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THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



Serving the parishes of Amberley with North Stoke, Parham, Wiggonholt and Greatham

The Bridge Inn

Music and Events
December 2026

Thursday 3rd - Sloe Gin and Chutney Evening from 6pm
To kick start the season we are hosting another evening where you may bring along your own homemade Chutneys and or Sloe Gins for sharing and tasting. We will provide a giant cheese board with lots of tasty breads. There will be friendly and fun judging, with prizes to be won!

Sunday 13th - Live Music
Superstrings - 3-5pm

Wednesday 16th - Carols and Chestnuts Evening 6:30pm
Carols around the tree with complimentary roasted chestnuts. Petworth Town band will be merrily playing for us to sing along and get into the Christmas spirit. Mulled wine to keep us warm and after 20 years we all know it will probably SNOW!

Christmas and New Year Opening hours:
Christmas Eve 12-9pm (Food 12-7:30)
Christmas Day Drinks 12-2pm
Boxing Day - Closed
New Years Day - 12-5pm (Food 12-3)
We will also be open every lunchtime between Christmas and New Year including Monday and Tuesday

Warmest Wishes Tash, Dave and the Team

CONTENTS

Regulars

Churchwardens' newsletter **5**

Calendar of services & Bible readings **6**

Church news **9**

Nature notes **33, 35**

Recipe **35**

Editorial **36**

Local information **37, 38**

Diversions **40**

Calendar of events & Tide timetable **42**

At your service (local tradespeople) **43**

Parish Directory **40**

Bystander **46**

People & Events

11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 22

Special Reports

Macmillan Coffee Morning **15**

Great Joy to the New concert preview **21**

Lest We Forget **27, 28**

Lost medals of the First World War **29**

Amberley's Living Advent Calendar **31, 32**



Celebrating the harvest - p9



Poised for action: Macmillan Coffee Morning - p15



Cheers!: Sportsman Inn Beerfest - p13

This month's front cover



Lest We Forget - Remembrance Sunday service on November 8



Remembering the Fallen - p27-29



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The Churchwardens' Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of The Churchwarden's Newsletter! While we are without a priest, we'll be using this space to keep everyone updated on all the church news and events happening across our benefice.

Seeking a new priest
Our advertisement for a priest to lead the Benefice is once again on the Diocese website and, we hope, will now stay there permanently. But there are still no applicants for the post. We have been told that we would be more likely to attract someone if the four parishes in the Benefice agreed to combine into one, with one PCC.

Having only one PCC to deal with does save an incumbent time and make life simpler for him or her. But there are also practical downsides, and it severs the emotional connection that congregations feel to their parishes. In any case, is the ever-spreading practice of combining parishes really the only answer to the shortage of priests and the dwindling numbers in the pews?

Harvest Festival
Amberley Primary School came to church for a harvest service on the first Friday in October. A lively song about conkers got things off to an enthusiastic start, with more traditional thanksgiving music later. The children brought their harvest pictures of fruit and vegetables, which are still on view in the church.

Then on the Sunday the church held its own Harvest Service, focusing on creation and the environment (you can read more about this on page 9, followed by lunch in the church hall. This was the second year we have held a harvest lunch instead of a supper and it is proving popular. Shepherd's pie was followed by apple crumble and several other delicious desserts as well as cheese. A quiz with an 'eco' theme rounded things off before we all staggered home feeling very full of both food and good cheer.

The wall
By the time you read this a contractor will have been appointed for the works. The costs overall will be in excess of £100,000 on top of the several thousands we have paid out so far for surveys etc. We don't have anything like that sum in our reserves and grants are thin on the ground. It's a challenge, to say the least. Work can't start until the spring, because parts of the wall need to be taken down and there is a risk of collapse if this is done when the ground is very wet.

Don't mention Christmas...
Isn't it sad that so many of us groan when Christmas first starts to be mentioned? I do it myself, even though I love Christmas once the day actually arrives. Apart from the wonderful mystery of the Christmas story itself - a child born to transform the world – I can never have too much of corny reindeer jokes, gaudy decorations, intriguingly shaped presents under the tree and of course the excuse to eat and drink far too much. But getting to that point does take its toll. Maybe the Hallraisers' Christmas Fair, on Saturday, November 28 in the church hall, will help by giving you some gift options – books, plants, crafts and more might solve some of your dilemmas. I hope Santa will make his annual appearance with a lucky dip for the children. See the poster on page 10.

In families where money is tight and there may be other difficulties, Christmas presents special problems. As usual, we will be collecting Christmas food and gifts for children, their parents and carers in December, to be distributed by the charity Family Support Work which helps to look after families in difficult circumstances throughout Sussex. More details in the December issue of this magazine.

And for something different! Our Carol Service at St Michael's will be at 2pm on Wednesday December 9. What's different? For the first time, we are combining with Amberley Primary School, so this promises to be a very special and heartwarming occasion.

Until next time,

Mel Edge

Churchwarden, St Michael's, Amberley

Dates for your diary

- **Sunday, November 8** - Remembrance Service (10.45am at the War Memorial)
- **Saturday, November 28** - Hallraisers' Christmas Fair (10am - 4pm)
- **Wednesday, December 9** - Carol Service (2pm)
- **Thursday, December 24** - Traditional Journey to the Crib (3pm)

NOVEMBER SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 1st NOVEMBER — ALL SAINTS — Gold/White Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
3.00pm	Evensong with All Souls Commemoration	Wiggonholt

SUNDAY, 8th NOVEMBER — REMEMBRANCE — Red/Green Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.45am	Remembrance Service in Churchyard	Amberley

SUNDAY, 15th NOVEMBER — 2 BEFORE ADVENT — Red/Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Morning Praise	Amberley

SUNDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER — CHRIST THE KING — Red/White Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 29th NOVEMBER — ADVENT 1 — Purple Array

10.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Greatham

SUNDAY, 6th DECEMBER — ADVENT 2 — Purple Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
3.00pm	Advent Evensong	Wiggonholt

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday, 1st November
Revelation 7:9-end; Psalm 34:1-10; Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, 8th November
Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, 15th November
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end; Psalm 90:1-8; Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, 22nd November
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7; Matthew 25:31-end

Sunday, 29th November
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-8; Mark 13:24-end

Sunday, 6th December
Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:8-end; Mark 1:1-8

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 44).

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.



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INTRODUCTION TO LINOCUT

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The Church Hall
Amberley
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CHURCH NEWS

Harvest Festival at St Michael's

After a summer of blazing heat and precious little rainfall, it felt strange to find ourselves in the season of Harvest, also known in the C of E as 'Creationtide'. The weather was still warmer than the seasonal norm, the skies blue …it was really only the appearance of pumpkins in the supermarkets that set the scene for the customary autumnal celebration of Harvest Sunday and 'all good gifts around us' on Sunday, October 4.



Produce decorated the church porch in time-honoured fashion

The extraordinarily hot, dry summer and our awareness of humankind's part in the Earth's warming trend, underlined by this year's poor harvest, prompted us at St Michael's to broaden the remit of our usual Harvest thanksgiving to include some more contrite content, confessing our part in the consequences of our collective self-centredness and asking for grace to mend our profligate ways.



Aubergines and corn by pupils of Amberley School

The Revd Barbara Stanton, our regular visiting Vicar, preached about that icon of care for nature, St Francis of Assisi, and it was a joy to sing much-loved harvest hymns remembered from long ago.

No longer do we offer our leeks and cauliflowers to donate to needy causes, though these worthy veg, along with rosy apples and green, leafy cabbages decorated the church and its porch in time-honoured fashion. As for gifts, congregation members had brought tins and packets of food items for distribution to Family Support Work, Chichester diocese's charity which provides support for families struggling with cost-of-living issues.

Harvest lunch followed the service, attended by guests from across the Wildbrooks benefice, and catered by a team of friends of St. Michael's who had cooked up a generous meal of traditional cottage pie, both meaty and veggie. Delicious desserts and tasty cheeses were generously donated by lunch guests.

And there was a quiz – of course there was! Questions on farming, environmental science and eco general knowledge did nothing to faze our guests, who romped through the 24 questions. And, naturally, there were points … and as we all know, points mean prizes! Appropriately enough, these were … pumpkins!

Donations were invited for Tearfund* which amounted to £80 – a very tidy sum indeed!

Ros Simpson

*Tearfund is a Christian charity working in more than 50 countries to tackle extreme poverty and injustice. Find out more at: tearfund.org

THE FRIENDS of ST MARY the VIRGIN NORTH STOKE

Present a Concert of Christmas Folk Music in the Church

with Janice Burns and Jon Doran, the award-winning Anglo-Scottish Duo

CELEBRATING THEIR CHRISTMAS ALBUM

GREAT JOY TO THE NEW



SATURDAY 19 December 2026 4pm

Tickets £17 to include refreshments: bookable in advance from janet@aldin.co.uk (01798 872531) by bank transfer or cheque

PROCEEDS TO THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

Hallraisers' Christmas Fair

Saturday, November 28 from 10am to 4pm

St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley

It's never too early to start preparing for Christmas – so why not start the advent season at the Hallraisers' Christmas Fair, which will return on November 28 from 10am to 4pm.

Once again, the Church Hall will be filled with the fragrant scents of spiced apple juice, mince pies and festive gingerbread.

Stock up on festive gifts at local artisan stalls offering handcrafted gifts, festive treats and unique decorations, while children can enjoy visiting Santa's grotto and sharing their Christmas wishes.

What's not to love!

SUPPORTING THE RENOVATION OF OUR CHURCH HALL







PEOPLE & EVENTS

Welcome...

To **Emma** and **Rob**, who are moving into The Old Cottage, East Street, Amberley, on November 4. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

Our condolences...

To the **Ffoulkes Roberts** family on the death of **Pam**, aged 94, mother of **Gavin, Adam, Lucy** and **Sarah**; to **Grahame** and **Michael Joseph**, on the death of their mother, **Joyce**, aged 103; and to **Len Wheeler**, on the death of his wife, **Jo**, aged 84. The Wheelers lived at Spion Kop in Amberley for many years before moving to Boxgrove.

Future of football field secured

Amberley Parish Council has agreed to purchase the football field to the east of Newland Gardens for £50,000, securing its future as a community green space for generations to come.



The football field has been rented by the parish council from the Parham Estate since 1964 and has long been an important recreational asset for local residents and football clubs. When the Gibson Trust decided to sell the land, the Parish Council was given the first option to purchase it before it was offered on the open market.

Following negotiations, an agreement has now been reached. Although the site lies outside the village's permitted development area, ownership by the Parish Council will ensure that the land remains permanently protected as a valuable green space and sporting facility.

The council is now working with its solicitors to complete the legal process and secure a Public Works Loan to help finance the project. The change of ownership will also provide an opportunity to improve the site's security and accessibility. Plans include replacing the existing wooden gates with more substantial fencing and access arrangements along the B2139.

Residents will be pleased to hear that the purchase and planned improvements will be funded through existing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds together with the loan facility. Income from football club rentals will continue to contribute towards the field's ongoing maintenance costs.

The council has confirmed that, thanks to prudent long-term financial planning and the maintenance of appropriate reserves, there will be no increase in the parish precept as a result of the project.

