

# *united* **EASEBOURNE**



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The deadline for the April 2023 issue of United is Wednesday 15th of March.

Send your contributions to:

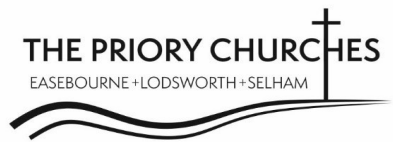
[easebourne.united@gmail.com](mailto:easebourne.united@gmail.com) or Tel 01730 816542



## From the Vicar

In February, Gill and I spent a wonderful week just north of Swanage in a National Trust cottage. We chose this part of Dorset, as we enjoy walking, especially on long sandy beaches. In fact, we not only enjoyed walking on Studland beach, we also discovered Arne and the wonders of the RSPB sanctuary. When Gill booked the cottage, she explained to me, that there was no Wi-Fi available. Great I thought, a whole week without electronic interference. Sadly not! We certainly didn't have Wi-Fi – in fact we barely had any signal at all on our phones. Now you might think this is bliss, and at times it was – but you also realised, how much you rely on these things for everyday life - well, I do.

The reason I mention this, is that traditionally in Lent we give up things. This week without Wi-Fi made me think; what is it we can really give up and what is essential for life? The danger with giving up things, is that the whole experience becomes a burden, rather than a spiritual moment for focus and reflection. The most disastrous thing I did was one year to give up coffee for Lent – boy, what a headache I had! Did it help me to focus on God? I think I probably focused more on my headache and my next cup of coffee.



So instead of 'giving up' things for Lent, I try and find something that stimulates my faith; a positive thing, maybe something I wouldn't normally do. One year in Lent, I made it my spiritual discipline to make contact with someone each day – either with a telephone call or a visit. This was a wonderful thing – I ended up with so many wonderful conversations across Lent.

I think overall, it is best to do something different in Lent, whether giving up something or doing something new. This is a time for reflection and spiritual nourishment, and changing our pattern certainly focuses the mind. Whatever you choose to do, can I comment to you all a Lent that is peaceful, enriched by spring and with space for God.

Revd Canon Derek Welsman



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First Sunday	10.30am Family Eucharist	<i>Coffee is served in Church after the 10.30 service on most Sundays</i>
Other Sundays	10.30am Holy Eucharist	
Tuesdays	10.00—11.15 'Little Lambs' Toddler Group	
Wednesdays	10.00am Holy Eucharist	
Wednesdays	3.00pm 'Tea at Three' - everyone is welcome	
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
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February 2023 draw winners

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £100</b>	<b>No 64</b>	<b>David Christie</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75</b>	<b>No 32</b>	<b>Jenny Nightingale</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75</b>	<b>No 62</b>	<b>Peggy Goodale</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 223</b>	<b>Jill White</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 216</b>	<b>Bryan Scholey</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 234</b>	<b>Siwan Hill</b>



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

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# TEA AT THREE

**Join us every Wednesday at 3.00pm**

**1st March—cup of tea with Derek and Liz**

**8th March—Friendship Tea—Social Gang**

**15th March—Knit and Natter**

**22nd March—Primary School—Serve & Share**



*More details from  
Rev Liz Yonge  
07747 611993*

3.30 – 5.30pm

## Monday 29th March

at St Mary's Church, Easebourne for the parishes of  
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A relaxed and informal church with a  
warm welcome for the whole family - crafts,  
songs, celebration, food and plenty of opportunity to  
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Despite the grey and drizzly weather, the United Benefice service started outside St Mary's Church. We all gathered round a huge tractor and plough, muddy from recent ploughing, kindly provided by James Renwick of Buddington Farm. Derek blessed the tractor, all farm machinery and all those who worked on the land throughout the year. Derek also blessed a milk churn representing all livestock cared for by all farmers. Following readings, these prayers and responses, the service continued our worship inside the church.

**Plough Sunday  
29 January**



# CONCERT AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

on SATURDAY 15 APRIL 2023 at 7.30pm

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## CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH 2023

Wednesday 1	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Lent Course
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Tea at Three
Friday 3 March	2.30pm	St Mary's	World Day of Prayer
<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>2 Sunday of Lent</b>		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Family Service with Baptism
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evensong
Tuesday 7	10.00pm	St Mary's	Little Lambs
	2.00pm	St Mary's	Women's Fellowship
	7.00pm	St Mary's	Lent Course
Wednesday 8	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Lent Course
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Tea at Three
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>3 Sunday of Lent</b>		
	9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Tuesday 14	10am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
	1.00pm	St Mary's	Funeral
	7.00pm	St Mary's	Lent Course
Wednesday 15	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Lent Course
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Tea at Three
	7.00pm	St Mary's	PCC Meeting
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	St James	Celtic Service



