

Vol 22 No.1 June 2023

# *united* **EASEBOURNE**



Easebourne village and St Mary's Church magazine

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**The deadline for the July/August issue is Thursday 15 June.**

**Send your contributions to the new editor:**

**[easebourneeditor@btinternet.com](mailto:easebourneeditor@btinternet.com)**

The photo on the cover was taken at the very top of Easebourne Street  
before it makes its way downhill to Lickfold.





## Easebourne Village and Church Fair

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Although the day dawned grey and chilly, the sun soon came out and we had a glorious warm afternoon gathered together on the green outside the Church and Priory. After a busy morning preparing, erecting gazebos and setting up the many stalls, there was a buzz of excitement and joy as people arrived. During the afternoon every bottle on the tombola was won, every cake sold, all plants were eagerly bought, and many went home with treasures from the gift stall. There was very competitive Bowling for the Pig (actually, a leg of pork, kindly donated by Courtney's), and serious golf putting. The games arcade, pint pots and Name the Teddy stalls run by the uniformed organisations with the help of Conifers School involved the children all afternoon. Vintage cars belonging to Simon gleamed in the sunshine outside the Priory and budding drivers were able to 'have a go' in one of the Goblin Cars built by Easebourne Primary School under the guidance of Anthony Knight. Other stands included Easebourne Parish Council and the Midhurst Freemasons, together with the Church's 200 Club. A local potter exhibited her colourful ceramics.

Inside church was equally busy and full of laughter and chatter as people enjoyed teas and delicious cakes. There was also the chance to have a taster session on the organ by our church organist Mary Knight, and also to listen to Mary playing. There was an exhibition of watercolours painted by Tina to sell. Many just sat in church to enjoy the peace and beauty of the building and to listen to the organ music.

It was lovely to see the whole village and church come together for an afternoon of fun and joy and be together in community and friendship. Many thanks must go to all those involved in making the afternoon such a success and especially to Martin Dexter for organising all to ensure the huge success of the afternoon.

Alison Davis

p.s. There are lots of photos of the Fete. Please turn to pp. 18 & 19.

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# Easebourne Parish Council News

by Councillor Judith McDonald-Lawson,  
Communications, Planning & Finance Officer



EASEBOURNE  
Parish Council

I am going to begin with a nudge. Do you have what it takes to be an effective Parish Councillor? At the recent local elections, Easebourne Parish Councillors continue in their posts since there were not enough candidates to force an election. In fact, Andrew Thomas has now stepped down from the Council – his knowledge and energy will be greatly missed – so we now have three vacant seats.

Becoming a Parish Councillor means that you have the chance to better understand and influence, even in a small way, the management and evolution of the parish of Easebourne. You will need to attend several meetings each month, but the most rewarding part of the work is getting out into the community, noticing what is going on, talking with villagers, listening to what is bothering them, and then trying to do something to help. You might be involved in looking at planning applications, or contributing to the Parishes Environmental Group, or discussing the way in which the parish manages its finances.

Whether you are a new resident or have been here for many years, you will undoubtedly have much to contribute. Extraordinarily, I enjoy being a Parish Councillor so much that I am now on EPC for the second time, having left for a while to concentrate more fully on work, and I am so pleased to be back.

If you would like to know more, start by looking at our website [www.easebourne.org/](http://www.easebourne.org/) which has a lot of information about the work of the Council. Then, for more information, please email either me at [judith@easebourne.org](mailto:judith@easebourne.org) or

[mike@easebourne.org](mailto:mike@easebourne.org) and we will arrange to have an initial chat with you.

This article must mention the desperate plight of the businesses in Midhurst and Easebourne, the huge frustrations caused by the apparent delay in deciding how to manage the Angel Hotel, and most relevant to our Parish, the way in which the closure of North Street has affected Easebourne. We now know that work to shore up the building will begin on 15 May and should be finished by mid-July. Please support your local businesses as much as you can during this time of great anxiety for our communities.

Some parts of Easebourne are much quieter because of the road closure but roads such as Hollist Lane have become busy, broken, fast and dangerous. A plea to all drivers to obey the new, temporary NO ENTRY signs at Woolbeding; the police are now monitoring this junction and we hope that this will deter the drivers who are ignoring the very clear signs.

Back to the work of the Parish Council. On a really positive note, the Eco-Loo is officially open and our grateful thanks go to the Cowdray Estate who donated the cedar, and to Artizans of Wood who crafted the shingles and created the roof for the loo and the new roof for the Round House. Our thanks also go to Councillor Ian Milne for all his hard work in leading this project.

Easebourne Park continues to be very well used and some of the most popular pieces of equipment will be refurbished over the next month. We are delighted that Tom





**Cllr Judith Macdonald-Lawson**

and Alice and the very popular Goatbox for refreshments will be returning to the park Thursday to Saturday most weeks from the end of May. The Park, refreshments, loos

and fine weather - a perfect combination!

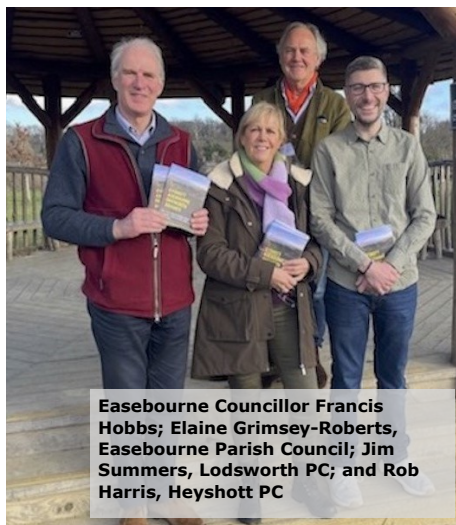
Lastly, our very hard-working Parish Clerk Sharon Hurr is standing down from her role and we therefore have a vacancy for Easebourne Parish Clerk, a part-time job of between 52 and 65 hours per month. If you are interested in becoming the new Parish Clerk, please email either Mike or Judith at the email addresses above.

