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JULY/AUGUST 2026

THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



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**Amberley Gardens Open:
Naillards in Church Street**



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Parham

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Events 2026



HSBA Exhibition - 17th June - 5th July

The Plant Fairs Roadshow - 5th July

Sussex Steam Rally - 11th / 12th July

Bargello Exhibition - 15th - 26th July

Jaguar Day - 2nd Aug

Textile Exhibition - 12th - 31st Aug

Needlework Exbo - 5th Aug - 27th Sept

Public Clock Tour - 9th Sept

Public House Tour - 25th Sept

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JULY/AUGUST SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 5th JULY

TRINITY 5 Green Array

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

SUNDAY, 12th JULY

TRINITY 6 Green Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley

SUNDAY, 19th JULY TRINITY 7

Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.30am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 26th JULY TRINITY 8

Green Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 2nd AUGUST TRINITY 9

Green Array

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

SUNDAY 9th AUGUST TRINITY 10

Green Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST

TRINITY 11 Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.30am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 23rd AUGUST

TRINITY 12 Green Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 30th AUGUST

TRINITY 13 Green Array

10.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
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SUNDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER

TRINITY 14 Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
4.30pm	Animal Blessing	Wiggonholt

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, 5th July

Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-15; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end

Sunday, 12th July

Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, 19th July

Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-end; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, 26th July

1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sunday, 2nd August

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 15-end; Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, 9th August

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, 16th August

Isaiah 56:1,6-8; Psalm 67; Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday, 23rd August

Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, 30th August

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Matthew 16:21-end

Sunday, 6th September

Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Matthew 18:15-20



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PEOPLE & EVENTS

Welcome...

To **Matt and Julia**, the new owners of 2 Hurst Cottages, Amberley; and to **Paul and Sarah Charnaud**, who have moved into the renamed Rookery, Rackham Road, Amberley. We wish them every happiness in their new homes.

Our condolences...

To **Christine Charman** and family, of Sportsman Cottages, on the loss of **Rex**, who died on June 6. An appreciation appears on p8.

Congratulations...

To **Olivia Hobby**, who lives in Newland Gardens and has been running 5 kilometres a day in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Her daughter, **Phoebe**, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at just two weeks old. Says Olivia: "She has her daily struggles and many medications but takes it all in her stride. She has been through so much in her five years and I'm in awe of how truly brave she is. She has to do physio every single day to stay well so if she has to do it, so will I."



If you can, she asks for a donation to Cystic Fibrosis Trust "We won't stop until there is a cure. And neither will we," says Olivia.

A date for the diary: the world's biggest coffee morning

Once again, Amberley is rising to the challenge of raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support by participating in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday, September 25. Coffee, tea and an abundance of cakes will be served in St Michael's Church Hall from 10am until 12 noon. And, as always, there will be a raffle with an impressive range of prizes. As one of the social highlights of the year, it is an event not to be missed.

If you would like to volunteer to help, either on the day or baking cakes and biscuits in advance, contact either Sandie Conlon (01798 839320) or Clare Attard (07876) 083845.

Making a splash

Arundel Lido has been ranked 12th by the *Daily Telegraph* in a league table of the country's best outdoor swimming pools. It describes it "as one of the most picturesque places for some front crawl in all of England."

Busy summer at Parham

Parham's annual Plant Fair Roadshow takes place on Sunday, July 5, bringing leading specialist nurseries from across the South East to offer a wide range of locally grown and unusual plants. Visitors can explore cottage-garden favourites, shade-loving varieties, alpiners, trees and shrubs, succulents and more. The following weekend, July 11-12, the Sussex Steam Rally returns, featuring traction engines, tractors, vintage cars and a traditional fairground. The all-day event begins at 9am.

From July 15-26, an exhibition explores bargello, a historic needlepoint technique using upright stitches to create bold geometric patterns. Midlands-based artist Odette Campbell reimagines Parham House through contemporary bargello, drawing inspiration from its textiles, interiors and gardens to transform heritage into something modern and dynamic.

On August 2, Jaguar enthusiasts gather for a display ranging from the XK120 to the E-type, with models presented by the owners' club. From August 12 until the month's end, Worthing-based artist Jane Robinson presents a textile exhibition combining hand stitching, mixed media and machine work. Inspired by Tudor and Elizabethan portraits, Parham's gardens, global influences from India, and natural forms such as rocks and fossils, her richly textured pieces shimmer with colour, detail and story-telling. Together, these events offer visitors a programme blending heritage, craftsmanship and British summer entertainment.

Interregnum arrangements

If you need pastoral support and a listening ear, prayer or Communion at home, please don't hesitate to call Amberley churchwardens in the first instance on (07973) 163369; alternatively send an e-mail to amberleystmichael@gmail.com

We seek help from visiting clergy to cover at least one Communion service each week. Elaine Corbett, our Lay Reader (pictured), is taking a number of other services.



For baptisms, marriages and funerals at any of the four parishes within the benefice, please contact the relevant churchwardens (details on page 40).

The best way to stay up to date is to ensure you are on the list for a weekly church e-mail with notices of services and events, readings and prayers for each Sunday. Please e-mail Michael on mpdavey@gmail.com to ensure your name is on the list.

**AMBERLEY LIVES REMEMBERED****Rex Charman, 1945-2026**

Rex Charman was born in Henfield, the son of a nurseryman and a mother whose family were market gardeners. He disliked school from an early age, often waiting for his mother to leave after dropping him off, then quietly slipping away to wander the fields until the end of the day. It was later understood that he was dyslexic – a challenge that affected him throughout his life.

At the age of 11, Rex was diagnosed with tuberculosis and spent three months in the children's hospital in Brighton, followed by five months in a convalescent home in Bexhill. Despite the illness, he enjoyed his time there, relishing the opportunity to be outdoors. On returning to Steyning Secondary School, he was only able to attend for half days, needing to rest for the remainder. It was not until his fourth year that a teacher discovered he could neither read nor write.

After leaving school, Rex began work as a mechanic, showing a natural aptitude for engines. He later joined his elder brother, Ralph, to learn the plumbing trade, which became his lifelong profession.

He met his future wife, Christine, at a cinema in Brighton, and they were married on a snowy day in 1966. Together



Rex and Christine on their world cruise aboard P&O's *Oriana*

they raised four children – Maurice, Stephen, Jason and, later, their daughter Lara, born after the family moved in 1977 from Henfield to 1 Sportsman Cottages on Rackham Road, Amberley.

Rex and Christine quickly became active members of village life, helping to run the Youth Club and organise the Amberley Revels alongside Janet Kelly and Ivy Read. Rex was also captain of the bellringers at St Michael's Church. During a holiday in

Salisbury, this role led to an invitation to ring the bells at Salisbury Cathedral – a moment he greatly cherished.

His working life saw him employed by a plumbing firm in Henfield, where he became a partner after 12 years. He later established his own business, working alongside his son Stephen. However, his health declined following an earlier period of depression; he was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and suffered a heart attack. At the age of 59, he was advised that he would be unable to continue working.

A committed Freemason from 1990, Rex served as Master of the Pentalpha Lodge in 2000 and of the Adur Lodge the following year, when he had the pleasure of initiating

his youngest son, Jason. His involvement extended to the Association of Friends of Barford Court, a Masonic care home in Hove. For many years, Rex and Christine visited the home on Christmas morning, distributing presents to residents, many of whom were in the dementia unit, leaving him in tears.

After their children had grown up, Rex and Christine fulfilled a shared dream by taking a world cruise on P&O's *Oriana*. In January this year, they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

● **Rex Charman died unexpectedly on June 6, aged 81, following a fall. He is survived by his wife Christine, their four children, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.**

A quiet Friday evening in Amberley...

My peaceful Friday evening was suddenly interrupted by blue flashing lights and a siren as a fire engine pulled up and blocked my driveway in Hog Lane, shattering the stillness of what had been a calm and uneventful end to the week. I went outside and asked one of the firefighters which property he was looking for, hoping that mine wasn't alight.

The fire brigade had received a 999 call from someone whose only location clue was a What3Words pin – somewhere down on the brooks behind Brookside House.

They asked me where the best place to access the Brooks might be. I said, "right here, but I don't think you'll get a fire engine down there." Moments later, a fire service Land Rover arrived and headed down the narrow and uneven access track and off across the brooks.

Meanwhile, two more fire engines, two ambulances and a further fire support vehicle pulled up, their presence drawing curious glances and adding to the growing sense of urgency in the quiet lane.

They found a young woman in her mid-twenties well and truly stuck in the mud, up to her chest in one of the ditches alongside the track, cold, exhausted and clearly unable to free herself.

Within a short while she had been rescued, and I saw her plod past my house. Her recent whereabouts were unmistakable as mud and water continued to drip with each step she took. I was reminded of the hippos in the Serengeti!

"They saved me!" she declared, cheerful and relieved despite her obvious need for an immediate change of clothes and a long, hot shower.

All in all, a quiet Friday evening in Amberley – though perhaps not quite as quiet as it first seemed. **Wendy Carter**

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Balmy bat evening on the Millennium Green

With the Millennium Green just a chalk stream away, our bat evening began with drinks and nibbles within the beautifully landscaped garden of Kim and Graham Smith's home in Newland Gardens. Their garden offered the perfect space for Dr Sam Kelly to introduce us to the world of bats, aka Sky Kittens as she fondly and humorously referred to them.

Sam, an associate ecologist, shared wonderful insights, fascinating facts and her vast knowledge. Her passion and delight was evident for this remarkable keystone species which plays a vital role within ecosystems as excellent pollinators, pest controllers and seed dispersers. Their similarities to humans are multiple – who knew they had 5 fingers in their wings!

