

# THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



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## Counting our blessings

A Happy Easter to you all!

That may seem a strange thing to say at the moment.

Happy? Where do we find happiness in the present troubled and fearful times? Happiness, as the word suggests, is related to events which cheer us, and these may be in short supply at the moment, or at least we have to look hard for them.

The old practice of counting our blessings is especially good for us just now, lifting our eyes from the endless worrying news of the coronavirus. Let's look for small blessings – the beauties of spring flowers and birdsong, the thoughtful phone call, the hopeful rainbow in a window. Let's be thankful for good neighbours, volunteers, our shop and pub staff and all who are working so hard to help us through this time in our community and across the country. There are many good things we are discovering in this time which we don't want to lose when 'normality' of some kind returns. Why not make a 'Thankful jar', writing things on slips of paper as you think of them, then taking some out to cheer you up on a 'down' day?

A deeper word than happiness is a true Easter word: Joy! Joy has been described as peace dancing. This is the fullness of heart which sustains and strengthens us even when we don't feel superficially happy. It may be fed by thankfulness, by the love of others, and by the security and hope which spring from the risen Christ who is walking with us through all of this and promises to be with us always.

Easter? The chocolate eggs have probably all been consumed during lockdown and the beautiful Easter gardens have wilted, but Easter isn't over. The church celebrates the Easter season through the 'Great Fifty days' until Pentecost, which this year is on 31st May.

That first Easter was a strange and unsettling time for Jesus' disciples and we may identify with some of their



experiences. Their master and friend had been brutally treated and crucified, then buried in a last-minute rush before Sabbath day lockdown.

Early on the Sunday morning Jesus' grieving friends were shaken to find the tomb open in mysterious circumstances. Angels told them Jesus was risen as he had promised, but this was too hard to take in – impossible, surely? Other puzzled disciples visited the tomb to see for themselves, before locking their doors in fear. They talked over and over the events, trying to make sense of them. Jesus appeared and was real enough,

but he didn't stay with them: he kept coming and going.

Jesus was preparing his friends for his departure on Ascension Day, when he would leave them and return to his Father. But Easter led to Pentecost! Jesus' Holy Spirit came as promised in power to be with and in his followers. No longer locked away in fear, they were instead spilling out into the world with joy and courage.

May we who are in anxious lockdown just now use the time well and emerge with our faith deepened, our communities stronger, to go forward with courage to face the great challenges which surely lie ahead.

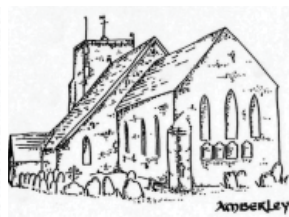
May God bless you all and give you peace.

*Gerry*

**The Revd Gerry Burgess  
Priest-in-Charge**

**This month's front cover: a candle burns on Easter Sunday morning in the window of Parham House, with St Peter's Church in the distance.**

**Picture by James Barnard**





## CHURCH NEWS

## What's the Church doing at the moment?

Our church buildings are closed even for private prayer, but don't be led to think there's nothing happening. It doesn't mean your vicar and the congregations are all asleep or on extended holidays!

Our churchyards which have been looking wonderful at this time of year mostly remain open as places of peace and reflection on your daily walks. We are thankful that John Jackson has been able to continue his work which restored Amberley churchyard to excellent shape last year.

Our people who make up the church are continuing to pray and care actively as they are able within our local communities, along with many other good neighbours.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals. At the moment none of these services can take place in church. We very much hope that this will soon be possible again and I am keeping in touch with wedding couples as the regulations change. I am happy to discuss future plans and make provisional wedding bookings for any of our churches.

Funerals can currently be held at the crematorium or (for burials) at the graveside, with just close family present. I am always willing to talk and pray with you if you have lost a loved one or are concerned about this. Whilst we can only hold a short committal service at present I am hopeful that we shall offer the opportunity of a church thanksgiving service later in the year.

We have as yet no idea when our churches will be open for prayer or services again. In the meantime we have been finding different ways to come close to God in worship and prayer.

**Prayer:** Please join us at home if you can each Wednesday at 9.30am to pray for the world, our nation and local community and any specific needs known to you. I am always happy to listen and to pray with or for you over the phone, until we can meet in person.

**Worship:** The BBC is providing services every Sunday on BBC1 and local radio as well as Radio 4. Some of you will have enjoyed exploring a variety of services streamed online from the Church of England website, Chichester Cathedral and many different churches.



**The Church will celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Sunday, May 10**

## Church at Home

### E-mail and video, readings and prayers

Here in the Wildbrooks we are keeping things low tech and easy to access. Please contact me [revgerryburgess@gmail.com](mailto:revgerryburgess@gmail.com) if you would like to receive a Wildbrooks email each weekend with prayers and reflections to help us worship together in a simple form. There will usually be a short video message on Youtube which can be found simply by clicking a link in the email. If you don't do email, please ring me, Revd Gerry Burgess 01798 831600 and I will happily post the information to you each week instead.

These are the readings and Collect prayers for May, with plenty to read and reflect on individually throughout each week. These will be the themes for our church services should they resume during May.

#### Sunday, May 3

#### The Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 2.42-47; 1 Peter 2.19-25; Psalm 23; John 10.1-10*

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

#### Sunday, May 10

#### The Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 7.55-60; 1 Peter 2.2-10; Psalm 31; John 14.1-14*

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

#### Sunday, May 17

#### The Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 17.22-31; Psalm 66; 1 Peter 3.13-22; John 14.15-21*

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

#### Thursday, May 21

#### Ascension Day

*Acts 1.1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1.15-23; Luke 24.44-53*

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.

*continued on page 6*



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## CHURCH NEWS

### Sunday, May 24

### Sunday after Ascension Day

*Acts 1.6-14; 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11; Psalm 68.1-10,32-35; John 17.1-11*

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

### Sunday, May 31

### Day of Pentecost

*Acts 2.1-21; 1 Corinthians 12.4-13; Psalm 104.24-end; John 20.19-23*

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Sunday, June 7

### Trinity Sunday

*Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-31; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13.11-13; Matthew 28.16-20*

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## In time of isolation: advice from the Middle Ages

On May 8 the church remembers Julian of Norwich, a woman who lived as an anchorite or hermit in the 14th century. In those troubled days when plague often raged through Europe anchorites were advised to "gather into your heart all those who are ill or wretched". For any of us fed up with being confined to home, here is advice on how to use the time well, remembering the purpose of our confinement for the good of all.

Anchorites had a pattern of prayers and readings through the day; for us, too, it is good to build a pattern which gives structure, whatever that may look like. The two windows of Julian's cell looked to the altar of the church and out onto the street, the two directions which gave focus to her life and prayers.

In the isolation of her cell Julian prayed for others and wrote of the depth of her experience of Christ's love. This was by no means always easy, and one key for us is to acknowledge the difficulties of isolation and of our present fears. Julian was honest about her frailty and vulnerability but knew there was hope for a better future within the love of Christ.

Christ did not say, 'You shall not be perturbed, you shall not be troubled, you shall not be distressed,' but he said, 'You shall not be overcome.'

## Is anyone listening?

If the present situation is getting to you, don't be alone with your anxiety or frustration. There are people you can talk to. You may just need to let off steam or fill a lonely time, or perhaps you have practical, emotional or spiritual concerns.

Ring Revd Gerry Burgess on (01798) 831 600 and she will offer listening support or pass you on to one of a team of listeners according to your need and preference. We have some experienced and trained listeners in our community as well as others just here for a friendly chat when needed. There is also a new helpline set up by Chichester Diocese: *Hearing You* is available Mon-Fri 9am-7pm on (01273) 425047.

**We are here to help: don't be alone!**

## The day I met Jesus...

During the Thirty Years War in central Europe, as the plague swept its way across the continent, the residents of Oberammergau made a pledge to God in 1634 to re-enact the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ every 10 years if they were spared any further suffering.

Entitled *Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, the passion play was first performed at Pentecost 1634 on a stage that was built above the fresh graves of those who had died of the plague in the plague graveyard at Oberammergau, a small mountain village in Bavaria. After 84 villagers had died of the plague in 1633 and almost every family had lost loved ones, the villagers solemnly vowed to perform a passion play every ten years should they be freed from the plague. And they were freed. No more villagers died of what was otherwise known as the Black Death.

It is ironic, therefore, that in 2020 the Passion Play has had to be postponed for two years because of the spread of Coronavirus Covid-19.

The play, now in 42nd season, attracts widespread international interest. I recall travelling there 40 years ago as a reporter for a travel trade paper I was working for at the time, to check out the accommodation arrangements which were being made for the 1970 performance.

As part of my research, I visited various local hotels and talked to the organisers. At one point during our tour through the village, I was invited to pop in and meet the man who was playing Christ in the forthcoming production. Coincidentally, he turned out to be a local carpenter...

This year's event has now been rescheduled for May 2022, and will run until October.

**Mike Toynbee**

## Celebrating Easter during the time of lockdown

Since churches were obliged to close their doors as part of the social lockdown in the battle against Covid-19, social media has played a vital role in offering opportunities for sharing in prayer and worship with others. The Revd Gerry Burgess, priest-in-charge at St Michael's, Amberley, kept parishioners amply supplied with readings and prayers online throughout Lent, always remembering those affected by the virus and giving thanks for the caring services and everyone helping to keep our lives on track during the crisis.

But Easter is something special. The most important moment in the Christian calendar, culminating in Easter Sunday when habitually Christians come together to celebrate the Resurrection, singing hymns in which the word Alleluia figures quite prominently. This year's Easter observance was not going to be like any other in living memory. What to do in a lockdown?

The Revd Gerry had a couple of great ideas. One was an invitation for children and grown-ups alike to produce and display traditional Easter gardens. And the other a 'communal sing' of a couple of well-known Easter favourites from front doors or windows at 10am on Easter Sunday.

A good dozen decorative and artistic gardens appeared across the length and breadth of the village, displayed on garden walls for passers by to admire. Each 'gardener' was rewarded with an Easter egg, and a sizeable number of villagers took their permitted period of daily exercise walking from garden to garden between Crossgates and the Vicarage in School Road, and down to the churchyard. Not quite 10,000 steps, but not far off.

And as for the communal sing, a few residents bent the rules slightly, congregating in The Square and outside the Vicarage (though still observing social distancing) to sing Jesus Christ Is Risen Today and Thine Be The Glory with great gusto. Windows opened and appreciative listeners appeared to enjoy the spirited rendition.

Indeed, an Easter celebration unlike any other. But not without some joy...and chocolate!

**Ros Simpson**

**Pictured (above), Matthias and Thea Lower, (right) the garden at Woodybanks, and (below) Clementine Adams, Holly Lambert and Florence Adams**



### A locked church

Ah my dear Lord, the church is locked  
but let my heart be open to your presence;  
there let us make, you and I,  
your Easter garden;  
plant it with flowers,  
and let the heavy stone be rolled away.

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## CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 EMERGENCY NEWS

# A community pulling together like never before

## The Wildbrooks response to Covid-19. A report from the Covid-19 Health Hub

The response from residents in the Wildbrook Parishes to the challenges in reducing the risk of infection by Covid-19, to the restrictions to our daily lives and to the financial consequences of the pandemic has been and remains selfless, capable, rapid, imaginative and continuing. This is written at a time when the daily death toll in the UK continues to rise. How long this will continue to be the case remains unclear.

It would be invidious to single out any one individual, business or group who has contributed to the response. We send our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those who are contributing to the daily battles which will enable us to win the war against the virus with least damage to health, wealth and happiness.

By the time you read this, the measures which have been put in place to meet the challenge will be familiar to you. They are listed on pages 12 and 13 overleaf with the contact details of those taking the lead.

Rather than provide a detailed description of the activities which may well have been modified between the time of writing, April 16, and the date of publication, we thought current readers and those of future generations who may have to face a similar crisis might like to hear how and when the measures came about.

The "when" is important because this pandemic, not only global in its reach and of a scale and severity not experienced in peacetime during our lives, has also possessed a speed of transmission which has challenged the health and financial institutions of all countries.

A brief timeline of the evolution of this threat provides important context. The first cases of an unusual respiratory illness were identified in Wuhan in mid-November 2019. Initially denied by the local Chinese authorities, the speed of transmission and the mounting death toll could not be ignored; the World Health Organisation (WHO) was notified of its existence on December the 31. It continued to spread throughout China with the first cases reaching our shores in mid-January. Despite initial isolation in specialist units and contact tracing, by mid-February human-to-human transmission in the UK was occurring at an increasing rate.

At this point it was clear that it would only be a relatively short time before Amberley was involved. It was also clear that the UK, as a whole, was woefully unprepared for this eventuality and that structures would have to be created from scratch. This was no less true for Amberley.

On March 1 the Parish Council was alerted to the need for a contingency plan. It was agreed that this would be covered in "a public adjournment" with questions from the floor at the forthcoming Parish Council meeting to be held on March 12.

**If you think you have symptoms,  
call this number: 07484 157 156**

**A dedicated local phone line has been set up for people who have symptoms which they believe match infection by the Covid19 coronavirus. The idea is that it will provide support for those who are potentially infected.**

**They would be asked to ring in once a day. As a fall back if they do not call and cannot be contacted, someone will come to the house. Initially, it will be hosted by four people in turn: Richard Robinson, Jeff Feakins, David Lyon and Claire Bruce.**

**If you believe you have become infected and wish to use this facility the number to ring is 07484 157 156. It is available 24/7. The information is obviously confidential although we intend to publicise the overall numbers of those infected.**

The Parish Council held discussions with the Amberley Good Neighbours Emergency Service (AGNES), those running the village bus service, the village shop, the school, the public houses and other local business, as to the actions they proposed to take.