Tuesday 21	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
	7.00pm	St Mary's	Lent Course
Wednesday 22	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Lent Course
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Tea at Three
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>5 Sunday of Lent</b>		
	9.00am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Tuesday 28	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
	7.00pm	St Mary's	Lent Course
Wednesday 29	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	St Marys	Messy Church
Thursday 30	10.45am	St Marys	Easebourne Primary School Service
<b>APRIL</b>			
<b>Sunday 2</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>		
	8.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	10.30am	St Mary's	Family Service
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evensong

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## St Mary's Reading Rota for March

Date	Reading	Gospel	Reader	Intercessor
5 March Lent 2		John 3: 1—17	TBA	Clergy
12 March Lent 3	Exodus 17: 1—7	John 4: 5—42	Irena Greaves	Clergy
19 March Mothering Sunday	Colossians 3: 12—17	Luke 2: 33—35	Colin Datchler	Clergy
26 March Lent 5	Ezekial 37: 1—14	John 11: 1—45	David Christie	Clergy

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

### AFTERNOON TEA (at THREE)

**Wednesday 8th March at 3.00 pm in the church. Everyone is welcome to join us for an afternoon of chats and tea!**  
**Hope you are all keeping well and with all best wishes and love from the Social Gang. (See p. 3)**



### Women's Fellowship

Unfortunately, owing to unforeseen circumstances, Rev Liz Yonge was unable to attend the February meeting. We hope she will be able to speak to us at a later date. Instead we watched a DVD of Landscapes of Britain which took us on a tour of the beautiful views and scenery of our land.

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 7th March at 2.00pm** in the church. Liz Willing will be coming to speak on the Midhurst Food Bank. New members and guests are always welcome.

Ann Harfield 813810

### World Day of Prayer

This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Taiwan. It will be held at St Mary's Easebourne on Friday 3rd March at 2.30pm. Do join us to pray for the people of Taiwan, especially the women who face suffering and injustice.



Many in the village were saddened recently at the death at the great age of 97 of Elsie Pack. The text that follows is an excerpt from her interview in 'Village Vignettes' published in *United* in 2008. Elsie was born within earshot of Bow Bells, which qualified her as an authentic Cockney!



**Elsie Pack 1925—2023**

Elsie Cook, as she was, grew up in a large family in a very small flat. Her dad worked as a stoker at the big Tate and Lyle sugar factory.

Elsie left school at 14, and she had to leave her first job, as a waitress, because the restaurant was bombed. One of her many other jobs was as a 'sack cleaner' for Spillers Flour. Her last London job was in Poplars Biscuit Factory, packing biscuits to go in the 'iron rations' for the troops. She remembers seeing the terrible fires raging in the docks as she returned from work. Life in the east end of London was indeed very dangerous so the family evacuated to Heyshott, where they were allocated a Cowdray cottage.

The small flat they had left in London did have running water, gas and electricity, and an indoor loo, but the Heyshott cottage had none of these luxuries. There was a big black cooking stove in the kitchen that did not cook properly, so they complained to the Cowdray estate office about it. Two men called round, and Elsie's mum, not being one to mince her words, declared, 'I shouldn't think Lord Cowdray would have such a stove in his kitchen.' Little did her mum know at the time that the two men

from the estate were none other than Lord Cowdray himself and his agent. Shortly thereafter, they were given a new cooker.

Later after her father's death the family moved to Graffham. and it was around this time that she met Alf Pack at a dance at the Midhurst Parish Rooms and they started walking out

together. They used to have great times – they might go down to Chichester on the bus, or go to the cinema in the town, and often she would go to the Bricks with Alf, who was a keen darts player.

After they married at Graffham Church in 1949, the couple moved in with Alf's parents in their tied farm cottage in Bepton, where Alf's dad was a cowman. In 1950, they all managed to get one of the brand-new council houses in Cowdray Road – in fact, they watched their house being built. After Alf's father passed away, mum moved to nearby Montague Road, and the Packs, with young son David, had



**Alf and Elsie Pack - wedding day 1949**

the house to themselves for the first time in their married life. The elder Mrs Pack remained a real friend to Elsie, helping with little David and with the housework.

Alf was a quiet man who worked hard at his job as a sawyer on the Cowdray Estate, and later for West and Son Sawmills. They managed to buy the Cowdray Road house in 1980. Alf passed away in 1995.

Elsie herself had numerous jobs throughout her married life. She was forced to retire from her job at a local shop when she turned 60, but she wasn't yet ready for retirement. She took on several more jobs, and then went on to do lots of volunteer

work. She also many interesting hobbies. She collected dolls and was a keen supporter of West Ham football club. Over the years she won lots of medals at swimming and she played badminton. Elsie used to love dancing, and until recently she used to go regularly to keep-fit at the Grange. She was very active in church life and more than anything loved helping others.

Elsie lived for all those years in the same house in Cowdray Road with son David. She was an amazing person with a colourful personality, and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

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### **Elsie on 'Friendship'**

There was a beautiful service of thanksgiving in the parish church for Elsie's life on 15th of February and there were some lovely tributes. One of the readers was David Carter who used to go round to help Elsie in her garden. (Gardening was one of her many hobbies.)