As dusk drew in, our group of around 20 eager bat detectorists ventured into the Millennium Green; a rich habitat for the only mammal that can truly fly.



An informative introduction in Kim and Graham Smith's garden

With our bat detectors tuned to appropriate frequencies it was only minutes before we were treated to visual and auditory displays from common and soprano pipistrelle bats flying low over our heads. They were soon joined by the larger serotine bats and finally, as darkness settled, the higher flying noctules arrived.

Our excitement was palpable, our focus intense as in this moment in time we tuned in to nature, sensing our place within it, as part of something much bigger than ourselves.

We thank Sam for sharing her knowledge and time with us and making the evening such fun.

Interest was shown for the installation of sponsored bat boxes within the Millennium Green. If you would be interested in becoming a sponsor, please let us know via amberley-millenniumgreen@gmail.com

Judy Agate



Bat detectorists treated to visual and auditory displays

Summer concert at North Stoke

The Friends of North Stoke present their summer concert at St Mary's Church on Saturday, July 25 at 6.30pm. This year we welcome Aglica Trio, a young cosmopolitan group performing in the traditional ensemble of flute, viola and harp.

In 2024, the Trio were winners of the Belgian Supernova Chamber Music Prize for ensembles redefining classical music. Their range is shown in this year's programme by Jacques Ibert, William Mathias, the 17th century Venetian Barbara Strozzi, and Claude Debussy. "Living in London, performing worldwide, championing new music – the Aglica Trio is known for its vibrant energy, breaking boundaries and innovative performance."

From 5.30pm onwards there will be a drinks reception in the garden of North Stoke Farmhouse by kind invitation of Jane and David Lock. Tickets (to include the reception) are £30 from Janet Aidin (janet@aidin.co.uk/01798 872531).

These should be purchased in advance:

- 1) By cheque, payable to The Friends of St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke, sent to Janet Aidin, The Old Rectory Wiggonholt, Pulborough RH20 2EL. (If you would like your tickets sent by post please enclose a return envelope), or
- 2) By bank transfer: Sort code 20-69-34 Account No. 30411833 (Account name: Friends of St Mary the Virgin North Stoke); reference: your surname + CONCERT.

Join us at the Community Picnic

Calling all residents of Amberley and surrounding villages! Join us for the Community Picnic on Sunday, July 12 on Amberley Millennium Green. Bring your own picnic, with or without a tippie of two – it's up to you – and join us for an afternoon of fun and friendship. Come on your own and meet familiar faces and new ones, or bring a large party – we don't mind which. It will just be lovely to see you. Dogs are more than welcome (just make sure they are kept on a lead). Attendance is free. From 1pm until 4pm.

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Something for everyone this summer at Amberley Museum

Amberley Museum's summer programme for July and August offers a lively and varied calendar, with a strong emphasis on transport heritage and plenty to appeal to families, enthusiasts and casual visitors alike.

The season begins with the ever-popular Midsummer Steam Show on July 4-5. This promises a wonderfully atmospheric weekend as the site comes alive with steam engines in action. Visitors can enjoy trailer rides behind full-sized engines, watch demonstrations, and see a fascinating mix of both large and miniature steam machines. The smaller engines provide a particularly engaging way for younger visitors to understand how steam power works. With a bus service and steam trains also running, the museum will truly be transformed into a bustling world of smoke, sound and nostalgia.

On July 8, the focus shifts to elegance and engineering excellence with the Rolls-Royce & Bentley Car Club Meet. Around 20 vehicles, some dating back to the 1930s, will be displayed across the museum grounds. These beautifully maintained cars offer a glimpse into a bygone era of craftsmanship and luxury, and members of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club will be on hand to share their knowledge and enthusiasm.

Just a few days later, on July 12, the Classic Car Show returns - one of the museum's most cherished annual events. A wide range of post-1950s vehicles will be on display, including familiar British marques such as Austin, Ford, Vauxhall and Rover, alongside European and American models. From sporty convertibles to family saloons, there will be something to catch every eye. Visitors can also browse stalls offering models and motoring memorabilia, and chat with owners who are passionate about preserving these vehicles. Advance booking is recommended for this popular day.

Mid-month brings an opportunity to delve deeper into the museum's collections with a Discovery Day on Cycling Through the Ages on July 16 (2pm-3.30pm). Led by the curatorial team, this session offers a closer look at the museum's impressive cycle collection, along with a chance to handle historic materials and learn more about the heyday of cycling. Numbers are limited, so early booking is advised.



Rail enthusiasts will not want to miss the Rail Gala weekend on July 18-19, the museum's annual showcase celebrating all things railway. Steam, diesel and electric trains will be running throughout the day, offering plenty of opportunities for rides and photographs. Model railway displays will also feature both in the Exhi-



bition Hall and around the Village Green, and visitors can explore the Billingshurst signal box to discover how these vital installations once operated.

On July 26, the Rover Sports Register National Rally brings together around 100 vehicles spanning a century of Rover history, from early 20th-century models to the final production cars. This gathering highlights the development of a distinctly British marque and offers a rare chance to see such a variety of models in one place.

The programme continues into August with Retro Wheels: Cycle Through the Ages on August 1-2. Celebrating over 200 years of cycling history, this event will feature displays of vintage and retro bicycles, demonstrations of historic riding styles, and engaging exhibits suitable for all ages. It is an ideal event for families and cycling enthusiasts alike.

On August 16, Communications Day explores the evolution of communication from early printing to modern technology. Visitors can find out how fibre optics work, learn about semaphore signalling and telegrams, and see a display of Post Office and telecommunications vehicles. The museum's Print Shop will also be in operation, offering visitors the chance to print their own keepsake.

Another Discovery Day follows on August 20, focusing on the pioneering work of early female radio enthusiasts, Nell Corry and Barbara Dunn. This guided session offers a fascinating insight into their achievements and contributions to radio communication.

Finally, the summer concludes with the Summer in Sussex Bank Holiday Weekend from August 29-30. The museum will host a wide variety of local artisans, producers and makers selling everything from jewellery and pottery to food and drink. With steam engines on site, bus and railway rides, and plenty to see and do, it promises a relaxed and enjoyable end to the summer season.

Together, these events make Amberley Museum a rewarding destination throughout the summer months, offering a rich blend of history, craftsmanship and hands-on experiences.



AMBERLEY LIVES REMEMBERED

Anne Baldwin, 1952-2026

Anne Baldwin was born in Liverpool in 1952, where she spent her childhood before going on to the University of Liverpool to study French and Russian. Although she lived in the south of England for most of her life, she remained fiercely proud of her Scouse roots. It was this upbringing that shaped her distinctive sense of humour and her refreshingly direct, no-nonsense outlook on life.

From an early age, Anne developed a love of travel and continental culture. She held a particular affection for Provence, having spent a year in Aix-en-Provence as part of her degree. Spain was another country close to her heart, and she became fluent in Spanish.

Her interest in Russia began when she spent the summer of 1968 at a Soviet Youth Pioneer Camp near Odessa - an experience that left a lasting impression. On her return, her parents were somewhat startled to find their teenage daughter decorating her room with posters of Lenin and reciting the pledge to the Motherland.

Anne's career began with Sheraton Hotels, where she formed many lifelong friendships. It was also there that she first met Mike Toynbee – and was surprised and delighted to encounter him again years later here in Amberley.

For the latter part of her professional life, Anne worked as a personal assistant in the pharmaceutical industry, most notably with Norgine, based in Uxbridge. During her time there, she played a key role – with a little help from Tony – in organising company-sponsored charity golf days, raising thousands of pounds for the Cure Parkinson's Trust.

In 1995, Anne met Tony, and they married the following year. Their first home together was in the Quaker village of Jordans, in Buckinghamshire, where they were joined by Anne's son, Nick, then aged ten. Nick followed in his mother's academic footsteps, later earning a degree in history from the University of Nottingham. Anne and Tony shared a love of golf, playing first at Beaconsfield and later at West Sussex. Nick, too, developed a passion for the game and now plays in Bath, where he lives.

Anne formed close and lasting friendships wherever she lived. In Amberley, she enjoyed a particularly special bond with her neighbours in the Alley. Soon after moving to the village, she met Karen Cozens, with whom she discovered an extraordinary shared history: although they had not knowingly met before, their childhoods in Liverpool had crossed paths many times. They had much in common, including a shared fluency in French, and their friendship quickly flourished.

Animals also held a special place in Anne's heart. Family life always included cats – at times as many as four – and



she had a deep fondness for horses and donkeys. On her walks through the countryside, she could often be seen greeting unsuspecting sheep with cheerful noises. In Amberley, she befriended cats throughout the village, taking pride in knowing and naming every one of them.

When Anne and Tony moved to Amberley in 2014, she embraced the opportunity to explore the surrounding countryside. She delighted in leading visitors on walks, sharing the beauty of the landscape she loved so much. Among her achievements was completing the South Downs Way in stages, enjoying the hospitality of local inns along the route.

Above all, Anne was a deeply caring person, devoted to those around her. The many friendships she maintained across all stages of her life stand as a testament to the warmth, generosity and kindness she showed to others. She touched many lives and was, in return, greatly loved.

● **Anne Baldwin died on May 7, aged 73. The funeral took place at Chichester Crematorium on June 2.**

THE ARTS SOCIETIES

Art, scandal and celebrity

The extraordinary life and dramatic times of Oscar Wilde, from his Irish roots to his days as a student at Oxford and his meteoric rise to the heights of celebrity, is the subject of the talk on July 1 for members of the Arts Society South Downs.

