

EASEBOURNE

Magazine

November/December 2025 Vol 24 No.4



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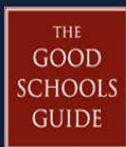
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Feeling Festive



Here we are again, dark damp November! Memories of our lovely Easebourne summer have faded and the dull month is upon us. It's definitely a time to batten down the hatches and ready ourselves for the onslaught of Christmas goodwill and cheer!

What better month to curl up with your favourite community magazine and read about the goings on in our village and surrounding areas.

In this issue, I talk to Bill Potts about Perfect Motion Physio and how he and his wife Becky, managed moving the business from Easebourne to Midhurst with very little notice. He tells us just how supportive our local community was during a very testing time.

We have news of the community hub. This is a big step forward for the Parish Council who built Easebourne Park for us all and who now want to convert a former classroom in the primary school into a resource that we can all use and share.

I asked you, our readers, for memories of the King Edward VII hospital and I've gathered them together in this issue. It really is an interesting read. We also have a review of the Easebourne year. It's just amazing to have an overview of what goes on in this small, but perfect, parish. Our village certainly punches above its weight.

In closing, may I just say a thank you to all those who support the magazine by giving their time to it. Paul Chantry on sales who works very hard on subscriptions and distribution too. Ann Harfield who works tirelessly to get every issue to its reader. To those who send in articles - thank you. Also, Carl Fiford, ace proof-reader, without whom I would be totally lost and our lovely treasurer Mark Walters who keeps an eye on the numbers. Finally, a big vote of appreciation must go to our distributors without whom we could not manage. You are all part of team Easebourne Magazine and highly valued.

Jan Harvey
easebourneeditor@btinternet.com



Jan Harvey interviews Bill Potts of Perfect Motion Physio

All I knew about Bill Potts, before I met him, was that his clients refer to him as “Lovely Bill Potts.” Indeed, I had heard this on so many occasions that in my mind he’s actually called “Lovely Bill Potts!” It was therefore a pleasure to meet him at The Granaries, in Bepton Raod, Midhurst, the new home of Perfect Motion Physio (PMP).

It’s a lovely premises, light and airy with new fittings and furniture and both Bill and wife, Becky, are obviously delighted with it. However, reaching the point where everything is ‘perfect’ for Perfect Motion Physio has been a challenge.

Bill and Becky had treatment rooms in Easebourne and were familiar faces in the village. They had many local clients and an established reputation for fixing aches, pains and accident damage. Then they found the space they had occupied for seven years was no longer available to them.

‘It came as a shock to us,’ says Bill, ‘and we suddenly had to make other plans.’ PMP had appointments scheduled for months in advance, but worse, they had also just taken on a member of staff, Iain Weavers, an exceptional physio with a background in elite youth sport. He was a rare find. Iain was dependent on their business too, the timing could not have been worse.

‘I have to admit, it was very difficult for us,’ Bill continues. ‘Unlike many other towns, there are not many business premises to lease in Midhurst and time really was against us.’

Having quickly taken stock of what was available on the market, Bill and Becky knew

they were going to struggle. They had to become proactive, so they put out an email asking both clients, and other contacts, if they could help with suggestions for where to move.

‘That was when I realised that people were truly behind us,’ says Bill with a smile. ‘Becky and I couldn’t believe how wonderful everyone was. We received helpful suggestions yes, but the messages of support and consolation were quite overwhelming.

“It made us realise that we were integral to the community, that the people around us really cared”

It made us realise that we were integral to the community, that the people around us really cared.’

Just at the right time, The Granaries came up for lease. It was one of only two available spaces and just happened to be perfect. Not only a place with a nice welcoming feel, but it allows PMP to expand and offer much more to their client base.

‘Alongside our traditional physio treatments, we can now offer a range of massages from sports to deep tissue dry needling. Top trainer, Jordan Kohn has joined us since the move so we have been able to start two new strength classes. One is targeted at runners and the other is for functional strength. We have also bought “Reformers” to teach Pilates. These will be small classes taught at the Granaries, it’s not something we could have done before. We’re now offering gift ►

vouchers this year too, they are ideal for Christmas and they cover all PMP treatments, including our latest addition, Thai massage.'

I can see that Bill is excited about the future and I ask about how he sees the next few years.

'I am very happy and very excited for the future.

Becky and I could not have asked for a better move. Our client base has already broadened. We now see people from Guildford, Petersfield and Haslemere. Coming to Midhurst for many people is an absolute pleasure. They can park easily, and they get two hours free, which sees them going to shops and cafés and making the most of their visit'

Superb Resource

I ask if being in the town has been good for Bill and Becky themselves. 'Oh, yes,' Bill replies, 'It's so nice to be able to pop to Gather and Graze, or Comestibles, for a quick coffee or, if we need anything, say



from the hardware shop, its done in minutes. The new banking hub at The Grange is a superb resource for us too.'

At the end of a hard-working day, Becky and Bill return to Easebourne where they have lived for a decade. I ask him what he loves most about the village.

Community

'What's not to love?' he replies, 'it feels like a real village, a proper community. Things like the Fête in the Park, the very proactive parish council. Also the convenience of just walking into the town next door where you can get virtually anything you need. We love Easebourne, we're so pleased we chose to live here.'

It's been a testing time, but everything has worked out so well for Bill and Becky. PMP is at the start of a new era. And yes, I can confirm what the clients all say, Bill is lovely.

■ www.perfectmotionphysio.com

Pictured: Becky and Bill Potts



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mount noddy
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Millie, a Mount Noddy dog, now living on King Edward VII Estate



Photo: Tina Lichfield

Remembrance in Easebourne

Remembrance is a time for the nation to honour the sacrifices of those who have served in the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces.

This is observed on Remembrance Sunday (second Sunday in November) and Armistice Day (11 November). In Easebourne village, we hold an Act of Remembrance at St Mary's and around the war memorial in the churchyard.

Touchstone

The war memorial, paid for by the village and Lord Cowdray, is a touchstone to our past. It maintains the link between those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and later generations who benefit from the freedoms for which they fought, reminding us constantly of the full cost of war.

Roll of Honour

On Remembrance Sunday, a joint Act of Remembrance of the villages of Lodsworth, Selham and Easebourne is held in St Mary's starting at 10.30am.

After the service, we assemble at the war memorial to read the roll of honour of those killed. On Armistice Day, Easebourne Primary School holds an act of remembrance around the war memorial.

Three villages

Across the three villages, thirty casualties from Lodsworth and twelve from Selham are remembered from both wars.

There are fifty six First World War and twenty Second World War casualties commemorated at Easebourne.

They include local men named on the war memorial and buried across the globe, those with war graves in our village be they local men or casualties from King Edward VII Sanatorium. Some are casualties with a connection to Easebourne recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Everyone is most welcome to attend both services.

● Phil Stringer



A Community Hub for Easebourne?

