

EASEBOURNE

Magazine

January/February 2024 Vol 22 No.5



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Welcome to Winter



We have had a tremendous response to the new look Easebourne Magazine. There have been many very kind comments which has made it all very worthwhile. I have been told it is now 'the coffee table magazine of choice in Easebourne!' That rather made my day I can tell you.

It would be lovely to have the time to produce a magazine every month, but alas it is just not possible. This does mean that the lead time for articles and information has to be longer than in previous times. Our printer, KerryType, requires seven full working days to print the magazine and distribution takes a good week too, so in order to get the magazines circulated by the first of the month we need to hit our deadlines in, for example, early February for the March/April issue.

Therefore, the more notice you can give us the better. The magazine is carefully planned and laid out for weeks before it goes to press so the best way to guarantee that you are on board with us is just to send an email to me and open up a dialogue. I'm ready to listen to all ideas and suggestions.

One thing I can tell you is that producing a magazine is like putting together a very complicated jigsaw with no picture to follow and half the pieces missing until the last minute. Ultimately though, for people like me who love a challenge, it is very satisfying!

Please do get in touch and talk through your ideas with me and I will follow them up if I can. Space, as in all things, is the difficulty. Costs dictate the number of pages and they are of course, finite. However, unlike many other local advertising led magazines, I will always do my best to favour editorial space at all times.

Talking of which, this issue features some wonderful articles. We hear about the alternative approach to Lent from Rev Liz Yonge, Arabella McIntyre-Brown returns, by popular demand, with a feature on her amazing sister Ginny and we hear from one of the area's newest and brightest small businesses; a clue, it's all about the cake. So do read on and enjoy our winter issue.

● Jan Harvey

■ easebourneditor@btinternet.com

When I was four and at Conifers School in Egmont Road, my big sister Ginny came to read us stories and help out. She was once excruciatingly embarrassed when I rushed up to her, wrapped my arms around her legs (she was 11 years older and tall) and said “Oh Ginny, I do love you!”

She often used to drive from River, where we lived, to pick me up from school. At the end of the day some kids used to scramble up through the spiky branches of the big spruce tree (still there, on the corner of Egmont Road and Easebourne Lane). On this particular day, inveterate tree climbers Katy and George Gordon (aged four and six) had both shinned to the top of the tree but had then got stuck. Hearing the wailing as she came through the school gate, Ginny – also an expert tree climber – nipped up the tree and helped the pair down.

Ginny, my two brothers and our parents had moved from Pulborough to River in 1956, I was born two years later. I was too young

Egmont to Elgar Ginny Fiennes's Local Adventures

By Arabella
McIntyre-Brown



Ginny and Ranulph Fiennes in Petworth

to know much about their shenanigans locally, but I remember Cowdray point-to-points, polo matches and golf. At Christmas, Ginny and I used to sing the descants at carol services at St Mary's and we used to scream encouragement at Conifers' sports days.

In the winter of 1962/63 when we were all snowed in for weeks, Ginny used to tow me on a toboggan from River, over the Lod and up

through the snowy meadow to Lodsworth, to get provisions from the village shop (then run by Petula Clark's parents). I kept rolling off the toboggan into deep snow. Ginny said when she looked back that she couldn't see me,

so deep was the snow.

Once she'd left school, Ginny had a secretarial job with solicitor, Terry Donovan, in Midhurst, he was very handsome and glamorous in my memory... After that she worked

for John Jenkins in Fernhurst, then moved to London. She married a local boy, Ranulph Fiennes, from Lodsworth. I was her bridesmaid for the wedding in Tillington. Ginny and Ran moved into a place in Bepton;

Ginny drove about at lightning speed in her venerable grey Mini van. Speeding along the A272 through the golf course, she had an accident just before Benbow Pond. The Mini spun a hundred and eighty degrees, no other vehicle was involved. Maybe she tried to brake to avoid an animal, we were never told.

Ginny was always in scrapes, she missed a flight from Moscow that crashed. I answered the phone one night in 1973 to a Foreign Office person explaining that Ginny was 'still missing' on her trip across the desert from Baghdad to Oman, she turned up alive and kicking, unaware that she'd caused such angst. She survived a journey cradling a highly venomous snake in her lap; she jumped off a ladder and landed on a horseshoe so that a nail went right through her foot... I'm not sure if it was the same foot that she shot with a rifle when startled by a grizzly bear in Canada.

Married to Ran, Ginny was his partner in some record-breaking adventures, and not only invented, but organized the Transglobe Expedition which, from 1979 to 1982, went around the world over both Poles – a bench-



Ginny Pictured with Arabella behind to the left

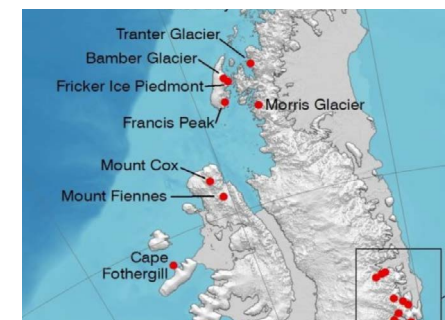
mark in modern exploration. It was only one of their many expeditions together, but the most ambitious and most famous.

Ginny was part of the team in charge of communications. This meant most of the year in Antarctica, much of it

alone in -50°C and vicious winds, living in a cardboard hut and doing radio experiments for Sheffield University as well as keeping tabs on the ice team going to the pole.

When Ginny died, aged fifty six, in 2004, there were astonishing obituaries from all over the world. She had become a highly respected explorer in her own right. Forty years after Transglobe's success, Ginny was recognized with the naming of a 2,000 metre mountain in the Elgar Highlands of Antarctica. Mount Fiennes is named not after her more famous husband, long known as the 'greatest living explorer', but after my big sister, Virginia Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes.

■ www.arbellamcintyrebrown.com



The location of Mount Fiennes



Lady of Cakes

Jan Harvey interviews
Laura Pinder, the
maker of exceptional
cakes

There are people you need in your life. A good hairdresser, a pianist and a person who makes exceptional cakes. Laura Pinder makes exceptional cakes and she is now firmly ensconced in my address book.

Laura made a rabbit cake for my granddaughter's birthday, 'with sprinkles' which was a very particular request. It was absolutely delicious, every last crumb, and I haven't even started on her oozy jammy doughnuts!

The Brownie Fairy

Laura started her business during lockdown in 2020 when she was delivering (at a social distance) brownies to friends and relatives. The word spread and her Facebook page saw a rise in visitors. Very quickly requests for cakes were coming in.

'I became known as "The Brownie Fairy"' says Laura. "Dropping boxes of cakes on peoples' doorsteps was my thing. Word spread and when I received my first order for a large cake it was quite surreal, but I realised that people were looking for ways to cheer themselves up. It made me think and I saw an opportunity and, as a result, Pinder's Patisserie was born.'