## **Parishes Environment Group**

Easebourne, Lodsworth and Heyshott parishes are pressing on with action in response to climate change. A Parishes Environment Group (PEG) chaired by our District Councillor Francis Hobbs was formed last year with representatives from the three parishes to encourage residents to step up their action on the climate emergency. The severe effects of climate change have been all too evident with the scorched park in Easebourne last Summer a clear example.

Work is progressing on such initiatives as improved cycling and walking routes, but the first major step from PEG was the production of a helpful booklet full of ideas on what individual homeowners can do to ease the problems. It was distributed in Easebourne during Mary and April. The booklet explains the extent of the climate problem and also launches a Climate Pledge, whereby all residents are encouraged to pledge to commit to at least five of the suggestions in the booklet. There is an insert in the booklet for residents to complete and drop off at various collection points. If you have not received your booklet or if you need another, please contact Elaine Grimsey Roberts on 07976 722109.

The responses to the inserts will be followed up by PEG over the weeks to come. It is the intention that this will be the start of many "climate emergency" initiatives led by PEG. Councillor Hobbs commented, 'I am passionate about our environment and take great pride in my modest vegetable patch! Above all, as "tenants" of our finite resources, we all have a responsibility to protect and enhance our own small piece of the planet'.



**Easebourne Councillor Francis Hobbs; Elaine Grimsey-Roberts, Easebourne Parish Council; Jim Summers, Lodsworth PC; and Rob Harris, Heyshott PC**

## **Friends of Easebourne Parish (FrEP)**

FrEP volunteers are undertaking an important task when they litter pick around the Parish. Litter dropped on the streets and other areas of our Parish doesn't stay here. Rainwater and wind carry the plastic and other waste into drains, streams and rivers. Streams and rivers lead to the sea.

Oceans are said to be Earth's life support but they are gradually being filled with our rubbish. The North Atlantic Garbage Patch lies between the Azores and Bermuda and contains millions of plastic products which gradually break down into microplastics that are now commonly found in the food chain including in human breast milk.

A recent article in the journal 'Science' reported that 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans each year while a paper introduced at the World Economic Forum predicted that the world's oceans will be filled with more plastic mass than fish mass by 2050 unless something is done about it. It is evident that every piece of litter collected by our volunteers matters and makes a difference.

We hope that the legacy from 'The Big Help Out' following the coronation of King Charles III will mean more people recognise the need to take part in volunteering, and that some of you will consider joining FrEP. There are plenty more on-going tasks as well as one-off projects for which we need your help.

Please contact our secretary via email **FRPESec@btinternet.com** or by calling **07803933694**

Frank Davies. FrEP Chairman 07480188817

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## **Midhurst Coronation Celebration—6 May**

The weather was quintessentially British and poured all day for Midhurst's Coronation Celebration on May 6th, resulting in some very soggy residents who joined us in Market Square to watch the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on a large screen. The puddles were deep, but the spirits were high, and it was wonderful to mark the occasion with others from the community. Grateful thanks go to Midhurst Parish Church for providing shelter and crafts for children, Kim Bartlett who ran a very busy face-painting station, Town Councillors current and past who marshalled the event and set up tables and chairs aplenty (and then individually dried each one after the event!) and Pro-Tec Security for managing the road closure. A special thank you also to Showmen Events for hire of the screen, Midhurst Methodist Church and the Town Trust for hire of their tables and chairs, Cowdray Estate for the use of their bins and The Swan Inn for rubbish disposal.

Jessica Brown-Fuller  
Events & Promotions Officer

## **Poet's Corner**

### **Bluebells** by Sue Absolom

'Oh to be in England  
Now that April's there'  
As the poet Browning wrote  
About our country so fair.

At last the Spring has arrived  
Trees no longer look forlorn.  
Covered in various shades of green  
The countryside has been reborn.

We've said goodbye to the Snowdrop  
The Crocus and Daffodil too.  
Now it's the turn of the Bluebell  
With its startling eye-catching hue.

Never has a blue seemed so vivid  
When you see a carpet of these  
Silently praise the Lord for their beauty  
As you watch them sway in the breeze.

So calming to all the senses  
Your eyes are transfixed by the sight  
Capture that picture in your mind's eye  
To remember later with sheer delight.

Beware of the 'foreign interloper'  
Much paler and certainly second class  
Against our very own native Bluebell  
Which can never be surpassed!

Enjoy this truly glorious sight  
Spring won't stay with us for long  
Feast your eyes on nature's beauty  
Along with the sound of birdsong.

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## Easebourne United Magazine

To all our readers

This is my very last issue as editor of United and I have very much enjoyed the challenge of putting this magazine together every month. When we took over back in 2016 the most exciting aspect of its design was choosing the colour of paper for the cover. Some months it was pink, sometimes green or blue, and we always had red for Christmas!

Then my husband Gavin, who looks after the advertising, realized that if we invited advertisers to pay for full colour ads, we could afford to include colour. We started with a nice colour ad on the back cover and that made it possible for a new front cover, conceived by Hooli Designs. The yellow banner at the bottom of the cover was designed by my graphic designer sister Libby Dwyer. It includes iconic architecture in Easebourne, including the By-Pass Bridge (mis-spelled on the sign!) which allowed pedestrians to enter the Deer Park when there used to be gates across the A272. And the colour had to be 'Cowdray Yellow'. We are grateful to Darren and Donna at KerryType who ensure the magazine is well printed every month.