Speaker Simon Whitehouse will examine his home in bohemian Chelsea and some of his favourite West End haunts. Finally, how 'tired of being in the heights, he plunged into the depths' and became famous for being infamous... The talk, at 10.45am, is in Fittleworth Village Hall, with coffee served from 9.50am until 10.20am. Visitors are welcome (there is no need to book) for a payment of £10.



On July 7, the Arts Society West Sussex will hear a talk by Raymond Warburton on Vanessa Bell's art and her tangled Bloomsbury Group relationships. Vanessa Bell was the founder member and leading light in the movement. She produced some of the most important art in the 20th century although she is often overshadowed by other members of the colourful group. The venue is also Fittleworth Village Hall and the talk begins at 2pm, with coffee and tea served afterwards. Non members welcome for £10.



Climate and nature: the emergency

Fraser Wheeler, who heads Greener Amberley, explains that three decades after action began, fossil fuels still dominate, emissions rise relentlessly, and the intertwined climate and nature crisis deepens globally. The outlook is not good unless action can be taken quickly

Thirty years after the world instituted action to combat climate change, 80 per cent of the global energy mix is still derived from fossil fuels, and as a result 4 billion tonnes of CO₂ is pumped into the atmosphere every month, on top of what has been deposited there since the Industrial Revolution.

This is despite a global scientific consensus that has consistently predicted dire (and detailed) consequences from not arresting the rise in greenhouse gases, and global agreement to limit warming to a 1.5C degree increase above pre-industrial levels. We are already experiencing the foreseen wetter winters and drier summers, and increased weather extremes, from heatwaves and wildfires to mass flooding, from the “greenhouse” effect on the planet.

So what is going on? There is wide discrepancy in emissions between countries, but to some extent it depends how you measure it. Sixteen countries emit 75 per cent of global emissions (the UK is 17th), and the remaining 180 countries emit 25 per cent. Three countries, China, the US and India, are currently emitting 53 per cent of the emissions: China is at 31 per cent, the US at 14 per cent and India at 8 per cent. The phenomenal growth in the economies of China (20 years ago China was a smaller economy than Italy) and India, in particular, has been a key factor in emissions growth (but conversely it has also lifted millions out of poverty).

However, a cumulative measure offers a different perspective with the US the biggest polluter, because it has been emitting a lot over a much longer period than others, followed by China, the EU, and Russia (the UK is at 5 per cent). And emissions per capita are different still, with Qatar and UAE the highest with their tiny populations, while China is 10th, one place lower than the UK. The tension between historical responsibility and current emissions lies at the heart of international climate negotiations.

The international climate change process (COPs) has simply not been strong enough to overcome the economic, political and technological forces driving emissions growth:

- 1) The agreements are largely voluntary;
- 2) Economic growth drives emissions, particularly in the

“developing” world where populations aspire to reach western standards of living;

3) Fossil fuels remain embedded, and an energy transition takes time, as it has always done;

4) Climate change demands collective action – every country benefits if everyone acts, but each country bears costs when it acts alone;

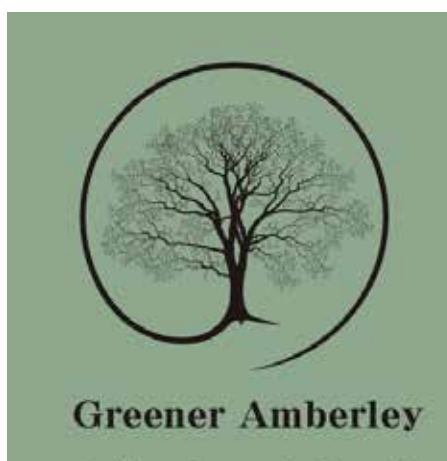
5) Political changes such as with the US Administration, which is in climate denial;

6) Nature and biodiversity have received less attention in climate action until recently.

This is perhaps unsurprising, given that consensus among competitive countries is invariably a hard nut to crack, and climate action demands transformative change. The problem is not that nobody is acting. It's that global action has not yet been large or fast enough to deal with a systemic challenge.

The prognosis for continued inaction is not good. Crop failures and food-price hikes are a distinct possibility on current trends. Also, significant economic damage to eg infrastructure and energy systems. More widely, increased migration, and geopolitical risks (NATO describes climate change as a “threat multiplier”). Further, there is the risk of tipping points, from the melting of the Greenland ice cap, to release of methane from the thawing of the Russian permafrost, to a significant weakening of the Atlantic Circulation System (which includes the Gulf Stream, that maintains the UK's temperate climate). If we reach such tipping points there may be nothing we can do to avert catastrophe. This is not scare-mongering, it is the science-based reality of future inaction.

Natural systems such as oceans, forests and soils absorb about half of global emissions, leaving the rest to accumulate in the atmosphere. Clearly the more that can be done to protect and promote nature, the better for climate mitigation. But it is more fundamental than that. The oxygen, water and food, on which we all depend stem directly from nature – we are part of nature, not separate from it.





Despite this, globally over the last 30 years there has been a continued and unrelenting threat to nature's abundance and diversity (the UK is in the bottom 20 per cent of countries for biodiversity): chronic habitat loss; major loss of species; pollution; and, of course, the impacts of climate change. There is a growing recognition that this needs to change, and fast.

Can we square this challenging circle, and if so, how? There are some positives.

Renewable energy is growing extremely fast, accelerating on the back of energy shocks from the wars in Ukraine and Iran. In its latest report the International Energy Agency (IEA) reports that in a year \$2.2 trillion was invested globally in renewables, double the amount that was invested in fossil fuels. In a recent international survey of 2000 CEOs, 91 per cent expected to switch from fossil fuels to renewables by 2030 to improve energy security. Renewables are generally the cheapest way to generate electricity today.

The most significant global trend is that both China and India are continuing to expand renewables at record rates, driving down the global cost. China alone is now adding more solar and wind capacity each year than most countries have in total. India doubled its sizable solar capacity in a year. Unfortunately, they also continue to boost their coal capacity, to meet their voracious energy appetites.

Electrification of transport, heating and industry is accelerating. Electric vehicles continue to gain market share globally. Heat pumps are becoming a mainstream technology in many countries. Electricity is increasingly replacing fossil fuels in sectors where alternatives are available. Where they are not available, innovative solutions are being explored and developed from air travel and shipping, to regenerative agriculture, to modular nuclear, and even nuclear fusion. Nature remains under considerable pressure, though there is at least now a much stronger global framework for biodiversity. Adaptation will be critical – the UK for example is largely built for a climate that no longer exists.

But sustainable growth remains elusive. A key factor over the next 10-15 years is whether the rapid growth of clean electricity – especially solar, wind, storage, grid infrastructure, and importantly nuclear – can outpace rapid growth in global energy demand, and replace fossil fuels rather than simply adding to total energy supply. That will likely demand some radical solutions – innovation will play a key role, in policy,

systems and product. A pricing of carbon in some form would likely be a pre-requisite for real change – the IMF estimates the cost of underpricing climate damage to be \$7.4 trillion. It will also require a switch in focus from carbon production to carbon consumption, after all it will not help mitigate climate change if a country imports high carbon products rather than produces it itself. AI will have the capability to map out and help deliver future action (conversely it also has a massive energy appetite). And it will require new coalitions of the willing.

If that happens, global emissions could begin a sustained decline this decade. If not, warming is likely to exceed 2°C, with increasingly significant impacts on both people and nature. Time is (still) of the essence.

If the UK only contributes one per cent of global emissions then why should we do anything, is an argument heard now in some political circles. We started this with the Industrial

Revolution, and, as above, cumulatively we are responsible for 5 per cent of emissions, the 5th highest in the world. Per person (the UK is 0.8 per cent of the global population), we are 4th highest in cumulative emissions, 1,000 to 1,200 tonnes each over our history. So, historically, the contribution of the average UK resident has been several times the global average (and 5 times that of a Chinese resident). But beyond that, clean energy can bring significant economic benefits: renewables are often the cheapest new power source; reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels improves energy security; new industries and exports can emerge around clean technologies; and electric vehicles and heat pumps for example lower operating costs over time. And leadership can have influence beyond direct emissions, through financial markets, technology development, and the setting of standards and regulation.

development, and the setting of standards and regulation.

The real debate should be less about whether the UK should act and more about how quickly, through which policies and at what cost. For example, it will be critical for the government to shift talking about sacrifices, and focus on bringing household energy bills down, framing climate action more in terms of addressing the affordability crisis. This is very much within reach. And the protection and promotion of nature has to be central to the effort.

● You are welcome to learn and discuss more at the **National Emergency film and discussion on climate and nature at the Black Horse at 6.30pm on Wednesday, July 8.**

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AMBERLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

An exciting and busy summer

The summer term is always a busy and exciting time for the children at Amberley Primary School. Alongside their classroom learning, they have been preparing for school visits, sports day, our end-of-year performance, and the summer fayre.

In Willow class, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Titanic. In science, they have been growing seeds and discovering more about plants, while in art they used their observational skills to create detailed drawings and collages inspired by their work. In geography, they have recently begun exploring the seaside, which has sparked great curiosity and enthusiasm.

Maple class has embraced their design and technology lessons, where they designed, made and evaluated a range of delicious sandwiches. The final products looked – and tasted – fantastic! The children particularly enjoyed using a variety of kitchen equipment, including a toastie machine and even the staff room oven, to cook ingredients such as bacon and chicken.



Our Year 6 pupils recently demonstrated impressive determination and resilience during their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests). They approached each one with a positive attitude, working incredibly hard and showing just how much they have learned over the year. We were especially proud of their focus, perseverance and the way they supported one another, helping to create a calm and encouraging atmosphere. As a well-deserved reward for all their hard work, the children enjoyed a trip to a 10-pin bowling alley, where a great time was had by all.