Laura is a trained chef who can turn



her hand to anything, but she had taken time off to bring up her young family. The growing interest in her cakes gave her an incentive; it was time to use her skills and there was definitely a market. As her micro business began to grow she was able to offer cream teas, home-made sausage rolls, scotch eggs, quiches and most of all, she was able to bring a creative touch because she was her own boss.

A Challenge

'I love projects that are unique, like the time I had to create a cake that had biltong and a special mayonnaise built into it for a South African client!' She smiles. 'That was a challenge, and it may sound a little strange, but it worked.'

Laura doesn't freeze cakes, everything is freshly made. Making those delicious doughnuts involves getting up



through the night to knead and prove the dough so that they are perfect. Laura does it because she is absolutely dedicated to her work. She sells her cakes from her little horse-box which can be seen popping up all round Easebourne and Midhurst.

'I didn't intend to go that route, but my horse-box is another arm to my business. If I am not working on a bespoke project for a customer I can head off and sell cakes and coffee at place like Easebourne Park. I really enjoy that, I love meeting people and like a good chat!'

Do look out for Laura and support this 'Lady of Cakes', trust me, it isn't hard.



■ pinderspatisserie@yahoo.co.uk

Baker specialising in celebration cakes, I also have a converted horse box where I can make teas, coffees and other hot drinks. This is available for markets and private functions.

✉ pinderspatisserie@yahoo.co.uk

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**Pinders
Patisserie**

What's On

The Songwriters Circle Music Night

A cosy winter evening of songs and stories featuring three of the highest acclaimed talents on the UK scene. Hosted by Ed Blunt, Daisy Chute and Jim Cozens. This musical evening promises to "blur the lines between performer and audience, hearing the inspiration behind the music from the artists themselves."

Saturday 20 January at 7.30pm

Empire Hall, Graffham

Tickets £16.50 each (plus booking fee)

empirehall.org.uk/tickets

Grayshott Folk Club

Simon Mayor with Hilary James and Friends

Simon is one of the world's leading mandolin virtuosos. He is also a composer and a very funny man who takes his audiences for an amusing musical ride.



Saturday 27 January at 7.30pm

The Village Hall, Grayshott, GU26 6TZ

Admission £18.00, tickets available from

Grayshott Post Office or www.ents24.com



BRUEGEL: The Seasons and the World
Lecturer Gavin Plumley
Tuesday 6th February 2024

The Methodist Hall, Midhurst
Coffee 10.00 - Lecture 10.45 - 12.00

Guests are welcome. £10 at the door
To book contact Bridget Adler
e-mail: tasm.membership@gmail.com
Tel 07855 699479
Info: www.theartsocietymidhurst.co.org

Ten Bees and The Story They Tell

An online talk by James Power,

author of The Bees of Sussex

Thursday 16 January at 7.30pm

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk



Out and About

The Harting Society

'From Hell, with Love...'

The diary and letters home of a prisoner of war held by the Japanese in WW2.

Nigel Johnson-Hill

Thursday 1 February

Meetings are at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Non-members are welcome and invited to make a contribution of £4.00.

Membership enquiries to Sarah Wilcox, swilco149@yahoo.co.uk or 07963 909889

Fernhurst Choral Society

Come and sing choruses from Gilbert and Sullivan, all are welcome.

Saturday 24 February, 1.30pm - 6.00pm

Fernhurst Village Hall

Cost including hire of music, tea and cake £12.00

www.fernhurstchoralsociety.org.uk



A Day Out To....

Watts Gallery and Artists' Village



Watts Gallery and Artists' Village is a place of peace and solitude, beauty and creativity.

It is the only gallery in the United Kingdom dedicated to a single artist. Founded in 1904, it offers a unique insight into the life and work of 'England's Michelangelo,' George Frederic Watts and his wife, the designer and artist Mary Watts.

Watts work is on permanent display, but it acts as a draw for other exhibitions. The artists exhibiting, when I last visited, were the descendants of Millais and Lutyens, high quality modern artwork which contrasts with the more traditional styles of Watts and his contemporaries.

Currently, and for a limited time (it finishes 25 February), you can discover an exhibition from the private collection of Sir Brian May, the lead guitarist for Queen. This is a rare opportunity to discover the 19th-century art of stereoscopy, which saw a second wave of pop-



ularity in the mid-20th century. It was a craze that saw the birth of 3D images and is referred to by many as Victorian virtual reality. This extensive collection of one hundred and fifty historic stereoscopic photographs has captivated visitors who can view them through modern viewers and digital techniques. The show includes Sir Brian's first ever stereocard, of two hippos, found in a Weetabix packet when he was a youngster.

On site at the Watts Gallery you can visit the artist's beautiful home and the mesmerising chapel. There are many excellent talks and workshops running throughout the year.

The café and shop are lovely too, but most of all it's a wonderful place to while away the changing seasons. The staff will always give you a warm welcome and the sense of art history that permeates the very fabric of the entire place is very real.

● **Jan Harvey**

■ **www.wattsgallery.org.uk**



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Navigating The Horizon

Predicting the Property Market for Easebourne in 2024

The past two years have witnessed fluctuating demand for property, influenced by plenty of political and economic factors, as well as the pandemic. However, confidence in the local property market remains broadly positive, despite a recent dip in the number of sales across the country in 2023.

There is currently an underlying optimism, albeit with potential buyers keeping an eye on value for money and unique opportunities for homes in good locations.

The market is expected to recalibrate this year, so the local property market seems poised for a year of stability and growth. Thanks to its excellent travel links, attractive buildings, outstanding countryside and a strong sense of community, Easebourne continues to be an attractive prospect for homebuyers.

Protected Natural Environment

West Sussex is known for its picturesque landscape and natural beauty. Much of the county is designated within the South Downs National Park, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and conservation areas. As environmental consciousness continues to rise, the protected nature of the local environment remains a significant draw for home-buyers.

Great Travel Links

Another stand out feature of the area is its exceptional travel connectivity. With easy access to major transport hubs including Gatwick and well-connected railway net-

works, it appeals to both people working nearby and those travelling further afield.

More for Your Money

Compared to some of the neighbouring regions and London, the area offers a unique property market where you can often get more for your money. This affordability factor is a key driver for people seeking quality of life at the right investment level.

The Strength of Community

One of the intangible yet invaluable aspects of Easebourne is the strength of its community. The whole area boasts a close-knit and supportive social fabric, making it a welcoming place to call home. This is a significant factor for all ages and often influences the decision to settle.

Excellent Local Schools

The range of outstanding educational facilities contributes to a reputation as a family-friendly destination. As education remains a priority for many family home-buyers, the quality of our local schools continues to drive demand.

Easebourne has so much to recommend it, which underpins the demand for homes in the area. If you'd like individual property advice, call in for a friendly chat in our new Midhurst office or book a free valuation at your home.