Welcoming the agreement, the Parish Council said it was delighted to be able to safeguard an important part of Amberley's heritage and provide continued recreational opportunities for local people. Further updates will be shared with residents as the purchase progresses.

Crime: a reminder to stay alert

An e-bike was stolen in broad daylight from a house in Rackham Road in early October. It's not clear whether this was an opportunistic theft or a planned operation, but either way, it's a reminder that rural tranquillity should not be mistaken for immunity from crime.

The wider Pulborough, Coldwaltham and Amberley area recorded a rise of four per cent in reported crimes on the previous year. While this rate is still below the national average, that's little comfort when it happens on our own doorstep. Keeping sheds and outbuildings secure, locking vehicles and taking care where bicycles are left can all help. Reporting suspicious activity is equally important.

Neighbourhood Watch plays a valuable role in keeping residents informed. If you have information about local incidents, contact Malcolm Pheasey, Amberley Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator (malcolmpheasey031@gmail.com).

Recycling made easy

Residents are encouraged to download or update the latest Horsham District Council app, which has been redesigned to make council services easier to access.

A new recycling checker allows users to scan items with their smartphone camera and receive instant advice on correct disposal. The feature aims to reduce recycling contamination and help prevent fires caused by incorrectly discarded batteries, vapes and small electrical items. The app also provides waste collection reminders, notifications of collection day changes, news and council updates.

Councillor David Skipp said the upgraded app helps residents stay informed and recycle with confidence. Download it via the Horsham District Council website.

Josephine Wheeler, 1942-2026

Jo Wheeler, who has died aged 84, will be fondly remembered for her garden parties at Spion Kop. Her celebrated Chapeaux and Gateaux gatherings became a highlight of Amberley's summer social calendar.

Born in Birmingham in 1942, Jo was educated at Varndean Grammar School for Girls in Brighton. It was there that she first met Len, who attended the boys' school across the field. They married in 1960 and earlier this year celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. Together they had two daughters, Nichola and Julie.



In her younger years, Jo worked in modelling and promotional roles, later holding a number of positions as a personal assistant. She also ran a language school in Brighton before she and Len retired to Amberley. Her many interests included painting, gardening and sailing, and she was an enthusiastic member of the Amberley Bellydancers.

A private family funeral took place on October 25. Those wishing to remember Jo through a donation are invited to support Sage House, Tangmere, which provides specialist dementia care.

Lunchtime talks resume

The Amberley Society is resuming its lunchtime talks at The Sportsman this month. Ian Galbraith will provide a brief history of the Clarkson Room, effectively the village hall for 50 years up to 1964, when it was replaced by the current church hall. The talk is at 11.30am on Wednesday, November 25. If you are planning to attend and stay for lunch afterwards, complete the online form at www.amberleysociety.co.uk/events by Monday, November 23.

Meanwhile, Oriole Wagstaff, RSPB's senior site manager for South Downs Reserves, is giving a talk to the society on the extensive restoration work recently undertaken on the Wildbrooks. This takes place at 7pm on Tuesday, November 10, in St Michael's Church Hall.

Millennium Green AGM

Amberley Millennium Green's AGM will be on Tuesday, November 17 at 7.30pm in The Sportsman. All are welcome so come and hear what has been achieved in 2026 and the plans for 2027. This is your village space.

● Village responds to donations appeal – see page 22

Send season's greetings via *The Wildbrooks Magazine*

Why spend time and money delivering Christmas cards around the villages when you can share your festive wishes through *The Wildbrooks Magazine*?

For over a decade, our popular Season's Greetings feature has enabled residents to send Christmas and New Year messages to friends and neighbours across the four parishes. It's simple, cost-effective and environmentally friendly, and the suggested donation remains unchanged despite rising postal and card costs.



With most households receiving and reading the magazine, your greeting will reach a wide local audience. In return for a minimum donation of £10 (or more if you are feeling generous) to one of the Wildbrooks churches, you can include a personalised festive message of up to 40 words. Please indicate which church you would like your donation to support.

How to take part

Simply send your greeting by e-mail to mike@brooklandsamberley.com or deliver it to: Brooklands, East Street, Amberley, BN18 9NN.

Donations can be made online to: PCC of Amberley (Sort code: 20-98-74; Account number: 138343870). Please use your surname + Greetings as the payment reference.

Cash payments are also welcome. Regrettably, cheques can no longer be accepted as we are unable to bank them locally.

Don't miss the deadline!

The closing date for inclusion in the December issue is **Saturday, November 14**.

As well as sharing your festive greetings, you'll be supporting the valuable work of one or more of the Wildbrooks churches during the season of goodwill.

Send a greeting, support your local church, and let the magazine deliver your good wishes for you.







Cheers! Sportsman celebrates best ever Beerfest success

The Sportsman's Autumn Beerfest, held from October 1-4, was an outstanding success, attracting record numbers and making it the busiest and most popular Beerfest to date. Over the four days, the pub was buzzing with visitors enjoying an outstanding mix of real ales, craft beers, great food and live music.

It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces returning, alongside visitors who had travelled from further afield – many walking up from Amberley Station – specifically to experience the Beerfest and discover our community pub. The atmosphere throughout the weekend was exceptional, with full crowds creating a vibrant and welcoming festival spirit from start to finish.

A huge part of the Beerfest's success was down to the carefully curated drinks selection put together by our resident beer enthusiast, Mat Rossi. Guests enjoyed a choice of 18 cask ales and six keg pale ales and lagers, while this year's recommended beer blends proved especially popular, encouraging people to try something a little different.

The entertainment was equally well received, with superb live performances from RetroTonic, Harry Pannell, Matt the Busker and Dave Harris keeping the crowds entertained and adding to the lively atmosphere throughout the event.

A special thank you goes to our staff and volunteers, whose hard work, enthusiasm and dedication made the Beerfest possible. We are also incredibly grateful to everyone who came along to support us. Seeing the pub packed with friends, neighbours and new visitors alike was a wonderful reminder of the important role The Sportsman plays at the heart of the community.

Thank you for helping make this year's Beerfest such a memorable success. We look forward to welcoming you back for an even bigger and better Beerfest in the spring.

Olivia Kelynack

Hillaire Belloc's Sussex drinking song

On Sussex hills where I was bred,
When lanes in autumn rains are red,
Where Arun tumbles in his bed,
And busy great gusts go by;
When branch is bare in Burton Glen

And Bury Hill is a whitening, then
I drink strong ale with gentlemen;
Which nobody can deny, deny,
Deny, deny, deny, deny,
Which nobody can deny!

In half-November off I go,
To push my face against the snow,
And watch the winds wherever they blow,
Because my heart is high;

Till I settle me down in Steyning to sing
Of the women I met in my wandering,
And of all that I mean to do in the spring,
Which nobody can deny, deny,
Deny, deny, deny, deny,
Which nobody can deny!

Though times be rude and weather be rough,
And ways be foul and fortune tough,
We are of the stout South Country stuff,
That never can have good ale enough,
And do this chorus cry!

From Crowboro' Top to Ditchling Down,
From Hurstpierpoint to Arundel Town,
The girls are plump and the ale is brown:
Which nobody can deny, deny,
Deny, deny, deny, deny!
If he does he tells a lie!



'And the men that were boys when I was a boy
Shall sit and drink with me'

— Hillaire Belloc —

Venice and Viking gods

The depiction of luxury goods in 16th century Venice and the art of Norse mythology are the subjects of this month's talks to the two local Arts Societies.

First up, on Tuesday, November 3, for members of the West Sussex branch, is a lecture entitled the *Sumptuous Veronese*, by Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliff. Venice was the port for Europe through which all glamorous and luxurious products from India, the Middle East and Far East, passed, and where Veronese ensured the best pieces remained.

The following day (November 4), the South Downs group will hear a talk by James Vaux on *Viking Gods and Valkyries*. This lecture explores how Norse myths and legends have been portrayed in the decorative and fine arts over more than 1,300 years, to reveal quite how few depictions we have, and the sometimes sinister reasons we may not see them. Works examined include paintings and illustrations by Henry Fuseli and William Blake, academic history paintings from Norway, Sweden and Denmark, 19th century sculpture, and 20th century works by Carl Larsson, Hilma af Klint and Anselm Kiefer.

Both talks take place in Fittleworth Village Hall: at 2pm for the West Sussex group and at 10.30am for South Downs.

Next month, West Sussex has a talk on *The Mantle of Winter - Impressionist Paintings of Snow*, while the subject for the South Downs group is *A festive tale: the story of Christmas music*.

Visitors are welcome at these talks for a fee of £10.

Prada returns in style

The Devil Wears Prada 2, this month's choice for the Rotary Club's Storrington Film night on Wednesday, November 11, sees Andy Sachs return to *Runway* magazine two decades later, helping Miranda Priestly tackle modern media challenges and corporate threats.

Worth watching for the reunion of Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, and Stanley Tucci, sharp commentary on journalism's decline, and stylish settings from New York to Milan. Critics praised its timely themes and warm nostalgia, with strong performances and box office success.

The screening is at 7.30pm in Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road, with tickets priced £5 available in advance from the Card Shop in Storrington or at the door on the night.

Next month's film (December 16) is *The Sheep Detectives*, starring Hugh Jackman.

Hallowe'en at the Sportsman

A spooky celebration takes place at The Sportsman from 6pm on October 31. Prizes for the best adult and children's costumes. Refreshments include a ghouly goulash special.



Cranes over the Wildbrooks

Jim Glover and Chris Skinner spotted this spectacle over the Amberley Wildbrooks on October 5 when a dozen common cranes appeared overhead, circling high above the Arun valley before eventually heading south east.

The sighting underlines why the Wildbrooks is such an important wetland. Its network of historic drainage ditches, wet grassland and seasonal water levels provides habitat for an extraordinary range of birds and other wildlife.



BLESSING OF THE CRIB

St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2026 at 4 P.M.

Lanterns, torches and warm clothing all add to this family occasion – everyone welcome

Refreshments afterwards





Record amount raised at Macmillan Coffee Morning

Amberley came out in force to support the recent Macmillan Coffee Morning and helped raise just over £2,100 to help fund cancer care.

Thanks to everyone that came to Amberley's coffee morning on September 25 and enjoyed coffee and cake, the event was a busy and successful event.

The organisers are very grateful to everyone that made cakes and savouries, everyone that came and enjoyed them and everyone who bought raffle tickets to raise money.

Thanks are due also to the many local businesses and organisations that donated generous prizes for the raffle.

The Sportsman Inn, The Black Horse, Amberley Pottery, Nyetimber, Amberley Tea Room, Riverside South Downs, Amberley Castle and The Bridge Inn are among the donors which regularly support the event.

No Macmillan event is complete without the showstopper cake made by Pat O'Beirne, this year decorated with an autumnal theme complete with intricately made blackberries, acorns and fungi.

Amberley's fundraising event is one of hundreds of Macmillan Coffee Mornings that take place every September across the UK and raise over £17 million annually for the charity.

Clare Attard








Subscription renewal time



As always, we would like to thank our loyal readers for their continued support of *Wildbrooks Magazine*. If you would like to continue receiving your copy delivered directly to your door, it is now time to renew your annual subscription.

We are pleased to confirm that the subscription price remains unchanged. Annual subscribers continue to enjoy a saving of £5 compared with purchasing individual copies at the cover price of £2 each from Amberley Village Stores or any of the four Wildbrooks churches.