This is what he said: 'Whenever we went out Elsie would always introduce me as 'This is David, my gardener. He's not just a gardener, he's my friend'. I soon realized that she said that about everyone! For example, she might have said, 'The paramedic came over last night. He's not just a paramedic, he's my friend.' Or, 'My physio is coming in this afternoon. She's not just a physio, she's my friend'. Or, 'The next time you go up to the farm, will you bring some potatoes for my neighbour. She's not just my neighbour, she's my friend'. Or, 'I'm gong to my hairdresser tomorrow. She's not just my hairdresser, she's my friend'. Or, 'I'm going to invite the vicar to my birthday party. He's not just my vicar, he's my friend'.

We think that sentiment really sums up Elsie Pack. We have lost a lovely friend.





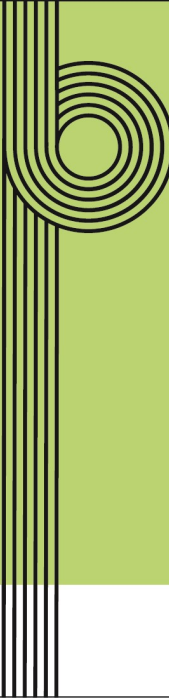
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## From the Editors

We have had a couple of people come forward since our previous appeals for a new editor and we're still talking to them. But if you are interested in joining the team that produces our village magazine, we'd still love to hear from you. The emphasis for future editors will be to produce an interesting magazine for the whole village, not just the church.

Email: [easebourne.united@gmail.com](mailto:easebourne.united@gmail.com) or Tel 01730 816542.

Tina and Gavin Litchfield, editors



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## Celebrating Children's Health Week

Emma Fownes, Headteacher



CONIFERS SCHOOL

We have enjoyed a busy half term which culminated in taking part in Children's Mental Health Week which, this year, was themed 'Let's Connect.' Throughout the week we took part in special assemblies, lessons, and open discussions on how to make meaningful connections that support their mental health, as well as a plethora of exciting activities. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, we took part in a 'Dress to Express', a fundraising event which saw them don fancy dress and colourful outfits that allow them to fully express themselves. In Assembly we took part in a dance party showing off our best skills - which the teachers joined in with too!

At Conifers we believe that educating about Mental Health is vital and it gives the children skills for life. During our week a pupil told us that, 'Mental health is the same as physical health. Like me, I have hurt my head and I got help with that. If my

mental health hurt then I would also ask for help.'



Form II pupils used strings to show how they were connected to others. The activity was based on 'The Invisible String' by Patrice Karst



Preparing for 'Let's Connect' Bingo

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## Midhurst & Petworth Rotary Burns Supper



The dress code for the Burns evening at Cowdray Park Golf Club was 'a hint of tartan' – variations from fully kilted black tie formal wear to a simple tartan brooch meant all could comply. It all began with Elaine Morrison's delivery of the Selkirk Grace, enhanced by her authentic Scottish accent. Then the stirring bagpipe music set the scene for the Burns Supper and the evening's star attraction - the haggis - which was proudly carried in by the Chef accompanied by 'piper' Simon Flint – who did well for an Englishman!

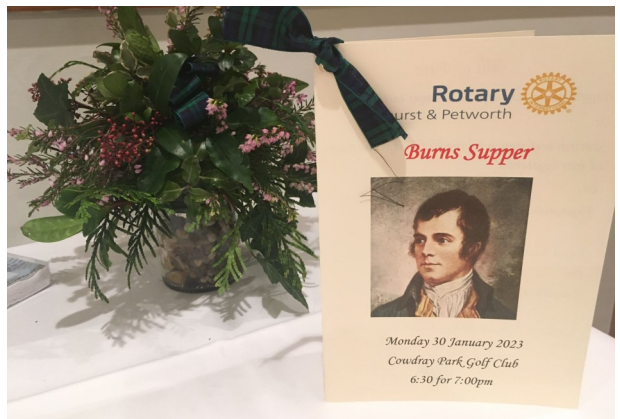
Robert Morrison was then at the ready to attack the steaming haggis - and gave us a rousing 'Address to the Haggis' followed by the first of many whisky toasts. Well done to the Golf Club kitchen staff who did us proud by presenting one of the best haggis many of us had ever eaten. After the break, Andrew Mitchell gave a recitation of 'Willie Wastle' – though Burns normally loved women, this is one time when he was very definitely uncomplimentary about one - Willie's wife!

Rotary was indebted to Mike Love for coming over from Farnham and giving his 'Taste of Burns' in verse and song, celebrating his very short life and work, and perhaps whetting a few appetites to find out more about the most famous of all Scottish poets. To follow, Mike put on his 'Toast to the Lassies' hat and gave his tribute to them - their influence and effect on men - all very light hearted and charming. Wendy Kemp gave the excellent reply as with a great deal of wit she poked some gentle fun at the laddies, and this was accepted graciously by all the males present.