■ Matt.Shepherd@henryadams.co.uk

By Matt
Shepherd
of Henry
Adams
Estate
Agents

BOOK CLUB

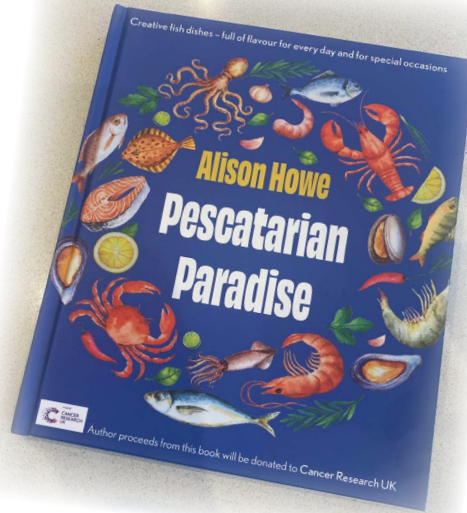
It's wonderful to, once again, be able to review a book by an Easbourne author and, even more so, as the idea of this recipe book came to Alison Howe when she was out walking on Woolbeding Common with her partner, Richard.

'It was during Covid and everyone was in lockdown,' Alison explains. 'Funds were running low for charities everywhere and I was contemplating how I could help to raise some income for Cancer Research UK.' Alison realised that her passion for cooking, especially her extensive knowledge of fish cuisine, could be brought together to benefit the charity she has supported for over a decade. The resulting book, full of creative fish dishes, is entitled Pescatarian Paradise.

Says Alison: 'Fish is a delicious, healthy food option, but many people find cooking it quite daunting. Pescatarian Paradise is based on a wide range of cooking styles and includes recipes for everyday meals as well as some lovely "special occasion" ideas.'

The book is well laid out so that reading the ingredients and cooking instructions is very easy. My particular annoyance is when a cookery book provides a recipe without an accompanying image, but this one 'steps up to the plate' with a photograph of every single dish.

I also liked the serving suggestions and ideas for accompaniments. So many recipe books leave you high and dry with no idea how to actually present or serve the dish you've made.



This colourful, well-written book is a great addition to the kitchen bookshelf. The author's knowledge of all things pescatarian shines through and those of us who might fight shy of cooking fish would be well advised to peek inside the pages for the reassurance of Alison Howe's guiding hand.

Pescatarian Paradise will be sold from Winchester to Brighton in Cancer Research UK shops and traditional bookshops. It is available on all platforms with all author proceeds donated to the charity.

To order directly from the publisher and to guarantee that Cancer Research UK get the largest share of the cover price, visit:

■ www.troubador.co.uk

● Jan Harvey

1. Who was the lead singer of the iconic '80s band, Culture Club?

2. Parkas, trenches, bombers and peas are types of what winter outerwear?

3. Leader and political icon Nelson Mandela was from which African country?

4. The Chinese New Year is celebrated on what day and month?

5. Which email service is owned by Microsoft?

6. What is meteorology the study of?

7. Who famously crossed the Alps with elephants on the way to war with the Romans?

8. What country has the most islands?

9. Where does the Tour de France finish each year?

10. According to the BBC how many rooms are there in Buckingham Palace?

11. Who wrote the poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat'?

12. People born on February 29 have which star sign?

13. What type of fruit is a Conference?

14. What island is the biggest in the Mediterranean Sea?

15. What animal is used in France to detect truffles?

16. What is the second most common gas found in the air we breathe?

17. What colour is the middle vertical stripe in the Irish flag?

18. What are the three drooping objects in 'The Persistence of Memory' by Salvador Dali?

19. According to the proverb, which fruit tastes sweetest?

20. If you dug a hole through the centre of the earth from Wellington, New Zealand, which European country would you end up in?



The Coffee Time Quiz

By
Carol
Sawyer

Answers
on page
39

To advertise in Easbourne Magazine email

Paul Chantry

easbournemagazine@btinternet.com

The advertising deadline for our March/April issue
is Wednesday 24 January

Exciting and diverse events took place at Cowdray in 2023 with many held to support the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex, (KSS), the estate's nominated charity for the year.

During the summer, Cowdray's inaugural Maize Maze proved very popular. Throughout August and into early September, families and friends, young and old, explored the maize as well as the Sunflower Picking Patch where children were able to pick a giant sunflower to take home.

Another highlight of the year was the Midhurst Town Cup in July, where thousands were able to watch two high-goal games of polo on Lawns polo fields as well as enjoy a diverse range of local crafts and demonstrations celebrating the British countryside. To celebrate the re-opening of the road and to attract visitors back to the town, entry to the Midhurst Town Cup was free.

Earlier in 2023, the Gun Dog Challenge, organised by Cowdray's award-winning gundog trainer Jason Mayhew, involved some of the best gundog handlers in the world. In May, the coronation of Charles III took place, prompting much celebration



The Cowdray Year

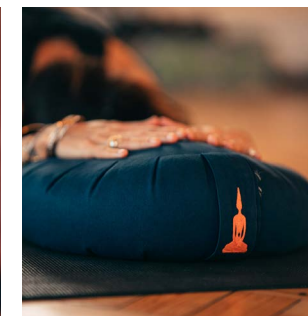
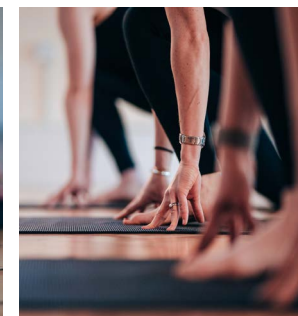
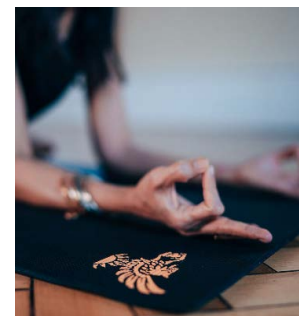
in Britain and around the world. Lord Cowdray planted a British grown Quercus Rubra, otherwise known as a Northern Red Oak, overlooking Lawns, and the Farm Shop launched a fun King's Coronation Sandwich competition – designed to find a sandwich fit for a king.

Throughout the Autumn there were an array of different events with walkers of all ages encouraged to take part in a Heli Hike across the Estate, with all proceeds going to KSS. The following weekend was the first of four Run the Season races, organised in conjunction with Raw Running. Runners, alongside many other visitors, were then able to enjoy Apple Day with the opportunity to juice home-grown apples in a press as well as enjoy music and sample some apple themed treats.

The year closed with the Christmas Tasting Weekend at the Farm Shop, the Country Brocante Winter Gathering at The Walled Garden and various winter dining events.

This year, there will be much to entertain and attract visitors, not only to the estate, but also to the surrounding area with the Maize Maze one of many events planned.

