

EASEBOURNE

Magazine

March/April 2024 Vol 22 No.6



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Spring into the Arts



Wouldn't it be lovely to have a bronze statue of Dante beside South Pond? In an amazing act of generosity, sculptor Philip Jackson, who lives in Cocking, has offered to donate his two metre sculpture to the town and all it needs is permission for it to be erected. We'll be in good company if it goes ahead because another example of Philip's work appears in front of Chichester Cathedral and his statue of Bobby Moore stands outside Wembley Stadium. That is to name just two pieces from a tremendous body of work by this internationally renowned artist.

There is no underestimating the importance of the arts in our community, from the children playing with paint and getting "messy" in our local church, to those who gather at Midhurst Community Choir every week to learn new songs, through to Madhurst where we celebrate a range of talent from local people and invited artists and performers alike.

Art, in whatever form it takes, brings therapy, provides hobbies, gives joy and very often reward. People who participate in art, music and other forms of culture benefit in a variety

of ways even if, at the time, with all the frustrations of 'not being good enough,' it might not seem so! Art, by its very nature, is a challenge and often a process of lifelong learning. Trust me, I know.

The other lovely thing about the huge variety of subjects encompassed by the arts is accessibility. There are so many makers willing to share their skills, musicians willing to teach and opportunities exist to attend workshops that tackle just about anything. So, this spring, why not try something new? Give it a go, it's spring, paint a daffodil!

In this issue, we have a lot to inspire you. We introduce you to Easebourne Cub, Nathan Jones, who is walking two hundred miles to raise funds for the RNLI. Many of you will know Bruce Fogle, father of Ben, who introduces us to Mount Noddy RSPCA centre and his best friends, Plum and Bean. We also have a fun competition for you, all you need to do is send us a picture of your dog to win some lovely prizes. So read on and, if you do paint that daffodil, do let us know!

● **Jan Harvey**

Who Is Your Best Friend?

Hesworth Common is a great place for a walk. Do you know where it is? The other side of Petworth, on the way to Fittleworth. The small car park is nestled in a Hansel and Gretel wood.

I don't work at my veterinary clinic on Fridays and so I stopped off at the common on one of those crisp, bright, frosty days we had in mid-January. It's one of my favourite places for a short half hour walk and my golden retriever, Plum, agrees.

As always, Plum torpedoed out of the car park into the frost covered bracken. We trailed up the hill, through conifers and birch. I was marvelling at the crystals of ice on fallen cones when, out of the heather zoomed a Jack Russell terrier, wearing a tartan

coat, with a Ukrainian flag on it!

Plum and the flag-flying Jack did mad figure of eights. At the top of the hill, where the parish council has thoughtfully placed a bench so that you can rest and marvel at the panorama, while the dogs messed around in the low bilberry bushes, I met Jack's smiling owner.

'He is so happy,' she said. 'This weather reminds him of winter in Bucha in my country, and when I see how happy he is, I am happy too.'

I recognised her. I had met Svitlana in 2022 when I volunteered to visit newly arrived Ukrainians and their refugee dogs and cats in home quarantine in West Sussex. Meeting her reminded me what a blessing her dog was to her. In terrible times he made her smile.

Emotions

I've been a vet for over fifty years so I know how our companions' happiness makes us feel good too. As a clinical vet, it didn't take me long to realise that we're not the only species with feelings and emotions. Like us, our companion animals feel happiness or distress, euphoria or anguish.

That realisation is how I got interested in how charities can help both people and animal wellbeing. In 1983, I co-founded Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and, until recently, I was chair of Humane Society International, a charity that, more than any other, has helped end farming dogs for meat in South Korea. ▶



My wife Julia and I live near Arundel, so it's no surprise that I'm involved with the RSPCA Sussex West Branch Mount Noddy Centre. Do you know about Mount Noddy? It's the most up-to-date dog and cat 'rescue, rehabilitate and re-home' centre in the county. Mount Noddy is self-funding. We don't get a penny from the RSPCA, but rely on residents of West Sussex to ensure we continue to do what we do.

Volunteers

If you haven't visited Mount Noddy, you're in for a treat. It's as magnificent in its own way as Hesworth Common is, but we need more volunteers to foster cats and dogs, help with fundraising or perhaps even become a new trustee.

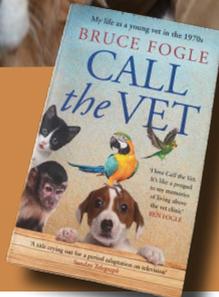
If you'd like more information please contact your very local trustee, Claire Pennhallurick
 ■ claire@bearpetworth.com



Top left: The staff at Mount Noddy celebrating Christmas with a resident.

Top right: Bruce visits the centre Bottom: Bruce with Plum, right and Bean, left.

Bruce Fogle MBE DVM MRCVS is a veterinarian, writer and the President of Mount Noddy Animal Centre in Eartham. His books are available in thirty-five languages, on all platforms.



Mount Noddy Animal Centre is the county's newest centre where dogs and cats are rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed.

■ www.rspcasussexwest.org.uk

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Photo of My Dog



Win a bespoke package of goodies with our fun photo competition. It's **free to enter** for all **Easebourne Magazine subscribers**. To take part, simply email a photo of your best (canine) friend to us and, if our judges select it as the one *they* like the best, you will win our bespoke prize.

The winner will be announced in our **May/June** issue.

The Prize

You will win two bow-ties and two bandanas, in your choice of size and fabric, for your dog. They are made by **Little Miss Cindy Bandanas** (@littlemisscindybandanas on instagram) who have also donated a piggy toy. You will also win a free "pawdecure," a pad trim, nail trim and balm from **Little Wolves Dog Grooming Spa**.
(littlewolvesgroomingspa.uk)



Enter by Friday 29 March

To enter email a picture of your dog with his/her name to:

easebourneeditor@btinternet.com

More than one dog? You can enter a photo for each of your dogs, but they must be individual portraits. Don't forget to include your name, address and phone number. We will not be retaining your information; we will only use it to check you are named on our subscribers' list and, of course, to contact you if you win.

There is no entry fee.

Terms and conditions are available on request.