The annual subscription remains £15 and can be paid online to: **PCC of Amberley, Sort Code: 20-98-74; Account Number: 13834387**. Please use your surname followed by MAG as the payment reference. If you pay online, it is important that you notify Pam Keeble by email at pamwkeeble@gmail.com to confirm payment has been made. Alternatively, cash payments may be delivered to: The Old Bakehouse, Church Street, Amberley BN18 9NE. Unfortunately, we can no longer accept cheques, as there are no local banking facilities available for processing them.

There is further good news for subscribers who receive their copies by post. Thanks to revised postal charges, the annual postal subscription has been reduced by £1 and is now £35 per year, of which postage accounts for £20.

To ensure uninterrupted delivery of your magazine, please make your payment before the end of the year. Thank you for your continued support of *Wildbrooks Magazine*.

Wildlife takes the Note

For more than 50 years, Bank of England notes have carried portraits of famous people. The next series will look rather different. Following a public consultation that attracted almost 500,000 responses, the Bank has chosen four wildlife species to appear on future banknotes: the barn owl, buff-tailed bumblebee, European hedgehog and Atlantic puffin. The aim is to celebrate Britain's natural heritage while helping make the notes more distinctive and secure. Furthermore, three of the four new banknote stars can be found close to Amberley.



The barn owl is perhaps the best known locally. It hunts over the rough grassland and wetlands of the Arun Valley, including the landscapes around Amberley and Pulborough. At dusk, a pale, ghost-like shape gliding low across a field is often the first sign of its presence.

Hedgehogs are also familiar garden visitors, although their numbers have declined in recent years. Simple measures such as leaving small gaps in fences, maintaining log piles and allowing patches of grass to grow longer can provide valuable food and shelter.

The buff-tailed bumblebee is another regular sight. Its large queens emerge in early spring to feed on blossom and other flowers. Gardens, hedgerows and the Downs all offer important nectar sources, while native wildflowers and bee-friendly planting help support healthy populations.

Banknotes often spark curiosity about the people portrayed on them. Perhaps these new designs will encourage us to pay closer attention to the remarkable creatures living alongside us in our fields, gardens and along our shores.



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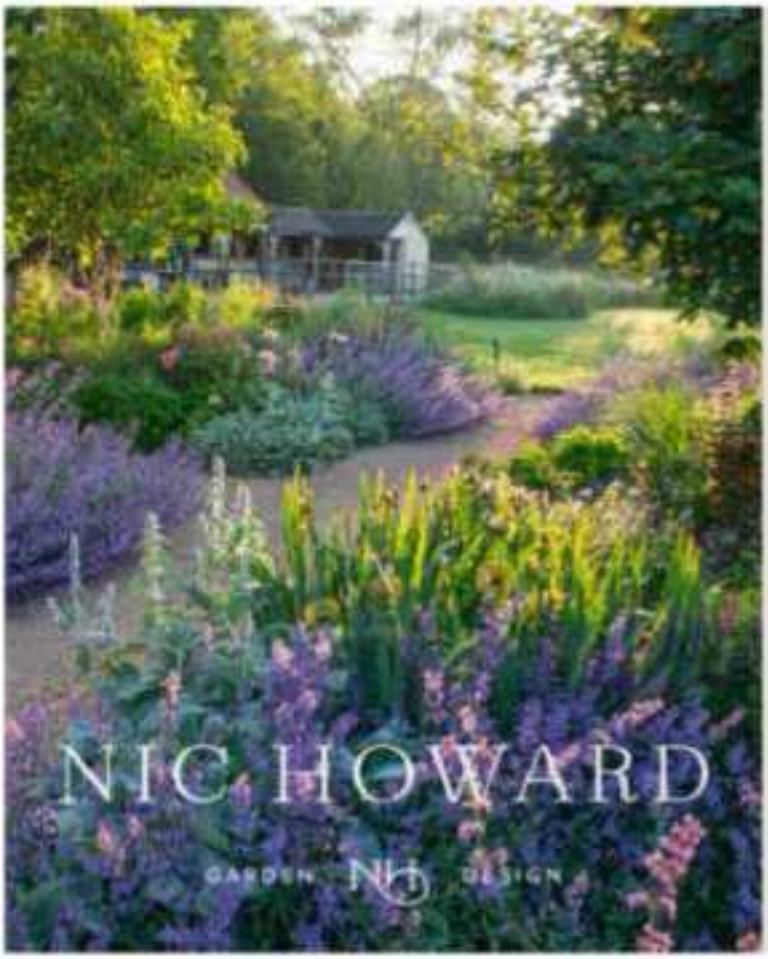
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AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held on September 10 in St Michael's Church Hall

Present: Jason Charman (chairman), Graham Smith (deputy chairman), Elisabeth Tooms, Tim Simpson, Ian Corcoran and Paul Mustow. Also in attendance: Trevor Parsons (locum clerk) and six members of the public.

Councillors received the resignation of Leigh Cresswell, and members expressed their thanks for his service to the community.

A written report was received from West Sussex county councillor Paul Marshall, covering a range of matters affecting the county and local parishes. These included proposals for local government reorganisation, progress on the Horsham District Local Plan and the ongoing Community Governance Review.

The council noted that comments had been submitted on South Downs National Park tree applications, and a planning committee meeting will be held shortly to consider further planning matters.

Members agreed pond maintenance arrangements for 2026 with PTP Pond Consultants. Discussions also covered volunteer involvement in maintaining the area, the preparation of an article for *Wildbrooks Magazine*, restoration of access areas following nearby building works and arrangements for regular emptying of a new litter bin. Councillors were also updated on fishing issues at Ham Piece following security improvements carried out by Nyetimber.

Reports were received on highways and footpaths matters throughout the parish, including hedge cutting, overgrown frontages, repairs near the village pond and concerns about vegetation along Hog Lane.

In response to road safety concerns, the council resolved to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order (TPO) to reduce the speed limit on part of the B2139 Turnpike Road from 40mph to 30mph. A further application seeking changes to adjoining 50mph limits will be considered in conjunction with neighbouring parish councils. Village parking was also discussed, with a councillor working group to be established to explore possible improvements.

Councillors welcomed Trevor Parsons as the parish's new permanent clerk. He took up the post in October and will work 16 hours per week. The council also resolved to join the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by West Sussex County Council.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, November 12 at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall.

AMBERLEY SOCIETY

Tuesday, November 10, at 7pm
St Michael's Church Hall

Restoring the Wildbrooks

A talk by Oriole Wagstaff, RSPB's senior site manager for South Downs Reserves, on the extensive restoration work recently undertaken on the brooks

LUNCHTIME TALK

Wednesday 25th November, at 11.30am, at The Sportsman

The Clarkson Room

Few people in Amberley will have much awareness now of the Clarkson Room. For nearly 50 years until 1964, when the present Church Hall was built, the Clarkson Room was central to village life, effectively the village hall. Ian Galbraith will give a brief history of the room – which was the original east portion of Oak Tree House – what it was used for, and its unexpected end.

In aid of Parham Church

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Great Joy to the New arrives in North Stoke just in time for Christmas

Matthew Bannister, Amberley resident and host of the multi-award-winning Folk on Foot podcast, previews an upcoming concert

Nobody is a bigger fan of the festive season than me. I adore the twinkling lights, beautifully wrapped presents, delicious food and drink and the chance to get together with those I love.

At least when it first starts, I also love the music - both sacred and secular. The sound of Wham, Mariah Carey and Cliff Richard or *Once in Royal David City*, *Hark the Herald* and *Away in a Manger* are all calculated to get me tapping my toes and – to the annoyance of anyone within earshot – singing along. But, after a time, it can all get a bit too much: every shop is pumping out the same old pop, the radio has *Merry Christmas Everybody* by Slade on heavy rotation and the carol singers seem only to know three or four songs.



Janice Burns and Jon Doran

I find myself wondering if there isn't a different musical tradition, one that goes back further than the Dickensian, Victorian image that shapes so much of our vision of Christmas. It's a question that I obviously share with the folk duo, Janice Burns and Jon Doran.

These two talented young musicians met when they were studying on the respected Folk and Traditional Music degree course at Newcastle University. Janice hails from Glasgow and plays mandolin, tenor guitar, harmonium and piano, while Jon is from Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire and excels on the bouzouki, guitar and fiddle.

Audiences and critics alike love their tight vocal harmonies, understated arrangements and compelling storytelling based on traditional folklore. To my delight, their album *Great Joy To The New* presents an alternative, sometimes darker, often more magical set of traditional Christmas songs. Janice and Jon take their inspiration from the fact that human beings have always forged customs to survive the winter, often involving beautiful, colourful music which can sustain us spiritually through the darkest of nights.

They describe *Great Joy To The New* – both the album and the live show – as a way to explore these themes. There are some familiar songs in new clothes as they use their well-matched voices and multi-instrumental skills to give us their own delicious take on *The Wexford Carol* and *The Sans Day Carol* (perhaps better known as *The Holly Bears a Berry*) and they even dare to compose a new tune for *While Shepherds*, but it is the lesser-known songs that really refresh my jaded festive musical ear. *Green Grows the Holly* – originally said to have been written by Henry VIII; an 18th century French song, *Carol of the Beasts* which imagines the Christmas story from the perspective of the animals in the stable; and *Haugebonden*, a mediaeval Norwegian yule tale about a disagreement between a gnome-like creature and a farmer over a plot of land.They give us *Down in Yon Forest*, dating back to a 15th century Derbyshire ballad and the *Dunstan Lullaby*, which references the nativity.

Just imagine how atmospheric it will be to hear them sing these songs in a candlelit St Mary's Church, North Stoke, as dusk gathers at 4pm on Saturday, December 19. If, like me, you sometimes need a Christmas music palate cleanser, and perhaps you find all the usual festive celebrations just a little bit too, well, modern – why not join us for a refreshing and ancient take on the festive season from two of the folk scene's rising stars.



And don't just take my word for it. *Narc Magazine* said: "*Great Joy to the New* conjures up the kind of shimmery winter days and firelit nights that any good Christmas album should deliver." And *Songlines Magazine* put it this way: "They describe their album as a celebration of winter ritual and custom to warm the heart and drive away the cold. It is; it does."

You can listen to Janice and Jon's music here: https://www.janandjon.com/listen

Book your tickets for the concert (£17 – all proceeds to the Churches Conservation Trust) by e-mailing Janet Aidin at janet@aidin.co.uk.

Millennium Green donations

A massive thank you to all who responded to our appeal for donations to help us recover the cost of saving a mature poplar tree on Millennium Green.

We have been blown away by your response – with funds raised exceeding our target. We have personally delivered a 'Thank You' to all who have donated – please let us know if you haven't received one as sometimes it can be difficult to identify single donations from regular ones. Your generosity means we are now back on track with our plans to improve winter access to the Green.

As many of you will know, the ground near the single gate gets very wet in winter – with access made even more treacherous by the sloping ground. We are planning to construct a curving path (about 15 metres in length) which will stretch from the gate itself towards the main part of the Green. This should provide for safer access in the part that gets particularly boggy. Such a path is permitted by Amberley Millennium Trust's deed but, having started to get quotes, we've been served a curved ball by South Downs National Park who tell us we need planning permission.