■ www.cowdray.co.uk



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www.cowdray.co.uk/wellbeing



www.midhurstsociety.org.uk

NEXT TALK

7.30pm on 15 February
SDNPA Memorial Hall

Midhurst

Bill Gage, formerly of the Records Office in Chichester, has a life-long interest in railways. "Rails to Midhurst" is an illustrated presentation which uses social history as a platform to show the development of the railway network to Midhurst. Far from a technical talk, it includes such events as the runaway engine at Petworth; Richard Cobden's last journey to Midhurst; the diving engine at Cocking and the Royal Train at Singleton.

www.midhurstsociety.org



The Midhurst Magazine

The latest edition of Midhurst Magazine is a fascinating read with articles on Wispers Airfield in Stedham; The Ghosts of Midhurst Past and The Killing of George Marshall. A wide and varied content with over a hundred pages, it's an ideal way to while away a winter's afternoon.

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Winter and The Gardener

I'm Kate from Verdley Flowers. I've been growing flowers in my cutting garden in Verdley Wood for the last eight years, which I sell along with plants and pots at Cowdray Farm Shop. I'm entirely self-taught in the art and science of gardening and often get things wrong, which for me is one of the joys of the enterprise because, frankly... so what, there's always next year.

Since embarking on the adventure that is my garden, I wonder how I got through my dark pre-horticultural days. So here I am, offering up to you, my thoughts on the subject.

I have to say, it is a slightly unfortunate time to start writing a gardening column because my main advice to all gardeners during the deep winter months would be to make a nice cup of tea, put your feet up and chuck another log on the fire.

I have terrible trouble getting out into the garden in the cold and wet and will come up with any number of feeble excuses for not pulling on my wellies,



even though when I do get out among the elements, it's like being put on supercharge. So for the gardener who enjoys the cozy life in the winter, there is no better job than planning the year ahead, which can even be done under a duvet.

Always Next Year

Planning is one of the most wonderful things about gardening. If one summer the deer eat all your roses, the mice your seedlings, the birds your fruit and the slugs everything else, there is always next year. If you're stuck inside on a foul freezing wet February morning you can while away hours daydreaming about your sensational spring tulips which are, as you dream, pushing their way up through the cold earth outside. Making a plan for the spring is one such way to make this daydreaming productive.

I have a plan of my garden which I make multiple copies of so I can plot out different ways of shoe-horning far too many varieties of flowers into far too few beds. I use lots of coloured



Kate Verdley



pencils and sometimes get quite arty. It usually means that a couple of new beds have to be built before spring arrives – a job that might even get me outdoors.

Another winter job is to sow hardy annuals. This can be done outside, where they are to flower, or inside in trays. I had varying success with sowing seed in trays until I made a simple propagator. Just place a slab of insulation on a windowsill

and on top of that a tray. Wiggle a heated cable about in the bottom of the tray and cover it with sand, which must be kept moist at all times. Then place your seed trays on top of the sand to germinate, and germinate they do.

While sowing seed you can visualise the glory of the summer ahead. Annuals are a cheap and brilliant way to create real drama in the garden later in the year. Swathes of *ammi majus* are always a winner. Two years ago I planted pink poppy seedlings amongst my foxgloves and verbena bonariensis. When they flowered in the summer it was a sight to behold, the memory of which alone can power me through an entire winter.

● Kate Verdley
■ kate@verdleyflowers.com

Thank you John

After many years of providing wonderful articles on gardening, John Humphris has decided that the time has come to step down. We'd like to say a big thank you to him for his work on the magazine and the excellent pieces he has written, which have always been timely and very informative.



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One day, you'll sit down and say
"Thank you and well done,
You got me here safe and sound
To old age and oncoming years
Where I might be fraying
At the edges and a little
Wheezy in the chest
But, where my mind still,
Even now, is grateful
For being able to recall,
Not names and dates,
And other useful stuff,
But that tiny hand in mine
As we crossed a busy road,
Or the gentle brush of lips
Soft on my heated cheek,
Or the wetness of a tear
That my finger brushed away
And brought about a smile."
And so you will thank
Your creaking knees,

And aching feet,
And crooked fingers,
And congratulate your eyes
For making it so far,
When they could have given in.
You fought the war that is life
And each battle is etched
In scars and wrinkles
That trail across the map of
Your clever, containing skin.
One day, you will sit down
And take a moment to say
In spite of the aches and pains
And niggly annoyances
"It's been okay, thank you,
We made it together,"
And you'll forget
The extra pounds and
Lumps and bumps
And say "I'm here"
And that will be enough.

The Shy Poet

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NEWS FROM KING EDWARD VII ESTATE



The King Edward VII Estate is a fascinating place. The hospital was described by a member of the Council and Consulting Staff in 1933 as 'the leading Sanatorium in the Empire' and, over the years, thousands of people have passed through the estate, but how much do you know about this historic landmark?

1 The dining room and chapel were originally heated using an adaption of the ancient Roman system of underfloor heating known as the hypocaust.

2 The first gardener to work with Gertrude Jekyll was a Mr. Squelch.

3 Moulmein teak was selected to use on the staircases of the sanatorium because it is far less susceptible to fire than other types of wood.

4 In times past, the forest around the sanatorium was the perfect habitat for red squirrels which used to 'delight and amuse' the patients.

5 Artist, Adrian Hill, a patient in the sanatorium during WWII, began giving patients art lessons, which led to a new form of treatment called occupational therapy. He wrote many books about painting and drawing, and in the 1950s and early 1960s presented a BBC children's television programme called Sketch Club.

10 things you may not know about the King Edward VII Estate

6 In 1961, the King Edward VII Sanatorium was officially re-named King Edward VII Hospital authorised by a supplemental charter granted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

7 In 1969, pop legend Cat Stevens was close to death when he was admitted to the hospital. He had contracted tuberculosis and spent a year convalescing to recover. During this time, Stevens began to question aspects of his life and began to explore his spirituality.

8 A number of measured walks were designed in the grounds of the hospital each walk longer than the next. A patients' recovery was measured in terms of the length of the walk they were able to complete.

9 It is said that King Edward VII spent much of his time in the lodge at the entrance to the sanatorium where his mistress, Alice Keppel, would often reside.

