortunate that the community of Midhurst is so generous, not only with donations but with time.....our volunteers give freely of their time. There is no doubt that many within our community just need a helping hand and we have that caring community that can provide that help.

Liz Willing

midhurstcoordinator@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Liz Willing Midhurst Foodbank Coordinator



Fresh milk is being sold from Buddington Farm along Hollist Lane. Our milk vending machine sells fresh, gently pasteurised, and non-homogenised whole milk - straight from the cow that very morning. Also, home-grown potatoes and local free-range eggs. Bring your own containers or buy one of our 1-litre reusable glass bottles. Open 24/7.

FIND US: Buddington Farm GU29 0QP

EMAIL US: alfierenwick@hotmail.co.uk

CALL US: 07500 666672 or 07999 921348

MORE INFO: www.buddington.co.uk

News from the Cowdray Estate

Jonathan Russell, CEO

Interview with Peppi Cella



Peppi Cella has worked on the Cowdray Estate for 43 years and is one of the longest serving members of staff. He has carried out several key roles over the years and is also a valued member of the local community. Peppi talks to Cowdray's CEO Jonathan Russell about his role now, how the Estate has changed and his favourite moments at Cowdray.

When did you start working at Cowdray, and what was your role?

I started on the Estate in August 1979 as an apprentice carpenter and joiner on a three-year apprenticeship. My woodwork teacher at Midhurst Grammar School informed me that the Estate was looking for an apprentice. I applied and was lucky enough to get the position.

What is your role now?

Being one of the longest serving employees has given me, I believe, a unique position on the Estate. The experience that I have gained through carrying out various roles enables me to support and assist all the enterprises with their requirements. My job title is Estate Surveyor, and I currently line manage 16 members of staff. My role includes



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heading up Parks & Gardens and Security. I also undertake other roles such as being the Estate's Health and Safety coordinator, working closely with the National Farmers' Union consultant, and assisting the Estate with its vehicle fleet management. I also help with event management.

How has the Estate changed?

I have certainly seen some changes over the years. When I first started John Cowdray, the current Lord Cowdray's father, oversaw the Estate. He was passionate about polo, shooting, fishing, forestry and farming. I can remember the team carrying out a lot of work for his pastimes. In the workshop we made pheasant pens and polo goal posts and inner poles ready for polo season.

Today there is a more structured and business-like approach. Lord and Lady Cowdray together with yourself have had to think about the Estate's future with sustainability being a key factor. Cowdray has had to evolve and adapt to ensure that it exists for future generations. This is not only essential for the family but is also incredibly important for its employees too as well as the local community.

Do you have any particularly memorable moments at Cowdray?

The great storm of 1987 which occurred on the night of 15th and 16th October. During those challenging few days the Estate's ethos of 'all for one' came to the fore. All the departments worked together, and everyone mucked in to get through this difficult period.

I also vividly remember getting into a helicopter which had landed behind the Lawns grandstand on Gold Cup Finals Day. I asked the pilot if he could move the aircraft to the designated landing site on the River Ground. After giving him directions, he said it would be easier for me to jump in and show him - he did not have to ask twice! He took off over Midhurst and then came back in a loop across the polo grounds. What a fantastic sight looking down on a crowd of around 15,000 people on a beautiful summer's day.

Do you live on the Estate?

Val and I live at Benbow Gate, where we have been living for 26 years, bringing up our two children. We have both lived in the area all our lives.

Do you have a favourite spot on the Estate?

The views from the top of Broomhill near Benbow Pond are my favourite part of the Estate. You can see right across to the South Downs to Manor Farm in Heyshott.

Muddy, cold, damp walks up Sunset Hill at this time of year are mixed with the occasional crisp, frosty, clear mornings with the magnificent views over the South Downs. This vista, along with the exercise to get there, is just what is needed to lift our mood away from the mundane and sets us up for a positive outlook for the rest of the day – try it sometime soon.

In the foreground is the heathland area which is maintained as such by the Heath Team with monthly working parties. There are three leaders: Jean Hicks, Wendy Pegler and Nigel Yeo, along with regular team workers. The main task is to prevent the area being taken over by trees – conifer and silver birch and also rhododendron and bracken. This 'work' for thousands of years was done by large grazing herbivores and then by the farming practices of our forebears. Neither of these happen now and left to its own devices, the trees would take over. This would lead to the loss of



Friends Of Midhurst Common

what is becoming quite a rare habitat, the lowland heath.

