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JULY/AUGUST 2024

# THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



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# CONTENTS

## Regulars

- Calendar of services & Bible readings **5**
- Church news **7, 8**
- Greener Amberley **24**
- NGS garden openings **26**
- Nature notes **29, 30**
- Recipe **30**
- Bystander **32**
- Editorial **33**
- Local information **34, 35**
- Diversions **36**
- Calendar of events & Tide timetables **39, 40**
- Property watch **40**
- Directory of local tradesmen & services **41**
- Parish Directory **42**



**Brisk business: the well-stocked plant stalls at Amberley Gardens Open - pages 14-15**

## People & Events

**9, 11, 12, 17, 21**

## Special Reports

- Parham PC meeting report **25**
- Amberley Gardens Open 2024 **14, 15**
- A Midsummer Celebration **22, 23**

## Features

The Life and Times of... Eddie Blake **19, 20**



**A roaring success: Amberley's Midsummer Celebration - pages 22-23**

### This month's front cover



Cobweb, one of the attendant fairies from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in the garden of Oak Tree House, part of a successful fundraiser for the church hall



**Rounding on the roundels - page 9**

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## SUMMER SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

Please check the Benefice website [www.wildbrookschurches.org.uk](http://www.wildbrookschurches.org.uk) for any last-minute changes

### SUNDAY, 7th JULY TRINITY 6

#### Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
6.00pm	Evensong (Lay Reader led)	Wiggonholt

### SUNDAY 14th JULY

#### TRINITY 7

#### Green Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church (in the Church Hall)	Amberley

### SUNDAY 21st JULY

#### TRINITY 8

#### Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

### SUNDAY 28th July

#### TRINITY 9

#### Green Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

### SUNDAY 4th AUGUST

#### TRINITY 10

#### Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
6.00pm	Evensong	Wiggonholt

### SUNDAY 11th AUGUST

#### TRINITY 11

#### Green Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church (in the Church Hall)	Amberley

### SUNDAY 18th AUGUST

#### TRINITY 12

#### Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

### SUNDAY 25th AUGUST

#### TRINITY 13

#### Green Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

### SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

#### TRINITY 14

#### Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
4.00pm	Animal Service	Wiggonholt

## BIBLE READINGS

### Sunday 7th July

*Ezekiel 2:1-5; Mark 6:1-13; Psalm 123*

### Sunday 14th July

*Amos 7:7-15; Mark 6:14-29; Psalm 88:8-end*

### Sunday 21st July

*Jeremiah 23:1-6; Mark 6:30-34, 53-end; Psalm 23*

### Sunday 28th July

*2 Kings 4:42-end; John 6:1-21; Psalm 145:10-19*

### Sunday 4th August

*Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; John 6:24-35; Psalm 78:23-29*

### Sunday 11th August

*1 Kings 19:4-8; John 6:35, 41-51; Psalm 34:1-8*

### Sunday 18th August

*Proverbs 9:1-6; John 6:51-58; Psalm 34:9-14*

### Sunday 25th August

*Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; John 6:56-69; Psalm 34:15-end*





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## CHURCH NEWS

### ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH STOKE

## Annual celebration of a rediscovered patron

It was always 'North Stoke Church' as an Anglican parish church. Like Wiggonholt and Greatham it had lost its dedication somewhere along the way from the early Middle Ages. The care of the Church devolved on the Churches Conservation Trust in 1992 but it remained, and remains, part of Amberley Parish.



Most unusually North Stoke found its lost dedication in 2006, thanks to a Sussex University project led by former Amberley resident Dr Robert Hutchinson. A letter was found dated 1275 from the Bishop of Chichester to the King, announcing that the Rector of 'Mary at Stoke' had resigned.

Now we celebrate the church's dedication each year on a feast day of St Mary the Virgin, our rediscovered patron. We hold a Service of Holy Communion. This year it's on **Thursday, August 15** at 11am.

As we have no vicar of Amberley at present, the Prayer Book Society, through its chairman, Bradley Smith, is coming to celebrate with us. They are helping to provide a celebrant (details will follow) and music – as Bradley is an organist.

The Friends of St Mary North Stoke will provide refreshments after the service and **we invite you to join us** on this special day. King Charles III has recently decided to continue his Royal Patronage of the Prayer Book Society which he held for many years as Prince of Wales. We congratulate the PBS and we thank them for enabling us to celebrate this important festival in 2024.

**Janet Aidin**

## St Swithun – saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, July 15, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holi-

days, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1,000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 1600s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was transferred to the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962.

The Friends of St Mary the Virgin North Stoke

### ENSEMBLE AUGELLETTI



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## CHURCH NEWS

**Curious about faith?**

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**FRIENDS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH STOKE****Midsummer poetry and music**

A glorious evening on June 21 saw our second Midsummer Poetry event at St Mary North Stoke.

The North Stoke Poetry Group was joined by the Midsummer Singers, who performed a fine selection of British songs accompanied by tambour, flute and guitar. The singers, with their director Juliet Robinson, are a mini-



ture part of the Arun Choral Society. They complemented a diverse and wide-ranging programme of English (and Scots) poetry delivered by six of the Poetry Group.

Attendees were welcomed on arrival with strawberries and elderflower to the accompaniment of Stuart Burrows' rendition of *Come into the Garden, Maud*. The evening sunshine and glorious flowers throughout the church added to the atmosphere of elation. The performance was warmly and enthusiastically received, and we will most certainly do it again.

This local event aims to bring poetry (with complementary music) into the public space. Donations will benefit the Churches Conservation Trust.

**Janet Aidin**



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## PEOPLE & EVENTS

### Welcome...

To **Jonathan** and **Tina Pragnell**, who have moved into Cattle Barn, Drewitts Farm; and to **Ian** and **Susan Thomas**, who are the new owners of The Cottage, in High Street, Amberley. We wish them all every happiness in their new homes.

### Our condolences...

To **Paul** and **Clive Blunden**, and the wider family, on the loss of their father, **Eric**, who died, aged 93, on May 24. And also to **Lindsay Stilwell** and sons **Roger** and **Jonathan**, on the loss of **Ann**, whose death occurred on June 2.

### Save the date

This year's Macmillan Coffee morning will be held on Friday, September 27, from 10am until noon in St Michael's Church Hall.

Do join us and be part of the world's biggest coffee morning. If you would like to get involved in any way contact Sandie Conlon on (01798) 839320 or Clare Attard on (07876) 083845.

Further details in the September issue of the magazine.

### Are you a 'Swiftie'?

Calling all those who love swifts, house martins and swallows. Paul Stevens, former manager of the Arundel Wetland Centre, will be giving a talk about these iconic birds on Wednesday, July 31 at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall. Just £5.00 payable at the door to cover his costs.

Paul is passionate about his subject and the evening should be an interesting one. We hope to see you there.

**Pam Keeble & Cathy Briggs**

**Amberley Swift Group**



### Reflexology now on offer

A new reflexology treatment centre has opened in Amberley. Based in the Old Forge Surgery in The Square, Clare Swales is offering appointments on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Home visits locally are also available.

Reflexology, also known as zone therapy, is an alternative medical practice involving the application of pressure to specific points on the feet, ears, and hands.

- See advertisement on page 13



### Rounding on the roundels...

Residents are up in arms at the sudden appearance of speed 'roundels' within Amberley's conservation area and elsewhere in the village.

Following the largely welcome introduction of a 20mph speed limit throughout the village, without so much as a by your leave, West Sussex Highways Department promptly painted the huge roundels in Church Street, School Road and in three locations in East Street. Amberley Parish Council was not consulted, nor were residents. It seems highly unlikely the South Downs National Park Authority was aware of it either.

The roundels are in addition to the large metal signs as one enters the village and the smaller (and perfectly acceptable) 'repeater' signs. The Highways Department's justification appears to be that insufficient repeater signs could be installed. And it argues that the painted roundels will fade in time.

"Let's face it, you can't do more than 20mph down Church Street in any case making the roundels a complete nonsense," commented one dismayed resident.

Amberley Parish Council has already complained and will discuss the matter at its next meeting on July 11.

- Interestingly, there are no intrusive roundels in Slindon, which has had a 20mph limit in force for some time.



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## Eric Blunden, 1930-2024

Eric Blunden, who has died aged 93, lived for all but the last few weeks of his long life within a mile of where he was born.

The fourth of five children, he was born at Fighting Cocks, Rackham. He attended Rackham School before moving on to Rydon, where he completed his education

Growing up he would spend much of his time outdoors, playing in the woods or making rafts with his brothers out of things that had been left behind by the Canadian soldiers stationed in Parham Park, and then floating them in the drainage ditches on the brooks.

During the war he would recall going up to the NAAFI in the park with the local farmer to help collect swill for the pigs. He was always delighted to find piles of leftover toast sitting right on the top. The toast never made it back to the pigs. He would often say that at home they had bread and milk for breakfast and bread and jam for tea.

He completed his National Service having been stationed in Oswestry, Bodelwyddan and Bude. He was all set to be posted to Hong Kong, but just as they were due to leave he contracted mumps and was instead posted to the Isle of Wight where he served as a despatch rider, which suited him as it meant he could ride around on a motorbike, something he enjoyed having owned a number himself.

When he returned to civilian life he took a job with Harwoods Garage at Pulborough as a mechanic, working his way up to workshop supervisor. He remained at Harwoods for 45 years, finally retiring in 1995.

A keen whist player it was at a whist drive in Coldwaltham that he met his future wife Sheila. They were married in 1956 at St Giles Church, Coldwaltham and settled at 4 Wayside, Greatham, where he remained for 68 years. Their two sons, Paul and Clive, were born in 1957 and 1960 respectively. Sadly Sheila passed away in 2020.

In addition to whist Eric enjoyed cricket at Parham where he played for many years with his father George and brother Peter, and also as part of a team for Harwoods.

He also enjoyed ten pin bowling and was part of the Hearts of Oak team with his brother Gordon and friend Mick Ayling and In the summer months he could be found playing pitch and putt in Littlehampton. In



later years he enjoyed watching Formula 1, snooker, bowls and darts, and took a keen interest in how Brighton and Portsmouth football clubs fared.

In the 1970s, Eric's father George passed on the helm of Rackham Social Club, now Rackham Old School Association, and the annual fete and flower show. With Sheila firmly by his side, he organised the show for over 25 years before handing it on to the next

generation. He was still helping and entering exhibits right up until the final one in 2019, prior to the pandemic. It is thought he was the only person to have attended all 73 fete and flower shows before their demise.

When Rackham had an active social club, he was instrumental in organising many day excursions, holidays, barn dances and the weekly whist drives. In addition, they also organised an annual marathon whist drive in aid of the Mary How Trust. The weekly whist drives continued right up until March 2020 when Covid forced their suspension. Despite no longer organising the whist drives Eric continued to attend until just a few weeks before he passed away.

He was passionate about his garden having built it up from what was just part of a field originally. He was well known and much admired for growing the most beautiful dahlias, begonias, fuchsias and sweet peas. He also grew enough strawberries and tomatoes to rival a pick-your-own outlet as well as a number of other vegetables. He won many awards at Rackham Fete & Flower show for his home-grown produce, fiercely competing against his father for who could grow the best onions.

At the age of 93 he'd had a good life, even if he did pass away in Surrey which would have bemused him greatly. He will be sadly missed.

The well-attended funeral was held on June 29 at Worthing Crematorium, followed by a wake, appropriately, at Rackham Old School.

● Eric Sydney Blunden was born on November 16, 1930 and died on May 24, 2024



**Rackham fete fun: Eric at the foot of the famous slide**



## Ann Stilwell, 1936-2024

Born near RAF Bicester Ann spent her early years following her father, an RAF officer, all over the country from Gloucestershire to Montrose, Scotland to Lincolnshire before finally settling in Suffolk during the Second World War. Her father was posted overseas for most of the war and during these times of upheaval Ann developed her strong spirit of self-reliance.