10 The actors Alec Guinness and Boris Karloff both passed away in the sanatorium.

● Jan Harvey

Do have more to add? We would love to hear from you. Please email the Editor, Jan Harvey, with your memories and recollections of the King Edward VII Hospital
■ easebourneditor@btinternet.com

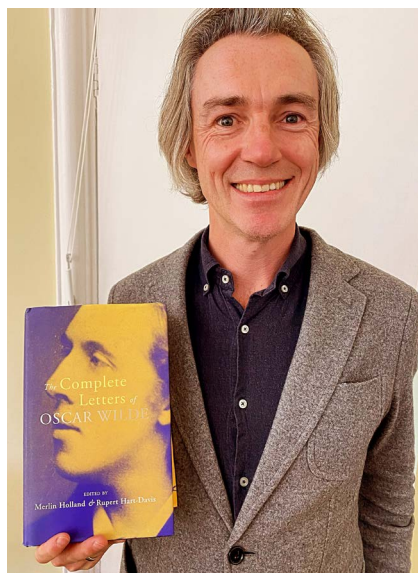
Wilde about Oscar

The November talk from The Arts Society, Midhurst, was delivered by Simon Whitehouse and gave us a fascinating insight into the life of this infamous writer and poet. Laced with both joy and sadness, a continual theme throughout Wilde's life, Simon provided the very well attended meeting with anecdotes and the meticulously researched information that only an expert can relate.

Long before the days of 'celebrity' as we know it today, Oscar Wilde gained a reputation for simply being remarkable. He was a stand out character with very firm ideals of beauty and elegance. His life was too short and we can only ponder on what could have been. Thanks to The Arts Society we had the opportunity to give this much consideration.

● Jan Harvey

■ www.theartsocietymidhurst.org.uk



Expert on Oscar Wilde, Simon Whitehouse

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Off Grid Success

NatSol, the supplier of the two eco-loos that Easebourne Parish Council (EPC) installed this spring in the award-winning Easebourne Park,



entered these popular off-grid facilities into the "Loo of The Year" competition.

The EPC is delighted to announce that its public conveniences were judged to qualify for a Platinum-level award for the 2024 competition. They were installed following an extensive consultation with Easebourne Parishioners and funded

under a New Homes Bonus scheme grant to EPC by Chichester District Council.

■ www.easebourne.org



OBITUARY

John Bridger passed away peacefully in his home in Claire, South Australia on 6 November after a short illness. John was

born at Soutars Farm on 25 April, 1937. He is survived by his wife Sylvia and three children, Janette, Neil and Rachael. He married Sylvia Cousins in March, 1964 and they emigrated to Australia the following year. When John and Sylvia moved to Claire they purchased a small farm and, over the years they built up the acreage. When John and Sylvia retired they built a house in Claire and Neil took over the farm.



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Midhurst u3a: The Next Ten Years...



Midhurst u3a is preparing to celebrate thirty years of learning, loving life always laced with lots of laughter.

The group has seen many changes across the years but the core value of everything being run 'by the members, for the members' encourages mutual aid and support in a highly social setting, with many interesting groups available for exploration as well as monthly talks by visiting speakers.

However, having achieved our thirtieth anniversary the question we now face is; 'where do we want to go in the next ten?' We will definitely be celebrating our past

achievements as well as collecting memoirs from our founding, long-standing and newer members. Look out for these, plus photos and artefacts, in our marvellous Midhurst Museum in September.

And a party of some kind?

We will definitely be having one of those! What could you add to this friendly and thriving group of people? Join us and help us steer the next ten years so that the u3a continues to provide wonderful opportunities for all people no longer in full time work.

■ www.midhurstu3a.org.uk

Midhurst

u3a
Learn,
Laugh,
Live

"A policeman's lot ...
is a very
interesting one"

A talk by Neil Sadler
Tuesday 16 January 2024
2.00 for 2.30pm

"London's Central
Royal Parks"

A talk by Jim Buttress
Tuesday 20 February 2024
2.00 for 2.30pm

Midhurst Methodist Church Hall
Admission: Members £ 2.00

Thinking of joining Midhurst u3a? Come as a visitor - £ 3 00
No need to book. Refreshments 2.00 - 2.20pm

From the Listed Buildings File



Chris Deadman focuses on the wealth of listed buildings in Easebourne

The initiative to list buildings started after the WWII when local authorities were given the power to preserve buildings of architectural and historical interest. There are three current listing categories plus a Scheduled Monument and a Parks and Gardens of Special Historic interest listing. Easebourne has examples in all categories.

The categories are:

Grade II - Most Easebourne listings are in this category. It means the buildings are of "special interest". This grade includes dwellings such as cottages, houses, farmhouses, public houses, and a former workhouse, but also structures such as barns, the Gates of Cowdray House (pictured left), a wall, a laundry, the granary adjoining the ruins (pictured right) and a bridge.

Grade II* - A handful of Easebourne's buildings are in this category, which means they are deemed "particularly important" and "of more than special interest". The Old



Vicarage and the chapel at the King Edward VII estate are examples.

Grade I - A similar number are in this category which are of "exceptional interest". The Parish Church of St Mary and the refectory are examples.

Scheduled Monuments - Easebourne has

The Listed Buildings of Easebourne

one in this category which is the "fortified medieval house and part of its landscaped gardens" i.e. the Cowdray Ruins. A Scheduled Monument has national significance, and this classification is reserved for specially selected sites.

Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest - Cowdray House Park and Garden is listed on this register. The main purpose of this register is to celebrate designed landscapes of note, and to encourage appropriate protection.

Midhurst and Rother College: Achievement Happiness and Respect



By Fiona Lunskey
Assistant Principal for
Raising
Standards

What a start to the school year we have had at MRC! As Assistant Principal for Raising Standards, I am proud to tell you about our autumn term and the plans we have for 2024. As a school, we chose our values in association with the students. Our values of achievement, happiness and respect guide us in all we do, so I would like to talk about life at the college, focusing on each of our values.

Achievement

In August 2023, we celebrated with the outgoing GCSE and A level students, who attained our best results ever. We very soon welcomed a lively new cohort of year seven students into the college and everyone moved up to a new school year. I manage the academic side of year eleven and I can see, at first hand, that it is a challenging ten months for all, leading to around thirty public examinations for each

student, each summer. Throughout this year we will be using morning tutor times to boost progress through master-classes in GCSE subjects.

Our students' progress is assessed every half-term, after which they are moved to tutor groups to address gaps in their skills or knowledge. In December, students experienced a "Results Day" giving them time to work on improving their grades before the real GCSEs next summer.

Constantly improving GCSE results enable more students to stay on at MRC sixth form and study for A levels. Our expanding sixth form has students who enjoy great facilities, take on leadership roles and serve as excellent role-models for their younger contemporaries. We are delighted to watch them move on to a great range of degree courses and career paths.

Lower down the school, we have fostered fluency in languages, offering a variety of subjects in French since 2020. In Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLiL) lessons, students learn geography, science, music, art and/or cookery to build fluency beyond conventional modern foreign language lessons. Our first CLiL students are ready for early entry GCSE next summer, outperforming older linguists. To stretch our most able pupils, starting in September 2023, we created a grammar stream, one class per year group.