COVID-19 has affected FoMC in a variety of ways. It is usually inclement weather that reduces what the Heath Team can achieve, but over the last couple of years, following government lockdowns, there has been a reduction in working days. Our last AGM was postponed from November 2020 to April 2021 and was held as a Zoom meeting. It looks as if our next AGM will also be at least part-Zoom. Who would have imagined this when we first heard of the virus two years ago? Our committee meetings are now part Zoom and part attending in person. Luckily this works well (with a little patience for those having technical glitches) and our committee

continues in a positive way, with four meetings a year plus the AGM. We had hoped to have a public meeting last year to promote the value of Midhurst Common as an amenity for the people of Midhurst – surely this will be possible in the not-too-distant future.

Date for your diary: Thu 14 April is our Annual General Meeting – details later. We welcome the general public to attend to get their views of what they think of Midhurst Common and any ideas they might have for the future.

For any matters to do with Midhurst Common, please contact as below:

website: www.friendsofmidhurstcommon.co.uk
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Listed Buildings in Easebourne—Ivy Cottage, Easebourne Lane

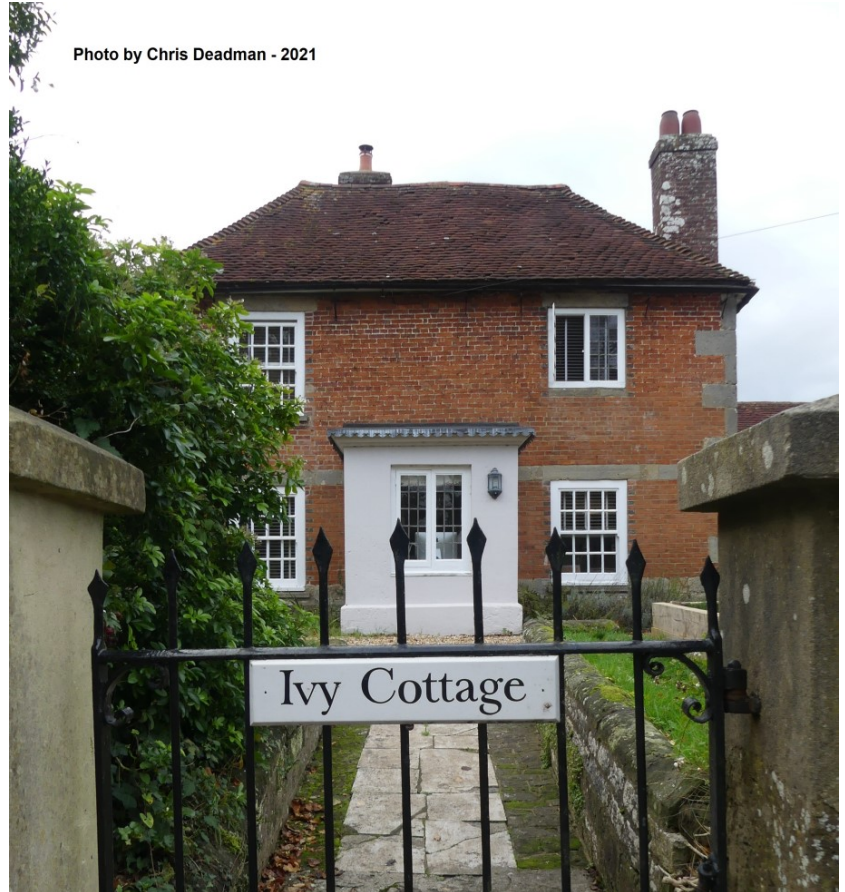
Listing NGR: SU8931322461 . Grade II House, Listed 26/11/87

C18. Red brick. Ashlar stringcourse and long and short quoins. Eaves cornice. Hipped tiled roof. Modern stone porch on east wall. Two storeys. Three windows facing south, two windows facing east, sashes with glazing bars.

A Century Ago in Easebourne

Edward Cooper Smith, a Veterinary Surgeon, was resident at Ivy Cottage between 1905 and 1911. Born in Wanstead in 1845, Edward was a veterinary student aged 16, living in Arundel (1861 Census). In 1871 he was resident in Easebourne (address unknown), and his occupation recorded in the census was Veterinary Licensed Farmer.

In 1899, Edward was listed in the commercial section of Kelly's Directory as Farmer and Veterinary surgeon, at Hollist Stud Farm. The 1911 census shows Edward (age 66) living with his wife Emily, and their two single daughters, Christine (age 43) and Beatrice (age 35). Edward's death was registered in the spring of 1914 in Midhurst. Following her husband's demise, a year earlier, Mrs Cooper-Smith was listed as the private resident of Ivy cottage in the 1915 Kelly's Directory.