Things will change with the next issue. We introduced Jan Harvey, the new editor, in the May issue. Jan's magazine will be bi-monthly and we understand it will be printed in full colour. Please continue to support the village magazine and contact Jan with your news and images. Her contact details are below.

Tina Litchfield, editor



### Advertising Manager

We are looking for an Advertising Manager to take over from Gavin and to work with our new Editor. The work is far from onerous, just a few hours a month keeping track of our advertisers, chasing their adverts if necessary and each year helping them renew their bookings and sending new copy. You will need to be able to make the books balance to ensure the magazine can pay for itself and a knowledge of graphics and marketing would be really helpful, but training can be given. If you think you can help please contact Jan Harvey by email:

**[easebourneditor@btinternet.com](mailto:easebourneditor@btinternet.com)**



## Midhurst Rother College Community Day

The rain stayed away when Midhurst Rother College recently held their Community Day. The annual event, which aims to bring the local community together, showcases a wide variety of clubs, organisations, charities and local businesses which contribute to the community spirit in and around the Midhurst area. This was particularly needed this year, following the recent fire in the town which has impacted so negatively on businesses North Street and the surrounding roads. The event brought people into Midhurst not only to the event, but also meant visitors could take the time to support the shops in town.



Entertainment was provided by young buskers from the MRC Music Department, who were raising funds for new instruments. Midhurst Foodbank, Midhurst Community Hub, UK Harvest, and WSCC Waste Prevention Team were on hand to advise and help people in this time of financial hardship. With over 50 businesses agencies and groups taking part, there was an array of lifestyle, leisure & fitness, fun family activities, local

artists, creators and makers plus delicious food & drink. It was all locally produced, locally grown, local people, eco-friendly, sustainable, renewable, recycled or recyclable, reflecting on the event's evolution, over the years, from the MRC Sustainability Day. It truly was an event with something for everyone.



## Year 4 Creative Art Day

22 young Year 4 artists from our 15 feeder schools joined Mrs Kinlaly to explore their artistic skills to create a mixed media piece inspired by the American artist Jessica Wood. They created different papers using a range of techniques

from Frottage to Marbling and then cut and arranged our colourful vases and flowers. Using a variety of techniques, they created some beautiful floral collage pieces. All students completed a beautiful, vibrant piece of art that they were proud of.



## Carol's Quiz by Carole Sawyer

1. What colour is the upholstery in the House of Commons?
2. In which country is the bridge over the River Kwai?
3. What relation was the late Queen Elizabeth II to Queen Victoria?
4. In which English county would you find Leeds Castle?
5. Which well known US brand name is associated with motor homes?
6. Who might make use of a maulstick?
7. What is the name given to the Scandinavian dish of raw pickled salmon and mustard and dill sauce?
8. Which scientist is said to have shouted out "Eureka"?
9. Near which major British city is the Cadbury World visitor attraction?
10. In which year did Prince William marry Catherine Middleton?
11. What historic demolition began in November 1989?
12. What is the largest fresh water lake in North America?
13. A Scottish mountain must be at least how many feet high to be called a Munro?
14. What last name is shared by the first woman to win the Grand National and the author of the historical romance 'Lorna Doone'?
15. What is the principle ingredient of the Mexican dish Guacomole?
16. Which former England cricketer owns a gallery in Chipping Sodbury and is a well known artist?
17. Give the alternative name for the Mountain Ash tree?
18. What did Igor Sikorsky build?
19. The 2023 Rugby World Cup will be taking place in which country?
20. What modern day animal is most closely related to Tyrannosaurus rex?



Answers on page 17

## Memories of Germany 1948

by Anthony Knight

The week of Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 1948, 75 years ago, may not seem a significant period to you but I remember it well.

My family, mother, father two sisters and myself were living in Hannover, Germany, in a quiet street of substantial terraced houses, with a basement garage, two living floors, an attic, and central heating! In the garage was an olive-green VW Beetle, my father's official car as a senior officer in the Allied Control Commission. I attended a British Forces primary school and we enjoyed the services of a young German au pair who assisted with my two younger sisters. Hannover, at that time, was slowly recovering from the War. It was a largely flattened city, with extensive bomb sites and very few undamaged public buildings. One could see almost from one side of the city to the other.

Standing out was the new, shiny copper dome of the Stadthalle roof, now bright green, restored in time for the Hannover Messe trade fair. Nearby was a large statue of a deer. It had suffered bomb damage at its rear end and was known to us, irreverently, as "the Stag with his pants blown off".

North of the city ran the Autobahn, an amazing double-track ribbon of concrete running from the Dutch border to Berlin. No public traffic was allowed at weekends, leaving the Autobahn free for military use. This included the Control Commission. My petrol-headed father

constructed an experimental racing car which he drove between the Hannover Ost and Hannover Nord access points while I timed each run from a bridge. I first drove the VW at the age of 8 along that road, and I can remember the *gdunk gdunk* sound of the concrete segments and the brick bridges. Father was very interested in the streamlining and performance of cars. He devised a modified speedometer which produced electrical signals. These were recorded, together with timing information, on a paper tape coming from a beautiful brass and mahogany morse-code inking machine. We needed accurate distance measurements, so we marked a stretch of the autobahn verge with white paint at 10 metre intervals. When he and I went back to Germany some 20 years later those marks were still there! In the city streets there were trams and horse-

drawn traffic together with occasional gas-powered cars and buses with billowing gas-bags on their roofs.