Later on, aged 12, she became part-time carer for her sister Lynn and, later, brother John and subsequently became the great 'carer' for others, something that continued throughout her life, always putting others before herself.

Although she had aspirations to become a poultry farmer, she was persuaded by her father to go into teaching and, on leaving school, attended teacher training college in Norwich before going on to teach in nearby schools. In the mid-Sixties she volunteered to teach at the British Army school in Singapore and set off on a world adventure which, sadly, was cut short in 1966 when she contracted tuberculosis and had to be repatriated.

On recovery Ann returned to teaching and bought her first house in Bar Hill, Cambridge. It was here that she met Lindsay and they were married in 1971. The couple moved to the village of Dunsford on the edge of Dartmoor in Devon and during this time had two sons: Roger and Jonathan. Ann gave up teaching to become a full-time mother and was also able to indulge her interest in poultry, keeping a small flock of bantams, ducks and, later, geese.

In 1983 Lindsay's work took him to Chichester and he bought Downside, in Mill Lane, Amberley, into which the family moved the day before Christmas Eve of that year.

From then on Ann was an active volunteer in the village, providing one-to-one reading lessons at the local schools, helping out with the Amberley Revels and delivering the parish magazines to households on her side of the village for several decades until her mobility got the better of her. Always looking out for



others, well into her eighties she asked for advice on helping up a fallen person because "there are a lot of old folk in the village who might need help" despite the fact that she had a fair few years on many of her fellow residents.

Ann kept active until the end with regular walks up Amberley Mount, reduced in later years to the top of Mill Lane, or riding her bicycle, which became electric and then an electric tricycle as necessary.

Three months after her replacement knee surgery she was riding on the back of a tandem. Aged 83, she celebrated Christmas Day with a five-hour kayak trip on the Arun! She will be sorely missed.

## Successful school fete

A well-attended and well-supported annual fete at Amberley Primary School at the end of June raised an astonishing £2,400, a fitting result for the school's 150th anniversary year.

Attractions included a well-stocked plant stall, cakes, books, a barbecue and bar, Pimms, teas, a bouncy cas-



tle, face painting and even pony rides. And for those with children joining the school in September, there was also a second-hand uniform stall.

There was live music, a popular tombola and a successful raffle supported by virtually all our local businesses.

"We would like to thank everyone who came along and also those who couldn't make it but supported us with sponsorship, a donation for the raffle, the loan of gazebos and to those who helped with the setting-up and taking down before and after the event," said Marisa Hunter. "Without your kindness, continued support and generosity the day wouldn't have been the success it was."



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## A record breaking year for Amberley Gardens Open

There was a wonderful turnout for Amberley Open Gardens on 9 June with a beautiful selection of gardens for over 1000 visitors to enjoy. With delicious lunches, superb cakes, musical interludes in some of the gardens and the chance to win on the tombola or the lovely quilt, the visitors were truly delighted with their afternoon out.

We would like to thank everyone who participated and supported the day. It is truly a community event with gardeners, volunteers and bakers stepping up to raise money for Action Medical Research. Events like this take a huge amount of organising and the AMR Com-

mittee are so grateful for your help in making it such a success.

We have been able to donate over £13,000 to AMR and £750 to Amberley Village School.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Gillings (Finance) for her huge contribution as a Committee member for over ten years – that is a lot of bags of small change counted! We will miss you.

Stella Broadbent  
(Chair) and Action Medical Research Committee

● Photography: Mike Beck











## Save Our Sportsman: a progress report

Our share fund has reached £257,250 at the close of phase one of our campaign. We are thrilled to have reached this amount and it's a testament to how much the pub means to people that 112 of you have bought shares. Thank you to everyone who has become a shareholder in the pub.

The share purchase scheme remains open.

Money is still coming in, and several people have told us they still want to invest. Please be assured it is not too late. In fact, we've decided to keep the share purchase option open on an ongoing basis, so if you would like to invest and, for whatever reason, haven't yet got round to it, you still can. But please act soon, as we will need to know in the not-too-distant future if we have raised enough money to buy the freehold.

### Phase two of the fundraising campaign

We are planning to open up the share ownership fund beyond the local area, using the power of social media and other internet-based services, eg CrowdFunder.

We are also finalising a more general process that will allow donations both large and small from people who don't want to become shareholders, eg via Just Giving. More details on this will be available very soon.

Both these options will need us to get our message out to a much wider audience. We aim to get coverage in mainstream media and mount a full-blown campaign on social media in the hope that we can capture the imagination of people who care about saving community pubs like ours wherever they live. See below for how you can help with this campaign.

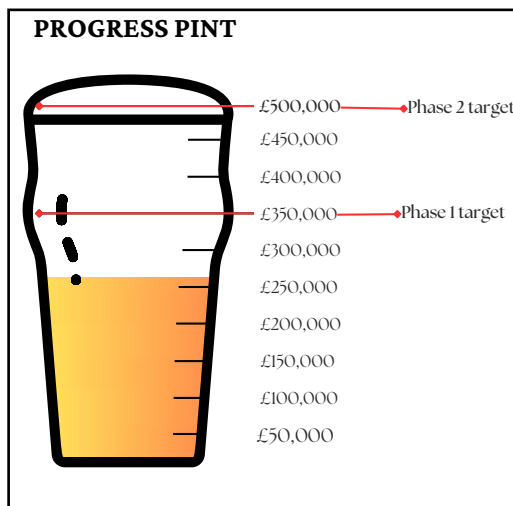
### Grants

We have applied for a Community Ownership Grant (£250,000) from the Levelling Up Fund. We have received positive feedback about our application, but the final stage of this process is ministerial approval, which is currently suspended due to the General Election.

While we wait, we are reviewing the availability and criteria for a number of other grants. These processes are time consuming and challenging, so our approach will be to target our efforts at the areas of most likely success.

### Loans

We are considering various approaches to loans. As you can imagine, this is our least favoured part of the funding cocktail, because of the long-term costs associated with borrowing money, but we are exploring our options with a view to identifying the most cost effective way of doing this.



Keep coming to the pub  
Part of the process for grant and loan applications involves proving the pub is financially viable. So far, drinks sales are ahead of our forecasts and occupancy rates in the B&B have been good with a minimum of promotion. Now we are confident of being able to run the B&B effectively, we are about to start actively advertising our rooms.

We are working hard to offer food of a consistently high

quality on as many occasions as possible, but finding the right personnel has presented challenges. We hope we are getting there with this, and our first foray into Sunday roasts (Sunday, June 30) was incredibly successful. You can see the photos on Facebook and Instagram.

Be assured we are listening to every piece of feedback and we are striving to improve where we fall short of your expectations, so please keep on coming in and keep on sending your comments. Every penny you spend in the pub contributes to its future success.

### Your feedback

We are designing a survey to gather feedback on what people like most/least and to gather suggestions for what else we could do. We are always open to new ideas. We'd also like to hear from you if you don't come to pub - why not? What could we offer that would make it somewhere you want to visit, or use for your social groups or hobbies?

### Your Sportsman Needs You

If you have a story about the pub that you would be willing to share, it would really help in our social media and fundraising campaigns. Why does The Sportsman matter to you? Did you have your wedding reception there? Or a significant birthday? Did you propose in the bar? Did you make your first Amberley friends in the pub? Were you a member of the Miserable Old Buggers club? Did the pub act as a friendly face when you went through a tough experience? Did you have your first pint in The Sportsman? A family party? Celebration of a sporting triumph?

Whatever it is, we'd like to hear from you if you are happy for your story to be used as part of our campaign.

More details about all these plans will be with you as soon as they are ready. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support, and please keep it coming.

**Kate Pluck**

**On behalf of Community Sportsman Amberley Ltd  
and the pub team**

## Something for everyone

Classic cars, steam engines and trains, historic bicycles, locally-sourced food and drink and a full programme of holiday activities are all programmed at Amberley Museum during July and August.

This year's Large Steam Show during the weekend of July 6-7 will see the Marshall traction engine *Victoria*, *Empress of India*, and the Fowler traction engine *Albert* reunited for the first time in 20 years, marking a historic moment for steam enthusiasts and historians alike. Visitors to the show can expect a memorable display of steam power, craftsmanship, and heritage, as 'Victoria' and 'Albert' steam up together once again in a demonstration of enduring legacy and historical preservation.

The annual Classic Car Show, renowned for its impressive collection of classic vehicles, spanning the decades and showcasing the evolution of automotive design and engineering, takes place on Saturday, July 13. Visitors will have an opportunity to admire vehicles from the early 20th century to the iconic models of the 1980s and later.

The following Friday, July 19, sees the Daimler and Lanchester Owner's Club visiting the museum as part of its 60th anniversary and a highlight of its 2024 international rally. Formed in June 1964, the DLOC has spent six decades fostering a community of enthusiasts dedicated to the promotion, use, and preservation of vehicles manufactured by Daimler and Lanchester as well as BSA.

Also on that Friday will be one of the museum's regular Discovery Days, focusing on natural history of the surrounding area, from prehistoric time to the present day. The session costs an additional £5 and will be held from 2pm until 3.30pm.

Special school holiday activities get underway from July 24 and continue until September 1 with special demonstrations and hands-on tasks.

Two hundred years of cycling history will be celebrated at the Retro Wheels Show during the weekend of August 3-4, when there will be a wide range of bicycles on display ranging from the historic and commercial to modern classics such as BMX and Choppers. There will also be demonstrations in the pop-up skate park.

There will be another celebration on Saturday August 17 when the Magog Ladies Morris Dancers clock up their 50th anniversary, dancing on site alongside other groups including the Worthing Larks, Apocalypse Now, Mythago, Sompington Village Morris and Black Dragon Morris Dancers.

In contrast, there is a Commercial and Communications Day on Sunday, August 18, when staff and volunteers with the on hand to talk, demonstrate and reminisce about communications from the past to the present.



**Power and the glory: Victoria and Albert reunited for the first time in 20 years**

Finally, there will be a Taste of Sussex theme throughout the bank holiday weekend (August 24-26) with food, drink music and crafts to be enjoyed.

Pre-booking is recommended to avoid disappointment as tickets (including member tickets) often sell out for popular events.

## Visitor attractions at Parham

Guided tours of the house and gardens, a two-day artists' workshop, a gathering of the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club and a steam rally are among the events planned at Parham during July and August.

The house and gardens tours are at 11am on July 10 and 12 respectively and have to be booked in advance. The two-day steam rally, during the weekend of July 13-14, takes place on the estate's East Plain. As well as a wide range of traction engines and steamrollers, tractors and vintage vehicles, there are lots of stalls and a fairground. It is open from 9am until 5pm,



**The famous Long Room at Parham House**

and tickets are priced at £12 for adults and £6 for children, with family tickets available for £30.

At the end of the month (July 31-August 1) there is a two-day artists' workshop hosted by Sussex landscape artist Colleen Conti. On the first day, participants will have access to the gardens to sketch, draw and paint. On the second day, they will be based in the Seed Room for further dabbling. For further information and booking, contact Colleen Conti direct (paintedplacesart@gmail.com).

The Jaguar Enthusiasts Club are making a welcome return on August 4 with a collection of classic and contemporary models on display near the entrance to the house and gardens.



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## The Life and Times of... Eddie Blake, 86

### Lifelong Wildbrooks resident

I was born at 1 Crossgates, on September 26, 1937. People call me Eddie – but my real name is William Blake, like the poet.

I started school when I was three so my mother could work on Charlie West's farm in Rackham, tending the vegetables during the war. We had a houseful of people: three evacuees from London, me and my two sisters, Janet and Patricia, and also a lodger, Miss Jones from Wales, who was a teacher at Rackham School. Somehow, we all fitted in to our three-bedroomed house. My mum ran the household on her own, as my dad was away at war.