Easebourne Parish Council hopes to create a Community Centre at the heart of our village by refurbishing an empty section of Easebourne Primary School. The building looks over our wonderful Easebourne Park.

This building (see main image) has been unused for more than ten years and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) has no plans for it to return to use as part of the primary school.

The Parish Council has been negotiating a long lease with WSCC to turn this great opportunity into a flexible and multi-use community meeting space.

Ambitious

This ambitious proposal would create a series of adaptable spaces available for community use, such as social events, well-being activities and meeting spaces for local clubs, societies and businesses. There will be a coffee shop, a permanent home for the council, and outdoor space where villagers would be able to meet for a good chat with coffee and cake. The

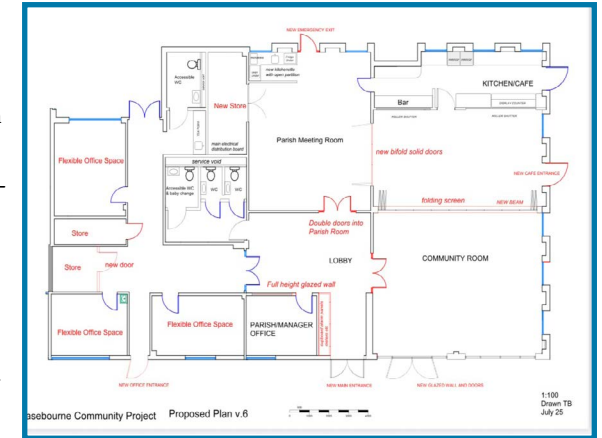


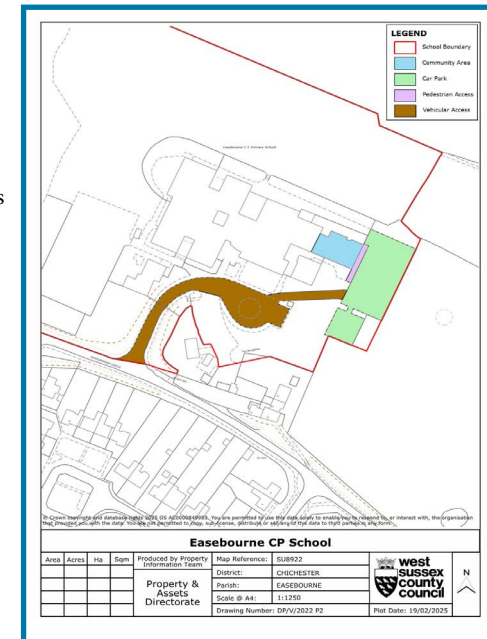
image image above shows a possible floor plan.

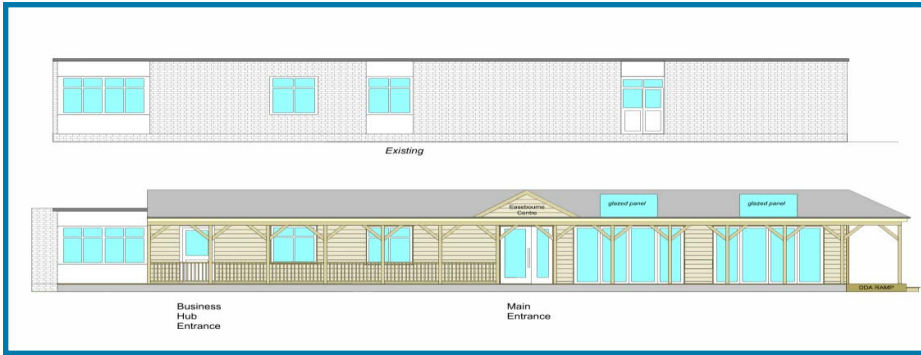
Dependent on support

We must emphasise that although this project has been discussed for some years by councillors, the final decision is dependent on the support of the community, financial viability and, of course, planning approval.

Other locations for a community centre have been considered but have been too expensive, in the wrong location or not sufficiently flexible for the needs of our growing community. The location is shaded in blue in the image shown left.

We know that consultation with the parish is vital, and we are





arranging a leaflet drop to all parishioners, open consultation events at the school and further electronic surveys via community websites and Facebook.

The first survey has been completed with a website questionnaire, with some provisional Q&As posted on our website. The early results have been positive and have supported our vision of an accessible and affordable meeting space, with coffee and cake!

Really understanding what the community would like will enable the parish council to design an interior to accommodate the wishes and needs of the whole village.

Green

The current plan is to create a building that is as 'green' as possible, with double glazed windows and doors, insulated walls and roof, solar panels and perhaps an electricity-producing domestic-size wind turbine, all subject to planning permission of course. An architect's drawing is shown above.

Incidentally, Easebourne Primary School has its own solar panel project and already has a small windmill in the children's garden area.

Accessible

A water fountain, attached to the outside of the building, for park users and their thirsty dogs is also part of the design.

The outside of the building will be wood-clad and have an overhanging roof with the whole building being designed to make it accessible to all. Please look at the image at the bottom of page nine for more detail.

Significant investment

The project will be a significant investment for Easebourne Parish Council, but we anticipate that it will be funded entirely through grants and not from the money that the council receive as part of your council tax (precept).

We are looking at the costings of several other community centres in the south of England, especially some serving communities of a similar size to Easebourne and situated close to a larger town like Midhurst. We recognise just how important it is for us to ensure a community centre is financially viable in the long-term and is suitable to answer the needs of the village for decades to come.

It is important to add that this project has the full support of Easebourne Primary School, West Sussex County Council and our Chichester District Councillor.

Uppermost in the Parish Council and Easebourne Primary School Leadership Team's thoughts is the appropriate safeguarding of the nursery and school children. This will involve blocking off any access into the school from the proposal community centre – in fact, this is already the case – and the screening of any outside area from school windows.

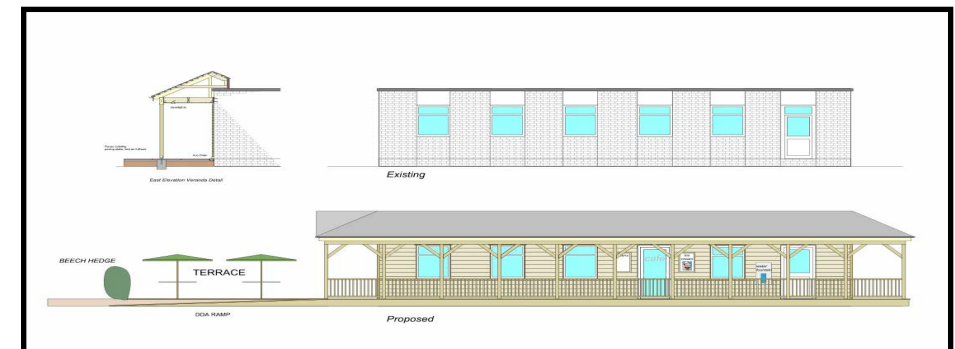
As the car parks are very busy at certain times of the day, we know that time-tabling of activities within the community centre will need to be carefully scheduled. Our aim is for the centre to be up and running during the summer of 2026, but we need to hear from you, our parishioners and the users of such a facility, about your thoughts on the project.