Happiness

We offer education with character, seeking to develop the whole person as children move up through the school, nurturing known talents or interests and fostering new ones. Our

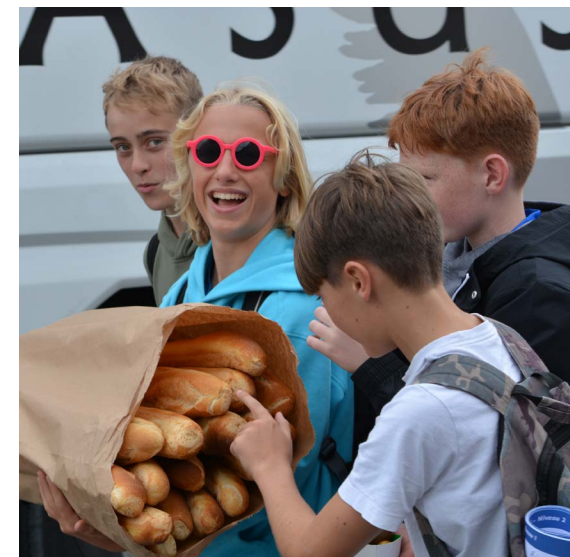
programme of enrichment allows children the choice to discover new things such as learning Welsh, trying out French cookery, playing chess, putting on a play, debating a hot topic or rehearsing with the school orchestra, amongst other things. We held a wonderful concert and a great performance of the musical "Waitress" from year thirteen performing arts students, ably supported by younger actors.

In November, we were pleased to welcome three thousand visitors on to campus for the wonderful Fireworks Night.

Study trips have included travel to Normandy and California and closer to home for "Go Ape" cross country running, rugby, opera at Glyndebourne and "The Life of Pi" at Chichester Festival Theatre. Just a few of the activities that make us happy to be part of MRC.

Respect

At college we teach our students to respect and care for others. We listen to learners' opinions at our student council, diversity and LGBTQ groups. We mark important occasions like Founders' Day at the parish church and Remembrance Day here in school. Each



school house supports a chosen charity through fundraising events like our recent fancy dress competition and the sponsored walk, which sixth form leaders often run. "Movember" was a huge success with staff and pupils sporting moustaches that they grew for charity! We are regular supporters of the Midhurst Food Bank too.

There is lots in store for 2024 as we continue to provide a rich and varied education for young people from a very wide catchment area, including those of the local community.

■ www.mrc-academy.org



*Pictured above:
CLiL students in Normandy with their baguettes
Left: Movember Day*

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Judith Macdonald-Lawson

Easebourne Parish Councillor

What does the Parish Council actually do?

Well, first and foremost, we represent you, all the residents of Easebourne, including the King Edward VII Estate and Henley, that is just over two thousand parishioners. We are the first level of local government providing you with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action. Importantly, we are not connected to a political party and can therefore give an independent perspective on local matters.

All planning applications within the parish are looked at by our Planning Committee as a statutory consultee, keeping in mind the Parish Design Statement (PDS) which we produced after consultation with all parishioners and which was adopted by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in February 2023. You can find the PDS on our website.

Our Finance Committee manages the spending of the parish funding allocation, along with any grants received. The brilliant Easebourne Park has attracted grants from a number of sources and money from the Community Infrastructure Levy, money paid to the parish after the start of any development within the parish. This money must be used to support parish infrastructure and has been an important source of revenue over the last few years.

Our Community and Environment Committee has a wide brief. It runs the very exciting and relevant initiative Greenheal, which, together with Lodsworth and Heyshott, aims to encourage parishioners to reduce their negative impact on the environment. It also has oversight of the management of Easebourne Park, encouraging the involvement of volunteers around the parish. The magnificent corten steel planters, which were tidied up ready for winter are part of their remit too. They are also responsible for communication with all parishioners.

How do you find out about our work?

Firstly all our meetings are open to the public, these are advertised on our noticeboards around the parish and on our website. We are on Facebook and of course, in this magazine where you will find news and contact details.

Who are we?

Mike Noble continues to provide great leadership as our chairman. Colin Sanderson is vice chairman and Trevor Baker, Ian Milne, Elaine Roberts-Grimsey, David Pack, Jose Galego and myself, Judith Macdonald-Lawson are councillors with various areas of responsibility. Finally, our new parish clerk is Emma Tremaine.

■ www.easebourne.org

Easebourne Parish Council

■ Tel: 07342 166188

■ parishclerk@easebourne.org

■ www.easebourne.org



EASEBOURNE
Parish Council

Friends of Easebourne Parish

FrEP volunteers have continued to cut back hedges around the Glaziers Lane cemetery with more work planned in this area this year.

Also planned is the planting of additional fruit trees in 'Carbon Corner' within Easebourne Park.

A group of FrEP volunteers have tidied up and replanted the seven planters in various locations around Easebourne village. Our thanks to Easebourne Parish Council for providing the funds to enable new plants to be added to the planters.

As part of our volunteer services we continue to provide a regular litter picking initiative throughout the parish.

● Frank Davies

■ FRFPsec@btinternet.com



Tidying the planters

If you would like to become a volunteer and make a real difference to your local environment, please email FRFPsec@btinternet.com or call 07803933694



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“What I love about Easebourne....



“...I lead the Walking Club at King Edward VII and for me it has to be the absolutely stunning walks. There are so many, all very varied and often amazing panoramic views.”

Lisa Jones

“...living in Easebourne I'm able to enjoy the stunning countryside right on my doorstep. Perfect for walks with my family and still not too far from the coast or London.”

Lisa Perry



“... it's a small place, but there's such a lot going on here and everyone is very friendly.”

Daphne Wakeford

“...through my interest in local history and from my research into some of its buildings, it is the richness and diversity of its architectural heritage and its setting within a beautiful landscape.”

Chris Deadman



“...it is so stylish and unique, in large part, because of the the Cowdray influence. The polo brings in people from all over the world which creates a huge buzz.”

Jane Williams

“...it's a charming blend of history and nature. The historic buildings and surrounding countryside creates a unique and peaceful atmosphere.”

Matt Shepherd



“...the views of the South Downs which are even more impressive from Easebourne than Midhurst. Perspective is everything! Just step away a little to see the fuller picture”

Megan Davis

“... the village is in a beautiful spot and the people I meet absolutely reflect that beauty back in their warmth and generosity - they're lovely!”

Rev Liz Yonge



Looking Forward to '24

Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society

Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society is an active group, holding meetings in Cowdray Hall with very interesting speakers, including some who have won gold medals at Chelsea Flower Show.



Our Produce Show takes place in August. Members enter their homegrown vegetables, flowers, arrangements and baking and preserves and it's not the winning that matters, it's the taking part! It is well worth popping in to look at the produce and to be inspired.

Easebourne covers such

This year we will have a full programme. There will be two coach trips. One will be heading to Highdown Gardens in April and the second to Kew Gardens in June. We have also organised a car share to visit a large garden centre.

One of our annual events is our May Plant Sale at Easebourne Priory when we sell a variety of vegetables and summer bedding plants.

a large area from the King Edward VII Estate, to the bridge over the Rother and up to Woolbeding. So, if you would like to join your friendly local group, come and meet us at any of our meetings; it's a really inexpensive way to learn about gardening and to get to know new people.