To subscribe to Easebourne Magazine and take part in our fun competition please email: **easebournemagazine@btinternet.com**

What's On

The Arts Society Midhurst

Banksy: Fraud or Genius

A lecture by Pepe Martinez

Tuesday 5 March

Opium: Greed, Seduction, Art

A lecture by Amanda Herries

Tuesday 2 April

Coffee is served from 10.00am

Lecture 10.45 – Noon

The Methodist Hall, Midhurst

www.theartsocietymidhurst.org.uk

Arundel Castle

Tulip Festival



An annual springtime celebration and one of the most recognised gardening events in the UK. Set against the iconic backdrop of Arundel Castle, a breathtaking array of colours will greet you as over one hundred thousand tulip bulbs have been lovingly planted by the castle's acclaimed head gardener, Martin Duncan, and his skilled team.

Check website for flowering dates.

www.arundelcastle.org

Grayshott Folk Club

Multi-award-winning folk singers and musicians Sam Kelly and Jamie Francis share a common interest in roots music. They are two of the most respected and innovative musicians on the current UK folk scene. The Bristol-based duo are the main writing partnership behind the hit folk band Sam Kelly and The Lost Boys, but as a duo they still perform inventive interpretations of traditional songs and tunes as well as toe-tapping original compositions

Friday 22 March, 7.30pm

The Village Hall, Grayshott, GU26 6TZ

Admission £15.00, tickets available from

Grayshott Post Office (in person)

or www.ents24.com

Out and About

Petworth House

Spring Festival

Our sensational new festival will celebrate the arrival of spring, featuring talks, demonstrations, art and craft workshops, family activities, a community art installation and a display of radiant daffodils.

The festival will run for three weeks from

23 March to 14 April.

Normal admission applies.

Spring Makers Market

Handmade products including jewellery, homewares, textiles and art.

Saturday 23 March, 10am - 4pm

Sunday 24 March, 10am - 4pm

Normal admission applies.

Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society: TALKS

14 March

Angela Ward is a ranger for South Downs National Park. She is going to talk about the flora and fauna of the area. Please note that this is an afternoon talk starting at 2.00pm.

Free for members, or £2.00 for visitors.

9 April

Coach trip to the chalk garden at Highdown near Worthing to see the spring flowers. The coach costs £16.00, but entry to the garden is free and there is a café on site.

■ daphnewakeford@hotmail.co.uk.

Talks take place at Cowdray Hall, GU29 0AW.

For all information contact the secretary: EGAS@tinagavin.com or 01730 816542

A Day Out To....

Ramster Gardens

Ramster Gardens, just outside Chiddingfold, is a place for people who love two things. One: gardens and Two: peace and quiet.

You can follow the many winding paths through carpets of bluebells down to a secluded Japanese garden, or sit and gaze at wildlife ponds, watching dragonflies hover. There are many varieties of camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas and ancient magnolia trees. The towering giant redwoods never fail to amaze visitors. There are over twenty five acres of peaceful woodland and views of lakes and hillsides, alive with colour and interest.



My favourite specimen is the handkerchief tree which is a rarity in this country. You have to be on the ball though to catch it in flower.

You can visit an embroidery and textile arts exhibition in March and the annual Surrey Sculpture Trail will feature inspirational pieces in garden settings throughout May.

There is also a lovely tea house, selling delicious treats, open from 23 March.

Ramster is a destination for all the family to enjoy, but, mostly, a garden lovers dream.

● Jan Harvey

■ www.ramsterevents.com



Left and right: African Bird by Jane McKeown, from the embroidery and textile exhibition and horse's head from a previous sculpture trail.





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A Walking Hero

Easebourne cub, Nathan Jones (10), has set himself the challenge of walking two hundred miles to raise funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), his favourite charity.

In 1936, his great grandmother, Betty Miles, received a certificate of merit as a finalist in an RNLI writing competition and started a family link with the charity which has continued down the generations.

I met Nathan when he had almost reached the one hundred mile mark. With £1290 raised, he had easily smashed through his initial target of £200. He was sponsored from

the outset by Midhurst businesses; The Upholsterer, Porter Estate Agents, Stuff and Co and Ocean Blue Fish and Chip Shop. His promotional banner was supplied, at a reduced cost, by Printed Today and that gave him a great start.

Nathan has split his challenge into a schedule of carefully planned walks and he has invited people along to join in. They have walked locally around Easebourne, Midhurst, Iping, Trotton and down at Selsey where the lifeboats are located.

**Jan Harvey
interviews
a young
man who is
going the
extra mile**



Nathan loves the Selsey lifeboat station and takes any opportunity he can to go there for a visit. He told me he'd like a career as an electrical engineer and, if he can live close enough, become a lifeboat crew member.

All weathers

'I've gone out in all weathers for my walks,' says Nathan, 'Wind, snow and rain and although its often been hard, I tell myself, that's what the crew do, and they don't have any choice at all.' Nathan's final walk is on Sunday 3 March in Selsey. If you would like to support him you can donate at:

■ [justgiving.com/page/nathans-200-miles-rnli](https://www.justgiving.com/page/nathans-200-miles-rnli)

Celebrating Community

This year's event, on Saturday 27 April from 10.00am-2.00pm, promises to be the biggest and best yet, with numerous requests for stalls being made within hours of details being released.

From its original incarnation as the Midhurst Grammar School Sustainability Day in 2007, the event has grown from strength to strength and Midhurst Rother College (MRC) look forward to warmly welcoming the local community.

A great turnout is anticipated as clubs, groups, businesses and agencies display their wares. There's always a wide range of local artisans showing off their skills and giving the public the chance to have a go. There is lots of food and drink to taste and buy. Local clubs will be providing fun activities for all ages, plus new this year, there are



fairground rides for the younger children and a small animal zone from Chichester College, Brinsbury Campus. Sky Park Farm have confirmed their attendance and will be giving everyone the chance to win a family day pass to their amazing deer park near Harting. Afterburn Gym will also give one lucky visitor one month's

free membership and a free physical training session.

Why not come along and see who else has joined in for a day of fun this year? The event is free to all to join and attend, although there may be a small charge for some activities. If you belong to a club or group, own a business, or run an agency and would like to join us for this event, please do get in touch.

● Madeline Hathaway

■ madeline.hathaway@mrc-academy.org

Midhurst Rother College to host the annual Community Day


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The Coffee Time Quiz

By
Carol
Sawyer

1. Which continent is the largest?
2. What genre of music did Taylor Swift start in?
3. What is the name of the fourth book in the Harry Potter series?
4. What animal is on Levi's logo?
5. What vehicle is Volkswagen best known for in the world?
6. What is acrophobia a fear of?
7. What colours are included in the flag of the United Nations?
8. What is the busiest single-runway airport in the world?
9. Which natural disaster is measured with a Richter scale?
10. What percentage of our bodies is made up of water?
11. What was the highest grossing film?
12. Who did England play in the FIFA Women's World Cup Final?
13. What museum in London sacked a member of staff after treasures were reported 'missing, stolen or damaged'?
14. What was the name of the storm that hit the UK in September?
15. What was the most-liked dog breed in the UK?
16. Which country was projected to surpass China as the most populous in the world in 2023?
17. There was outrage when a tree next to Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland was felled. What was the name of the tree?
18. Which country officially joined NATO to become the 31st member of the security alliance?
19. In January 2023, which map celebrated ninety years of use?
20. Can you express the year 2023 in roman numerals?

