

united EASEBOURNE

Merry
Christmas!



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The deadline for the February 2023 issue of United is Monday 16 January.

Send to: easebourne.united@gmail.com or Tel 01730 816542

The lovely Christmas cover was drawn by Tula Perry, age 10.

Thank you, Tula!



From the Vicar

The main theme of Advent each year in the church is 'Moving from darkness to light'. As church communities, we use our worship to reflect upon the impact of darkness and how the coming of Jesus into our world transforms darkness into a marvellous light.



So, if you are feeling the darkness, with war, cost of living crisis and the pressures on family life – why not come and join us this Advent and Christmas and allow some of God's magical light to shine upon you. Across the season, we offer opportunities to gather with others and sing the carols that are so much a part of our yearly story.

It all begins with the Macmillan Tree of Hope on December 1st. We then have three carol services, two Christingles, a carol pageant (with me dressed once again as the angel Gabriel – all very moving) and a Messy church. If you would like a sense

of kindness and love to those around us. No one should feel lonely or on the edge. Once again, this year, our collection from St Mary's carol service will fund the Stonepillow Christmas lunch.

All details of our services can be found in this magazine or on our website

www.thepriorychurches.co.uk.

I hope to catch up with you all at some point. But can I wish you all God's blessings and peace.

Rev'd Canon Derek Welsman

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB November 2022 draw winners

1st Prize - £100

2nd Prize - £75

2nd Prize - £75

3rd Prize—£50

3rd Prize—£50

3rd Prize—£50

No 220

No 228

No 1

No 10

No 129

No 237

Gladys Hardwick

Sue Absolom

Caroline Milne

Ben Jull

Veronica Jull

Maria Cooper



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

Mike & Margaret Wharton, tel 810474, email mike@mwassociates.eu.com

Please note, winners will receive monies by bank transfer.



3.30 – 5.30pm

Wednesday 7th December

at St Mary's Church, Easebourne for the parishes of
Lodsworth, Selham & Easebourne

**A relaxed and informal church with a warm
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More details from

Liz Yonge (07747 611993)

Lynne Todd (01798 861399)

Alison Davis (01730 816642)

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**Come and join us for tea, chat, toys, stories and songs
for little lambs aged 0–4 years.**

**Term-time Tuesdays, 10–11.15am in the
church**

Everyone welcome.

Suggested donation £1 per family



Stonepillow Christmas 2022



I can't quite believe that it is time already to order the turkey and gather in all that will be required to feed at least 70 of our Stonepillow clients on Christmas Day. Last year, once again, the collection at the Carol Service paid for the celebrations. I cannot begin to thank you all enough for your continued support and generosity. Last year we were able to provide a fresh cooked meal with all the trimmings. In fact, all the things that we all enjoy having in our cupboards and fridges over the holiday season. This year the current financial crisis means the level of donations to the food store has fallen dramatically. And that has meant we have more clients. If you are able to donate, there is the trolley at the back of the church – food, decorations, wrapping paper (every client will receive a present), etc. If you won't be at the Carol Service in church on 18 December, I am very happy to receive donations at my house.

Katharine Minchin Kelross
Lutener Road, Easebourne

CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2022 and JANUARY 2023

Thursday 1 Dec	6.30pm	St Mary's	Tree of Hope Service
Sunday 4	Advent 2		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Family Service
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Carol Service
Tuesday 6	10.00pm	St Mary's	Little Lambs
	7.00pm	St Mary's	Advent course
Wednesday 7	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Advent course
	3.30pm	St Mary's	Messy Church
Sunday 11	Advent 3		
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St Peter's	Christingle Service
Tuesday 13	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
	2.30pm	St Mary's	EPS Carol Service
	7.00pm	St Mary's	Advent course
Wednesday 14	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Advent course
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Afternoon Tea
Friday 16	2.00pm	St Mary's	Conifers Carol Service
	6.00pm	Lodsworth	Carol Pageant
Sunday 18	Advent 4		
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St Mary's	Carol Service
	6.00pm	St James	Carol Service
Tuesday 20	7.00pm	St Mary's	Advent course

(Continued on p. 29)