General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. Lilibet.
2. Giuseppe Dell'Anno.
3. ABBA.
4. Peppa Pig.
5. William Shatner.
6. Storm Arwen.
7. Rachel Blackmore.
8. Alok Sharma.
9. Married a commoner.
10. 30 by Adele.
11. Carbis Bay.
12. The volcano Cumbre Vieja.
13. Handforth Parish Council.
14. Showjumping.
15. Newcastle United.
16. Barbados.
17. South Africa.
18. Knitting and crochet.
19. Have a third child.
20. Italy

Sexton beetles: subterranean corpse-disposal blues
by Michael Blencowe,
Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



"Now, you got a corpse in a car, minus a head...take me to it." In Quentin Tarantino's movie *Pulp Fiction*, Winston Wolf provides a professional clean-up service for two

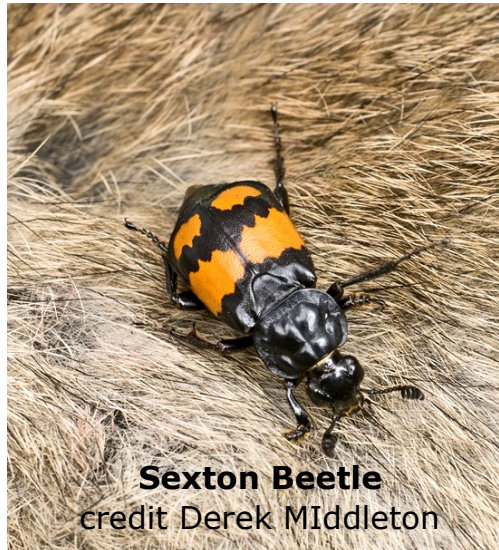
incompetent hitmen when they have a little 'problem' that needs solving urgently. Hopefully, illicit corpse disposal isn't a regular dilemma for readers of this magazine - but in the natural world death, disposal, decay and decomposition are vital, constant processes which recycle the nutrients that keep our planet

functioning. This clean-up duty is undertaken by a cast of unsung underworld characters. Bacteria and blow-flies, fungi and foxes, worms and woodlice all put their tendrils, talons, mandibles and molars to the task. But if you want a corpse removed efficiently and cleanly you had better call in the professionals: the sexton beetles.

The sextons are members of the family Silphidae. At about 3cm long they are amongst the heavyweights of our county's 3,000 beetle species. Some sextons can be identified by their lurid orange wing-cases; a hi-vis jacket befitting a worker at the scene of a tragedy. Now, let's say you've got a dead blue tit in the back yard. Its little soul will have winged its way to that great peanut feeder in the sky and now it's time to return its earthly body back to the soil. Sextons, armed with super-sensitive chemoreceptors in their clubbed antennae, can detect the sweet smell of death from a mile away.

The male flies in first and assesses the scene. First job - call for backup. He secretes a stink from his rear end to lure in a female and his partner arrives. Next job -

secure the corpse. The beetles start beetling around the blue tit, stripping off the feathers. But - phew-wee! That smell will soon be luring in every fly in the neighbourhood and the sextons don't want to draw attention to their work. So, they baste the body with their antibacterial and antifungal chemicals, slowing down



Sexton Beetle
credit Derek Middleton

the decay and preventing the pong. Now the sextons live up to their name. Working together, they dig a grave and line it with feathers. The corpse is tenderly lowered down into the earth. It's here, in this cosy crypt, that the sextons will raise their family. Eggs are laid and develop into hungry larvae which, unusually for an insect, 'beg' for food and are fed by their devoted parents. The bird's body is slowly stripped of flesh and reduced to a simple skeleton. After pupation, new sexton beetles emerge from the soil and fly away, perhaps to find their own corpse or to become food for birds themselves. No eulogy, no flowers, yet it's still a dignified, life-affirming send off. So, when it's my time to go, just drag me into the garden and let the sextons do their job.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tues 15 February at Methodist Church Hall at 2.30pm
John Pilkington—'To Eritrea and Ethiopia—Retracing a
Victorian Expedition'



In 1868 Queen Victoria's government mounted an extraordinary bid to rescue a dozen European hostages in the Ethiopian highlands. This involved a purpose-built port and railway on the Red Sea and in the mountains, 13,000 British and Indian soldiers, 26,000 camp followers, and more than 40,000 animals including 44 elephants. 'You couldn't make it up!' says John.