The occupying forces and the Control Commission in the western occupied zones had access to NAAFI stores and American PXs, using a special currency, BAFVS (British Armed Forces Special Vouchers). We called them BAFS. The German people still had the old Reichsmarks, which were almost valueless. In order to create some financial stability and to kill the flourishing black market it was decided to revalue the BAFS and the Reichsmarks and to issue new Deutsche-



marks. This was done on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1948 and, overnight, most of the German population had no spending money. We had old ladies coming to our door with candlesticks and other valuables, trying to raise money to buy food. We burned old Reichs-marks in the garden and I remember the notes swelling up and fizzing as they burned. This financial move caused immediate conflict with the East German, Russian-controlled authorities. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June they closed the borders between the Russian and the British, American and French zones. Our au pair's family lived inside what became East Germany. I remember that she was ironing while we were listening to the radio at home when the border closures were announced. She burst into tears. "I will have to travel black" she exclaimed, meaning that she would have to attempt to cross the guarded border at night, probably through the Harz mountain forests, to visit her family.

The Allied zones of Berlin were now cut off, unable to receive food, water or power. The only way of supplying them would be by air through protected air "corridors". On 26<sup>th</sup> June the first aircraft

of the Berlin Air Lift took off from West German airfields, including Hannover Langenhagen, carrying supplies to Berlin. A huge fleet of converted bombers, commercial aircraft, and flying boats was assembled, and carried every sort of cargo, including coal, flour, sugar, oil, petrol, fruit, vegetables, chemicals and every kind of essential supplies. They flew almost continuously, like a conveyor belt, with a landing in Berlin every 30 seconds. I remember them because some of them flew over our house. American pilots were particularly popular in Berlin because they dropped candy to the German children gathered at the ends of the airport runways.

The Russians eventually abandoned their blockade and the Berlin Airlift officially ended on 30 September 1949. The US Air Force had delivered 1,783,573 tons and the RAF 541,937 tons, totalling 2,334,374 tons, nearly two-thirds of which was coal, on 278,228 flights to Berlin.

Quite a lot had happened during that week in June 1948!

Anthony Knight  
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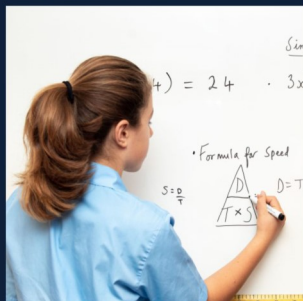
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## News from the Primary School



We were delighted to host Derek and the congregation from St Mary's for their Sunday worship recently. Children from KS2 joined and sang several songs during the service, and for many them, this was the first time they had seen a Eucharist service.

We all enjoyed the lead up to King Charles III Coronation and spent class and assembly time learning about the different aspects of the ceremony. We held a fantastic street party the Friday before the big day – complete with a cut out King Charles himself - and everyone came dressed up in in their best red, white and blue. Our Coronation Assembly was extra special as we sang a song composed specially for the occasion.



We are lucky to have a really fun and creative group of parents running the PTFA at Easebourne. Their last event was an amazing Harry Potter

evening complete with a visit from the Berkshire Birds of Prey. It was a magical evening and the children were in total awe as these fantastic birds swooped down over them all as they lay in the hall. I had a real treat at the



end of the evening and got to hold this amazing chap - his talons were huge but he was actually a real softie. Our Green House won the most number of points in the evening and their prize was to come and make owl nesting boxes with me – huge thanks to Keith Drummond for kindly providing the cut pieces in kit form. We now have two boxes ready to go up in our Forest School, as we learnt that there is a real lack of spaces for these beautiful birds to nest.

Caroline Hulbert  
Headteacher  
Easebourne CE Primary

## May at Conifers School

by Emma Fownes, Head Teacher



CONIFERS SCHOOL

### Early Years

Our youngest explorers transformed into marvellous mermaids, brave sailors, swashbuckling pirates, colourful fish and majestic sea creatures. The classrooms and Pre-School were filled with a burst of vibrant costumes and colours to bring the magic of the ocean to life. The children learned all about the fascinating marine life, their habitats, and the importance of protecting our oceans. We hope that their love of the ocean will continue to grow, inspiring us all to protect and cherish this magnificent part of our world.



### Pre-Prep

The children performed the most wonderful Coronation Assembly where our very own Charles was crowned as King! The Early Years garden was transformed into a majestic kingdom, adorned with regal decorations fit for a king. The children were fantastic and really brought their characters to life, with clear voices and great performances - including the crowning moment itself!

### Prep

It has been such a busy month for our Prep School pupils! The beginning of term saw Form IV head off on their residential trip to Cobnor Activity Centre. The children took part in so many exciting activities including sailing, kayaking, orienteering and climbing. In the evenings they took charge with a board game marathon and a talent show. They embraced the great outdoors and made unforgettable memories together.

It was then over to Form VI to take on their Bikeability challenge. We were so proud to see them listening carefully to the instructors and growing in confidence on the roads. All of our pupils achieved their Level Two Award. Many of our children are now cycling to school which is wonderful to see.





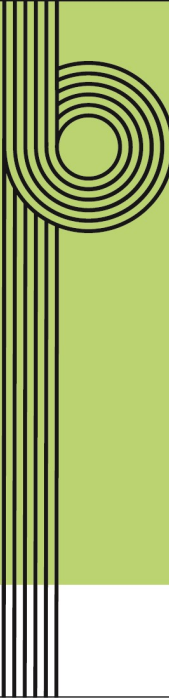
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Not to miss out on the residential fun, Form III headed to Legoland to take part in a robotics workshop building their own theme park rides before enjoying the thrills of the park. They then took on challenges including snow tubing, low ropes and archery at Lodge Hill Activity Centre. The culmination of their week was a sleepover at school!