Elma Macmillan finished the speeches off with a memorable and amusing Vote of Thanks. President, Julian Goodale, donated two bottles of malt whisky for a raffle – proceeds went to Dementia Support, Sage House, Tangmere.

An evening enjoyed by all who attended, culminating in a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne, sending everyone home with a warm feeling of joy – whether through music and poetry or a whisky in their belly!

Helen Chapman







## Perennial Vegetables

For those who find it difficult to manage the constant preparation, sowing, thinning; and then repeating the process again and again. Or do not have the space, or an allotment, or the time, then it is worth considering a form of semi permanent perennial vegetable growing. It can often be managed in the garden at home with a small area set aside for this purpose.

I have mentioned this before but I have just read an article in the RHS garden magazine on this very subject. In my view it does not really address the issue and how it affects the average smaller garden. They talk about the many plants that can be used in stir fries, pasta, pickles or curries, etc, but not much about how most gardeners are looking for the more generally useful vegetables for everyday cooking which is much more important.

If a small space can be set aside in the garden (not shaded by large trees and free from the roots of other plants) this

would need to be dug over (deeply) with manure or compost added. A raised bed will often make it easier to manage. (Remember once this is done your planting or sowing will remain in place for three years or more.) You are now ready to consider the sort of vegetables that are most useful for your needs.

The most important and the most difficult to find in good condition in the shops or supermarkets are 'The Greens': Sea beet, Sea Kale, Chinese Kale and Swiss Chard, etc. Although these plants are not what you would call truly perennial, in a reasonably sheltered spot and in an average winter they will produce a constant supply of what you need, and often will grow on for two or three years if looked after and kept weed free. If you then remember to sow a new crop as a replacement as needed, a constant supply will be available. The very young leaves on many of these plants can be used in salads and eaten raw, with the more mature leaves and midribs cooked as your green vegetable.



Try also to find space for a crown or two of Rhubarb to force in early spring. Also add, if space allows, some young plants of Asparagus - that is an added bonus. These can be bought in as one year old young plants and will usually crop well for up to five years when they can be replaced as necessary.

John Humphris VMH 01730 812080

**p.s. John will talk about his time at Sutton Place for the Midhurst Society.  
See What's On, p. 27.**

## **Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society**

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 9 March at the earlier time of 2.00pm** in Cowdray Hall. We have a talk by Peter Moore on Buddleias.

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. Our new Handbook for 2023 is now available. Please collect your copy at the meeting or get in touch with us.

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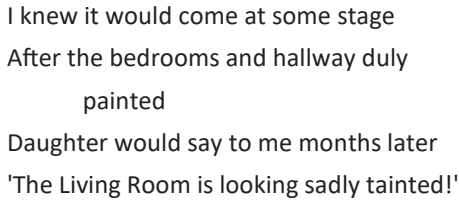
## General Knowledge Quiz by Carole

1. Related to the llama, which South American mammal has long shaggy hair?
2. According to the proverb, necessity is the mother of what?
3. Which football team has the nickname of the 'Trotters'?
4. Which American president became known as 'Tricky Dicky'?
5. What does the acronym ASH represent in terms of wellbeing?
6. The Chinese year 2023 is represented by which animal?
7. Who wrote the novel 'Madam Bovary'?
8. The dish Tapenade is made from which main ingredient?
9. How many acres are there in one square mile?
10. Now kept in Edinburgh Castle, which stone is to be used for the coronation of Charles III at Westminster Abbey?
11. Name the artist famed for painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling?
12. In which country did yoga originate?
13. How many people are in each boat for the Oxford and Cambridge boat race?
14. Bronze is an alloy consisting primarily of copper and which other metal?
15. Which charity event held annually in the UK on the first Thursday of March gives every child in the UK a voucher?
16. Who created the Angel of the North?
17. Framboise is the French word for which fruit?
18. RICS is a professional body promoting and enforcing the highest international standards within which profession?
19. What is kept in a ship's binnacle?
20. Amazon Prime Video will release a second season of Clarkson's Farm in 2023. What is the name of this farm?

Answers on page 21



## DIYing (Part II)! by Sue Absolom



I could only think of the upheaval  
Living Room implies you're living in it!  
But furniture was pushed into the middle  
I tried not to think of where we might sit.

She was happy to do the high places  
(As you know I'm not one for heights)  
We filled holes and undercoated  
Stood back and said ..we're doing all right.

It had all worked fairly well  
I certainly did as best I could.  
Not easy crouched behind furniture,  
But it all looked pretty good.

'What now' I said to Daughter  
Fully knowing what her answer would be.  
I was right. Skirting boards and radiators -  
So next day we set about these.

This done, the room was finished.  
Well, the redecorating anyway.  
We thought the curtains needed washing  
But that's for another day.

With six curtains, eight foot in length  
Was not going to be an easy task  
One by one I washed them  
And what happened....need you ask!!