● Judith McDonald-Lawson



Please look out for opportunities to let us know your thoughts, via the Parish Council website, responding to the leaflet door-drop or in person at the open events which will be widely publicised.

■ Easebourne.org.



What's On

PETWORTH HOUSE

CHRISTMAS MAKERS MARKET

Find your Christmas presents and a treat for yourself at this festive makers market, featuring high quality artisan gifts. You'll find a range of beautiful handmade products including jewellery, homewares, textiles and art.

This event is held in partnership with Petworth Pop Up.

**29 November, 10.00am-6.30pm and
30 November, 10.00am-4.00pm**



A CHRISTMAS ENCHANTMENT

Step into a Christmas Enchantment. A midwinter journey through Petworth House. Inspired by the Winter Solstice and the shifting rhythms of nature, the grand state rooms transformed into a dreamlike world of overgrown wonder. There will be choirs singing, late openings, wreath-making, a Christmas makers market, and much more.

29 November – 4 January
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

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Henry Dallal

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Thursday 6 November



UKSpace

Stephanie Ayres

Stephanie Ayres is Head of Policy at UK-space, co-ordinating policy and procurement campaigns. UKspace is the official trade association of the UK Space Industry which it promotes nationally and internationally. Stephanie's objective is to help the UK space industry to speak with one powerful voice as the country develops its capabilities in space

Thursday 4 December

All meetings are held in the Village Hall, South Harting at 7.30pm (bar is open from 7.00pm.)

Visitors are most welcome (£5.00 per head.)

Sarah Wilcox at swilco149@yahoo.co.uk

or call 07963 909889

GRAYSHOTT FOLK CLUB

Gatehouse

The interplay of flute and fiddle, paired with Rachel's captivating voice and Jacinta's sensitive guitar, creates a dynamic mix.

13 November 7.30pm

Janice Burns and Jon Doran

Award-winning Anglo-Scottish duo who came together after discovering a shared love of traditional music and songs that tell vivid stories about the nature of life and our place in the world.

29 November 7.30pm

**Grayshott Village Hall, Headley Road,
Grayshott, GU26 6TZ**

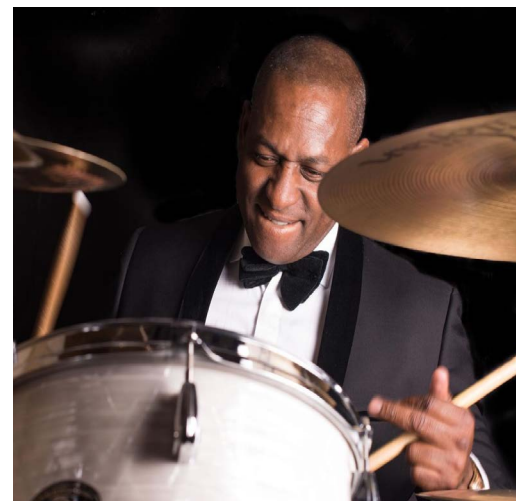
www.grayshottfolkclub.co.uk

Out and About

The Midhurst Jazz, Food and Blues Festival takes place from the fourteenth to fifteenth of November 2025, promising a three-day celebration of world-class music, fine food, and vibrant local culture.

Multiple venues across town will be transformed into intimate jazz clubs and buzzing speakeasies, hosting live performances, workshops, masterclasses, and late-night jam sessions. The festival welcomes top UK jazz and blues artists, alongside talent from Europe and Argentina, reflecting Midhurst's longstanding ties with South America through Cowdray Park Polo Club.

Festival Director Adam Page said, 'This isn't just a series of concerts, it's a bold cultural moment for Midhurst. We're combining international flair with strong local roots, celebrating the town's creative identity.'



"A Bold Cultural Moment for Midhurst"

Local musicians, music students, artists, restaurants, cafés, and bars will all be deeply involved. There will even be special events for elderly residents and ten percent of net

proceeds will go towards a scholarship for a young local musician to study at one of the UK's top music schools.

Exciting and Inclusive

'Cultural events only thrive when they're grounded in their community,' Adam added. 'We want everyone — from families to foodies, seasoned jazz lovers to curious locals — to feel part of something exciting and inclusive.'

Whether you're in it for the groove, the food, or the atmosphere, this promises to be a weekend to remember.

● **Adam Page, Festival Director**

■ **www.midhurstjazzandblues.com**

■ **The Midhurst Jazz, Food and Blues Festival, 2025 runs from 14-16 November.**

My Midhurst Moment



Madhurst and dancing to the ABBA Sensation. All those wonderful songs reminded me of my youth in Brighton. It was a great night out.

Nick Pashby



Ball spotting at Cowdray as part of Midhurst and Petworth Rotary Club fundraising golf tournament. It was a glorious sunny day with great views of the South Downs. We raised £8,000 for charities, including those local to Midhurst.

Mark Walters

Midhurst has had a tough time of it this year with the lack of progress on fire damage to properties on North Street, many frustrating traffic jams and some much loved shops closing down. So we asked some of the town's residents to describe their Midhurst Moment, a memory from 2025 they won't forget.



We didn't realise we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun during our camp fires and activities.

Emma Glue

Unit Leader, First Easebourne Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows



"Stepping into 'The Chapel' at Cowdray Hall and knowing I had found the perfect sanctuary to teach classes and share my love of pilates and Yin yoga in Midhurst".

Charlotte Wise

*Charlotte Wise
Wellbeing*



Had a splashing time by the Rother in July pulling Himalayan Balsam with Midhurst Green Volunteers, Rotarians and locals from Easebourne. When I took a dive into a ditch it was such a laugh!

Michael Balmforth



Singing with the Community Choir in the Parish Church at our Summer Concert was like having a warm blanket around me.

Sue Walchli



History, architecture, the Arts Society, our community choir, a welcoming U3A, excellent sports facilities plus lovely shops, and cafés. All this reminds why I'm so pleased I moved to Midhurst.

Mary Gliddon



Choosing Midhurst for my antique shop because its Tudor charm, history, and welcoming spirit create the perfect setting to share timeless pieces with others.

Jacqueline Hesketh
Hesketh Antiques



Heart-warming support from our community on moving into our own clinic site in the centre of Midhurst, after thirteen years in Easebourne. We've been buzzing!

Becky Potts

Perfect Motion Physio



For me, it was a walk in the Ebernoe woods with Midhurst u3a which was made even better by freedom from pain after an operation!

Carol Brinson

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Tiny cones and nutshells

This is to be my last column as over the past two years it has slowly dawned on me that I only have two years of gardening wisdom to impart, if that!