We should be delighted if you would like to visit the school and show you around; please call (01798) 831612 or e-mail office@amberleyschool.com to arrange a visit. Please do also visit our website at <https://www.amberleyschool.com/>

Lizzie Martin

Executive Head Teacher, Arun Villages Federation

You have to laugh...or groan

A man entered a local paper's pun contest and sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

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Never too late to learn

Lisa Carey uncovers Jenny's journey into lino printing at the age of 82

At the beginning of this year, I began running linoprint classes in Amberley and have been delighted by the enthusiasm and creativity shown by those who have attended. Among the regular participants was Amberley resident Jenny Robinson, whose eagerness to embrace a completely new skill later in life particularly impressed me. Watching Jenny approach the challenge with such curiosity and determination prompted me to reflect on the many benefits of continuing to learn as we grow older. Keen to explore this subject further, I asked Jenny to share her thoughts and experiences. Her responses offer an inspiring reminder that it is never too late to discover new interests and develop new skills.



Jenny Robinson

What inspired you to take up lino printing?

I've always enjoyed making things and being creative, and I had tried lino printing at school many years ago. When I heard about your classes, I thought, "Why not?" At my age, it's easy to think you've done everything you're going to do, but I wanted something new to challenge me.

Were you nervous about starting something unfamiliar?

A little. I wondered whether I'd be able to keep up, but I quickly realised everyone was learning together. The classes are so welcoming that those worries soon disappeared.

What do you enjoy most about the classes?

I love the creative process and seeing an image emerge from a block of lino. There's a wonderful sense of achievement when you pull your first print and realise you've made something unique.

I also enjoy the company. The classes bring together people of different ages and backgrounds, and there is always plenty of conversation and laughter.

How important is the social side?

Very important. After losing my husband Richard, there have been times when I've felt lonely. Joining the classes gives me a reason to get out of the house and spend time with other people. It's not just about learning a skill; it's about being part of a group.

Have you noticed any mental benefits from learning something new?

Absolutely. Lino printing requires concentration and planning, which keeps my brain active. When I'm focused on a project, I forget about my worries for a while. It's absorbing, therapeutic and satisfying to see yourself improve over time.

Many people worry they're too old to learn new skills. What would you say to them?

I'd say that's complete nonsense! We never stop learning. In fact, I think learning becomes even more valuable as we get

older. It gives you something to look forward to and helps keep you curious about the world.

You live with arthritis. Has that affected your experience?

It can make some activities more challenging, particularly those requiring dexterity. However, using my hands in a gentle, purposeful way can actually be beneficial. I work at my own pace and take breaks when I need to. I won't let discomfort stop me.

So there are certain physical benefits, too?

Yes. The carving, drawing and printing all involve hand movements and fine motor skills. Even the simple act of getting out of the house and walking to class is good for both physical and mental wellbeing.

At the time of this interview you are currently preparing your garden for an open event. Does gardening provide similar benefits?

Very much so. Gardening keeps me active and gives me a sense of purpose. I think gardening and lino printing have a lot in common. Both require patience, observation and creativity, and both are deeply satisfying.

You've also made a significant contribution to village life through the community defibrillator project. What motivated you to do that?

After Richard died, I wanted to do something positive for the community. We raised support, installed the units and ensured there were trained volunteers who knew how to use them. It was a lot of work, but it felt worthwhile because it could genuinely save lives.

Looking back, what have all these activities taught you about ageing?

That ageing doesn't mean stopping. It doesn't mean you stop contributing, learning or enjoying life. We may face challenges, but we can still find new interests and new connections. For me, lino printing is a reminder that there is always something new to discover. In fact, I'm now wondering what I can do next!

Finally, what advice would you give to someone considering a new hobby later in life?

Be brave and give it a try. Don't worry about whether you'll be good at it. The important thing is to start. You might make new friends, learn a new skill, discover a hidden talent or simply enjoy yourself. Whatever happens, you'll gain something from the experience.

At 82, Jenny has discovered a new creative passion, proving that age need never be a barrier to growth. Her story reminds us that learning, friendship and fulfilment remain available throughout our lives – if only we are willing to take that first step.

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GARDEN  DESIGN





Amberley Gardens Open – a wonderful success story

What an incredible day we enjoyed on Sunday, June 14, when more than 1,400 visitors came to Amberley to explore 24 beautiful gardens. The event was warmly received, with many visitors commenting not only on the quality and variety of the gardens but also on the welcoming and friendly atmosphere throughout the village. The warmth extended to the weather, too, after a wet and windy preceding week.

Thanks to the generosity and hard work of so many within our community, the day was a tremendous success. We are delighted to report that a record £18,000 (after expenses and donations) was raised for Action Medical Research, the Horsham-based charity supported by Amberley. It was also encouraging to see our local businesses well supported, making the day a success for them, too.

Particular thanks must go to the gardeners, who coped with challenging weather conditions in the weeks leading up to the event, yet still presented gardens that were both inspiring and beautifully maintained.

We are equally grateful to the many volunteers whose efforts ensured the day ran so smoothly. The parking team, led by Graham Smith and Tony Merchant, worked tirelessly to prepare and manage the fields, which reached full capacity. Suzie and Russell Coates provided clear and effective signage, while Jason Charman ensured access routes

were prepared. The ticket teams kept visitors moving efficiently throughout the day.

The tea rooms in the Church Hall and Amberley Primary School were kept exceptionally busy, serving vast quantities of tea and home-made cakes; thanks also to the many volunteer bakers who contributed so generously.

The plant stall was another great success, selling out of its carefully nurtured plants donated by many local gardeners. We are also grateful to residents who kindly moved their cars to help keep visitors safe.

Our thanks extend to Simon, Cathy and Alex Briggs for sharing their knowledge of the flora and fauna in the churchyard, and to Linda Connell for donating another of her beautifully handmade quilts for the raffle. We were also fortunate to have Dr Katie Armstrong on hand as our doctor on call.

Above all, we warmly thank the ten members of the Action Medical Research Committee, whose dedication and hard work made the entire event possible.

The funds raised will support vital research to improve the lives of sick babies, children and teenagers. Contributions will also be made to Amberley Primary School and St Michael's Church Hall.

Sarah Wheeler



A spectacular year for roses at Stream Barn



There was brisk business on the ticket desk



Gardens Open in pictures

Photography by Mike Beck, Sarah Ffoulkes Roberts, Sarah Wheeler and other anonymous contributors



Some of the volunteers on the highly successful plant stall, which made around £2,000. All the plants for sale were donated



A splash of colour at Naillards



Advice for visitors to St Michael's churchyard on flora and fauna



There was musical entertainment for visitors in the gardens of Old Place and Oak Tree House



The wildlife pond at Wisteria Cottage



Linda Connell (left) with her handmade quilt



Enjoying the garden at Naillards



Mary Leonard with a family heirloom



A garden with a view: Sue Woods at Old Stack Cottage



Little Naillards, informally planted with roses, clematis and box



The impressive vegetable garden at Oak Tree House



Dave Harris at Brooklands



Joe Thompson at Ivy Cottage with a collection of artefacts found over the years in the garden





Gardens Open in pictures



Teas at both St Michael's Church Hall and Amberley Primary School did a roaring trade throughout the afternoon



Stream Barn attracted a steady stream of visitors



One of the more formal gardens: The Old Ale House



Newly established gardens at Drewitts Farm attracted a lot of admirers: Walnut Tree (left) and Penny Farthing cottages (right)



Space and grace at Amberley Place



The Berghers of Calais, a bronze replica of Rodin's at Bishops



Sandie Conlon and Ann Drury



Teatime at Pear Tree Cottage



The hum of summer: the hummingbird hawk-moth

Nature is full of confusing naming conventions, throwing many of us into temple-rubbing identification exasperation. Dark green fritillary butterflies are mostly orange. Bearded tits are actually moustachioed reedlings. And don't get me started on slow worms.

The hummingbird hawk-moth, however, satisfyingly does what it says on the tin. The species has developed similar abilities as its avian namesakes, especially the hummingbird. It's an example of convergent evolution, where different species evolve to have the same techniques despite not being related; think the ability to fly in both bats and birds.

Whilst resting, the hummingbird hawk-moth looks quite unassuming; mostly grey in colour and blending in with muted surroundings. But in flight is where the glorious hummingbird transformation happens.

The moth's wings beat at an astonishing 80 times per second, so fast that their orange underwing colouration appears to merge with their overall form and they look brighter. Their long, curled proboscis, a straw-like mouth-part resembling a swirl of black liquorice, is unfurled and prepped for nectar-slurping, à la hummingbird beak. Large eyes help perfect their proboscis precision. The moth flits between flowers, zipping about in expert hover so quick that its wings emit an audible hum.

They can be found in a variety of habitats, including our gardens and urban green spaces; anywhere they can get that proboscis stuck into nectar-rich plants like honeysuckle and buddleia. The caterpillars feed on plants from the bedstraw family, so females will lay their eggs on the flowers of these plants.

Hummingbird hawk-moths are a summer visitor to the UK, migrating from southern Europe and north Africa in variable numbers each year. They can be found any time between May and September and are most commonly spotted around the south of the UK and its coastlines – lucky Sussex.

As a day-flying moth, hummingbird hawk-moths give us the opportunity to see them up close in all their glory, and as hummingbirds are restricted to North and South America, for many of us this is the closest we may get to the real deal.