There was another teacher, Mrs Morris, whose son was a wartime pilot. One day, he brought back a planeload of fruit – oranges, bananas, pomegranates – which Mrs Morris took into school to share with us. We each had a little piece of everything. None of us had tasted fruit like that before. The British Ministry of Food had ordered a ban on tropical fruit from 1940, as it had to be transported in refrigerated ships which were needed for the war effort – so it was quite a treat.

Charlie West, the local farmer, used to bring us milk in a churn, on his trades bike, which had a frame at the back and a penny ha'penny wheel. He cycled all round Amberley and Rackham ladling out milk to his customers: 'one ... two ... and a bit for luck'. He'd finish off every morning with a drink (or two) at the Sportsman and then ride his bike home – somehow never falling off!

There were Canadians stationed in Parham Park. They used to come down to Amberley in their army lorries and take us kids back to the park for parties. We used to say 'got any gum, chum?' and they gave us chewing gum, crayons, books and coloured pencils which you couldn't buy in the shops here – they treated us well.

I remember the day when the V1 flying bomb or doodlebug fell on the brooks, near the Sportsman, killing a couple of cows. I'll never forget the noise of the blast – a massive explosion that resounded through the village. Our side of the road was all right – but the houses on the Sportsman side, had their windows and kitchens blown out.

Growing up in Amberley in the 1940s and 50s was a great time. We went fishing at Ham Corner and in the summer, we swam in the bathing ditch, which joined on to the river. Before they built up the banks in 1964, the brooks flooded



every winter and when it froze, we went ice skating. We didn't have proper ice skates – we just used our wellingtons. When there were loads of kids on the ice, we would say 'scramble – the ice is cracking!' and we would all scarper.

We had a local policeman called PC Robins whose nickname was 'Starchy'. He had a pushbike and used to ride round Amberley, keeping order. One day he took us up to his house in Houghton, which was also the police station and showed us the police cell. 'If I ever catch you scrumping, I'll put you in there,' he said.

When I was 11 or 12, I worked for S.F. Smith – Bill Smith's dad – after school. His nickname was 'Crongie'. He was the Amberley haulier and paid me 10/- a week, which was a good wage. I rode a trades bike round the village, delivering pignuts, chicken meal and dog biscuits. Later, I took Bill to the World Cup at Wembley in 1966 as a thank you for looking after me, when I worked with him and his dad.

Dick Chandler – Dudley and Veronica's dad – organised a cross-country running club. We ran all over the fields and the brooks, arriving back at Houghton Bridge smothered in mud and washing in the cold river water, even in the winter. I won medals most years – taking first place when I was 16.

When I left school, I worked for Arthur Agate at Amberley Stores for a while, delivering groceries on my trades bike. One of our best customers was Lady Evelyn Emmet of Amberley Castle, the conservative MP – I had to deliver to her every day. Sometimes she came into the shop to buy a box of 100 cigarettes – 'just put it on my bill, Mr Agate' she would gaily say – and then off she would go to London.

Cigarettes and tobacco weren't on ration then – but almost everything else was. Mr Agate was very strict and didn't show any favouritism. Rationing meant that everything was used and nothing was wasted – my favourite lunch was dripping sandwiches, filled with fat collected from roasted meat. Food eventually came off ration in the early 1950s.

Men were called up for National Service at 18 but I couldn't wait and joined the Royal Artillery when I was 17 in 1955. By

1956 I was in the Suez Crisis, when President Nasser and the Egyptian Government seized control of the Suez Canal. We were on the SS *Sandsend* – a French grain ship. It broke down and it was rumoured that the boilerman was a French coward, who deliberately emptied the boiler so it blew up. We were transferred to a launch and dropped off in Port Said – but the whole thing



*continued overleaf*



continued from previous page

was over quite quickly, after pressure from the United Nations.

When I came out of the army in 1958, I joined the Parham House maintenance team. There were over 100 houses on the estate and I was part of a team of 40. A house came with my job – first Rose Cottage in Rackham and then Rackham School House.

There was plenty to do in Amberley in the 1960s.

On two nights a week, there was the Amberley Men's Club in the Clarkson Room, which was connected to Oak Tree House. We had an open fire and we had to warm our snooker cues before playing, because it was so cold. There was also a boxing ring. Later the vicar's garages were converted into the Church Hall and we moved there which was better, as there was heating.

The butcher – Dalmans – was next to Amberley Stores. When I was on leave from the army, I used to help them out by driving the van and delivering meat. Dalmans also owned the slaughterhouse, where the tearoom is now. Mrs Bacon had the shoe shop and haberdasher, and she was also the undertaker. Her husband, whose nickname was 'Rasher' was the preacher at the Congregational Chapel, which is now the pottery. Miss Goldsmith had an antique shop and Mr Ridley had the post office in the Square. Mr Crowhurst was the blacksmith and used to shoe horses right in the middle of the Square, outside the old doctor's surgery.

There were dances upstairs in the Black Horse, in a lovely big hall. It was owned by Miss Jackson in those days. Miss Jones, who lived with us, taught us to dance. At first it was



**Four generations of Blake servicemen: clockwise from top left: Walter Blake (grandfather), Edward Blake (father), Eddie Blake and Kevin Blake (son)**

ballroom – quickstep and the waltz – and later, the jive. We danced to gramophone records and every so often, we had to stop dancing to wind up the gramophone!

For pubs, we had The Thatch, The Sportsman, The Black Horse, The Cricketers and one at Rackham called The Fighting Cocks. The Cricketers, which was owned by Pepper's chalkpits at Houghton Bridge, was the favourite place with the pit workers after work and was open 24 hours, every day.

We went the cinema every Sunday afternoon. We'd catch the 71 bus from The Square and go to the Arun Cinema in Queen Street, Arundel, a beautiful building with an Art Deco façade. It closed in 1959 and later, its frontage was demolished and the site became a petrol station. We liked the cowboy films best – *Shane* and *Red Mountain*, with stars like Alan Ladd, who was my favourite.

In 1958 I met my wife Barbara. She came from Bishop's Stortford to work in a bakery in Pulborough, staying with her aunt who lived there. We had three children who all went to school in Amberley. My son Kevin joined the army when he left school and served in the Falklands when he was 18.

I am a lifelong fan of Brighton & Hove Albion FC – and went to their matches every Saturday afternoon, often in the back of Bill Smith's van. When I came out of the army, I played football for Amberley FC. We used to play in the donkey field by the railway station, behind The Cricketers. When the pits folded in the early 1960s and the pub was closed, we didn't have a field to play on.



**Family photo: mother Dora, sisters Pat and Janet, Eddie aged 8, and father Edward, who had just been demobbed in 1945 as a Sergeant Major from the Queen's Regiment**

As I was working at Parham, I asked Mr Pearson (Major the Hon Clive Pearson, who owned the estate) to help us find somewhere to play and for a while, we played in Parham Park, before it became too busy with visitors. Then Mr Pearson helped us to find the football field by Hurst Cottages, where they still play now. When I gave up football, I went on to referee for 28 years across the county.

We had a full life growing up in Amberley. It was a lovely time.

**In conversation with Susan Watson**





## A garden to die for

Members of the Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE) had the pleasure of visiting a truly outstanding garden in South Harting, near Petersfield, at the end of June.

Down Place, set on the South Downs with panoramic views out to the undulating wooded countryside, merges seamlessly into its surrounding landscape with rose and herbaceous borders that have been moulded into the sloping ground. There is a well-stocked vegetable garden and walks shaded by beech trees which surround the natural wildflower meadow where no fewer than seven varieties of native orchids flourish. Seeds from the meadow are used to regenerate devastated areas in the South Downs National Park.

Members enjoyed hearing owner Selena Thistleton-Smith describe the development of the garden over many years. This, by any standards, was an outstanding garden.

One member summed it up as "an excellent visit to a truly wonderful garden" and another remarked that "it was the best garden he had ever been to". Praise indeed.

Information regarding visits to the garden are found in the NGS *Yellow Book* or online at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

**Sarah Ffoulkes Roberts**

## Treats for music lovers...

There are four concerts during July which should appeal to those who love choral and chamber music.

Worthing Voices together with St Michael's Church choir and members of the Anniversary Orchestra, conducted by Shirley Linford, are performing music from Vivaldi's *Gloria* on Saturday, July 6, in the church at Amberley. It starts at 6.30pm.

Earlier the same day, the Sandgate Choir's Summer Gala, with the Sussex Folk Orchestra, are providing a programme of traditional songs, sea shanties and choral classics. It takes place in Thakeham Village Hall at 3pm. The ticket price of £15 (or £5 for children) includes a home-made tea. Tickets available from the Card Shop in Storrington or online via the choir's website: [www.thesandgatechoir.com](http://www.thesandgatechoir.com). They will also be available at the door on the day.

Schubert's *Mass in G*, plus motets by Brahms and Bruckner are being performed by Chichester Chorale, accompanied

by the Chichester Chamber Ensemble at Boxgrove Priory on Friday, July 5 at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced £15, are available online from [www.chichesterchorale.com](http://www.chichesterchorale.com), from the Novium Box Office in Chichester, or at the door on the night, subject to availability.

Towards the end of the month (July 27) Ensemble Augelletti will be performing at North Stoke church at a concert organised by the Friends of St Mary the Virgin. Earlier this year, they were named BBC Radio 3's New Generation Baroque Ensemble. Their programme includes Purcell's *Golden Sonata* and *Dances* from his *Fairy Queen*; Handel's *Trio Sonata in G Major*, and Vivaldi's *Trio Sonata in D minor La Follia*, together with the *Trio Sonata* of the still-mysterious 'Mrs Philharmonica' who as a female could only compose anonymously.

The music will be prefaced by short excerpts from the diaries of Samuel Pepys, read by Matthew Bannister and Yvette Byrne. Pepys was an enthusiastic amateur performer during the Commonwealth when public music was banned, but became an expert musicologist with an entree into the Restoration Court and the Chapel Royal where Purcell was trained. It promises to be an exceptionally entertaining evening.



**The talented Ensemble Augelletti**

As last year the performance will take place in the church following a reception in the beautiful garden of the adjacent North Stoke Farmhouse.

Tickets are £25 each which includes both concert and reception. They may be purchased by cheque, payable to Friends of St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke (with sae please). Alternatively with an online payment. In this case please contact Janet Aidin by e-mail ([janet@aidin.co.uk](mailto:janet@aidin.co.uk)); on (01798) 872531; or at The Old Rectory, Wiggonholt, Pulborough RH20 2EL.

The concert is in aid of the Churches Conservation Trust which takes care of the remarkable St Mary's Church.

## Twilight bat walk

Dr Sam Kelly, a local ecologist with a special interest in bats, will be leading a bat walk in St Michael's churchyard, Amberley, at 8.15pm on Saturday, July 20. Booking is essential and although there will be no charge, a small donation of £3 to go towards Sussex Bat Group and St Michael's Church would be welcome. To book a place, e-mail [catherine.briggs@geodime.co.uk](mailto:catherine.briggs@geodime.co.uk)





## Midsummer magic in a perfect setting

Back in deepest midwinter, the brilliant Don Gallagher had a vision for a magical midsummer evening, in support of the Church Hall upgrade. Over the following months, his vision became a reality as the cast and musicians were recruited, rehearsals got underway, costumes were sewn, designs were created, menus were prepared ... and David and Lillis Lyon kindly offered their garden as a beautiful summer evening setting for the event.

And what a magical night it was! Over 30 Amberlonians were involved in the production – which featured in

vignettes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Don Gallagher, accompanied by traditional country songs and music, directed by Jeff Feakins. The feast prepared by Sarah Wheeler and her team was delicious – beautifully cooked, presented and served around a wonderful woodland table centrepiece.