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 *Coffee is served in Church*
Other Sundays 10.30am Holy Eucharist *after the 10.30am service*
Wednesdays 10.00am Holy Eucharist *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

Curate Rev Liz Yonge Email: revlizyonge@outlook.com 07747 611993

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

Churchwarden: Mr Phil Stringer, 31 Elmleigh, Midhurst GU29 9EZ
Email: stringers4@btinternet.com 817301

Parish Administrator/PCC Secretary:
Mrs Liz Bounton, 1 Bourne Way, Midhurst GU29 9HZ
E-mail: lizbounton1@gmail.com 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 Email: mary@sussexknights.uk 812783
Practice on Fridays 6.00pm

200 Club	Margaret & Mike Wharton E-mail: mike@mwassociates.eu.com	810474
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Women's Fellowship
Mrs Ann Harfield Email: annharfield23@gmail.com 813810

Social Committee Mrs Jan Harling Email: jharlingm@gmail.com 01798 342233

Editor of *United* Tina Litchfield, 7 St John's Close, Midhurst GU29 9QB
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To subscribe to United phone Ann Harfield 813810
or email—annharfield23@gmail.com

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

AFTERNOON TEA in the church

Wednesday December 14th at 2.30 pm—Our Christmas Event

The Primary School children will be giving their annual concert of Christmas songs and carols to start off the Festive Season. So we hope to see you all there. (Please note the change of time.)



Wednesday January 11th at 3.00pm

If transport is needed to either event please contact Hilary (813923), Sue (812105) or Jan (01798 342233). The Social Gang wish you all a very Happy Christmas and good New Year. Keep healthy and warm and we look forward to seeing you all again on the 14th.

Love from the Social Gang

St Mary's Church Choir



Do you love to sing? Come and join the church choir. We rehearse on Friday evenings at 6.00, and we sing on most Sunday mornings at the 10.30 service and for weddings and funerals. We need more voices in the choir—both high and low. For more information about singing in our choir, phone Mary Knight, our organist and choir leader, on 01730 812783.



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St Mary's Reading Rota for November

Date	Reading	Gospel	Reader	Intercessor
4 December Advent 2		Matthew 3: 1—12	TBA	
11 December Advent 3	Isaiah 35: 1—10	Matthew 11: 2—11	Peter Greaves	Liz Yonge
18 December Advent 4	Isaiah 7: 10—16	Matthew 1: 18—end	Colin Datchler	Wendy Trafford
24 December Evening Service	Isaiah 52: 7—10	John 1: 1—14	TBA	Clergy
25 December Christmas Day		Luke 2: 1—7		Clergy
1 January Naming & Circumcision of Christ		Luke 2: 15—21	TBA	
8 January Epiphany	Zechariah 8: 1—8	Luke 2: 41—end	Veronica Jull	Andy Castledine
15 January Epiphany 2	Isaiah 49: 1—7	John 1: 29—42	Simon Hendry	Liz Yonge
22 January Epiphany 3	Isaiah 9: 1—4	Matthew 4: 12—23	Laura Owen	Martin Dexter
29 January Plough Sunday & Candlemas	TBC	TBC	John Backshall	

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

Women's Fellowship

November's meeting began with a service of Holy Communion followed by the AGM. Derek our vicar conducted the service and also chaired the meeting. The existing officers were re-elected, i.e. Chairperson, Sue Absolom; Secretary, Ann Harfield; Treasurer, Daphne Wakeford. Pam Stevens, Liz Bounton and Joy Jones were re-elected to the committee.

During the past year we have raised £246 for the Spire Fund and we will continue to support this project in 2023. We look forward to our Christmas lunch on Tuesday 6th December at the Greyhound Inn. Please note that there will be NO meeting in January. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 February 2023 in church at 2.00pm.

Ann Harfield 813810

News from Conifers

Emma Fownes, Head



CONIFERS SCHOOL

This term, Conifers School has been busy with lots of learning. One of the new areas on the curriculum is learning about our local area through group project work. Forms I and II enjoyed a local history walk from school to the Midhurst Museum where they learnt how the area has undergone many changes over the years. Forms V-VI have also undertaken a visit to the Museum.