Can you remember what happened in 2023?

Answers
on page
24

To advertise in Easebourne Magazine, email:

Paul Chantry easebournemagazine@btinternet.com

The advertising deadline for our **May/June** issue is **Wednesday 3 April**

The editorial deadline is **Friday 22 March**



COWDRAY WELLBEING

Wellbeing is an important part of the Estate's ethos. Cowdray Hall and Therapy Rooms provide a focal point for self-development, a place where you can come to step aside from the challenges of daily life. Cowdray Hall offers a broad variety of emotional and spiritual workshops, retreats, events and weekly classes.

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www.cowdray.co.uk/wellbeing

A Happy Return

The polo season is fast approaching and Cowdray Park Polo Club's new managing director, Jamie Peel is looking ahead to an exciting roster of tournaments at the home of British polo.

No stranger to the local polo community, Jamie became a playing member at Cowdray when he was still in the pony club.

'I had been to Conifers School, Easebourne, where my Mum was headmistress and we always used to go and watch polo after school or at the weekends,' Jamie recalls. 'It was a great environment to grow up in as there were lots of other kids my age, many who continued playing after they had left school. The polo community was always very welcoming, there were people like Henry Stevens, Robert Graham and Maurizio Devrient Kid who always had time for young players. They gave us the encouragement to keep working at it.'

Jamie returned to the polo club in a professional capacity at the end of last year. 'My wife and I love the area, so when the opportunity came to join Cowdray Park Polo Club as managing director, I jumped at the chance. It's a place that has given me so much over the years, I have some great memories from my playing days and hopefully I

will get the chance to make some more in this new role while being able to give something back to the club.'

'We have got a great team of people working here at the club and I am really looking forward to the beginning of the season. Chukkas will be starting on the 12 April and the Tyro Cup, one of my favourite tournaments, starts on the 27 April. The Petworth Cup is now being run as a 10-goal tournament, which is a first for the club, and I am looking forward to watching some of those games.' The British Open Polo Championship for the Cowdray Gold Cup will once again be the highlight of the season, including the sell-out Ibiza Night on 20 July and the final match the following day.'

■ www.cowdraypolo.co.uk





Formed in 1960, the Midhurst Society aims to preserve, protect and improve local features of historic or community interest. It seeks to enhance the local environment and amenities. Above all, it strives to make Midhurst and the surrounding villages a better place to live, work and enjoy.

The Society holds a series of talks or events every year, usually held in the Memorial Hall on the third Thursday of the month. They also publish the annual 'Midhurst Magazine.' New members are most welcome.

■ www.midhurstsociety.org.uk

NEXT TALK

7.30pm on 21 March

SDNPA Memorial Hall
Midhurst

Nina Williams

Head Forester for the Cowdray Estate.

Nina is one of very few women in this role where she manages nearly 2,800 hectares of the forested land on the estate. Nina will talk on the subject of "Balancing Timber Production with Conservation."



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Midhurst Area

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The March of Time



Generally, March is the month when it dawns on me that I have totally neglected my garden over the winter as I didn't put it to bed quite as well as I had planned to at end of autumn. There are trees and shrubs I forgot to prune, the mowers still have old fuel in them, some of my raised beds are decidedly dilapidated and autumn's leaves have turned to sludge on the ground.

There are a lot of jobs to do and my first is to decide what to delegate and what I can ignore for a further year! The mower is very frustrating so I delegate that to my husband, crossing my fingers in the hope that it will live to see another season.

Following that, I promise myself that I will prune the trees and shrubs next year and cross that off my list.

Then, I drag myself from the comfort of the sofa and emerge into the light with rolled up sleeves and trowel in hand.

I have to admit that there is nothing quite like getting out into my own garden again with a little warmth in the air and the promise of spring tingling in every shoot and bud. It is a joyful moment.

The jobs I like to do first are the ones which promise instant gratification. This means a quick tidy up all round.

Clearing the leaves is a lovely job with fast rewards. I gleefully add them to my compost whilst uncovering bulbs shooting through the soil, already not far from flowering.

I have a number of pots on the gravel outside my door which are in a shocking state, basically filled with dead weeds. ▶



Kate Verdley

A quick replenishment of these has an almost wondrous effect on my mood and a few bags of fresh pea shingle scattered about the place works wonders too. Then there is the most important job of all, preparing the ground for the season ahead. A thorough weeding of all beds is in order and then, crucially, a serious mulch.

I use whatever is to hand and as much as possible. I raid the local stables for rotted manure and turn over my compost heaps. I barrow the resulting compost onto the soil and buy as much bagged material as I can afford, literally giving my garden a feast, ahead of what I hope will be another bountiful year.

Then it's on to the growing. By now the seeds that I have sown indoors in January and February will be seedlings in the

poly-tunnel. I sow further batches of seed indoors throughout March and April and now is a good time to start sowing outside too into those lovely prepared beds. Every year I try something new, experimenting with varieties that I haven't grown before.

Finally, one more job is to lift and divide perennials. I have a number of perennial beds where I grow some of my absolute favourite flowers – delphiniums, scabious, achillea, echinops and eryngiums to name but a few. If clumps of these are getting rather large they can be dug up and, using two sharp clean spades, split into two or more clumps and put back into the garden. This essentially means free plants, which in my book, are always good plants. Happy days indeed.

● Kate Verdley

■ kate@verdleyflowers.com



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Buttercup Windows

POETRY CORNER

At the heart of the South Downs,
Stands a majestic ruin,
In the valley, where the Rother river flows,
Past the Tudor house
Lie Cowdray lands.
And to each side,
Two villages, treasuring a past,
Easebourne and Midhurst,
Domesday to this day,
Proud in the hearts
Of the people who dwell.

Easebourne sings with
Buttercup windows and
Dandelion doors,
A seal approved by their
Cowdray hosts,
Flourishing gardens,
Embraced by equestrian splendour
Bordered lawns stretch
Far across vast acres.