Meanwhile, hand sanitisers were ordered for those entering and leaving the church, church hall and shop on March 8. The following day a register was set up for those with Covid-19 infection and for those in quarantine. On March 10 the pubs were offered advice about appropriate anti-viral measures. By this time all local and online shops had run out of anti-viral gel.

At the Parish Council meeting it was agreed that a leaflet should be hand delivered to all houses in the parish which detailed contact numbers of sources of help and psychological support together with calling for volunteers to help with home deliveries from the shop. This was carried out four days later. Meanwhile, advice for measures for the school was sought from the Department of Education, the volunteer bus service was reviewed and it was agreed that a contingency plan would be more fully developed.

The pace quickened. On March 16, four days after the Parish-



## CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 EMERGENCY NEWS



**An overview of how one Sussex parish dealt with the Coronavirus Covid-19 crisis of 2020**

Council meeting, the Government announced a national lockdown. All people aged over 70, pregnant women and those with certain underlying health problems were advised to self-isolate and thus be dependent on home deliveries. The rest of the population was asked to work from home wherever possible, to maintain social distancing, and to shop as infrequently as practicable and then only for food, medicines or other essential supplies. A video-conference held that day established the clear need for a small group to act as the co-ordinators for the development of actions across the Wildbrook parishes. The capabilities of this group included medical, internet communication, crisis management, business experience and local knowledge. The Covid-19 Help Hub was thereby established. It continues to meet daily by video-conference.

It receives notice of those with Covid-19 symptoms in order to monitor and support their progress. It maintains the register of those self-isolating. It posts and, where necessary, interprets advice from the GOV-UK website. It is particularly concerned to issue advice for the protection of those providing services such as the village shop, and for those undertaking and those receiving deliveries. On March 22 a single telephone hub was established, manned by a rota of four people 24/7. This became the port of call for advice for all matters relating to Covid-19. Where necessary it upholds and emphasises the need to follow government advice. Central data shared between the Covid-19 Help Hub members provides details held confidentially of those with Covid-19 symptoms, of those self-isolating, and of volunteers. Numbers of those with Covid-19 symptoms are published daily on Listserve, the village intranet. The Hub provides information of its activities to Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council.

Much of this organisation and dissemination was necessarily carried out over the internet using video-conferencing and

Listsserve. However, not all residents in the Wildbrooks parishes have internet access. This, together with the complexity of co-ordinating support to people with a likely wide range of needs led to the establishment of the Neighbourhood Helpline, which is described in a separate article in this edition.

Before and particularly from the time of lockdown, the staff at the village shop have worked heroically to keep us supplied. Their safety has been paramount. It became apparent that despite their best efforts it was difficult to keep them adequately protected with the shop operating in its normal manner. Accordingly it closed to walk-in customers on March 31 in order to focus its efforts on collating orders for home delivery. A marquee was set up outside the shop to enable distancing between shop staff and delivery volunteers collecting orders. A free newspaper delivery service was set up with more volunteers.

Similarly, the three pubs within the parish and the tea rooms have been forced to close their doors. The Sportsman, however, has maintained a home delivery service of ready-cooked meals on three days a week.

The activities of the Reverend Gerry Burgess, St Michael's Church, the village shop and the school are reported on in more detail elsewhere.

On April 6 the Amberley Welfare Trust announced details of how it might be able to support those in need of financial help.

It will be apparent that none of this activity would have been possible without the willingness of an army of volunteers who have come forward to support those self-isolating and maintain the social structure of the parish. Their numbers have been truly humbling. When we are through all this we will owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

**Katie Armstrong, Claire Bruce, Jeff Feakins, David Lyon,**



## CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 EMERGENCY NEWS

### Neighbourhood Helpline

In response to the seriousness of the virus outbreak and the advice from the government on self-isolation and quarantine and following on from a proposal by the Covid-19 Help Hub, a small group of volunteers from the village drew up a plan to try to offer support to as many residents as possible in the Wildbrooks parishes, especially those who may be alone, self-isolating or ill. There were limited records to work from and initially it was difficult to assess the sort of numbers the team would have to cover, so the parish was split up into Neighbourhoods.

The object of what is now the Neighbourhood Helpline, is to provide one of your neighbours as a contact point, so that everyone has ongoing and up to date access to information on a range of services available to residents during this time of crisis. These services include:

- Medical advice
- Prescription pick-up service
- Support for items of shopping not available from the village shop
- Index of local tradesman and services currently operating
- Financial support (via Amberley Welfare Trust)
- Spiritual and emotional support (via the Revd Gerry Burgess and her team)
- Ongoing contact support (via AGNES)

- Interpretation of government support to the employed/self-employed

- Up-to-date information regarding local village and local area services (eg shops, Sportsman Inn, tradesmen, food deliveries)

- Someone to call for regular friendly contact and general advice

A total of 399 residences were identified within the Wildbrooks Parish and to ensure each area was covered the parish was split into 12 separate areas with each area having a list of residences.

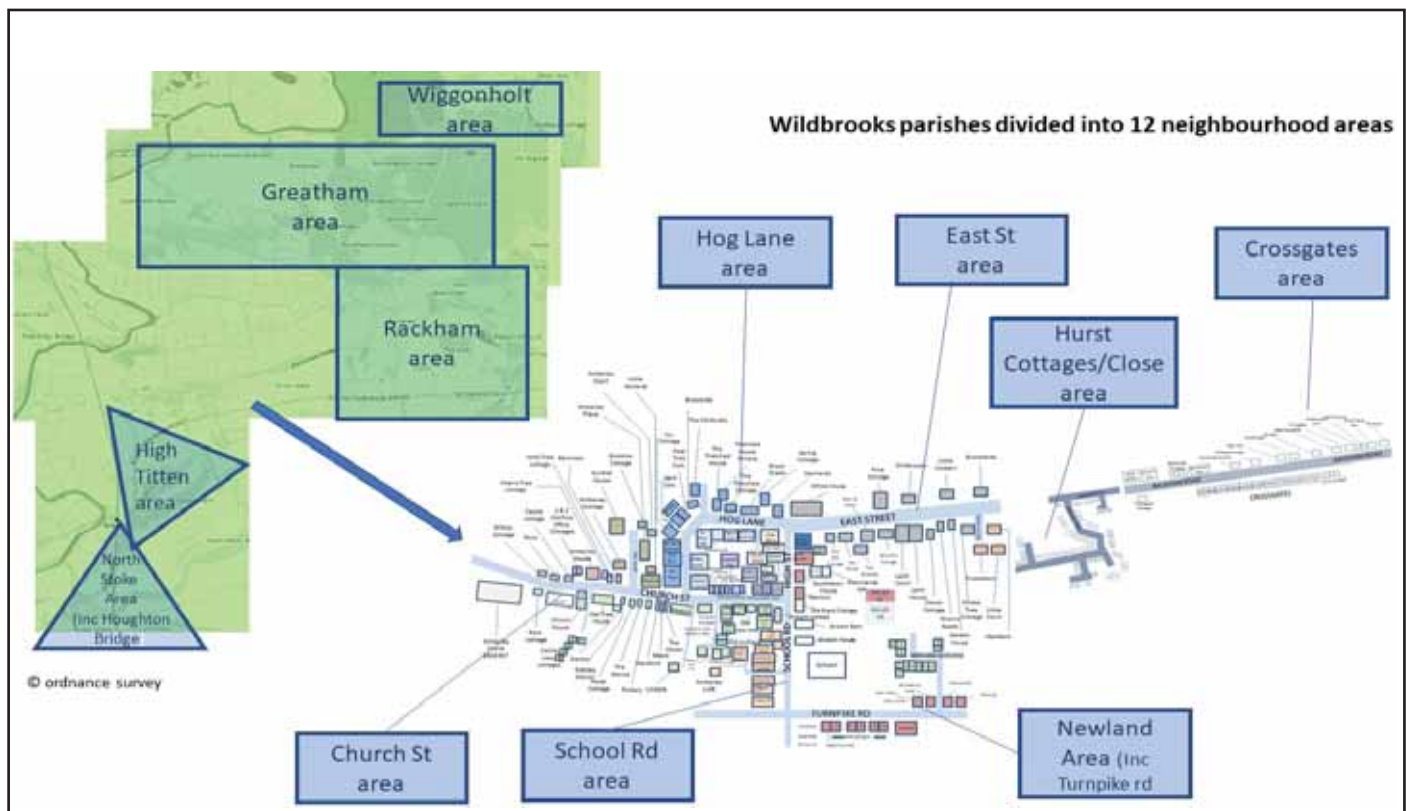
Within two days, 12 volunteers agreed to act as a lead for each of these areas, further volunteers came forward and two volunteers offered to be co-ordinators. All were then briefed, provided with a support pack of information and asked to make contact with each of the properties within their areas. The helpline was effectively live as at April 1.

The first hurdle to overcome was to make contact with everyone. This is not as easy as it may sound since there is no generally available listing of households, mobile numbers, e-mail IDs and not all residents have internet access. Where contact was not already known by area leads, information was posted through letter boxes giving the name and number of

*continued overleaf*



**Jim Ferris delivering groceries from Amberley Village Stores**





*continued from previous page*

the local neighbourhood lead and encouraging residents to get in touch if they needed advice or support with shopping, prescriptions etc.

This Helpline has now been in action for two weeks as at the time of writing and while many residents have been remarkably self reliant during the crisis, the Helpline has helped many who have needed support.

In particular, the pharmacy prescription pick-up, or the 'Drug Run' as we have named it, has been popular and is manned by a team of volunteer drivers. The 'Drug Run' picks up pre-

scriptions from the four main pharmacies in Pulborough, Storrington and Arundel and delivers to residents. By doing so, it relieves pressure on the pharmacies in addition to reducing the number of people entering and leaving the village. There have also been requests for special dietary shopping and urgent supplies.

We cannot begin to thank enough all who have volunteered their services both as area leads, 'Drug Runners' and those picking up further supplies outside of the village. It has been a privilege to witness the friendship and help provided by the volunteers. The volunteers and their contact details are as follows:

#### **Volunteer co-ordinators**

Catherine Cunningham (07887 796212)	Sarah Wheeler (01798 831194)
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#### **Volunteer area leads**

North Stoke/Houghton Bridge - Suzy Hoddell (07936 329350)	High Titten - Rebecca Beveridge (07949 652399)
Greatham - Diana van der Klugt (01798 875663)	Rackham - EA Draffan (01903 745252)
Wiggonholt - James Coates (01798 872208)	Newland Gardens/Turnpike - Hazel Allinson (01798 831159)
Crossgates - Kate Scutt (01798 831793)	East Street - Judy Agate (01798 839301)
School Road - Jodie Lambert (01798 831561)	Hog Lane - Joe Thompson (07971 419058)
Church Street - Amanda Morley (01798 839357)	Hurst Cottages/Close - Filipa Barnes (07809 615661)

#### **Volunteer support**

Boodie Ellison, Jo Stagg, Kerry Mustow, Mike Wright, Sue Ford, Sally Rollinson
--

If you wish to know more about any of the services listed earlier in this article, please contact your volunteer area lead. Please note that any information you give to the

area lead will be treated in strict confidence or otherwise according to your instructions.

**Jeff Feakins**



**Local heroes:** among the many people helping to keep the community functioning during the lockdown are (clockwise from top right, pictured before social distancing): Lee Stace, Tina Bishop and Colin Woods at Amberley Village Stores; Dean Roberts, Sue and Andy Ford, and Roger and Judy Agate busy delivering meals; Sophie Cooper and Lee Forbes at the Sportsman Inn; and Lucy (aged 17) and Molly Gardner (now 19) busy delivering papers seven days a week





## **Amberley Village Stores**

*During the coronavirus emergency the shop will be closed, but we are delighted to be offering a full delivery service to cover your needs. There will be no charge for deliveries which are being made by volunteers.*

### **Delivery service to your door:**

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- Website: <https://www.amberleystores.co.uk>
- E-mail us for smaller orders: [amberleystores@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:amberleystores@tiscali.co.uk)
- Postbox: Located by the log shed.
- Phone: **01798 831 171** Phones open Mon-Fri 9.00am to 11.59am.

### **Post Office:**

*Limited appointment only service.*

- 15 min slots per person.
- Please phone **01798 831 171** between Mon-Fri 9.00am-11.59am to reserve a time slot.

*There will be no access to the shop through the front door, so during these times, the Post Office can only be reached using the rear door.*

### **Payment:**

- No cash
- Paying by online/mobile banking.  
Business Account Name: **Amberley Village Stores Mr CG Woods so trading**  
Bank Name: Santander  
Acct Number: **042 488 80**  
Bank Sort Code: **09-01-50.**
- Cheques can only be accepted if left in an envelope outside your door or posted in the shop's postbox. The volunteer delivery people must not be handed direct payment.

### **Carrier bags:**

- To minimise the risk of transmitting the virus, all deliveries will be made using carrier bags. None will be collected for re-use, but please save them for when this is all over.