When I do impart any, I tend to contradict myself a few months later, leaving you, as well as me, in a spin. On top of that, I apologise for the never-ending blathering on about mulching. Although, on the flip side, you can never mulch too much, which is not quite true because some plants like a sad soil.

See what I mean? I am now doing it within one sentence, so alas, it is time to move on, making way for your new columnist who may actually impart some horticultural wisdom.

But seriously, writing this has only reinforced my belief that there are no absolute rights and wrongs with gardening (the one exception being astro turf). It is one hundred per cent all about the journey and what you discover on the way – never about achieving some final masterpiece. And that is the joy of it all. Over these past two years I have learned a lot



and then unlearned it. But so it goes.

I'm going to say a little about Christmas because somehow, I hardly touched on that last year.

I believe Christmas is a time to take notice of all the little things out there in the hedgerows that we quite often

ignore. Making wreaths is an exercise in this.

As soon as we get anywhere near November, I drive everywhere while simultaneously scanning the hedgerows for anything that can be used in my wreaths, not to mention turned into garlands, baubles, or swags.

Tiny little cones and nutshells, drifts of old man's beard, lichen, dried leaves and grasses, twigs, dried flowers, fir, it can all be pilfered, lobbed in the back of the van, brought inside and turned into the most beautiful decorations.

Considering what amazing fruit harvests there have been this year, it's going to be a bumper year for berries too so we're looking at a very berry Christmas folks.

That's more or less it from me. Thank you for reading my witterings on the wonderful world of gardening and the great outdoors. And what a wonderful part of the great outdoors we live

within. So from me and my woolly garden, and my even woollier barnet, it's over and out.

● Kate Verdley
■ kate@verdleyflowers.com



We would like to say a big thank you to Kate for her gardening advice over the past two years, always an informative read.

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Proudly Serving Our Community

Merritt's of Midhurst A New Chapter at The Garrett



Before and after, Merritts of Midhurst take over and renovate the former Lintott and Sons premises.

The Garrett in Midhurst. is now, officially, the new home of Merritt's of Midhurst Funeral Service.

'For us, this move is far more than simply relocating to a new premises. It feels deeply personal,' says director, Toby Merritt.

'Many local people will remember my cousin, Bob Lintott, who ran his own funeral business from this very building for many years.

Full circle

'To be able to return here and continue that legacy means so much to me, my family, and the whole team at Merritt's. It feels as though things have come full circle. Restoring the building to its original purpose while honouring the history it holds within our community.'

The Garrett will not just be a place of

work, but a place of comfort and care. As part of the refurbishment, Merritts have created facilities designed with families in mind. These include a service chapel for those who may prefer not to use a church or crematorium. There is also a private arrangement room to give families the space and privacy they need. There are essential facilities such as rest rooms, parking, and a small kitchen all on site.

Grateful

'Every decision has been made with dignity, respect, and warmth at the heart of it,' Toby adds. 'This move represents an exciting new chapter for Merritt's of Midhurst. We are so grateful to the local community for the support and encouragement we've received throughout our journey.'

■ www.merrittsofmidhurst.com



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THE KING EDWARD VII ESTATE

Memories of the Hospital on the Hill



Residents of Midhurst remember the hospital on the hill

We asked our readers to to contact us with memories of King Edward VII when it was still a hospital. Here's what they said.

Bank

On Wednesday morning, the porters would give up their office and the room was converted into a bank which a colleague and I ran for many years. The staff were lovely with many coming from overseas, particularly from Spain.

Marion Perry

Dinner Dance

I was chairman of the Midhurst and Easebourne Football Club and the catering staff at the hospital would provide a three course meal for our annual dinner dance. They always did us proud. The hospital also had its own cricket team.

Patrick Perry

Breakfast

The breakfasts served in the dining room were wonderful. Anyone could go in and have one with the staff. We were some of the incoming residents on the newly constructed Hurst Park estate, and we would often drop by for a full English after church on a Sunday. On one occasion the local constabulary were in there too enjoying theirs. That day there was an incident in Midhurst and there were no policemen down there! So I don't think they were able to finish theirs!!

Jackie Haggis



Afternoon Tea

I remember being in the hospital to have an operation and the nurses wheeled my afternoon tea in on a little trolley.

The food was delicious and served on china which rattled as the trolley moved along the corridor.

Roger Davies

Mini Bus

The minibus would be a regular sight to-ing and fro-ing. The driver wore a chauffeur's uniform.

Marion Perry

Christmas Services

Our first winter at the hospital was in 1999/2000 when we moved to Midhurst. We were living in a tiny two bedroomed staff bungalow, which I remember was very cold.

One morning, when the snow was laying deep on the ground, we woke to a whole family of deer right outside. It was a very special magical memory for us in our new home.

Christmas services held in the chapel were magical. The children from Easebourne primary school came to take part. The staff Christmas lunches were brilliant with senior colleagues serving over several sittings. I can tell you that the hospital Christmas pudding was legendary.

Yvonne Gravely

Last in the Series for Midhurst Author



Local author, Claire Nicholas, has now completed The Sunwood Series.

Her fifth and final book, 'Sunwood Lost', is a Halloween story, full of drama. It also ties together aspects from earlier books in the series.

Says Claire: 'The books are about a family that finds a secret wood, Sunwood, within Blackdown. In this magical place, animals from all around the world live together, in complete harmony.'

The books are ideal for children from seven years of age.

■ Find out more on the author's Facebook page: Claire Nicholas - author (the lower case 'a' in 'author' is important).

■ clairenicholasauthor@gmail.com

Making Tracks...



If you fancy a pleasant winter walk the new section of the Centurion Way, opened in August, is ideal.

The project has transformed the disused railway station and former railway line at Singleton into a valuable asset for the community. It is intended to be accessible for families, dog walkers, and users of mobility scooters and wheelchairs. The new section extends the route northwards from West Dean to the end near Cucumber Farm.

Keen cyclist, David King, says: 'I've long been fascinated by the disused railway lines around Midhurst, so it was quite a thrill for me to cycle between the old platforms at Singleton. The work on the new section has been done to a high standard, with informative signs along the way, and like many I'm now impatient for the next phase which will connect the Centurion Way to the South Downs Way at Cocking.'

Further works will be taking place over the next two to three years. The route will then be extended to Cocking Hill, linking it with the South Downs Way.

● Jan Harvey

Friends of Easebourne Parish



Isn't the weather frustrating? No sooner a work party is organised to restart our programme of hedge-cutting, it rains heavily and the session is cancelled.

Twice this happened during the first couple of weeks in September. We need the rain, but preferably not when we are scheduled to carry out our work!

Despite the setbacks we have made a brief start on the hedges in the park and this will continue over the next few months.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather, our hardy FrEP volunteers still manage to litter pick throughout the parish. They also empty the bins, and clear debris and rubbish left in the bus shelters.