A winding road,
Laced with secret paths,
Leads to a King's estate.
And a place of caring,
Renewed and refit,
Brings together new faces,
Amid the fleeting glimpses
Of those long past.

And low down in the valley,
Saint Mary's stands,
Bringing together
A community, as villagers
Gathering for historic moments,
Fêtes and festivals celebrate.
They welcome the new arrivals
With open arms and kind hearts
And stories of the past mingle
With futures fresh to start.

Kirpal Mawaha

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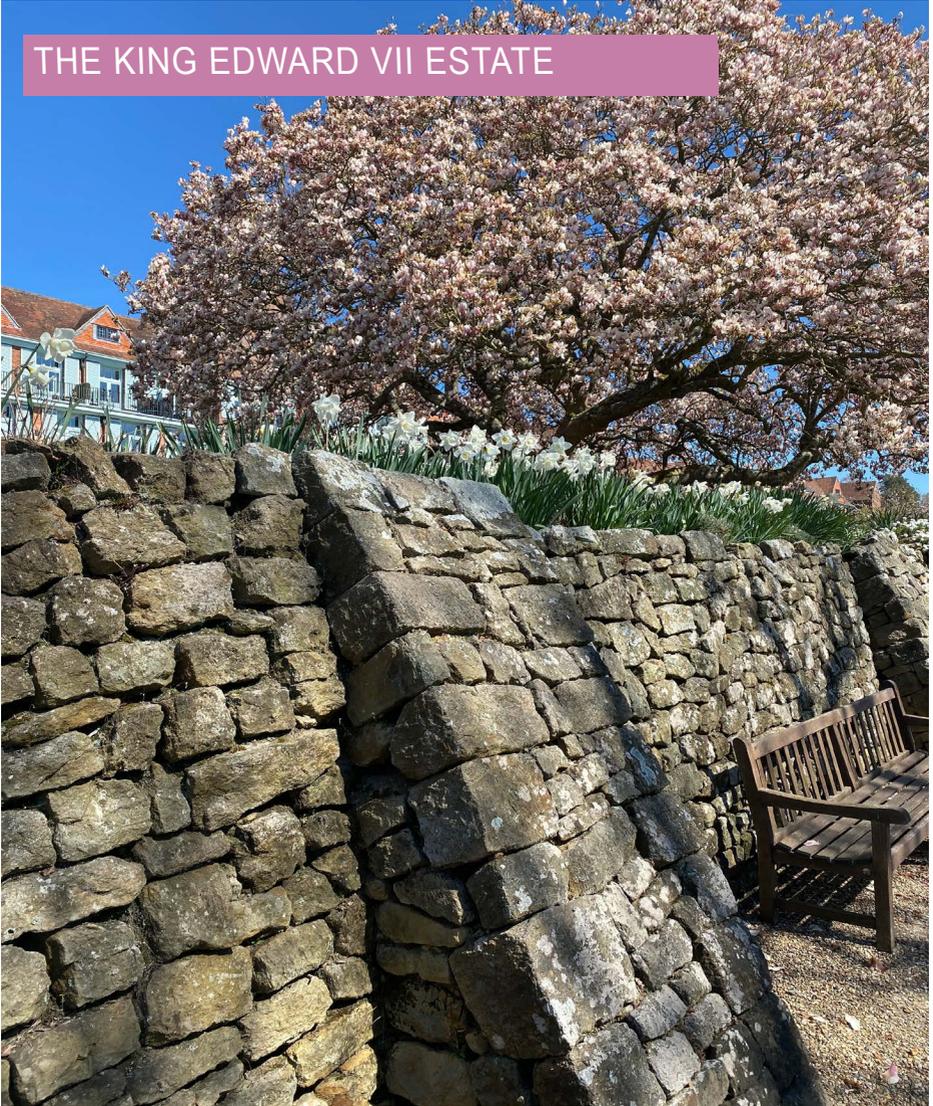
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THE KING EDWARD VII ESTATE



A Garden for Recuperation

The gardens of the King Edward VII Sanatorium were formerly a sandy heath. The lay out was designed by architect, Percy Adams, in partnership with the renowned horticulturist, Gertrude Jekyll, who oversaw all the planting.

The gardens lie to the front of the building which faces due south, they comprise formal terraces, on several layers, with buttress walls and lead down to an rough lawned playing field, now used by residents to exercise dogs. Jekyll was known for blending formal with the uncultivated and this is a prime example.

The pines that surround the estate and the 'terebinthine' vapours they exude were an ideal environment for a hospital specialising in tuberculosis, but to the front the forest was cleared to create panoramic views.

Therapeutic Value

Jekyll strongly believed in the therapeutic value of plants and was convinced that a well-planted garden could greatly enhance the recovery of patients. This was one of her most ambitious projects and required over forty drawings. No detail was overlooked as she worked alongside Percy Adams and in consultation with the sanatorium architect, Charles Holden.

Many of the plants in the gardens came from Jekyll's own nursery in Munstead Wood, Godalming. Plants such as santolina, sedum, lavender and campanulas were placed between an extensive run of dry-stone walling. She used many aromatic herbs and found that the light sandy soil lent itself to Mediterranean



plants. Everything was planted for its seasonal and colour impact.

Small Spaces

Jekyll also designed gardens in the small spaces between the wings of the sanatorium, the chapel, to each side of the main drive and at the superintendent's house. In this she was aided by a small team of gardeners and many of the patients, for whom working in the grounds was often mandatory, to aid recovery.

The magnolia trees she planted are perhaps the most striking feature of the garden and come out in all their glory in March, a sight to behold and a reminder of the gardening genius that was Gertrude Jekyll.

● Jan Harvey

■ easebourneeditor@btinternet.com



From the Listed Buildings File



Photo by Chris Deadman

Dawslea Cottage

**Chris Deadman
discovers the
history behind
this unusual
Easebourne
cottage**

Dawslea Cottage (and the building located next door, Dawslea Barn; not a listed building) were once part of a farm; sometimes referred to as Dodsley or Dawslea Farm.

In the 1840's the landowner and occupier of Dodsley Farm was Pruett Dennett. Cowdray records called the "Apportionment of Rent Charge" show that Pruett

owned Dodsley Farm house, the garden, barn, yard and a few arable fields. At this time, Pruett would have been in his mid-late twenties. In the census records of 1851 and 1861, Pruett's occupation is noted as a "farmer" and he was residing in West Street, Midhurst. Pruett was buried in Easebourne by Rev. E. Tufnell in July 1876, aged 61. In

1881, William and Sarah Merritt and their family of four sons and two daughters were living at "Dawsley Farm". William was an agricultural labourer. Some time between 1917 and 1922, it appears the farm ceased operation and the two buildings became separate entities.