**We are here to help**



## CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 EMERGENCY NEWS

### Amberley Village Stores

Amberley Village Stores changed over to a delivery-only service thereby considerably reducing the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

This presented many challenges for us, but with a tremendous effort from my team and volunteer support we have achieved this. We now are serving more customers than ever before and can still take more orders. The Post Office is essential to many, so we are offering a limited service by appointment.

The village store has always been about meeting the needs of the community and by making these changes we are proud to be able to continue doing this. Take care.

**Colin Woods**  
Proprietor, Amberley Village Stores



Team effort: pictured (from left to right): Lee Stace, Caroline Jones, Tina Bishop and Colin Woods, with helpers Emma, Sandra and Lauren

### Amberley Volunteer Delivery Service (AVDS)

The change over to a delivery-based service at Amberley Village Stores would not have been possible without help. It may not surprise you that hardly had the word gone out than over 25 local volunteers offered their services.

As a result they were able to undertake responsibility for deliveries around the Wildbooks Parishes so that Colin and his team could concentrate on sourcing and co-ordinating the grocery orders we all needed.

The Volunteers are now delivering over 500 bags of shopping every week, which is fantastic and, if needed, they have offered to do more.

These Volunteers are not only helping to reduce the possibility of infection to the shop team, they are also supporting those in our community who are doing their bit by staying at home. It is hoped that by helping our village shop in this way it can not only survive, it will continue its valuable role into the future.

### Helping to keep the shop going

As everyone will now know, the precautions in response to the spread of Covid-19 have impacted the shop and Post Office. Colin and his team have embraced big changes in the way they serve the village and their customers but these have brought both workload and financial pressures.

Recognising this, Amberley Shop Properties Ltd (the company wholly owned by the Amberley Parish Trust on behalf of the village) is doing what it can to mitigate these and support Colin and his team through a very difficult period.

We have waived all rent until the crisis has passed and have advanced funds to ease cash flow whilst the shop is

incurring the costs of the additional staffing needed during this period. However, it would also be helpful if customers could pay promptly for their shopping.

The shop and Post Office is a huge asset for our village. We fully appreciate how vital it is especially for those entirely dependent on home deliveries that our shop can continue to operate and can do so as safely as possible. We will continue to work with Colin to achieve this.

**Roger Townsend**  
Chairman of the Trustees

### Amberley Shop Properties

#### Do seek help if needed

It's been my experience in recent weeks in general practice that people are understandably nervous about seeking medical support for non-coronavirus illness. Both general practice and hospitals have systems in place to ensure that patients can be seen safely away from high risk suspected coronavirus patients.

As medics we are worried that people will present too late with conditions, such as serious infections and heart attacks, and that children may get very sick before their parents seek help. The NHS is still open, willing and able to treat you and it's important you seek help if you are unwell.

During the week and bank holiday Monday local general practice is open – you just need to phone and a clinician will ring you back. Out of hours you access care via 111, there are long waits at the moment so if you are concerned, your practice is closed and you can't through to 111, I'm happy for you to contact me directly either by email [katiearmstrong@nhs.net](mailto:katiearmstrong@nhs.net) or mobile 0771 471 9804.

**Dr Katie Armstrong GP,**  
Pulborough Medical Group  
Rock Cottage, Church St, Amberley



## DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE



Cleaning and ironing



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For friendly, helpful service,

Please call Angela

**01798 875575 or 07552 216819**



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Mob: 07778 303 592

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## *Rydon Landscapes*

Garden Design and Construction

1 Dora Cottage, Greatham,  
Pulborough

Tel: (01798) 872359

Mobile: 07711 663862

During the coronavirus emergency the shop will be closed, but we are delighted to be offering a full delivery service to cover your needs. There will be no charge for deliveries which are being made by volunteers

### How To Order:

- Online form: [www.amberleyshop.uk](http://www.amberleyshop.uk)  
(This is the best way for the shop)
- Website: <https://www.amberleystores.co.uk/>
- E-mail us for smaller orders: [amberleystores@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:amberleystores@tiscali.co.uk)
  - Postbox: located by the log shed.
- Phone: **01798 831 171** Phones open Mon-Fri 9.00am-11.59am.



**We are here  
to help**



## CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 EMERGENCY NEWS

### Amberley Primary School

Amberley School closed its doors to pupils on March 20, two weeks before the official end of term. There was a great deal of sadness among the pupils, staff and parents; this was especially so for the children and parents of pupils in their final year of primary school as there is much uncertainty as to when the school will reopen. This would be a wholly unsatisfactory way for the children to end their time here at Amberley.

Amberley School federated with St James' School, Coldwaltham, in the summer of 2019 to form the Arun Villages Federation. St James' School has remained open for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children from both schools. Between two and four children have attended school every day, including the Easter holiday, except for the Bank Holiday weekend. A skeleton staff from both schools attend on a rota system and provide non-curriculum activities for these children.

The teachers have used creative ways to stay in touch with the children and provide them with activities to support their learning at home. Communication is mainly done through class email and the teachers have been highly impressed with the commitment shown by the children in returning completed activities. Two teachers have created YouTube channels and the children continue to see their class teachers via screens.

Children who receive free school meals have been provided with hot meals and hampers which have been delivered by the staff using the school minibus. Over the Easter holidays, these children received eVouchers which could then be exchanged for food at local supermarkets.

This year all external assessments have been cancelled and Ofsted and Church inspections have been postponed.

It is important, however, to remember the bigger picture during this unsettled period and while the children may be missing some time at school, they are safe at home with their families and there will come a time when we are reunited together at Amberley School.

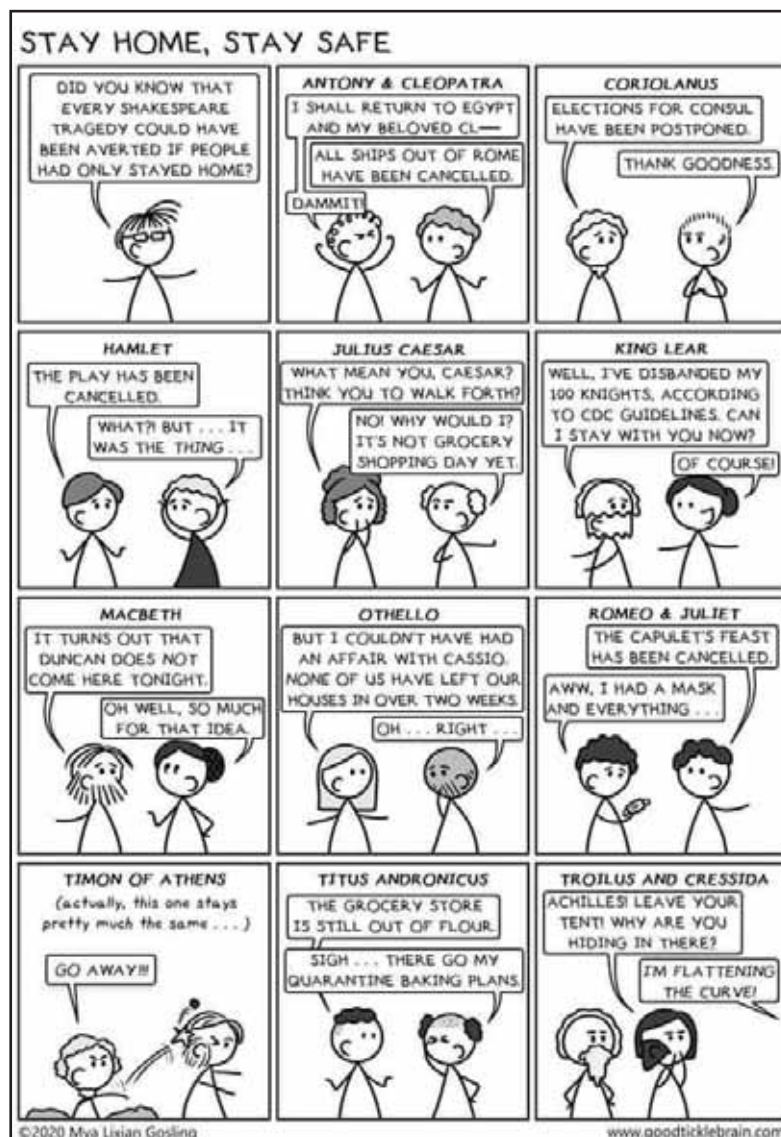
Wishing the entire Amberley community good health at this difficult time.

**Jon Gilbert**  
Head Teacher

### Could do better...

"It would seem Briers thinks he is running the school and not me. If this attitude persists one of us will have to go."

*Headmaster's report on the late Richard Briers, actor, while a pupil at Rokeby School, Wimbledon*



### Lockdown

Here are we full of care

To leave our house

We do not dare

Who would have thought

A Virus rare

Would give us time

To stand and stare.

**John Kemp**



## CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 EMERGENCY NEWS

### Online library service

Struggling with self-isolation? In need of a good read? The West Sussex Library Service is inviting residents to join them online.

Anyone who is currently not a member of their local library, can join for free at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/elibrary](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/elibrary).

Once a welcome e-mail has been received, you will have access to the e-library service, where there is an extended range of downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, comics and newspapers.

Newspapers and magazines are free to download and there is no limit on the number that can be downloaded at one time.

The library team is also investing in hundreds of extra e-book titles for adults and children, which are being added daily.

Duncan Crow, WSCC cabinet member for Fire and Rescue and Communities, says: "The library service has put in a lot of time and effort to make sure that people's ability to read is not negatively impacted whilst libraries are temporarily closed. It has seen an increase in the number of people signing up to their online services, which means that more residents are able to access e-books, newspapers and audiobooks.

"Knowing their users well, they also took the decision to establish a virtual reading group on Facebook. You don't have to be a member to join in the conversation and you'll be able to have conversations with like-minded individuals.

"We are all spending much more time at home at the moment, but you can put that time to good use – why not try reading that book you've always wanted to, or try a completely new genre. We're here to help you pass the time by as quickly as possible."

Alongside things to read, the online library service has temporary access to 'Find My Past' where residents can trace their family history, and free online learning courses to build professional skills or carry on studying.

The team are also looking at innovative ways to have interactive rhyme time and knit-and-natter sessions soon.

Follow the West Sussex Library Service on Facebook (@WestSussexLibraries) or Twitter (@WSCCLibraries) to get the most up-to-date information or you can join the West Sussex Library Service e-newsletter by visiting [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk) and searching for 'e-mail alerts'.

### Lockdown extended

The Government's current lockdown has been extended until May 7, when another review will take place.



Books, audio books, newspapers and comics are all available online

### Use of face masks

There is very little evidence of widespread benefit from the use of face masks outside of the clinical or care settings, where they play a very important role. To be effective, face masks must be worn correctly, changed frequently, removed properly, disposed of safely and used in combination with good universal hygiene behaviour.

Research shows that compliance with these recommended behaviours reduces over time when wearing face masks for prolonged periods, such as in the community. Therefore, Public Health England does not advise masks in public places and for those working in supermarkets, waste collection, schools and similar settings.

PHE recommends that employers should ensure that:

- Spaces in the workplace are optimised to allow social distancing to occur, wherever possible
- Signs are visible in the workplace reminding employees not to attend work if they have a fever or cough and to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Employees are provided with hand sanitiser for frequent use and regular breaks to allow them to wash their hands for 20 seconds

If the UK government advice on the wearing of masks by the general public changes, after the magazine has gone to the printers updated advice will be publicised on Listserve and by the volunteers of the Neighbourhood Helpline.

### Chinese lantern warning

We understand that in some parts of the country, in order to mark the five minutes applause for key workers, Chinese Lanterns have been launched. As you may know, these are held aloft by an internal candle or similar device. Although we doubt that anyone here would risk so doing, residents are urged not to launch Chinese lanterns as part of the Thursday evening applause for the NHS and all those caring for us. Chinese lanterns pose not only a threat to livestock, but also to the many thatched roofs in the village.

*Issued on behalf of Amberley Parish Council*

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9.00am-1.00pm	<b>www.willmers.com</b>	

## AMBERLEY OIL SYNDICATE



Syndicate members can claim their **FREE** oil  
voucher, worth £25, which can be deducted  
from their next boiler service or emergency  
call-out.

Vouchers are available from:

Chris Hough on 01798 839 040 or e-mail  
[chris@michaelmas.org.uk](mailto:chris@michaelmas.org.uk)

For enquiries about prices, contact:

Mike Clenshaw on 01798 872 371 or e-mail  
[amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com](mailto:amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com)

# AMBERLEY CARS

## Private hire taxi



Mercedes E Class Estate

Locally-based lady driver

All major airports ● Long distance journeys no problem

**07939 263 495**

E-mail: [camillanash@yahoo.com](mailto:camillanash@yahoo.com)

# Useful Information for the Ambulance Service

Complete and take this form with you should you need to go to hospital

## Personal Information

Full name

Address house no/name

Address street

Address postcode

Home phone

Mobile number

Home email address

Date of birth

NHS number

Your doctor name

Doctor surgery address

Donor card (y/n)

Extremely vulnerable? (y/n)

Living will (y/n)

If yes, keep with this form

## Medication

Do you take medicine for (Y/N) -

Asthma

Diabetes

Epilepsy

Anti-coagulants

Heart problems

Other



## Useful Information for the Ambulance Service

### Carer / Health Visitor Information

Name

Organisation

Address

I look after the following person who will need someone else to care for them

I have the following dependent children

I have the following pet(s) that need looking after

Emergency person contact details

First

Second

Name

Contact telephone no.

