

# EASEBOURNE

## Magazine

May/June 2025 Vol 24 No.1



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Magazine

The Community Magazine for Easebourne

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# Seasonal Dining

AT COWDRAY FARM SHOP CAFÉ

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Whatever the weather or the season, enjoy premium quality culinary delights at Cowdray. Throughout the Autumn and Winter, popular monthly evening dining experiences take place at the Café. Head Chef Curtis Wingate and his team create outstanding seasonal menus with tickets purchased in advance through our website. These evenings are great to enjoy with friends and family or are ideal as a gift.

Open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea, the Cowdray Café menu reflects the seasons and provides delicious, wholesome dishes to suit all tastes and dietary requirements. The Café is fantastic at all times of year, and on warmer days in the Spring and Summer customers can enjoy sitting in the sun on the large terrace where dogs are welcome. We look forward to welcoming you to Cowdray.



Please visit [www.cowdray.co.uk](http://www.cowdray.co.uk) for more information  
Cowdray Farm Shop & Cafe, Cowdray Park, Midhurst GU29 0AJ

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# An Easebourne Summer



**Well, it's here. The summer. No one can convince me there's a better place to spend it. The tap of willow on leather being heard on all those village greens; the harried shouts of 'leave it' from the polo fields; the cannonball splash of dogs hurling themselves into rivers and the cry of gulls attacking people eating chips on the beaches. There's nowhere quite like West Sussex and Easebourne, for me, is the secret heart of it all.**

In this issue, MaryAnn Kauntze tells us why she loves the polo season and all the positives it brings to our village.

The venerable Philip Jones has written a lovely article about 'dens.' Relating that man shed in the garden to the woodland hides that stretch back through the centuries. Somewhere to sit and contemplate life for a while.

We have a poem about wild lupins from local poet, Stephanie Norgate. She tells me that many of our readers will be familiar with the wild

lupin field by Terwick church. Do let me know if this rings any (church) bells with you.

Intrepid adventurer, Jean Beagley, returns with her tales of cruising around the world in retirement and her stop off at Pitcairn Island. What a tale she has to tell about that. Rather her than me is all I will say!

Our March/April community issue was very well received and I've had some very positive feedback from featured groups who have seen an uptick in enquiries and new members. Thank you to everyone who decided to give a little time to help out.

Finally, I'd like to thank you, our readers, who have renewed your subscriptions and sent some lovely messages of support in doing so. I really appreciate your kind comments.

Thank you.

● Jan Harvey  
■ [easebourneeditor@btinternet.com](mailto:easebourneeditor@btinternet.com)



# *This Polo Life*



*Local businesswoman and Instagram influencer, MaryAnn Kauntze, explains why she loves polo and what it brings to Easebourne.*

Every year, between April and September, Easebourne wears very different apparel. There is a change in air, as our tiny corner of West Sussex takes centre stage for one of the biggest polo tournaments in the world. The Cowdray Gold Cup.

The polo fields are honed to perfection. Every blade of grass looks as though it has been painted by hand, and trimmed by tiny scissors.



The polo players, and their string of ponies arrive in luxurious lorries, each painted beautifully with the colours and logos of their team.

The grooms, farriers, equine vets, owners, sponsors, Cowdray Polo members, goal judges, television crews, press and visitors, both local and from around the world, bring flurries of excitement as the tournament begins.

### Speed and Beauty

I love the inclusive and exclusive spectacle, the informal and formal, the speed and the beauty, the noise and the quiet of polo.

Open to all and with the prelude of the Midhurst Town Cup, the Polo season brings a wonderful opportunity to our town and community. A season where all may come together to enjoy the “Sport of Kings.”

Daily matches can be enjoyed with picnics, blankets, dogs (on leads) and a good hat!

Understanding the rules of polo is not obligatory! Seeing the talented players become as one with their stunning ponies is mesmerising. The excitement as the hooves thunder past and the shouts and cries of the players as they chase and reach for the ball, swinging mallets high above their heads is exhilarating.



I have two personal favourite pastimes during the polo season. Firstly, spending sunny afternoons, with my dogs, watching matches at Ambersham. The stunning grounds are located just outside Midhurst and set in the most idyllic rural location.

Secondly, the gold cup semi-finals day. I always wear a special dress and my Panama hat. Sipping the very best chilled English sparkling wine from our local vineyards and enjoying the hospitality of Cowdray.

The shopping is fabulous too. Local businesses and prestigious names form the outdoor shopping village. There are plenty of spots to eat, and drink, and all so very stylish, yet relaxed.

The finale of the season is gold cup day. The population of the town explodes as visitors flock to the grounds to enjoy a full day of entertainment. From children sitting on picnic blankets, to the hospitality pergolas, and fine dining. There is something for everyone. A funfair, music, brass band, gun dog agility, and lots of people watching.

The podium with the winning team being presented the coveted Cowdray Gold Cup is something not to be missed. I encourage you to visit and immerse yourself in the glamorous world of Polo. It is truly wonderful.

● MaryAnn Kauntze

# Writing for the Children



Jan Harvey interviews Claire Nicholas, author of the Summerwood series of childrens' books, set in Black Down

**The idea for a children's book came to Claire Nicholas when she was researching her MA in Egyptian Archaeology in 2010.**

'I was quite lonely,' she tells me, 'and when I was not working, if I'm honest, I was a little bored so I started running ideas through my mind and the characters began to form. I was actually writing the stories for my niece's children back in England.'

Years later, Claire wrote an article for the Midhurst Society about the Post Office and her interest was piqued.

### **Genuine Affection**

'I'm the daughter of a postman and I found the subject absolutely fascinating,' she explains. 'I began to delve deeper and felt that my research should be brought together in some useful way.' Her book, *A History of the Post Office in Midhurst, West Sussex*, was published in 2022. 'I was thrilled with the reception the book received,' Claire tells me. 'I think people generally do have a genuine affection for the Post Office.'

### **Confidence**

Having gained confidence in publishing and with a course in writing under her belt Claire faced retirement from the University of Surrey with a spring in her step. It was a big leap from data protection to writing a series of five books for children aged seven to ten, but Claire took it all very seriously.

'When the first book was written I sent it out to children to read and to people who understood them, including teachers. The feedback gave me confidence that I had written a good story.'

Claire's first book was published in 2023 and she has not looked back. The fifth of the Sunwood series is due for publication this year. Children love the books and the feedback from adults has been positive too.

'One parent told me that her daughter had been reading a chapter every night instead of being a screen addicted nine-year-old. The lovely thing about that was, the mother and child had been discussing the book the following morning. That pleased me enormously, but that is what books do, they give you a reason to talk and interact.'

Naturally, Claire had to get herself into the mindset of a child to write books for them.

'By looking at things through a child's eyes I could subtly introduce themes that would not only entertain young people, but educate them. I wove in subjects like teamwork, human behaviour and empathy as part of the stories, it's important for children to learn these things.'

Four of the Sunwood series are on sale now, with the fifth being a Hallowe'en book. Local independent outlets are selling them including Wizzbits, Aylings Garden Centre, The Haslemere Bookshop and Haslemere Museum, and One Tree

Books in Petersfield. So do buy one for the children in your life, you'll be supporting a wonderful local author and independent outlets at the same time.