Forms VI-VIII are heading off on their residential trip later this month and are buzzing with excitement.

### **Whole School News**

#### Coronation Picnic

Despite the rather unpredictable weather, Pre-School to Form VIII made their way over to the school field all dressed in red, white and blue to enjoy a picnic fit for a King, which was prepared by our lovely chef, Katy. There were lots of fun and games enjoyed by all of the children.

#### Match Reports

We are enjoying hosting Cricket matches on our beautiful field. We have had the pleasure of welcoming St Ives, Great Ballard and Barfield. It is such a wonderful time of year to be out watching our pupils demonstrating kindness, manners and good sportsmanship to all of our visitors. The children have enjoyed visiting Prebendal, Westbourne House and Dunhurst schools as well as taking part in a swimming gala at Barfield School.

#### Clubs

Our co-curricular programme continues to grow and become ever more popular with pupils. New for this term are Mathletes and Cricket net practice. Our clubs are developed in consultation with pupils and parents which is proving to be a magical combination. Clubs run during break-times, lunch-times and after school. It is busy but lots of fun!

#### Shrek: The Musical Rehearsals

Lights, camera, action....rehearsals! The children and staff are getting into the swing of rehearsals, set design and programme writing in preparation for our whole school show. Children from Reception to Form VIII take part in this annual event supported by all of their parents. We are performing in the last week of term and cannot wait to show off all of our hard work.

## What's On Locally

### Arts Society Midhurst—Lecture 6 June

The lecture by Tony Lidington is called **'Pierrot Heroes—the Evolution of British Seaside Entertainment.'** It's at the Methodist Church Hall, North Street, Midhurst.

Tea & coffee served from 10.00am and the lecture starts 10.45am promptly. New members always welcome—to register contact [tasm.membership@gmail.com](mailto:tasm.membership@gmail.com).  
Guests £7.00 paid in cash.



THE MIDHURST SOCIETY  
Preserving and improving local heritage

### Midhurst Society Talk on Thursday 15 June at 7.30pm

The next talk will be back in the Memorial Hall GU29 9DH. We have invited Oliver Smith from WWF in Woking to come and talk to us about the work of the **Worldwide Fund for Nature**, and how they work around the world to preserve wilderness and reduce human impact on the environment. All are welcome—visitors £5.

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

### Midhurst

Monthly Talk on Tuesday 20 June 2.00pm for 2.30pm  
**'The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Service'**  
Methodist Church Hall

Admission: Members £2 Thinking of joining U3A? Come as a visitor £3  
No need to book Refreshments 2.00—2.20pm

[www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst)



### Concert



### 'Sing Psalms and Psalms'

by the South Downs Soloists

Director—George Haynes Saturday 24 June 7.30pm

at the Assembly Rooms, Chichester PO19 1LQ

as part of the Chichester Festival

Tickets £18 from [ndekker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ndekker@hotmail.co.uk)

in aid of the charity Stonepillow

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



**Concert on Saturday 1 July  
at 7.00pm**

### **GOLDEN OLDIES and SING-ALONG**

**with the Sussex Band of the Royal British Legion**

**at the Memorial Hall Midhurst GU29 9DH**

**Tickets £10 on the door (cash or credit card)**

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### **General Knowledge Quiz Answers**

1.Green. 2.Thailand. 3.Great-great-granddaughter. 4.Kent. 5.Winnebago.  
6.Artist. 7.Gravlox. 8.Archimedes. 9.Birmingham. 10.2011. 11.The fall  
of the Berlin Wall. 12.Lake Superior. 13. 3000 feet. 14.Blackmore (Rachel  
Blackmore and R D Blackmore). 15.Avocado 16.Jack Russell. 17.Rowan.  
18.Helicopters. 19.France. 20.Chickens

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## Church and Village Fete



**This page**—clockwise from top. Simon with his vintage cars; Friends enjoying the sunshine; The uniformed groups had great games for kids; This lad had a go in one of the Goblin cars; A family enjoying the sunshine.



- 13 May 2023



**This page**—clockwise from top. The Plant Sale; Peter and Irena Greaves on the Bottle Tombola; Tea and cake at the back of the church; Irena Greaves ran the Gift Stall; Families enjoying the sunshine.



## **Friends Of Midhurst Common**

I took over as Chairman of FoMC in Nov 2019 from Steve Granger. He had taken over from Jean Hicks a few years earlier. I had no idea of the vast number of varied

topics I would have to deal with and the steep learning curve on many of them. I adopted the challenge and indeed it was facing the new topics which was my motivation. As I had wandered for many years through Midhurst Common prior to becoming Chairman, I knew there was a lot more going on with the flora and fauna and their management, but had never been able to spend enough time to get more deeply involved. Retirement in 2019 allowed this.

Last year we had 73 members – the most active of whom were those on the Committee and the Heath Team. We need to acknowledge our gratitude to them for maintaining our Common and heathland as it is. Following my Chairmanship, we are fortunate to have Nigel Yeo who has already taken over - he has attended Heath Team working days and committee meetings over the last few years, giving a good level of continuity. The rest of the committee stay constant.

Friends of Midhurst Common have a contact email address (see below), and have had a very informative web-site till recently. This is soon to reappear in a fresh and revamped format. For on-going info keep an eye on our Facebook page.

As I have said, my experience as Chairman has taught me a lot about Midhurst Common which has set me up to have enhanced pleasure as I do my daily walk with my dog Bertie there. I look forward to meeting with those who also enjoy this special area. We must stop for a chat and “chew the cud” together in favourable surroundings. “Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That is why it is called present” Alice Morse Earle

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Tina a happy retirement as editor of this magazine which has clearly become an important part of the Easebourne community under her ‘reign’.

