

£2.00

APRIL 2026

THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



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

Family Easter Events in Amberley 2026

Buns in the Square!



Enjoy hot buttered hot cross buns, coffee or tea
in The Square, Amberley, Good Friday, 3rd April
from 9.30 until we run out of buns!

No charge – optional suggested minimum donation £2.50.

Organised by the Parish Engagement Group of St Michael's Church, Amberley: any profits
go to the church

Easter Egg Hunt!



On the Millenium Green, 3.00 pm on Easter Sunday, 5th April

Find the tokens and bring to the church to claim your eggs!

£5 per family. Pay cash on the day or tickets available from Mel Edge
amberleystmichael@gmail.com

Organised by the Hallraisers, to support the refurbishment of the church hall



CONTENTS

Regulars

- Calendar of services & Bible readings **5**
- Church news **7**
- Nature notes **25, 26**
- Recipe **26**
- Editorial **33**
- Property Watch **34**
- Local information **35, 36**
- Diversions **37**
- Calendar of events & Tide timetable **38**



Winning team: Sportsman scoops Pub of the Year Award - p8 & 42

People & Events

8, 11, 17

Special Reports

- Amberley Society AGM **11**
- The changing nature of Wildbrooks occupations **18-19**
- Clouds of laughter **22-23**
- Spotlight on...SAGE **29**
- Know your Sussex **31**



Up, up and away amid clouds of laughter - p22-23

This month's front cover



**Motherly love
Picture by Richard Sharman**



How working life in the Wildbrooks has changed - p18-19

Your local Member of Parliament



ANDREW GRIFFITH MP

*Working hard for residents
of Arundel & South Downs*

- Regular surgeries
- Attending local events
- Visits to Parliament

*House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA*

www.AndrewGriffithMP.com



Storrington
Physiotherapy Clinic

**Move Better,
Feel Better,
Live Better!**

Please call **01903 743 538**

for more information

or email us at

office@spc-physiotherapy.co.uk

www.spc-physiotherapy.co.uk

The Labouring Man

Coldwaltham

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



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

Whats on – April

Mondays - Fish and Chip Night
11th - Live Music from Luke Elder
12th - Board Games Night
26th - Quiz Night



Whats on – May

Mondays - Fish and Chip Night
10th Board Games Night
22nd Live Music (TBC)
31st - Quiz Night

01798 873 337

www.labouringman.com thelabouringman@gmail.com



APRIL SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

FRIDAY, 3rd APRIL

9.30am	Hot buttered hot-cross buns, coffee/tea	GOOD FRIDAY The Square, Amberley
11.00am	Poetry readings	St Mary the Virgin North Stoke
2.00-3.00pm	Contemplative words and music (drop in any time)	St Michael's Amberley

SUNDAY, 5th APRIL

**EASTER SUNDAY
White Array**

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
11.00am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt

SUNDAY, 12th APRIL

**EASTER 2
White Array**

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley

SUNDAY, 19th APRIL

**EASTER 3
White Array**

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 26th APRIL

**EASTER 4
White Array**

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 3rd MAY

**EASTER 5
White Array**

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
3.00pm	Evening Prayer	Wiggonholt

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday, 5th April

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18

Sunday, 12th April

Acts 2:14, 22-32; Psalm 16; John 20:19-end

Sunday, 19th April

Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-3, 10-end; Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, 26th April

Acts 2:42-end; Psalm 23; John 10:1-10

Sunday, 3rd May

Acts 7:55-end; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14

Interregnum arrangements

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

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



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

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



PHILIP JONES

Registered Heating Engineer

& Plumber

Heating Installations

Powerflushing Specialist

Bathrooms and General Plumbing



Mob: 07778 303 592

Tel: 01903 872811



Jane Bellinger

Professional Cordon Bleu Chef



Dinner parties Canapes

Luncheons Weddings

Picnics Buffets

Afternoon teas Desserts

St. Anne's Cottage, The Street, Bury RH20 1PA

Tel: 01798 839433

Info@janebellinger.com

www.janebellinger.com

TURNERS GARAGE BURY

01798 831417

Est. 1920

- SERVICING ● REPAIRS ● DIAGNOSTICS
- MoT TESTING ● TYRES ● BRAKES
- CLUTCHES ● WELDING ● COURTESY CAR



PARTS
STOCKIST

BRITPART

The quality parts for Land Rovers

E-mail: workshop@turnersgarage.org.uk

Southdowns Firewood

SEASONED HARDWOOD LOGS

CUT TO SIZE

Free local delivery

FREE BAG
OF KINDLING
WITH EVERY
2m³ LOAD



TEL: 07793 500129

www.southdownsfirewood.co.uk



Riverside South Downs

Two terraced gardens, restaurant,
bike & e-bike hire, boat hire,
venue and lodge hire (April-October)

Now open 10am-4pm seven days a week

01798 831 066

info@riversidesouthdowns.com

Houghton Bridge, Amberley, BN18 9LP





CHURCH NEWS

ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH STOKE

Good Friday poetry

The benefice of Amberley-with-North Stoke has four parish churches, and a redundant church, St Mary the Virgin, at North Stoke. This has been looked after by a Friends' Group for the Churches Conservation Trust since 2007. We decided early not to add to the many Easter services then held in the benefice.