18



# The Road to Chichester

by Marie-Louise Freake

There are not that many joys  
For us older girls and boys  
But obtaining a priceless bus pass  
To travel wherever we could wish  
Must definitely count as one.

Such excitement.

Our adventure is beginning when  
we join the busy queue  
Passes ready, we're excited as the  
bus comes into view

Cricky! It's a double decker! Not been on one of those for years  
Flash our passes, climb the staircase, take the front seats, not the rears.

Out of Midhurst, twisting, turning.  
Primrose banks on new green grass.  
Sun is shining, Buds are bursting,  
Daffodil trumpets proclaiming  
Spring is here, Winter is passed.

Many trees lining the roadside, Up the hills and down again  
Pass the Royal Oak, looking busy  
And The Greyhound, just the same.  
The road is straight now, rolling southward! Fields a plenty all around  
Sheep and lambs happily grazing, still more daffodils abound.

Into Cocking, and the bus stops, allowing passengers onboard.  
Some with passes, some with monies, all joining the adventurous hoard  
Off again and ever onward, twisting, turning as we go.  
Seeing gardens over high walls, all unseen from cars, you know.

On the South Downs gentle hillsides, England's pastoral scene unfolds  
The bus is roaring, ever onwards, The driver oblivious to the wolds  
Now Singleton approaches, more people climb on board  
Complain "They have waited there for ages"  
But they now have their reward.

Passing on through West Dean village, College of Arts and Restoration  
Famous gardens, worth a visit, if you have the inclination.  
There is The Repair Shop, lit for all the world to see  
People taking in their treasures, "Can you sort this out for me?"

Onwards. Upward, down a gear now, speed increases once again  
 There are horses, quietly grazing, Ducks and geese, and speckled hens  
 Into Lavant, so we know now, that our journey's end is near  
 Lots more houses, high walls, gardens. Then we see the iconic spire  
 Pass the theatre, famous world-wide, saw 'The Tempest' once in there  
 On the ring road, into South Street. We have arrived in Chichester.



This poem is for my pleasure  
 It has no form, nor shape, nor structure  
 Simply written with a smile  
 Observing landscape. Mile on mile  
 Unspoilt villages and woodlands  
 Centuries of land care in West Sussex  
 Home of history, still unfolding.

*From the editor: Many thanks to Louise, a new contributor, for this lovely poem.*



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## Fernhurst Choral Society celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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Fernhurst Choral Society is a thriving mixed voice choir performing three concerts a year. We were formed in 1953 to sing at the village pageant for the Queen's coronation. In this our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary we celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The Society meets every Monday evening in term time at 8.00pm to sing in Fernhurst Village Hall. We will be joining the Petersfield Musical Festival in a concert of music by Puccini and Stanford on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. Go to their website for more information: [www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk](http://www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk)

In the meantime, we are preparing for our **big anniversary concert** in Chichester Cathedral. We will sing the great **German Requiem by Brahms** (in English). It's not too late to join us for this wonderful choral work, especially if you have sung the Brahms Requiem before. We do not audition new recruits – the emphasis is on inclusivity and enjoyment. However the ability to sing in tune and to read music is a big advantage. Home practice is required but we can give you advice on how to get online help.

For more information, email [enquiries@fernhurstchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@fernhurstchoralsociety.org.uk), visit our website or phone one of our members – Chair Nigel Roberts on 07485 145141 or membership secretary Tina Litchfield 01730 816542.

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

### St Mary's Church Choir



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.

---

### General Knowledge Quiz Answers

1.Alpaca. 2.Invention. 3.Bolton Wanderers. 4.Richard Nixon. 5.Action on Smoking and Health. 6.Rabbit. 7.Gustave Flaubert. 8.Olives. 9.640. 10.The Stone of Scone, also known as the Stone of Destiny. 11.Michaelangelo. 12.India. 13.Nine (including the cox). 14.Tin. 15.World Book Day. 16.Antony Gormley. 17.Raspberry. 18.Chartered Surveyors. 19.The ship's compass. 20.Diddy Squat Farm



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# Inspiring Students for Their Futures

by Madeleine Hathaway



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The start of the Spring term at Midhurst Rother College has seen activities and visits aimed at inspiring the students for their futures and encouraging them to go the extra mile and reach their full potential. In the last fortnight, all students attended the MRC Careers Fair and over 100 MRC students have attended events at two universities, to inspire and motivate them about future studies.

might like to study in [four or five years'](#) time. Now, the student ambassadors will visit MRC regularly and run the research projects with students. In June, students will present their work to an audience and hear from students meeting back again at Reading.

Next it was the turn of fifty Year 11 students to see the Reading campus and

learn about the huge range of courses on offer. University staff had come over to MRC, as part of our careers offer, to inform students about the benefits, costs and entrance requirements of studying for a degree. As we returned to visit them, our students had a Q and A session, a scenic walk around the sites including the impressive library and modern student accommodation, followed by a lecture on Land Management, tailored to their age and stage. The

day gave students a lot to think about and many reasons to work very hard towards high grades in their GCSEs this summer.