Andrew Mitchell, Immediate-past Chairman

Contact email:

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



**Andrew and his dog Bertie**

I've only ever had one sporting hero. In the red corner, standing 6ft 6 and weighing in at 365lbs, Big Daddy kept my Gran and me glued to the TV set on wet Saturday afternoons as he wrestled Giant Haystacks or Kendo Nagasaki in his sequinned spandex.

In June, Stag Beetles – the big daddies of the beetle world – are emerging from the ground and getting ready to rumble.

There's around 3,000 different species of

beetle in Sussex and an estimated 29,000 species across Europe. Just as Big Daddy's 64-inch chest earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records, the 2.5 inch long Stag Beetle holds the coveted title of Europe's Biggest Beetle. And, like a 26 stone man in a spangly leotard, the adult male Stag Beetle is equally impressive and ludicrous. Its 3-segmented black and maroon armoured body is crowned with a ridiculous pair of trademark stag-like 'antlers'. They are actually modified mandible mouthparts and are used to impress the antler-less females and to grapple rival males.

Before these tiny titans step into the ring they have to put in some long hours in training. The beetle's larvae spend an incredible 5-6 years munching on a deadwood diet of buried logs and roots, building the bulky body that will sustain them to survive above ground. As adults they will live for just a few weeks without feeding, relying solely on the fuel tanks

accumulated underground. In early summer, after pupation and transformation, they burst from the ground and go looking for a fight. I always find it incredible that these chunky, bulky beetles can fly but on warm evenings they

whir through the air with the grace and subtlety of a Chinook on aerial reconnaissance for females. But if another male beats them to it that's when things get nasty.



Derek Middleton

In my fantasies I imagine these beetle brawls to play out on a dead tree stump. A crowd of over-excited elderly invertebrates gather round; the grasshoppers and crickets chirping in with a chorus of "We shall not be moved" while the earthworms and earwigs chant "Eas-eh! Eas-eh!" The fighters face off before charging and locking antlers. With incredible strength a Stag Beetle can lift his opponent into the air, holding him there heroically before spectacularly body-slaming them down onto the stump.

We're fortunate that southeast England is a hotspot for these Herculean heavyweights but sadly our Stag Beetles are on the ropes. The loss of old trees from the countryside has had dramatic impacts on the survival of the beetles' underground larvae and their numbers are declining. My tip for spotting a Stag Beetle is to look for them in June in Henfield churchyard in West Sussex or around Ringmer in East Sussex.



## SNIPPETS FROM A GARDENER'S DIARY

by John Humphris



Our move to live in Easebourne took place in April 2002. We moved into a small bungalow with a garden that was large enough to grow a range of plants. It consisted only of a lawn and one tired looking spiraea. Once deciding what to plant I had to be really careful not to choose any plant that would really outgrow this relatively small garden. (That was not always successful!) My intention is to suggest a number of plants that we have found ideal in the average small garden both for flower and foliage. These are plants that we have grown for ten years or more, and which gave me a good long period to assess each plant's attributes.



Some parts of Easebourne lie on very sandy well-drained soil which is great for that limited range of plants that enjoy those conditions, but we were fortunate that this part of the village was built on some very good heavy loamy farmland soil. Although it has never been tested a wide range of plants grow well here including rhododendrons, azalea and other ericaceous plants, giving me the impression that the pH is around neutral or a little lower.

We brought quite a few plants with us and were given others by friends. One of the important lessons I have learnt over the years, with for me a much smaller area to play with, is that plants have a habit of growing much larger than you expect and their allocated space disappears at an alarming rate. Many

plants also have a very untidy habit. After a few years, although flowering well, are not really ideal plants in the garden all the year round. I want to try and concentrate on those plants which, although having been with us for perhaps ten to fifteen years or more, I would not want to be without. That is because their appearance even when they are not in flower always forms an attractive backdrop to those that are in flower.

In a small garden, if you are keen on growing magnolias, choose very carefully from the few that are ideal for the smaller garden. Varieties and forms of *M liliflora* 'Nigra' and their hybrids with *M Stellata* are ideal. (This is the small compact shrub with white or pink flowers). Many of these crosses were made in the USA and given the names of female workers such as Jane, Susan, Ann, Betty, etc. The real beauty of these varieties is their long flowering period, which starts usually once the worst of the spring frosts is over and continues well into May and sometimes later. We have *Magnolia Jane* here which stands pruning really well, and although growing quite large can be kept to the size you want with careful pruning after flowering.

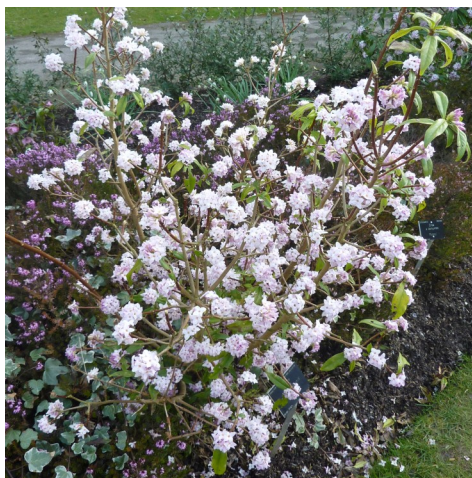
Two other shrubs of medium size that I have found to be so useful, and are very attractive in flower and yet neat and tidy for the rest of the year, are one of the Witch Hazels and an attractive Lilac. Although lilacs are lovely in flower at this



time of year (mid May) they become large and straggly by summer. Not so the variety *Syringa meyeri* 'Palabin'. This is a first-rate shrub up to 2 metres tall, absolutely covered in their soft lilac flowers. Once flowering is completed it disappears into the background ready for its next display. The Witch Hazel which I have mentioned before is *Hamamelis mollis* 'Pallida' (see right.) It has rounded leaves giving lovely autumn colour followed by bright light yellow scented flowers in late winter and early spring. If this is followed by a light pruning in summer you have the ideal shrub for almost any garden. I have a number of *Daphne*'s, and again I have mentioned *Daphne bholua* 'Jacqueline Postill' (see right) before, but not in the context of a plant everyone should try growing. Its great attraction is flowering in winter, usually January/February. It is ideal where it can be seen from indoors and the wonderful scent and lovely pink flowers can be appreciated fully.