Address

# The Amberley Welfare Trust

Registered Charity 284329

## Help is available towards the cost of food shopping

### Do you need support?

If your household income has fallen significantly as a result of the restrictions arising from the Covid-19 epidemic and because of this you are facing difficulties with everyday expenses, the Amberley Welfare Trust would want to and might be able to help. There are village funds available to help support you and your family. Your names and details of your case will be kept strictly confidential.



As well as existing arrangements for grant aid from the Amberley Welfare Trust a discreet system is being set up with Amberley Village Stores to help those experiencing difficulties affording their food shopping bills in the present situation. (Does not include cigarettes or alcohol).

If you are in this position please talk in confidence to Grahame Joseph or the Revd Gerry Burgess.

### Would you like to contribute?

Many have already asked how they can help locally with donations. If you wish to make anonymous donations to help those in and around Amberley who are facing difficulties affording their weekly shop, then payments can be made direct through internet banking (BACS payments) to: The Amberley Welfare Trust:

Sort Code: 40 43 51

Account Number: 91020056

A JustGiving account is in the process of being set up and we will advise when it is live.

Unfortunately, we are not registered for Gift Aid.

Details of donations will be kept confidential.

### Contact

Grahame Joseph, Chairman of Amberley Welfare Trust: [grahamejoseph@gmail.com](mailto:grahamejoseph@gmail.com) (01798 831340);

The Revd Gerry Burgess, Trustee of Amberley Welfare Trust, [revdgergyburgess@gmail.com](mailto:revdgergyburgess@gmail.com) (01798 831600)

## About The Amberley Welfare Trust

The Amberley Welfare Trust has been in existence for 38 years and owns the Old Forge Surgery in the Square (pictured right). This facility has over the years been used by visiting doctors, health and welfare practitioners and for other village purposes, such as the Parish Council surgery meetings and village archives.



The Trust makes grants to eligible individuals and local bodies. Recent funding has been provided towards such things as mobility equipment, physiotherapy, hydro-therapy, equine therapy for children, hospital car parking, computer software for special needs at the school, and financial support to AGNES. It also loans mobility aids for short-term use by residents.

**From the Trustees: Grahame Joseph, Revd Gerry Burgess, Geoff Uren and Jason Charman**



### B2139 bliss!

The junction at School Road, Amberley, looking East and West mid-afternoon, completely traffic-free





## Welcome...

To **Mike Ravenscroft** and **Emma Cathcart** who have moved into River Chalet at Houghton Bridge. And to **Jack** and **Stephanie Campbell**, who have taken up residence in Castle Garden Cottages, Amberley. Jack is the newly appointed estate manager for Nyetimber.

## Congratulations...

To **Jack Challis**, of Rosemary Cottage, Houghton Bridge, who celebrates his 12th birthday on May 6.

## Stay in touch...

For those that are not familiar with Amberley Listserve, it enables registered users within the parish to receive messages simultaneously. It is an immediate and widespread way of communication, particularly useful at this time of lockdown. Whether to seek advice, to share information, participate in the daily Pandemic Puzzle or to dispose of some unwanted item, it is a must if you want to stay in touch with your friends and neighbours in the four parishes.

Set up ten years ago by Steve Kennett, the service is free

of charge and merely requires those who would like to participate to send him their name, address, phone number and e-mail address to [steve@profact.co.uk](mailto:steve@profact.co.uk). He will respond with brief notes on how best to use the service, which is simple and straightforward.

## No bonfires, please...

During the current Coronavirus outbreak Horsham District Council has received many reports and complaints that some residents are burning general waste and garden waste at their properties.

Smoke and smells from bonfires can aggravate respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis and affect those with heart complaints.

It is asking residents not to burn garden waste, or any other waste, under any circumstances and be mindful of neighbours and fellow community members.

"Either compost garden waste, keep it in a safe place, or put it into your brown-topped garden waste bin, as the Council's garden waste service is currently operating as normal," says an HDC spokesperson.



Amberley was at the centre of a huge online folk festival on Easter Bank Holiday Monday. Local resident and broadcaster Matthew Bannister (pictured) hosted the Folk on Foot Front Room Festival from the Mile House in Rackham Road, with viewers tuning in on YouTube and Facebook from all over the world. 15 of the UK's top folk artists, including Seth Lakeman, Karine Polwart, Steve Knightley, Peggy Seeger and Julie Fowlis, performed 30 minute sets in their front rooms to raise money for musicians who can't work during the coronavirus lockdown. The seven and a half hour event had over 40,000 views on YouTube and thousands more on Facebook and raised over £95,000 in donations. At one time it was trending on Twitter. During the show, Matthew paid tribute to Amberley's wonderful sense of community in these difficult times, thanking Colin, Lee and Tina at the Amberley Stores and Lee and Sophie at the Sportsman Inn for the amazing work they've been doing to keep us all fed and supplied. The seven and a half hour broadcast is still available to watch – just search YouTube.com for "Front Room Festival" – or if you prefer a shorter (only two hours!) audio version you'll find that at [folkonfoot.com](http://folkonfoot.com) or on your podcast app.





Dear Parishioners,

We are now in week 4 of the “lockdown” due to the Covid-19 pandemic. So far, there does not seem to be an exit strategy from this, and yesterday the Government announced that the lockdown is to continue for at least the next three weeks until 7 May. So far, we have had 25 local residents who have reported symptoms, and happily all now appear to be recovered. However, good news though this is, it does mean that, as a community, we don’t have much “Community Immunity”, so it remains even more important to follow government advice.

Because we do not have a testing service in place, numbers are always going to be difficult to establish, but if you, or anyone in your household has experienced the type of symptoms typical of Covid-19, please register with the Hub (details below). Symptoms may include a temperature and a new, persistent cough, possibly also loss of sense of taste or smell. In this way, we can get a better picture of where we are as a community in dealing with this virus.

Government advice remains the same:

- Most important is “social distancing”, which means only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Do not meet others, even friends or family
- You can spread the virus even if you don’t have symptoms.

Of course, in a normally sociable village like Amberley, observing the social distancing rules is tough. Although it is hard to follow the guidance, it is essential if we are going to beat this virus that we all comply with the government advice. If we do, the sooner we can get back to work, enjoy our Summer and freely mix with friends and family again.

If you are aware that people are *continuously* breaking the guidelines and, as a direct result, are putting others at risk, you should contact the police online at [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk) which gives information on the stay-at-home measures, or you can report a possible breach of coronavirus measures.

If you are experiencing difficulties of any kind due to the Government regulations relating to Coronavirus you can contact the **Amberley Covid-19 Help Hub** (details below). You can also contact me or any member of the Parish Council, and we will be happy to advise.

### LOCAL BUSINESS UPDATE

The Black Horse and The Bridge Inn pubs are shut but the Sportsman is offering home deliveries on three days a week. The Riverside Tea Room is also closed but Amberley Village Tea Rooms are taking orders and doing deliveries. Amberley Stores is now offering a delivery-only service (see overleaf), Amberley Museum is closed, as is the school.

### AMBERLEY Covid-19 HELP HUB

The volunteers manning this Hub, which is available 24 hours, 7 days a week, are there for you to report any cases of suspected Covid-19 in your household (in confidence, of course), or to offer guidance, advice and support on any issues such as shopping, pharmacies, etc. The Hub can be contacted on **07484 157 156**.

*continued from previous page*

## **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

For the latest information, advice and guidance relating to Coronavirus for residents and businesses offered by WSCC visit: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/)

## **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL**

For up-to-date information on the services run by Horsham District Council, visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/)

## **OTHER HELP IS AVAILABLE**

This may be a lonely, difficult and anxious time for you. Don't stay isolated: phone a friend or neighbour for a chat. If you wish you can contact **Revd Gerry Burgess** on **01798 831 600**, leaving a message if necessary. In urgent situations feel free to do this at any time and Gerry will respond as soon as possible.

## **AMBERLEY WELFARE TRUST**

Because of the confidential nature of most of the Trust's work, many residents may not be aware of the Amberley Welfare Trust. The Trust is there to help, particularly in these challenging times. The Welfare Trust serves the Parish of Amberley and nearby areas. The charity's primary function is collectively helping residents, particularly in regard to the relief of sickness and also with the preservation of health, and in cases of hardship. If you know of anyone in need or if you want to discuss any issues or ideas you may have, please do contact the Welfare Trust chairman, Grahame Joseph ([grahamejoseph@gmail.com](mailto:grahamejoseph@gmail.com)) or on **07739 763 883 / 01798 831 340**. Alternatively, contact the **Revd Gerry Burgess** on **01798 831 600**.

## **AMBERLEY VILLAGE STORES**

Amberley Village Stores is now operating as a home delivery service. For further information visit their website: [www.amberleystores.co.uk](http://www.amberleystores.co.uk) or phone **01798 831 171**. The Post Office is providing an appointment-only service (15-minute slots per person); phone to reserve a time slot.

## **AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

The new rules on staying at home and away from others also has an impact on the Parish Council. Consequently, we cannot hold full council or committee meetings at the present time. We understand that the government is currently working on legislation that will allow council meetings to be held remotely and to make decisions without the need for physically meeting. In the meantime, councillors are in constant touch by e-mail and telephone and will continue to provide you with information relevant to current issues. We are planning to hold our next meeting in May by video-conference, using software called Zoom. The Council is negotiating a special discounted rate for this, and we will be trialling it soon. The intention is that members of the public can also join the video-conference, and we will provide details of how this is going to work nearer the time.

Once again, a huge vote of thanks to our volunteer force who are helping enormously to relieve our more vulnerable residents of the worry of obtaining everyday necessities, and for providing a friendly voice to those who might otherwise feel rather lonely at home.

Keep well, keep safe and, above all, please ask for help if you need it. For further information contact the Parish Clerk, Vicky Spiers, at: [clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk)

These communications can also be found on our website: [www.amberley-pc.org.uk](http://www.amberley-pc.org.uk)

We will get through this!

**Geoff Uren**  
**Amberley Parish Council**

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES**

## AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

# What your councillors discussed



### Highlights of the meeting held on March 12, 2020, in St Michael's Church Hall

**Present:** Geoff Uren (chairman), Peter Cozens, Hazel Allinson, Leigh Cresswell and Tim Simpson. Also in attendance: Vicky Spiers (parish clerk), Alex Beveridge (prospective councillor) and 16 members of the public.

A parish contingency plan for the Coronavirus emergency, a request for a more formal link between the parish council and the recently established Amberley Climate Network, a proposed weight limit for heavy goods vehicles using the B2139 and updates on the planned village car park and the new housing development at Strawberry Villas were among the topics discussed by councillors at a well attended meeting

First, there was a unanimous vote to co-opt Alex Beveridge, of High Titten, to fill the vacancy for a councillor.

Richard Robinson then spoke about a contingency plan for Amberley for the coronavirus. It was noted that Hazel Allinson and Jenny Toynbee, representing the Amberley Good Neighbours Emergency Service (AGNES) had identified households with vulnerable or elderly residents who might need extra support. Lee Stace, from Amberley Village Stores, had ordered hand sanitizer and a dispenser to go outside of the shop; the school had been contacted and Ray Jackson, chair of the governors, confirmed they were taking advice from the Department of Education. Philip Greenwood had e-mailed all the volunteer drivers of the minibus for their views on continuing with the scheduled timetable; and Jenny Robinson had spoken to the three local pubs regarding their plans. The shop and AGNES were going to work together on a leaflet which would be delivered to every household in the parish. A list of volunteers was being drawn up and Jenny Toynbee would co-ordinate an action plan. The parish council offered support in whatever way it could.

Sue Belgrave, who had established a climate change group in Amberley in July 2019 asked that a member of the parish council became attached to the climate group so there is a more formal link, whether APC was supporting the group's initiatives and that there was an agenda item for climate initiatives etc for every PC meeting to maintain the momentum. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Hazel Allinson would act as the APC liaison with the Amberley Climate Network. Alex Beveridge and the chairman also offered their support.

It was agreed that APC would add links and information on its website to support the group

that a committee report of the climate change group would be added to the agenda for each meeting of the council. A

separate agenda item could be added if there is a specific issue or topic.

Separately, it was noted that Horsham District Council's refuse workers were looking in recycling bins and would not empty them if contaminated with non-recyclable contents.

Mr Uren reported that Karen Davis, from Bury Parish Council, had asked whether there was scope for cooperation by the two councils on a project for a foot-crossing where the ferry once operated at Bury. This would link the two villages with a direct footpath.

Part of the funding for this would come from a village lottery that Bury was hoping to set up, whereby the proceeds would be divided in equal proportions between the churches in the Arun Benefice, Bury Village School and community projects. The chairman said this was something that perhaps Amberley could also look at setting up. There was a further suggestion of a combined village social event for Bury and Amberley.

Lee Stace pointed out that the footbridge further down the river was originally intended to be located by the ferryman's crossing but had been moved so it linked up with the South Downs Way, replacing the previous route which required walking along the busy B2139 through Houghton and over Houghton Bridge.

Concern was expressed about the length of Horsham District Council's lease for the proposed village car park. It was felt that its five-year validity would not justify the considerable expense in providing the car park at the corner of School Road and the B2139 and that it should be extended. After some discussion, it was agreed to ask for a minimum period of seven years, renewable thereafter if HDC failed to get planning permission to build houses on the site.