To receive a copy of our handbook, contact the secretary:

■ EGAS@tinagavin.com ■ 01730 816542.

● Daphne Wakeford

Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society: TALKS

8 February

Dr Steve Millam will talk about **Gardening for Wildlife**. Dr Millam is a former plant scientist in Dundee and Edinburgh, before coming home to West Sussex to teach horticulture, grow vegetables and walk on the South Downs.



Talks take place at Cowdray Hall, GU29 0AW for all information contact the secretary:
EGAS@tinagavin.com or 01730 816542

Through The Church Gate



CHURCH
NEWS AND
INFORMATION

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Date	Easebourne	Lodsworth	Selham
7 January Epiphany	10.30am Family Service	6.00pm Evensong	8.30am Holy Communion
14 January Epiphany 2	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Family Service	No Service
21 January Epiphany 3	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Celtic Service	8.30am Holy Communion
28 January Candlemas	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No Service
4 February 2nd before Lent	10.30am Family Communion	6.00pm Evensong	8.30am Holy Communion
11 February Next before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Family Communion	No Service
14 February Ash Wednesday	10.00am Holy Communion	No Service	No Service
18 February Lent 1	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Celtic Service	8.30 am Holy Communion
25 February Lent 2	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No Service

Bold types denotes any changes

As Christians we seek to ask the big questions together in our worship each Sunday, 10.30am at St. Mary's Easebourne. Do join us for an hour of peace, praise and reflection, with God's love for all firmly at the heart of our service, all are welcome.



Rector: Rev'd Canon Derek Welsman
01730 812655

Curate: Liz Yonge
07747 611993

Churchwardens

Lodsworth

Mrs Lynne Todd
01730 861399

Mr Deryck Hamon
01730 861850

Selham

Mrs J Colman
01730 861267

Mr Roger Comber
01730 861320

From the Vicar

Reverend Canon Derek Welsman

Dear Friends

I want to write to thank all of you who helped to repair our beautiful church spire. As many of you will know, woodpeckers had caused damage to the shingles and a complete recovering was required.

When we launched our appeal, I had no idea what the response would be, but as usual the local community, as well as the church family overwhelmed me with their generous response and for that I am eternally grateful.

This sense of community is so important, our rural life would not survive without it. Every time something important happens, like our spire appeal, the collective sense of who we are kicks in. This is a wonderful sign of hope for us all and something of which we can be rightly proud. It clearly demonstrates that we can be confident in each other, especially when something important is needed.

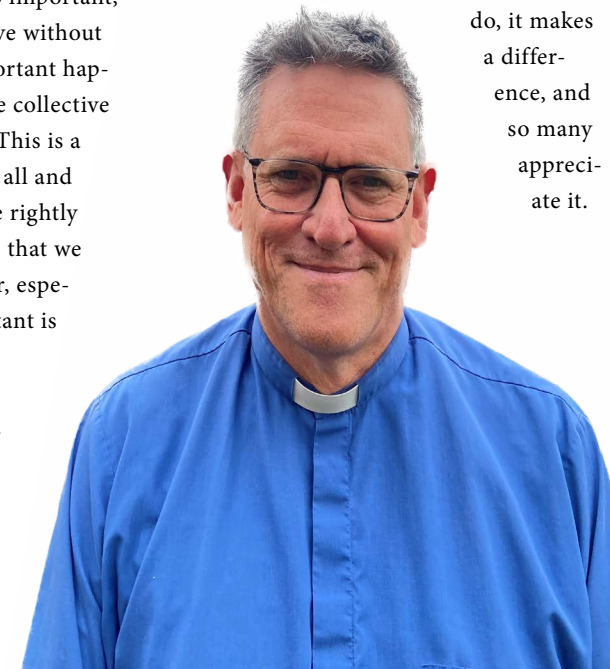
As we start our New Year, this sense of togetherness should encourage our life together. I am blessed that our church is supported by people who do not at-

tend, but who see the importance of the building at the heart of village life. This is only one small example.

However, when I see volunteers clearing paths, or parents raising vital funds to help support our schools, or the many gentle acts of kindness lived out each day in our midst, then we should all be blessed that even though our world can be tough at times, where we live, people do display what is important.

May I wish you all a very blessed and happy New Year. Keep doing what you

do, it makes a difference, and so many appreciate it.



www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

Church Events



Every Wednesday at 3.00pm
St. Mary's Church Easebourne
All are welcome

TEA AT THREE

Join us for coffee, tea, treats and a good chat.
Bring along your crafts; invite your neighbours; children are welcome too.
Contact Reverend Liz Yonge for more information ■ 07747 611993
■ revlizyonge@outlook.com



The Reading Rota
can now be found
on the website:

■ www.thepriorychurches.co.uk

A Knitting Marathon from Birthday House

Several residents of Birthday House have made blankets and toys for the Family Support Worker charity (FSW.). The blankets were made by Joan West and Joan Dudman and the amazing selection of toys were made by Val May, Rose Hyde, Betty Parry and Joy Jones.

All of the items were gratefully received by Kirsty from FSW. The knitting project for this worthwhile charity continues.

■ www.chichester.anglican.org



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

200
CLUB

November 2023 Winners

Prize	£	Share	Winner
1	100	266	Roger Sked
2	75	237	Maria Cooper
2	75	72	Margaret Pratt
3	50	16	Liz Bounton
3	50	62	Peggy Goodale
3	50	21	Joy Karn

December 2023 Winners

Prize	£	Share	Winner
1	100	46	Linda Chapman
2	75	35	Debbie Reed
2	75	51	Sara Dodds
3	50	215	Bryan Scholey
3	50	24	Irena Greaves
3	50	85	Julian Cartwright

If you would like to join the 200 Club please contact: Mike and Margaret Wharton

■ 01730 810474 or ■ mike@mwassociates.eu.com

Winners will receive monies by bank transfer

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

January No Meeting
February A talk by Kirsty Hewitt of Family Support Work

2pm in St. Mary's Church Easebourne

For all details of The Women's call Ann Harfield on

■ 01730 813810 or ■ email.annharfield23@gmail.com



Do you love to sing?

St. Mary's church choir sing most Sunday mornings at the 10.30am service and also for weddings and funerals. We rehearse on Friday evenings at 6pm and would welcome new voices, both high and low. We particularly need alto voices.

For more information about joining us please phone Mary Knight, our organist and choir leader.