Since 2008 we have read meditational poetry in the Church on the morning of Good Friday. We read in turn from our own collection which has grown over the years. This includes poems from early Catholic, Orthodox and Celtic traditions as well as masterpieces of the English seventeenth century.

We read from a full range of modern devotional poetry, American, English, Irish, Welsh. The variety of the poems continues to grow around the single theme of the Crucifixion. Some people prefer just to listen. Afterwards we leave quietly. It starts at 11am.

Janet Aidin

The tapestry of life

Chichester Cathedral has announced a compelling season of events and experiences that will run alongside its major 2026 exhibition, *Glowing+Alive*, celebrating the 60th anniversary of John Piper's iconic High Altar tapestry.

The season brings together exhibitions, talks, tours and creative workshops for all ages, offering a range of ways to engage with one of the most significant works of modern sacred art in Britain.

Installed behind the cathedral's High Altar in 1966, Piper's seven-panel tapestry remains one of the boldest and most

significant works of modern art ever placed within an English cathedral – a vivid and uncompromising commission that introduced contemporary abstract form and radiant colour into the heart of the building at a time when Britain was emerging from post-war austerity. Sixty years on, it continues to captivate visitors, inspiring wonder and reflection.

Running until mid-November, *Glowing+Alive* explores the remarkable story behind the tapestry's creation – from its daring commissioning to the artistry and craftsmanship involved – and how this visionary artwork brought a striking new sense of light, colour and symbolism into Chichester Cathedral.

Alongside the exhibition, the cathedral will host a series of events, specialist tours and creative sessions designed to help visitors explore the tapestry and the Cathedral's artistic heritage in greater depth.

Programme highlights include:

- Ashes to Fire (until April 5)

- Slow Art Day (Saturday, April 11)

A guided session encouraging slow contemplation of art, exploring five artworks in the cathedral.

- Tour: The Art of Chichester Cathedral (from April 29)

A monthly guided introduction to the cathedral's outstanding art collection, from medieval wall paintings and sculpture reliefs to Victorian glass and major contemporary commissions.

- Tour: Textiles and the Fibre Arts (from June 27)

Specialist tours celebrating the cathedral's textile heritage and marking the 60th anniversary year of the Piper tapestry, exploring fibre art from Victorian embroideries to contemporary textile pieces.



The Old Way Loop, our annual Lent walk, took place on March 21 with 40 walkers many of them from the churches of Arundel South Stoke and Amberley, as well as Friends of St Mary North Stoke. A hearty picnic lunch at North Stoke awaited those who walked the first five miles, and those who completed the loop found themselves in reaches of the lower Arun transfigured by the idyllic weather. Whether or not you were able to come, look out for the 2027 date.

Janet Aidin



PEOPLE & EVENTS

Congratulations...

To **Gary Shipton**, a former resident of Amberley, on his appointment last month as the High Sheriff of West Sussex, the sovereign's representative in the county for all matters relating to the judiciary and the maintenance of law and order. Gary, a career journalist who now lives in Tangmere, is Editor-in-Chief and Regional Director of *Sussex World*, which includes both the *West Sussex County Times* and *West Sussex Gazette*.



In memory of Margot

A memorial service, celebrating the life of Margot Rendle, who died in October last year, is to be held on May 2 at 11am St Michael's Church. It will be conducted by the Wildbrooks' former vicar, the Revd Gerry Burgess.

Cook is coming to Amberley

Amberley Village Stores this month becomes an official stockist of Cook, award-winning, hand-prepared frozen meals and puddings. The shop is offering a 10 per cent discount on the launch day of Tuesday, April 21.

Cook's range includes meals for one, two, four and six-eight as well as children's meals, sauces and sides. To accommodate the three new freezers, the shop is undergoing a certain amount of reorganisation.

"We would like to acknowledge the generous help we have received from the Amberley Parish Trust in conjunction with this exciting development," say co-proprietors Colin Woods and Lee Stace.

New tree warden named

Russell Coates, who lives in The Alley, has been named by Amberley Parish Council as the new tree warden.

Having spent a lifetime in horticulture, including high profile positions at Kew Gardens and Wisley, he has a wealth of experience and can be contacted for tree advice and planning issues relating to trees. He will also act as pond warden.

In announcing the appointment, parish councillor Mike Attard also thanked Pam Keeble for her tireless work during the past 15 years in both roles. "She is dedicated to the cause and will remain in the background during the handover period," he added.

New food waste collections

The new weekly food waste collection service got underway locally at the end of March.

It includes all uneaten food and plate scrapings, raw and cooked meat and bones, fish, dairy products, eggs, tea bags, coffee grounds, rice, pasta, bread, cakes, pastries, all vegetables (cooked and uncooked) and peelings.