The seven planters located around Easebourne are maintained by a small team



who recently tidied them and planted a selection of bulbs funded by the parish council ready for a colourful display next spring.

Up to the end of August FrEP volunteers were regularly watering the most recently planted fruit trees. I am pleased to say that the trees have all flourished, despite the hot and dry summer days. In the years to come they should provide a good variety of fruit for visitors, especially the children.

We always need more volunteers so please come and join us. Volunteering can be very rewarding.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Frank Davies 07480188817

● Frank Davies

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

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Refugees

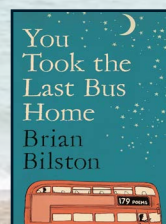
They have no need of our help
 So do not tell me
 These haggard faces could belong to you or me
 Should life have dealt a different hand
 We need to see them for who they really are
 Chancers and scroungers
 Layabouts and loungers
 With bombs up their sleeves
 Cut-throat and thieves
 They are not
 Welcome here
 We should make them
 Go back to where they came from
 They cannot
 Share our food
 Share our homes
 Share our countries
 Instead let us
 Build a wall to keep them out
 It is not okay to say
 These people are just like us
 A place should only belong to those who are born there
 Do not be so stupid to think that
 The world can be looked at another way

(Now read from the bottom)

Brian Bilston

POETRY CORNER

We are delighted to have a poem in this issue of Easebourne Magazine from leading British poet, Brian Bilston. You can purchase Brian's Book, You Took The Last Bus Home at: brianbilston.com



1. Originally Amazon sold what kind of product?
2. What is the name given to an actor who is temporarily engaged usually to appear in crowd scenes?
3. What do you call a person who eats fish but not meat?
4. Located in New York, what does MoMA stand for?
5. What does SPF in sunscreen stand for?
6. Somewhere between a coffee and a dessert, an affogato contains espresso poured over what other ingredient?
7. What are the imaginary horizontal and vertical lines around the earth called?
8. In the UK, which traditional hymn is sung before the kick-off at the football cup final?
9. Which is the only metal to be in liquid form at room temperature?
10. Name the London borough the Houses of Parliament are in?
11. Who was the War of the Roses between?
12. What name is given to the process of printing fabric where the parts not to be dyed are covered with wax?
13. What is the name of the traditional Korean dish made from spicy fermented cabbage?
14. How long does an Instagram story remain live for?
15. What is the capital city of Malta?
16. What is the name of the French brothers who built and ascended in the first hot air balloon?
17. What are the bow-tie shaped pasta shapes known as?
18. What is the name of a style of Country Music that originated in the US State of Kentucky?
19. What is the slowest animal in the world?
20. What handbag is widely thought of as the most expensive in the world?

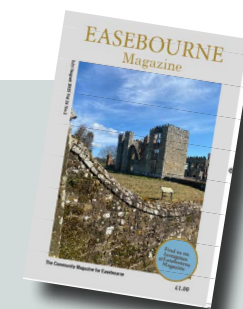


The Coffee Time Quiz

By
 Carole Sawyer

Answers
 on page
 30

The deadline for the **January/February** issue of Easebourne Magazine is 18 November so please kindly send your contribution by that date, if not before, to be really helpful!
easebourneditor@btinternet.com



Chocolate Heaven in Easbourne

What a day! A chocolate making master-class with Mike Noble, Easbourne's very own chocolatier. It was like walking into a dream. The scent of chocolate that hangs in the air of the Noble and Stace studio is heavenly and the 'samples' laid before us, to accompany a welcoming cup of coffee were delicious.

Careful weighing

However, that's where the dreamy bit ended! Who knew that making chocolate involved so much careful weighing and temperature control? Well not me for sure and I am very mathematically challenged! Luckily, I had come to the day-long course with two very



Jan Harvey recalls the fun of a Noble and Stace chocolate workshop



number-friendly friends, Nick and Wil. I can disclose that my skills very much lay in decorating and tasting.

Art Form

The day was an absolute treat and, under the expert guidance of Mike, we enjoyed the whole process from pouring the 'cocoa nibs' into the bowls to carefully heating our molten chocolate and pouring it into moulds. It sounds simple, but there is a lot to this particular art form and it really was a learning curve.

As I said, the best part, for me, was the decoration of our "slabs" and box of very special chocolates made entirely by hand. This was surpassed later when I watched my relatives receive chocolate gifts at Christmas.

There is something truly wonderful about creating something by hand and then gifting it and I felt great satisfaction watching my family open something I'd made on my chocolate-making course. It was a day I'll always remember for the fun of it and the reward of learning a new skill.

From private classes for six in the Studio at "Choc HQ," to larger classes, including lunch for up to eight at The Artisan Bakehouse contact Noble and Stace.

■ nobleandstace.co.uk

Pictured previous page: A one off batch of Jan Harvey chocolates, a very rare treat. Left: Nick and Wil with their bag of hand-made chocolate goodies. Below: Jan mixes cocoa nibs at the start of the workshop.



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Nov 19 - starts at 9.15am (3hrs)

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Christmas wreath workshops from £89*

**Nov 27, Dec 3 / 9 / 11
starts at 9.45am (2hrs)**

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Stir-up Sunday from £78*

Nov 23 - starts at 11am

Christmas pudding workshop, a delicious festive roast lunch and a beautifully wrapped Christmas pudding to take home.

Christmas Day lunch from £165*

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*For terms and restrictions see event details on our website. Part of Historic Sussex Hotels.



The Midhurst Society



FORTHCOMING TALKS

20 November

Western Sussex Rivers Trust

Aimee Felus, the Chief Executive of the Western Sussex Rivers Trust who will tell us how the Trust cares for the rivers and landscape

18 December

Christmas Celebration

Actor Geraldine James and singer Frances Jellard will provide the entertainment for our special Christmas event.

Talks take place at the South Downs Memorial Hall,
North Street, GU29 9DH. Guests are welcome for a fee of £5.00.

For more information visit the website:-

www.midhurstsociety.org.uk

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January



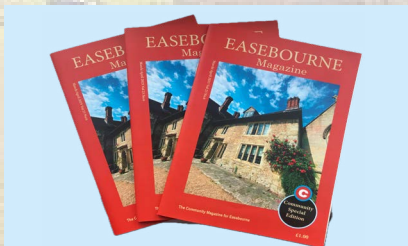
Reverend Canon Derek Welsman speaks to The Midhurst Society on the subject of protecting church buildings and the loss of active communities.

February



GreanHEAL is set up formally, a new group to address environmental issues in Easebourne and Lodsworth.

March



Easebourne Magazine draws together all the local community groups in a special issue. A reminder that the village is part of a network of amazing volunteers active on many levels.

The Easebourne Year

April



Midhurst Rother College hosts another very successful community day with many Easebourne-based organisations taking part.

May



The polo season is underway and all eyes are focussed on the Gold Cup which duly delivered a fabulous final in July.