But with these eye-catching insects offering us our own buzzing burst of summer's hum, that gasp-inducing tangerine flash spied on walks or through windows, those mindful minutes gifted by following their floral fastidiousness – honestly, who needs a hummingbird? **Kerry Williams**
Communications Officer - Conservation,
Sussex Wildlife Trust



Picture: Andrew Holloway

Summer on the brooks

Wandering alongside the ditches, you can hear the clash of dragonfly wings and see jewel-like damselflies on patrol. Wildflowers add splashes of colour, yellow, pink and purple, and you can hear the busy chattering of the sedge warbler.

Whilst much of the floodplain is too wet to explore in the autumn and winter months, and vulnerable bird species are nesting on the wetland in spring, we have just a few summer months in which we can invite visitors to explore our seasonal wetland discovery trail which gets you up close with this very special habitat.

As well as adding flashes of beautiful bright yellow along the ditch edges, the yellow loosestrife plant is particularly important for a very special bee that lives on wetlands such as those of the Arun Valley. The female yellow loosestrife bee (*macropis europaea*) will gather both pollen and oil from the plant which she mixes into a paste to line the nest chambers that she creates by burrowing into the banks of ditches. The oily paste waterproofs the chambers so that her larvae can survive over winter, even during flood conditions.

Glorious magenta spikes of purple loosestrife also line the ditch edges. The flowers are often visited by bees, hoverflies and other pollinators but are also frequented by butterflies which add to the colour spectacle. Into the autumn they provide a bountiful supply of seeds for birds.

Whilst the contrasting blooms of the two loosestrife species may bring the bold colours, the ditch edges and ditches themselves are home to some particularly rare plant species. The unique blend of geology, water management and low intensity cattle grazing that is present at both Pulborough brooks mean that the seasonal trail is an exciting route for keen botanists seeking out unusual species such as true fox sedge, great water parsnip or sharp-leaved pondweed.

Dragonfly-like insects have been taking to the skies for around 350 million years. Their ancestors would have been patrolling the swamps before dinosaurs roamed the Earth. They would have looked much the same as our dragonflies today, except that they were giants with wingspans in excess

continued overleaf



continued from previous page

of 70 centimetres. Whilst the modern insects are smaller, they are still ferocious, the ultimate predator of the insect world. This summer search for banded demoiselles – dainty damselflies with stunning metallic blue and green bodies



Picture: Chris Prince

One to watch out for: the magnificent banded demoiselle

and tinted wings – that perch on the bankside vegetation. You may be ‘buzzed’ by a powerful brown hawker dragonfly with bronzy wings, investigating any creatures who cross its path. A bird calling ‘one, two, three, testing’ – it’s a reed bunting – I spot the male on top of a small ditch-side sallow. Reed buntings are sparrow-sized birds and the male is particularly distinctive, boasting a striking black head, white collar, and drooping moustache. Both males and females have a streaky brown back. Male reed buntings usually establish breeding territories in the same area each year but leave the nest building to the female. The nests are usually low down in the vegetation; if a predator stumbles near the nest, adults may feign injury to draw them away from where the nest is hidden.

I have saved one of my favourite birds until the end – the sedge warbler. If spotted, it has a distinctive creamy eye stripe and a streaky back, but it’s the song that I love. His song is, to be frank, rather chaotic with harsh chattering phrases interspersed with odd piercing high notes as he gets over-excited. He apparently never sings the same song twice, constantly expanding his repertoire to attract a mate.

This seasonal trail only opens for the summer months so come and explore soon.

Anna Allum

Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB, Wiggoholt

Spring rainfall

After such a wet start to the year, April was remarkably dry with just nine damp days producing a mere 6.6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) of rain. April, on the other hand, saw 16 wet or damp days with a total rainfall of 118.4mm ($4\frac{5}{8}$ in), with 10.2mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) on one day alone.

Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey



RECIPE

King scallops, crispy bacon, pea and elderflower

This is a recipe supplied by Ollie Gladwin, chef at the Black Horse. Seared scallops are a truly luxurious thing to eat. They don’t need too much competition from other flavours so in this recipe we are just using the saltiness and crunch of crispy bacon, the wholesome body of peas and the unusual sweet floral flavour of elderflower. We think of the elderflower season as a chance to make cordials, jellies and desserts but actually the fragrant blooms are a wonderful enhancement for savoury dishes as well.

Ingredients (for four)

200g peas

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

A knob of butter and a dash of cream

4 rashers thin streaky bacon

16 king scallops

100ml white wine

2 heads of elderflower, individual flowers snipped off with scissors

A few pearl onions soaked in beetroot juice

Method

Boil a small pan of lightly salted water over a moderate heat. Cook the peas for three minutes, drain and refresh under the cold tap.

Transfer half the peas to a small bowl; add a knob of butter, a little cream, season with pepper, blitz into a puree. Keep both the puree and the whole peas warm ready to serve with the scallops

Whilst the peas are cooking, place a ribbed frying pan over a moderate to high heat. Cook the bacon rashers in the pan until crispy, lift off on to kitchen paper, snip into pieces ready to serve.

Keep the pan over the heat with the fat from the bacon still on it. Season the scallops with salt and pepper, sear them for just one minute on each side. Add the wine and half the elderflowers to the hot pan (it will sizzle), lift the scallops out on to a warm plate, let the juices bubble and quickly reduce by half.

Arrange the scallops and bacon on individual plates. Spoon a few dollops of the pea puree alongside, scatter whole peas, decorate with pearl onions and the remaining elderflowers.

Serve the reduced juices separately or spoon over at the very last minute.





AMBERLEY CC MATCH REPORT

An entertaining afternoon's cricket

A delayed start set the tone for a good humoured but competitive friendly at Amberley, as Crawley arrived late and short of players – prompting the hosts to lend a few of their own to make up the numbers.

Asked to bat first in a 35 over contest, Amberley made full use of the opportunity. Openers Inigo and Thomas laid a solid foundation against some tidy new ball bowling before George, coming in at three, produced the innings of the day. Batting with composure throughout, he accelerated superbly at the close, needing 15 from the final three balls to reach three figures – and duly delivering 6, 4 and 6 to complete a maiden century in dramatic fashion. Jason provided ideal support with a brisk 66, ensuring the momentum never dipped as Amberley posted an imposing 290.

Crawley's reply began unsteadily with a run out, but they possessed several capable hitters and showed moments of resistance. However, disciplined bowling gradually took control of proceedings. Frankie impressed with the ball,



while Paul 'line and length' Mustow chipped in with two well-earned wickets to keep the visitors in check.

There was also a touch of light entertainment when one particularly exuberant batsman took centre stage, providing as much amusement as resistance before the innings moved on.

The closing stages brought a family moment, as Martin Carter – turning out for Crawley – was run out by a sharp piece of fielding from his son George, whose direct hit from cover ended any lingering hopes of a late charge (though, sportingly, the skipper allowed him to continue a little longer).

Amberley's dominance was ultimately reflected in a comfortable victory by 150 runs. Among other highlights were a towering six from Frankie Brown that landed on a nearby roof and a confident catch taken by George after initially questioning whether to go for – before deciding, emphatically, that he would.

All told, an entertaining afternoon played in fine spirit – and with plenty to talk about long after the final ball.

● For upcoming fixtures, see calendar on pages 37-38

Know your Sussex

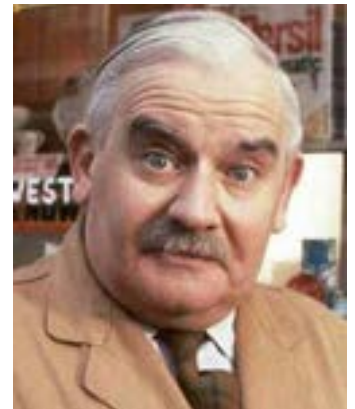
Some interesting facts about people and places in West Sussex

On the outbreak of war in 1939, **Parham House** became home to 30 evacuee children from Peckham in south-east London. Most had never been to the country before, and owner Clive Pearson built them a small wooden house in which to play. To persuade them to eat vegetables, he divided a section of the walled garden into vegetable plots and gave the children tools and lots of seeds. The resulting competition to produce the best crops was a great success, and meant that everyone finished everything on their plates! In 1942 the children were re-housed in



Storrington. Parham was in the middle of the South Downs Training Area and half the house was then requisitioned for billeting Canadian officers. The Pearson family continued to live in the other half, taking in old governesses, relations and other friends stranded by the war. Soldiers of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions were stationed in Nissen huts in the park.

Actor, comedian and writer **Ronnie Barker** is thought to have based his popular TV series *Open All Hours* on a general grocer's in Littlehampton's Norfolk Road. At the time he was living close by in the town's South Terrace. The character played by David Jason was called Granville – is it just coincidence that Granville Road was just around the corner from both the shop and Ronnie's own home? And the name of the nurse played by Lynda Barron – Gladys – was the name by which the lady who owned the shop was known.



One of the most colourful local events takes place annually at **Ebernoe**, a hamlet about five miles north of Petworth. On St James's Day, July 25, Ebernoe cricket team plays a match against a visiting team on the village green. Throughout the morning a ram from the Leconfield Estate is roasting and is served to the cricketers for lunch. At the end of the match the horns (generally a trophy today rather than the real thing) are presented to the highest scoring batsman by Lord Egremont and the *Horn Fair Song* is sung. When the match is over the rest of the day is devoted to traditional attractions: a fair, children's races, lamb roast, beer tent, various stalls and entertainment provided by Petworth Town Band. It's a lovely country event in a glorious setting. Ebernoe is about five miles north of Petworth on a well sign-posted turning off the A283.