What is not allowed is packaging of any kind, liquids such as milk or fruit juices, oil or liquid fat, or anything that is not food waste.

Caddies, which have been supplied free along with outdoor waste bins, can be lined with compostable liners or newspaper.

When recycled food waste can be used to generate natural forms of energy, such as biogas.



Pub of the Year!

The Sportsman, which has been voted Pub of the Year by the Arun and Adur branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), received its award at a special presentation ceremony on February 28. Watched by customers and well-wishers, Roger Agate was handed the certificate by local CAMRA chairman Malcolm Barnes. The pub has also regained its entry into the *Good Beer Guide*, the first time for many years. Its recognition means that the Sportsman will now qualify for entry to the regional finals of the Pub of the Year awards, and potentially the national final.

● See *Bystander* - page 42

Pulborough Osteopathic CLINIC

REGISTERED OSTEOPATH
Member of the Statutory Register of Osteopaths

Robert Sadler BSc (Hons) Ost

For the treatment of :

Neck and back pain / stiffness

Postural tension, workstrain & sports injuries

All joint and muscular pain / stiffness

Sciatica and migranes

For an appointment :

Tel: (01798) 874736

Fax: (01798) 875989

Mob: 07808 571991

rsadler@pulboroughosteo.co.uk

www.pulboroughosteo.co.uk

Dressing Rooms

BESPOKE WINDOW TREATMENTS & SOFT FURNISHINGS

Personal and bespoke design service
in the comfort of your own home

Handmade curtains, blinds, cushions,
bedspreads etc

Wide range of fabrics, trimmings,
poles tracks

Full installation service available

Free initial consultation

Call Karen on **01903 741251**
Mob: **07974510292**
www.dressingyourrooms.co.uk

AMBERLEY ENERGY SYNDICATE



Syndicate members can claim their FREE oil voucher,
worth £75, which can be deducted from their next
boiler service or emergency call-out.

Vouchers are available from:

Chris Hough on 07803 766841 or e-mail [chris@
michaelmas.org.uk](mailto:chris@michaelmas.org.uk)

For enquiries about prices, contact:

**Dave Cole on 07949 512171 or e-mail
amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com**

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH STOKE

GOOD FRIDAY POETRY



At St Mary the Virgin,
North Stoke

FRIDAY 3 April 2026
at 11am

Read or listen to Good Friday
poetry, which is provided.

About 40 minutes

Everyone welcome



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

QUALITY LOCAL INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DECORATOR



- Over 30 years' experience
- Fully insured
- References available
- No VAT

For a professional service, contact:

Jonathan Capelin

(West Chiltington)

01798 817402



Winter Opening Hours

**Tuesday-Sunday
9am-4pm**



Serving delicious homemade light lunches,
Cream Teas & Beverages.

- 📍 The Square, Amberley, BN18 9SR
- 🌐 www.amberleytearoom.co.uk
- ✉ Amberleytearoom@gmail.com

CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYORS

**SLOANE
&
BROWN**

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Architecture & Building Surveying
Planning & Listed building applications
Reinstatement cost assessments
Party wall surveyors

Rural • Urban • Coastal • Historic • Contemporary

Contact Kevin or Phil on 01243 774764
email enquiries@sloaneandbrown.co.uk
www.sloaneandbrown.co.uk



Marion Scotcher DipCFHP, MPSPract(FHP)

FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Tel: 01798 875588 Mobile: 07967 973784

1 Bridge Cottages, Greatham
Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2ES

Home Visits by Appointment

Treatment in the comfort of your own home for:

- ◆ corns ◆ callus ◆ fungal treatments ◆
- ◆ toenail cutting service ◆ pedicures ◆





THE AMBERLEY SOCIETY

Charity begins at home

The Amberley Society has vowed to continue its bid for charitable status after the Charity Commission rejected its latest application.

At a well-attended annual general meeting on March 17, co-chair Ian Galbraith reported that the commission cited two concerns: that the society's stated objectives did not fully align with recognised charitable purposes, and that links on its website to the Save Our Sportsman campaign and other village initiatives suggested activities beyond a purely charitable remit. Mr Galbraith said the society had taken great care in drafting its Objectives, modelling them on similar groups that had gained charitable status, and remained puzzled by the commission's objections. He has asked for a review, due by May, and plans to resubmit the application if the refusal is upheld. Website links to local businesses - another focus of the commission's concerns - had already been removed.

A revised constitution was ready, containing updated Objectives based on wording recommended by the Charity Commission but leaving the society's aims and activities unchanged.

It has been a busy year of meetings and local talks. The Society ran three evening meetings and an outdoor event. September saw a popular Downs Farm walk led by Nyetimber Estate's operations manager Paul Gasson and rewilding manager Sarah George, offering members a rare view of the estate's conservation work on the Downs and the Wildbrooks.

Wildbrooks' natural processes were explored further in November, when Sarah George delivered a talk sharing her personal insights. Earlier in the year, Jim Glover and Chris Skinner argued the case for the Wildbrooks as perhaps "the most important wildlife site in Sussex", while in June, Mr Galbraith introduced residents to the society's archive.