Orkney

Dodsley Farm was the home of William and Fanny Boxall in 1917 when they received notice of the death of their son, Lincoln William Boxall, an "ordinary seaman" in the Royal Navy, with HMS Hercules. Lincoln had joined the navy in January 1916 as a "boy 2nd class" on H.M.S. Impregnable, becoming a "boy first class" in August 1916, finally becoming an "ordinary seaman" in May 1917, a few days before his eighteenth birthday. The World War I Naval Casualties Record says he was "killed or died as a result of an accident". Lincoln is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Hoy on Orkney.

Reginald Leonard (Bill) Haine, the decorated First World War veteran, and his wife Dora were occupants of Dawslea Cottage in the period after the War. An application for a 1914 Star Medal was made on behalf of Reginald in 1922 and the medal index card shows it was sent to Dawslea Cottage.

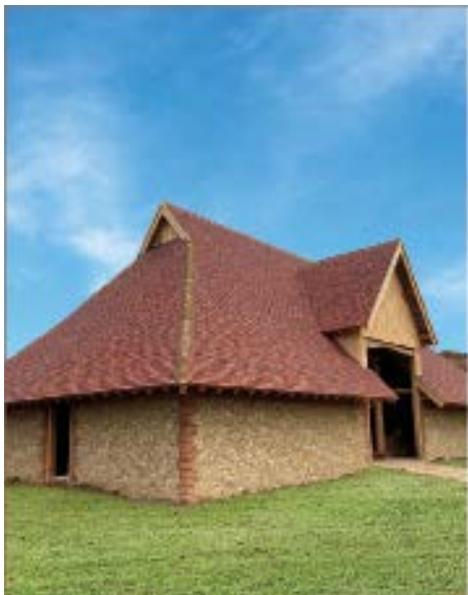
Artillery Company

Reginald was born in London in July 1896 and enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company on 28th August 1914, eleven months underage. He was commissioned in 1916 and awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions as company commander near Gavrelle in April 1917, during the battle of Arras. The following year Reginald was attached to the 35th Sikhs in the Indian Army and was awarded the Military Cross

for conspicuous gallantry at Dhakka, in the north-west frontier, in May 1919.

Reginald left the army in 1920 and he married Dora Holder in Purley in November 1923. During the Second World War, Reginald served in the Home Guard as lieutenant colonel and commanding officer of the 58th Surrey Battalion.

It isn't clear how much time Reginald and Dora spent at Dawslea Cottage, but Easebourne was certainly a place with which they had emotional association. Although Reginald died in St Thomas's Hospital, London, in June 1982, his funeral was held in St Mary's Church, Easebourne, where he is named on the altar rail. There is also a memorial plaque located in the churchyard wall.



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Nature Notes

The Toad

By Michael Blencowe of the
Sussex Wildlife Trust

Once upon a time, the British people were divided. Impassioned debates raged throughout the land, truth and common sense became distorted and the public rose up and demanded an answer. How did that toad get inside that rock?

In 1898, two burly workmen in a chalk quarry near Lewes cracked open a hollow chunk of flint. The solid rock, formed eighty five million years ago, split open to reveal an airtight cavity at its core. To the quarrymen's amazement, entombed within the ancient flint was a dead toad.

'Toad-in-the-hole'

'Toad-in-the-hole' hysteria soon hit the headlines. It seemed like every month the newspapers reported how someone had split open a rock and found a toad inside. Some of these toads had already croaked, but others would inexplicably still be alive and hopping. The Victorian world was thrown into theological and philosophical panic. Clergymen preached that the Creator had placed the eternal amphibians in rocks at the dawn of time. Subscribers to Darwin's new theory of evolution were perplexed. Charles Dickens wrote of his bewilderment, while others believed it was simply sorcery. Scientists began burying live toads in sealed boxes to investigate the unfortunate animal's longevity.

The Lewes toad of 1898 is the world's only surviving artefact of the entombed toad craze. It now resides in Brighton's incredible Booth Museum of Natural History, one of my favourite places in the whole world. Amongst the many awe-inspiring exhibits at The Booth, you'll find a special cabinet dedicated to curiosities. In it, lying reverentially on a bed of maroon felt, there is 'probably the most famous toad in the world'. Admittedly, when it comes to world-famous toads it's not a particularly crowded field, with only Toad of Toad Hall to contest the title. Alongside the original oval of cleft flint sits the shrivelled body of the infamous amphibian. The whole surreal exhibit is like a Kinder Surprise designed by Hieronymus Bosch.

However, this cracked up flint isn't all it's cracked up to be. The Lewes toad was originally presented to the Brighton and Hove Natural History and Philosophical Society by Charles Dawson. That's the same Charles Dawson who would soon be sticking some Orangutan teeth on a human skull and declaring he had discovered the 'missing link' at Piltdown, near Uckfield. In 1953, Dawson would be unmasked as a fraudster and the whole 'toad-in-the-hole' phenomenon would come crashing down, dismissed as poppycock.

To join Sussex Wildlife Trust simply visit our website:

■ sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

‘As we age, our bodies and minds change and muscle mass depletes, we become more prone to injury and our functional ability can deteriorate,’ says Heidi. ‘My passion for exercise has remained a constant in my life. It is such a powerful way to improve overall health and wellbeing both mentally and physically.’

Over the years Heidi has helped hundreds of people take steps towards living a healthier lifestyle both as a specialised fitness instructor and, lately, as a health and wellbeing coach. Her one-to-one sessions take into consideration all medical conditions, injuries and physical ability.

“Exercise is the Pill Everyone Should be Prescribed”

Health Driven client, Shirley, is a prime example of someone who has exercised herself back to health. ‘I have had several bad years and then, recently, three nasty falls. My confidence and balance had deserted me but, after working with Heidi, I am now able to walk without pain and my balance

is back. At last, I am able to go for walks without constantly looking at the ground for hazards. In many ways Heidi has given me my life back.’

Heidi also teaches a class in Midhurst called Paracise. This is a low-impact class, gentle on the joints and helps to improve mobility, flexibility and balance. It is ideal for

people for whom regular fitness classes are too much, those who haven’t exercised for a long time, or are maybe coming back from injury.

It is now being said that “exercise is the pill everyone should be prescribed.” It’s never too late to start.