■ 01730 812783

Church Contacts

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Northgate, Dodsley Grove,
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GU29 9BE
01730 812655
derek.welsman@outlook.com

Curate

Liz Yonge

07747611993

Churchwarden

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31 Elmleigh,
Midhurst GU29 9EZ
01730 817301
stringers4@btinternet.com

Churchwarden

Alison Davies
Merrydown, Bepton,
Midhurst GU29 OLZ
01730 816 642
alitdavis@gmail.com

Parish Administrator/PCC Secretary

Liz Bounton

1 Bourne Way
Midhurst GU29 9HZ
lizbounton@gmail.com
01730 816405

PCC Treasurer and Fgift Aid Secretary

Eric Bounton

1 Bourne Way
Midhurst GU29 9HZ
e.bounton@btinternet.com
01730 816405

Organist and Choir Mistress

Mary Knight

01730 812783

200 Club

Margaret and Mike Wharton

mike@mwassociates.eu.com

Social Committee

Jan Harling

jharlingm@gmail.com

Could Slow Be The New Fast This Lent?

Lent has a pretty bad reputation. When days are short and the weather uninspiring at best, the gloom seems compounded by the annual self-discipline test, impelling us to abandon (if only for the first two days!) our creature comforts of coffee, chocolate, biscuits and booze, often as a nod to health, or perhaps as something vaguely holy-related but which we struggle to articulate.

Fasting is an ancient practice, with prophets such as Noah and Moses fasting in gratitude for life, in sorrow for turning away from God, or as preparation to draw near to God. Within the church, it has long signified solidarity with the struggles and sacrifice of Christ, who fasted during his temptation in the desert before embarking on his earthly ministry.

All very worthy perhaps, but in a digital age where we can get anything we like (movies, music, food, a date, or a new mop-head) within hours, if not seconds and waiting to eat seems an alien concept, has giving up things for Lent had its day?

Well, perhaps it depends on what we're giving up, and what we get in return... Physical hunger pangs should prompt the "faster" to consider what they really hungered for. Did they need physical replenishment, or was their hunger perhaps boredom, anxiety, loneliness,

disillusionment, or grief? If the former then access to warmth and rest was encouraged, and if the latter then quiet time with God was prescribed.

Time saved gathering, preparing and eating food (historically several hours daily) was reallocated to pondering what would really satisfy the soul: comfort; love; healing; connection; purpose.

Lent became a time to ask big questions; why am I here? how should I live? what truly satisfies and brings me joy? Questions I think we would all like to ask today, if only we had the time....

As our kitchen-time has decreased, screen-time has boomed, with forty four per cent of our waking hours now spent on screens. If we truly want to free ourselves to think intentionally about our happiness and purpose this Lent, perhaps it is a digital fast we should consider?

Would slowing down the bombardment of our brains by reducing screen-time for just twenty minutes each day free us to reflect more richly on our lives, and would it make a difference to our happiness if it did? Perhaps we should try it and see....

● Rev. Liz Yonge

■ revlizyonge@outlook.com

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Food Bank Update

As I write this, we are
preparing for our Kids
Lunch Pack deliveries.
These are boxes of food
provided in the main
holidays to children who
receive free school meals
during term-time due to
low income. The family is given a box or
boxes of store cupboard staples to help
them during the holiday.

In Midhurst and the surrounding villages,
our volunteers deliver approximately one
hundred and eighty Kids Lunch Packs and
our boxes are packed by staff and students
at Seaford College (no small task!) with
the food generously donated by parents
of children who attend there. We also
include some lovely extras which are kindly
donated by the Midhurst and Petworth
Rotary Club and from parents of children
at Midhurst Rother College.

The winter months are a very busy time
for the foodbank as, usually, we see a steep
increase in the number of emergency food
parcel requests. Food parcels provide three
days' worth of food to people who are in

Help Through the Winter

crisis. Our food parcels are
packed in line with Trussell
Trust guidelines to ensure
that they provide a balance of
food items and we also include
other things such as toiletries.
Thank you to everyone who
donates to the food bank, we

continue to function thanks to your ongoing
support!

Can you help as a volunteer delivery driver?

We urgently need more volunteers to help us
with delivering food parcels in the Midhurst
area. We always aim to help those who need
food parcels as quickly as possible and rely on
volunteers who kindly give up their time to
make this happen. You'll need your own car
and be willing to do a minimum of three to
four deliveries per month. Boxes can weigh up
to 15kg so you'll need to be physically fit

All our deliveries are done by two people. You
can apply as a couple or as an individual.

● Innes Garcia

For further information please e-mail:-

■ midhurst@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk
■ www.chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Quiz Answers

1. Boy George. 2. Coats. 3. South Africa. 4. 25th January. 5. Hotmail.
6. Weather. 7. Hannibal. 8. Sweden (270,000). 9. Avenue des Champs-Elysees in
Paris. 10. 775. 11. Edward Lear. 12. Pisces. 13. Pear. 14. Sicily. 15. Pigs.
16. Oxygen. 17. White. 18. Clocks. 19. Forbidden fruit. 20. Spain

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Appointments at our Midhurst treatment rooms | 07471 733558
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Beautiful Churches of West Sussex

This is one of my favourite West Sussex churches. Much of the building is dated back to 1320, however some parts are almost a century earlier. There is some evidence that an even older church existed on the same site.

At the turn of the last century, the whitewash covering the west wall was removed and a mural from the very early days of the church was revealed. Churches throughout the country boast wall paintings of this sort, but this one is very impressive in both scale and detail.

The "Last Judgment" centers on Christ with Moses represented beneath him. To the right is the "Carnal Man" surrounded by the Seven Deadly Sins. On the left is the "Spiritual Man" encircled by the Seven Acts of Mercy. The paint work is, mostly, in good condition, but some parts are fading away.

Paintings on the north and south walls depict the Camoys family. Camoys was the lord of the manor and it would appear that the church was built principally for his family.

There is a large tomb in the middle of the



St. George, Trotton

chancel which contains the remains of Thomas de Camoys, 1st Baron Camoys who died circa 1421. He fought at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415.

His wife Elizabeth Mortimer, a daughter of Edmund Mortimer, 3rd Earl of March is believed to be the inspiration for the character of Gentle Kate in Shakespeare's Henry IV. The tomb features

an unusually large

brass and the figures depicted are almost life-sized. It has been described as one of the best preserved in the country. Additionally, the nave contains a ledger stone with a brass of Margaret de Camoys who died in 1310. This is the oldest known brass of a woman in England.

Situated between the bridge and the manor house in Trotton, this unassuming little church is an absolute delight, and should you visit please pop a donation in the box to help with its ongoing maintenance.

● **Jan Harvey**

For more on this lovely church please see the latest issue of Midhurst Magazine

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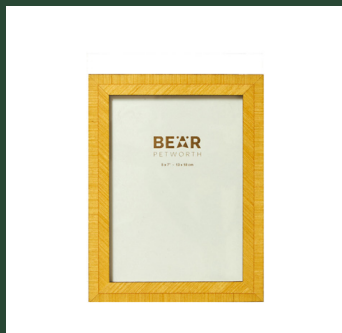
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