A group of Year 10 students have started the Young Scholars programme with the University of Reading. They attended the launch event to learn about the research project they will undertake over the next four months, with the support of under-graduate student ambassadors. Students also enjoyed a campus tour as well as an introduction to choosing and applying for degree courses; a first chance to ask questions about higher education and look ahead to what they







The inspiring theme continued with the annual careers fair, which saw 30 businesses and universities visiting the College for a day. They came along to share their knowledge of what careers are on offer within their area, qualifications students need to enter each field, how they can gain these and what progression there can

A mixed-age group of students were then lucky enough to attend an outreach event at St John's College (SJC), Oxford. Each college there adopts a UK region to encourage state school students to find out about and apply for Oxbridge. SJC links with West Sussex. Our 40 students toured three colleges, saw rare books in the Bodleian library, met a new undergraduate and enjoyed a delicious lunch in the beautiful Hall. The students were naturally impressed by the beautiful college grounds and historic buildings. They had lots of questions to ask and certainly made the most of this chance to find out how they might make a good application, what grades are needed, and what student life is like at SJC. We were fortunate to be in Oxford on a cold sunny day and do our walking tour of the famous college buildings looking their best beneath blue skies. A memorable day was had by all, and the students were a credit to us!

be once employed in a field of work. Every student spent time in the marketplace area, asking questions and enquiring about future careers opportunities. Some took part in challenges and competitions, winning prizes from the exhibitors. After winning the Tristan Eves Hairdressing competition, a very delighted Year 9 student took home a large bag of luxury hair products. Second and third prize winners were also delighted with their prizes of smaller bags of the similar goodies. Students said they found the event very useful to their future career planning and really enjoyed attending the event. One said, "The businesses had a very good and positive approach to everyone. They were well prepared for all our questions and gave very good and impressive answers and solutions to my questions".



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## What's On Locally

### **Midhurst Society Talk on 16 March The Colourful Story of Sutton Place**

Former head gardener of Sutton Place **John Humphris VMH** will tell us the story of this Grade I Tudor manor house and its gardens, the former home of J Paul Getty. This talk was postponed from 2022.

Our next talk is on Thursday 20 April when we have a speaker from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to tell us about the many ways in which they work around the world to commemorate the dead of both world wars.

**Visitors are welcome to all of our talks—entry £5.00**

### **Midhurst Camera Club – Thursday 16th March at 7:30pm in the Old Library in Knockhundred Row**

The Midhurst Camera Club programme continues with a special speaker's evening on 16th March with David Smith LRPS CPAGB, who will give a talk entitled "The Great Silk Road Today", covering David's photographic journey to the far and middle east. He starts in Xian in China and travels to Istanbul in Turkey via Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Georgia and Armenia. Everyone is welcome – Visitors £6. The Midhurst Camera Club is a friendly club for people who love photography. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or our website: [midhurstcameraclub.co.uk/](http://midhurstcameraclub.co.uk/)

### **Midhurst U3A—Tuesday 21 March**

#### **"California Dreaming – San Francisco to the Grand Canyon**



**” talk by James Taylor**

A road trip across western USA with a twist! It's at the Methodist Church Hall and costs £2 for members. Thinking of joining Midhurst U3A? Come as a visitor for £3. If you join in February or March your membership will be valid until 31 March 2024. No need to book. Come from 2.00pm for coffee/tea and a biscuit and a chance to socialise and find out more about us. The talk starts at 2.30pm.

**[www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst) or Tel 01730 816459**

Cont'd p. 34

## Managing the Heathland

Once every four weeks I take six photos of Midhurst Common from exactly the same places and directions each time, from three separate locations. This may sound a bit boring, but gives us a great record of what is growing there throughout the annual cycle of the very varied plants in evidence. These photos can be found on our website or Facebook page – take a look.

Apart from keeping trees at bay on the heathland, The Heath Team aim to create a diverse age structure of heather growth as well as to create some bare ground for birds such as the Nightjar to nest, away from possible dog disturbance. To achieve this, we were lucky enough to have Angela and Gemma, South Downs National Park Rangers, to help us with their Roboflail (see picture). This cuts the heather quite close and leaves a mulch of finely shredded organic material behind. This happens to be full of heather seeds so it is then removed and spread in heather sparse areas as we prefer the bare ground not to be covered in a layer of mulch. The 'scrape' area they created this time in the middle of the Heath is approx. 15 x 35 metres – a considerably greater area than the Heath Team could create with hand-tools! Spring/Summer is to be avoided for this type of work to avoid wildlife disturbance, and indeed a



Friends Of  
Midhurst Common

woodcock was spotted flying up from the heather when they were there.

I feel really positive about the prospects of being able to maintain a heathland here as we have good liaison between the SDNPA Rangers and the Cowdray forestry department who are putting together a long-term plan and advising our Heath Team on what they can do to help.