A new series of lunchtime talks at the Sportsman was launched in late 2025 and had proved popular. Limited to about 12-16 attendees, the short talks have covered the life of 18th century vicar Bell Carleton, the story of Jane Woodforde - an Amberley woman who rose to social prominence - and, more recently, the early churches of Sussex. The series will continue in the autumn, with no shortage of volunteers keen to present.

After several years during which expenditure has crept above income, the society is increasing membership fees

from April 1. Last year's income was just over £650 - similar to 2024 - but the society recorded a deficit of around £50 following a £20 shortfall the previous year. With reserves at slightly over £5,000, the committee hopes the increase will stabilise finances.

Membership costs have remained largely unchanged for more than a decade. The new rates are:

- Individual annual: £5 (up from £4)
- Family annual: £8 (up from £6)
- Individual six year: £25 (up from £20)
- Family six year: £40 (up from £30)

Life membership will no longer be offered to new members due to concerns about long term income predictability and accounting complexity.

The society's extensive archiving project made significant progress last year, with the bulk of its material now catalogued and easier to navigate. Many items have been digitised, though work continues as new donations arrive. Making this digital material accessible online remains a technical step still under development.

Two major digitisation projects remain outstanding: the complete run of parish magazines, and the Janet Kelly postcard collection. The latter requires only time; the former will likely be sent for professional digitisation. Both projects would be supported more effectively if charitable status is secured.



Up on the Downs: a rare view of Nyetimber's conservation work for members of the Amberley Society

Transcription of historic interviews also continues. While many recordings have already been transcribed, numerous others await volunteers.

The archive received a major boost last year with the arrival of the Elizabeth and John Lyne Collection, donated by their daughters. Assembled largely during John Lyne's time as headmaster of Amberley School, the collection includes hundreds of photographs, press cuttings and pupil created material. Cataloguing and digitising the collection will continue into the current year, after which help will be sought to identify people in the photographs.

Reporting as co chair, Jeff Feakins noted that the society now had 182 members, including 36 life members. Over the past year, it had supported several local campaigns, including the Show Stoppers' initiative regarding the South Downs National Park Authority's Land Availability Assessment, and the successful campaign by Malcolm Pheasey to improve the rail service to Amberley. It has also remained closely involved with issues concerning the Wildbrooks.

continued overleaf



continued from previous page

The society has strengthened its relationship with Amberley Parish Council to ensure coordination on planning and environmental matters. Regular meetings have been held to clarify how the society raises concerns and to avoid duplication with the Greener Amberley initiative.

Recognising that Amberley Castle is central to the village yet sometimes perceived as detached from it, the society reached out to the Castle's sales manager, Sally Waite, in an effort to foster closer ties. The trustees recently held their committee meeting at the Castle by invitation, and the society hopes the venue will provide a speaker on the ongoing castle wall renovation.

With Natural England's latest assessment showing just 1.95 per cent of the Amberley Wildbrooks SSSI in "favourable condition", the Friends of the Wildbrooks (FoW) continued to highlight the urgency of conservation efforts. Two society trustees are members of FoW, reflecting the society's long-standing history of campaigning for the Wildbrooks' protection.

Following discussions, the two groups agreed that FoW will remain independent but act as an advisory body to the Society on Wildbrooks matters. The society will help disseminate information to residents and the wider public, using its 180 plus membership and the Amberley Village website to present the "big picture" behind the often complex reports published by Natural England.

The Society's website, maintained by Jeff Feakins and Catherine Cunningham, now contains more than 90 pages, including visitor information, local maps, event details and updates on planning issues. In early 2026 it moved to a new web address – www.amberleyvillage.co.uk – to reflect its broader scope and to meet Charity Commission expectations. Society pages now sit clearly within this wider site. Personalised e-mails are increasingly used to improve engagement with members.

Following the AGM, Tony Whitbread, former CEO of Sussex Wildlife Trust and now its president, took members on a 'virtual walk' though some of SWT's 32 nature reserves. Entitled *The Wild Life and Wild Places of Sussex*, the informative and entertaining talk examined not only the interesting and unusual species and their rich diverse habitats, but also the ecological relations underpinning these places, including their geology, hydrology and climate.

Spring Art Festival

A celebration of paintings, tapestry and sculptures by local artists is being staged at a Spring Art Festival to be held on May 16 at St Mary's Church, North Stoke. Open from 10.30am until 4.30pm, it will include two Q&A sessions by textile artist Belinda Scarlett, at midday and 2.30pm. There will also be children's activities throughout the day.

STORRINGTON FILM NIGHT

Harmony in the shadow of war

In 1916, as war rages, a choral society in Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives, is to make music together.

The Choral, written by Alan Bennett and starring Ralph Fiennes, is this month's choice for the Storrington Film Night organised by the Rotary Club. It is being screened at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 8 in Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road. Tickets, priced £5, are available in advance from The Card Shop, Storrington, or at the door on the night.

Anyone requiring transport should contact John Ollerton on (07523) 322554.