Thanks to Amberley's generosity, the Midsummer Celebration raised a magnificent £2,040 towards the Church Hall upgrade and this contribution means The Hallraisers are now almost halfway towards their fundraising target for an upgrade to the kitchen. Susan Watson









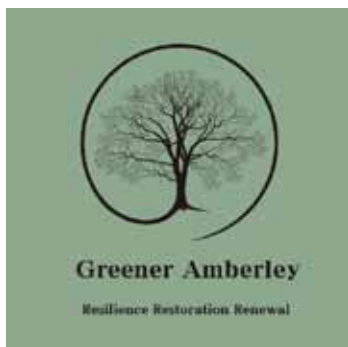


## The buzz around the nectar café...

Amberley Gardens Open this year was a fantastic example of what we as a community can achieve, through the diversity of our outstanding gardens.

Diversity matters: a lack of plant diversity would lead to a decline in insect numbers, which in turn would adversely affect birds and other wildlife, and the enjoyment of our gardens. So gardens require our intervention not just to make them look beautiful, but to be vibrant and healthy.

In that context there is a common misconception that “wilding” is somehow about standing back and letting nature take over. On the contrary, in a depleted and fragmented world, our intervention, as the keystone species now, is critical to restore nature processes. By varying the intensity of our interventions and making them more random, as happens in the wild with apex predators, our gardens become more complex and dynamic, fostering a kaleidoscope of life.



A key part of that is the production of nectar and pollen, which allows butterflies, bees and others to thrive, and ultimately ourselves to survive. Setting up a nectar café is therefore a laudable ambition for a community renowned for its hospitality and horticultural skill. Let's aim for a Michelin star.

How can we set up a thriving nectar café? First, get the service up to scratch:

- Avoid using pesticides and herbicides, and slug pellets; there is nothing worse for pollinators. As an alternative, use companion planting, for example
- Mow the lawn less, and allow borders to grow as cover for wildlife, and leave some dead plant matter around for insect nesting
- Provide water: pollinators sometimes need to drink from a shallow pool
- Choose a sheltered sunny spot for planting for pollinators

And then the all important food!



Place each plant in groups so that the colour and scent are easy to detect



Prolong the flowering season – select plants so that you have a show of flowers from early spring to late autumn



Choose some flowers with a simple, often flat structure, like old cottage varieties, as they are the easiest for insects to feed from



Provide a night-time feast for moths by planting night-scented flowers such as evening primrose, jasmine and honeysuckle



Add herbs in the mix because insects love them



And ivy is a bit of an unsung hero – bees love it, birds use it as cover, and it helps clean the air

Picture: Pam Keeble

A suggested menu is below, but clearly à la carte is available:

Early season	Mid season	Late season
Aubretia*	Heather	Cone flower*
English bluebell	Lady's bedstraw	French marigold
Currant*	Lavender	Golden rod*
Grape hyacinth	Common mallow	Honeysuckle
Lungwort	Purple toadflax	Ice plant
Primrose	Rock cress	Ivy
Sweet violet	Sea holly	Meadow saffron
Winter aconite	Verbena	Michaelmas daisy
Wood anemone	Wallflower	Common sunflower
Alyssum		

\*Several species

If you follow this advice (extracted more from Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society than the *Michelin Guide* I confess), you are expected to get bountiful and happy customers, particularly once the buzz gets round about what's on offer in your nectar café. Good luck with the star, if not three!

**Fraser Wheeler**

**Greener Amberley**



## PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

# What your councillors discussed



## Highlights of the annual meeting held on May 14, 2024 at Rackham Old School

**Present:** Heather Cartwright (chairman), Claudia Fisher, Paul Slimming, Nigel Dean, Philipa Trumper and Catherine Dugdale Also in attendance: Len Ellis-Brown (Horsham District councillor) and Vicky Spiers (parish clerk).

Heather Cartwright was re-elected as chairman and Will Rydon as vice-chairman.

Flooding at the junction of Rackham Road and Rackham Street, Traffic Regulation Orders, the risk of damage by trees in Rackham Steet to the broadband cable and the repositioning of a noticeboard were among the topics discussed.

Despite the fact that a report of a review ordered by West Sussex County Council into the flooding issue had been submitted by the drainage contractor, the parish council had yet to see a copy. The clerk had twice requested an update from WSCC but had no response and it was agreed to enlist the help of Paul Marshall, who is both the local county councillor and leader of the council.

In response to a question by Claudia Fisher whether the requested TRO for a reduction in speed along Turnpike Road [the B2139 near the junction of Rackham Street] had been given any further consideration, especially in light of the imposition of a 40mph limit along the A283 (Storrington-Pulborough road), the clerk said that all new applications had been on hold throughout April. Councillors agreed that the clerk would contact Matt Gray at WSCC Highways department to see if an application for a TRO for a speed limit reduction on Turnpike would be considered by them.

Due to the fact that the trees in Rackham Street that could potentially bring down the broadband cable were on private land and were not currently a threat, councillors resolved there was little more they could do in the circumstances.

The chairman noted that the noticeboard at Springhead was on private land and felt it should be moved to a more public location. Following discussion it was resolved that the clerk would contact the Parham Estate to see if the noticeboard could be relocated to somewhere on the estate.

Among the planning applications, the council had no objection to the RSPB's plans for improved accessibility to the wetlands, including repairs to dipping platforms, replacement benches, resurfacing, a new footpath, fencing and viewing area.

Horsham District councillor Len Ellis-Brown reported that representations regarding the Local Plan were still being re-

viewed, and it was hoped the plan would be adopted in mid-2025. He added that weekly food waste collections were likely to start from March 2026.

Claudia Fisher asked if arrangements could be made for Ian Hare to attend a council meeting to give a talk on behalf of the Association of Parish Councils' Aviation Group. The clerk was also asked to arrange for Fraser Wheeler, a member of Amberley Parish Council to attend either the July or September meeting to advise what action it was taking on climate change and nature recovery.

**Date of the next meeting:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 7.30pm at Rackham Old School.

## PCC's safer roads priority

Improved policing of Sussex roads will be a priority for Katie Bourne, the newly re-elected Police and Crime Commissioner.



"I know just how important road safety and considerate driving is to so many people, she says. "I also understand the disruptiveness and aggravation caused by noisy vehicles."

Sussex Police already have a dedicated operation which aims to reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured in collisions and to reduce reports of anti-social driving and riding. The operation, named Downsway, also sees officers across the county engaging with and educating road users.

Op Downsway focuses on tackling all the 'fatal five' offences: careless driving; drink/drug driving; not wearing a seatbelt; excessive speed and distracted driving (including using a mobile phone). However, with motorcyclists accounting for 20 per cent of fatalities on UK roads while making up less than 2 per cent of road users, the operation has a particular focus on motorcyclists.

"It is reassuring to see that motorcycle fatalities have reduced threefold from 2022 to 2023 – from 14 to five. As I see it, many collisions are preventable and one death on our county's roads is still one too many.

"In my fourth term as Sussex PCC, I intend to set up a dedicated 'Fatal Five Unit' to move forward the Vision Zero approach to road safety and cut fatal and serious collisions by half by 2035.

"We are already seeing good results from Op Downsway which re-launched in March this year. Since April, nearly 800 vehicle stops have been carried out and over 400 Traffic Offence Reports (TORs) have been given for offences including driving recklessly, speeding and using mobile phones. Eleven people have also been arrested under Downsway, with seven of the arrests being for drink/drug driving.



**Gardens open during July and August under the NGS (National Gardens Scheme), all within about 30-45 minutes driving distance. For further details refer to the NGS *Yellow Book* or visit [www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden](http://www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden).**

<b>July 2, 6</b> (2pm-5pm)	Peelers Retreat, 70 Ford Road, Arundel, BN18 9EX
<b>July 3</b> (10.30am-5pm)	Brambletye, 25 Maudlyn Park Way, Bramber, BN44 3PT
<b>July 3</b> (10.30am-5pm)	Nightingale House, Twittenside, Penfold Way, Steyning BN44 3TW
<b>July 4, 11, 18, 25</b> (10am-5pm)	The Old Vicarage, The Street, Washington, RH20 4AS
<b>July 6</b> (10am-6pm)	Lordsbridge Mill, Selham GU28 0PL
<b>July 7</b> (10am-5pm)	Whithurst Park, Plaistow Road, Kirdford RH14 0JW
<b>July 7</b> (1pm-5pm)	Foxglove Cottage, 29 Orchard Road, Horsham, RH13 5NF
<b>July 10-24</b> Lane, (2pm-5pm)	Fittleworth House, Bedham Lane, Fittleworth, RH20 1JH
<b>July 13</b> (11am-5pm)	Oaklands Farm, Hooklands Lane, Shipley, RH13 8PX
<b>July 18, 19</b> (10am-4pm)	Sullington Old Rectory, Sullington Lane Storrington, RH20 4AE*
<b>July 19, 20</b> (10am-4pm)	Springbourne, Rectory Lane Clapham Village, BN13 3UX
<b>July 21</b> (2pm-6pm)	Findon Place, Findon BN14 0RF 3UX
<b>July 21</b> (2pm-4.30pm)	The Folly, Charlton, Chichester, PO18 0HU
<b>July 21</b> (11am-4pm)	Hillside Cottages, Downs Road, West Stoke, Chichester, PO18 9BL
<b>July 25, 28</b> (2pm-5pm)	Cumberland House, Cray's Lane Thakeham, RH20 3ER
<b>July 25, 28</b> (2pm-5pm)	Thakeham Place Farm The Street, Thakeham, RH20 3EP

<b>August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</b> (10am-5pm)	The Old Vicarage, The Street, Washington, RH20 4AS
<b>August 7</b> (2pm-5pm)	Fittleworth House, Bedham Lane, Fittleworth, RH20 1JH
<b>August 9</b> (9.30am-5pm)	Nyetimber Manor, Nyetimber Vineyard, Gay Street. RH20 2HH*
<b>August 11</b> (2pm-5pm)	Champs Hill, Waltham Park Road, Coldwaltham, RH20 1LY
<b>August 18</b> (11am-4pm)	Hillside Cottages, Downs Road, West Stoke, Chichester, PO18 9BL
<b>August 20, 24</b> (2pm-5pm)	Peelers Retreat, 70 Ford Road, Arundel, BN18 9EX
<b>August 25</b> (2pm-4.30pm)	The Folly, Charlton, Chichester, PO18 0HU
<b>August 26</b> (12pm-6pm)	Durrance Manor, Smithers Hill Lane, Shipley, RH13 8PE

**\* Pre booking essential**

## Times Past

### From the Magazine of 1906

Miss Finch kindly consented to act as Secretary to both the Adult and Juvenile Sections of the Church of England Temperance Society. May we again implore all parents to allow their children to join our Band of Hope. All we are trying to do is to keep them from acquiring a taste for alcoholic drinks, which everyone knows is one of the principal causes of poverty, crime, disease, and insanity, in this and every other country.

\*\*\*\*\*

A petition is being sent up by the inhabitants of Amberley to the House of Lords protesting against the Education Bill as passed by the House of Commons... A pause will be made on Sunday morning and evening both in Amberley and Houghton churches after the prayer for the High Court of Parliament to enable the congregation to silently pray that God may guide and direct the House of Lords.

### And from 1966

This year, by decision of the UN General Assembly, United Nations Day is being dedicated to the cause of refugees. Thanks largely to the money raised through World Refugee Year, Europe is no longer the main centre of refugee problems. The vast camp clearance programme there has been virtually completed. But now refugee problems have arisen elsewhere...the Middle East where the UN Relief and Works Agency is responsible for the welfare of nearly 1,300,000 Palestine refugees. A timely reminder that this is still the 'century of the homeless man'.





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**WELCOME TO THE G & D!**

**HELLO SUMMER!**

*"It's a smile, it's a kiss, it's a sip of wine ... it's summertime!" Kenny Chesney*

Summer has finally arrived! It's time to enjoy Alfresco Dining or simply watching the sun go down whilst enjoying a tipple or two on our beautiful terrace or our Beer Garden with its glorious views over the South Downs!

Please do check our website for further info.