Gardens open during July and August for charity under the NGS (National Garden Scheme), all within about 30- to 45-minute driving distance. For further details, refer to the NGS Yellow Book or visit www.ngs.org.uk

July 2, 9, 16, 223 The Old Vicarage*, The Street,
(10am-4pm) Washington, RH20 4AS

July 3 Apuldram Roses*, Birdham Road,
(2pm-3.30pm) Chichester, PO20 7 EQ

July 5, 10 Lynwood & Saffrons, Holland Road,
(1pm-5pm) Steyning, BN44 3GJ

July 7 Old Well Cottage, High Street,
(11am-4pm) Angmering, BN16 4AG

July 7, 8 Sullington Old Rectory*, Sullington Lane,
(9.30am-5pm) Storrington, RH20 4AE

July 7, 11, 21 Peelers Retreat, 70 Ford Road,
(2pm-5pm) Arundel, BN18 9EX

July 17, 18 Five Oaks Cottage*, West Burton,
(2pm-4.30pm) RH20 1HD

July 18, 19 53 Cedar Drive & 25 Parklands Road,
(10.30am-5pm) Chichester, PO19 3EH

July 19 D&S Haus, 41 Tortington Hill Road,
(12pm-5pm) Arundel BN18 9HF

July 19 4 Hillside Cottages, Downs Road,
(2pm-5pm) West Stoke, PO18 9BL

July 23, 26 Cumberland House, Cray Lane,
(2pm-5pm) Thakeham RH20 3ER

July 23, 26 Thakeham Place Farm, The Street,
(2pm-5pm) Thakeham RH20 3EP

July 26 The Folly, Charlton, Chichester,
(2pm-4.30pm) PO18 0HU

July 29-August 5 Fittleworth House, Bedham Lane,
(2pm-5pm) Fittleworth, RH20 1JH

August 6, 13, 20, 27 The Old Vicarage*, The Street,
(10am-4pm) Washington, RH20 4AS

August 9 Champs Hill, Waltham Park Road,
(2pm-5pm) Coldwaltham, RH20 1LY

August 15 Tuppenny Barn, Main Road,
(12pm-4pm) Southbourne, PO10 8EZ

August 16 4 Hillside Cottages, Downs Road,
(2pm-5pm) West Stoke, PO18 9BL

August 20 D&S Haus, 41 Tortington Hill Road,
(7pm-10pm) Arundel BN18 9HF

August 23 Findon Place*, Findon,
(2pm-5pm) BN14 0RF

August 23 The Folly, Charlton, Chichester,
(2pm-4.30pm) PO18 0HU

**Pre booking essential*

Times past...

On Mondays we resume our Band of Hope meetings. The importance of keeping children from acquiring a taste for alcoholic drinks is recognised by practically everyone. We hope then that parents will see that their children attend the meetings regularly. To encourage the children to attend regularly all who are present at the meetings during each month will be invited to tea and a magic lantern entertainment at the end of the month.

Amberley & Houghton Parish Magazine, October 1909

Great credit is due to Christopher Ruff for very gallantly rescuing three young men whose boat capsized during the recent floods. The conduct of George and Chas Mills on this occasion is also deserving of praise. The Vicar also wishes to thank Chas and Edgar Mills for cycling over at night to Pulborough to fetch a doctor, in two cases needing immediate medical attention. It is something to have neighbours who can be depended on to render help in an emergency without reward.

Amberley & Houghton Parish Magazine, October 1910

The Vicar would be glad if any persons interested in having a telephone installed in the village would come to the Clarkson School on Monday, Feb 14th at 6pm, to talk the matter over, and, if desirable, take steps to have it brought before the Postal Authorities.

Amberley & Houghton Parish Magazine, October 1910

THE SPORTSMAN, AMBERLEY

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All offers of homemade cakes, savouries and preserves gratefully received for our cake stall or to serve with coffees and teas during the morning. And, of course, our amazing raffle returns once again with lots of wonderful prizes.

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Whats on – August

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30th Quiz Night

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EDITORIAL

Too many cars, too little space

One of the messages to emerge from the Amberley Neighbourhood Plan some years ago was the questionable need for a village car park. It is an issue that has only grown in importance. Like many villages across the country, Amberley was never designed with the motor car in mind. Few properties have garages or off-street parking; historically, horses, carts and the movement of livestock shaped our roads.

Even within relatively recent memory, the difference is striking. As late as the 1980s, one could walk down Church Street during the day and encounter perhaps a single car at the roadside – often a Morris Minor convertible. Such images now belong to a quieter past.

In the decades since, car ownership has increased, as has visitor traffic. Amberley's charm, its setting within the South Downs National Park, and its attractions have made it an increasingly popular destination. Inevitably, this has placed pressure on the village's narrow roads. School Road, the High Street, Church Street, Hog Lane, East Street and Rackham Road all experience congestion and parking difficulties.

The situation has been exacerbated not only by the number of vehicles but also by their size. Modern SUVs, four-by-fours and pick-up trucks are considerably wider and longer than earlier cars, reducing already limited road space and making passing more difficult.

It would be less of a concern if parking were consistently considerate. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Without yellow lines or regular enforcement, vehicles are sometimes parked dangerously at junctions. The 20mph limit, too, is often disregarded. A recent incident at the corner of East Street and the High Street saw bad parking prevent the school bus from getting through, blocking the road and disrupting commuters as well as making children late for school. More worryingly, there is concern that emergency vehicles might find their route obstructed when swift access is most needed.

At the same time, it is important to recognise that visitors are very welcome. The popularity of local establishments such as the Black Horse and the Sportsman contributes to village life. Encouragingly, the Black Horse has taken steps to direct customers to the village car park through its website and clearer signage.

Previous consultations suggest that residents are generally reluctant to see yellow lines spread widely, though there is limited support for targeted markings at key junctions.

Ultimately, this is not only a matter of regulation. It is also one of courtesy, common sense and mutual understanding. No one wishes to deter visitors, but there is a reasonable expectation that those who come will use the facilities provided and park with consideration for residents.

Mike Toynbee

Poet's corner

Thomas Hardy (1840–1928) (pictured) was one of England's greatest writers, celebrated for both his novels and his poetry. His poem, *An August Midnight*, captures a quiet moment of connection between humanity and nature on a warm, summer night, when Hardy notices four small insects gathered round his light. In this poem, Hardy upends the traditional human hierarchy, as he elevates small insects above mankind – while the insects may be 'God's humblest' creatures, they also possess 'earth secrets' Hardy can never know.



An August Midnight

I

A shaded lamp and a waving blind,

And the beat of a clock from a distant floor:

On this scene enter - winged, horned, and spined -

A longlegs, a moth, and a dumbledore;

While 'mid my page there idly stands

A sleepy fly, that rubs its hands ...

II

Thus meet we five, in this still place,

At this point of time, at this point in space.

My guests besmear my new-penned line,

Or bang at the lamp and fall supine.

"God's humblest, they!" I muse. Yet why?

They know Earth-secrets that know not I.

Deadline for the September issue is

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

**Contributions should be sent to The Editor,
Brooklands, East Street, Amberley, BN18 9NN**

or e-mail mike@brooklandsamberley.com



LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse & Recycling Calendar – July/August

Household refuse collections (Amberley/Cross-gates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt): recyclable (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on **Tuesdays, July 7 and 21; and August 4 and 18**. Collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Tuesdays, July 14 and 28; and August 11 and 25**. Orange top bins (food recycling) will be collected every Tuesday.

For Church Street and Hog Lane: collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, July 1, 15 and 27; and August 12 and 26**. Garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on **Mondays, July 6 and 20; and August 3, 17 and 31**. Collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Wednesdays, July 8 and 22; and August 5 and 19**. Orange top bins (food recycling) will be collected weekly on Wednesdays.



Amenity Tip Opening Times

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

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

Chichester: Coach Road, Westhampnett, PO18 0NX
9am-6pm (closed Tuesday)

Horsham: Hop Oast Farm Worthing Road, Horsham RH13 0AR
9am-6pm (closed Tuesday and Wednesday)

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

Appointments are required at all local recycling sites. Bookings can be made at any time online by visiting www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle or by calling (01243) 642106. Proof of residency required on arrival.



AMBERLEY & SLINDON BUS STOP

Village Bus Timetable



On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Village Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers.



We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver will pick up and set down at your door on request (especially useful when you are returning home with shopping), or anywhere else en route.



The full bus timetable can also be found on the Amberley Parish Council website: www.amberley-pc.org.uk

Please note: The service does not operate on Bank Holidays.