June



The Friends of Easebourne Parish plant over fifty hedging whips in the park including wild pear, crabapple and dog rose. The on-going work of this group has been of huge benefit to the village.

July



Easebourne Fête is a huge success with performances from the B3s, Josh Eade and Petworth Voices. There was also an exciting "Bake Off."

August



MADhurst is once again a huge success with events being hosted in Easebourne Park and the Cowdray Ruins.

September



The Maize Maze closes its gates after a month of 'amazing' fun for visitors of all ages.

October



Apple Day at Cowdray Farm shop with music and apple-themed treats. The first "Run the Seasons" also traditionally takes place with a course set through the ancient woodland of the Cowdray Estate.

November



The fallen are remembered by the people of Easebourne in a service at the war memorial.

December



The uplifting 'Tree of Hope' service takes place at St. Mary's as it has done for well over twenty years.

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HOOLI.

Design | Marketing | Words | Web

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Books 2. An extra 3. A pescatarian. 4. Museum of Modern Art 5. Sun protection factor
6. Gelato 7. Longitude and latitude lines 8. Abide With Me. 9. Mercury 10. Westminster
11. The House of Lancaster and the House of York 12. Batik 13. Kimchi 14. 24 hours
15. Valetta 16. Montgolfier 17. Farfalle 18. Blue Grass 19. Three-toed sloth 20. The Hermes Birkin

The Arts Society, Midhurst

Mathematics, Mughals and a Mitford



The Arts Society Midhurst meets regularly on the first Tuesday of the month in The Methodist Hall, Midhurst for a series of ten lectures on a wide range of subjects connected to the arts.

Subjects have ranged from Nazi looting during the second world war, the mathematics behind Piero della Francesca's compositions and the architecture of Mughal India.

One of this year's highlights was a talk on "Debo Mitford, Duchess of Devonshire and Housewife 1920 – 2014."

Lectures and Lunch

The society also held two days of three lectures and lunch when it focused on the theatre and gilded America in the early C20th.

This year, the very successful guided holiday abroad was to Vienna (pictured above) and the Danube Valley.

We warmly welcome new members. For more information please visit our website.

● Rosie Drayton

■ www.theartsocietymidhurst.org



Tuesday 4th November
The History of Al-Andalus
The great mosque of Cordoba
Lecturer: Ian Cockburn

Tuesday 2nd December
The Christmas Story in Renaissance Art
Lecturer: Paula Nuttall

The Methodist Hall, Midhurst
Coffee 10.00 Lecture 10.45 - 12.00
www.theartsocietymidhurst.co.org

We welcome anyone who would like to become a member. £55 for ten lectures a year. www.theartsocietymidhurst.org





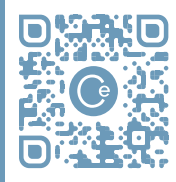
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Learn,
Laugh,
Live

Midhurst

Tuesday 18 November

Dr Bob France

Turner at Petworth the 'House of Art'.

When Lord Egremont died, the great JMW Turner walked through Petworth ahead of his coffin. Hear the story of the thirty year association between two brilliant but highly unconventional men from opposite ends of society. Why did they fall out and what was the remarkable product of their reconciliation? Enjoy their legacy and gain unexpected insights into some of Petworth's twenty Turner paintings and his remarkable sketches of life at Petworth in the 1820's.

Tuesday 9 December

Tony Harris -

'Behind You'

A Costumed talk on Pantomime History and Back Stage Antics

Nitty Nora is a larger than life seven foot tall Pantomime Dame who'll delight us with her antics. We'll learn and laugh as we realise that Pantomime is in our blood. The man behind the costume is RSC Actor, Tony Harris, who gives us the history of pantomime traditions and hilarious anecdotes from his stage, film and TV career. **He's Behind You!**

Monthly talk and refreshments: doors open 2:00 pm; refreshments served until 2.20pm; talk starts at 2.30pm Cost: £3.00 for members £4.00 for visitors considering joining.

All events at the Methodist Hall, Midhurst GU29 9DU.

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Photo: Chris Deadman

From the Listed Buildings File

In 1911, number twenty nine was the family home of Arthur Dark, a Labourer (aged 38) and his wife Annie (aged thirty -three).

Living in this four-roomed dwelling, their family consisted of a daughter, Florence Annie (age 13) and three sons, William Arthur (age 11), Harold (age 10) and Albert, born in Easebourne, (age 8).

Sometime prior to July 1917, the house became the home of George and Emily Chevis, and it is where they received the news that their sons George Edwin and James Henry had died, just

twelve days apart, in the First World War. Both are commemorated on the Easebourne War Memorial.

Chris Deadman
researches
the poignant
history of
this very pretty
cottage in
Easebourne

Enlisted

James was the first Cowdray Estate employee to volunteer his service in the war. Both brothers enlisted into the Royal Sussex Regiment, although not through the same enlisting office.

George, a lance corporal, was wounded in both thighs at Ovillers on 7 July 1916, in what is known as the Battle of the Somme. He was found by his brother James, lying in No Man's Land. James helped him get back to British lines.

Bravery

George was transferred to a base hospital in Etaples, where he died of his wounds on 12 July, 1916. Captain Wilson said that; "No words could describe this man's bravery through the inevitable pain he suffered". George is commemorated at the Etaples Military Cemetery.

James, his younger brother by two years, was fighting in the same battalion close by. It was this proximity which enabled James to help George back behind British lines.

Missing

Following the attack in which his brother was injured, the battalion was reconstituted and tasked with moving munitions to front line positions, which the Germans

were ready to attack. James was killed and posted as missing.

Double Bereavement

It was noted in The West Sussex Gazette in August 1916 that his parents were notified that James had been officially missing since 31 July (the date of his death). "The deepest sympathy is felt for the parents in their double bereavement".

James, a corporal, is commemorated on The Thiepval Memorial, which lists the Missing of the Somme. It bears the names of more than seventy two thousand officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector prior to March 1918 and who have no known grave.

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Picture: Hugh Clark FRPS

A Red Kite Tale

**Kerry Williams,
The Sussex Wildlife Trust**

On holiday in the late 90s, my family and I made a visit to a working mid-Wales farm. As we watched from purpose-built hides, a group of magnificent wild birds of prey started to gather in the surrounding trees, eventually descending to pick up scraps of meat from the ground. It was a flurry of auburn feathers and forked tails. I remember being stunned by the sheer number; I was used to spotting a lone Kestrel or Buzzard but had never seen so many birds of prey at once.

The farm is famed for their supplementary Red Kite feeding, held there daily since advised by the RSPB in 1992 to support efforts to encourage the preservation of the species. The UK Red Kite population had been decimated due to long-term persecution, driven by an incorrect belief that they threatened game birds. Red Kites will hunt small mammals, such as rabbits, but are mostly scavengers, preferring to take carrion rather than live prey. By the late 1980s numbers were drastically low, and with only a handful of breeding pairs in Wales, the species was nearly extinct in the UK.