Our plans to construct this path this autumn now have to be put on hold until we receive this, but rest assured this project remains at the top of our priority list. In the interim, if the ground returns to its normal slippery state when the rains return, please take care! As a trustee board, we're discussing what temporary measures we can implement to help with access while we wait for planning permission.

Mike Emery and Kim Smith
Co-chairs, Amberley Millennium Green Trust

SAVE THE DATE

This year the Amberley Village Christmas Lunch is on Friday, December 11, at 1pm in St Michael's Church Hall. A great team of volunteers will prepare and cook a delicious traditional Christmas Lunch for our friends and neighbours to enjoy. We would be delighted to welcome any new residents in the village to join in the fun and come along and meet your neighbours at this very festive event. There will be musical interlude with our very own Christmas Singers.

The sign-up sheet will be in the shop from early November. It is a very popular event and spaces fill up fast. Price is £15 per person. Bring your own wine, please.

The menu is:

- Roast turkey, roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, carrots and parsnips, sausages and stuffing with a delicious gravy.
- Dessert: Mince pies and nutmeg ice cream or cream or fruit compote
- Petit fours

Great value, great food and great fun.

Sarah Wheeler



What's happening to the village pond

Amberley Parish Council engaged and approved a contractor this summer to maintain the village pond. The pond forms part of the Wildbrooks biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Unfortunately, with the change in clerks at the beginning of the year, the maintenance support contract was unknowingly held-up, which prevented the work from starting earlier than ideally wanted.

Work is now underway to remove the invasive azolla weed infestation, which pond warden Russell Coates brought to the attention of the council at the Parish's Assets and Amenities meeting on July 9. However, the prolonged dry weather in the summer and lack of rain has made weed removal difficult due to the lack of flow of the water preventing the azolla weed from the clearing the pond. We are also awaiting the completion of building works at Willow Cottage and for its contractors to repair the damage caused to the pond banks and making good the surrounding areas.

The parish council is amenable to engage with volunteers from the parish to assist with the restoration of the pond to its former glory. However, any work to be completed must be done in conjunction with and under the guidance of our approved contractor. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact the parish clerk at clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk

Jason Charman
Chairman, Amberley Parish Council



Another case of fly-tipping at the top of High Titten. What is wrong with these people?

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Lest we forget: The men behind the names

Each year at the St Michael's Remembrance Day service, David Lyon reads out the names of the men from the Wildbrooks villages who fell in the two World Wars.

It is a simple roll call – but standing in front of the memorial cross and hearing those names in the quiet of the churchyard is a solemn and haunting moment. The same surnames are repeated across the Wildbrooks villages – brothers, cousins and friends – for whom the chance to join up must have offered adventure and a tantalising glimpse of another world. There are Searles, Jacksons, Smiths and Wakehams – names that would have been familiar around the villages a century ago. But what kind of lives did they lead? What were their hopes, dreams and aspirations?



WW1 recruitment poster for the Royal Sussex Regiment

A little research in Storrington library revealed that as part of the First World War centenary commerations in 2014, the Storrington Local History Group published remembrance books giving information on each of the men who died in the Great War who are named on local war memorials, including the memorials in Amberley, Greatham and Parham.

The information includes details of their families, their military service and their connection to local villages. They were farm workers, labourers, craftsmen and local tradesmen. They knew the fields and the Downs, the river and the church, the pubs. Their world was a small and familiar one.

Three Searle boys from Amberley and Greatham never returned. James, an Amberley farm labourer and two Searle brothers from Greatham – Charles a farm carter and his younger brother John – signed up to the Royal Sussex Regiment and died aged 33, 21 and 18. James was awarded the Military Medal in recognition for his bravery and devotion to duty – a reminder of the extreme danger these young men faced.

The Jackson family suffered, too. Twins Ralph and Reginald Jackson fought side-by-side and both died on July 3, 1916. Ralph worked in Amberley as a butcher and Reggie (as he was listed in the 1911 census) worked as a labourer at the Pepper Lime Works. They had also both been members of the Amberley Prize Band, playing music at village events before the war alongside John (Jack) Philby.

Jack was a stretcher-bearer in the Royal Sussex Battalion and died in the Battle of the Boar's Head, grimly remembered as 'the day Sussex died' for the terrible number of local men who lost their lives. Jack lived in Church Street and had worked as a shepherd and a groom. The Jackson twins' brother John also served and was killed in the Second World War.



The names are listed in the church

Another man listed on the memorial plaque is **Frederick Duke** and a chance conversation with Mary Leonard put me in touch with Frederick's great nephew, Robin Duke, who owns Gateley's Country Stores in Storrington. When we met, Robin told me more about Fred, (as he was known) and the Duke family.

Fred Duke was seven years old when he appeared in the 1901 census at the Bridge Inn, the son of Walter Duke, its landlord. He was living at the Inn when Hilaire Belloc visited in 1902 on a literary pub crawl across Sussex. The visit is immortalised in Belloc's book *The Four Men*: *'We came at last past the great chalk pit to the railway and to the Bridge Inn, which lies just on this side of the crossing of the Arun. We had all four come into Mr. Duke's parlour at the Bridge Inn and ordered beer and had begun to dry ourselves at the fire'.*



Jack Philby (front row, far left) in Amberley, with the Jackson twins seated next to him, circa 1911

Fred was one of a ten children in a busy household – the family owned a coal business and a farm on the Brooks, as well as the pub. There were four boys - Fred was the second brother

and closest in age to Clarence (Robin's grandfather) who fought alongside Fred in Gallipoli but lived to return home. Fred's six sisters were colourful characters, including Molly who was on the stage, Mabel, who was a businesswoman in London and Maud, who stayed in Amberley where she farmed with Sid Ruff. The Duke family tree reveals how closely the local families were linked, with surnames of those who died in both wars, such as Searle, appearing through marriage.

By 1911 and now aged 17, Fred had moved to Croft Cottage in Amberley where he was working on the family farm. Just three years later, he was thousands of miles away on the Gallipoli peninsula, serving as Private 1944 in the 1/1st Battalion of the Sussex Yeomanry. He died from wounds on December 21, 1915, aged 21, as the Allied evacuation of Gallipoli was getting under way.



The Helles Memorial, Turkey, resting place of Fred Duke

His body was buried at sea and his name was eventually engraved on the Helles Memorial in Turkey. Fred was honoured with the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory medals.

Fred's story brings the names on the memorial a little closer. He was not simply Private 1944, one of thousands lost in a distant war. He was the boy who grew up at the Bridge Inn, the young farmer at Croft Cottage, the man who went to Gallipoli alongside his brother Clarence and the son of a family woven into Wildbrooks' life. He had a home, a family and a future that was cut short aged just 21.

This is what the annual roll call at the remembrance service reminds us of. Although the war carried these young men far beyond the fields and landmarks they had known, when David Lyon reads out their names each November the years fall away and the men behind the names are, for a moment, brought home.

Susan Watson

21 lives

There is something unusual about Amberley's war memorial: the cross stands outside the church but the names of the 15 men who fell in the First World War are commemorated on a plaque inside. A further six names were added after the Second World War.

Standing quietly in the churchyard, the rough-hewn cross has been there since 1919, when the people of Amberley and Houghton decided that the village should have a permanent memorial to those who served and those who had died.

The war had ended only months earlier and communities across Britain were still coming to terms with their loss. With the dead generally not brought home, local memorials became places where families and villages could remember those whose graves were thousands of miles away.

Amberley's memorial was arranged by the Reverend H. Rickard, then vicar of St Michael's.



The Diocesan architect had produced a design, but it was considered too expensive and apparently did not find much favour locally. Instead, Reverend Rickard chose a more affordable cross made by G Maile and Sons of London.

The result is a simple, Celtic-style wheel-head cross, carved from Cornish granite and standing about two metres high.

The memorial was not intended simply to commemorate the dead. It remembered the whole community wartime experience – everyone who went away to fight as well as those who never came home.

The inscription says: *"This cross was set up by the people of Amberley & Houghton as a thankful memorial before Almighty God of the victorious issue of the Great War 1914-1918 and of the devotion of those who fought & those who fell for their country & for right"*. There is also the Latin 'Laus Deo' – Praise be to God – on the shaft.

The lost medals of the First World War

The remarkable mission of Royal Navy veteran David Cannon to reunite lost First World War medals with the families of the men who earned them



After a distinguished Royal Navy career and years working overseas on major development projects, David Cannon embarked on a different mission: tracing and returning lost First World War medals to the descendants of Sussex servicemen.

David joined the Royal Navy shortly after his sixteenth birthday. His service took him around the world, including Gibraltar, the Far East, the Falkland Islands and the Gulf during the liberation of Kuwait. The values of duty, honour and service remained with him throughout his life.

The inspiration for his current work began while researching his own family history, uncovering a military heritage stretching from the Crimean War through both World Wars. He discovered service records, medal rolls and stories of relatives who had served their country across several generations.

During this research, David realised many family medals had been lost, sold or never passed down. That discovery sparked a wider idea.

"I thought it would be wonderful if I could help return other Sussex servicemen's medals to their families, free of charge."

What began as a search for his own family's medals developed into a personal mission. David now researches and purchases First World War medals, usually at auction, whenever he can establish a Sussex connection, particularly to Brighton. He funds every purchase himself from his Royal Navy pension.

"These medals were earned by Sussex men in the Great War," he says. "Returning them to their families isn't just right, it's an act of respect and remembrance."

Each reunion requires extensive detective work. Working with genealogist Angela Davidson, David builds family trees, examines military records and searches archives to identify living descendants.

The task is often difficult. Many Army records were destroyed during the Second World War when German bombing caused a fire at a London records repository. Researchers frequently rely on surviving records, census returns, newspapers and family history resources.

When a family is traced, David sends the medals and supporting information by recorded delivery with a personal letter. There is never any charge.

One particularly moving case involved a Brighton family whose grandfather's medals had become separated from the family. Further research revealed that the recipient's brother had been killed at Ypres and is commemorated on both the Brighton War Memorial and the Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium.

"It is a tangible link to the bravery and sacrifice of their ancestors," says David. "For me, it brings a deep sense of honour and fulfilment, knowing these medals are back where they belong."

David's work has reunited medals with descendants across Britain and as far afield as Australia, preserving an important part of family and local history.

Despite his success, the search remains personal. He still hopes one day to locate the medals of two direct ancestors: his great-great-grandfather Patrick David, who served during the Crimean War, and his grandfather Frank David, who served with the Royal Sussex Regiment before transferring to the Machine Gun Corps during the First World War.

Meanwhile, his efforts to reunite other Sussex medals continue. David is currently seeking descendants or relatives connected to the following servicemen.

If you recognise any of these names, believe you may be related to one of these men, or can help trace their families, David would be delighted to hear from you at repatriatemedals@gmail.com.

- William Bourne
- Thomas George Coppard
- Ebenezer Borrer
- Alfred Gladman
- George Groves
- Frederick James Hoare
- Arthur Frederick Mansbridge
- Robert Marshall
- Philip Ronald Edgar Oliver
- Osman Perkins
- Richard Stubberfield
- Timothy George Lee Tribe
- William Walker

The return of these medals is always entirely free of charge.