■ [www.clairenicholas-author.co.uk](http://www.clairenicholas-author.co.uk)





# What's On

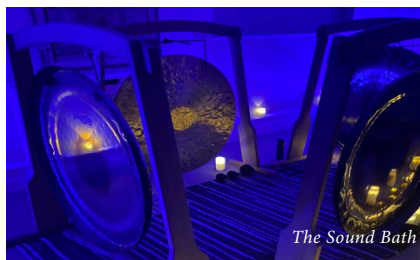
## ANCIENT SACRED SOUNDS

A one hour deep relaxation sound journey led by expert musician, Jez Smith

**23 May 7.00pm - 8.00pm**

**From £20.00**

**Cowdray Hall, Easebourne**



*The Sound Bath*

## THE ARTS SOCIETY, MIDHURST

**Britain as the Workshop of the World  
1851 The Festival of Britain**

Lecturer: Anna Warrilow

Looking at the design impact of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the establishment of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

**6 May**

*The Crystal Palace*



**Debo Mitford, Duchess of Marlborough  
and Housewife 1920 -2014**

Lecturer: Simon Seligman

Deborah "Debo", the youngest of the Mitford sisters and wife of the 11th Duke of Devonshire. Together with her husband she transformed Chatsworth into one of the best loved estates in the country.

**3 June**

**Coffee 10.00am, Lecture 10.45am - noon**

**Guests £10.00. Booking is advised**

**The Methodist Church, Midhurst**

**team.membership@gmail.com**

## MIDHURST COMMUNITY CHOIR

### Summer Concert

From Queen to Bond and show songs to stunning solos, this year's summer concert features a wide repertoire of everyone's favourites.

**Visit the website for all details**

**[www.midhurstcommunitychoir.org](http://www.midhurstcommunitychoir.org)**

## GREENHEAL

### Evening Swift Walk

Led by Paul Stevens this is an evening watching the activity of swifts in Easebourne

**12 June**

**Easebourne Street, Easebourne**

**For further details: [www.greenheal.org.uk](http://www.greenheal.org.uk)**

## EASEBOURNE CHURCH FETE

New attractions have been organised for this year's event to make it a special afternoon. There will be live music, games, a bottle tombola, a raffle, a cake stall and an ice-cream van. Everyone is welcome.

**21 June from 12.00 noon until 3.00pm**

**The Priory Green, Easebourne**



*The Church Fête*

## FÊTE IN THE PARK

Fête in the Park, jointly held by Easebourne Primary School and the parish council. Live music, inflatables, donkey rides, a dog show and the Easebourne Bake Off.

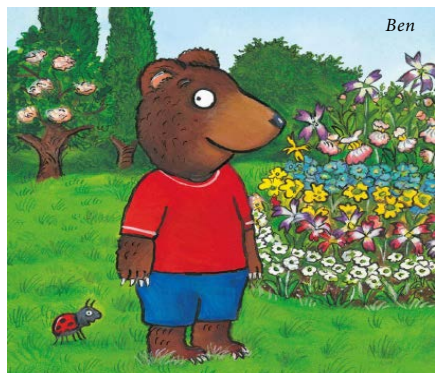
**6 July 11.00am - 3.00pm**

**Easebourne Park, Easebourne**



*Fête in the Park*

## PETWORTH HOUSE



### Half-Term Family Trail

Families can pick up a free 'Ben Plants a Butterfly Garden' trail map to follow the buggy-friendly paths of the Pleasure Garden. There are fun games and activities to discover along the way. The trail is free but normal admission applies. No booking required.

**Saturday 24 May – Sunday 1 June**

### Outdoor Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing

The HandleBards are bringing their bicycle-powered production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" to the Pleasure Garden. Pedalling from venue to venue with all of their set, props and costumes on the back of their bikes.



© Rah Petherbridge

**Friday 30 May, 7.00pm – 9.00pm.**  
Booking essential. Please visit our website for more information or call 07446 125344.

**Adults - £20.50**

**21 and under - £13.00 12 and under £12.00**

**5 and under free**

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/petworth](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/petworth)

## GRAYSHOTT FOLK CLUB

### Honey and the Bear

British Folk and Roots duo Honey and the Bear combine delicately interweaving vocal harmonies with emotive and evocative song writing. With a diverse range of sounds, textures and rhythms that flow from the fast and furious to gentle ballads, their live performances are spirited and dynamic. Conjuring up stories in song, they tell tales of Suffolk folklore, courageous people they admire, their passion for nature and the odd heartbreak or two.

**3 May 7.30pm**

**Tickets £18.00**



### Adam Beattie with Fiona Bevan

Scottish singer/songwriter and guitarist Adam Beattie is a celebrated artist of the London scene and has toured widely in the UK and throughout Europe. He has roots in Scottish folk music and a lifelong interest in old time jazz and blues. In the music world, Fiona Bevan is a highly-accomplished and well-recognised songwriter, achieving a number one album with Kylie Minogue and penning hit songs with household names such as Ed Sheeran, Lewis Capaldi and many more.

**4 June 7.30pm**

**Tickets £18.00**

**Tickets from Grayshott Post Office (in person only)**

**By phone from Des O'Byrne on: 01428 607096**

[www.ents24.com/hindhead-events/grayshott-village-hall](http://www.ents24.com/hindhead-events/grayshott-village-hall)

# Out and About

# Chichester Open Studios

## Discovering Local Artists on your Doorstep

**Following an art trail is free, fun and a great way to spend the day. Not only do you have a great opportunity to meet artists in their own homes and studios you will be able to see, at close quarters, their original artworks.**

The benefit of this is twofold. Firstly, you will be talking to the originator of the piece so you gain insight into its creation. Secondly, if you do decide to buy, you will be paying the artist directly, so no gallery commission is involved.

However, the real joy of an arts trail is the



excitement of where it will take you. Map in hand you simply draw a ring around the sites that appeal to you and work out your route. It will be a tour of places hitherto unknown.

You may stop on the way for a coffee, or a snack, but don't linger, each site will draw you in and you'll find yourself chatting to the artists and admiring their work which often comes with an amazing story or intriguing theme.

**The Chichester Arts Trail is open 17-18, 24-25 and Bank Holiday Monday 26 May 10.30am - 5.00pm Visit the website for all details.**

■ [chichesteropenstudios.org](http://chichesteropenstudios.org)

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## New Book Club for Easebourne and Midhurst

Sussex Girls is a vibrant and supportive community that brings together women across Sussex to connect, network, and enjoy a variety of events and experiences. From social gatherings and workshops to business networking and special interest clubs, Sussex Girls provides a welcoming space for women to build friendships and explore new opportunities.

The Sussex Girls Midhurst and Easebourne Book Club, is a new addition to the community. Members of the community here can



come together to share their love of reading.

Says Sussex Girls founder, Maxime Dudeney; 'Whether you're an avid reader or just looking to discover new books, this club offers a relaxed and friendly space to discuss and enjoy great stories.'

■ [sussexgirls@hersociallylinkednetwork.com](http://sussexgirls@hersociallylinkednetwork.com)



# A Day Out To.... SkyPark Farm

The first thing to do at Sky Park Farm is have breakfast. Arrive early though because it fills up quickly. We usually book ahead to be sure of a table, especially in the summer.

The menu choice is varied and it is all delicious. Everyone is catered for, so vegans can enjoy a hearty breakfast here too.

After that, a stroll along the "races" between the deer paddocks is a must, especially for the children. The top tip here is to purchase a bag of feed only in the mornings. We found out that the deer have had their fill by the afternoon.

The deer will come over and be petted in their own good time - or maybe not - but they are elegant to watch from afar and



are ideal to sketch if you are artistically inclined.

Once you have enjoyed the walk, your children can visit the adventure play area. There are tunnels, a treetop walkway, climbing nets and a separate fenced-off play area dedicated to under fives.



*Pictured top: The excellent breakfast  
Below: Chatting with a deer*

There is a picnic area for when exhaustion kicks in and it's close to the shop for ice-creams.