Next month's film is *Song, Sung Blue*, starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson.

THE ARTS SOCIETIES

Talks on rebels, ruins and reinvention

Battersea power station and the controversial lives of Van Gogh and Cézanne are the subjects of this month's talks for members of the local Arts Societies.



Picture: Charlie Round-Turner

The South Downs branch will hear how Van Gogh and Cézanne made little impact on the public mind during their lifetimes. Both were rebels with art as their cause – Van Gogh painted quickly, exploiting the power of vibrant colour to express his emotions. Cézanne's analytical approach led him to ponder each and every brushstroke.

Neither sold much in their lifetime – only their artist friends appreciated the changes they brought into being. This lecture, entitled *Death as a Career Move*, looks at how the work of Van Gogh and Cézanne went from unsold to blockbuster in the early years of the 20th century because a few brave, but important art dealers and critics decided to sponsor them posthumously. The talk, on Wednesday, April 1, is at 10.45am (doors open at 9.50am) in Fittleworth Village Hall and visitors are welcome (£10).

Members of the West Sussex group, meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at 2pm (also in Fittleworth Village Hall), will learn how Battersea power station with its four iconic chimneys operated for 50 years but was then abandoned for the next 40. It is now a Grade 2 listed building and a vibrant mixed-use development featuring 150 shops, restaurants, and leisure activities. Visitors to the talk, which will be followed by a visit to Battersea on April 28, are also welcome (£10).

Next month's talks will be the *Mayan civilisation of Central America* (South Downs) and *Girls Behaving Badly: Jane Austen's Wicked Women* (West Sussex).

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND EVENTS IN THE WILDBROOKS BENEFICE 2026

Palm Sunday 29th March

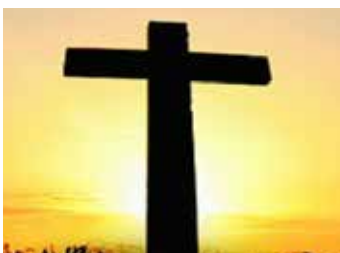


10.30 am St Michael's Palm Sunday Procession
Meet in The Square, Amberley
to walk to the Churchyard for an outdoor
service. (in church if wet). Refreshments.
This is a United Benefice Sunday, so there are no services
at the other churches.

Good Friday 3rd April



Enjoy hot buttered hot-cross buns, coffee or tea
in The Square, Amberley,
from 9.30am until we run out of buns!
suggested minimum donation £2.50
(Community event; any profits to St Michael's)



11am St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke:
Easter Poetry
2pm St Michael's, Amberley:
Contemplative Words and Music for an hour.
Drop in-drop out any time during the hour.

Easter Sunday 5th April – Celebrating the Resurrection



9.00am Greatham Holy Communion
9.15am St Peter's, Parham Holy Communion
11.00am Wiggonholt Holy Communion
11.00am St Michael's, Amberley Family Communion
3.00pm Amberley Millennium Green: Easter Egg Hunt
Entry £5 per family on the day or via
amberleystmichael@gmail.com
Proceeds to Hall refurbishment fund

Amberley Pottery

Country pottery for the table and all domestic use, with 'one-off' pieces made to order for special occasions and personal collections.



Telephone: 01798 831876

Email: caroline@amberleypottery.co.uk

Website: <http://amberleypottery.co.uk>

Opening Hours: Thurs-Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm

A selection of pots is also available at Amberley Village Stores.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL — AMBERLEY —

Available to Hire • £8 an hour
Seats 70 (100 standing). New kitchen. Dishwasher.
Boiling tap. Fully Accessible



Perfect for

Parties • Talks • Meetings • Classes
Workshops • Community Lunches
Music and Theatre Rehearsals • Charity Events

For bookings contact Adrienne
ad.greenwood@btinternet.com

CONNECT HOLISTIC THERAPIES

Aromatherapy Massage & Reflexology

Discover the blissful benefits of an **aromatherapy massage** using a carefully selected blend of oils, tailored to support your physical and emotional well-being.

De-stress and encourage self-healing with a deeply relaxing **reflexology** treatment that will help balance body and mind.

For the ultimate indulgence, enjoy both therapies in one rejuvenating 70 minute treatment.

Gift vouchers available.

Treatments at The Old Forge Surgery in Amberley and at Chanctonbury Osteopathy in Ashurst.

Contact Clare on
07895 302787

connectreflexology@gmail.com



SPRING ART FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 16TH MAY, 10.30 TO 4.30PM

ST MARYS CHURCH, NORTH STOKE

AMBERLEY BN18 9LS

**A celebration of paintings, tapestry and
sculptures by local artists**

12.00pm and 2.30pm – Q & A with textile
artist, Belinda Scarlett

Children's art activities throughout the day

Light refreshments

Bring your family and friends, all are welcome!

Free Entry

Hallraisers' April and May Fundraisers

Café Bridge

Friday, 24 April in Amberley Church Hall from 2pm to 5pm

Grab your bridge partner and join us for a relaxed and sociable afternoon of bids and tricks in our Café Bridge. Whether you're a seasoned player or simply enjoy a friendly challenge, this is the perfect event for all bridge enthusiasts – all standards welcome!