### BAR OPENING TIMES

Monday 12 - 3pm, Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday - Sunday: 12.00 - Close

### KITCHEN

Monday 12 - 2pm, Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday - Saturday: 12.00 - 2pm & 6.00 - 8pm

Sunday: 12.00 - 2.30pm

These times maybe subject to change without notice.

FOR ALL INFO DO CHECK OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM  
OR JUST GIVE US A CALL - WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



## It's never too late to go wild in the country

*"Go wild in the country, where snakes in the grass are absolutely free."* I can still remember Annabella Lwin, of new-wave pop group Bow Wow Wow, singing those words on Top of the Pops back in 1982: a clarion call for early Eighties urbanites to get out into the wild.

Annabella was ecologically correct. There are indeed free snakes out there, a fact that still thrills me each time I encounter one slithering through Sussex. As a child I thought snakes were exotic creatures, which hung off African jungle branches in Johnny Weissmuller *Tarzan* movies to convey a vague sense of something sinister. But there's nothing sinister about the grass snake; the commonest of Britain's three native snake species.

Mesmerising eyes, gorgeous sleek scales of olive-green and a series of stripes along their flanks. For a cold-blooded reptile they sure look hot. A key identification feature is that yellow collar encircling the back of their head. Grass snakes have been rather short-changed when it comes to their name; they're much better at swimming than they are at sitting in the grass (a bit like Johnny Weissmuller, who performed better in the water than he did on dry land). You'll find grass snakes gliding through wet ditches and dykes or even in your garden pond as they hunt for their favourite food: frogs and toads.

These amphibious feasts really pile on the pounds, so when their snakeskin suits become too tight they slip out of them to reveal a larger, shiny set of scales underneath. They undertake several costume changes each year and can grow to an impressive size – two or three feet is typical but there are rumours of six-foot long monsters out there. Of course, they're nothing to be scared of. If threatened they either pretend to be dead, hiss a lot or, according to my reptile book, "release a pungent, foul-smelling substance from their anal gland".

In July the female grass snakes excavate a chamber in a mound of decaying vegetation – a compost heap is perfect. Inside, she lays 5-20 leathery eggs and the heap's heat and humidity cooks them to perfection. Set your egg timer for ten weeks and you'll return to find pencil-sized baby snakes emerging into the world.

I guess not everyone followed Bow Wow Wow's advice back in 1982 because when leading my wildlife walks I'm always amazed at how many adults have never seen a snake in Britain. But it's never too late to go wild in the country.

**Michael Blencowe Sussex Wildlife Trust**



**Name anomaly: the grass snake is better at swimming than slithering on the grass**

## An intimate guide to butterfly dating

Last month I sent you out on an insect safari to look for brilliant beetles, magnificent moths and chirping crickets but this month your task is to search for beautiful butterflies.

July is the month when the highest number of our butterfly species have taken on their adult form and are 'on the wing' and finding a mate is the most important mission of their relatively short lives. Here's my guide to butterfly 'dating'.

**Wear your finest outfit:** one of the easiest ways for a butterfly to find a mate is through colour. Colourful wings are a signal to other butterflies which allows them to recognise their own species and also to distinguish between males and females. Peacock butterflies are one of our most colourful species and their patterns are designed to look beautiful to potential partners as well as confusing potential predators with the false eye spots.



**Beautiful butterflies (from the left): Silver-washed fritillary, speckled wood and small tortoiseshell**

In some species males and females look different; in the common blue the male is a bright blue with purplish sheen while the female is largely chocolate-brown. He must look attractive whereas it's better for her to be more camouflaged when she is egg-laying.

**Use perfume:** both males and females give off scent to communicate with each other, releasing specific pheromones to attract a mate. Some female hormones are so powerful that a male butterfly can sense them 10 miles away.

**Fend off the competition:** speckled wood butterflies often perch on plants in sunny glades in the woodland, waiting to intercept passing females. The best spots are vigorously defended. Spectacular aerial fights take place between rival males, with the butterflies spiralling upwards, each trying to get above the other.

**Do a little dance:** once a male and female have found each other, more intimate courtship dances can take place. The male silver-washed fritillary flies loops around the female in mid-air whilst the wood white performs a more delicate face-to-face display of antennae-wagging. The small tortoiseshell male courts his female by drumming his antennae on the females hindwings.

Once courtship and mating has taken place, eggs must be laid. The marbled hite takes a scatter-bomb approach to

*continued overleaf*



continued from previous page

egg-laying – the female simply drops her eggs randomly as she flutters along above the grasses. The adults can often be seen feeding and basking on knapweeds – the bright purple petals contrasting beautifully with the lace-like black and white patterns on the butterfly's wings.

The silver-washed fritillary – a glorious orange and black butterfly – glides along woodland rides and nectars on bramble flowers and has a much more precise strategy. She seeks out a clump of violets growing at the base of an oak and lays her eggs singly, one or two metres up in a crevice. On hatching, the caterpillar hibernates in the crevice before waking in the spring and descending its tree to feast on the

fresh violet leaves. She is better at plant identification than me!

The range of butterflies you could see this month is at its peak, but there is another reason to go and find butterflies at the moment – it is time for the Big Butterfly Count. This is a UK-wide survey assessing the health of our environment and the status of our butterflies by counting the number and type of butterflies we see. The count begins on Friday, July 12, and will run until Sunday, August 4. You can find more information (and a handy spotting guide) here: <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

So, take some time this month to marvel at these beauties but help contribute to their conservation, too.

**Anna Allum**

**Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB, Wiggonholt**

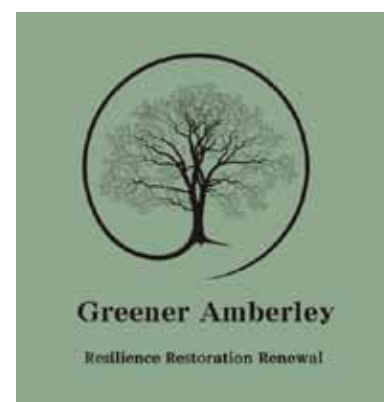
## Ideas for a more sustainable lifestyle

Two of the best things we can do for the environment are to eat less animal protein and to enjoy local, seasonal produce. Not only does this reduce our carbon footprint, but it substantially benefits our health.

According to a Harvard University study, a 'planetary health diet', essentially plant-based, with occasional meat consumption, significantly lowered the participants' risk of every leading cause of death through illness and resulted in lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Harvard professor Walter Willett described how human and planetary health were linked and how healthy eating, "boosts environmental sustainability, which in turn is essential for the health and wellbeing of every person on earth". According to Willett, if we double our consumption of fruits, vegetables, pulses and nuts and halve our consumption of red meat, "we can help slow the process of climate change...and what's healthiest for the planet is also healthiest for humans".

See *Planetary Health Diet Index, American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, June 2024)



### RECIPE

#### Roasted courgette soup with peas and basil

This month, when courgettes and peas are plentiful, this soup makes a delicious lunch or light supper, served with crusty bread.

#### You need

3 large courgettes

1 red onion

4 cloves of garlic

4 tbsp of olive or rapeseed oil

750ml vegetable stock

200g peas (fresh or frozen)

20g fresh basil or mint

4 tbsp crème fraîche or dairy free cream/milk

Grated vegetarian parmesan

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 180C fan / gas 4

Thickly slice the red onion

Cut the ends off the courgettes, then slice into 1cm thick chunks

Place the onion and courgettes in a roasting tray with the garlic cloves (skin on), season and drizzle with the oil, tossing to coat everything

Roast for 30-40 minutes, turning regularly until everything is golden and caramelised, but not charred

Make up the vegetable stock in jug and add the peas

Squeeze the flesh out of the roasted garlic cloves and discard the skins Tip everything into a saucepan and simmer for a few minutes

Add most of the basil (keep some back for garnish) and the crème fraîche Blend until smooth, sprinkle with basil and parmesan to serve.

**Catherine Cunningham**



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## W H A T ' S   O N

### EVERY WEEK

- Tuesday 10-11.30am Infants to Seniors
- Wednesday 7pm Village Chat Night (all welcome!)
- Thursday 2-3.30pm Knit and Natter

### EVERY MONTH

- 2nd Monday 7.30pm Quiz Night
- 2nd Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm American car meet
- Last Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm European/sports car meet

### FOOD

Thursday to Saturday evenings 6-8.00pm  
Ploughman's Lunch and light bites Mon-Fri from 12  
Full menu coming soon - look out for updates

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Live music
- Open mic nights
- Quiz night

## GLORIA



**Saturday, July 6 at  
6.30pm**

**St Michael's Church, Amberley**

**Worthing Voices together with St  
Michael's Church choir**

**And members of the Anniversary  
Orchestra**

**Conductor Shirly Linford**

**Present music from Gloria  
by Antonio Vivaldi**



# Bystander



## Gardyloo!

Visitors to Amberley's Open Gardens last month were interested to see a mysterious pop-up feature in Drewitt's Farm. Could it be an avant-garde sculpture to enhance Amberley's best kept wildflower meadow? Or a large parcel delivery to a resident?

No – it turns out that developer Steven O'Brien had the idea that his portaloo would look more attractive if wrapped in a shiny green groundsheet. Bystander only hopes that he checked inside before he started the wrapping process.

## What's in a name?

The well-informed readers of *The Wildbrooks Magazine* will already be familiar with acronyms, pseudonyms and synonyms. However, a new -onym has recently caught Bystander's attention ... aptronym, when a name is appropriate to a person's occupation. Examples include Usain Bolt, world record holding sprinter; Thomas Crapper, manufacturer of Victorian toilets; Mrs Heather Carb, bakery manager near Philadelphia; and William Wordsworth, poet. But Bystander's favourite is much closer to home – A. Bush who is the Arboriculture Officer for Horsham District Council. We're already looking forward to his promotion to Branch Manager.

## Shakespeare's ass

Bystander immensely enjoyed the recent Midsummer production in the gardens of Oak Tree House. It was particularly well received by one guest, who was overheard saying how much she enjoyed seeing Mike Wright's Bottom. "Oooh, matron..." with that turn of phrase, perhaps Don Gallagher's next production should be *Carry On Up Church Street!*

**Overheard in the Village Stores:** I just had the worst day ever. I paid a joiner to build me a double bed and he's done a bunk. It's just one thing on top of another.

## Retirement

"How will you manage" they say to me "Won't he get under your feet"

"Oh no" I reply with a glint in my eye  
And a voice that is simple and sweet

"How will you cope, will he sigh, will he mope,  
Will he long to run for the train"

"Oh no" I reply with a glint in my eye,  
"Though he'll miss it he'll never complain"

"What are our plans today my love?"

He asks as he sips his tea.

"Well, perhaps you could iron the clothes my dove"

"Oh no" he replies with a glint in his eyes  
And a voice that is more of a plea

"I've got to play golf with one of my friends

Who is waiting for me at the club,

"Oh well" I reply with a glint in my eye

"I will see you at twelve in the pub"

There's a pile on the stairs, that is ready and waiting  
To take either up or down

He ignores and walks by, a glint in his eye  
And a forehead that's creased in a frown

The dustbins are ready to go outside

For collection on Monday morn

He trips over the bin, gives a sheepish grin

From his mouth comes a sigh and a yawn

I'm cleaning, I'm cooking, I'm lugging the coal

"Just leave it 'til later" he coos,

"Oh no" I reply with a glint in my eye

Frankly, I'm driven to booze

The telly booms forth, the channels are flicked

The football, the golf, all the sport

"What next" I reply with a glint in my eye

And a temper decidedly fraught

I step over his legs with a handful of pegs for washing  
to blow and to sway

"Can I help" he sighs, averting his eyes

Then I drop on my knees and I say

"It's wonderful having you home all the time

To look at your sweet smiling lips,

To have time to talk, to have time to walk

To enjoy making plans for some trips"

We're Darby and Joan with our mobile phone

A window – there isn't a day,

To entertain friends, pension to spend

To work, to rest or to play

"There's so much to do, there's so much to plan

There's so much of life to squeeze in"

"I know" he replies with a glint in his eyes

As he takes a slurp of his gin

"How will you manage" they say to him

"Is life for you quite complete?"