On the way out there is only one thing to do. The farm shop is excellent, with a superb butchery. The cheese counter is top notch. Your day should end with a cuppa and and cake

and full bag of goodies, that's the Sky Farm Park experience. It's a great way to spend a summer's day.

■ [www.skyparkfarm.com](http://www.skyparkfarm.com)

● Jan Harvey

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# Bluebell Season

**Kerry Williams**

The Sussex Wildlife Trust

**Like many people, Bluebells are a blast of nostalgia for me. I remember woodland days out as a child, clambering up trees and noting down thrilling finds like ‘wood pigeon’ in biro, in soggy exercise books.**

Bluebell season always required a visit. There’s not much like the all-encompassing violet thrall of Bluebells in ancient woodland. Sickly-sweet scent in your nostrils, the hues of the rich indigo carpet somehow also hanging in the air. The understory buzzes with busy pollinators, who, just like you, are making the most of this abundant explosion.

We love a limited edition, a special experience of which we must make the most. Such as one-off characters in your cereal box, like happy hour, like nightingales. And Bluebell fever is no different. At this time of year Sussex woodlands erupt with millions of these vivid beauties, announcing that spring truly, finally, fabulously, has sprung.

This early flowering provides a welcome bounty for struggling wildlife and allows bluebells to make the most of the sunlight before the woodland canopy becomes too dense. Like many of our native wildflowers, the British Bluebell is up against it. At risk from

habitat loss of precious ancient woodland, and threatened by a changing climate, the plant is also in competition with an interloper, its Spanish counterpart.

The Spanish Bluebell tends to out compete its native cousin for resources such as light and space. It can also hybridise with our own species, diluting the native Bluebell’s characteristics.

## How can you tell these two species apart?

The native Bluebell (pictured above), *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, has narrow leaves and tubular-bell shaped flowers of deep-violet blue which curl back at the edges. The flowers are generally down one side of the stem, which has a distinctive droop to it. The Spanish species, *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, has broader leaves and a paler blue, conical shaped flower. The stem is upright and covered with flowers on all sides. A big difference between the two is the Spanish has no scent, whilst the native Bluebell smells sweet.

When selecting Bluebells for your garden, it’s best to choose the UK species for, in your own small way, you will be supporting our native species.

■ [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)



# A Call Out For Volunteers...

Tandem is a wonderful local charity that offers a special service for Midhurst. Founded in 1983, it provides transport and social activities for the not-so-young and not-so-able.

The core of Tandem's work is providing door-to-door transport to and from doctors, dentists, opticians and hospital appointments. A Tandem volunteer takes the person there and back by car or in a

wheelchair equipped vehicle, depending on need.

Tandem is on a recruitment drive. It desperately needs drivers, escorts and helpers to maintain its valuable service. If you think you can give even a few hours a week please call for more information

■ 0300 030 3962



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# It's All About The Grass



I love growing grasses for my flower bunches. I think having a few nodding *Briza medias* or *maximas* pinging out of a bunch brings them very much to life.

In general, grasses are pretty easy to grow. *Miscanthus*, with all of its fluffy flounce, seems to love being in my garden and spreads like wildfire. *Pennisetum samba*, with its dark red fluffy plume, is an out and out winner, but less abundant than *Miscanthus*. For this reason, I grow *Pennisetum villosum* every year and treat it as an annual, which always seems to give me what I need. I also grow *Calamagrostis* which has elegant feathery plumes that catch the sunlight whether in the garden or a vase.

However, the kind of grass I struggle with is the green stuff we have historically been conditioned to keep neat, short and perfect, like an emerald carpet. I just can't achieve that level of lawn perfection, so I've decided to be a non-conformist. Apparently, this is me "re-wilding" or am I just being lazy? Whatever the case, it works for me. I have tried the "grow it long" thing – which was lovely, but

then I had to cut it. It was tremendously hard work and, in particular, was the labour of tidying up of the cuttings.

I will never ever ever ever get on board with fake plastic grass. Can you imagine the death and destruction that goes on underneath as soon as you lay that evil stuff down? In my opinion it should be illegal.

What has saved me is moss. As I live in the woods, the more slovenly I get, the mossier the garden the better, it's absolutely brilliant. It's very green, it stays short and at this point there are very few blades of grass popping through, which means that when I do mow, I hardly ever have to empty the grass collector. In fact moss can thrive without any attention at all. Result.

AND! It is excellent for the planet. Moss absorbs pollutants from the air and converts them into nutrients thus making it an excellent natural air filter.

To top it all off, it is home to a host of microscopic invertebrates with fabulous names like naked amoebas, tardigrades and gastrotrichs. Who knew?

● Kate Verdley  
■ [kate@verdleyflowers.com](mailto:kate@verdleyflowers.com)



# When You go Down to the Woods Today



Philip Jones  
looks at the  
human desire to  
build dens and  
shelters whether  
for survival,  
or these days,  
more for  
pleasure

Our two rivers are, in their different ways, endless sources of fascination, the Rother that forms the boundary with Midhurst and the Bourne, the river, that gives Easebourne its name. First recorded as the Ez and in the Domesday Book as Easebourne, this small stream, as it now is, served the hamlet that grew up along the lane known to us as Easebourne Street, an ancient

track over Bexley Hill, before eventually flowing into the Rother.

## Water Meadows

We have become more accustomed in recent years to heavy rains and overflowing rivers, flooding the water meadows between Midhurst and the ruins of Cowdray House. Such rains and floods scour the countryside, banking up debris and fallen trees.



Since earliest times, often by water courses, humans have built shelters, whether temporarily for nomads or as dwellings of a more permanent or seasonal purpose. Originally practical and largely to do with farming, constructed of stone as well as wood, more prosaically perhaps, such shelters have often served a purely pleasurable end. In the eighteenth century and more especially for the Victorians, constructing a simple hut or grotto in which to rest and feel at one with nature became highly desirable, whether your home had extensive grounds or was a suburban garden.



That trend, focussing afresh on personal well-being, has continued to this day with the garden shed or greenhouse, even with a sauna or barbecue lodge, taking pride of place.

Inside the home, rooms are often set aside for specific purposes, for projects, for sewing, for games, for watching television or, where seclusion or atmosphere are sought, as birthing rooms or for use by those with special needs.

Sometimes these rooms are glorified by using the word 'den'. A den is usually associated with wild animals, although in the UK could apply to badger's setts or fox holes. The word was in common use in medieval times and appears in the King James Bible (Isaiah 11.8) linked to the 'cockatrice', in our terms, an adder.

In modern parlance, dens connect with nefarious activities - the use of illegal drugs for example - hence the phrase 'den of iniquity'.

Less starkly, it used to be said that the man of the house 'retired to his den to study', his exclusive domain. The expression 'man-cave' is less apposite and carries a hint of disdain but, for me, 'den' retains some indefinable charm; to do with ownership, having built it yourself, be it ever so rough and ready.

Shelter and a degree of privacy win over style or design and the fundamental is having used materials that are to hand. For pure pleasure, you cannot beat a well-constructed den, meaning one you have built yourself from gash timber or river debris and, preferably, in the woods, off the beaten track.

In spring and summer, children, and even adults, have always headed for the nearest wood to indulge their creative fantasies amongst the greening trees and Bluebells, to the background chorus of birdsong. This, surely, is driven by an urge to 'get back to nature' and at least temporarily to enjoy all that it offers in a tangible, yet ecologically sound way, that is the ultimate in recycling, leaving no permanent trace. That urge is described to perfection in *The Wind in the Willows*, although none of us really seeks to emulate beside the Rother the adventures of Mole and Ratty in the Wild Wood!