- ♠ Play ACOL bridge in a convivial setting
- ♥ Afternoon tea featuring a delicious selection of scones, sandwiches and cakes
- ♦ Spot scoring prizes!
- ♣ A fantastic raffle featuring prizes with a bridge theme

Single players welcome! We will try to match you up with a partner.

This is also a taster session for a Bridge Club launching in Amberley later in the year – come and try it out!

**Tickets are £50 per table / £12.50 each from
Catherine at cunninghampc@gmail.com**







Paella Cooking Class

Saturday, 16 May in Amberley Church Hall from 2pm to 5pm

There are just a few places left on the paella cooking class that will change your life!

Come and join us for a hands-on, social cooking experience when you will master the art of preparing a traditional Spanish paella from scratch in our three hour workshop led by Jonathan Prangnell, who will provide hints and secrets to help you make the best paella you've ever tasted.

The session will include

-  A delicious glass of sangria
-  Expert tuition, led by Jonathan Prangnell
-  All facilities, equipment and ingredients – just bring your own apron!
-  When the paella is cooked, indulge in your Spanish feast with your fellow chefs
-  Buy some authentic Spanish ingredients to make your own paella at home
-  Recipe card to take away after the class



Tickets are £25 and available from susan.watson10@gmail.com



EVERYONE WELCOME
SATURDAY MAY 16th
10.00am – 4.00pm

LOOKING TO PLAY TENNIS – LOOK NO FURTHER – JOIN IN THE FUN

- **FREE COACHING FOR ALL STANDARDS**
- **EXHIBITION MATCH**
- **TENNIS ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY**
- **BBQ & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**
- **RAFFLE/PRIZE DRAW**
- **FUN AFTERNOON OF SOCIAL TENNIS – OPEN TO ALL**

FIND US JUST OFF CHURCH STREET STORRINGTON RH20 2HE

www.storringtontennisclub.co.uk



What's on this Easter

There is plenty on offer locally this Easter, from the reopening of Parham House & Gardens, special activities at both Amberley and the Weald & Downland Museums to discovering nature's hidden champions at the RSPB reserve at Wiggonholt, as well as themed cruises on the Wey & Arun Canal. There are concerts, too, at Arundel and Chichester.

Parham House & Gardens opens for the season at midday on Easter Sunday and is also open on Monday, with delicious cream teas across the two days, served in The Big Kitchen. As in previous years, the house and gardens will be open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 12 noon and 5pm until September.

Amberley Museum has a full programme of Easter holiday activities from April 1 until 12, including a special Spring trail; a learning space (Wednesdays and Fridays from 11am-2pm) where children can paint an Easter and Spring-themed stencilled gift; and an opportunity on Thursdays to have a go at the traditional craft of woodturning with the West Sussex Woodturners with a small wooden keepsake (£2 charge per person) to take home. And the Pottery Studio will be open daily, where visitors can make something in clay with a spring and easter theme to take home and paint (£2.50 each).



Celebrate the arrival of spring as the **Weald & Downland Living Museum** at Singleton bursts back into life this Easter. Flowers bloom, lambs skip in the fields, ducklings hatch, and the whole site awakens after winter's rest. There are two weeks of family-friendly Easter holiday activities inspired by nature, folklore, and rural traditions, from March 28 until April 12. These include a daily Flower Code Quest, with a reward for those that successfully decode a hidden message, a range of traditional toys and games in the Hambrook Barn play area plus a special egg and spoon race, a Spring Mummer's Play (Tuesday-Thursday each week 10am-4pm), and a series of make-and-take activities.

At the **RSPB's reserve at Wiggonholt** there is a family-themed adventure (Egg-splore the great outdoors) with the new Wild Cards that uncover the hidden heroes of nature. From Easter until the end of May, special packs of playing cards (£3 at the reserve) can be taken on an adventure, comparing the strengths, superpowers and fun facts of



Amberley's Spring Vintage Car Show takes place on Sunday, April 12. Other events planned this month include Industrial Trains (April 19) and the Spring Bus Show (April 26)

some of spring's most familiar species. By scanning the codes amazing animals burst into life through augmented reality. Over the Easter holidays, the spring adventure ends with a delicious chocolatey treat. No booking required. There is also a wide range of events throughout the month for children and adults alike.

Themed cruises on the **Wey & Arun Canal** will be running on all four days of the Easter weekend, from Good Friday until the Bank Holiday Monday. Plenty of Easter characters will be on the canal to entertain visitors. The trips take 40 minutes and depart at midday and 2.00pm. Children receive a chocolate gift from the Easter Bunny while adults enjoy refreshments and the chance to unwind and enjoy the scenery. Tickets cost £13 per person and booking is essential. Later in the month, there is a special cream tea cruise at 2pm on Friday, April 24. Tickets are priced £22. Departures are from the wharf beside the Onslow Arms on the B2133 in Loxwood and the narrow boat travels along the decorated canal and through a restored lock. Online booking: www.weyarun.org.uk

St John's Passion

Bach's *St John's Passion* is being performed by the Hanover Band & Chorus at 7pm on Good Friday at **St Nicholas Church, Arundel**. First performed in Leipzig nearly 300 years ago, it has become a tradition for the work to be performed each year in the build-up to Easter. From the electrifying opening chorus through to the closing *chorale*, the work captivates the audience with its dramatic and emotive depiction of the last days of Christ.