AMBERLEY AND SLINDON BUS TIMETABLE



MONDAY AM

Out	
Amberley Square	10.00
Hurst Cottages	10.02
The Sportsman	10.06
Rackham Street	10.10
Storrington	10.20
Pulborough (Sainsbury's)	10.40



RETURN	
Pulborough	12.03
Pulborough Tesco	12.05
Storrington	12.25
Rackham Street	12.35



MONDAY PM

Out	
Rackham Street	12.35
The Sportsman	12.38
Hurst Cottages	12.39
Amberley Square	12.41
Bridge Inn	12.43
Houghton	12.45
Slindon Coronation Hall	12.52
Top Road/Church Hill	12.54
Havenwood Park	13.01
Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	13.07
Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	13.25



RETURN	
Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	15.30
Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	15.41
Havenwood Park	15.46
Slindon Coronation Hall	15.52
Top Road/Church Hill	15.56
Houghton	16.06
Bridge Inn	16.08
Rackham Street	16.12
Sportsman	16.17
Hurst Cottages	16.18
Amberley Square	16.20



FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Out	
Havenwood	9.15
(via Shellbridge Road)	
Slindon Coronation Hall	9.20
Top Road/Church Hill	9.23
Houghton	9.33
Bridge Inn	9.35
Amberley Square	9.37
Hurst Cottages	9.40
The Sportsman	9.42
Rackham Street	9.42
Worthing - South Street	10.15
Haskins Garden Centre	10.30



RETURN	
Haskins Garden Centre	12.50
Worthing (Sea front, M&S)	13.05
Rackham Street	13.30
The Sportsman	13.33
Hurst Cottages	13.35
Amberley Square	13.37
Bridge Inn	13.40
Houghton	13.42
Slindon Coronation Hall	14.00
Top Road/Church Hill	
(via Shellbridge Road)	
Havenwood	14.09



WEDNESDAY

Chichester

Out	
Rackham Street	9.35
The Sportsman	9.38
Hurst Cottages	9.39
Amberley Square	9.41
Bridge Inn	9.43
Houghton	9.45
Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52
Top Road/Church Hill	9.54
Havenwood Park	10.01
Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	10.04
Chichester Market	10.18
Chichester Cathedral	10.23



RETURN	
Chichester Cathedral	13.30
Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	13.45
Havenwood Park	13.48
Slindon Coronation Hall	13.58
Top Road/Church Hill	14.00
Houghton	14.10
Bridge Inn	14.12
Rackham Street	14.17
The Sportsman	14.20
Hurst Cottages	14.21
Amberley Square	14.23



THURSDAY

Rustington

Out	
Rackham Street	9.35
The Sportsman	9.38
Hurst Cottages	9.39
Amberley Square	9.41
Bridge Inn	9.43
Houghton	9.45
Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52
Top Road/Church Hill	9.54
Fontwell Village	9.57
Havenwood Park	10.00
Queens Street Arundel	10.05
Littlehampton	10.20
Rustington (Railroad)	10.30



RETURN	
Rustington (Railroad)	12.15
Littlehampton	12.25
Queens Street Arundel	12.40
Havenwood Park	12.45
Fontwell Village	12.50
Slindon Coronation Hall	12.53
Top Road/Church Hill	12.55
Houghton	13.05
Bridge Inn	13.07
Rackham Street	13.12
The Sportsman	13.16
Hurst Cottages	13.16
Amberley Square	13.18

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Property Watch Homes for sale and to rent locally

Amberley

New Barn Road 6-bedroom house with pool
(Savills, Petworth) **£1,950,000**

High Street 4-bedroom house
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,750,000**

Church Street 4-bedroom house
(Hamilton Graham, Steyning) **£1,600,000**

Church Street 4-bedroom house, former Manse
(Sims Williams, Arundel) **£1,250,000**

Church Street 3-bedroom Grade II listed cottage
(Jackson Stops, Chichester) **£1,150,000**

Newland Gardens 4-bedroom detached house
(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£975,000**

The Alley 3-bedroom Grade II listed cottage
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£950,000**

School Road 2-bedroom house
(Sims Williams, Arundel) **£800,000**

Church Street 2-bedroom Grade II listed cottage
(Sims Williams, Arundel) **£600,000**

Mill Lane/Turnpike Road 3-bedroom detached bungalow
(Fowlers, Storrington) **£595,000**

Turnpike Road 2-bedroom house
(Fowlers, Storrington) **£550,000**

Greatham

Greatham Lane 5-bedroom detached house
(house.Partnership, Cranleigh) **£3,500,000**

Houghton Bridge

Riverside 2-bedroom lodge
(seasonal occupation)
(Lodges and Caravans for Sale, Troon) **£175,000**

Houghton

Off B2139 5-bedroom detached house with pool
(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£1,850,000**

South Lane 4-bedroom detached Grade II listed cottage
(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£775,000**

Off B2139 3-bedroom Grade II listed barn conversion
(Coast & Country Real Estate, Worthing) **£580,000**

Wiggonholt

Church Lane 2-bedroom cottage
(Fowlers, Storrington) **£350,000**

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SUMMER DIVERSIONS

- Where would you most commonly find the inscription 'Standing on the Shoulders of Giants'?
- In the Bible who was the father of Shem, Ham and Japeth?
- How much liquid does a flagon hold?
- Which famous building has the address 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?
- According to Edward Lear's poem, how long was the sailing trip undertaken by the Owl and the Pussycat?
- What name is given to the cabin below an airship?
- Flemish bond and English bond are methods of doing what?
- What does the word Cenotaph mean?
- What is the official name of 'the Old Bailey'?
- What is the only word in the English language that ends in the letters 'mt'?
- What was the name of the character of the cultural attaché portrayed by Barry Humphries?
- Invented by Jacques Cousteau, what is SCUBA equipment?
- In an AIOLI sauce, with what is the olive oil flavoured?
- The children's rhyme "One for sorrow, two for joy etc." is about which bird?
- Who recorded the 1985 album *Brothers in Arms*?
- Who in 1878 founded the Salvation Army?
- In education, what is a MBA?
- Three English words beginning with 'dw'?
- In geometry, what do we call a straight line that touches a curve at one point, but does not cut it?
- Ikebana is the Japanese art of what?
- Whose image on the reverse of the current £5 note?
- If the Roman numeral for 500 is added to the name of America's military cemetery in Washington you have the name of which English market town?
- How many points are needed to win a game of cribbage?
- Who are the three male suspects in a game of Cluedo?
- Who was the youngest Beatle?
- Who wrote *The Gormanghast Trilogy*?
- Who was Samuel Langhorne Clemens better known as?
- Who said "I think therefore I am"?
- Who had a hit song *Anyone who had a heart*?
- Name the six Australian states and two mainland territories?

Answers: page 39

Quick crossword

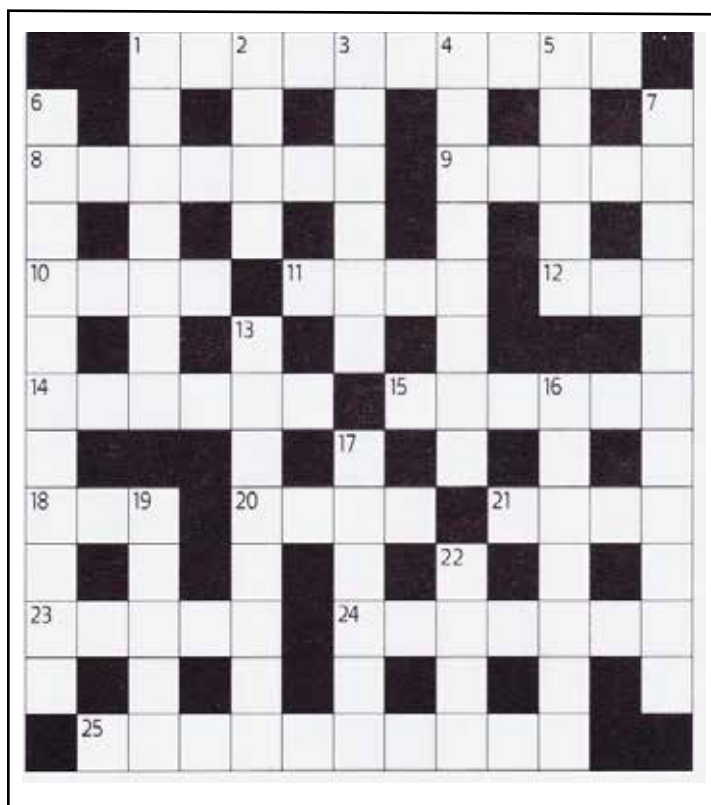
Across

- Gallant (10)
- A ____ of war (7)
- Conundrum (5)
- Outing (4)
- Fruit (4)
- Go brown (3)
- Surpass in cunning (6)
- Cold-shoulder (6)
- Junior scout (3)
- Responsibility (4)
- Cake layer (4)
- Actress,Wilcox (5)
- Old peat (anagram) (7)
- Type of pipe (10)

Down

- Pharmacist (7)
- Tiny amount (4)
- Comedian, _____ Sayle (6)
- Journalist (8)
- Shock result (5)
- Medical instrument (11)
- Smoked sausage (11)
- Extinct reptile (8)
- Regular throughout (7)
- Bucolic (6)
- Actor, _____ Willis (6)
- Thought (4)

Solution: page 39





JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLES

July

1st Wednesday

Talk: *Wild About Oscar*, The Arts Society South Downs, Fittleworth Village Hall, 9.45am

4th Saturday

Midsummer Steam Show, Amberley Museum, from 10am (also Sunday)

5th Sunday

Cricket: Amberley CC v Greys CC (home), 1.30pm

Plant Fairs Roadshow, Parham

House & Gardens, from 12 noon

6th Monday

Black Horse Supper Club, 7.30pm*

7th Tuesday

Talk: *Vanessa Bell's Art*, The Arts Society West Sussex, 1.30pm

continued overleaf

Littlehampton Tide Timetable - July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 st High 00.41 Low 06.46 High 13.08 Low 19.03	2 nd High 01.15 Low 07.23 High 13.42 Low 19.39	3 rd High 01.48 Low 07.57 High 14.15 Low 20.15	4 th High 02.22 Low 08.31 High 14.49 Low 20.49
5 th High 02.59 Low 09.05 High 15.27 Low 21.26	6 th High 03.39 Low 09.43 High 16.08 Low 22.09	7 th High 04.24 Low 10.29 High 16.56 Low 20.10	8 th High 05.17 Low 11.22 High 17.52	9 th Low 00.03 High 06.21 Low 12.28 High 18.59	10 th Low 01.14 High 07.36 Low 13.44 High 20.12	11 th Low 02.27 High 18.52 Low 14.59 High 21.23
12 th Low 03.35 High 10.01 Low 16.04 High 22.25	13 th Low 04.34 High 11.01 Low 17.01 High 23.22	14 th Low 05.29 High 12.00 Low 17.54	15 th High 00.18 Low 06.20 High 12.54 Low 18.44	16 th High 01.10 Low 07.10 High 13.44 Low 19.34	17 th High 02.00 Low 07.59 High 14.32 Low 20.23	18 th High 02.47 Low 18.46 High 15.17 Low 21.09
19 th High 03.31 Low 09.32 High 15.59 Low 21.54	20 th High 04.14 Low 10.14 High 16.40 Low 22.38	21 st High 04.47 Low 10.56 High 17.23 Low 23.22	22 nd High 05.44 Low 11.40 High 18.12	23 rd Low 00.14 High 06.38 Low 12.36 High 19.07	24 th Low 01.25 High 07.40 Low 13.57 High 20.11	25 th Low 02.46 High 08.55 Low 15.14 High 21.23
26 th Low 03.46 High 10.06 Low 16.09 High 22.23	27 th Low 04.33 High 10.56 Low 16.54 High 23.08	28 th Low 05.15 High 11.37 Low 17.34 High 23.47	29 th Low 05.52 High 12.14 Low 18.09	30 th High 00.22 Low 06.28 High 12.49 Low 18.45	31 st High 00.56 Low 07.03 High 13.22 Low 19.20	