"Oh yes" he replies with a glint in his eyes

And a voice that is simple and sweet





## EDITORIAL

### Caveat emptor

While I am sure we all applaud the Greener Amberley initiative, such as the suggested Nectar Café item (p24) and the ideas for a more sustainable lifestyle (p30), a word of warning for those under pressure to improve their loft insulation.

Like many people, no doubt, we were encouraged many years ago to instal fibreglass/glass wool rolls between the rafters. Since then, its efficiency has been questioned and health issues raised.

Government departments have urged – indeed almost coerced – us into improving our loft insulation with grants (bribes?) to do so. For years there have been endless (aptly named) cold calls from contractors (usually around lunchtime) offering deals. And, like many, I finally succumbed earlier this year, opting for spray foam. I don't consider myself particularly naive and I did research it pretty thoroughly, ensuring they used the right type of aerated foam that can breathe. I also checked out the contractor who appeared to be accredited.

Now, it transpires, the business appears to be completely unregulated. Some people are now finding that because either the wrong type of foam has been used, or it has been incorrectly applied, they are now unable to sell their homes, obtain mortgages or secure equity release. It is a scandalous situation. The company that did my installation back in February has, inevitably, already disappeared and I am no doubt holding a worthless 25-year guarantee.

It gets worse. There are now cowboy outfits out there posing as surveyors, cold calling previous spray customers and are using fraudulent accreditations to state that installations are non-compliant and should be removed.

For the purposes of research I accepted a free, allegedly independent, survey, being told in advance that 90 per cent of results showed no need for further action. Needless to say, I was advised that the foam had been incorrectly installed and that the cost of removal would be in the region of £7,000, reduced to around £5,500 with an "age related" discount. I had done my homework before the inspection and discovered the company had been dissolved one month earlier. I declined their offer and have subsequently passed on the details to Trading Standards.

There have been equal horror stories relating to cavity wall insulation.

My advice is never to accept a quote from a cold caller and seek advice from a trusted source like the Centre for Sustainable Energy or *Which?*

As they always say, caveat emptor.

**Mike Toynbee**

**SUSSEX BY THE SEA** is the county's unofficial anthem and was written in 1907 by William Ward-Higgs. The county's motto, "We wun't be druv", reflects the strong-willed nature of its people in past centuries. Sussex's device shows six martlets. Sussex's county flower is the round-headed rampion, also known as the Pride of Sussex. The feast day of the county's patron saint St Richard, has been declared Sussex Day by West Sussex County Council.

Now is the time for marching, Now let your hearts be gay,  
Hark to the merry bugles Sounding along our way.  
So let your voices ring, my boys, And take the time from me,  
And I'll sing you a song as we march along,  
Of Sussex by the Sea!

For We're the men from Sussex, Sussex by the Sea.  
We plough and sow and reap and mow,  
And useful men are we;  
And when you go to Sussex, Whoever you may be,  
You may tell them all that we stand or fall  
For Sussex by the Sea!

Up in the morning early, Start at the break of day;  
March till the evening shadows Tell us it's time to stay.  
We're always moving on, my boys, So take the time from me,  
And sing this song as we march along,  
Of Sussex by the Sea.

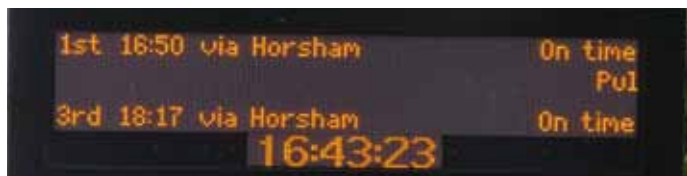
Sometimes your feet are weary, Sometimes the way is long,  
Sometimes the day is dreary, Sometimes the world goes wrong;  
But if you let your voices ring, Your care will fly away,  
So we'll sing a song as we march along,  
Of Sussex by the Sea.

Light is the love of a soldier, That's what the ladies say –  
Lightly he goes a wooing, Lightly he rides away.  
In love and war we always are As fair as fair can be,  
And a soldier boy is the ladies' joy  
In Sussex by the Sea.

Far o'er the seas we wander, Wide thro' the world we roam;  
Far from the kind hearts yonder, Far from our dear old home;  
But ne'er shall we forget, my boys, And true we'll ever be  
To the girls so kind that we left behind  
In Sussex by the Sea



## LOCAL INFORMATION



## New Southern Trains Timetable (from June 3, 2024)

### Monday-Friday

**From Amberley to London (Victoria except here shown):** 05.55 and then at 18 and 48 minutes past the hour until 21.48 then 23.05 (change at Three Bridges).

*Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins*

**From London Victoria to Amberley:** 05:54, 06.35, and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 22.35.

*Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins*

**From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis except as shown):** 06.42 (PH), 07.13, 07.58 and then at 28 and 58 minutes past the hour until 22.28 then 22.51 (P&S), 23.28, 23.53 (C).

PH – Portsmouth Harbour; P&S – Portsmouth & Southsea; C – Chichester

### Saturday

**From Amberley to London:** 06.29, 06.48 and then at 18 and 48 minutes past the hour until 21.48 then 23.04 (change at Gatwick Airport).

*Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins*

**From London Victoria to Amberley:** 06.05, 06.35 and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 20.35 then 21.05, 21.35, 22.05, 22.35.

*Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins*

**From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis except as shown):** 06.43 (PH), 07.28, 07.58 and then 28 and 58 minutes past the hour until 22.28 then 22.51 (P&S), 23.28, 23.53 (C).

PH – Portsmouth Harbour; P&S – Portsmouth & Southsea; C – Chichester

### Sunday

**From Amberley to London Victoria:** 07.58, and then at 58 minutes past the hour until 20.58 and then 2207.

*Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 24mins*

**From London Victoria to Amberley:** 07.32, 08.32, 09.43 and then at 43 minutes past the hour until 21.43 then 22.35.

*Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 13mins*

**From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis and Portsmouth Harbour (divides at Barnham) except as shown):** 09.03(B), 09.58(PH) 10.58 and then 56 minutes past the hour until 22.56(B) and 23.56(B).

B – Bognor Regis; PH – Portsmouth Harbour.

Compiled by Malcolm Phasey

## Local Farmers' Markets

### Storrington Community Market

Village Hall, West Street **Fridays (9.45am-11.15am)**

### Chichester

East and North Streets **First and third Fridays (9am-2pm)**

### Ford

Ford Airfield **First Saturday (7.30am-2pm)**

### Steyning

High Street Car Park **First Saturday (9am-1pm)**

### Arundel

Town Centre **Third Saturday (9am-1pm)**

### Pulborough Village Market

Village Hall **Fourth Saturday (9am-12.30pm)**

### Petworth

Leconfield Hall and Square **Fourth Saturday (9am-1pm)**



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## LOCAL INFORMATION

### Refuse & Recycling Calendar - July/August

Household refuse collections (**Amberley/Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt**): Non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Tuesdays, July 2, 16 and 30**; and **August 13 and 27**; collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be collected on **Tuesdays, July 9 and 23**; and **August 6 and 20**.

For **Church Street and Hog Lane**: collections of mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, July 3, 17 and 31**; and August garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be collected on **Mondays, July 8 and 22**; and **August 5 and 19**. Non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Wednesdays, July 10 and 24**; and **August 7 and 21**.

### Amenity Tip Opening Times

**Billingshurst: Newbridge Road, RH14 9HZ**  
9am-6pm (closed Thursday and Friday)

**Bognor: Shripney Road, PO22 9SX**  
9am-6pm (closed Thursday and Friday)

**Chichester: Coach Road, Westhampnett PO18 0NX**  
9am-6pm (open daily)

**Littlehampton: Mill Lane, Wick BN17 7PH**  
9am-6pm (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). No trailers

Appointments are now required at all local recycling sites. Bookings can be made at any time online by visiting [www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle) or by calling the Customer Service Centre on (01243) 642106. Proof of residency (ie driving licence, valid bus pass or current utility bill) is required at all WSCC recycling centres.

### Village Bus Timetable

On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Village Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers. We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver will pick up and set down at your door on request (especially useful when you are returning home with shopping), or anywhere else en route. The fare is a flat-rate £3 per return journey (£2 single fare) and Bus Pass Holders, and children under 16 travel free. Wheelchair users are welcome, but always ring ahead. To arrange a pick-up from your home, use of the bus for other community activity, or to discuss becoming a volunteer driver, please call Phil Greenwood on (01798) 831 803.

The full bus timetable can also be found on the Amberley Parish Council website: [www.amberley-pc.org.uk/](http://www.amberley-pc.org.uk/)

Amberley and Slindon Bus timetable 2024									
Monday AM		Monday PM		First Tuesday of the Month		Wednesday		Thursday	
Pulborough/Storrington		Bognor		Worthing		Chichester		Rustington	
Out		Out		Out		Out		Out	
Amberley Square	10.15	Rackham Street	12.35	Havenwood	9.15	Rackham Street	9.35	Rackham Street	9.35
Hurst Cottages	10.18	The Sportsman	12.38	(via Shellbridge Road)		The Sportsman	9.38	The Sportsman	9.38
The Sportsman	10.20	Hurst Cottages	12.39	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.20	Hurst Cottages	9.39	Hurst Cottages	9.39
Rackham Street	10.23	Amberley Square	12.41	Top Road/Church Hill	9.23	Amberley Square	9.41	Amberley Square	9.41
Storrington	10.35	Bridge Inn	12.43	Houghton	9.33	Bridge Inn	9.43	Bridge Inn	9.43
Pulborough (Sainsburys)	11.00	Houghton	12.45	Bridge Inn	9.35	Houghton	9.45	Houghton	9.45
		Slindon Coronation Hall	12.52	Amberley Square	9.37	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52
		Top Road/Church Hill	12.54	Hurst Cottages	9.40	Top Road/Church Hill	9.54	Top Road/Church Hill	9.54
		Havenwood Park	13.01	The Sportsman	9.42	Havenwood Park	10.01	Fontwell Village	9.57
		Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	13.07	Rackham Street	9.45	Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	10.04	Havenwood Park	10.00
		Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	13.25	Worthing - South Street	10.15	Chichester Market	10.18	Queens Street Arundel	10.05
				Haskins Garden Centre	10.30	Chichester Cathedral	10.23	Littlehampton	10.20
								Rustington (Waitrose)	10.30
Return		Return		Return		Return		Return	
Pulborough	12.03	Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	15.30	Haskins Garden Centre	12.50	Chichester Cathedral	13.30	Rustington (Waitrose)	12.15
Pulborough Tesco	12.05	Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	15.41	Worthing (Sea front, M&S)	13.05	Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	13.45	Littlehampton	12.25
Storrington	12.25	Havenwood Park	15.46	Rackham Street	13.30	Havenwood Park	13.48	Queens Street Arundel	12.40
Rackham Street	12.35	Slindon Coronation Hall	15.52	The Sportsman	13.33	Slindon Coronation Hall	13.58	Havenwood Park	12.45
		Top Road/Church Hill	15.56	Hurst Cottages	13.35	Top Road/Church Hill	14.00	Fontwell Village	12.50
		Houghton	16.06	Amberley Square	13.37	Houghton	14.10	Slindon Coronation Hall	12.53
		Bridge Inn	16.08	Bridge Inn	13.40	Bridge Inn	14.12	Top Road/Church Hill	12.55
		Rackham Street	16.13	Houghton	13.42	Rackham Street	14.17	Houghton	13.05
		Sportsman	16.17	Slindon Coronation Hall	14.00	The Sportsman	14.20	Bridge Inn	13.07
		Hurst Cottages	16.18	Top Road/Church Hill	14.02	Hurst Cottages	14.21	Rackham Street	13.12
		Amberley Square	16.20	(via Shellbridge Road)		Amberley Square	14.23	The Sportsman	13.15
				Havenwood	14.09			Hurst Cottages	13.16
								Amberley Square	13.18