■ www.healthdriven.co.uk



Do you feel that exercise is beyond you? Health and wellbeing coach, Heidi Johnson has a solution.



Providing tailored exercise classes and personal training sessions in the local area for over 25 years. Specialising in Pilates, Falls prevention, Cardiac, Pulmonary and Cancer Rehabilitation, and Strength and Resistance training for Midlife Women.



Tel: 07826924923 www.healthdriven.co.uk
Email: heidi@healthdriven.co.uk



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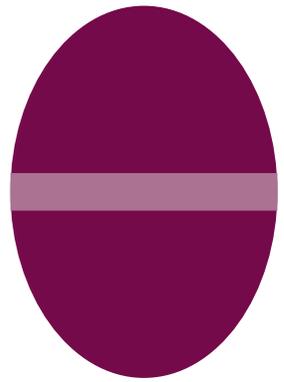


Quiz Answers

1 Asia. 2 Country 3 Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire 4 Horse 5 The Beetle 6 Heights
7 Blue and White 8 London Gatwick 9 Earthquakes 10 60-65% 11 Barbie 12 Spain
13 The British Museum. 14 Agnes 15 Golden Retriever. 16 India 17 Sycamore Gap 18 Finland
19 The London Underground map 20 MMXX11

Go large this Easter!

A round up of Easter events



The National Trust are running Easter Adventure Trails at Uppark, Petworth, Batemans, Nymans, Standen and Bodiam. Family fun from 2 April.

■ www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Sky Park Farm have Easter egg hunts during the school holidays and a Teddy Bears' Picnic on 6 and 11 April.

■ www.skyparkfarm.com

The Weald and Downland Living Museum offers the chance to explore and learn during the holidays with an Easter egg trail around the forty acre site. From

Saturday 1 to Sunday 16 April.

■ www.wealddown.co.uk

Noble and Stace, here in Easebourne, will be running masterclass workshops in the lead up to Easter.



Expert chocolatier, Mike Noble, will help you make and decorate

your own delicious Easter eggs. His wonderful range of handcrafted chocolates are also available on-line.

■ www.nobleandstace.co.uk

Fishers Farm Park has lots of Easter activities for the whole family. With an appearance from the Easter Bunny and his furry friends and of course, the cutest new born lambs and goat kids.

All from 1 April to 16 April.

■ www.fishersfarmpark.co.uk

Chichester Canal is operating Easter Bunny Boat Trips from 1 April to the 10 April. Running three times a day: 10:30, 12:45 and 15:30.

Check out the website for details.

■ www.chichestercanal.org.uk

● Jan Harvey



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www.nobleandstace.co.uk 07779 880 459

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NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Judith Macdonald- Lawson
Easebourne Parish Councillor

The Parish Council has installed its sixth defibrillator in Easebourne Village, on the wall outside the Village Store. This is a key location on Easebourne Street near St Mary's Church, Cowdray Farm Shop and the White Horse Pub.

This key piece of life-saving medical equipment was mostly funded by a single parishioner, David Pack, in memory of his mother, but additional funding came from St Mary's Church and the Easebourne Parish Council.

The Cowdray Estate contributed to this community effort by graciously agreeing to their electrician installing the defibrillator. The council intends to run a couple of training sessions to accompany the arrival of this new life-saving device.



Councillor, David Pack and village store owner, Krishna Vicky with the new defibrillator.

Fete in the Park

Easebourne Parish Council and Easebourne Primary School are getting together and holding the first Easebourne Fete in the Park on Sunday 7 July. The park is the perfect venue for what we are sure will be a hugely popular annual event. Keep an eye out for more information on facebook, through the primary school and, of course, in Easebourne Magazine.

Once again, I am appealing for parishioners to join us on the parish council. You may consider that it isn't for you, having the perception that it is perhaps a bit dull with long tedious meetings, or you might imagine that you will be swamped with jobs. I can assure you neither is the case. Our meetings are short and well-managed by Emma, our parish clerk, and you can choose to be involved in the areas which are of interest to you.

We meet on Wednesday evenings. Planning and finance are monthly meetings, community and environment every second month and the whole council meets every second month too. You will meet new people, make good friends and most importantly, make a difference to your local community.

■ parishclerk@easebourne.org

Easebourne Parish Council

■ Tel: 07342 166188

■ parishclerk@easebourne.org

■ www.easebourne.org



EASEBOURNE
Parish Council

Friends of Easebourne Parish

Our volunteers braved the bitter cold of winter to plant ten additional fruit trees in Easebourne Park, supplementing those we planted two years ago. This new small orchard, funded by Chichester District Council, is made up of apple, pear, green-gage and Victoria plum trees. A future feast for visitors to the park!

Very recently three more trees, all native to the UK, two copper beech and an acer campestre, have been planted in memoriam with funding kindly provided by two Easebourne residents.

Hedges surrounding the Glaziers Lane burial ground are again being cut back. This is an ongoing project and will gradually be completed over the next few months.

Regular litter-picking and the clearing of bus shelters is a continuing commitment by FrEP volunteers with almost all public areas within the parish being included.

As a voluntary group, FrEP could achieve far more if we could increase the number of volunteers. Even if your help is only on an occasional basis, you would be very welcome.

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



Volunteers: David MacDonald-Lawson, Bea Archer, Phil Stringer and Cass Morgan

We had a visit to the Farretti Bakery and met Val who very kindly opened up her kitchen for us. She makes yummy pizzas, lasagne and garlic bread there.

When we arrived we sang our Rainbows song, then Val introduced herself. She showed us how to make lasagne, and from a huge cooking pot gave us some little tasting pots of delicious sauce made from beef mince, tomato sauce and vegetables.

Then, we were all given a tin. Val had prepared a piece of dough for each of us. First we had to stretch the dough ball, which was soft and squishy and we had to be careful not to make holes in the dough.

We put some oil in our tins and then we placed the dough on top and spread it out to the edges. We put some red, fresh tomato sauce on the dough which we spread out with a spoon. Val had prepared some toppings, cheese, black olives, red pepper, mushrooms,



Easebourne Rainbows Experience The Italian Job

pepperoni and ham for us to choose from.

Hattie chose ham and cheese, her favourite pizza toppings. Lottie chose ham and some hot pepperoni to try something new. Ember made a smiley face with her toppings, and Heidi

tried all the toppings.

We put the tins onto a tray, and Val took them to her oven which is very hot. Whilst the pizzas were cooking we made some

bread. It was so much fun. We had some dough and moulded it into shapes, put it on a tray and Val cooked them all.