### To Be Continued

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## Listed Buildings in Easebourne

by Chris Deadman and Phil Stringer

### Easebourne Parochial First School

Listed 26/11/1987. Grade II. Listing Nr. SU8985 422892

*School. Mid-19th Century. Coursed sandstone with red brick dressings and quoins. Tiled roof. Central gable with scalloped bargeboards and turret above containing a bell with cupula over. Projecting porch at each end with scalloped gable. One storey. Four casement windows.*

The Public Elementary School was erected in 1873 by the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Egmont. In 1880 the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl added a large room for infants and in 1885 a separate room for boys was added. The school was further enlarged in 1895. In 1902 The 8<sup>th</sup> Earl added a large room, fitted for a school museum.

George William Singleton was the master of the school in 1890 and his wife, Ruth was the infant's mistress. At this time, the mistress of the school was a Miss Annie Crump. Annie, (25 years) was a lodger with Eliza Baker and her son, at "Cowding Park" (misspelling of Cowdray) at the time of the 1891 Census.

In 1911, George Singleton and his wife Ruth remained master and mistress of the Elementary School respectively. However, after Annie Crump's marriage,

a Miss A N Roff became the infant's mistress.

Miss Roff was supportive of the Suffragette movement and wrote a letter to the Census Registrar in which she wrote "I regret to have to refuse information as a protest against the voteless condition of women occupiers". The Registrar, F.A. Tallant, completed the entry in the Census retrospectively with the words "entered as per instruction in letter dated 13/3/11" and wrote her name, estimated age and her single, marital status in red.

In 1911 the school rooms were used for "mixed scholars" and would hold 130 seniors, 115 juniors and 55 infants. Average attendance figures were 75 seniors mixed, 82 junior mixed and 52 infants.





## Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society

Members of the Society had a very pleasant outing to Ramster Gardens near Chiddingfold on 9 May. The Azaleas and Rhododendrons were just starting, and there were carpets of bluebells everywhere. There was also a sculpture trail which we enjoyed. Ramster has a nice little café as well.

Then on Saturday 13 May we held our annual Plant Sale in front of the Priory. This year it was part of the Church and Village Fete. There were lots of eager customers waiting for the Fete to open at 2.00pm so they could buy our plants. But, as happened in previous years, we were so good that we sold out within the first half hour or so! Members please note—next year we need more plants to sell!

Our next trip is a visit to Parham House and Gardens on Tuesday 20 June, leaving the Priory car park at 2.00pm. For information phone Carolyn on 812020 or email [davies@hurstpp.co.uk](mailto:davies@hurstpp.co.uk).



To join the Society, contact the secretary, Tina Litchfield, on 01730 816542, or email [EGAS@tinagavin.com](mailto:EGAS@tinagavin.com). It only costs £4 a year to join, or £6 for a couple. Our new Handbook for 2023 is now available. It has details of the August Produce Show and all our events for the year.



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## From the Curate



Dear Friends

### Promises, promises!

Amidst the amazing pomp and ceremony at the recent coronation of King Charles III, what struck me most was the King's promise to "maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel?" The greatest law of God is to love God, our neighbour and ourselves, thus our King is effectively promising to love the world - no mean feat!

It probably struck me more than most as, on June 5<sup>th</sup>, I will be ordained as priest and will promise to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, minister to the sick, prepare the dying for death and, above all, tell the story of God's love. It is pretty terrifying to be honest, not least because I know my love game already needs work!

I love my family dearly, but continual patience seems just too hard to achieve - especially when getting my four kids off to school every morning! Like many people, I feel guilty at short-changing those I love - especially when I am tired and grumpy because I haven't been very kind to myself either.

The reality is, we all fail to love as we should, and within church each Sunday we have space to acknowledge that as a community. We share bread and wine, and coffee and chat, and are reminded that we are all in this together. We pray for a better world and leave bolstered by this love, ready to have another go at loving ourselves and all our neighbours in the week ahead. Although we can't always keep our promises to love, God can. God's love always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres - long after our own reserves have failed - and our Sunday worship reminds us of just how much we are loved. In response, we try to love our community the way God would want - through our toddler groups, Tea at Three, Women's Fellowship, choir, Messy Church, the Social Gang, school visits, and in our mid-week and Sunday worship.

So, if you feel you have scope for a little extra love in your life, and want people to share that journey with, then do pop along and see us some time. We will do our utmost to welcome you - and that's a promise!