John has been following their route, partly on foot with a donkey, and has been comparing Eritrea and Ethiopia then and now. He found today's people spirited and energetic, living in dramatic and extremely challenging lands - history and adventure combined. A writer and broadcaster, for many years with the BBC World Service and Radio 4, John is returning to Midhurst by popular demand. He will give us a surprising insight into this remote area.

This talk will begin at 2 30pm on Zoom. Members and non-members are all free to participate. To receive an invite for this talk please email midhurstzoom@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB
December 2021

1st Prize - £100	No 170	Jenny King
2nd Prize - £75	No 67	Katharine Minchin
2nd Prize - £75	No 41	Michele Hendrie
3rd Prize—£50	No 175	David King
3rd Prize—£50	No 11	Bill Howkins
3rd Prize—£50	No 156	Eric Bounton



January 2022 Draw winners

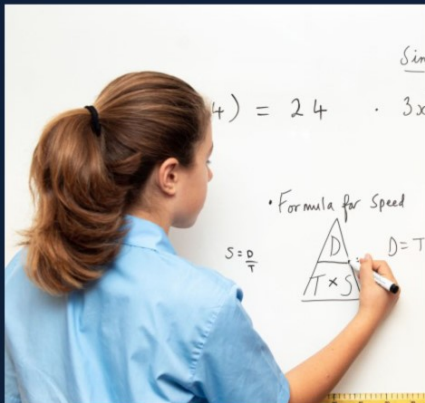
1st Prize - £100	No 1	Caroline Milne
2nd Prize - £75	No 116	Gavin Litchfield
2nd Prize - £75	No 222	Gill White
3rd Prize—£50	No 26	Arthur Douglas-Nugent
3rd Prize—£50	No 75	Alan Austin
3rd Prize—£50	No 179	Denise Webber

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News from Easebourne Primary School



It seems an age since the last edition which came out before Christmas, a particularly busy time at the school. Advent began with our traditional Reverse Advent Calendar, where the school community brought in items to be given to Stonepillow, the charity for the homeless, and we sang Christmas songs and packed bags at the Cowdray Farm Shop.

Santa and his elves which raised almost £1,700. In fact, it felt as though any event that could have Christmas added to the front happened!

There were other non-Christmassy highlights too. We held our annual

Easebourne's Got Talent! competition, won by Isla (Y3) whilst Nellie and Phoebe (Y5) raised £440 (and counting) for Canine Partners from a bake sale outside their house. We were also visited by the fire service who explained how the fire engine they had arrived in worked and taught the children about the importance of smoke alarms and *Stop, drop and roll*.



We helped shoppers to pack their bags at the Cowdray Farm Shop. We had to say things like "Have a nice day" and smile at the customers.

We also sang at the Tree of Hope Service at St Mary's and again at the Midhurst Street Party, KS1 performed their play, *Prickly Hay* and the whole school went down to St Mary's for the Christmas service and the Reception Class tableau.

I had a very important job, I had to carry Mary. (Ava, YR, aka the Donkey)

Classes held Christmas parties, the whole school had Christmas lunch and the PTFA organised a wonderful Christmas Fair, with

There was a big hose to put out big fires and a little hose to put out little fires. (Ember, YR)

This term, Badgers, who are learning about Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans, have already been invaded by Hrothgar, the Viking warrior and held captive in the Sports Hall all day! Hrothgar showed the children his warrior weaponry, re-enacted the story of Freyr and the Norse gods, talked about aspects of daily life and re-told the story of a chieftain and his funeral. Both classes, including teachers, dressed up for the occasion.

Otters have had a week of *Bikeability* sessions, led by qualified instructors, first riding around the playground, practising

changing gear, braking and indicating. Then, they explored the Easebourne area and went out on the roads on their bikes!

Green House have run a cake sale, raising £91.80 for their chosen charity – World Wildlife Fund and, meanwhile, Alisha (Y5) is collecting washed crisp packets with her class. She has heard of a man who was once homeless and who used crisp packets to make a blanket and is going to see whether she can make a blanket for the homeless. If she is successful, her secret plan is to get the whole school collecting

washed crisp packets. Watch this space!

We have also taken KS2 children to Chichester Festival Theatre to see *Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World*. It was a great, energetic musical which the children really enjoyed.

Wishing everybody a belated happy New Year.



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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

RecyclingSite, Bepton Road—Opening hours from October —Thurs to Monday 9.00am—4.00pm,
closed Tuesday & Wednesday. See <http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org/recycling-sites/midhurst>

EASEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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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
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