It was nearly time to go home so we sang our Rainbows song, then Val gave us a bag with our cooked pizza in to take away. We had a great time.

■ www.girlguiding.org.uk

Ace Rainbow reporters, Hattie and Lottie Howells, tell us about their outing to the Farretti Bakery in Lodsworth

Midhurst

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Tuesday 19 March

“Landscapes of South East England”

A talk by Geoffrey Mead
Tuesday 16 April

2.00 for 2.30pm

Midhurst Methodist Church Hall

Admission: Members £ 2.00

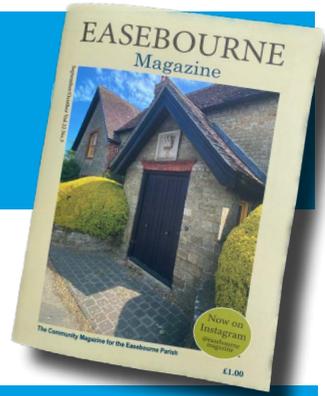
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www.u3asites.org.uk/midhurst

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Through The Church Gate



CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH/APRIL 2024

Date	Easebourne	Lodsworth	Selham
3 March Lent 3	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Evening Prayer	8.30am BCP Holy Communion
10 March Mothering Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No Service
17 March Lent 5 Passiontide	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Celtic Service	8.30am BCP Holy Communion
24 March Palm Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No Service
28 March Maundy Thursday	7.00pm Holy Communion	No Service	No Service
29 March Good Friday	2.00pm Hour at the Cross	11.00am Prayer and Reflection	9.30am Prayer and Reflection
31 March Easter	11.00 am Holy Communion	9.45am Holy Communion	8.30am BCP Holy Communion
7 April 2nd of Easter	10.30am Family Communion	6.00pm Evensong	8.30am BCP Holy Communion
14 April 3rd of Easter	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Family Communion	No Service
21 April 4th of Easter	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Celtic Service	8.30am Holy Communion
28 April 5th of Easter	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No Service

Bold types denotes any changes

Rector: Rev 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

Each year, as we celebrate Easter, I love the moment that the new Paschal candle is brought into each church for the first time. The candle for the rest of the year sits by the font as a symbol of all that Easter speaks about; love, hope and light.

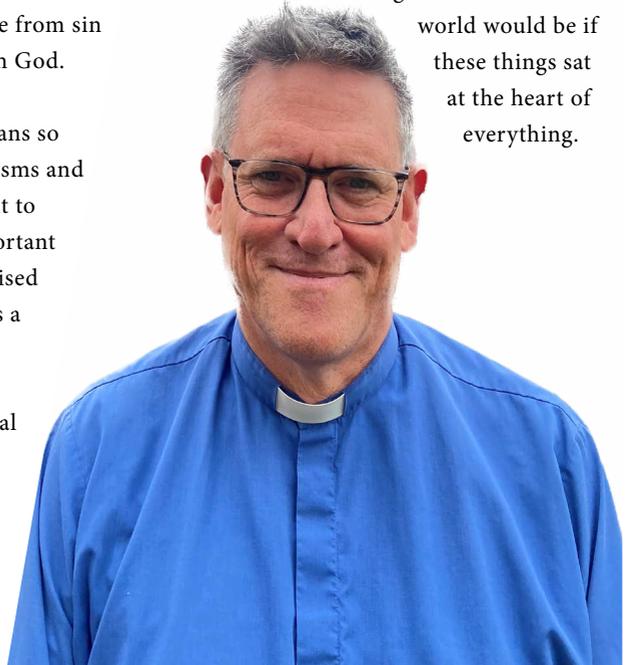
The word Paschal relates to the Jewish festival of Passover, the final act of God's salvation of his people from slavery in Egypt. The Paschal Lamb is sacrificed so that God's people can be free. In the gospels Jesus is described as the Paschal Lamb, the one who sets us free from sin and sets us on a new path with God.

The candle for the church means so much more. We use it at baptisms and funerals. In baptism we light it to remind ourselves of how important God's light is to us. Each baptised person takes a candle home as a reminder.

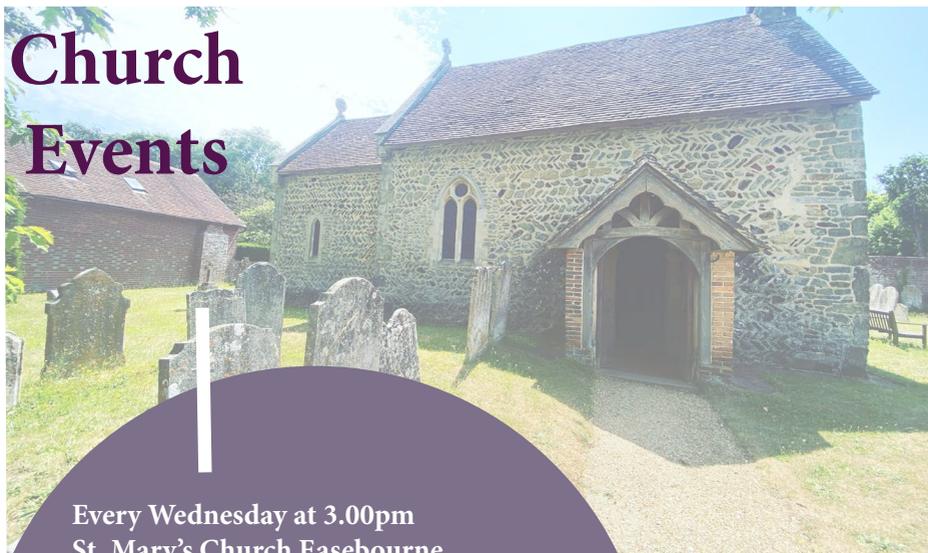
At funerals we light the paschal candle to remind us of the power of God's eternal presence, which we are drawn into once we pass from this life.

As I carry the new candle into church each Easter, I am powerfully reminded of how God's light shines into our world and into us. Easter reminds us that His love is unconditional and always ready to forgive. We are also reminded that life as we know is so much more in God; eternal and beautiful, free from the pains of this world. So, as a priest, carrying this candle, I feel a great sense of hope each Easter Sunday. There is so much more that we can expect from our relationship with God, so much hope, love and light. How different the

world would be if these things sat at the heart of everything.