Rev Liz Yonge



More details from  
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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	

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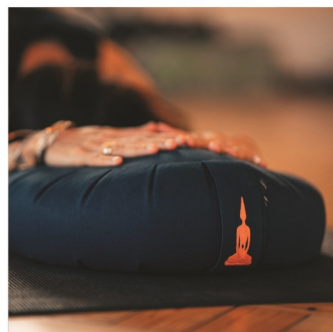
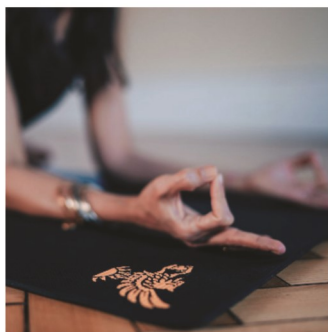
Second Sundays	9.00am Family Service
Fourth Sundays	9.00am Sung Communion
First Sundays	6.00pm Evensong

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1st & 3rd Sundays	8.30am Holy Communion
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## CHURCH DIARY FOR JUNE 2023

**Sunday 4 Trinity Sunday**

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

Monday 5	7.00pm	Bosham	Liz Yonge's ordination Service
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Tuesday 6	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
	2.00am	St Mary's	Women's Fellowship 70th Anniversary Celebration

5.00pm      St Mary's      Standing Committee

Wednesday 7	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
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3.00pm      St Mary's      Tea at Three

**Sunday 11     1st Sunday after Trinity**

10.30am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

Tuesday 13	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
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2.00pm      St Mary's      McMillan Service

Wednesday 14      10.00am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

3.00pm      St Mary's      Tea at Three

Saturday 17	2.00pm	St Mary's	Wedding
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**Sunday 18     2nd Sunday after Trinity**

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

6.00pm St Peter's Celtic Service

Tuesday 20	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
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Wednesday 21      10.00am      St Mary's      Holy Communion

3.30pm      St Mary's      Messy Church

**Sunday 25     3rd Sunday after Trinity United Service**

10. 30am	St Peter's	Well Blessing
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11.00am	St Peter's	Open Air Service
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Tuesday 27	10.00am	St Mary's	Little Lambs
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	7.00pm	St Mary's	Church Wardens Swearing In Service
Wednesday 28	10.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	St Mary's	Tea at Three

## **JULY**

### **Sunday 2**

#### **4th Sunday after Trinity**

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

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## **TEA AT THREE**

**Join us most Wednesdays at 3.00pm in the church**

**7 June—cup of tea with Derek and Liz**

**14 June—Friendship Tea—Social Gang**

**21 June—Knit and Natter**

**28 June—Primary School—Serve & Share**





# Petworth Festival 2023

**Tuesday 11 – Saturday 29 July**



Highlights include:

**TENEBRAE • JESS GILLAM • JENEBA KANNEH-MASON  
CLIVE ANDERSON • SHAKATAK • THE MANFREDS  
RAYNOR WINN WITH THE GIGSPANNER BIGBAND • THE JIVE ACES  
AMAAN & AYAAN ALI BANGASH WITH JENNIFER PIKE**

*And many more!*

**TICKETS AND FURTHER DETAILS AT  
[www.petworthfestival.org.uk](http://www.petworthfestival.org.uk)**





## St Mary's Reading Rota for June

Date	Reading	Gospel	Reader	Intercessor
4 June Trinity Sunday		Matt 28: 16— end	TBA	
11 June 1st after Trinity	Genesis 12: 1—9	Matt 9: 9—13 & 18—26	Ann Harfield	Clergy
18 June 2nd after Trinity	Exodus 19: 2 - 8	Matt 9: 35— 10: 8	Simon Hendry	Andy Castledine
25 June Service at St Peter's			Wendy Trafford	

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

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

### May 2023 draw winners



<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £100</b>	<b>No 24</b>	<b>Irena Greaves</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75</b>	<b>No 25</b>	<b>Peter Greaves</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75</b>	<b>No 46</b>	<b>Linda Chapman</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 59</b>	<b>Derek Welsman</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 63</b>	<b>Jane Bricknell</b>
<b>3rd Prize—£50</b>	<b>No 161</b>	<b>Bryan Pierce</b>

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

Mike & Margaret Wharton, tel 810474, email [mike@mwassociates.eu.com](mailto:mike@mwassociates.eu.com)

Please note, winners will receive monies by bank transfer.

## Women's Fellowship

At our last meeting in Coronation Week, we decorated our corner of the church with Union Flag bunting and asked everyone to wear something in red white and blue. Together with our guests we spent a happy (and competitive) time playing Beetle. This was won by Fred from Petworth. The refreshments, prepared by our members, were much enjoyed and the many raffle prizes well distributed. Proceeds from the afternoon will be divided between the Spire Fund & our Fellowship funds.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 6th June at 2.00pm in St.Mary's we will be celebrating our Platinum Jubilee. It is seventy years since the founding of the Fellowship in 1953.

Ann Harfield 813810



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Southern Water	0330 303 0368	Police (non emergency)	101
MIDHURST FOODBANK	07826 397732	MIDHURST ANGELS	07538 839703
Riverbank Medical Centre	812121	Out of Hours NHS	111
Woodcroft Dental Clinic	812053	St Oswald Dental Surgery	812022
Newspaper delivery (Dummers)	813348	Red Cross Petworth	0800 028 0831
Community Hospital	819100	St Richards Hospital, Chichester	01243 788122
Royal Surrey Hospital	01483 571122	Social Services Chichester	01243 752999
District Councillor Mr Francis Hobbs fhobbs@chichester.gov.uk	07968 027833	MH Pharmacy Midhurst Pharmacy	813255 813231
Easebourne Village Stores	858130	Cowdray Shop & Café	815152
Midhurst Town Council	816953	Grange Centre	0333 005 0398

RecyclingSite, Bepton Road—Opening hours from April—Thurs to Monday 9.00am—6.00pm, closed Tuesday & Wednesday. See <http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org/recycling-sites/midhurst>

### EASEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Noble, Chair Clerk—Sharon Hurr		Tel: 07342 166188 parishclerk@easebourne.org	
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
Friends of Easebourne Parish FREPSec@btinternet.com	Caroline Fraser, secretary 07803 933694		
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)*

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