We held a whole school Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church with Reverend Liz Yonge where our oldest pupils read moving pieces and read the famous poems: 'For the Fallen' and 'In Flanders Field'. The children worked on a range of activities with our Pre-Prep pupils taking on art-inspired activities, and our Upper Prep children creating wonderfully moving poems. One of them, written by Matilda Blunt, is reproduced below:



Where once heroes lay



Once in a field,	The warm hugs they shared,
Where mighty heroes lay,	Families mourning their sorrowful deaths,
Where beautiful puppies grow	Yet the fox had still not cared.
Day by day.	The empty chairs lay still.
Loud gunshots no more,	They sit no more at the bustling table of home,
As those who once lived,	Pitiful siblings cry themselves to sleep.
Lie beneath the stone.	Their beloved pets which was once their own,
	Now waiting, alone.

With educational visits back in full swing, it's been an exciting time for students at Midhurst Rother College with opportunities for wider life experiences on offer for all to take advantage of.

Music and theatre featured strongly with 250 students from across the College venturing out and about for performances. Key Stage 3 students visited Chichester Festival Theatre to see *Famous Five the Musical*, Key Stage 4 travelled to The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to see *An Inspector Calls* supporting their study of this for GCSE English, and Key Stage 5 music students took a trip to the famous Glyndebourne Opera. For some this was the first educational visit during their time at the College, for others their first since Covid, and for some their first ever visit to the theatre. All thoroughly enjoyed their chosen performances, enriching their time at MRC. Upcoming for the music and drama departments, is the Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. A spectacular concert like no other where full-scale symphony orchestras are

showcased alongside some of the best young jazz bands, chamber groups, bands and singer-songwriters from across the UK.

To support their studies, Year 10 and 12 textiles students took a trip to the Knitting and Stitching Show Trip to Alexandra Palace, which brought together hundreds of workshops, demonstrations, interactive features, professionally curated textile art galleries, as well as leading specialist suppliers. The visit provided inspiration and ideas for upcoming projects for their GCSE and A level studies and resources to enhance their creative work.

Going forward, visits on the horizon include The Supreme Court at the Palace of Westminster, four nights in Cologne for the Christmas Markets, five days in Spain, and a trip to San Francisco - a 7-night educational visit to for those studying Computer Science GCSE/A Level. Highlights of this visit will include a visit to Silicon Valley, Apple HQ and Stanford University.



Easebourne Park

In September we shared the positive news that Easebourne Park had received a top rating of 5/5 from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) annual inspection in the summer. The Parish Council has now invited Lawrence Trowbridge of Wildwood UK back to our award-winning Park to inspect the dens and trails he created five years ago to back up this clean bill of health. The ongoing maintenance and improvement of this special community space remains a key priority for the council.



EASEBOURNE
Parish Council

Speedwatch Group

The Easebourne Community Speedwatch Group is helping to make our village safer and increase awareness of speed limits. Please email if you are interested in volunteering for this group.
easebournespeedwatch@gmail.com

Latest News and Events

Please visit our website or village Facebook page to keep up to date with what's happening in your locality.



Easebourne Parish Council wishes everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas season.

Janet Charlesworth, Environment & Communications, EPC



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

Listed Buildings in Easebourne Avenue Cottage—354 Easebourne Street

Grade II House —Listing NGR: GU9018623103

C18. Stone rubble with red brick dressings. Tiled roof. Casement windows. Two storeys. Three windows.



Photo by Chris Deadman - 2021

The cottage was the home of William Harper and his wife Adelaide in 1911. They were 59 years old and had been married for 23 years but according to the census no children had been born alive. William was born in Easebourne in 1853 to James (a Carpenter) and Ellen Harper. In 1911 William was employed by Lord Cowdray as a Plumber and Painter, which had been his occupation from the age of 18.

By Chris Deadman and Phil Stringer



As you will have seen on the TV and in various articles, this has been an incredibly mild autumn and also very wet. A number of trees and shrubs that are usually at their best autumn colour at the end of October are only just turning colour as I write in the middle of November. There is no doubt that this is due to global warming, but how can we as gardeners cope with these changes in the seasons.