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



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 6.00pm 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

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

200
CLUB

January 2024 Winners

Prize	£	Share	Winner
1	100	26	Arthur Douglas - Nugent
2=	75	140	Bryan Scholey
2=	75	215	Bryan Scholey
3=	50	35	Debbie Reed
3=	50	236	Anna Acke
3=	50	84	Martin Dexter

February 2024 Winners

Prize	£	Share	Winner
1	100	180	Annie Lean
2=	75	46	Linda Chapman
2=	75	22	Peggy Goodale
3=	50	90	Valerie Haggie
3=	50	37	Carole Sawyer
3=	50	34	Wendy Gillan

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

- 5 March The Family Support Network - Speaker Kirsty Hewitt
- 2 April Beetle Drive with invited guests.
- 7 May Flower arranging with Jean Stichbury.

2.00pm in St. Mary's Church Easebourne

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

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



Ann Harfield

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Rise and Shine is our new monthly weekend breakfast club for children in our churches. Come along to St Mary's Church where you can join us for breakfast, story, song, games, crafts and fun

If you would like any more information Contact Reverend Liz Yonge

■ 07747 611993

■ revlizyonge@outlook.com

Church Contacts

Vicar

Derek Welsman

Northgate, Dodsley Grove,

Easebourne

GU29 9BE

01730 812655

derek.welsman@outlook.com

Curate

Liz Yonge

07747611993

Churchwarden

Phil Stringer

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



**For more information
call Liz Yonge
07747 611993**

MESSY CHURCH

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Selham and Easebourne

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and plenty of opportunity to
make a mess!

Wednesday 20th March

3.30pm - 5.30pm

● The National Day of Reflection

● THE NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION

The Day of Reflection is one of ten recommendations set out by the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration. This year the UK Government is supporting Marie Curie to deliver the fourth annual event with more than £500,000 contributed towards its delivery and community events which will include a minute's silence at midday.



First organised in 2021 to mark the anniversary of the first lockdown, it will fall, this year, on 3 March. The event is supported by the Church of England but everyone, of any faith or none, can easily be involved.

1 Observe a minute's silence just after noon to remember those who have passed away.

2 Send a card or email to anyone who may feel bereaved: Church of England research shows that six out of ten adults lost someone to Covid.

3 Involve your local school and encourage them to make colour daffodil cards and deliver them to a local carehome.

4 Plant a seed, a bulb or a bush as a sign of hope.

5 On the day, tie a yellow ribbon to a tree or railing as a sign of support for all who are bereaved.

6 Light a special candle in your church and say the special prayer – record it on your phone or tablet and share the film on social media.

7 Use the 8.00pm 'share the light' moment to light candles and lanterns in windows.

8 Take some time to sit in church, in a forest, in the park or just at home and have a moment to yourself.

9 Create a community Reflection Wall with posts about your loved ones. Invite everyone to share their memories and pictures.

10 Consider a donation to Marie Curie, in memory of your loved one, to help them in their vital work.

■ www.dayofreflection.org.uk

The World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is a women led, global, ecumenical movement. It is run under the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,” and is celebrated annually in over one hundred and seventy countries, on the first Friday in March.

Across the world, women are asked to become aware of other countries and cultures and to sympathise with the problems they face by praying with and for them.

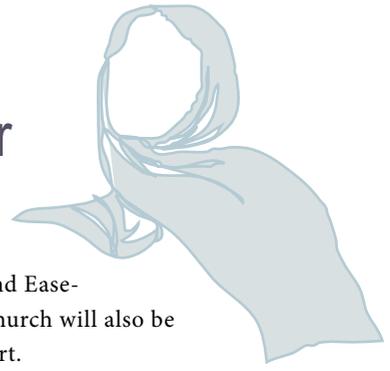
Locally, this year’s service will take place in Midhurst Parish Church on Friday 1 March at 2.30pm. Members from the Roman Catholic church, the Methodist

church and Easebourne church will also be taking part.

Each year, a different country puts together the service and this time, it is the turn of Christian Women of Palestine, although this service was actually planned well before the present conflict in their country began.

To find out more about The World Day of Prayer you can visit the website.

■ www.worlddayofprayer.net



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Make your home warmer and more energy efficient



Hundreds of pounds per year can be wasted if your home is not energy efficient and Chichester District Council has a new webpage to provide information on where to get advice on saving energy in the home and grants that are available to improve the efficiency of your property.

Most grants are available to households on the lowest incomes, but there are financial schemes that can help make some measures more affordable to install. To find out more information on grants and schemes please visit:

■ www.chichester.gov.uk/homeenergyefficiency

If you want advice on where to start with a home retrofit project, visit:

■ www.chichester.gov.uk/wholehouseretrofit

If you are struggling to pay energy bills please contact your energy provider who are obliged to provide support to householders on low incomes. You can also get advice and support through the Citizens Advice Energy Advice team who can help you identify and apply for grants.

■ www.arunchichestercab.org.uk/energy

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Beautiful Churches of West Sussex

There is a school of thought that suggests the artist, J W Turner might have had an influence in the design of the Scots Crown on the bell tower of the church at Tillington. Lord Egremont was a prolific builder and he constructed the tower, which he could see from his home, Petworth House. It is very similar to one in Newcastle painted by Turner and so a connection does exist.

Whether true or not, the gothic tower, added to the church in 1907, is a well-known landmark. Few could fail to spot it from the A272. However, the church itself, All Hallows, is smaller than I expected, but full of interesting features. A beautiful round window, of Burne-Jones design throws light down the centre of the nave.



The church dates back to 1180 with a strange archway high in the west wall and a glimpse of stone steps that would have led up to the previous, much older tower.

As with many Sussex churches, it was remodelled by the Victorians but there are many points of interest from the twelve century font to the Royal Coat of Arms, painted in 1661, to mark the restoration of King Charles II to the throne. Tillington was historically royalist when locally other towns and villages had succumbed to the Roundheads.



The few stained-glass windows are exquisite whilst a millennium window, designed by R J Lloyd, has overtones of Marc Chagall.

So, if you can, take a little time out to visit this fascinating church with 'the most southerly Scots spire in England.' You won't regret it.

■ Jan Harvey

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Magazine Contacts Page

Editor: Jan Harvey
email: easebourneeditor@btinternet.com

Advertising: Paul Chanry
email: easebournemagazine@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Mark Walters
email: markwalters2411@gmail.com

Subscriptions: Ann Harfield
email: easebournemagazine@btinternet.com

Parish Council Representative: Mike Noble
email: mike@easebourne.org

Vicar: Rev. Canon Derek Welsman
email: derek.welsman@outlook.com

[@easebournemagazine](https://www.instagram.com/easebournemagazine)



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