As David reflects: "They were the heroes of their time. Let us not forget them, but remember them with gratitude, carrying their sacrifice forward so it is never lost in time."

Sussex Bonfire Night

In most of Britain, Bonfire Night means a sparkler, a jacket potato and a few fireworks in the local park. In Sussex, the celebration is rather more exciting, with flaming torches, marching bands, elaborate costumes and burning effigies across the county.



The tradition, of course, dates back to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 – an attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. But Sussex has made the Fifth of November very much its own. Bonfire Societies across the county have developed their own identities, processions and rituals, turning an annual celebration into a season that stretches from September well into November.

Lewes is the undisputed heavyweight, with six Bonfire Societies taking to the streets on November 5 this year. But the tradition reaches far beyond the county town, with communities across East and West Sussex maintaining their own celebrations.

Each has its own character, costumes and local loyalties … including our own Bonfire Night in aid of Parham Church, which starts at 6pm on Saturday, November 7 at The Old Rectory, Rackham.

There is more to it than Guy Fawkes, too. In Lewes, the burning of 17 Protestant martyrs during the reign of Mary I is commemorated alongside the Gunpowder Plot. The town's famous processions carry reminders of this darker chapter in Sussex history, giving the celebrations a distinctly local edge.

Bonfire Night has not always been welcomed by the authorities. In the 19th century, the Bonfire Boys clashed with the police and attempts to suppress the festivities often proved unsuccessful. What began as rowdy street celebrations gradually evolved into the organised societies we know today. Sussex, it seems, has never been particularly keen on being told when to put its fires out.

So when the torches flare and the drums begin, Sussex is doing more than remembering a failed plot. It is celebrating its own history, its village loyalties and a healthy capacity for doing things differently.

Remember, remember the Fifth of November. In Sussex, forgetting it was never really an option.

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Amberley Advent Calendar 2026

DECEMBER 2026: 1 – 8 DECEMBER

Here is a sneak preview of the 2026 Amberley advent calendar. This year, we have craft events for young and old, cooking demonstrations, quizzes and drinks parties of all varieties, poetry sessions and carol singing, all culminating in the Journey to the Crib on 24th December.

Thank you so much to those of you who have already volunteered to host. It's wonderful to see how many of you continue to support this event – and fantastic to see new faces signing up too. There are still a few dates available so it's not too late to come forward. Coffee mornings, as well as sherry and mince pie afternoons/evenings, are always popular and I'm told games evenings, storytelling and photograph competitions have also gone down well in the past! Please contact me on kim.j.smith@icloud.com or 07711 635916 if you'd like to do so.

Happy Christmas, Amberley! Thank you to all our hosts and to everyone who gives so generously to the charities supported.

1 TUE

Cava & Canapés by Candlelight

18:00–20:00 | DOWNSLAND, TURNPIKE ROAD

Start the festive season with a pop and some fizz and nibbles. Sue and Malcolm Pheasey would like to welcome you to their home to meet new neighbours and old friends.

RSVP: *Sue Pheasey (01798 839046 / suepheasey6@gmail.com)*
DONATIONS: *Freedom from Torture*

2 WED

Coffee, Cake & Chit Chat

11:00–13:00 | PENNY FARTHING COTTAGE, DREWITT'S FARM, CHURCH STREET

Numbers limited so RSVP by 30 November.

RSVP: *Dorinne Merchant (dorinnefrances@aol.com)*
DONATIONS: *The Wholesome Warehouse*

3 THU

Perfect Palmiers

11:00–13:00 | CHURCH HALL

Get ahead start with your seasonal preparations! Lisa Carey demonstrates how to make palmiers.

RSVP: *Lisa Carey (lisamcarey.lc@gmail.com)*
DONATIONS: *The Sussex Snowdrop Trust*

Sloe Gin and Chutney Evening

18:00 start | The Bridge Inn

4 FRI

Greener Amberley

18:30–20:30 | CHURCH HALL

Come and join Greener Amberley for a fun and festive evening, with tasty canapés and locally sourced drinks. Learn about current village environmental activity and plans for 2027. Try Amberley Millennium Green's infamous sloe gin, sponsor a bat box and buy some hazel poles for your garden. Amberley village shop will have plenty of goodies on display to buy.

DONATIONS: *Amberley Millennium Green Trust, Woodland Trust and Conservation Collective*

6 SUN

Build a Bat Box

14:00–16:00 | CHURCH HALL

Build and decorate a bat box to take home and start your own roost. Open to all ages but under 16s should be accompanied by an adult. Cost £5 per bat box. Numbers limited to 16 – book by 1 December.

BOOK: *Kim Smith (kim.j.smith@icloud.com)*
DONATIONS: *Amberley Millennium Green Trust*

Tree Dressing

All Day | The Sportsman Inn

7 MON

Poetry Afternoon

14:30–16:30 | HIGH VIEW, CROSSGATES

Amberley's poetry group would like to invite others to join them and share poems/short prose writings about Christmas and/or winter. Tea, coffee and mince pies provided. Numbers limited to 12.

BOOK: *Cyndy Kennett (cyndy@profact.co.uk / 07745 407185)*
DONATIONS: *Southern Hospice Group*

8 TUE

Arty Crafty Morning

10:00–13:00 | CHURCH HALL

Sandie and Mary invite you to join them for another fun and festive 'Arty Crafty' morning trying your hand at some simple and effective ideas for Christmas. No experience needed. All materials plus mid-morning refreshments included for £15 per person.

BOOK: *Sandie Conlon or Mary Leonard (sandie.conlon@btinternet.com / 01798 839320) or maryaleonard@outlook.com / 07860 938560)*
DONATIONS: *St Barnabus House Hospice*

Amberley Advent Calendar 2026

DECEMBER 2026: 10 – 24 DECEMBER

10 THU

Christmas Food & Drink Quiz

16:00–18:00 | AMBERLEY TEAROOM

Louise and the team would like to invite you to join them for a festive-focused food and drink quiz. Numbers are limited to 24.

BOOK: *Louise (amberleytearoom@gmail.com)*
DONATIONS: *Macmillan Cancer Support*

11 FRI

Village Christmas Lunch

13:00–16:30 | CHURCH HALL

Sign up and buy your ticket at the village shop from early November. Please let us know of any dietary requirements. Take-out also available.

BOOK: *tickets are £15 in aid of Médecins Sans Frontières / Sussex Air Ambulance*

13 SUN

Christmas Drinks and Nibbles

15:00–18:00 | SPION KOP

Join Lisa Carey for a festive afternoon. Numbers are strictly limited to 22 by size of cottage so RSVP by 1 December.

BOOK: *Lisa Carey (lisamcarey.tc@gmail.com)*
DONATIONS: *The Sussex Snowdrop Trust*

14 MON

Christmas Quiz

19:30 START | THE SPORTSMAN

Book early for this popular event!

16 WED

Carols and Chestnut Evening

18:30 ONWARDS | THE BRIDGE INN

Carols around the tree with complimentary roasted chestnuts. Petworth Town Band will be merrily playing for us to sing along and get into the Christmas spirit. Mulled wine to keep us warm and, after 20 years, we all know it will probably snow!

DONATIONS: *St Peter and St James Hospice*

17 THU

Mike Toynbee's Fiendishly Difficult Quiz

19:00–21:00 | BROOKLANDS, EAST STREET

Enjoy a glass or two of wine while you puzzle over enigmatic clues and ones so simple you will kick yourself when the answers are revealed.

RSVP: *(mike@brooklandsamberley.com)*
DONATIONS: *Macmillan Cancer Support*

18 FRI

Remember the 70s?

19:00–21:00 | 25 NEWLAND GARDENS

Wallow in nostalgia as you join the hosts of 22, 23 and 25 Newland Gardens for food, drink and music from the 70s. How many famous faces from that era can you remember?

RSVP: *Kim Smith (kim.j.smith@icloud.com)*
DONATIONS: *Amberley Millennium Green Trust / Cancer Research*

19 SAT

Great Joy to the New

18:00 START | ST MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH STOKE

An atmospheric evening of traditional Christmas folk songs and music, performed by candlelight.

BOOK: *tickets are £17 to include refreshments from janet@aidin.co.uk in aid of Churches Conservation Trust*

20 SUN

Sunset and Samosas

15:30–19:30 | THE ROOKERY, CROSSGATES

Join Sarah and Paul for drinks and South Asian nibbles against a backdrop of the stunning mid-winter view of the Wildbrooks. RSVP by 16 December.

RSVP: *Sarah Burton (amberley+sburton18_at_gmail.com@sapple.email)*
DONATIONS: *Royal Marsden Cancer Charity*

21 MON

Carol Singing

18:00 START | HURST COTTAGES BUS SHELTER

We don't just need singers, we also need people to collect! A couple of hours of carols followed by drinks at Little Nailards, provided by Suzie and Russell Coates.

RSVP: *Cyndy Kennett (cyndy@protact.co.uk / 07745 407165)*
DONATIONS: *St Barnabas House Hospice*

24 THU

The Traditional Journey to the Crib

15:00 START | THE SQUARE

Accompanied by donkeys and sheep, we will make our way down Church Street, meeting the shepherds and three kings on the way to the crib at St Michael's church. Refreshments afterwards at the church.

DONATIONS: *The Lorica Trust*

Migration myths, mysteries and marvels

In the not-too-distant past it was thought that swallows hibernated in the mud at the bottom of ponds and that cuckoos transformed into sparrowhawks for the winter. Now we're all familiar with the idea of bird migration we might scoff at these old beliefs, but sometimes the truth is just as incredible.



Picture: Dan Sayers (RSPB)

Give us a lift, mate: the goldcrest is the ultimate hitch-hiker

Birds make epic journeys that can cross countries and even continents. Many of these are seasonal, driven by changes in weather, temperature, the amount of daylight and, critically, the availability of food.

Various birds are on the move throughout the year, but spring and autumn bring the biggest changing of the guard. By this time, our summer visitors have left, having headed south in search of a warmer climate. They've been replaced by winter wanderers, fleeing the harsher weather of northern and eastern Europe to enjoy the relatively balmy conditions of a Sussex winter.

Autumn brings flurries of new arrivals: redwing and fieldfare join the local blackbirds and song thrushes stripping berries from bushes, and our wetlands start to fill with wigeon and teal. Each day could bring something new.

In the Arun Valley, one of the most numerous of our winter visitors are wigeon and you can see masses of these colourful ducks grazing on the wet grasslands besides the pools. Admire the lovely autumnal tones of chestnut, gold, pink, white and grey whilst listening to their gentle whistling calls.

These wigeon could have flown up to 6,000 miles to reach us from spring breeding grounds in Siberia. They generally migrate by night, avoiding daytime predators like hawks and falcons, and reducing the risk of overheating and dehydration in the cooler air.

They find their way here using a range of navigational tools including the ability to sense the Earth's magnetic field, and a celestial compass that uses star patterns to help them maintain a steady direction. When light levels allow they'll also use landmarks such as coastlines, mountain ranges and river valleys to help them find their way. Young ducks likely inherit innate timing and direction instructions but will learn specific routes and stopover sites by migrating in family groups and alongside experienced adults.

Our internationally important wetlands in the Arun Valley are vital for wintering wildfowl like wigeon, pintail, black-tailed godwits and lapwings with many being site-faithful and returning to us year after year.