In the vegetable garden the timing for sowing or planting will be guided more by the weather conditions at the time, how wet or cold the soil, and the possibility of late spring frosts. I know that many of you have some kind of protection for your early crops, such as cloches, frames or other methods to protect from extremes of weather. This also helps to prevent the problems with other pests such as pigeons and, as I have heard recently, badgers (which is not very common but if they descend on your patch can create havoc).

For many years I started my broad beans in pots in a cold greenhouse, sowing them in early November and planting them out any time early in the New Year when weather permitted. I have done this with many of the bean family and having that protected start really seems to help when the soil is cold and wet. You will have noticed also that on various TV programmes, more and more vegetables

are being grown in small raised beds so that the gardener does not have to tread on the soil and can also protect individual crops more easily. It is surprising how little space is needed to grow each crop such as lettuce or Swiss chard which only need to be sown in small batches at a time.

Many younger people are very enthusiastic about growing their own vegetables but, unless they have a large garden, they are looking to have an allotment or better still a part share in one. The major problem new gardeners have in managing vegetable growing is the amount of time needed to look after the crops. I have seen large numbers of enthusiastic

gardeners rushing out and sowing or planting and then as the season moves on, visit to check on their crops less and less. It can be quite disheartening to see how rapidly weeds grow in early summer, especially after a spell of wet weather, and if you then have a heat wave to contend with, it becomes even more difficult.

Looking forward to the New Year is the time to plan ahead. Make sure you have the required seed or bulbs in good time and in the quantity you need. If you have a sheltered warm corner in the garden or allotment, have this area prepared first as it is often worth sowing a small lot to see how well they germinate and grow. A frame or a few cloches put out a week or



so before planting will also help to warm the soil.

With such unpredictable weather it certainly does not pay to put all your eggs in one basket. The New Year may see some unseasonal weather which you may be able to use to your advantage. More than ever we need to be ready to sow or plant when the conditions are ideal and ignore the time of year.

Plant of the Month

Mahonia x media Winter Sun. I have had this evergreen shrub in our garden for the last 15 years. It can grow very large and straggly unless pruned correctly

every three or four years. This will need to take place for the first time about five years after planting. Then each stem can be cut back to within two to three buds from the base in early spring. This will mean that it will not flower the next winter, but regularly afterwards. Winter Sun is an apt name as looking out of the window; the bright golden yellow flower spikes are very attractive with a wonderful scent, and are set against the shiny dark foliage. The recent heavy thundery downpours have had no affect on its display and it looks likely to flower well into December.

John Humphris VMH 01730 812080

Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society

Our next meeting is our Christmas social on **Thursday 8 December at 7.30pm** in Cowdray Hall. We have a really interesting talk lined up by Barry Newman NDH FNVS called 'A Year on the Allotment'. Barry is vice-chairman of the RHS Fruit, Vegetable and Herb committee. Visitors are welcome—entrance only £2.00. Refreshments will be served, and we are asking our members to bring a plate of seasonal nibbles. We hope to see you there.

To join the Society, contact the secretary, Tina Litchfield, on 01730 816542, or email EGAS@tinagavin.com. It only costs £4 a year to join, or £6 for a couple.



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? General Knowledge Quiz—Compiled by Carole Sawyer

1. What is the name of the British astronaut whose 2017 autobiography is entitled 'Ask an Astronaut: My Guide to Life in Space'?
2. How much per month is Elon Musk proposing to charge Twitters to keep their blue tick verification?
3. The 1964 and 2020 Olympic Summer Games were held in which Japanese city?
4. What are Marrons Glacés?
5. In which year was the first NHS hospital opened and where?
6. In Greek mythology what was known as half man, half horse?
7. What are a horse's parents called?
8. Which ceramic artist, born near Stoke-on-Trent in 1899, is well known for her designs called Bizarre and Crocus?
9. Which word has been named Word of the Year 2022 by Collins Dictionary?
10. Name the four US states beginning with the letter 'A'?
11. What vegetable is used in the layers of Moussaka?
12. The only wild monkey population in Europe can be found in which British Overseas Territory?
13. Which Italian composer was known for his work 'The Four Seasons'?
14. Darren Gough represented England in which sport?
15. What language/history is a Hellenist an expert in?
16. In which English seaside town was 'Faulty Towers' set?
17. What word means the text or words on an opera?
18. What does the text abbreviation TYVM mean?
19. Which Mediterranean island country is the smallest member of the European Union by both size and population?
20. Which MP has been suspended from the Tory Party for taking part in the TV show 'I'm a Celebrity ' ?