Tim Simpson said that the Neighbourhood Plan delivery team meanwhile was focusing on securing funding for the car park. A sum of £75,000 had been applied for from the SDNPA Strategic Infrastructure fund, the outcome of which should be known by April/May.

An application for £75,000 has also been made to the government's Rural Development Programme for Tourism, a fund specifically targeted at tourism infrastructure and facilities. Mr Simpson said the 'expression of interest' form had been accepted, and a full application now needed to be completed and would require support from local businesses.

The Strawberry Villas housing development had been approved and would provide Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding estimated to be around £45,000. Construction work on the new houses was expected to start around August/September.

In response to an appeal by the chairman for volunteers with fundraising experience, Jeff Feakins, who played a key role in the St Michael's Church Tower Appeal, offered to help.

Geoff Uren reported on a meeting which he had attended with parish councillor Laura Rawnsley together with Charles





Shaw, chair of the Houghton Parish Meeting, with West Sussex County Council's leader, Paul Marshall, along with its Highways & Transport director, and Traffic officer, to discuss the B2139 through Houghton and Amberley. Regrettably, a suggested footpath through Houghton to the railway station was not possible as the road was too narrow. However, it was agreed that a Traffic Restriction Order for the B2139 from Whiteways to Storrington to exclude any vehicle over 7.5 tonnes would be applied for jointly by APC and the Houghton Parish Meeting. Mr Marshall said he would also discuss its enforcement with Katy Bourne, the Police and Crime Commissioner. A resident pointed out that this could affect the heating oil tankers and agricultural vehicles which need access.

The parish clerk confirmed that a proposed community highways scheme for Rackham Road had been submitted to WSCC but were awaiting a police assessment on its suitability for a Community Speedwatch group. Other locations in Houghton and Amberley had already been agreed and volunteers recruited in Houghton. Steve and Cyndy Kennett also volunteered. The Speedwatch equipment had been purchased and it had been agreed to share it with Houghton.

Among the planning applications, an objection by the parish council to the erection of a single storey side extension and a link to a summer room at 4 Drewitts Farm had been over-ruled by SDNPA. APC had argued that the Drewitts Farm development had a complex planning history with many proposals and refusals resulting in an approval that was considered to be the maximum development for the site. For this reason, all permitted development rights had been withdrawn "in the interests of visual amenity". Extensions were specifically mentioned and the parish council saw no compelling reason why this view should be changed. Furthermore, at least part of the proposed extension extended beyond the settlement boundary designated in the Amberley Neighbourhood Plan and was a further indication of over-development. There was also an issue with several roof lights, which were problematic in respect of the South Downs Dark Skies Policy. Despite APC's objections, the application had been approved by the planning authority.

As previously referred, the resubmitted application for the development of 14 new residential dwellings at Strawberry Villas (off Turnpike Road) had been approved. The parish council had supported the provision of housing at a discounted market rate but was opposed to a shared equity solution managed by a housing association as there was no identifiable need.

It had also objected to an application by the owners of Crossgates House for the demolition of an existing single single storey extension to the west of the main house,



**The foot-bridge built for the South Downs Way at Amberley**

porch and rear lean-to, and the construction of a two-storey extension, together with replacement roof to double garage and replacement decked area to the rear. Its grounds for objection were that the mass of the proposed extension was too large for the site, which overlooks the Wildbrooks, and would make the building too prominent. The extent of the glazing proposed was also excessive and was likely to contravene the SDNPA's Dark Skies policy as well as further increasing the prominence of the building as seen from the Wildbrooks. For similar reasons, the extension of the decking was discouraged by the Parish of Amberley Design Statement (PADS) and should therefore be resisted.

The parish council also had some ongoing concerns with the third application for the redevelopment of Pickwick, on Turnpike Road, for up to nine dwellings. The plot was not a designated site in the Amberley Neighbourhood Plan and, despite being within the settlement boundary, the scale of the development proposed disqualified it from meeting the criteria for a windfall site. Also, taking into account the recently approved development at Strawberry Villas and other new building within the village at Drewitts Farm, the requirement for new dwellings assessed under the neighbourhood planning process had already been met. There would also be no direct access to the village without walking along the main road and there was no easy access to the Millennium Green

The chairman, together with Grahame Joseph, chairman of the Amberley Society, had attended a viticulture workshop run by wine industry consultants advising the SDNPA on the formulation of a policy regarding wine production. Mr Uren had raised concerns over the lack of communication between some of the large wine producers and local communities, and buying up farms and then not utilising all the available land, leading to a loss of productivity. A further concern

raised at the workshop was that wine production did not contribute jobs to the local economy, and financial trickle-down was not apparent in local communities. It was agreed that the parish council would invite a representative of Nyetimber to another of its meetings.

**Date of the next meeting:** scheduled for May 14 at 7.30pm, to be conducted via video-conference. Members of the public will be able to log-in to listen to the discussion but will not have an opportunity to speak. Questions, however, can be submitted to the parish clerk prior to the meeting.



**Drewitts Farm development: 20 years on, still not finished and still causing problems**



## Parham Parish Council

**Highlights of the meeting held on March 10, 2020, in the Old School, Rackham**

**Present:** Heather Cartwright (acting chair), Will Rydon and Nigel Dean. Also in attendance: Horsham district councillor Diana van der Klugt and Vicky Spiers (parish clerk).

It was announced that Tim Hayward, the parish council chairman, would be withdrawing from meetings for four to six months following illness, and that Heather Cartwright would be acting chair in the interim. Councillors all wished him a speedy recovery.

There were also apologies for absence from Catherine Dugdale, Paul Slimming, Claudia Fisher, Horsham district councillors Brian Donnelly and Paul Clarke, and West Sussex county councillor Paul Marshall.

Advice on improvements to the footpath from Wiggonholt to Greatham Lane had been received from WSCC's public rights of way team and the parish council was awaiting details from the adjacent landowner about who also used the footpath. In the event of the scheme not going ahead, councillors agreed to the use of the £4,612-worth of infrastructure funding available by reverting to a back-up plan for the installation of two kissing gates along the Wey-South footpath.

They also agreed to a resident's request that the agenda for parish council meetings should in future be posted in advance on Listserve.

Councillors were advised that a large pothole along Greatham Road had been repaired and that work on an information sheet on climate change was in hand.

Diana van der Klugt reported that Horsham District Council was updating its annual plan, which will cover from 2019 to 2036, with public consultation closing on March 30. She also drew attention to the fact that March 31 was the tenth anniversary of the creation of the South Downs National Park Authority.

On planning matters, an appeal against a refusal to grant permission for the conversion and extension of an existing timber-framed barn and outbuildings at the Granary, Greatham, to form a 4-bedroom dwelling and a three-bedroom guest accommodation had been dismissed by the South Downs National Park Authority.

It was agreed that requests for donations from the Air Ambulance, AGE UK Horsham District and the Citizens Advice Bureau should be carried over to the next meeting for review as the 2019-20 donation budget had been allocated. A total of £150 had been budgeted for donations in the new financial year.

**Date of the next meeting:** the Annual Parish meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting, scheduled for May 12, have been cancelled.

### Life in the Time of Coronavirus

"What did you do during lock down, Dad?"

"I saved the NHS, my lad."

"How did you save the NHS,

"Did you get them out of a terrible mess?"

"I simply stayed at home, my son,

"As the government instructed everyone."

"You must have gone to the pub for a beer.

"I know the Bridge is very near."

"The pubs were shut, the churches too.

"There really was nothing at all to do."

"Perhaps you met some friends for a chat?"

"Certainly not, there was none of that.

"Life was actually an endless drag,

"Hence I wrote this poem for the Parish Mag".

**James Tolson**

## Celebrating VE Day – the end of World War II in Europe

VE Day (Victory in Europe) – was celebrated 75 years ago this month, on 8th May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe. It was marked with a public holiday.

The previous day the formal act of military surrender had been signed by Germany, and celebrations broke out when the news was released. Big crowds gathered in London, impromptu parties were held throughout the country, and people danced and sang in the streets. King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and Churchill made a speech to huge applause. The two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret mingled with the crowds outside.

Many went into churches to give thanks – and to pray for those still involved in the war in the Far East, because the real end of the war, Victory over Japan, would not happen until 15th August. At St Paul's Cathedral there were ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each attended by thousands of people.

The celebrations masked the fact that so many had lost family and friends, as well as possessions and homes. But for the moment normal social conventions broke down, strangers embraced, and love was in the air.

- There will be an online service on Sunday, May 10.

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## AMBERLEY CLIMATE NETWORK

# Heat pumps and climate uncertainty in uncertain times

## Fraser Wheeler discusses the installation of an air source heating system and the impact of Covid-19 on the wider issue of climate change

I was asked to produce an article about our air source heat pump, which we use both to heat our home and provide hot water. Why do heat pumps matter? First it does what it says on the tin, and so our house is toasty warm in winter, and the showers are piping hot. The pump is powered by renewable energy, which we source from an outside supplier – the UK Climate Change Committee sees heat pumps playing a critical role in the UK meeting its carbon neutrality ambition by 2050, given that heating and hot water for our buildings make up 40 per cent of this country's energy consumption.

So it merits some attention, not least in a community largely dependent on oil for heat. I will return to the heat pump, but for topicality I thought it might also be interesting to look at how the challenge of Covid-19 relates to that of climate change, with which the heat pump is linked.

We had plenty of warning about the seriousness of 'virus', with experiences like Sars and Ebola in recent years. Bill Gates commented five years ago that the next global catastrophe would be caused by a virus not a war: "not missiles but microbes".

As a world we were dangerously under-prepared, with little investment in a system to stop a pandemic. With Covid-19, we have witnessed vividly that borders are no barrier to pathogens, and as a result the speed of infection has been fast, resulting in many deaths. We have also been shocked by the speed with which it has brought the world economy to its knees. It would have been thought absurd to most people a few weeks ago that a collection of lipids, proteins and ribonucleic acids could unleash such massive disruption. It is a first taste for most of us what it might be like to live without much that we take for granted.

Climate change is another catastrophe waiting to happen if not addressed, and again we have had plenty of warning through consistently strong scientific evidence. If we do not stop burning fossil fuels by the middle of this century it will be a world that offers even less than what we take for granted.

But it may not, unlike Covid-19, come as a spectacular shock, and therein lies the danger: people tend to respond far less strongly to a creeping threat than to an immediate one like Covid-19, even though the consequences would be worse (not least because once we reach a climate change tipping point there is no vaccine-type solution to come to the rescue).

So can we draw any lessons from the virus that we can deploy towards mitigating climate change? Perhaps the first is that experts and science matter, both of which have faced scepticism on climate change. Covid-19 has exposed the danger of such thinking. The lethal disregard of Covid-19 for borders underscores global interdependence, and the need for international solutions, critical for a climate solution. The exploitation of nature seems to be at the heart of the virus, which mirrors the link between bio-diversity and climate.

Experience of far lower levels of pollution from the effects of the virus, lends itself to greater public pressure for low carbon economics. The virus has also demonstrated that

governments have far more capacity to get things done than might have been expected, for example by designing and implementing a raft of policies that were judged un-thinkable a few weeks ago. And evolving values and behaviour stemming from the virus may influence public perceptions on climate.

There will inevitably be political flies in the ointment and the plummeting oil price doesn't help, but it will be important that economic stimulus packages

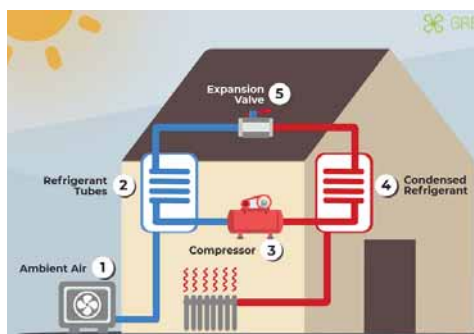
stemming from the virus are shaped by the climate change threat and the enormous low carbon economic opportunity: business as usual is not an option.

So, back to the air source heat pump! How does it work? In short the pump absorbs heat from the outside air into a liquid, then compresses it to increase the temperature, then condenses it back into a liquid to release stored heat and transfer to heating and hot water circuits. In effect, the opposite of a refrigerator.

It depends on good insulation within the house – our old gabled roofs leaked heat badly and we had to rectify that (our energy performance rating for the house, increased from F to D, pretty good for an old building). The running costs are low, and the system is quiet and efficient.

The pump itself is a bit bigger than an air-conditioner and sits outside, working both through radiators and under floor heating. There is public subsidy available for the cost and installation of the pump (£11,000 including hot water cylinder and 11 radiators) through the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), and I am pleased to say that Ofgem have now agreed to reimburse us for most of it over seven years.

There are a small but growing number of people in Amberley that have heat pumps, and to my knowledge they are well satisfied. May not be for everyone, and there are up front costs to meet, but we will all need to move away from oil for heating, so why not get ahead of the curve?



How it works (diagram courtesy of GreenMatch)



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## Entertaining ideas

**Lucy Affleck (nee Feakins), who grew up in Amberley, shares some creative ideas on keeping her children, aged 7, 5 and 3 occupied during the lockdown**

If someone had told me a few months ago that I would be 'home-schooling' my three children – and not just for a week or so, but for the foreseeable future – I would have laughed. Laughed at such a ridiculous thought, followed by a nervous giggle while thinking "how the hell would I do that?"

With lots of help it turns out.

While these are certainly very difficult and challenging times, there are a huge number of resources out there to help educate and entertain children. Here are a few of my favourites.