## SUMMER DIVERSIONS

1. What type of summer clothing is an espadrille?
2. On a beach, what colours are the flags denoting a lifeguard area?
3. Which planet is closest to the sun?
4. The Sun replaced which failing daily newspaper in 1964?
5. What flower featured in a series of paintings by Claude Monet, and where was the garden?
6. According to tradition, the weather on this saint's feast day (July 15) will continue for 40 days. Who was he?
7. What English rock band recorded the 1971 song *July Morning*?  
(a) Pink Floyd (b) Uriah Heep (c) Dire Straits
8. Where would you find the resort of Sun City?
9. What country's national day is celebrated on July 14, commemorating an event which occurred on the morning of that day in 1789?
10. What is the voluntary eco-label awarded to more than 3,850 beaches and marinas in 48 countries?
11. Which group had the hit, *Summer in the City*?
12. What is the name given to the hottest, most sultry days of summer, typically experienced in the month of July?
13. In which city were the 2020 Summer Olympics held?
14. A particular event of this Spanish festival, held annually from July 6-14, were central to the plot of *The Sun Also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway. What is it?
15. *Here comes the Sun*, written by George Harrison, featured on which Beatles' album?
16. Roughly how many light years away is the sun from earth?  
(a) 10 billion (b) 15 billion (c) 25 billion
17. Holmfirth, located in the Holme Valley, is best known for what?
18. What is the name given to the ice-cream sundae served in a large, tall glass?
19. In which UK city would you find Summertown?
20. Which of Shakespeare's plays portrays the events surrounding the marriage of the Duke of Athens, Theseus, and Hippolyta?
21. Cliff Richard's Bachelor Boy chart topper featured in which film?
22. What event has been celebrated at Stonehenge since time immemorial?
23. British summertime starts and ends when?
24. The tagline of which film starring Katharine Hepburn reads: 'She came to Venice as a tourist...and went home a woman'?

## QUICK CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

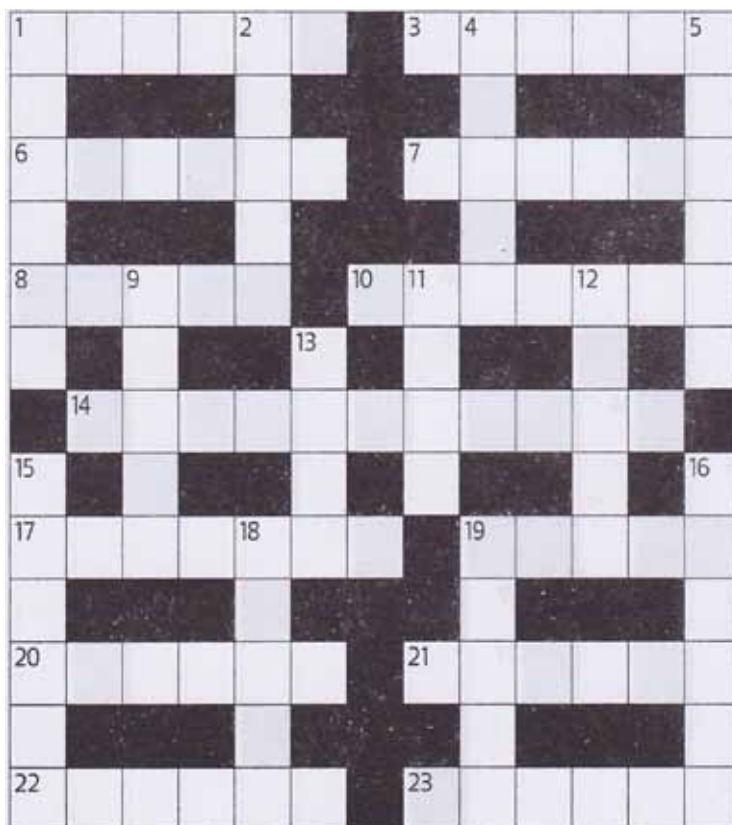
1. Edge (6)
3. Financier (6)
6. Sudden arrival (6)
7. Medical centre (6)
8. Jealously desire (5)
10. Showcase (7)
14. Unfeeling (11)
17. Gun carriage? (7)
19. Actor/writer, \_\_\_\_\_  
Welland (5)
20. Eastern garment (6)
21. Indian river (6)
22. Ageing colour (6)
23. Delegate (6)

### DOWN

1. Quail (6)
2. Snort (5)
4. Improvise (2-3)
5. Narrate (6)
9. Phonograph record (5)
11. Pivotal point (4)
12. Belly-button (5)
13. English queen in 1702 (4)
15. Spirit drink (6)
16. Harmony (6)
18. Ballroom dance (5)
19. Cowboy's leggings (5)

Solution on page 41

Answers on page 41





# The Labouring Man

## Coldwaltham

The Labouring Man is a country inn offering stylish rooms, a relaxed atmosphere, with great food and drink.



Our restaurant is open six days a week for lunch or dinner and Sundays from 12 noon until 4pm, with the bar open seven days and evenings per week. Our food is all home-cooked



**01798 873337**

**[www.labouringman.com](http://www.labouringman.com) [thelabouringman@gmail.com](mailto:thelabouringman@gmail.com)**

**Old London Road Coldwaltham West Sussex RH20 1LF**

## MULTI-AWARD WINNING GARDEN DESIGNERS, PLANTERS & KEEPERS

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@nichoward



Nic Howard Garden Design





# SLINDON COLLEGE

**Slindon College is an Independent Day and Boarding School providing a Specialist Learning Environment for boys aged 8-18. The College is set in the historic Slindon House located in the South Downs National Park.**



## Open Mornings

9.30am to 12.00noon

**Saturday 28th September 2024**

**Saturday 1st March 2025**

**Private visits available throughout the year**



Slindon House, Slindon, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 0RH

01243 814320 ● [registrar@slindoncollege.co.uk](mailto:registrar@slindoncollege.co.uk) ● [www.slindoncollege.co.uk](http://www.slindoncollege.co.uk)

THE  
GOOD  
SCHOOLS  
GUIDE





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS/TIDE TIMETABLES

### 1st Monday

**Bell ringing practice**, St Michael's Church, 7.30pm (and every Monday at the same time)

### 4th Thursday

**General Election poling**, St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley, 7am-10pm

**Yoga classes**, St Michael's Church Hall, (1) 9.30am and (2) 10.45am (and every Thursday at the same time)

**Chalkpath Theatre Workshop**, St Michael's Church Hall, 1.30pm-3.30pm (and every Thursday at the same time)

### 5th Friday

**Tour of the Needlework**, Parham House, 11am\*

### 6th Saturday

**Large Steam Show**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

**Concert: Midsummer Gala**, Sandgate Choir, Thakeham Village Hall, 3pm

**Concert: Vivaldi's Gloria**, St Michael's Church, 6.30pm

### 7th Sunday

**Large Steam Show**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

**Cricket: Amberley v Southwick Wanderers** (home), 1.30pm

### 8th Monday

**Quiz Night**, The Sportsman, 7.30pm\*

### 9th Tuesday

**Parham Parish Council meeting**, Rackham Old School, 7.30pm

### 11th Thursday

**Festival of Speed**, Goodwood  
**Amberley Parish Council meeting**, St Michael's Church Hall, 7.30pm

### 12th Friday

**Festival of Speed**, Goodwood

### 13th Saturday

**Sussex Steam Rally**, Parham Estate, 9am

**Festival of Speed**, Goodwood

**Classic Car Show**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

## Littlehampton Tide Timetable - July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <sup>st</sup> Low 01.24 High 07.40 Low 13.52 High 20.15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Low 02.28 High 08.50 Low 14.55 High 21.20	3 <sup>rd</sup> Low 03.29 High 09.55 Low 15.54 High 22.19	4 <sup>th</sup> Low 04.25 High 10.52 Low 16.48 High 23.12	5 <sup>th</sup> Low 05.15 High 11.46 Low 17.37	6 <sup>th</sup> High 00.02 Low 06.01 High 12.34 Low 18.22
7 <sup>th</sup> High 00.48 Low 06.45 High 13.19 Low 19.05	8 <sup>th</sup> High 01.30 Low 07.27 High 14.00 Low 19.45	9 <sup>th</sup> High 02.09 Low 08.06 High 14.38 Low 20.24	10 <sup>th</sup> High 02.46 Low 08.43 High 15.14 Low 21.00	11 <sup>th</sup> High 03.21 Low 09.20 High 15.49 Low 21.39	12 <sup>th</sup> High 03.55 Low 09.58 High 16.24 Low 22.19	13 <sup>th</sup> High 04.32 Low 10.39 High 17.02 Low 23.05
14 <sup>th</sup> High 05.17 Low 11.25 High 17.49 Low 23.58	15 <sup>th</sup> High 06.15 Low 12.19 High 18.49	16 <sup>th</sup> Low 00.57 High 07.24 Low 13.23 High 19.56	17 <sup>th</sup> Low 02.04 High 08.30 Low 14.32 High 20.58	18 <sup>th</sup> Low 03.11 High 09.31 Low 15.38 High 21.54	19 <sup>th</sup> Low 04.09 High 10.24 Low 16.32 High 22.43	20 <sup>th</sup> Low 04.57 High 11.14 Low 17.20 High 23.31
21 <sup>st</sup> Low 05.41 High 12.03 Low 18.03	22 <sup>nd</sup> High 00.18 Low 06.26 High 12.51 Low 18.48	23 <sup>rd</sup> High 01.04 Low 07.11 High 13.37 Low 19.33	24 <sup>th</sup> High 01.50 Low 07.56 High 14.23 Low 20.20	25 <sup>th</sup> High 02.37 Low 08.43 High 15.08 Low 21.07	26 <sup>th</sup> High 03.23 Low 09.31 High 15.53 Low 21.56	27 <sup>th</sup> High 04.11 Low 10.19 High 16.41 Low 22.48
28 <sup>th</sup> High 05.02 Low 11.11 High 17.34 Low 23.45	29 <sup>th</sup> High 05.59 Low 12.11 High 18.33	30 <sup>th</sup> Low 00.52 High 07.06 Low 13.23 High 19.41	31 <sup>st</sup> Low 02.06 High 08.29 Low 14.39 High 21.03			

TIDAL DIFFERENCES ON THE RIVER ARE +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON BRIDGE

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### 14th Sunday

**Sussex Steam Rally**, Parham Estate, 9am

**Festival of Speed**, Goodwood

**Bastille Day: French-themed Village Lunch**, St Michael's Church Hall, 12.30pm

### 19th Friday

**Daimler and Lanchester Owners' Club**, Amberley Museum, from 10am  
**Discovery Day: Natural History**, Amberley Museum, 2pm-3.30pm

### 20th Saturday

**Rail Gala Weekend**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

**Guided Walk: Bats in the Churchyard**, St Michael's Church, Amberley, 8.15pm

### 21st Sunday

**Rail Gala Weekend**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

**Cricket: Amberley v Bury and West Burton** (away), 1.30pm

### 24th Wednesday

**Summer Holiday Activities**, Amberley Museum (until 1/09)

### 27th Saturday

**1980s Weekend**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

**Eco Hub & Repair Café**, St Michael's Church Hall, 10am-12noon

**Concert: Ensemble Augelletti**, St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke, 6.30pm (preceded by a reception at the Farmhouse at 5.30pm)