Plus 5 Christmas questions on p. 18

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Friends of Easebourne Parish (FrEP)

Time is a precious commodity for everyone, especially at this time of year, so we are always grateful when members of FrEP are able to spare time to help with tasks other than regular litter picking. The volunteers recently planted hundreds of daffodils and crocuses to supplement those planted last year in the Park. We look forward to seeing the results in the Springtime (or before if climate change dictates a new schedule!).

Following a request for help, we will shortly be weeding and tidying the flower bed in front of the main reception area at Easebourne Primary school. We will also plant more daffodils to brighten up this space. Hopefully once we have cleared away the weeds and generally tidied up,

those organising the maintenance will be able to attract volunteers more closely connected with the school to take on this task. Any parent, or anyone else who could spare some time to keep this flower bed in a bright and cheerful condition, please contact Kathryn on 07929 557709.

There are so many tasks that need our attention around the parish, and all that is required is the people power to carry them out. So do consider helping us keep Easebourne Parish a great place to live. If you would like to join us, contact our secretary via email

FREPSec@btinternet.com

or call **07803 933694**.

Frank Davies



General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. Tim Peake.
2. \$8.
3. Tokyo.
4. Candied chestnuts (French).
5. 1948, Trafford, Manchester.
6. Centaur.
7. Sire and Dam.
8. Clarice Cliff.
9. Permacrisis (an extended period of instability and insecurity).
10. Arkansas, Alaska, Arizona and Alabama.
11. Aubergine.
12. Gibraltar.
13. Antonio Vivaldi.
14. Cricket.
15. Greek.
16. Torquay.
17. Libretto.
18. Thank you very much.
19. Malta.
20. Matt Hancock.
21. Donner, meaning thunder in German, and Blitzen meaning lightening.
22. Stollen.
23. Holly.
24. Mexico.
25. 16 points.

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Five Christmas Questions

21. Two of Santa's reindeer are named after weather phenomena, which two?
22. What is the name of the German/Austrian yeast cake often served at Christmas?
23. Ilex is the scientific genus of which type of Christmas foliage?
24. Where does the Christmas plant Poinsettia originate from?
25. How many Scrabble points for the word 'Christmas'?

Answers on page 28



**Friends Of
Midhurst Common**

The Chinese philosopher Lau Tzu quoted in 601 BC: 'If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading'. This has meaning today 2,623 years later when you consider the world population's approach to climate change and environmental issues. And it should motivate all of us to do more. As I write this it has just been announced that we have reached 8 billion people on Earth and the population is predicted to continue to rise for decades – heed must be taken of this fact.

In respect of our global environmental issues, we must accept that each of us can only do a tiny bit personally, at home, and within our communities. Collectively, I'm sure we can still achieve what we need to, eventually.

Anyway, closer to home, The Friends of Midhurst Common continue to do their bit for the local environs. To see the history of FoMC, take a look at our website. Our constitution states that we should:

- a) promote and advance the value of Midhurst Common as an ecological and biological resource
- b) increase public knowledge and awareness of the natural resources and the history of The Common
- c) support and encourage lawful public use of The Common for both educational purposes and for quiet informal recreation

The Heath Team do their best to maintain the heathland along with other activities around The Common as necessary – this has been described regularly in these columns. If you have comments or questions, or feel you would like to be more involved with anything we do, then please email me.

I would like to finish by taking this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a fulfilling and pleasant 2023.

friendsofmidhurstcommon@yahoo.co.uk

Andrew Mitchell - Chairman

Loneliness

At sometime in our lives
We will all experience loneliness
That feeling of isolation
And our lives appear in a mess.

With no one to turn to
Or that is what we think
Some take solace in tablets
Others may turn to drink.

However hard you find it
There will be another feeling blue
Finding it hard to face the day
Longing for friendship, just like you.

Perhaps a chance meeting when out
Can change your frown to a smile
Engage them in conversation
It will all be worth your while.

Maybe invite someone to tea
Who can resist some cake
A phone call to a family member
Your world opens each step you take.