### Education

As well as each school providing parents with some level of support, we have found [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) to be a never ending resource of educational games, worksheets, videos, craft ideas and lessons. The work is separated by year-group and the site even offers a suggested school day schedule for each different age group.

**Oxford Owl** is another great site focusing on reading and literacy. They have advice and support for parents, education activities and games, a free eBook library for 3 to 11-year-olds, as well as new features such as Author Storytime, Author Challenge and Author Drawalong, with new content being added every week.

**BBC Bitesize** – we haven't actually used this site yet, but there has been lots of hype about its launch on April 20, where it will be publishing daily online lessons and a new dedicated TV channel full of learning content, podcasts and educational videos.

A few others to look at include [www.busythings.co.uk](http://www.busythings.co.uk), [www.kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk](http://www.kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk) and, as an alternative, [www.whiteroommaths.com](http://www.whiteroommaths.com)

### Art

Where do I start? There are so many fantastic options out there for arty kids. From full hour-long art lessons (my son loves [www.artroombrighton.co.uk](http://www.artroombrighton.co.uk) for Seb's daily lessons) to bite-size art and craft ideas.

Emma Scottchild runs the **Ladyland Art Club** and wrote the book *Quick Crafts for Parents who think they Hate Craft*. As well as the book, she now runs a craft session on her Instagram stories at 2pm on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The activities are easy to follow, fun and generally can be done utilising household items.

If drawing is more your thing, then check out [www.edvere.com](http://www.edvere.com) and his 'drawing with Ed Vere' series. Simple, cartoon-style drawings that older children should be able to complete independently.



**Fun with the children: Lucy, pictured here with Otis (3), Barney (7) and Juno(5) before lockdown**

Rob Biddulph is another great illustrator offering **#draw-withrob**, a series of online lessons where kids can learn to sketch and colour crazy cartoon characters in simple step-by-step video tutorials. Check out his instagram page for info or catch it on CBBC.

### Exercise

Man of the Moment award has to go to Joe Wicks, offering daily PE classes at 9am live, streamed through his YouTube channel. Anyone who is not aware of this must have been living under a rock for the past three weeks!

But, if like in our household, Joe works for the eldest child, not perhaps the younger ones, then have a look at Cosmic Yoga on YouTube. Yoga, dance and storytelling fused to keep the interest of younger children, or those looking for a slightly slower paced option.

There is also a plethora of dance classes available, from ballet to hip-hop, ballroom to tap. A great place to start is with *Strictly Come Dancing's* Oti Mabuse. Her kids' dance classes are being streamed to her Facebook, Instagram and YouTube accounts at 11.30am each day and the classes are saved on her YouTube page after the live stream.

Footballers, Olympic gymnasts, tennis players, you name it, you can find a professional sportsperson of your chosen sport offering some sort of online activity. Just head to Google and start searching.

### Exploring

We might not be able to take the kids out to explore, but technology has really upped its game to allow them to explore the world via a screen while we are all stuck inside.

My three-year-old loves the live streams of animal enclosures in zoos and aquariums around the world. We particularly like the San Diego Zoo, but there are so many out there so take your pick. We have also spent a lot of time playing with the new 3D animal feature on Google, meaning you can bring 3D visualisations of animals into your house. Just search Lion on Google, scroll down the page until you see the 'view in 3D option'.

*continued overleaf*



**Fun with illustrator Rob Biddulph: #drawwithrob***continued from previous page*

**Google Earth** has virtual tours to some of the most exotic places, including Life In the Ocean Deep, Colourful Street Festivals and Carnivals, and International Year of the Reef.

**Google Earth's Voyager** keeps my eldest son entertained. It's a showcase of interactive guided tours, quizzes and layers about the world and some of the craziest destinations (recommended for older children only).

## Instagram

I would say that about 50 per cent of everything we have tried in our house has come from Instagram

We love ENTERTAININGLITTLEONES, an Early Years teacher and mummy to a 5 and 3-year-old who offers daily ideas and inspiration for how to entertain little ones at home

Check out GEMSWHOLESOMEKITCHEN for Breakfast Club video recipes and mood-boosting cooking workshops. Super healthy, easy to follow recipes that kids will love.

## Stories, puzzles & video-conferencing

There is a great app called Together which you can use especially with grandparents. It is a video-calling app specifically designed for children to interact with grandparents or family member/friend remotely. The app offers playful and educational activities or just reading stories together with video-calling. Also just the thing if, as a parent, you want a quick half-hour break! See TOGETHER FAMILY VIDEO CHAT

## Stories

Some fantastic authors have started releasing free audio stories for kids. Try David Walliams **#audioelevenes** but if this doesn't take your fancy just search 'Audible' for something that does.

Oh, and don't forget about TV. While I think everyone agrees that kids binge watching eight hours of TV a day is not the goal, everyone should also be realistic about families needing to lean on screen time a little more. Plus, anything narrated by David Attenborough is 'educational' in my book!

## And from a grandparent's perspective

**Sandie Conlon sets the scene: parents needing to work from home; schools and nurseries closed and then school holidays over Easter; two families, each with a 6 and a 3-year-old**

Being young 'work-at-home' parents and simultaneously looking after a 6 and a 3-year-old throughout the day during the 'lockdown' period can be super demanding.

So to help out, as well as giving our own days further structure, we have been spending an hour per weekday on Skype with the older child of each family.

This allows the parents to look after the younger child while the older one is gainfully diverted and they can engage uninterrupted with their home working or even grab a bit of time for themselves!

Also we have recruited their other set of grandparents to do similar, so we now do mornings and they do afternoons.

Initially, we set off with some ideas of what we could jointly do together but, as things do, ideas grew and developed and one thing leads to another. Some examples :

**Skype is godsend for grandparents**

- Reading an agreed book. This is usually a regular part of every session – one 6-year-old is reading *The Secret Garden* and the other is going through Roald Dahl books at a rate of knots. We and they have the same books and so we can share the reading – they read one or two pages and, in turn, we do the same and reflect on and discuss the contents as we go along.

- Another part of the hour is spent having a good chat about who did what the day before and life in general.

- Making up knock-knock jokes is another activity and it is amazing what the little ones come up with. Sometimes they create these as an evening task and tell us what they've thought up when we Skype the following day.

- Making up and writing one page short stories is another evening task and they then have the passage e-mailed to us and they read it out on Skype the following day

- 'What' questions also encourage plenty of discussion and fun – we ask them and they ask us. For example:

1. What do you think bears think about when they hibernate?
2. What if all the oceans dried up?
3. What if no one needed to go to sleep?
4. What would you like to be called if you changed your name?

And so on! And so on!

## Snack boxes

This is an idea which “working at home” parents with little ones to look after might find useful. Throughout the day these ever busy and energetic little people have their regular meal times but often, not unnaturally, ask in between times for the odd “snack”.

One successful way to reduce some of the needs to interrupt parental “work” sessions /work phone conversations is to introduce individual and personalised snack boxes.

The tinies decorate their own containers, such as recycled and washable ice cream boxes, with their own motifs and names.

Each morning parents put a fresh selection of little nibbles into the boxes to suit the tastes and fancies of each child. Examples include healthy options such as sultanas or raisins, an apple, few bits of chocolate, healthy oat biscuits, a small carton of juice. And if it's something which should be kept in a fridge they have an appropriately marked paper voucher/s in the box. This might have a drawing of a carrot or a mouse with cheese.

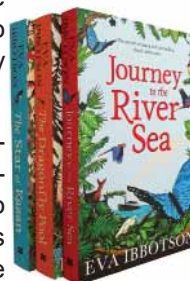
The children know where the snack boxes are kept and can help themselves, but if they would like a carrot perhaps, they give mum or dad the voucher who in turn go to the fridge and get them their ready prepared fresh carrot.

The little ones understand the system and enjoy having the independence – and, to date, have not woofed the lot in one go!

## A good read

**While in lockdown, Holly Lambert, aged 10 and a pupil at Amberley Primary School, has been doing a lot of reading. Here are some of her recommendations for younger readers**

Being a Jacqueline Wilson fan, I have read lots of her books, but I was also reading *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson.



It's a really good book set in the Amazon rainforest. The main character is orphan Maia who is sent from England to live with her cousins and their parents deep in the Amazon rainforest. While travelling there she meets a boy called Clovis. As you read on, the story of Maia, her new friends (and enemies) turns into a gripping yarn.

Eva Ibbotson has written many other books and I am currently reading *The Dragonfly Pool*, also by her. I would recommend her books for childrens aged 8 upwards.

Good Jacqueline Wilson books are *Tracy Beaker* and *Hetty Feather*. For younger children, *Cliff-Hanger*, *Buried Alive*, *Double Act* and *The Suitcase Kid*.



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## Survival of the fastest

Circling high in the blue skies above Sussex is one of the world's deadliest predators. Peregrines are hunting above us. Scanning the avian traffic in the Sussex airspace, their incredible vision locks on to an unsuspecting bird passing below and the Peregrine instantly negotiates one of the most sophisticated aerial manoeuvres possible. They stop flying. With wings and feet tucked in tightly, peregrines drop from the sky at an unbelievable speed – hurtling earthwards at up to 200mph – the fastest creature on our planet. Everything, even the eyelids and nostrils on this bird are built for speed. Like a bomb made out of muscle and feathers, it'll decimate any victim in its path.

We're fortunate to still have these amazing birds here in Sussex. During WW2 their taste for pigeons (including those carrying wartime messages) saw Peregrines treated as if they were on the payroll of Mr Hitler himself. The Secretary of State for Air declared war on these falcons and issued the 'Destruction of Peregrine Falcons Order'. The birds were slaughtered, their nests destroyed. After we gave Adolf the old heave-ho, Peregrines were left alone and numbers began to recover. But they were to face an even more deadly threat than the British Government: Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane or, more simply, DDT.

Farmers worldwide had started spraying a variety of wonderful new chemical insecticides all over the countryside to improve yields. These invisible poisons hit the bird at the top of the food chain the hardest. In 1958 there were 650 pairs of Peregrines in Britain. Six years later there were 68. Concerns over their decline sparked an investigation that led back to the source of the Peregrine poisoning and the world's eyes were opened to the reality of the damage that these chemicals could cause to our environment and to us. Rachel Carson wrote 'Silent Spring', the environmental movement was born and green was upgraded from a sort of yellowy-blue colour to an entire way of life.

Today, perched on our cliffs and cathedrals, high above the organic food-filled shelves in kitchens across Sussex, the killer that kick-started the environmental uprising stands defiantly overlooking us all like a beaked Che Guevara. A feathered testament to revolution, strength and tofu veggie burgers.

**Michael Blencowe**

**Sussex Wildlife Trust**

● Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, it has worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. It relies on the support of its members to help protect our rich natural heritage. join online at [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)



**Fast and furious: the Peregrine Falcon is the fastest creature on our planet**

## Dusk safari around the garden

This month I'm going to suggest you try a dusk safari around your garden. As twilight beckons and the light starts to fade the blackbird will begin his evening chorus; not the mellow tune of the morning, but a harsh 'chink-chink' as he goes to roost. Your torch-light will attract the first moths of the night, looking silvery in the reflected glow. You might even glimpse a pipistrelle bat flitting around the canopy of a nearby tree. But I am going to take you (carefully) towards your garden pond, as tonight we are going 'newting'!

A powerful torch will come in handy as you sweep the beam slowly across the pond...a fierce-looking larvae, a diving beetle plunging towards the murky depths, and then you see a dragon-like creature in the shallow margins – your first newt of the night.

There are three species of newt in the UK, all of whom return to water in spring to breed and all of whom are more active at night. You could find any (or all) of them in a garden pond but the most likely is the smooth (or common) newt. Look for a male with his continuous jagged crest and spotted flanks, vibrating his tail in an attempt to woo a female. The smallest of our newts, the palmate newt, is a lovely creature with mottled olive, gold and black colouring and black webbed feet. He, too, will 'shimmy' for a prospective partner.





**Good vibrations: the smooth or common newt's quivering tail is an effort to woo a mate**

In larger ponds you could even find a great crested newt. These pond dragons measure about 16 cm long and have black skin with white spots and an orange belly with black blotches. The pattern of orange and black on their tummies is unique. He sports a magnificent crest that runs along the whole length of his back then a break at the base of his tail which fans out and has a distinctive silvery flash.

With the exception of the larger, darker, great crested newt, the females are trickier to tell apart (particularly in the dark). If the courtship display of the male has been successful, the female will lay her eggs – perhaps one or two hundred – carefully selecting a leaf, laying an egg and then using her back feet to meticulously fold the leaf around each individual egg.

On hatching, the newt efts will breathe through feathery gills at the back of the head and, unlike tadpoles, grow front legs first. Like the adult, they will feed on invertebrates; tiny Daphnia (water fleas) to begin with, then aquatic worms, insects and crustaceans, and even each other! They will continue to grow through the late spring and summer, completing their metamorphosis ready to emerge from the pond in adult form in autumn. Over winter, newts will find somewhere damp but on land to hibernate buried in leaf litter or underneath logs and stones.

Return to your pond in daylight for another look – although you may see fewer newts, you'll get a better view of their colours. And one of those fierce-looking larvae might just have transformed into a dragonfly.