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### Wind in the Willows

You can enjoy Kenneth Grahame's timeless tale of friendship, laughter, the longing for home at The Weald and Downland Museum on Thursday 31 July, 6.00pm - 8.00pm

■ [www.wealddown.co.uk/events](http://www.wealddown.co.uk/events)

# Milan to Midhurst



**West Street in Midhurst has been subject to a lot of change just recently with the demise of the wonderful “Stuff” after ten years of trading. It’s not the only loss either, it’s all change in Midhurst’s most attractive shopping street.**

One of the newcomers is Niko Todescu, (pictured Left) the tailor who took over Jazz Walker’s shop last year. He’s made big changes to the interior, opening it right up so that it is now light and airy. I had a cup of tea with Niko and his wife Ionela, and asked him about his journey to Midhurst from Romania.

Niko was taught to sew when he was just ten by his grandmother and aunts. They insisted he should have a life skill and very quickly he discovered he had a great passion for it.

‘I would make dresses for my friend’s dolls, or cushion covers for my relatives,’ says Niko. ‘I loved making things, it gave me great pleasure.’ This, quite naturally, led to college where he honed his skills in tailoring. With limited options in his home country, Niko made a big decision.

### **The Fashion World**

‘I moved to Italy,’ he tells me. ‘After all, it’s the centre of the fashion world. It made sense to start in Sicily, where it was cheaper to live.’ There he met his wife, Ionela, who is also Romanian. She was a fully-qualified nurse but could only work as a carer due to visa restrictions. It was a wonderful opportunity nonetheless.

‘Sicily was just perfect,’ she tells me. ‘We both loved it, the food was fantastic and the weather was always warm. We were very happy, but Niko always wanted to see Milan and he had gained the skills and experience to go there.’

Italy’s centre of fashion was a natural progression and Niko soon found himself working for the big brand names, like Gucci and Etro.

‘It was very exciting,’ he tells me, ‘to work on clothes of that quality. I had a great time, but still Ionela couldn’t work as a nurse. She had fallen in love with Cambridge in England and wanted to emigrate to the UK. It was before Brexit and we could move easily, so we decided to take a chance.’

The couple moved to Hindhead and Niko landed a job in Haslemere. At last, Ionela could secure her dream job as a nurse.

### **Light Bulb Moment**

Finally, they were settled and they loved England, but Niko found himself running a shop and working fairly long hours for somebody else. Like many entrepreneurs he had that light bulb moment when you think; “Why am I not doing this for myself?”

Nine months ago, he took the plunge and set up “Midhurst Tailor Touch” and what a great job he has done with it. Like all self-employed people he works incredibly hard, but now everything he does he does for himself. He says he can alter just about anything from a man’s jacket to a wedding dress, to curtains, sofa covers and even car seats.

‘I love a challenge,’ he tells me with a smile. ‘I put a new zip in a pair of leather boots for a lady the other day. If I can make it go in my machine, I’ll give it a go.’

Midhurst is lucky to have Niko in its midst and I rather think it’s Milan that has lost out!

● Jan Harvey

THE KING EDWARD VII ESTATE

# Postcard from Pitcairn



Jan Harvey interviews intrepid adventurer, Jean Beagley

*Jean with a picture of her husband Reuben*



**When Jean and Reuben Beagley went on their world-wide cruise thirty years ago, it was a trip of a lifetime.**

The ship dropped anchor at Pitcairn Island and a very small number of fit and able passengers were selected to go ashore.

‘Reuben didn’t want to go,’ Jean told me. ‘Firstly, he had a bad back and secondly, didn’t feel it was a sensible thing to do.’ She smiles. ‘I, on the other hand, could never resist an adventure, so I jumped at the opportunity.’

‘The lifeboat landed on the beach and we walked up the very steep lane to the small village. I remember it being quite a climb, but we all felt very privileged knowing that few people ever got this opportunity.’

Jean made it to the top of the hill and found that there was a small post office in the shop. She immediately purchased a postcard for her mother, knowing that the stamp would be a very rare one.

However, it was back down at the beach that the adventure really began.

‘It was exceptionally hot and there was no shelter, certainly no café nor even a beach hut!’ Jean recalls. ‘We sat and waited patiently, but there was no sign of the boat to take us back to the ship. One of the crew managed to get a message “shore to ship” to the captain. He promised he was trying to get to us, but there was a problem.’

The heat intensified and as the afternoon wore on, Jean and her small party of fellow passengers began to worry a little.

‘There was no one around and we were all starting to get a little concerned.’ Jean recalls. ‘Then, all of a sudden, a large wooden raft came round the headland.’

‘It was very basic,’ Jean recalls. ‘Just a flat piece of wood really. The native crew were very cheerful and helped us on board. They made the heavier men sit on the four corners and the lighter people, like me, were placed in the middle. Then we set off.’

I asked Jean if she had been scared.

### Choppy

‘Well, I was a bit worried,’ she tells me. ‘You see, there was nothing to hold on to really and the waves were getting rather choppy.’

I have to say, I was imagining Reuben’s words would have been ringing in Jean’s ears by now.

‘Well yes,’ Jean agrees. ‘But you never want your husband to know he’s right do you?’ She gives me a big smile. ‘Worse was to come as well. When we got back to the ship, they threw a rope down to the raft. We were then expected to jump from the raft, to the rope and up the side of the ship! And I was in a straight skirt too!’

Looking at Jean now, a lady of ninety-one and feisty as ever, I can believe she was equal to the challenge and, luckily, she survived the ordeal. I ask her what Reuben had to say about it all.

‘Oh, he gave me a good talking to and said I must not do anything like that again.’ She gives me another one of her winning smiles. ‘But of course I did.’



### COMMEMORATING

On 8 May 2025, we mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The nation will unite to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for freedom but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.

Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, and peace.

### DONATING

All events are free of charge but donations can be made in aid of the Royal Sussex Regiment Association and other service charities at:

**The Old Library on Thursday 8 May  
Midhurst Museum throughout May**

## VE 80 EVENTS IN MIDHURST

### THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025

### ORDER OF EVENTS

- 11AM **LAYING OF WREATHS**  
AT MIDHURST WAR MEMORIAL
- 11:30PM **COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE**  
AT MIDHURST PARISH CHURCH
- 2PM **TALK BY MATTHEW JONES ON  
WEST SUSSEX AT WAR 1939-45**  
AT THE OLD LIBRARY (BOOKING  
ESSENTIAL VIA EMAIL  
[CHAIR@MIDHURSTSOCIETY.ORG.  
UK](mailto:CHAIR@MIDHURSTSOCIETY.ORG.UK))
- 6.30PM **RINGING OF CHURCH BELLS**  
AT MIDHURST PARISH CHURCH
- 1-31 MAY **EXHIBITION**  
THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF  
MAY THERE WILL BE AN  
EXHIBITION OF ARTEFACTS  
FROM THE ROYAL SUSSEX  
REGIMENTAL COLLECTION IN  
MIDHURST MUSEUM

*Lest we Forget*

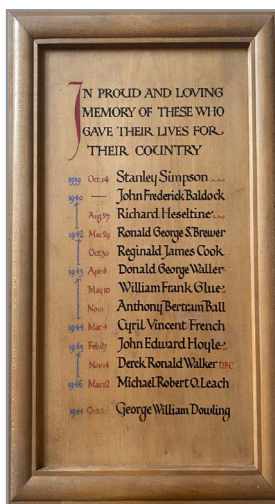
ORGANISED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF MIDHURST TOWN COUNCIL, THE MIDHURST SOCIETY, EASEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL, THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION AND THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

# Marking the Eightieth Anniversary of VE Day

**Thursday 8 May 2025 marks the eightieth anniversary of the ending of World War II in Europe and this will be commemorated in Midhurst with the laying of wreaths at 11.00am at the War Memorial, followed by a special service in Midhurst Parish Church.**

The church bells will be rung at 6.30pm and the Midhurst Society is hosting a talk by Matthew Jones, the Assistant County Archivist at West Sussex Record Office, on West Sussex at War 1939-45.