More choral works in May

The Leconfield Singers and the English Philharmonia are performing Brahms's *Requiem* in **Arundel Cathedral** at 7.30pm on Sunday, May 10. And the Arun Choral Society will be giving a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at 7pm on Sunday, May 17, also in Arundel Cathedral.



The changing nature of Wildbrooks' occupations

If you woke up in Amberley in 1826, the village would feel very different to today. Life was slow-paced, seasonal and deeply tied to the land and the river. Hedgerows, grazing cattle and hay meadows would have dominated your view. You would most likely have worked as an agricultural labourer, cutting hay in the brooks, ploughing with horses or tending sheep and cattle. You would have worked long days from sunrise to sunset and your weekly wages would have barely supported your family. The St Michael's church bells might have rung out in the afternoon, echoing across the fields.



Before the Second World War there were six working farms in Amberley

According to an analysis of the *Baptismal Register* between 1813 and 1838, 105 labourers lived in Amberley in the early 19th century. Other listed jobs include servants, carpenters, butchers, tailors, cordwainers (shoemakers), higglers (itinerant salesmen), lime burners, bakers and bargemen, as well as people working in specialised rural trades such as thatchers, coopers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths. There were few white collar jobs – a Clerk in Holy Orders, some landowners and estate managers, publicans and a few shopkeepers. There is less information on what the women did, as only the father's profession was required to be registered, but we can assume they were occupied with intensive domestic duties as well as working alongside their husbands.



The village blacksmith

The *Baptismal Register* shows that by the late 19th century, the number of occupations had expanded. The effect of the railway, which arrived in the 1860s connecting Amberley to London, Brighton and Portsmouth, is clearly seen. Jobs now included two railwaymen, two signalmen, an engine driver, a porter and a platelayer. Men were no longer labelled as just 'labourers' and the Wildbrooks began to see the rise of skilled trades – engineers, plumbers, metal workers, painters, woodmen, sawyers and gardeners.

The *Baptismal Register* shows that by the late 19th century, the number of occupations had expanded. The effect of the railway, which arrived in the 1860s connecting Amberley to London, Brighton and Portsmouth, is clearly seen. Jobs now included two railwaymen, two signalmen, an engine driver, a porter and a platelayer. Men were no longer labelled as just 'labourers' and the Wildbrooks began to see the rise of skilled trades – engineers, plumbers, metal workers, painters, woodmen, sawyers and gardeners.

The Chalk Pit – ideally located to take advantage of road, railway and river transport - became a major local employer (100 at its height). Chalk was quarried and burnt in the kilns to make lime for mortar, decorating and agricultural use. In 1876 John Pepper took over production from several small producers, diversifying into the manufacture and distribution of a variety of building materials until the business closed in the 1960s. The operation required new white-collar roles including office clerks, bookkeepers, surveyors, engineers, managers and supervisors. These roles formed the first significant middle-class occupational layer in the area.

The growing need for service industries was also having an impact and the *Baptismal Register* shows new jobs included a chauffeur, a lorryman, a milkman, a cable service man and a postman. There were also now people working for the armed forces - eight in the Royal Navy, two in the army and one in the RAF.

The late Victorian and Edwardian period saw Amberley also begin to attract cultural and artistic workers. Artists and intellectuals who moved to the village because of its exceptional light, landscape and its rail accessibility included Edward Stott, the painter who settled in Amberley in the 1880s, illustrator Arthur Rackham who lived in Houghton and composer John Ireland.

Amberley remained primarily rural during both World Wars. Farming and lime-burning continued and in World War II, more jobs were created in local defence, as Sussex was heavily militarised, with nearby airfields, radar stations and Home Guard units. Many men from the Wildbrooks served in the armed forces in both wars and 32 are recorded on the



Castle Garage in the early 1960s



The chalkpits were at one time the biggest employer



The railway enabled commuting



Amberley War Memorial at St Michael's churchyard, where their names live on. There were also more roles for women, working in the Women's Land Army and keeping local services running, as well as managing households singlehandedly.

Fast forward to the late 20th century and tourism and heritage started to grow, with the former chalk pit becoming the Amberley Museum. From the 1980s onwards, especially during the Big Bang era, London's finance and professional sector expanded rapidly and many of these professionals sought larger homes with rural lifestyles outside London. The good rail links from Sussex to London allowed them to live in scenic villages while working in the capital and the villages around the South Downs began to see the arrival of wealthy London commuters, from investment banking, law, consulting, finance, corporate management, media and the creative industries.



at least one consultant surgeon, three nurses, two psychotherapists, a physiotherapist, a health visitor and a midwife.