**Anna Allum**  
**Visitor Experience Officer, RSPB, Wiggonholt**

## March rainfall

Almost half of March's rainfall occurred on single day (26.8mm or just over 1in on March 5). The total rainfall for the month was 55.8mm (2¼in) compared with 67.7mm (2½in) during the corresponding month last year. Total rainfall for the first quarter of 2020 amounted to 316.5mm (12½ in).

*Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey*



## CHURCHYARD PLANTS

### Graveside gardens

**Richard Robinson on plants you are likely to encounter in the churchyard over the coming months**

A churchyard is a pleasant place in these coronavirus times to take your statutory exercise and contemplate matters in general. We have been trying to increase the biodiversity of St Michael's churchyard by a judicious mixture of mowing, scything, raking and sowing yellow rattle. In order to enlarge your experience of social distancing, an account of a plant or two you will encounter, will be offered here as the flowering months go by.

**Field Woodrush** (*Luzula campestris*) has been much in evidence since mid-March. As much in evidence as its couple of inches will allow. Known as Good Friday grass for obvious reasons it has rather pre-empted celebrations this year. It is also known as Sweepers Broom, from its brush like flowers, for less obvious reasons, resembling as they do more a besom than the brush which emerges from chimney pots. Perhaps the kit of chimney sweeps has evolved



**Field Woodrush (above left), otherwise known as Good Friday grass or Sweepers Broom. Ground Ivy (right) or Blue Runner**

with the years. It has served as a prompt for dairymen to let out their overwintering cattle. It has very interesting hairy leaves. In hot sunshine the hairs twist first one way and

then the other. This seems to be caused by a deflection of up to forty five degrees from near the base of the hair. The mechanism of this and the advantage which it might confer to the plant has not as yet had the study it deserves.

**Gound Ivy** (*Glechoma hederacea*) is beginning to put in a slightly more conspicuous appearance. A blue purple flower belonging to the mint family, it colonises ground by means of overground runners hence one of its alternative names "blue runner". Before hops were introduced the leaves which have a strong rough aroma were widely used in brewing and are still an ingredient of herbal teas. It used to be commonly known as Ale-hoof or Tun-hoof (from the Old English hofe meaning plant) from its role in tunning the ale. In 1597 the herbalist Gerard wrote: "The women of the northern parts, especially about Wales and Cheshire do tun the herb Ale hoove into their ale..." In Ludlow, that centre of gastronomic excellence, there was a tradition of eating pork stuffed with the leaves. This column would welcome feedback from anyone brave enough to try it.

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## Paws for thought...

**Dear Grace:** Further to my letter of last month, the veil has now been lifted from my eyes. You recall my fears about my master and mistress being incarcerated at home for what seemed to the most heinous of crimes.

Then, based on my own experience of obedience classes, I naturally thought this was another example of social ostracism. After I continually barked at people coming to the door, knocking and then running away, my master explained everything to me.

These were not mischievous small boys plaguing innocent householders but very kind neighbours delivering food-stuffs and groceries from our heroes at the village shop and the Sportsman Inn.

I have become an avid viewer of the No 10 Downing Street daily press conferences.

What puzzles me now is this group of people offering the government advice about how to combat this terrible virus. They call it SAGE.

I have heard about SAGE before. I am sure that this group of gardeners are a very erudite bunch but do worry about their medical qualifications for the job. Tackling black fly is one thing – but coronavirus?

**Poppy**

PS: My master now tells me that SAGE stands for 'Scientific Advice in Government Emergencies' – not 'Society of Amberley Gardening Enthusiasts'. So that's alright then.

**Dear Poppy:** I can see how easily you could be confused. Me, too, although for different reasons. In fact, I've had an altogether stressful and traumatising time since we last corresponded. It's all down to the fact that my mistress had a fall – since her hip is now better she rushes about far too quickly for someone of her age and, as a result, trips over things. She really must slow down.

Anyway, we heard a crash and Hebe and I rushed in to find her on the floor. I did my usual thing of putting my head under her arm and trying to lift her up, but this didn't work. What's more, Hebe was worse than useless as all she did was whine. I could have done without that, I can tell you.

In the end my mistress dragged herself into the sitting room to get her mobile phone thingy off the coffee table and rang Ellie at No 10 (no, not Downing Street) who in turn rang Luke at No 8. Both came round and picked the poor old girl up.

Now I follow her everywhere, which is quite exhausting, just to see that she is not moving about the place too fast. I was very stressed for a day or two and definitely not myself.

Also I am getting worried about the fact that everybody, including the family, won't come into the house. Instead,



**Famous dogs in films or, in one case, on millions of record labels. How many can you name? Answers on page 44**

they just leave parcels etc on the doorstep and then go away. It looks very much as though she is suffering the same fate as your master and mistress. I simply don't understand it – what is going on?

I am not aware that my mistress has rolled in fox poo or anything like that so I don't understand everyone's behaviour. Mind you, life is very quiet and calm here which Hebe and I like.

Must end now and apologise for banging on about my troubles and hope that you have had a better time. Take care of yourself and your folks.

**Grace**

## Are you a member of the syndicate?



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## A changed world

'April is the cruellest month...' with these words T.S. Eliot opened his modernist masterpiece, *The Waste Land*, in 1921. It was the aftermath of World War I and the Spanish flu pandemic. Millions had died. His poem brims with the pain, the trauma, the disillusionment and the death of that time.

Today, we have just experienced April 2020. Eliot could never have imagined that nearly 100 years on, April might well become our 'cruellest month', when trauma and death stalk our land as the coronavirus pandemic is forecast to peak.

Yet, despite the inevitable sadness for those who have lost love ones, the hardship for the many whose jobs and livings are at risk, and the impact on families, not to mention the enormous burden on the NHS and other key workers, there are, believe it or not, some positives to be gained from the current lockdown situation.

Apart from the daily grind of not having to travel to work in either over-crowded trains or on congested roads, there is more family time together. The skies are virtually aircraft-free and the roads are as quiet as they were in the 1950s. For many living in towns, there has been a big reduction in air pollution.

If the Coronavirus Covid-19 wasn't so serious, I would have to say – admittedly not without a genuine feeling of guilt – that I am almost enjoying this state of self-isolation. True, I no longer have a job to worry about, or even a mortgage, and everything we need is being delivered from Amberley Village Stores by a team of wonderful volunteers, plus meals three times a week by the Sportsman, so we have nothing to complain about. We are fortunate in not only having a garden – think of the misery being suffered by all those people confined to tower blocks – but also to be surrounded by such lovely countryside. Things could be a lot worse.

Here, in the Wildbrooks parishes, the response to the crisis has been truly heartening. The establishment of the Health Hub, to keep us safe and informed, with a hotline manned round-the-clock. The willingness of people to help, from the youngsters delivering our newspapers to the team of volunteers undertaking deliveries from the shop, pharmacies and pub. The organisation has been truly impressive and is a tribute to the wonderful community spirit we enjoy here.

In this issue – our printer decided to return to work as the magazine is regarded as an important means of communication – we have outlined in some detail what has been going on behind the scenes, what help and advice is available, and some additional distractions in an effort to alleviate the tedium for those unable to get out.

The world, of course, will be a changed place when we eventually emerge from this pandemic nightmare. Many people will no doubt have lost their jobs and will be facing financial hardship, if not ruin, and it will almost certainly take many, many years for the economy to recover. But I would like to think that this has been something of a wake-up call and there will be a greater awareness of climate change, and the steps that need to be taken to protect us and our planet.

**Mike Toynbee**

### If...

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream, and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think, and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two imposters just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings, nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And, which is more, you'll be a Man, my son!

**Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936)**

**Deadline for the June issue is  
Friday, May 15, 2020**

**Contributions should be sent to the Editor,  
Brooklands, East Street, Amberley, BN18 9NN  
E-mail: [mike@brooklandsamberley.com](mailto:mike@brooklandsamberley.com)**

## DIVERSIONS – MAY

1. The legendary King Arthur's royal court was known as what?
2. What type of macaque found on Gibraltar?
3. Which musical was based on Shaw's *Pygmalion*?
4. The composers Rachmaninov and Prokofiev share which christian name?
5. Who was the last king of England to die unmarried?
6. The name of which of the tennis greats translates to 'Bear Castle'?
7. What is the county town of Devon?
8. Mogadishu is the capital of which East African country?
9. What colour denotes footpaths, bridleways and byways on OS Explorer maps?
10. What is the lowest possible temperature known as?
11. Name the solid carbon dioxide used in stage shows?
12. What is the highest mountain in the British Isles?
13. How many years of marriage are celebrated with china?
14. In lacrosse, a men's team comprises of 10 players, but how many are there in a woman's team?
15. Which astronaut did David Bowie famously sing about?
16. Which is the second most frequently used letter in English after E?
17. How many feet does a hexapod have?
18. Which planet was discovered by Sir William Herschel in 1781?
19. To which country do the Azores belong?
20. What are Scottish mountains between 2,500 and 3,000 feet in height called?
21. Where on a fish can you find the dorsal fin?
22. What is the Japanese art of Kintsugi?
23. Planet known as the morning or evening star when viewed from Earth?
24. What is Ireland's longest river?
25. What is the fragrant variety of wild rose also called eglantine?
26. Name the dormant volcano on Tenerife, Spain's highest peak?
27. In which sport do all the team members, bar one, move backwards?
28. The Earl of Arundel is the courtesy title held by the heir to which dukedom?
29. King Zog, who died in 1960, ruled which country?
30. What was Cain's reply to God when asked of the whereabouts of Abel, after he had murdered him?

**Answers: see page 44**

## QUICK CROSSWORD

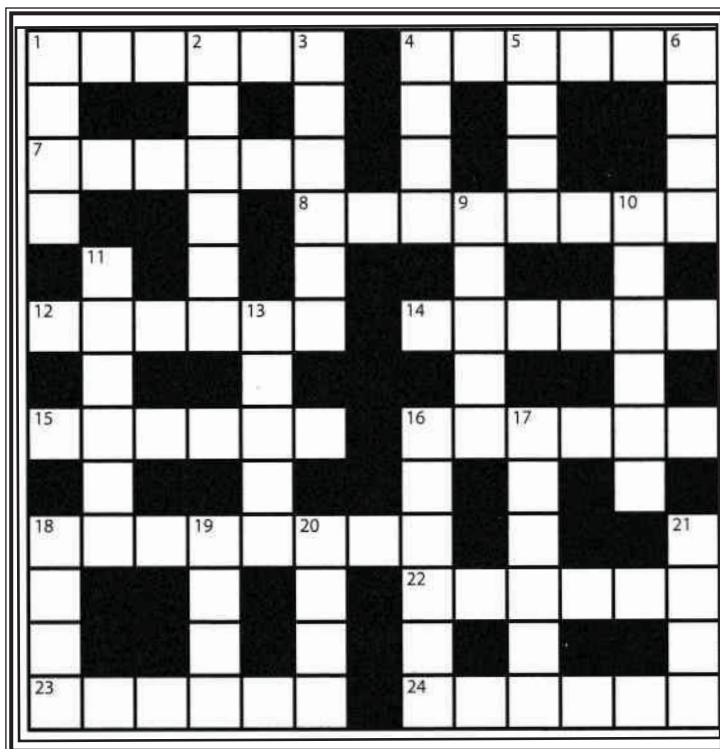
### Across

1. Parasitic plant (6)
4. Royal residence (6)
7. Opera set in a cigarette factory (6)
8. An indirect (and usually malicious) implication (8)
12. People descended from a common ancestor (6)
14. On a plane (6)
15. Catch fire (6)
16. Offshoot (6)
18. Fireproof material (8)
22. Arab kingdom on the Persian Gulf (6)
23. Decayed (6)
24. Fibre (6)

### Down

1. Reality (4)
2. Star sign (6)
3. Rationality (6)
4. Design (4)
5. Misplace (4)
6. EU monetary unit (4)
9. Deep brown (5)
10. Straightforward (6)
11. Makes a sound expressing amusement (6)
13. Egyptian water lily (5)
16. Woven shopping bag (6)
17. Solution (6)
18. Affirm (4)
19. Prepare for publication (4)
20. Twist around (4)
21. Rivet (4)