### 28th Sunday

**1980s Weekend**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

**Cricket: Amberley v 12th Men** (home) 1.30pm

### 31st Wednesday

**Artists' Workshop**, Parham House\*

**Talk: Swifts, House Martins and Swallows**, St Michael's Church Hall, 7.30pm

*continued overleaf*



continued from previous page

## AUGUST

### 1st Thursday

**Artists' Workshop**, Parham House

### 3rd Saturday

**Retro Wheels:** Cycle through the Ages, Amberley Museum, from 10am\*

### 4th Sunday

**Retro Wheels:** Cycle through the Ages, Amberley Museum, from 10am\*

**Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club**, Parham House, 12 noon

**Cricket:** Amberley v Yellow Stump (home) 1.30pm

### 10th Saturday

**Amberley Revival**, 9am start from Amberley Museum

### 11th Sunday

**Cricket:** Ambereley v West Chiltington & Thakeham (home), 1.30pm

### 17th Saturday

**Magog Ladies Morris Dancers**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

### 18th Sunday

**Commercial and Communications Day**, Amberley Museum, from 10am

**Cricket:** Amberley v Arundel Grass hoppers (home), 1.30pm

### 23rd Friday

**Discovery Day:** Amateur Radio Archive Material, Amberley Museum, 2pm-3.30pm

### 24th Saturday

**A Taste of Sussex: Crafts, Ale and Food**, Amberley Museum, from 10am (also Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday)

### Dates for the diary

Goodwood Revival **September 6-8**

Ride+Stride **September 14**

Amberley's Macmillan Coffee Morning  
**September 27**

## Littlehampton Tide Timetable - August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
				Low 03.17	Low 04.17	Low 05.07
				High 09.48	High 10.49	High 11.40
				Low 15.45	Low 16.40	Low 17.28
				High 22.13	High 23.08	High 23.56
4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
Low 05.50	High 00.38	High 01.16	High 01.50	High 02.20	High 02.47	High 03.12
High 12.24	Low 06.30	Low 07.07	Low 07.42	Low 08.15	Low 08.47	Low 09.19
Low 18.09	High 13.05	High 13.41	High 14.15	High 14.44	High 15.07	High 15.32
	Low 18.48	Low 19.24	Low 19.58	Low 20.31	Low 21.03	Low 21.36
11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
High 03.42	High 04.17	High 05.03	High 06.11	Low 01.14	Low 02.40	Low 03.51
Low 09.50	Low 10.24	Low 11.12	Low 12.23	High 07.54	High 09.08	High 10.08
High 16.03	High 16.41	High 17.35	High 18.58	Low 13.53	Low 15.17	Low 16.17
Low 22.10	Low 22.53	Low 23.54		High 20.29	High 21.34	High 22.29
18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
Low 04.41	Low 05.26	High 00.04	High 00.51	High 01.35	High 02.19	High 03.02
High 11.00	High 11.49	Low 06.08	Low 06.52	Low 07.36	Low 08.21	Low 09.05
Low 17.04	Low 17.47	High 12.35	High 13.21	High 14.04	High 14.47	High 15.29
High 23.17		Low 18.30	Low 19.14	Low 19.59	Low 20.45	Low 21.30
25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
High 03.46	High 04.33	High 05.30	Low 00.22	Low 01.54	Low 03.10	Low 04.09
Low 09.50	Low 10.39	Low 11.36	High 06.41	High 08.20	High 09.48	High 10.43
High 16.12	High 17.01	High 18.00	Low 13.00	Low 14.30	Low 15.38	Low 16.31
Low 22.16	Low 23.10		High 19.17	High 20.59	High 22.11	High 23.01

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## Property Watch

### Homes for sale locally

List compiled from Rightmove



**New Barn Road** 6-bedroom detached house with swimming pool  
(Jackson-Stops, Chichester) **£2,750,000**

**Newland Gardens** 4-bedroom detached house  
(Sims Williams, Arundel) **£1,000,000**

**Church Street** Grade II listed 2-bedroom cottage  
(GL&Co, Storrington) **OIEO £850,000**

**Church Street** 2-bedroom cottage  
(Jackson-Stops, Chichester) **£850,000**

**Church Street** 2-bedroom terraced house  
(Sims Williams, Arundel) **£700,000**

**High Street** 2-bedroom semi-detached house  
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£585,000**

**Hurst Cottages** 2-bedroom detached house  
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£425,000**

**Newland Gardens** 2-bedroom ground floor maisonette  
(Cubitt & West, Arundel) **£165,000**

### Houghton Bridge

**Turnpike Road** 4-bedroom detached house  
(Sims Williams, Arundel) **£725,000**

### Houghton

**Off B2139** 4-bedroom detached house  
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,300,000**





## AT YOUR SERVICE (LOCAL TRADESMEN AND SERVICES)

### Accommodation: B&B (graded)

**Woodybanks Cottage, Amberley**, lovely views across Wildbrooks; private sitting room, AA 4-star silver rating 01798 831295

### Accommodation: self-catering

**The Roost at Stream Barn, Amberley**, Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence. (See advertisement for details) 01798 839320

### Catering services

**Jane Bellinger**, professional *cordon bleu* chef for functions, parties, etc 01798 839433

### Estate Agents

**GL&Co**, houses for sale and to rent, free valuations 01903 742354

**Jackson-Stops & Co**, properties in every location 01903 885886 / 01243 786316

### Financial Services

**Spinnaker Wealth Management**  
Nigel Evans, Principal 07967 381341

### Funeral Directors

**W. Bryder & Sons**, 5th generation, family run independent business 01798 342174

### Garages, car servicing, repairs

**Turner's Garage, Bury**, MoTs, tyres, exhausts, brakes, batteries, shop 01798 831417

### Garden

**Rydon Landscapes**, garden design and construction 01798 872359 / 07711 663862

**We Love Plants**, Nic Howard Garden Design, inspirational outdoor spaces 01883 744020

### Heating oil / fuel / boiler engineers

**Amberley Oil Syndicate**, collective buying power for heating oil 01798 872371

**M.D. Woodger**, all types of domestic boiler maintenance and Agas 01730 894211

### Home / household

**Dressing Rooms**, curtains and hand-made soft furnishings 01903 741251

### Hotels / restaurants / cafes / tea rooms

**Amberley Village Tea Room** 01798 839196

### Logs

**Andy Johnson**, seasoned logs cut to size; free kindling with each full load 07793 500129

### Painting / decorating

**Jonathan Capelin**, quality interior and exterior decorator 01798 817402

**Richard Sawyer**, painter and decorator, roof repairs etc 01403 783115

**R J Elliott & Son**, complete decorating and maintenance 01903 732363 / 07903 260048

**Amberley Village Pottery**, hand-made pottery, gifts etc 01798 831876

**Amberley Village Stores**, grocery, wines, newspapers, Post Office 01798 831171

### Schools

**Dorset House**, independent day and boarding school for boys and girls, 4-13 01798 831456

**Slindon College**, independent day and boarding school for boys aged 8-18 01243 814320

### Taxis

**Amberley Cars**, locally-based lady driver, airports, ports etc 07939 263495

### Well-being

**Marion Scotcher**, foot health practitioner home visits by appointment 01798 875588

**Robert Sadler**, locally-based registered osteopath 01798 874736

**Storrington Physiotherapy Clinic**, Filipa Barnes & Sean Case 01903 743538

To advertise in these columns, contact Mike Toynbee on 01798 831 114 or e-mail [mike@brooklandsamberley.com](mailto:mike@brooklandsamberley.com)

## DIVERSIONS ANSWERS (see page 36)

1. A casual shoe which originated in the Pyrenees – often canvas or cotton 2. Red and Yellow 3. Mercury 4. *The Daily Herald* 5. Water lilies, painted at Giverny 6. St Swithun 7. Uriah Heep. The song is from the band's third album *Look at Yourself* 8. South Africa 9. Bastille Day (the storming of the Bastille in Paris) 10. Blue Flag 11. Lovin' Spoonful 12. Dog days. The name originates from the ancient belief that Sirius, also known as the Dog Star, was responsible for the hot weather. Sirius is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog). 13. Tokyo 14. Its most famous event is The encierro, or the running of the bulls, in Pamplona, where the festival of San Fermín is staged 15. *Abbey Road* 16. (c) 25 billion 17. It was the setting for the popular BBC TV series *Last of the Summer Wine* 18. Knickerbocker Glory, which usually consists of layers of ice-cream, gelatin, cream, fruit, meringue, and sometimes a liqueur, topped with different types of syrup, nuts, whipped cream and often a cherry. 19. Oxford 20. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 21. *Summer Holiday* 22. The Summer Solstice 23. The last weekend in March (when the clocks 'spring' forward an hour, and the last weekend of October in the autumn, when they 'fall' back 24. *Summertime* (1955), directed by David Lean (released in the UK as *Summer Madness*)

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

**ACROSS:** 1. Fringe 3. Banker 6. Influx 7. Clinic 8. Covet 10. Cabinet 14. Insensitive 17. Holster 19. Colin 20. Sarong 21. Ganges 22. Yellow 23. Assign

**DOWN:** 1. Flinch 2. Grunt 4. Ad-lib 5. Recite 9. Vinyl 11. Axis 12. Anne 15. Whisky 16. Unison 18. Tango 19. Chaps



## PARISH DIRECTORY

Churchwardens:	Amberley	Melanie Edge (mel.edge@me.com).....07973 163369
		Michael Davey (Secretary) (mpdavey@gmail.com).....07749 690024
	Greatham	Diana van der Klugt (dianavanderklugt@btinternet.com).....01798 875663
		Robert Englehart.....01798 872502
	Parham	Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com).....01903 742340
		Jill Sloan (Secretary) (jill@jsloan.com).....01798 872163
	Wiggonholt	Cathy Folwell (cathy.folwell@icloud.com)..... 01798 872546
		Jenny Sadler (jen@southernrcranes.co.uk)..... 01798 874613
St Mary The Virgin North Stoke (acting chair)		Janet Aidin (janet@aidin.co.uk).....01798 872531
Organist and Choir Trainer (St Michael's, Amberley)	Shirley Linford.....	01903 783692
Magazine Editor and Advertising	Michael Toynbee (mike@brooklandsamberley.com).....	01798 831114
Magazine Distribution & Subscriptions	Pam Keeble (pamwkeebble@gmail.com).....	01798 831050
Amberley Book Club	Jim Endacott.....	01798 839186
Amberley CE Primary School	Paul Armitage.....	01798 831612
Amberley Church Hall Bookings	Adrienne Greenwood (ad.greenwood@btinternet.com).....	07746 488615
Amberley Good Neighbours Emergency Service (AGNES)	Cyndy Kennett.....	01798 831010
Amberley Oil Syndicate	Jill Couling (amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com).....	01798 831845
Amberley Parish Council Clerk	Vicky Spiers (clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk).....	01903 208943
Amberley Parish Pond & Tree Warden	Pam Keeble.....	01798 831050
Amberley Parish Trust	David Vokins.....	01798 839 086
Amberley Society	Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com).....	01798 831340
Amberley Village Stores and Post Office	Colin Woods.....	01798 831171
Amberley Welfare Trust (Village Surgery)	Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com).....	01798 831340
Bell Ringers (Amberley) Tower Captain	Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com).....	01903 742340
CPR Emergency Number	.....	07838 947521
Cricket Club	Keith Dalmon.....	01798 831887
Home Safety Checks	West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.....	03458729719
Member of Parliament	Andrew Griffith (andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk).....	0207 219 4557
Millennium Green Trust	Judy Agate (judy@greencaterpillar.org).....	07525 484749
Neighbourhood Watch	Malcolm Pheasey.....	01798 839046
Parham Parish Council Clerk	Vicky Spiers (clerk@parham-pc.org.uk).....	01903 208943
Police	Non-emergency number.....	101
Rackham Old School Association	Sue Bulloch.....	01798 872038
Rackham School Hall Reservations	Jennifer Hooper.....	01903 742695
Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE)	Sarah Ffoulkes Roberts (sffoulkesroberts@yahoo.co.uk)....	01798 874713
Stoolball Club	Sandra Turner.....	01243 821255
Village Bus	Philip Greenwood.....	01798 831803
Village Lunch Team Leader	Sarah Wheeler (sarahwheeler1@live.com).....	01798 831194





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