Perhaps even more remarkable is the migration story of our smallest bird – the goldcrest – who manages a migratory flight of 400 miles across the open water of the North Sea despite weighing just five or six grams (that's about the weight of a 20 pence coin). Surely this tricky journey from northern and easter Europe is too treacherous for such a delicate creature?

Well, the goldcrest earned itself a reputation for hitch-hiking, sneaking into the plumage of the woodcock (which often arrives in the UK at the same time in autumn) and hitching a lift across the sea. They became known as 'the woodcock pilot', and this paints a lovely image for me; a titchy goldcrest with its golden-yellow mohican-style stripe complete with Biggles-style aviator goggles!

Anna Allum
Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB Wiggonholt

Grassland gems

You may associate fungi with the mossy deadwood and light-dappled leaf litter of a forest floor, but some species prefer more out-in-the-open vibes. Slimy-capped and sporting a rainbow range of hues, waxcap fungi are a group of grassland fungi.

There are around 40 species of waxcap in the UK, and much like their woodland-dwelling cousins, are best encountered during late summer and autumn. Also akin to the fungi norm, their names are fantastic; from parrots to ballerinas.



Picture: Graeme Lyons

Waxcaps pop up in the autumn to complete the seasonal tapestry

Some fungi are decomposers, or 'saprotrophic', meaning they rely upon decaying matter to feed. This was once

continued on page 35



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continued from page 33

thought of waxcaps, but now they are understood instead to be 'biotrophic', meaning this brightly coloured bunch get their nutrients from a relationship with living plants.

Despite ongoing research into waxcap ways, symbiotic relationships in nature are nothing new. Most fungi have underground systems called *mycelium*; masses of tiny threads which connect the fruiting mushrooms we see above ground with trees and other plants, and with one another. These vast networks enable sharing of nutrients, water, and even information.

Waxcaps thrive with minimal agricultural involvement, in grasslands known as 'unimproved'; those free of pesticides, artificial fertilisers, and which haven't been drained or re-seeded. Much like the bedded-in bonds of ancient tree roots, mycelia take decades to form and connect, and when soil is cultivated, these life-giving chains are broken.

With this in mind, the hands-off approach of rewilding is beneficial for these fungi. Due to intensification of agricultural practices, this habitat is declining, and with it, its grassland gemstones.

In Sussex, the chalk grassland of the Downs is an ideal habitat for waxcaps, and here, fungi join an ancient, well-oiled ecosystem. In warmer months, the nutrient-poor soils support buzzing biodiverse meadows of wildflowers, providing food and breeding grounds for butterflies, bees, and ground nesting birds like skylarks. Come early autumn, just as the splattered wildflower mosaic fades, the waxcaps pop up to complete the seasonal tapestry.

Where waxcaps are, other grassland fungi likely follow, and as such waxcaps are considered an 'indicator species' for corals, earthtongues and pinkgills. So often is this the case, that the term 'waxcap grassland fungi' encompasses these other groups.

It's not all sweeping meadow majesty; waxcaps can be found in gardens, parks, and have a particular penchant for the peace of cemeteries. Keep your eyes peeled on urban ambles for shiny jewels catching autumn sun.

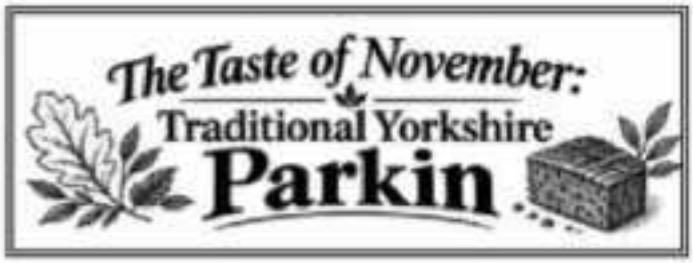
Kerry Williams
Communications Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Some welcome rain



Welcome rain in September after a long, hot, dry summer, saw parched lawns recover within a couple of weeks. There was an equal number – 15 – dry and wet days during the month, with a total rainfall of 32.8mm (1¼ inches).

Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey



As the November evenings draw in, there's no better kitchen companion than a traditional Parkin. Distinct from standard gingerbread, true Parkin relies on oatmeal for its unique, dense texture and dark treacle for its rich colour – the perfect treat for a Bonfire Night party.

Prep time: 15 minutes

Baking time: 1hr 15 mins at 140°C-160°C (275°F-325°F)

Yield: 16 squares

Ingredients

200g self-raising flour
200g medium oatmeal
100g soft brown sugar
4 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground nutmeg or mixed spice
110g butter, cubed
200g golden syrup
200g black treacle
1 large egg, beaten
4 tbsp milk

Method

1. **Preheat & Prep:** heat the oven to 140°C Fan / 160°C / Gas Mark 3. Grease and line a 20cm (8-inch) square cake tin with baking parchment.

2. **Mix Dry Ingredients:** in a large mixing bowl, stir together the self-raising flour, oatmeal, brown sugar, ginger and nutmeg.

3. **Melt the Sweeteners:** in a small saucepan over low heat, gently melt the butter, golden syrup and black treacle together until fully liquid. Do not let it boil.

4. **Combine:** pour the melted syrupy mixture into the dry ingredients. Stir well, then add the beaten egg and milk. The batter should be quite runny.

5. **Bake:** pour the mixture into your prepared tin and bake for 1 hour 15 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

6. **The Waiting Game:** let the cake cool completely in the tin. Once cold, wrap the Parkin tightly in tin foil and store it in a tin. Leave it for at least three days before slicing – it gets stickier and better with every passing day!

EDITORIAL

In support of volunteering

Recent reports of the abhorrent abuse directed at RNLI crews following their rescue of migrants in the English Channel have brought the true spirit of volunteering into sharp focus. The RNLI's volunteers do not choose who they rescue; they simply answer a call to save lives at sea, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances. Their commitment serves as a powerful reminder of the vital role volunteers play in communities across the country.

Encouragingly, there appears to have been a visible public backlash against those who sought to criticise the charity. A local resident and lifelong sailing enthusiast, who regularly volunteers as a fundraiser in the RNLI shop at Littlehampton, reports a significant increase in public support. In the wake of the controversy, the shop has enjoyed some of its highest daily takings on record, suggesting that many people value and appreciate the work carried out by volunteers.

Closer to home, we have seen how volunteering can sometimes be a thankless task. Our former pond warden and her dedicated team of volunteers felt compelled to resign following a dispute with a parish clerk, who has since been replaced. Concerns were raised about possible legal repercussions should they continue their work on the village pond. The loss of such committed individuals was deeply regrettable and illustrated how fragile volunteer-led initiatives can be.

Volunteering remains an essential part of village life. Whether it involves helping to maintain the Millennium Green, caring for churchyards, raising funds for the church hall, supporting charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support, preparing community lunches, or assisting with countless local events, volunteers are the lifeblood of many activities we value and enjoy. Without their efforts, much of what enriches our community simply would not happen.

Of course, modern life places increasing demands on people's time. Those juggling demanding careers, raising young families, or helping with grandchildren often have little spare capacity. For many, volunteering is not a question of willingness but of available time.

These pressures are also reflected in the difficulties faced by parish councils in attracting new members and achieving greater diversity in age and gender. Younger people, particularly parents of school-age children, may find evening meetings difficult to attend, yet they possess valuable perspectives and skills that could greatly benefit local decision-making if more flexible opportunities were available.

At its heart, volunteering is about giving something back. It strengthens communities, builds friendships, and fosters a sense of shared purpose. Above all, it reminds us that the health of any village depends not only on its buildings and amenities, but on the generosity, commitment and goodwill of the people who are willing to serve others.

Mike Toynbee

POETRY CORNER

Lest We Forget



The White Cliffs of Dover was written in 1941 by two American songwriters, Walter Kent and Nat Burton. Made famous in Britain by Vera Lynn in 1942, the song became something much bigger: a promise of peace, homecoming and a world beyond the war. The 'bluebird' was already a familiar American symbol of happiness and hope – and the lyricist may simply not have realised that you wouldn't actually see one flying over Dover!

The White Cliffs of Dover

There'll be bluebirds over,
The white cliffs of Dover,
Tomorrow, just you wait and see.

I'll never forget the people I met
Braving those angry skies,
I remember well as the shadows fell
The light of hope in their eyes.
And though I'm far away,
I still can hear them say
'Thumbs up' –
But when the dawn comes up,
there'll be bluebirds over ...

There'll be love and laughter,
And peace ever after,
Tomorrow, when the world is free.

The shepherd will tend his sheep,
The valley will bloom again,
And Jimmy will go to sleep,
In his own little room again.

There'll be bluebirds over,
The white cliffs of Dover,
Tomorrow, just you wait and see.

Deadline for the June issue is

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 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 – November



Household refuse collections (Amberley/ Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt): Non-recyclable waste (green bins) will be collected on **Tuesdays, November 3** and **17**; collections for recyclable (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be on **Tuesdays, November 10** and **24**. 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, November 4** and **18**. Garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on **Mondays, November 9** and **23**. Collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Wednesdays, November 11** and **25**. Weekly collections for orange top bins (food recycling) will be on Wednesdays.

Amenity Tip Opening Times

Billingshurst: Newbridge Road, RH14 9HZ
9am-4pm (closed Thursday and Friday)