### LONG LIVE MIDHURST COMMON

p.s. Interesting fact: Cocker Spaniels were originally bred to hunt birds and especially skilled at hunting the woodcock, from which they derive their name. The word 'spaniel' comes from a medieval French word 'Sepaigneul' meaning Spanish.

## Our Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 25 April, 7.00pm at the SDNPA Memorial Hall

Andrew Mitchell - Chairman

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



## Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor?



## EASEBOURNE Parish Council

In May elections will be held for Chichester District Council and all the parishes within the district. Easebourne Parish Council has 11 Councillors, and this is an opportunity to apply for one of those seats.

Parish Councils are non-political and are there to support local amenities such as Easebourne Park, our village gateways, planters, defibrillators and provide small grants to local groups and charities. Other services such as education and highways are the responsibility of West Sussex County Council, and Chichester District Council and South Downs National Park look after planning applications amongst other matters, and the Parish can influence how these matters are dealt with.

Easebourne Parish Council meets on a bi-monthly basis and has other Committees and working groups which meet monthly. Easebourne Parish Council is a dynamic council and always has a new project or two in progress. To be an Easebourne Parish Councillor you must be over 18 years of age and have lived or worked within three miles of the parish for at least twelve months. You must also ensure your name is on the electoral register.

If you are thinking about becoming a Councillor have a look at our website [www.easebourne.org](http://www.easebourne.org) where you will find the minutes of our meetings and information about the Councils' work. You may also contact the Clerk, who can answer your questions and give you a picture of what the role involves and how you can go about formally applying, which you must do by 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

***Get involved, have your say, make a difference.***

---

## Friends of Easebourne Parish (FrEP)

Easebourne Park work has been the particular focus for FrEP volunteers during this last month with the fight against the encroaching brambles being just one of the tasks undertaken. The park trees need regular attention – currently we have been replacing tree stakes, removing dead trees and trimming back hedges. This work will be on-going. New volunteers are always welcome and no regular commitment is necessary or expected – for further information please contact our secretary via email: [FrEPsec@btinternet.com](mailto:FrEPsec@btinternet.com) or call **07803933694**.

Frank Davies, Chairman



## Listed Buildings in Easebourne—Cottage C12 in Parkway

Grade II House —Listed 26.11.87

House. L-shaped building. The north wing is a C17 or earlier timber-framed building with infilling of stone rubble and a tile-hung gable. The west wing is an C18 addition in stone rubble with red brick dressings and quoins. Tiled roof to the whole. Casement windows. Two storeys. Three windows. The modern Institute is attached to the south.

This dwelling was the home in 1911 of John Booker (age 34) and his wife, Elizabeth Ann (age 37). They were married in the autumn of 1909. John was born in Easebourne, and he was a Gardener. Elizabeth was born in Scarborough and at the age of 28 had been a “Cook Domestic Servant”. John’s mother, Mary Booker, was the daughter of Henry and Mary Quinnell and the 1911 census reveals some of John’s family living close by:

Parents - Thomas Booker and his wife Mary Ann, were living in Easebourne. Uncle - William Quinnell, was living with his family at Souter’s Farm. Cousin – Alfred Quinnell, was living with his wife and two sons at no 41 Easebourne Street.

---

*Many in the village will remember Iris Brand who lived at Cottage No 12 until she passed away a few years ago. Her daughter Heather, who lives in Midhurst, has given us some interesting information about her time*

*growing up with her siblings in the cottage. We know that building which is now Cowdray Hall was a Catholic chapel and Catholic worshipers used it after the Reformation. (Read more here: <https://www.midhurstsociety.org.uk/history/catholicism/83/>) The cottage where the Brand family lived was apparently part of the property belonging to the Catholic church. Heather said it was a spacious cottage with space for all of them. It had a lovely big garden with an orchard at the end. But, she said, we all had ‘experiences’, and we children were encouraged to ‘respect’ the ghosts living there. Heather says that her parents were regarded as ‘outsiders’ for many years, perhaps because neighbours were worried by the ghostly inhabitants of their haunted house. She says that Iris had once called on a Catholic priest to come over and ‘exorcise’ these spirits. I wonder if that was successful!*

*Please tell the editors what you know about Cottage No. 12, and also about the Quinnell family related to the Bookers.*





My friend Alf passed away a few years back. He loved Sussex and he loved wildlife but Alf's real passion was amphibians: newts, frogs and toads. Alf loved them so much his funeral service ended with that Paul McCartney Frog Chorus song. That's commitment for you. I spent the rest of the week with that annoying 'bom-bom-bom-aye-e-aye' tune rolling 'round my head. I'm sure Alf was laughing somewhere. While I was helping Alf's family clear his house I was honoured to be given one of his prized possessions: a clock that chimes each hour by playing a variety of frog croaks. Long ago Alf's wife Iris had made him take the batteries out because it was unbearable.