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continued from previous page

8th Wednesday

Talk: National Emergency Meeting on Climate and Nature, The Black Horse, 6.30pm

11th Saturday

Ecohub and Repair Cafe, St Michael's Church Hall, 10am-12.30pm

Sussex Steam Fair, Parham Park, from 9am

12th Sunday

Sussex Steam Fair, Parham Park

Classic Car Show, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Cricket: Amberley CC v Yellow Stump (home), 1.30pm

13th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

15th Wednesday

Exhibition: Bargello needlepoint, Parham House (until July 26)

16th Thursday

Discovery Day: Cycling Through the Ages, Amberley Museum, 2pm-3.30pm

18th Saturday

Rail Gala Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

19th Sunday

Rail Gala Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Cricket: Amberley CC v Bury & West Burton (away), 1.30pm

25th Saturday

Concert: Aglica Trio, North Stoke Church (reception 6.30pm)*

26th Sunday

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

August

1st Saturday

Retro Wheels: Cycle Through the Ages, Amberley Museum, from 10am (and Sunday)

Littlehampton Tide Timetable - August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 st High 01.29 Low 07.37 High 13.54 Low 19.53
2 nd High 02.03 Low 08.10 High 14.26 Low 20.26	3 rd High 02.38 Low 08.40 High 15.01 Low 20.59	4 th High 03.14 Low 09.16 High 15.40 Low 21.39	5 th High 03.55 Low 09.57 High 16.23 Low 22.25	6 th High 04.43 Low 10.48 High 17.15 Low 23.24	7 th High 05.45 Low 11.54 High 18.23	8 th Low 00.43 High 07.08 Low 13.23 High 19.52
9 th Low 02.14 High 08.45 Low 14.52 High 21.18	10 th Low 03.31 High 10.02 Low 16.01 High 22.25	11 th Low 04.31 High 11.02 Low 16.56 High 23.21	12 th Low 05.22 High 11.55 Low 17.44	13 th High 00.12 Low 06.08 High 12.44 Low 18.30	14 th High 00.59 Low 06.53 High 13.29 Low 19.15	15 th High 01.43 Low 07.37 High 14.10 Low 19.57
16 th High 02.24 Low 08.18 High 14.49 Low 20.38	17 th High 03.02 Low 08.55 High 15.25 Low 21.14	18 th High 03.37 Low 09.30 High 15.58 Low 21.49	19 th High 04.12 Low 10.04 High 16.33 Low 22.25	20 th High 04.52 Low 10.45 High 17.15 Low 23.11	21 st High 05.46 Low 11.36 High 18.16	22 nd Low 00.14 High 06.57 Low 12.50 High 19.30
23 rd Low 02.06 High 08.16 Low 14.49 High 20.49	24 th Low 03.23 High 09.44 Low 15.49 High 22.02	25 th Low 04.13 High 10.35 Low 16.33 High 22.47	26 th Low 04.52 High 11.14 Low 17.11 High 23.23	27 th Low 05.29 High 11.49 Low 17.45 High 23.58	28 th Low 06.02 High 12.22 Low 18.20	29 th High 00.32 Low 09.37 High 12.55 Low 18.54
30 th High 01.05 Low 07.10 High 13.27 Low 19.27	31 st High 01.39 Low 07.42 High 14.00 Low 19.59					

TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON

2nd Sunday

Jaguar Day, Parham House, from 12 noon

Cricket: Amberley CC v Crawley Down (away), 1.30pm (TBC)

8th Saturday

Ecohub and Repair Cafe, St Michael's Church Hall, 10am-12.30pm

12th Wednesday

Textile Exhibition, Parham House (until August 31)

16th Sunday

Communications Day, Amberley Museum, from 10am

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

20th Thursday

Discovery Day: Pioneers in Radio Communication, Amberley Museum, 2pm-3.30pm*

23rd Sunday

Cricket: Amberley CC v Arundel Grasshoppers (home), 1.30pm

28th Friday

Cricket: Amberley CC v Watersfield T20 (home), 5.30pm

29th Saturday

Summer in Sussex: Bank Holiday Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

30th Sunday

Summer in Sussex: Bank Holiday Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

31st Monday

Summer in Sussex: Bank Holiday Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

* Booking essential



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Answers to Diversions (see page 36)

1. On the edge of a two pound coin 2. Noah 3. Two pints 4. The White House 5. A year and a day 6. Gondola 7. Laying bricks 8. Empty tomb 9. The Central Criminal Court 10. Dreamt 11. Sir Les Patterson 12. Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus 13. Garlic 14. Magpie 15. Dire Straits 16. William Booth 17. Masters in Business Administration 18. Dwarf, dwell and dwindle 19. A tangent 20. Flower arranging 21. Winston Churchill 22. Darlington (D - Arlington) 23. 121 24. Colonel Mustard, Reverend Green and Professor Plum 25. George Harrison (born February 25, 1943) 26. Mervyn Peake 27. Mark Twain 28. René Descartes 29. Cilla Black 30. New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory

Crossword solution

Across: Chivalrous 8. Theatre 9. Poser 10. Trip 11. Pear 12. Tan 14. Outwit 15. Rebuff 18. Cub 20. Onus 21. Tier 23. Paula 24. Tadpole 25. Meerscaum

Down: 1. Chemist 2. Iota 3. Alexei 4. Reporter 5. Upset 6. Stethoscope 7. Frankfurter 13. Dinosaur 16. Uniform 17. Rustic 19. Bruce 22. Idea



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SPOTLIGHT ON...



Amberley's own Repair Shop

Graham Smith sheds light on giving items a new lease of life

Amberley needs a knife sharpener for its monthly Eco Hub was the request on Gagggle. A background in engineering means I've always loved the smell of engine oil and fixing things. So, being new to the village I thought "I can do that, and it will be a good way to get to know people." A couple of hours of training at Arundel's repair café and a week later and I'm flying solo at my first Amberley Eco Hub. I soon discovered that the role encompassed more than just knife sharpening.

It's a cliché but things aren't made like they used to be. Today, it's a sad fact that many of our small household appliances aren't designed to be fixed, indeed the worst ones have built in obsolescence, like the plastic starter lever on a mower that will break after a year of use. The cheapest components and methods of mass production, including the use of glued plastic covers, means breaking the component is often the only way of gaining entry to the innards. Beats headphones and Nespresso coffee machines are a case in point – sorry, but the chances are we won't be able to fix one if you bring it in: we just can't get into them without ruining the case.

Still, we always try our best at the Eco Hub and have had some stunning successes as well as outright failures. Each member of the sharpening and repair team bring their own skills, Patrick is our electrical expert, Simon loves sharpening secateurs and hedge clippers, and I focus on the mechanical repairs and getting a good edge on a knife – being able to shave with a carving knife is always a good test.

Favourite item I've repaired so far was a retro lamp which had stopped working. It needed rewiring – not a problem as we have our own PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) machine at the Eco Hub so we can ensure that any electrical repairs are safe and meet the required standards. The trickier part was finding the correct size of nut to attach the lamp to its base.

Luckily, our team of fixing enthusiasts have collected many different nuts, bolts and washers over the years, so we usually find we have one that does the job. A vintage record player also stands out as a highlight. Thankfully, the internet is an Aladdin's Cave for spare parts and being able to restore this treasured item was a joy.



Most frustrating item was a garden strimmer which I was convinced I could repair. Unfortunately, it wasn't an easy on/off switch, but it transpired that it was a faulty electric motor. Looking on the internet, the cost of a replacement motor was more than the cost of buying a new strimmer at B&Q. Surely there must be something wrong when the cost of an individual component is higher than purchasing a brand-new item.

One of the most challenging, but ultimately rewarding, items was a broken piece of pottery. Sticking it back together felt like something that would happen on an archaeological dig, but then I realised there were several missing areas. These were filled and I managed to colour the filler to match the pottery. Result: one happy customer!

In today's throw-away society, it's all too easy to send things to landfill. While we can't fix everything, we'll give it a go (providing it's not a Nespresso machine or Beats headphones). Personally, I know I and the other members of the sharpening and repair team get a feeling of immense

achievement when we turn a loved, but faulty, possession into something that will once again be useful.

So please bring your knives and garden shears for sharpening, and your small mechanical or electrical appliances for fixing, – just don't ask me to replace a motor in an electric strimmer.

● Dates for upcoming Repair Café & Eco Hub sessions are Saturday, July 11 and Saturday, August 8, from 10am until 12.30pm. A further article, focusing on the Eco Hub and its activities, including the sewing team who are on hand to make alterations and repairs to clothing, will appear in the September issue.



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