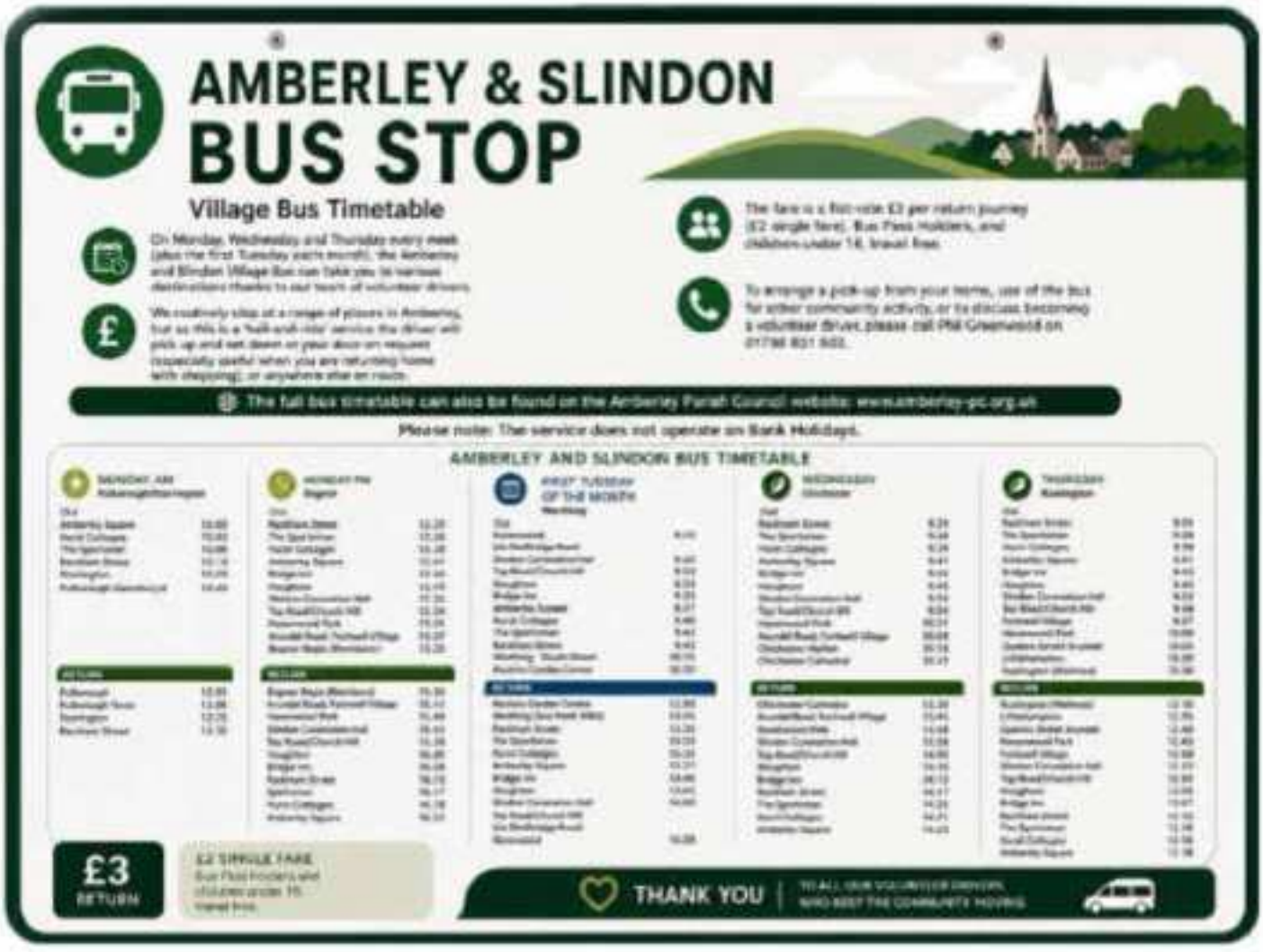
Bognor: Shripney Road, PO22 9SX
9am-4pm (closed Thursday and Friday)

Chichester: Coach Road, Westhampnett, PO18 0NX
9am-4pm (closed Tuesday)

Horsham: Hop Oast Farm Worthing Road, Horsham RH13 0AR
9am-4pm (closed Tuesday and Wednesday)

Littlehampton: Mill Lane, Wick, BN17 7PH
9am-4pm (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.



LOCAL INFORMATION



Southern Trains Timetable
(from December 2025)

Monday-Friday

From Amberley to London (Victoria except here shown): 05.55 and then at 18 and 48 minutes past the hour until 21.48 then 23.05 (change at Three Bridges).
Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

From London Victoria to Amberley: 05.54, 06.35, and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 22.35.
Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins

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

Saturday

From Amberley to London: 06.29, 06.48 and then at 18 and 48 minutes past the hour until 21.48 then 23.04 (change at Gatwick Airport).
Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

From London Victoria to Amberley: 06.05, 06.35 and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 20.35 then 21.05, 21.35, 22.05, 22.35.
Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins

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

Sunday

From Amberley to London Victoria: 07.58, and then at 58 minutes past the hour until 21.58.
Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 24mins
From London Victoria to Amberley: 07.32, 08.32, 09.35 and then at 35 minutes past the hour until 22.35.
Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 20mins
From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis and Portsmouth Harbour (divides at Barnham) except as shown): 09.02B, 09.58PH 10.58 and then 55 minutes past the hour until 22.56B and 23.55B.
B – Bognor Regis; PH – Portsmouth Harbour.

Compiled by Malcolm Pheasey



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Fridays (9.45am-11.15am)

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

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

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

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

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Whats on – November

1st Sunday Night Jazz

14th Live Music: Harry Pannell

21st Pie Night (6pm-8pm)

29th - Quiz Night



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NOVEMBER DIVERSIONS

1. Which veteran singer announced that his 2027 tour would be his last?

2. 'Stovepipes' are what type of clothing? (a) Top hats (b) Trousers (c) Socks

3. Sweden has land borders with which two countries?

4. What is the collective term for all the petals of a flower? (a) Corona (b) Corolla (c) Corozo

5. In which county is RAF Fairford located?

6. If A is for 'orses'. What do these mean – B, J, and R?

7. Name the alcoholic beverage originating from Japan

8. According to the rhyme, who killed Cock Robin?

9. What shade of colour is jonquil?

10. How many edges are there to a 50 pence coin?

11. Bluetongue is a disease primarily affects which type of farm animal? (a) Poultry (b) Ruminants (c) Pigs

12. In which Scottish castle is the setting for the latest series of *Celebrity Traitors*?

13. What type of animal, the first ever to be cloned, was called Dolly

14. Which Prime Minister promised "Things can only get better"?

15. Longleat is the country seat of which family?

16. Who was the author of the best-selling *Baking Bible*?

17. The word 'leporine' means resembling or pertaining to which creature?

18. What was the title of Jeffrey Archer's debut novel?

19. What is the name of a motorway service and rest area in France?

20. Whose record of 125 England appearances did footballer Harry Kane recently equal?

21. Which part of an ocean shares its name with a musical?

22. Bernie Taupin is the lyricist behind most of whose greatest hits?

23. 'Spondulicks' is a slang term for what?

24. What colour is neutral in a modern three-core electrical cable?

25. What is sold at London's Billingsgate market?

26. Who is most commonly credited as having introduced the potato to England?

27. What is a paravane used for?

28. What is the flavour of a Devil's Food cake?

29. Who devised 'Horsepower'?

30. What do these bingo calls mean: 'Dirty Gertie', 'Brighton Line', and 'Stop & Run'?

Answers: page 42

Quick crossword

ACROSS

1. Well known make of bike (7)

7. Object d'art (5)

8. Doncaster horse race (2,5)

9. Raymond _ _ _, TV presenter (6)

11. Edible entrails (5)

13. Bishop of Rome (4)

14. Two-pack card game (7)

15. Spouse (4)

16. Fundamental (5)

17. Outmoded (3,3)

21. Shortage (7)

22. Mixed cold dish (5)

23. Dante's Divine Comedy (7)

DOWN

2. Simulated (10)

3. Gracefulness (8)

4. *Duty Free* actress, _ _ _ Taylor (4)

5. Mountain lion (4)

6. Sieve (4)

9. Explode (5)

10. Safari (10)

12. Out of condition (5)

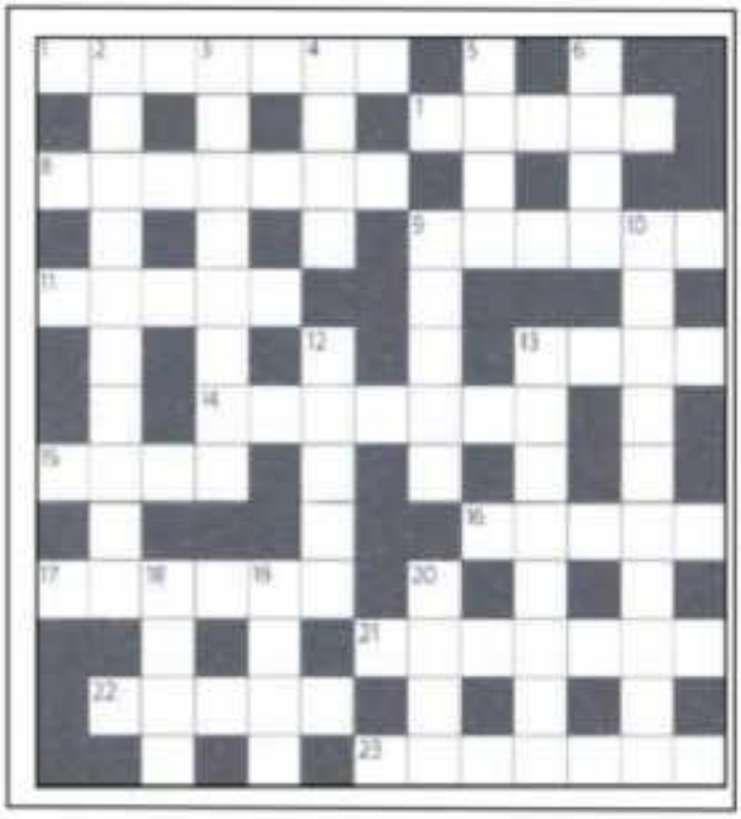
13. Garden of Eden (8)

18. Cart (4)

19. Moor (4)

20. Gaunt (4)

Solution: page 42



NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

2nd Monday
Black Horse Supper Club, 7pm*

3rd Tuesday
Talk: *Sumptuous Veronese*, The Arts Society West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 2pm

4th Wednesday
Talk: *Viking Gods and Valkyries*, The Arts Society South Downs, Fittleworth Village Hall, 9.45am

7th Saturday
Concert: Nature, Kaleidoscope Singers/Cantatrice Voices, Steyning Centre, 5pm

8th Sunday
Remembrance service, St Michael's Churchyard, 10.45am

Music: Superstrings, The Bridge Inn, 3pm-5pm

9th Monday
Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

10th Tuesday
Parham Parish Council meeting, Rackham Old School, 6.30pm

Talk: Restoring the Wildbrooks, The Amberley Society, St Michael's Church Hall, 7pm

11th Wednesday
Film: *Mother's Pride*, Sullington Hall, Storrington, 730pm

12th Thursday
Amberley Parish Council meeting, St Michael's Church Hall, 7.30pm

14th Saturday
Ecohub and Repair Cafe, St Michael's Church Hall, 10am-12.30pm

17th Tuesday
Millennium Green AGM, The Sportsman, 7.30pm

18th Thursday
Home Educators' Day, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Littlehampton Tide Timetable - November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
High 03.11	High 04.31	High 05.57	Low 00.41	Low 01.45	Low 02.36	Low 03.20
Low 09.18	Low 10.36	Low 12.04	High 07.14	High 08.14	High 09.02	High 09.45
High 15.35	High 17.03	High 18.31	Low 13.15	Low 14.13	Low 14.59	Low 15.40
Low 21.55	Low 23.20		High 19.42	High 20.28	High 21.25	High 22.07
8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th
Low 03.59	Low 04.38	Low 05.13	Low 05.47	High 00.29	High 01.00	High 01.31
High 10.25	High 11.03	High 11.38	High 12.08	Low 06.21	Low 06.54	Low 07.30
Low 16.20	Low 16.56	Low 17.32	Low 18.05	High 12.37	High 13.06	High 13.39
High 22.47	High 23.24	High 23.58		Low 18.38	Low 19.13	Low 19.48
15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st
High 02.06	High 02.48	High 03.45	High 05.08	High 06.19	Low 00.49	Low 01.47
Low 08.09	Low 08.56	Low 09.56	Low 11.09	Low 12.22	High 07.18	High 08.09
High 14.14	High 15.02	High 16.10	High 17.41	High 18.48	Low 13.24	Low 14.16
Low 20.30	Low 21.19	Low 22.24	Low 23.39		High 19.44	High 20.33
22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th
Low 02.35	Low 03.21	Low 04.05	Low 04.49	Low 05.37	High 00.26	High 01.17
High 08.55	High 09.38	High 10.22	High 11.07	High 11.54	Low 06.26	Low 07.18
Low 15.01	Low 15.44	Low 16.29	Low 17.15	Low 18.03	High 12.41	High 12.33
High 21.18	High 22.03	High 22.49	High 23.37		Low 18.53	Low 19.46
29th	30th					
High 02.12	High 03.12					
Low 08.12	Low 09.12					
High 14.29	High 15.31					
Low 20.42	Low 21.45					

TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON

25th Wednesday
Lunchtime talk: The Clarkson Room, The Amberley Society, The Sportsman, 11.30am

28th Saturday
Hallraisers' Christmas Fair, St Michael's Church Hall & Church, 10am-4pm

30th Monday
Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

* Booking essential

Dates for the diary

Wednesday, December 9
Carol Service, St Michael's Church (2pm)

Thursday, December 24
Traditional Journey to the Crib (3pm)

2027

July 15-18 Goodwood Festival of Speed

July 27-31 Glorious Goodwood

September 17-19 Goodwood Revival

Have an event to include in our monthly calendar? Forward details to Mike Toynbee (mike@brooklandsamberley.com) or Susan Watson (susan.watson10@gmail.com)

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Plumbing/Heating engineer

Philip Jones, heating installations, powerflushing specialists 01903 872911/07778 303592

Public Houses

The Black Horse, Amberley 01798 831183

The Bridge Inn, Houghton Bridge 01798 831619

The Labouring Man, Coldwaltham 01798 873337

The Sportsman Inn, Amberley 01798 831787

Retail

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

Amberley Village Stores, grocery, wines, newspapers, Post Office 01798 83117

Schools

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

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

Tea Rooms

Amberley Tea Room, The Square, home-made cakes, light lunches, cream teas

Riverside South Downs, Houghton Bridge, boat and bike hire 01798 831066

Wellbeing

Connect Holistic Therapies, Old Forge Surgery and home visits 07895 302787

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

Robert Sadler, locally-based registered osteopath 01798 874736

Storrington Physiotherapy Clinic, Filipa Barnes & Sean Case 01903 743538

Answers to Diversions (see page 40)

1. Sir Rod Stewart **2.** Trousers **3.** Finland & Norway **4.** Corolla **5.** Gloucestershire **6.** B for mutton, J for oranges, and R for rio **7.** Sake **8.** The sparrow (with his bow and arrow) **9.** A hue of yellow **10.** Seven (heptagon) **11.** Ruminants **12.** Ardross Castle **13.** Sheep **14.** Tony Blair **15.** The Marquess of Bath **16.** Mary Berry **17.** Hare **18.** *Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less* **19.** Aire **20.** Peter Shilton **21.** South Pacific **22.** Elton John **23.** Money or cash **24.** Blue **25.** Fish **26.** Sir Walter Raleigh and his associate Sir Thomas Harriot **27.** An underwater device used to stabilise ships, minesweeping etc **28.** Chocolate **29.** James Watt **30.** 30, 59, 81

Crossword solution

ACROSS: 1. Raleigh **7.** Curio **8.** St Leger **9.** Border **11.** Offal **13.** Pope **14.** Canasta **15.** Wife **16.** Basic **17.** Old hat **21.** Deficit **22.** Salad **23.** *Inferno*

DOWN: 2. Artificial **3.** Elegance **4.** Gwen **5.** Puma **6.** Sift **9.** Blast **10.** Expedition **12.** Unfit **13.** Paradise **18.** Dray **19.** Arab **20.** Lean

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	Wiggonholt	Jonny Sadler (jon@southerncranes.co.uk) 01798 874613
		Paul Higerty (Secretary) (paul.higerty@btinternet.com) 01798 812953
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Bell Ringers (Amberley) Tower Captain		Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com) 07909640948
Cricket Club		Keith Dalmon 01798 831887
Home Safety Checks		West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service 03458 729719
Member of Parliament		Andrew Griffith (andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk) 0207 219 4557
Millennium Green Trust		Judy Agate (judy@greencaterpillar.org) 07525 484749
Neighbourhood Watch		Malcolm Pheasey 01798 839046
Parham Parish Council Clerk		Vicky Spiers (clerk@parham-pc.org.uk) 01903 208943
Police		Non-emergency number 101
Rackham Old School Association		Sue Bulloch 01798 879749
Rackham School Hall Reservations		Jennifer Hooper 01903 742695
Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE)		Elisabeth Tooms (toomsfirth@btinternet.com) 01798 839232
Stoolball Club		Sandra Turner 01243 82125
Village Bus		Philip Greenwood 01798 831803
Village Lunch Team Leader		Sarah Wheeler (sarahwheeler1@live.com) 01798 831194
West Sussex County Councillor		Paul Marshall 03302 223841

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Dr Who?

Amberley's old red telephone box is about to undergo a transformation worthy of a Time Lord.



Adopted by Amberley Parish Council, it is being regenerated into a miniature visitors' centre full of information about the village and its flora, drawn from material prepared by the late Dr Richard Robinson, renowned doctor and botanist. (A fitting choice – few people in Amberley have a better claim to the title 'The Doctor'!).

The new centre should be considerably more useful to visitors than the telephone has been in recent years, having spent most of that time exterminating nothing but spare change and cobwebs. And while it may not be bigger on the inside, it will certainly have more to offer than a dial tone ... practical advice for a modern time traveller.

Going to pot?

West Sussex County Council has turned to artificial intelligence to help find its potholes. Cameras on eight highway inspection vehicles will use AI to spot potholes, cracks, worn surfaces and faded road markings as they trundle around the county.

Until now, this has involved a human being driving around and looking at the road. Under the new arrangement, the computer does the looking, while the human ... well ... concentrates on dodging the potholes – a considerable skill in itself!

The technology should have plenty to practice on. WSCC repaired more than 32,000 potholes last year, and the roads have shown little sign of losing their enthusiasm for producing more.

The hope is that inspections will become quicker and more efficient .... though finding potholes was never the problem as there is certainly no shortage of people pointing them out. The shortage appears to be people filling them in.

Which raises the obvious question: can AI repair them too? Apparently not until a human, a van and some tarmac turn up, AI can only leave the county's roads 'paved with imagination'.



Amberley: lights, camera, action!

Amberley continues to make a convincing bid for the title of the Hollywood of West Sussex. The village has played host to a number of productions, ranging from the 1930s romcom *The Man from Toronto* to the film noir *Person Unknown* in 1956, with perhaps our greatest cinematic moment coming in 1985, when the chalk pits doubled as Zorin's Mainstrike Mine in the fourteenth Bond outing, *A View to a Kill*.

More recently, the Southdown bus fleet in the museum was pressed into service to recreate Piccadilly Circus for *Vindication Swim* – a drama telling the true story of Mercedes Gleitze, the first British woman to swim the English Channel in 1927. Amberley, it seems, has the magical powers to be anywhere you want it to be!

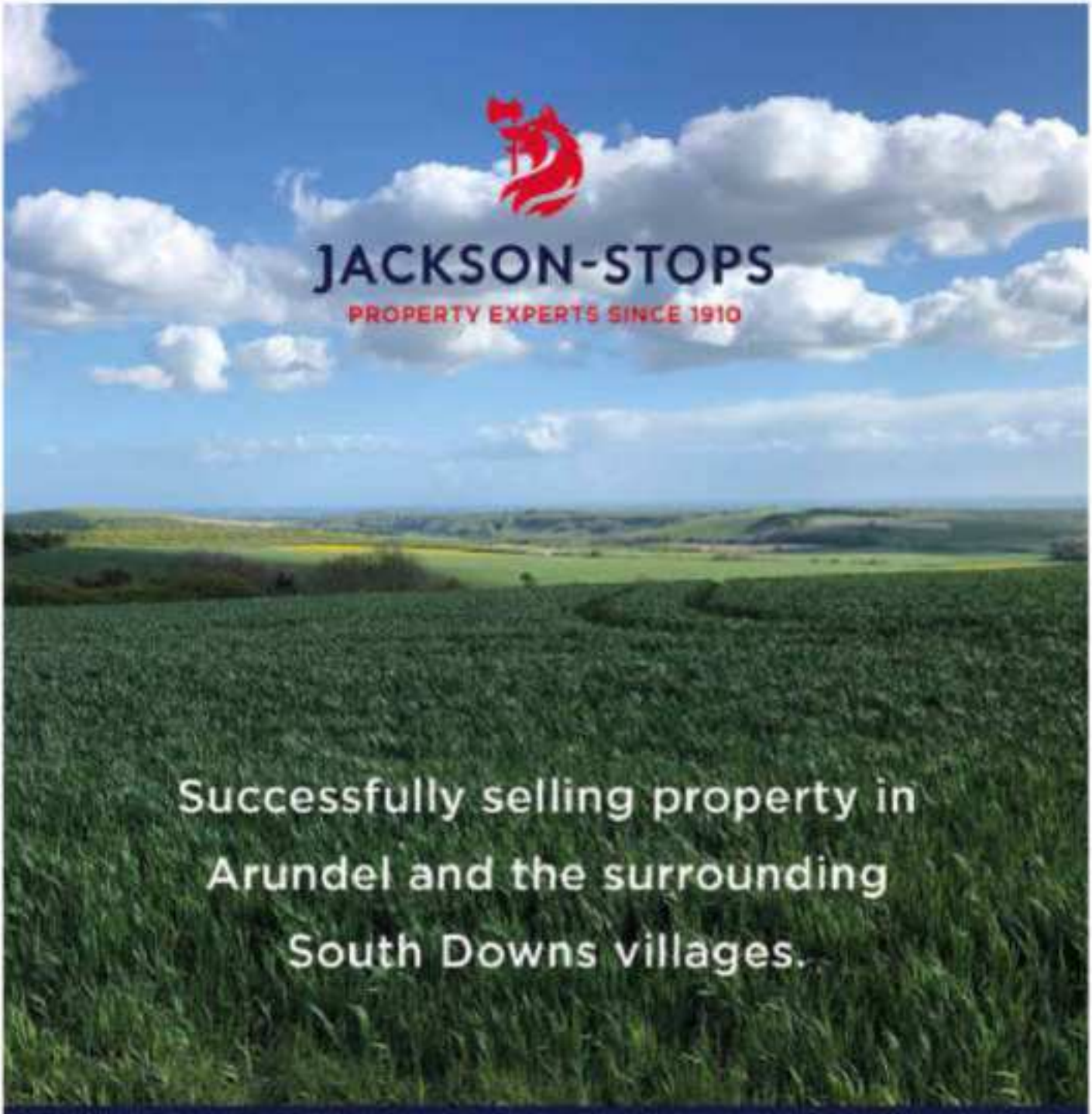
In September, the museum welcomed *The Footage Detectives* – a documentary series presented by Mike Read, a former Amberley resident, and Noel Cronin. The programme explores the restoration of film and television archives for Talking Pictures TV. They spent the day exploring the museum's collections and talking to staff, visitors and volunteers about the stories behind its many fascinating objects. Expect to see Amberley making another appearance on screen before long!

The museum is also a favourite with photographers, with its narrow-gauge railway, Southdown bus garage, village garage and wheelwright offering plenty of period charm.

There is clearly more to Amberley than meets the eye – Hollywood, apparently, is just down the road.



Mike Read (left) and Noel Cronin (right), co-presenters of *The Footage Detectives*



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