During the month of May there will be a special display of artefacts from the Royal Sussex Regiment Association at the wonderful Midhurst Museum where entry is also free of charge.



It's hard to imagine the horrors of the six years of war that followed just twenty-one years after the ending of the First World War, and the names of the people of Midhurst and its surrounding villages who lost their lives will be read aloud so that their sacrifice is not forgotten.

The talk by Matthew Jones will take place at 2.00pm in the Old Library. Booking your place in advance is essential and you can do this by contacting Nick

Cansfield, Chair of the Midhurst Society, at the email address shown below. There is no charge for admission, but donations will be taken for the Royal Sussex Regiment Association and other service charities.

● **Nick Cansfield**

■ [chair@midhurstsociety.org](mailto:chair@midhurstsociety.org).

*Pictured: The WWII Roll of Honour in St Mary's Church*



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## *Wild Lupins*

The lovely promiscuous lupins raise  
their heads from the grass.

They could stay here, conserved,  
in Terwick meadow, or they could edge

their way over paths, then through the may hedge,  
to cast green shadows from their chequered spikes.

They have drawn on their name's heritage,  
wolves thieving nutrients, starving their own earth.

I pass them now swaying to the music  
of the travellers' camp, trailing along the verge,

knowing that May is the month of permission,  
that we can't make them stay.

Stephanie Norgate

Stephanie Norgate's latest collection from Bloodaxe Books is *The Conversation* (2021). Her novel *Hartisborne* was published in March 2025 and is available on Amazon.

 [stephanienorgate.com](http://stephanienorgate.com)



Illustration: © Jan Harvey



1. What is the most common species of owl found in the UK?

2. Which French phrase, translated into English as 'head to head' means a private conversation between two people?

3. What is the name of the dog belonging to Bill Sikes in 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens?

4. What name is given to a people or tribe who move from place to place to find pasture or food?

5. What name is given to a film based on the life of a real person?

6. When is the 'Blue Peter' flag generally flown on a ship?

7. Who recently replaced Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister of Canada?

8. In Spanish cuisine what name is given to light snacks usually eaten with drinks?

9. Which tax replaced the Purchase Tax in the UK in 1973?

10. Which author created the character 'Bridget Jones'?

11. What name is given to a method of tying a necktie named after Edward VIII?

12. Which French National Holiday is celebrated annually on July 14th?

13. Which Kylie Minogue track did King Charles III put on his recent favourite songs playlist?

14. What name is given to a communal dining hall found in an academic or religious institution?

15. Which medical instrument is used to examine the ear?

16. In which range of hills would you find Cheddar Gorge?

17. Which European nation's postal service has announced it is only going to deliver parcels in future?

18. What alcoholic drink is primarily made from juniper berries?

19. What breed of dog was named Best in Show at Crufts this year?

20. Who will be representing the UK at the Eurovision Song Contest this year?

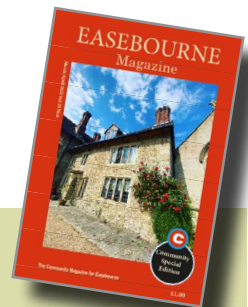


# The Coffee Time Quiz

By  
Carole  
Sawyer

Answers  
on page  
30

The deadline for the **July /August** issue of Easebourne Magazine is June 21 so please send your contribution by that date, if not before.



# NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Judith Macdonald-Lawson

Easebourne Parish Councillor

**For the first time in a long time, we have a full parish council; eleven volunteers who are happy giving their valuable time to address the challenges faced by our village.**

We are delighted to welcome Alistair Dodwell and Maddie Hathaway who bring their individual skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to complement those of their fellow councillors. Although we do not currently have vacancies you are always welcome to come along to either a full council meeting or one of the panel meetings, held on Wednesdays at the Primary School. We always set aside time at the beginning of each meeting for parishioners to talk about their concerns to the council.

Meetings are always publicised on our parish notice boards, our Easebourne.org website and on our Facebook page.

We were delighted that so many parishioners came to the drop-in session in March to share their thoughts and concerns about the SDNPA Local Plan. The proposed development sites evidently raised concerns for many of you and we really appreciate you coming to look at the plans in more detail and to talk to us. After a further, lengthy parish planning meeting, Mike Noble, our Chair, Colin Sanderson, Chair of Planning and Emma Tremaine, Parish Clerk, were able to summarise your comments,

along with our own, in a document which was submitted to the SDNPA. These were provided along with your individual online and written contributions.

You have another opportunity to meet with the parish council and other parishioners at the Easebourne Annual Village Meeting, to be held on Wednesday 21 May at 7.00pm at the Primary School. This year, the focus will be on environmental issues, with a positive approach on what the community is doing. We will look at how we can support our fragile natural world, and what is being done by the National Trust at Woolbeding to reintroduce more biodiversity to the Rother Valley.

Meanwhile, Greenheal, the environmental offshoot of Easebourne and Lodsworth parish councils, is going from strength to strength. At the end of March, apple and cherry trees were supplied to many gardens in the villages at a very reduced cost. The aims are to increase resources for insect pollinators, to attract more birds and also to increase Easebourne's capacity to capture carbon, albeit in a small but important way. Every little helps. Do look out for Greenheal's projects which we will advertise as widely as we can. There will be further opportunities to buy trees, for more information go to:

■ [www.greenheal.org.uk](http://www.greenheal.org.uk)

## Easebourne Parish Council

■ Tel: 07342 166188

■ [parishclerk@easebourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@easebourne.org)

■ [www.easebourne.org](http://www.easebourne.org)



EASEBOURNE  
Parish Council

# Friends of Easebourne Parish



**Over the past two months our volunteers have continued with the hedge cutting programme around Easebourne Park and the parish footpaths.**

Now that the bird nesting season has arrived hedge cutting has ceased until the end of August when hopefully all birds will have fledged.

A further fifty hedge whips have been planted in the hedgerow at the lower end of the park. In order to benefit wildlife, the species planted included wild pear, crab apple, cherry plum, dog rose and hawthorn which will offer a valuable food source once they have matured. The funding for these plants was kindly provided by the parish council.

Strimming back the banks in the park to remove dead scrub was the focus for one recent FrEP session. This made a significant difference to the park's appearance.

All trees in the park are regularly checked to ensure they are suitably supported,



remain in good condition and damaged branches are dealt with.

Easebourne planters continue to be maintained by a small team of our volunteers and replacement plants added when necessary.

Our volunteer litter pickers have continued to keep the parish tidy throughout the winter months. Now that the warmer weather has arrived more people will be venturing out to enjoy the many open spaces in the parish and the amount of litter collected will undoubtedly increase.

There is always more work to be accomplished by FrEP. We do need more volunteers to assist our current team who do such a fantastic job for and in the community. Working with our friendly group is enjoyable, fulfilling and provides a healthy outdoor activity.

**For further information contact our FrEP secretary, Caroline Milne:**

■ [FRFPsec@btinternet.com](mailto:FRFPsec@btinternet.com)

■ 07803933694.