**Solution page 44**



**Wordsearch (US states)**

ALABAMA

ARIZONA

CALIFORNIA

CONNECTICUT

FLORIDA

HAWAII

ILLINOIS

IOWA

KENTUCKY

MAINE

MINNESOTA

MISSOURI

NEBRASKA

NEW MEXICO

OHIO

OREGON

RHODE ISLAND

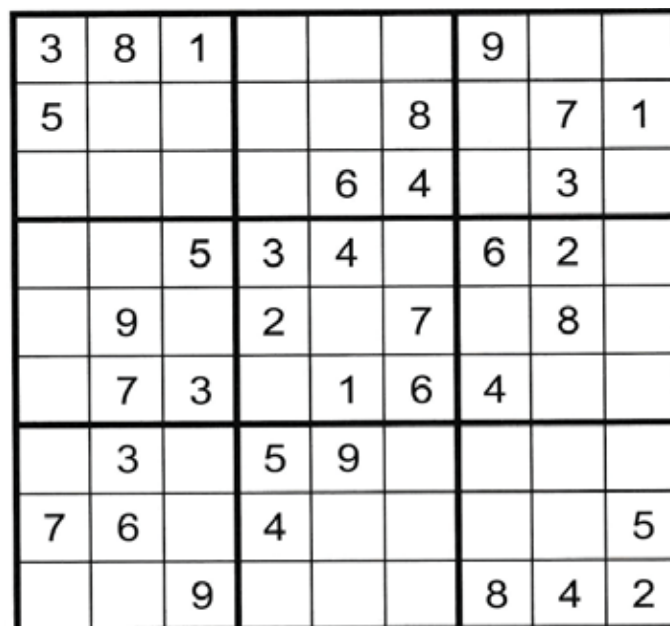
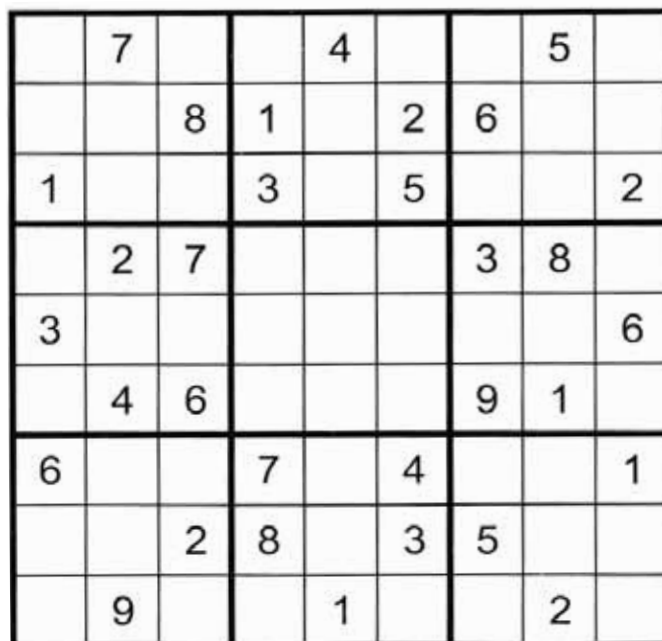
SOUTH DAKOTA

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**Sudoku****For colouring....**





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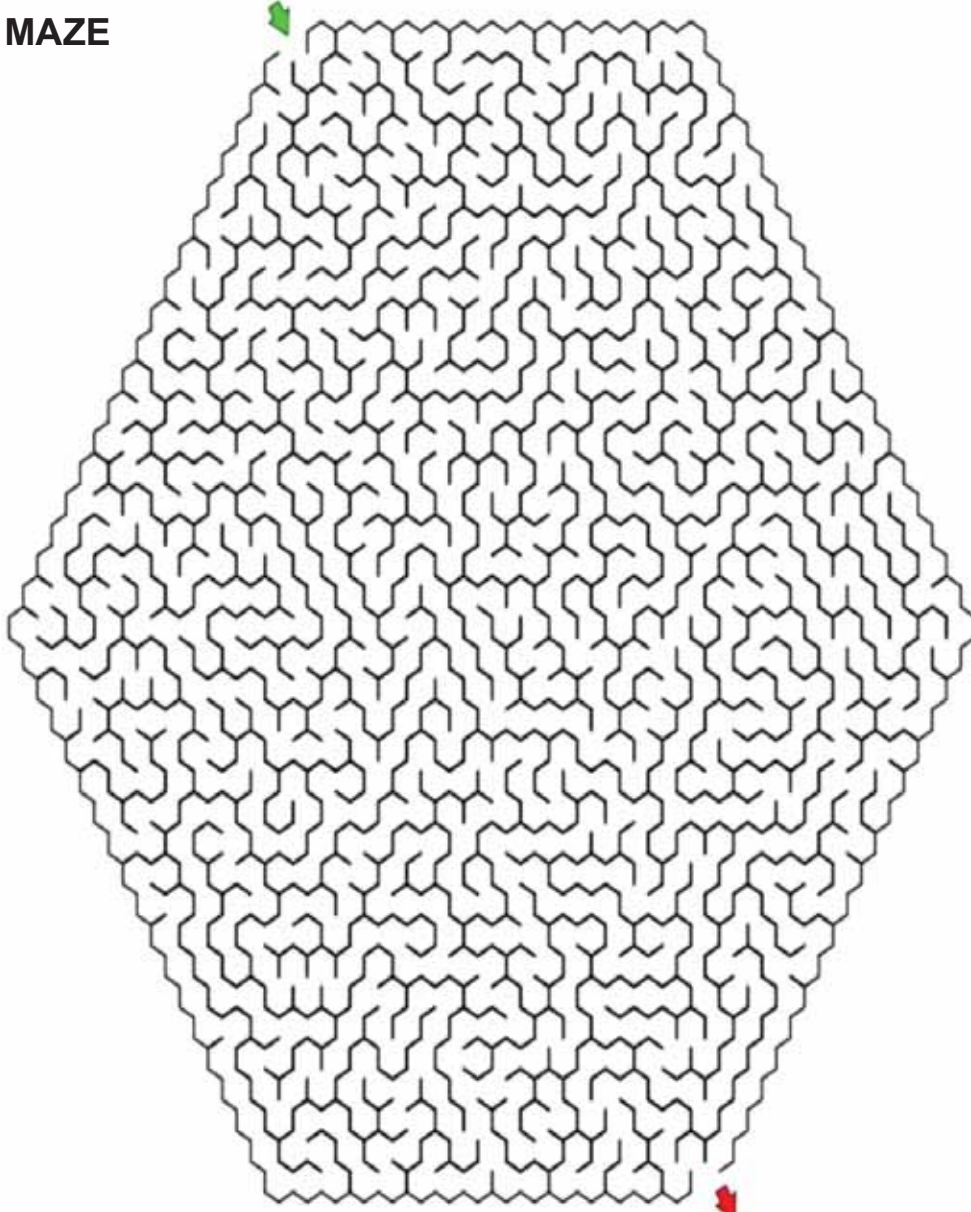
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# MAZE



**EyeSpy: where in Amberley would you spot these?**



A: \_\_\_\_\_



B: \_\_\_\_\_

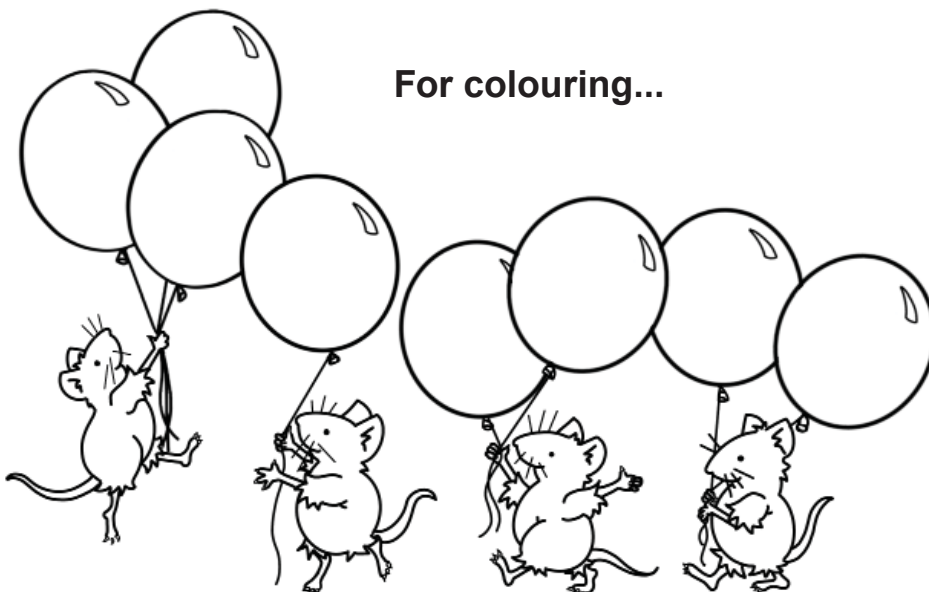


C: \_\_\_\_\_



D: \_\_\_\_\_

**For colouring...**







## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Applause for the NHS...**

It was lovely to have a feeling of connection across the streets of our village as we said thank you on a Thursday night in March to the NHS and everyone else who helps us.

Many of our rituals of connection in the village have been taken away by Covid-19 but we can put new ones in place.

On that first Thursday, it seemed we might have found a good one.

I would like to suggest we have applause every Thursday at 8.00pm and ...that we add in something else. I have been thinking of all the children whose birthday celebrations will be much more modest this year.

Why don't we have a birthday list and each week sing a collective 'Happy Birthday' to all those whose birthdays have fallen in the previous week?

Thank you Amberley.

**Sue Belgrave**

**Leith House, East Street, Amberley**

**...and for everyone helping us**

We would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort of Lee and Sophie at the Sportsman Inn, who have been providing wonderful wholesome, delicious meals three times a week since the lockdown. It is obviously very intensive work for them but they have cheerfully prepared (from an efficient online order form) and distributed, using brilliant volunteers, to the whole community.

This for us has meant that with the superb service from Amberley Village Stores (and their much appreciated vol-

untary delivery team) we are managing very well without being able to achieve an online slot from any of the supermarkets. So many thanks to them all.

**Sue and Jim Endacott**

**Sportsman Cottages, Rackham Road, Amberley**

**Keeping patients connected**

Sarah Jane Bell, who lives in Storrington, is a chaplain at St Barnabas Hospice, and is looking for ways for their inpatients to feel connected with their loved ones as they are not, of course, allowed visitors at the moment.

They need help to make two identical hearts, either knitted or from fabric – one for the patient to hold and one to send to their loved ones to keep a heart connection. The hearts can be knitted from a pattern which I can forward to you and whether you knit one or make from fabric they need to be a size that can be held. These should be made in pairs and put in a dated, sealed bag.

They have also requested home-made cards, blank inside, which some of the children might also like to do, for patients to send to their loved ones.

For those who are unable to write they can dictate a message and Sarah Jane can write on their behalf. These can also be sent to patients in the community who they would normally visit. Again, same as hearts, please put in a dated, sealed bag.

When finished let me know and either put outside your house for collection or leave in a box in my porch.

**Hazel Allinson**

**Garden House, East Street, Amberley**

**DIVERSIONS ANSWERS (see page 39).** Camelot 2. Barbary Ape 3. *My Fair Lady* 4. Sergei 5. Edward VI 6. Bjorn Borg 7. Exeter 8. Somalia 9. Green 10. Absolute Zero 11. Dry ice 12. Ben Nevis 13. 20 14. 12 15. Major Tom 16. T 17. Six 18. Uranus 19. Portugal 20. Corbetts 21. On its back 22. Repairing broken pottery 23. Venus 24. The Shannon 25. Sweet briar 26. Tiede 27. Rowing 28. Duke of Norfolk 29. Albania 30. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION (see page 39).**

**Across:** 1. Fungus 4. Palace 7. Carmen 8. Innuendo 12. Family 14. Aboard 15. Ignite 16. Branch 18. Asbestos 22. Kuwait 23. Rotten 24. Thread

**Down:** 1. Fact 2. Gemini 3. Sanity 4. Plan 5. Lose 6. Euro 9. Umber 10. Direct 11. Laugh 13. Lotus 16. Basket 17. Answer 18. Aver 19. Edit 20. Turn 21. Stud

**Famous dogs (see page 37)**

**A:** Lassie **B:** Nipper **C:** Rin Tin Tin **D:** Uggie (*The Artist*) **E:** Beethoven **F:** Toto (with Judy Garland)

**EyeSpy: where would you see these in Amberley? (see page 43)**

**A:** Victorian letterbox set in the wall of St Michael's Church Hall **B:** The Old House (formerly Thatched House) in Hog Lane, one of the oldest ale houses in the country when it closed in the 1960s. **C:** The sign outside a private garage at the rear of Ruffs Barn, on the corner of the High Street and Hog Lane **D:** The 'No Through Road' sign at the entrance to the Alley, off Church Street

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01903 741251

### Hotels / restaurants / cafes / tea rooms

**Amberley Castle,** country house hotel and restaurant  
01798 831992

**Amberley Village Tea Room,** 10.30am-5.30pm (closed Wednesday)  
01798 839196

**Riverside Café,** Tea Room and Garden, open daily, 9am-5pm  
01798 831066

### Logs

**Andy Johnson,** seasoned hardwood 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 721360 / 07903 260048

### Public houses

**The Bridge Inn, Houghton Bridge,** bar, snacks, restaurant, garden  
01798 831619

**The George & Dragon,** Houghton, bar, restaurant, terrace and garden  
01798 831559

**The Sportsman Inn,** Crossgates, restaurant, bar, terrace, stunning views  
01798 831787

### Retail

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

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

### Schools

**Amberley Primary School,** Reception to Year 6  
01798 831 612

**Dorset House,** Bury, independent day and boarding school  
01798 831456

### Taxis

**Amberley Cars,** locally-based lady driver, airports etc  
01798 831484 / 07939 263495

### Well-being

**Di Palmer,** body control pilates instructor, weekly classes and one-to-one  
07767 263493

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

**Robert Sadler,** registered osteopath  
01798 874736

## The Wildbrooks Magazine

Serving the communities of  
Amberley, North Stoke,  
Houghton Bridge, Parham,  
Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt



For advertising enquiries contact:

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## PARISH DIRECTORY

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		Jenny Toynbee.....01798 831114
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<b>Bell Ringers (Amberley) Tower Captain</b>		Pam Keeble.....01798 831050
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<b>Rackham School Hall Reservations</b>		Malcolm Pheasey.....01798 839046
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<b>South Downs Way Warden</b>		Non-emergency number.....101 ext 530214
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<b>Tuesday Group</b>		Jennifer Hooper.....01903 742695
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