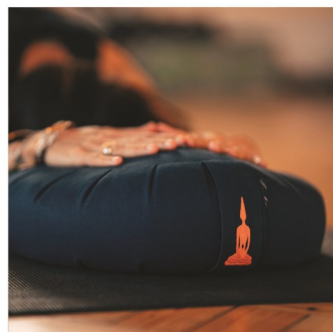
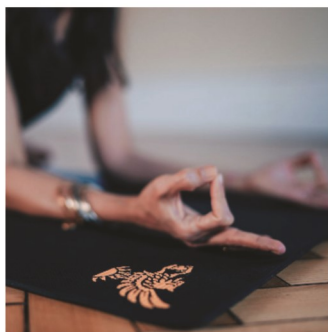
But there was no silencing Alf's pond each spring. Each year it would come alive with the sound of a real frog chorus. Alf was proud of his pond. Creating a garden pond, no matter what size, is one of the best things you can do to help wildlife in your garden. If you're lucky, in March it will turn into a hotbed of activity as Common Frogs return to mate and lay their eggs. After spending the winter hidden away in the garden, it's time to go a-courting.

Approach the pond quietly with a torch and you can observe the mating frogs. Look closely and you may be able to identify the male frog (darker with a bluish tinge to his throat) and the female (white granulations on her flanks). But if you can't notice these features then the males are on top and the females are on the bottom. The lustful

male will hop on the female and grasp her as tight as he can. He even develops special extra-grip pads on his forearms and he'll use those powerful back legs to boot off any rival males who try to muscle in. In theory, the males with the longest and loudest croaks are the most attractive, but with females sometimes outnumbered ten to one by males the pond party can get loud, chaotic and confusing. Amorous male frogs will grasp anything: a log, a fish, even another male (males have a special croaking signal which politely informs other males there has been a misunderstanding). Female Common Frogs can lay up to 4,000 eggs, although 1,000-2,000 is more normal. These are fertilised by the male as they emerge and form into those familiar clouds of jelly spawn.

So, in tribute to Alf I decide to restore his croaking clock to full working order. I re-installed the batteries and nailed it proudly on my office wall. After two hours I turned it off. That croaking was unbearable! I'm still sure Alf was laughing somewhere.





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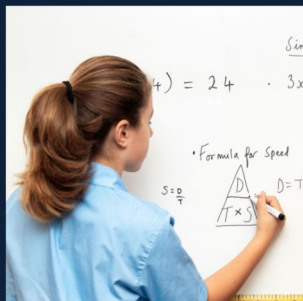
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## What's On Locally (cont'd)

### Midhurst Monthly Market

Midhurst's monthly farmers and artisan market returns on Saturday 4 March in both the beautiful Old Library building and the historic Market Square. The Market, sponsored by Midhurst Town Council, takes place on the first Saturday of every month from 9am until 2pm.

### The Harting Society

On **Thursday 2nd March** we are pleased to welcome Paul McCue will tell us about the "**School for Secret Agents**" at Stodham Park, Liss, which was a training establishment during World War II for members of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), also known as "Churchill's Secret Army". On 6 April Tom Way will speak of his adventures as a fine art wildlife photographer.

*Meetings are at 7pm in the Harting Village Hall. Non-members are welcome (and invited to make a contribution of £3). Membership enquiries to Sarah Wilcox, [swilco149@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:swilco149@yahoo.co.uk) or 07963-909889*

### Petworth House



National  
Trust

'Explorations in Paint' will be on show from March until September from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Normal admission to the House applies, and no booking is required. Specially curated for the National Trust by the Royal Academy Collections.

### Arts Society Midhurst

Lecture on **Tuesday 7th March** at the Methodist Church Hall. Speaker is Anna Warrilow talking about 2000 years of London's history as illustrated through its stained glass windows. Tea and coffee from 10.00am. Lecture starts at 10.45. New members welcome. Guests £7.00.





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# Community Day

## Saturday 22 April 2023



Inviting businesses, agencies and groups to join our event to demonstrate what our local community offers

If you are: locally produced - locally grown  
eco-friendly - sustainable - renewable  
recycled or recyclable

**Why not come and join us?**

**We want you!!**



**ALL STAND &  
EXHIBITION SPACE**

**10am - 2pm**

**FREE OF CHARGE**

For more information email: [madeline.hathaway@mrc-academy.org](mailto:madeline.hathaway@mrc-academy.org)  
or contact the College Office on: **01730 812451**

**BE A PART OF THIS WELL-ESTABLISHED AND MUCH ANTICIPATED EVENT**





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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 October—Thurs to Monday 9.00am—4.00pm,  
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	
Stagecoach Buses	0345 1210190	Midhurst Yellow Bus	07879 556568
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	Tandem Bus	0300 030 3962

### VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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

### SCHOOLS

Easebourne C of E Primary School Caroline Hulbert, Head teacher	813266	Early Days Nursery Annie Beadle	815046
Conifers School Miss Emma Fownes, 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)*

**Printed by KerryType Midhurst, Tel 814441 [www.kerrytype.com](http://www.kerrytype.com)**



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