**If you would like to become a volunteer and make a real difference to your local environment, please email:**

**[FRFPsec@btinternet.com](mailto:FRFPsec@btinternet.com) or call 07803933694**

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram**





*Left: The Bench dedicated to John Humphris in 2024.  
Above: John, in his role Chairman of the Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society Below: The view from the bench across Easebourne Park and the roundhouse.*





# John Humphris

**In 2009, John was awarded the Victoria medal of honour by the council of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), an award only given to eminent horticulturists. It is a rare honour and marked the special service he gave to the society.**

Born near Birmingham, John started life as an apprentice gardener with ICI in Witton. His first salaried job was at a country estate in Shenstone, near Lichfield. There he married Jean and they lived in a tied cottage.

He moved up the horticultural ladder with jobs on large estates and gardens in Leicester then Haywards Heath. During this time three boys were born: Paul, Andrew and Neil.

In 1983, John became the head gardener at Sutton Place near Guildford, the sixty acres of formal gardens had been designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe and John was tasked with following the planting scheme. Whilst working at there he received the Royal Society's Associate of Honour medal for training students on a national diploma course, which he had helped to implement.

John retired in 2002 and made Easebourne his home. After living in a series of cottages on estates, they finally had a home to call their own.

In a new feature  
Jan Harvey looks  
at those people  
commemorated by  
benches in  
Easebourne and  
delves into the  
stories behind the  
names.

John took on an allotment and became chair of the Garden and Allotment Society. Very few could imagine a more qualified individual for the role. For many years he wrote "Snippets From a Gardeners Diary" for the parish magazine before stepping down just before he passed away.

He was also involved with the Midhurst Community Bus Service and was a bell-ringer for local churches.

John's love of gardening didn't stop when he retired, he travelled widely in his role

as president of the Professional Gardener's Guild. He was a tour leader for a specialist travel company and took enthusiasts on tours of Japanese gardens for over a decade. He had always dedicated his life to training professional gardeners and this he continued to do by organising training schemes and placements country wide.

The bench dedicated to John is in Easebourne Park and looks over towards the Cowdray Estate. Two trees have been planted each side of it for shade.

In years to come, people can sit on the bench and reflect on a man who dedicated his life to all things horticultural, but particularly in the encouragement of young people to follow in his footsteps.

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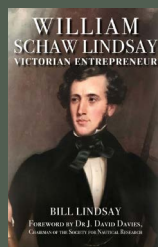




## TALKS FOR MAY AND JUNE

15 May

Bill Lindsay will talk about his book based on the journals of his great-great-grandfather, Willam Schaw Lindsay, who rose from orphaned cabin boy to wealthy owner of a shipping empire in the late 19th century.



17 April

Tony Sneller will give a talk about Coultershaw Mill near Petworth where corn was milled until about fifty years ago, and about the Beam Pump installed by the third Earl of Egremont in the late 18th century. The beam pump carried water up to Petworth House.



For more information visit the website:-

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

Talks take place at the South Downs Memorial Hall,  
North Street, GU29 9DH.

Guests are welcome for a fee of £5.00.

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

## Fernhurst Choral Society

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Tawny. 2. Tete a tete 3. Bullseye 4. Nomad 5. Biopic 6. When a ship is ready to sail 7. Mark Carney, formerly Governor of the Bank of England 8. Tapas 9. VAT (Value Added Tax) 10. Helen Fielding 11. Windsor knot 12. Bastille Day 13. The Loco-Motion 14. Refectory 15. Otoscope 16. The Mendips 17. Denmark 18. Gin 19. A Whippet called Miuccia 20. Remember Monday



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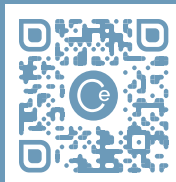
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# The Duke of Cumberland Pub



## From the Listed Buildings File

**Chris Deadman lists the  
landlords who have been be-  
hind the bar of one of West  
Sussex's most famous and  
beloved public houses**

Moses Venes was the publican in 1820 when his son David was christened in Easebourne. He died in 1833, aged forty-nine, just two years after his son Goen was born.

Ann Venes, his widow, became the publican and continued in that role until she married Thomas Puttick in June 1842. Thomas and Ann, aged seventy six and fifty three respectively, were married in Easebourne.

The 1851 census records Thomas as being the "Publican" and Ann the "Publicans Wife". Thomas was buried in June, 1853.

David Venes, one of Ann's sons, lived at the public house until the early 1840's. He married Elizabeth Gaterell in 1845 and lived in Lavant working as a "Sawyer".



At some point, following the death of his stepfather-in-law, he returned to Henley. He is noted in the 1861 census as being a “Victualer.” Then ten years later, in the census, he is recorded as a “Publican”. At some point David fell on hard times being a “General Labourer” in 1881 and a “Pauper Inmate” in the Workhouse in 1891.

Based on the census dated 1881, James West, was the next “Innkeeper” at the Duke of Cumberland. He was born in Fernhurst in 1821 to William and Sophia West. The family moved to Henley Hill, where James spent his adult life (from 1841 onwards) working as a woodman and labourer, until becoming the publican.

Joseph Moseley became the next publican. He was born in Stedham and at the age of eleven was an agricultural labourer. According to the census of 1851, he was living in “Cottage in Alley” in Stedham. He married Susan West, the daughter of James, in December 1867. Their children were christened in West Lavington, Cocking, Easebourne and Fernhurst. Joseph’s occupation throughout his working life was as a “Carter Farm Labourer.”

According to the Kelly’s Directory of 1890 Joseph had become the publican. On the night of the 1891 census James West, by now a widow, was residing with his son-in-law Joseph and family. James West died in the spring of 1891.

### Cumberland Arms

Daniel Venes was listed in the commercial section of the Kelly’s Directories of 1905 and 1911 as the Cumberland Arms publican.

His father, Daniel, was a son of Moses and Ann Venes who had been the owner-occupiers of the pub in the period 1820 to early 1840’s.

In the 1901 census, Daniel Venes was living with his wife Mary Ann (forty nine) in Henley. Daniel’s occupation was listed as general labourer. His family consisted of two daughters, Katie Annie (twenty) and Ada Jane (ten) and their two sons, Gawan John (twenty two) and Frank Edward (twelve), all born in Fernhurst. Also residing with the family at census time was niece Annie Puttick, aged five.

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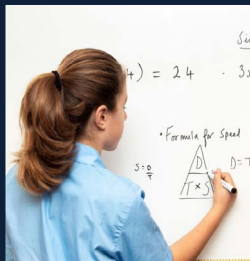
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# Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society

**New members are always welcome to join the society, which was formed over eighty years ago. At that time, many people in Easebourne grew their own food because it was wartime.**

Nowadays, many members grow flowers and vegetables in their own gardens, some have allotments, and some do all their gardening on the windowsill! They have all joined the society for the excellent talks and excursions.

The fourteenth annual plant sale will be held on Saturday 17 May in front of Easebourne Priory, from 10.00am. The queue builds well before it opens, but there are

absolutely no sales before opening time, and it is cash only.

The produce show will be held on the first Saturday in August. Information about all of the society's events will be published in the 2025 handbook. New members are most welcome. It only costs £6.00 a year to join, or £10.00 if there are two of you at the same address.

Information about the society and about the produce show in August can be found in our Handbook which is now available.

● Tina Litchfield  
■ 01730 816542  
■ EGAS@tinagavin.com

The society has three coach trips this year. The first is a trip to Romsey to visit Hillier's Arboretum and Garden Centre, plus a visit Stewart Pocock's rose nursery. The cost is £34.00 for the coach fare and entry to Hillier's. Phone Daphne Wakeford for more information on 01730 816187 or email [daphnewakeford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:daphnewakeford@hotmail.co.uk).

The Easebourne Garden and Allotment Society

*14th annual*

## PLANT SALE

**Saturday 17 May from 10.00am - 12.00pm in front of The Priory**

- ✿ Bedding plants and perennials
- ✿ All kinds of vegetables
- ✿ Herbs and salads
- ✿ House plants and lots more

Parking across the main road in the old playground.