There is one person in this world
Who watches over you and your plight
If you had faith to reach out to Him
He would bring you into His light.



As we enter the season of Advent
And the coming of Our Lord's birth
He'd encourage us to open our hearts
To tell of Love and Peace upon earth.

We all know someone on their own
Who will be spending Christmas alone
Tis the Season of Goodwill
Let's spread that feeling, and phone.

From the editors—Tina and Gavin Litchfield

We're still looking! There must be someone out there who'd like to take over as editors. It's great fun and a useful service to the village. Only needs 2 or 3 days a month to put it together. Give us a ring and we can tell you what is involved. We would love to find someone from the wider Easebourne community who will continue to make United an interesting magazine for the whole village, not just the church. Get in touch and we'll tell you what is involved.

Email: easebourne.united@gmail.com or Tel 01730 816542.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING



Christmas will soon be here and Midhurst Foodbank is busier than ever. We feed in excess of 20 people each week, delivering between 15 and 20 food parcels weekly. Many individuals new to us are asking for help, as the cost of living endlessly rises. It is so sad to hear how hard life is for some in Midhurst. The weekly income is just not sufficient to meet the weekly bills.

We hope to spread a little Christmas cheer to all those who use the Foodbank. We plan to give every family a Christmas goodie bags. The local retailers have been tremendously supportive and our Christmas gift boxes are filling up. We have had a significant number of donations from individuals as well as groups. We hope to give goodie bags to each of the 180 children receiving lunch boxes in the holidays, as well as those individuals who receive food parcels each week nearer Christmas.

As always, we are incredibly grateful to so many people who give so generously to our cause. There is no doubt that there will be a need for Midhurst Foodbank for a very long time to come.

We wish all readers a Very Happy Christmas, and send our sincere thanks for all your help and support.

Liz Willing

midhurstcoordinator@chichesterdistrict.
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Christmas is almost here folks and it'll soon be time for that fella in the red coat to come sneaking around. Yep, your neighbourhood Fox is on the prowl and shortly after Santa has finished pulling presents out of his sack, your local Fox will be busy trying to pull half a turkey out of your bin bag.

Foxes have lived among us for centuries and, just like Christmas, they're celebrated in folklore and myths all around the world. Whether the story belongs to the Greeks, Japanese, Celts, Native Americans, Disney or Roald Dahl, it is always the same – the Fox is portrayed as cunning, slippery and devious. I prefer intelligent, adaptable and resourceful - and it's these traits that have helped the Fox to survive in the modern world. It was the modern world that transformed the Fox's wild woods into endless agricultural fields, towns, cities, tower blocks and cul-de-sacs. Traditionally, in the face of development Britain's wildlife has silently been displaced and died. But where others fled destruction the Fox, like any shrewd opportunist, saw a brave new



Photo:
Elliott Neep

world of golden opportunities where the dustbins overfloweth and where the streets are paved with cast away kebabs and finger-lickin' chicken.

And for me this is the chapter in the Fox's

story that does indeed seem mythical: that in urban Britain there are wild dogs living among us. I can look out my bedroom window and see a relative of the Wolf, Dingo, Jackal and Coyote casually sauntering across my lawn. It's a touch of the Serengeti in suburban Sussex. Studies undertaken by the University of Brighton have estimated that there are 20 Foxes per square kilometre in the city. Of course, tradition dictates that some people do not like Foxes. As I child I always viewed the Boxing Day hunt as the antithesis to Christmas; a reminder that amidst this season of goodwill there are still people who are proud to dress up in costumes in a public celebration of their cruelty.

It's in the bleak midwinter that Foxes are at their most vocal. The blood-curdling, human-like scream of the vixen sounds like something from a Hammer Horror film.

This foxy lady is only fertile for a few days and her scream advertises her availability and sparks bow-wows, barks and bickering from amorous dog Foxes. Her cubs will be born about fifty-two days after mating and emerge from their earths in April.