But change was in the air. Following a release of several birds in the Chilterns

in 1990, efforts by many conservation organisations and committed individuals to support and resettle the species have made the Red Kite reintroduction one of our most successful and renowned conservation stories.

The species now soars in many areas of the British Isles, which is home to an estimated four thousand five hundred breeding pairs. Whereas during my Welsh farm visit we perhaps saw eighty birds, they now welcome up to five hundred. We know that memorable interactions for children and young people with our natural world can create lasting connections and are vital to the continued conservation of our precious wildlife and habitats.

Even though they are now abundant in places, I am still overjoyed to see a Red Kite, perched in a bare branch or hovering over a motorway. When I do, I am often put in mind of that experience at the farm years ago. I had no idea I was witnessing part of such an incredible story

■ www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join





Seasonal Dining

AT COWDRAY FARM SHOP CAFÉ

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 for more information
Cowdray Farm Shop & Cafe, Cowdray Park, Midhurst GU29 0AJ



Christmas is magical at Cowdray. The estate embraces this wonderful time of year with a celebration of the festive season, including the farm shop's Christmas market, autumnal foraging walks, wreath workshops, a country brocante and the Winter Night Race among other fun events.

As the nights draw in and the party season gets underway, the Cowdray Farm Shop, Café and Lifestyle team gear up for a busy festive period. The farm shop and lifestyle shops are bursting with fabulous food and gifts with the experienced team all on hand to help guide customers.

The farm shop Christmas market is on Saturday 22 November with food, drink, entertainment alongside Christmas activities for children. This always proves very popular. There is also the evening dining series which takes place throughout the Autumn with the last one of 2025 taking place on Saturday 29 November. Called "The Winter Table," the November dinner explores the estate's winter fields, orchards, and storerooms, showcasing traditional root vegetables and warming flavours.

On Friday 7 and Saturday 8 November, the Country Brocante Big Winter Fair takes place at Lawns Polo Fields next to the Cowdray Farm Shop and Café. With over a hundred independent brands, artisan makers and designers, decorative interiors, gifts, antiques and vintage home and garden stands, many people will visit the estate this weekend both locally and from further afield.

Illuminated Ruins

The Winter Night Run takes place in December as part of Cowdray's 'Run the Seasons' series. Runners will have the choice of taking on either a 10km, 5km or dog-friendly course across the world-famous polo lawns at night to the illuminated ruins, before returning to the walled garden and heritage site.

In the run up to Christmas, there are also festive afternoon teas at The Walled Garden, and the golf club is the perfect place to host Christmas parties and gatherings. Cowdray welcomes many visitors at Christmas with a wide range of events and parties being held at Cowdray House and The Walled Garden.

■ **For more information and to book Christmas events, please visit: www.cowdray.co.uk/events**

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The deadline for advertising in the **January/February** issue of
Easebourne Magazine is **15 November**.
Email Paul at easebounremagazine@btinternet.com for all details.



Food and Support: How Chichester District Foodbank can help this winter

As the colder months set in, many households in our community are under increasing strain from elevated energy bills and the added pressures of Christmas. For some, this can mean facing the difficult choice between heating their home or putting food on the table. If you're in this position, you don't have to face it alone.

Chichester District Foodbank is here to provide practical and compassionate support for anyone struggling to make ends meet. Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers works closely with local partners to ensure that no one in our community goes without life's essentials.

Essential items

If you're finding it difficult to afford food or household basics, you can be referred to us through one of our partner organisations. With a referral, you'll receive a parcel of emergency food and essential items, tailored to meet your household's needs.

Universal Credit

Anyone can access our services - you don't need to be receiving benefits such as Universal Credit.

Reassurance

Our support goes beyond food. We know that winter can bring added worries, so our team is also here to offer a listening ear, advice on where to access further help and the reassurance that you're not alone. If you, or someone you know, is struggling this winter, please reach out. Together, we can ensure that everyone faces the season with the support they need.

Find out more at:

■ www.chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help





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Church Pages



CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

CHURCH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

Date	Easebourne	Lodsworth	Selham
2 November All Saints	10.30am Family Service	6.00pm Evensong All Souls	8.30am Holy Communion All Souls
3 November All Souls	7.00pm Remembrance Service		
9 November Remembrance	10.30am Remembrance Service	9.00am Family Service	No service
16 November 2nd before Advent	10.30am Holy Communion	No service	8.30am Holy Communion
23 November Christ the King	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	No service
7 December Advent 2	10.30am Family service	6.00pm Evensong	8.30am Holy Communion
14 December Advent 3	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Family service	6.00pm Carol Service
19 December (Friday)		6.00pm Carol Service	
21 December Advent 4	10.30am Holy Communion 4.00pm Carol Service	No service	8.30am Holy Communion
24 December Christmas Eve	4.00pm Christingle 11.00pm Midnight Mass		
25 December Christmas Day	11.00am Holy Communion	9.45am Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion
28 December Christmas 1	10.30am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	

Bold types denotes any changes

Rector: Rev Derek Welsman
01730 812655

Churchwardens

Lodsworth

Mrs Lynne Todd
01798 861399

Mr Deryck Hamon
01798 861850

Selham

Mrs J Colman
01730 861267

Mr Roger Comber
01798 861320

From the Vicar

Reverend Canon Derek Welsman

Dear Friends

November and December offer us a unique opportunity to reflect more deeply on the lives we share here in our villages.

November is our season of remembering. Across the early part of the month, we have All Souls, All Saints and Remembrance Sunday. We have all lost people close to us and we all know how losing someone can leave an empty void.

All Souls invites us to remember and give thanks. In church we light candles and stop to remember. Please do come and join us at one of our three services.

All Saints is a chance for the church to recognise the real characters of our faith and to give thanks for their devotion and commitment to God.

Remembrance Sunday is a day for all of us to stop and remember the enormous sacrifice that so many made in our villages for our freedom and peace. Our main service will be in Easebourne on the 9 November at 10.30am.

December is a season of looking forward in anticipation, and a wonderful celebration of hope and light. Advent leads us into a time of spiritual reflection. What does the coming of Christ mean, both to us and the wider

world? Described as the Prince of Peace, what will His peace bring? Certainly, as you watch the news, peace is something that we all need. More than that, the annual celebration of the birth of Christ places hope into our world. His story will bring healing, hope to the poor and needy, forgiveness of sins and a challenge to our world order. Our services invite us all to join the movement for change, to sing our favourite carols and to share the festive cheer.

As your church, we invite you to join us as we remember and give thanks.



Church Events



WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE

You are most welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings at St Mary's Church from 10.30am for a cup of coffee and a chat!



Second Wednesday of the month
St. Mary's Church Easebourne
All are welcome

Friendship Tea

Tea, treats and chat.
Invite your neighbours,
children are welcome too.
■ Hilary Craig
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St Mary's Easebourne runs

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plenty of opportunity to have fun
and make a mess!