**NO** sales before 10.00am, cash only

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4Sight Vision Support supports blind and sight impaired children and adults, their families and carers, across West Sussex. Their free services help clients maintain independence, with advice on education, employment, obtaining financial assistance, social activities, and health and well-being. In addition, a key area of their expertise is an Accessible Technology Service, to help clients with daily tasks following sight loss.

Equipment such as magnification tools or adapted lighting may at first spring to mind, but every day more technologies are becoming available which can be adapted to support varying needs.

### Phone Apps

For example, a Smart Speaker can access news, weather forecasts and talking books; set alarms and reminders, and manage a daily calendar. A wide choice of phone apps can access public transport information, read written documents to you and control your central heating remotely.

## Making the Most of Technology: Advice for Those Living with Sight Loss

Other technologies can help monitor emails, convert text to audio, and by scanning codes using apps such as Navilens, provide information on food packaging, public signage and public transport to name a few. The built-in screen reader on a television will provide information about what programmes are audio described, and settings on a PC screen can adjust the display to suit those with impaired vision.

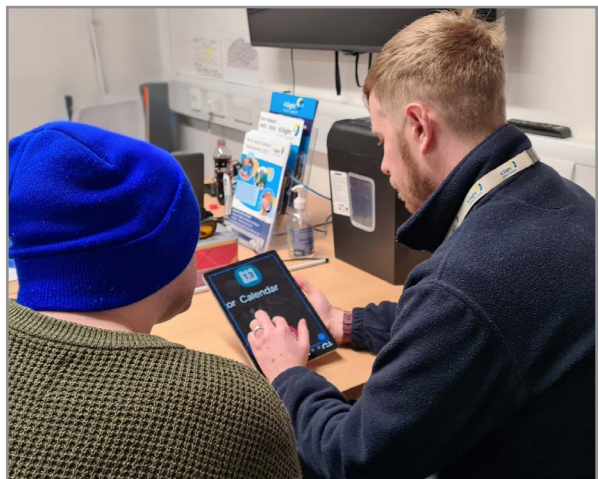
4Sight Vision Support also runs several Low Vision Solutions Open Days allowing hands-on experience with products and technology.

Visit the website for details. Please contact 4SVS if you'd also like to find out more about their social and walking groups in your locality.

■ 01243 828555

■ [enquiries@4sight.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@4sight.org.uk)

■ [www.4sight.org.uk](http://www.4sight.org.uk)



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Tuesday 3rd June  
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# Through The Church Gate



CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY/JUNE 2025

Date	Easebourne	Lodsworth	Selham
4 May Easter 3	10.30am Family Service	6.00pm Evensong	8.30am Holy Communion
11 May Easter 4	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Family Service	No service
18 May Easter 5	10.30am Holy Communion	No service	8.30am Holy Communion
25 May Easter 6	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No service
1 June Sunday After Ascension	10.30am Family Service	6.00pm Evensong	8.30am Holy Communion
8 June Pentecost	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Family Service	No Service
15 June Trinity	10.30am Holy Communion	No Service	8.30am Holy Communion
22 June Trinity 1	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No Service
29 June St Peter	No Service	10.30am Well Blessing 11.00 am Open Air Service	No service

Bold types denotes any changes



Rector: Rev Derek Welsman  
01730 812655

Curate: Liz Yonge  
07747 611993

Lodsworth		Churchwardens		Selham	
Mrs Lynne Todd 01798 861399	Mr Deryck Hamon 01798 861850	Mrs J Colman 01730 861267	Mr Roger Comber 01798 861320		

# From the Vicar

Reverend Canon Derek Welsman

*Dear Friends*

Thursday 8 May will mark the 80th anniversary of the ending of war in Europe, then on 15 August we will remember the ending of war in the Far East.

These two occasions are significant because the generations that can still remember are now passing. Going forward, remembering will be entrusted to those who are committed to peace and the honouring of so many lives that have fought for that in the past.

The one thing that strikes you most as you stand remembering on each Remembrance Sunday, is just how young this generation were.

They headed off to war in two waves from our villages. If my life had ended at twenty, I would have missed marriage, family and many wonderful times. That is what they sacrificed for our freedom.

It still amazes me how easily humanity uses war to sort out its problems. Showing strength and flexing muscles is still the chosen path for many powerful people. Our daily news is testament to that!

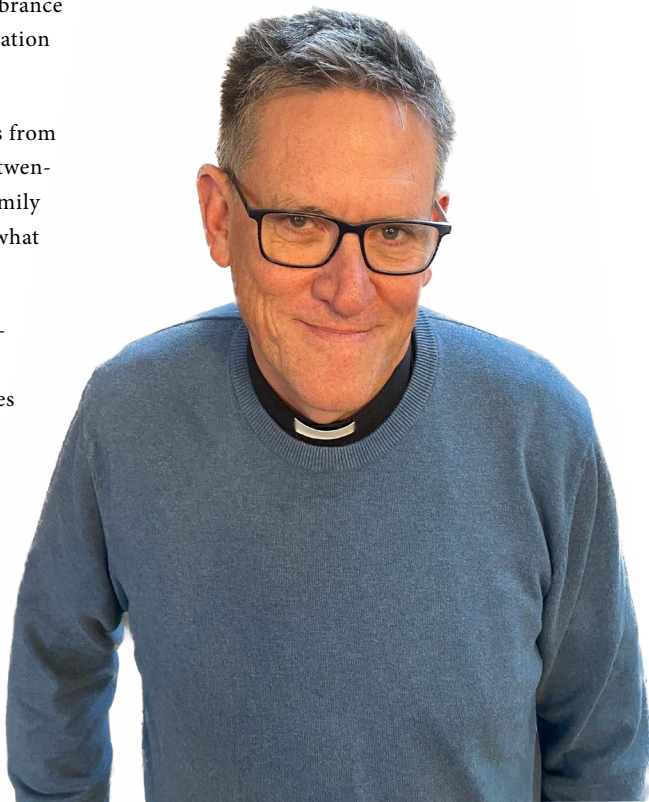
For those of us who advocate peace, this power flexing, which rarely affects those actually in power, brings untold misery to so many innocent lives.

Wouldn't it be better, if the memory of so many young lives

given to bring our freedom from tyranny, was used to inspire peace in our world. If humanity had the courage to learn the lessons of the past to build a loving and peaceable future?

That is what I will be praying for as we gather this May and August. We should be remembering those many young lives, sacrificed for us, for our freedom.

God bless them all.





# 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](mailto:revlizyonge@outlook.com)

## EASEBOURNE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Tuesday 6 May**

**Parish Volunteers,**

Come along and enjoy a talk by Frank Davies who leads the  
Friends of Easebourne Parish Council.

**Tuesday 3 June**

The speaker will be announced soon, please check the church  
website for details.

■ [www.thepriorychurches.co.uk](http://www.thepriorychurches.co.uk)

For all details of the Women's Fellowship please  
call Ann Harfield ■ 01730 813810 ■ [annharfield23@gmail.com](mailto:annharfield23@gmail.com)





# Church Fête: Plans Well Under Way

Plans are progressing well for this year's fête. Martin Dexter has set a challenge for all members of the congregation to bake a cake for the cake stall. They can be delivered on the morning or the afternoon before. Please place the cake in a tin or box with your name on it. There will be a table in the prayer area for the cake donations.