So this Christmas if you've had it with the plastic snowmen, the fake tree and the fake sentiments take a short walk away from it all and out into the darkness. Listen for the sound of wild dogs howling at the moon, the sound of survival. Let it stir something wild in your heart. Merry Christmas everybody and best wishes for 2023.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

Madiera Organ Festival

by Mary Knight

For the church organist a visit to Madeira for an organ festival might be considered something of a busman's holiday. However, since most of the concerts took place at 9.30pm, plenty of time remained for leisurely breakfasts on the hotel balcony while admiring the palm trees and bougainvillea, bus rides into Funchal to visit favourite restaurants, a ride on the cable car to Monte where the basket sledges start (an iconic activity better watched than experienced), or simply basking in the sun.

The concerts provided an opportunity to view the highly decorated church interiors as well as to listen to the organs. At the church of São Pedro in the centre of Funchal, a Finnish organist, Ville Urponen played a programme entitled 'Cuckoos and Nightingales', much of the music originally for harpsichord but the small organ at the church was ideally suited to a selection of French baroque pieces.

The most ornate church was São João Evangelista and this time there were two organs, a modern one in the west gallery showing an impressive row of trumpets projecting from the organ case, and a small old chamber organ at the front of the church. Victor Baena from Spain played several of the late chorale preludes of Bach (the third Bach concert in the series) and after each one the hymn was sung in its original form by the Chamber Choir of Madeira, reflecting how the organ music would have been heard originally and perhaps helping us to understand why the good people of Leipzig

thought that Bach's chorale preludes were too long.

While listening there was plenty of time to look at the pictures and statues which covered the walls and ceiling. Two other concerts included, as well as organ music, a beautiful string group and a trio of ladies performing Corsican Polyphony (a strange kind of folk singing that goes back to the ninth century and sounds a bit like middle eastern vocal music). Altogether, the Madeira Organ Festival was a great experience and thoroughly recommended if you are thinking of taking a holiday in Funchal in October. The concerts were all free which was an added bonus and all very well-attended, with people standing when no more seats were available. Just one problem - the pews in all the churches were of handsome polished wood and very hard so that after an hour the standing ovation which each organist received expressed a good deal of audience relief. If we go again next year we'll take cushions.



Church of São João Evangelista



Rotary Youth Festival of Music

Over 100 musicians from five local schools, many of whom were giving their first public performance, gave a wonderful concert recently to an enthusiastic audience at Midhurst Rother College.

This was the first Music Festival for three years due to the Covid pandemic and it was well worth waiting for. The programme consisted of music from four school choirs, a brass band, a jazz band and the College Orchestra, representing the primary schools of Midhurst, Easebourne, Stedham and Harting, together with pupils from Midhurst Rother College.

From the quality of the performances it was evident that much hard work had been undertaken beforehand by all participating pupils and much credit must also be given to the teaching staff for achieving such high standards. Special mention must also go to Easebourne music teacher Katie Stevens who oversaw and coordinated the programme for the first time.

Rotary would also like to thank the following sponsors - Macdonald Oates solicitors, Rotherhill Nurseries, Henry Adams Estate Agents, Cowdray, Hunt Developments and Roger Poat & Partners who helped to swell the funds through their sponsorship. Together with a small adult entrance fee the total sum raised will be split equitably among the music departments of the participating schools.

A joyous evening much enjoyed by all.

Helen Chapman, Midhurst Rotary Club





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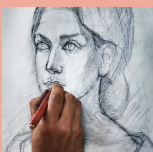
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Iced Lemon Meringue Cake

The perfect alternative for a Christmas pudding. It can be made weeks in advance, frozen and brought out when required.

Ingredients:

3 large grated lemons
3 whole eggs + 2 egg whites
225g + 175g caster sugar
85g butter
300ml double cream
200g full fat cream cheese
rind of 2 lemons (optional)

*Thanks to Katharine Minchin
for this yummy recipe.*

Method:

Make a meringue with 4 egg whites and 225g caster sugar. Bake as three large circles on baking parchment @ 140 °C for 2 ½ to 3 hours.

Make lemon curd with 175g caster sugar, butter, juice and rind of 3 lemons. When butter has melted, add 2 egg yolks and the remaining whole egg whisked together. Bring to thickened stage very gently about 20 minutes or until it coats the back of the spoon.