Alison Davis

■ 07732744255

■ alitdavis@gmail.com

EASEBOURNE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 4 November.
Service of Holy Communion followed by the AGM.



December
Christmas lunch Date and
Venue TBC.

No meeting in January 2026.

2.00pm in St Mary's Church

For all details of the Women's Fellowship
please call Ann Harfield ■ 01730 813810

■ annharfield23@gmail.com

Craft & Chatter

First and third Wednesdays.
2.30-4.00pm

St Mary's Church.
Come for tea, a good chat
enjoy participating in
different crafts.

■ Pam Stevens
■ 01730 813065

■ Liz Bounton
■ 01730 816405



Illustration © Jan Harvey

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

200 CLUB

September Winners

Prize	£	Share	Shareholder
1	100	47	John Backshall
2=	75	53	Linda-Joy Jones
2=	75	56	Mike O'Hara
3=	50	129	Veronica Jull
3=	50	30	Keith Nightingale
3=	50	184	David West

October Winners

Prize	£	Share	Shareholder
1	100	176	Sandra Murphy
2=	75	94	Dinah Hoskins
2=	75	105	Phillip Stringer
3=	50	96	Barry Freake
3=	50	99	Louise Freake
3=	50	224	Jonathan Mason

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

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PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary

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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@mwassociates.eu.com

Women's Fellowship 2025

The St. Mary's Women's Fellowship has enjoyed a variety of activities and speakers throughout 2025

Liz and Eric Bounton took the members around the world by showing pictures of the many places they had travelled to.

In May, the organiser of The Friends of Easebourne Parish, Frank Davies spoke about the voluntary work it undertakes in and around the village.

Anthony Knight delivered a very interesting illustrated talk on the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Roger Bricknell's presentation in September gave us an insight into his many years as a flight engineer on Concorde.

There was an afternoon of board games which was very enjoyable, as was the Beetle Drive and Odette Marshall's quiz.

Raffle

In July, The Women's Fellowship organised the hamper raffle at the church fête, raising funds both for the church and the Family Support Work

(FSW). Over the last two years, just over four hundred pounds has been raised for this charity.

Members had a very pleasant visit to Woolbeding Gardens admiring the plantings in the 'garden rooms', spotting some unusual trees and taking in the glorious vistas.

The AGM will be held on 4 November. It will be preceded by a short service of holy communion. In December, on a date yet to be finalised, there will be a Christmas Dinner.

● Ann Harfield ■ 01730 813810



The hamper raffle at the church fête

A Stonepillow Christmas

Preparing a meal for one hundred and thirty people

I can't quite believe that we are already at the time of the year when preparations for Christmas at Stonepillow have begun. It is very concerning that such a service is required in area that would be considered prosperous. Every night, Stonepillow houses one hundred and twenty five clients in safety and has helped over a thousand people in the current year.

Set up over thirty five years ago by Father Hilary Parsons in Chichester, the charity now has four hostels, two day centres, a rehabilitation hostel, two shops to recycle donated items and a food distribution centre. The picture shown is of last year's splendid team on Christmas Eve preparing the Christmas meal for one hundred and thirty clients.

The aim is to provide all the items that we all like to have over the festive season. Last year, this meant twenty five kilos of turkey, two hundred and sixty pigs in blankets, the same number of stuffing balls, a mountain of potatoes and parsnips (treated like Aunt Bessie having been par boiled and rolled in hot oil ready to go straight into the oven from cold) Brussels sprouts, carrots and many litres of proper gravy made from stock and not a packet.

These are all delivered by another team with a pictorial instruction sheet drawn for us by my young Easebourne friends, Freddie and Heidi Potts, which, when followed, means

a hot fresh meal can be produced in under two hours. We always to hope we can raise enough money to be able to add the cheese, fruit, pies and ham to the deliveries.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of the Priory churches and other people in the area we were able to send crackers as well. There



will be another gang based in the rugby club putting together a meal for about sixty clients who are housed, but would like a festive meal. I shall be talking about the work of Stonepillow in St Mary's on 14 December.

Over many years the Priory churches have been very supportive of Stonepillow's work. The collection at the carol service in St Mary's supports our work at Christmas.

If you are not able to be there but would like to contribute, my front door has a letter box (Kelross, Lutener Road) or give me a ring (01730 813586) and I can collect.

● Katharine Minchin
■ kelross10@gmail.com



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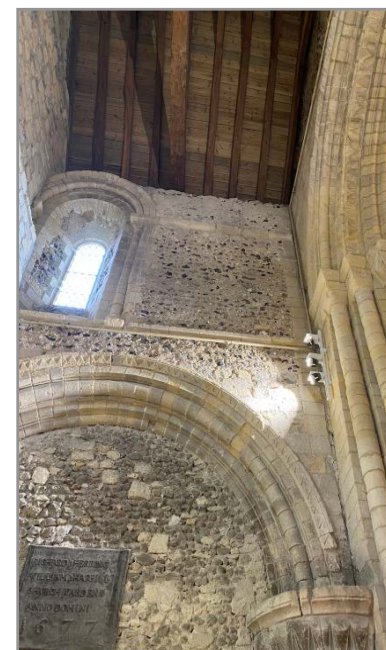
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Beautiful Churches of West Sussex

Near the harbour at Shoreham-by-Sea is a very interesting church called St Mary de Haura. It dates back to 1100 and, throughout medieval times, it was one of the largest and most prominent churches in Sussex.

The enormous nave, completed in the first half of the twelfth century, was used for both religious and secular activities. In those early days there was no seating for the congregation.

The land to build the church was gifted to the powerful de Braose family after the Conquest. They gave St. Mary's to the Angevine Abbey of St. Florent, near Saumur. Soon afterwards, a new port was established at New Shoreham. A period of peace under the Normans saw inland harbours being built. By the thirteenth century, Shoreham became a royal port



St Mary de Haura
Shoreham-by-Sea



and borough. King John stationed ships there and built a prison in 1221.

It's fortunes changed when hit by both the black death and the silting up of its harbour. In turn, the interior and architecture of St Marys suffered from a lack of development. The patronage later transferred to Magdalen College, Oxford, and, in 1948, to the Bishop of Chichester.

The present building is the remaining east section of a much more substantial church. It would have been cruciform when built by the de Braoses. During the seventeenth century, the original nave collapsed due to storm damage. This reduced the length of the church by half. Remains of the previous section can be seen in the graveyard.

English Heritage has listed St Mary de Haura as Grade I for its architectural and historical importance.

● Jan Harvey

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Medical Centre
01730 812121

Out of hours NHS
111

Community Hospital
01730 819100

Midhurst Town Council
01730 816953

Easebourne Parish Council
07342 166188

St. Richard's Hospital
Chichester
01243 788122

Social Services
Chichester
01243 752999

MH Pharmacy
01730 813255

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01730 813231

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