Julia Wain will be happy to receive items

for the gift stall any Sunday morning. The hope is for good quality, unused, or newer items. Higher value or popular items may be auctioned. On the day, the primary school will showcase some of their dancing skills. The Goblin Kit Car may put in an appearance alongside Simon Hendrie's classic cars. There will also be an ice cream van this year.

● **Martin Dexter** ■ **07752 001316**  
■ **madexter123@icloud.com**



Rise and Shine is our 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**

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## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

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### March Winners

Prize	£	Share	Name
1	100	116	Gavin Litchfield
2=	75	98	Louise Freake
2=	75	239	Ann Marchand
3=	50	88	Eamon Gorman
3=	50	99	Louise Freake
3=	50	140	Bryan Scholey

### April Winners

Prize	£	Share	Name
1	100	18	Julia Wain
2=	75	98	Louise Freake
2=	75	174	David King
3=	50	4	Barbara Smith
3=	50	118	Tina Litchfield
3=	50	75	Alan Austin

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

## Church Contacts

### Vicar

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GU29 9BE  
01730 812655  
derek.welsman@outlook.com

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07747611993

### Churchwarden

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### Churchwarden

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### Parish Administrator/PCC Secretary

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01730 816405

### PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary

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

### Organist and Choir Mistress

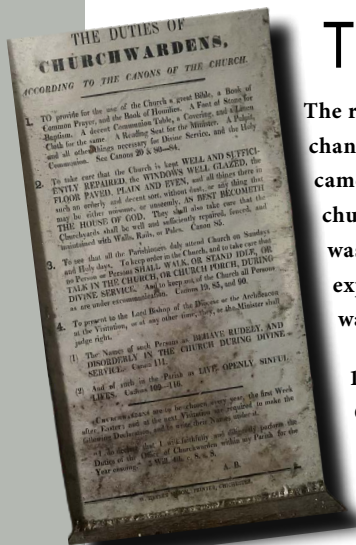
Mary Knight  
01730 812783

### Social Committee

Jan Harling  
jharlingm@gmail.com

### 200 Club

Margaret and Mike Wharton  
mike@mwwassociates.eu.com



# Churchwardens Then and Now

The role of churchwarden has changed somewhat over the years. I came across this list of duties in the church at Singleton and it really was an eye-opener. This is what was expected of a Victorian Churchwarden:

1. To provide for the use of the Church a great Bible of Common Prayer and the Book of Homilies. A Font of Stone for Baptism. A decent communion Table, a covering of Linen cloth for

same. A Heading Seat for the Minister. A

Pulpit and all other things necessary for Divine Service and the Holy Communion.

2. To take care that the Church is kept WELL AND SUFFICIENTLY REPAIRED, the WINDOWS WELL GLAZED, the FLOOR PAVED, PLAIN AND EVEN, and all things therein such and orderly and decent sort, without dust, or anything that maybe either noisome or unseemly, AS BEST BECOMETH THE HOUSE OF GOD. They shall also take care that the Churchyards shall be well and sufficiently repaired, fenced and maintained with walls, rails or pales.
3. To see that all Parishioners duly attend Church on Sundays and Holy Days. To keep order in the church, and to take care that no Person or Persons SHALL WALK OR STAND IDLE, OR TALK IN THE CHURCH OR CHURCH PORCH, DURING DIVINE SERVICE. And to keep out of the church all persons as are under excommunication.
4. To present to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese or the Archdeacon at the Visitation, or at any other time, they or the Minister shall judge right.

1) the names of such Persons as BEHAVE RUDELY AND DISORDERLY IN THE CHURCH DURING DIVINE SERVICE

2) And as such in the Parish as LIVE OPENLY SINFUL LIVES

Fast forward a couple of hundred years and things have changed somewhat! I asked one of the current churchwardens of St. Mary's, Easebourne if he'd ever had to throw any of the congregation out for being disorderly during divine service.

Phil Stringer informs me that 'Hand on heart, the answer is no!' He adds 'We have had a couple of faints and a medical emergency or two, but that's all I have to report!'

Phil is one of two churchwardens. Alison Davies takes care of all things internal, making sure that the church runs smoothly with the assistance of very helpful volunteers.

'Events such as Messy Church, where forty or fifty children descend on the church four times a year take a fair bit of organising,' says Phil. 'There is art and crafts, lots of games and often a scavenger hunt. Alison, together with the Messy Church team, sort all of that out. Other events are Little Lambs, Tea at Three, Knit and Natter - a lot goes on in the church. Behind the scenes Alison oversees the care of the linen and sacred ornaments too.'

## Grade I

'I'm much the same, but I'm more out of doors. I look after the churchyard and general maintenance. On a Grade I listed building like this, there is always something that needs attention. Inside,

there are fire-safety checks, the huge gas boiler needs servicing and the electricity needs regular inspections.' Phil is actually waiting for the fire-safety officer to visit as we talk.

## Woodpeckers

'Then, there is the big five-yearly inspection by architects, who spend a day checking over the whole building. In 2018, they discovered that woodpeckers had damaged the shingles on the roof and we had to raise a substantial amount of money to replace them. The work was finally completed last year.'

I ask Phil what he enjoys about being a Church Warden.

'I love the history, how it all fits together around us. All these names on these plaques around us in the church are part of our Easebourne heritage. I like to ensure that we are looking after all of that for the future generations.'

● Jan Harvey

*Pictured: Phil Stringer*





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# Beautiful Churches of West Sussex

**I was not prepared for the wow factor of St. Peter Ad Vincula at Wisborough Green. If ever a church was loved and cared for, it is this one. I was tipped off by a friend. 'You will love it,' she told me and she was right.**

It was a wet and windy day and we hurried up the path (pictured top) expecting the usual dark and cold interior of the average English church. How wrong we were.

## Tidy

A splash of green and gold immediately caught my eye. Modern in design these striking glass screens (pictured bottom left) are

the perfect way to store the ephemera of church life. It immediately made for a tidy and well-ordered interior.

## Active

I had to take a slow turn around this church because there was so much to take in and everything was so well-presented.



St. Peter Ad Vincula  
Wisborough Green

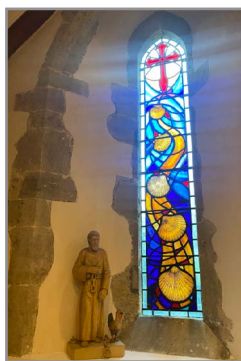
The overarching feeling was that of a church that was cared for and very active.

In direct contrast to the very modern interior elements, is the stunning wall painting created in about 1215. It is a fine example of its type.

On the opposite side of the chancel, is the Pilgrimage Window (pictured below right). Designed by Neville Dutton in 2006, it is inspired by the Camino Santiago, The Way of St James. The way is marked by scallop shells

which can be clearly seen in the design. It is a work of art and is well worth seeing.

There is also mention in the church of the connection with the Canadian Expedition Force stationed in the



village who took part in the Dieppe raid on 19 August, 1942. This is obviously something the village has a great pride in commemorating.

If you love churches, you will adore St. Peter Ad Vincula.

● Jan Harvey

# Magazine Contacts Page

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Easebourne Parish Council  
07342 166188

St. Richard's Hospital  
Chichester  
01243 788122

Social Services  
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01243 752999

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01730 813255

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**Photography:** Jan Harvey

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**Front Cover:** Ready to Play.

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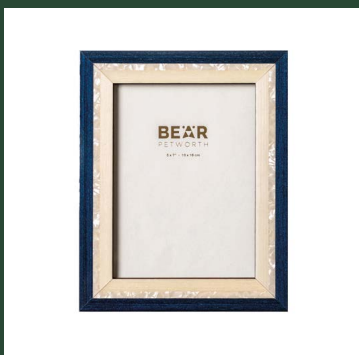
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