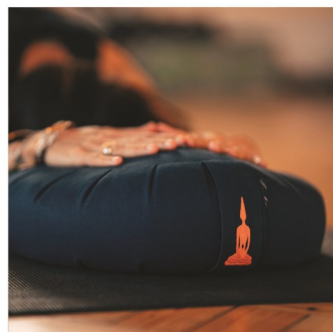
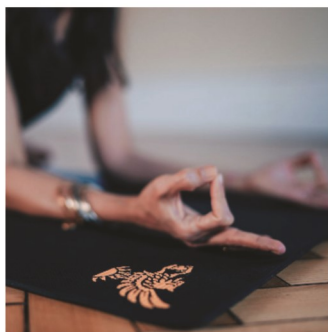
Whip cream lightly, add cream cheese and the cooled lemon mixture.

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

Cookery Corner



To cheer you, here is a snow scene from 1927 photographed in front of the church lychgate, when there were gates across the main A272 to stop the deer escaping from the deerpark beyond. These children grew to become parents—their children will be in their 70's now. Do any still live in the village? Tell the editors.



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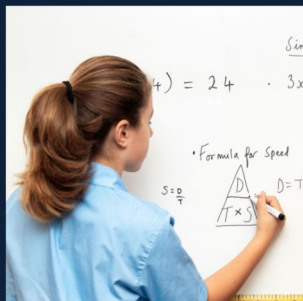
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What's On Locally

Midhurst Arts Society—Tuesday 6 December

Julian Halsby will give a richly illustrated talk on 'The White Mantle of Winter—Impressionist Painting of the Snow'. Tea & coffee served from 10.00am. Lecture starts 10.45am promptly. New members always welcome, as are guests (fee £7.00).

Midhurst U3A—Tuesday 13 December

Andy Thomas—'Christmas—A Celebratory History'. He will talk about the traditions of Christmas through the ages. It's at the Methodist Church Hall and costs £2 for members and £3 for visitors. Starts at 2.00pm for tea and a festive biscuit. The talk starts at 2.30pm.



The Midhurst Society

You are invited to the next event at the South Downs Memorial Hall on **Thursday 15 December at 7.30pm** for our special Christmas celebration. There will be a concert by the 16 a capella voices of the newly formed Siena Singers under the direction of Giles White. They will sing a selection of seasonal music, including some old favourites for all to join in. After the concert, some very nice Christmas nibbles and wine will be served. Guests are welcome and the entrance fee at the door remains at only £3, but any donations collected after the performance will be given to the Chichester homeless charity Stonepillow.



www.midhurstsociety.org.uk



Christmas Events at Petworth House & Park

Go to:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/petworth

General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1. Tim Peake. 2. \$8. 3. Tokyo. 4. Candied chestnuts (French). 5. 1948, Trafford, Manchester. 6. Centaur. 7. Sire and Dam. 8. Clarice Cliff. 9. Permacrisis (an extended period of instability and insecurity). 10. Arkansas, Alaska, Arizona and Alabama. 11. Aubergine. 12. Gibraltar. 13. Antonio Vivaldi. 14. Cricket. 15. Greek. 16. Torquay. 17. Libretto. 18. Thank you very much. 19. Malta. 20. Matt Hancock. 21. Donner, meaning thunder in German, and Blitzen meaning lightning. 22. Stollen. 23. Holly. 24. Mexico. 25. 16 points.

CHURCH DIARY (cont'd)

Wednesday 21	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Advent course

Saturday 24	Christmas Eve		
	4.00pm	St Mary's	Christingle Service
	11.00pm	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Sunday 25	Christmas Day		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	9.45am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1	2nd Sunday of Christmas		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evensong

Wednesday 4			
	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Sunday 8	Epiphany		
	9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

Tuesday	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
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Wednesday 11	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Afternoon Tea

Sunday 15	Epiphany 2		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Celtic Service

Tuesday 17 Jan	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
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CHURCH DIARY (cont'd)

Wednesday 16	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	St Mary's	PCC Meeting

Sunday 22 Epiphany 3

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

Tuesday 24	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
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Wednesday 25	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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Sunday 28 Candlemas and Plough Sunday

10.30am	St Mary's	United Service
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Tuesday 31	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
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FEBRUARY

Wednesday 1	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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Sunday 5 3rd Before Lent

8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion

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