Only four people report that they actually work in Amberley: our potter, two working in hospitality and a teaching assistant at the school. Today, no farm workers responded to our survey – clearly they are too busy farming, as we know they are still out there! Instead, the 'agriculture workers' in our survey were two landscape gardeners, a retired hedge nursery owner and a chartered surveyor.

Pleasingly, Wildbrooks also appears to be a place of equal opportunity, as women are well represented in senior and professional roles. Not surprisingly, many of those who responded to our survey are retired.



Thirsty work during haymaking



Reed-cutting was an important activity on the brooks

Our recent survey of Wildbrooks' occupations confirms that most residents (or at least, those who responded to the survey) are still largely professionals – see chart above. Those who still work report that they commute to London or nearby towns (Arundel, Chichester, Horsham, Hove, Lavant, Shoreham) or work from home (over 25 per cent). Academics – university professors, lecturers and teachers – form the largest occupational group, closely followed by business & consulting professionals, then finance, law, science and business support.

This quick canter over the history of jobs in the Wildbrooks shows how work has undergone a profound transformation over the last 200 years, with the traditional farming and crafting that once dominated Wildbrooks' life now being replaced by professional, creative and service roles, reflecting the wider social and economic changes across rural England.

However, as William Faulkner famously remarked: 'the past is never dead. It's not even past'. The village continues to balance its historic character with a modern, connected way of life, placing value on preservation, community and cultural identity. Our survey shows that while the story may be one of change, it is also one of continuity, where history still shapes the present in quiet and meaningful ways. It will be interesting to see just how the world of work in the Wildbrooks evolves over the next 200 years.

Amberley also continues to be a magnet for creatives. Almost 15% of our survey's respondents work in the arts, including seven who work in the theatre, TV or radio, four journalists, two designers, an artist, a composer and a studio potter.



Caroline Seaton, Amberley's long-standing potter

Health and healthcare professionals are also well represented, with

Susan Watson



The Wildbrooks Magazine – Readership Survey 2026

We invite you give your feedback on *The Wildbrooks Magazine*, to help us improve future issues. Everyone who enters has a chance to win a half case of wine from Amberley Village Stores. Thank you!

When you submit this form, we will not automatically collect your details like name and e-mail address unless you provide it yourself.

1. How would you rate the overall content of the magazine?

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

2. How regularly do you read the main sections of *The Wildbrooks Magazine*?

	Always	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
Church news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
News – local people & events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interviews – local people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Features (eg local history, environment etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature notes (RSPB, Sussex Wildlife Trust)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bystander	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diversions – monthly quiz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diversions – crossword	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How useful do you find the following sections?

	Useful	Not useful
Church services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parish directory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monthly calendar of local events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Village bus timetable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Train timetable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Littlehampton tide timetable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Property watch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertisements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Directory of local tradespeople and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please add any additional comments or suggestions - eg, ideas for new articles or additional information that you would like to see included:

5. And finally, we are always looking for new contributors, in whatever capacity. If you are willing to help with *The Wildbrooks Magazine*, eg advertisement support, contributing articles or as a distributor to your neighbours, please tell us how and include your name and e-mail below, so we can contact you.

6. I would like to enter the prize draw for a half case of wine.

Name:..... Phone number:.....E-mail:.....

Completed forms should be left at Amberley Village Stores. Deadline: April 14

THIRTY YEARS PART OF VILLAGE LIFE



With our offices in Storrington and Pulborough, we take pride in our traditional approach to sales and lettings, applying local knowledge and experience to achieve excellent results and client satisfaction



Photos show a selection of properties sold by GL & Co

www.glproperty.co.uk

01798 874033

SALES | LETTINGS | LAND & NEW HOMES | AUCTIONS



Spring

AT

THE SPORTSMAN AMBERLEY

Rackham Road Amberley BN18 9NR 01798 831787

**COME FOR THE VIEW
STAY FOR HOME-COOKED FOOD,
AWARD-WINNING ALES
AND A WARM WELCOME**

Five lovely **B&B rooms** with views over the Amberley Wildbrooks and the South Downs

Open seven days a week 10am-10pm

FOOD - Mon-Sat 12-2pm and 6-8pm Sunday 12-5pm



CAMRA Arun and Adur PUB OF THE YEAR 2026

Proud to be in THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 2026

www.thesportsmansussex.co.uk

www.facebook.com/thesportsmansussex





Clouds of laughter – a first visit, a shared flight

Today's visit to Amberley felt like stepping into a storybook – a village full of history, gentle beauty, and a remarkable sense of togetherness. I felt genuinely moved that although this was my first time in Amberley, I was welcomed into the community's 'flight' as if I had always belonged here.

I came to see my former colleague, Susan Watson, with whom I worked in Hanoi, at Plan International Vietnam. What I did not expect was to learn how deeply her experiences from working with us in Vietnam and other emerging economies have shaped the way she now supports community fundraising right here, in her own village.

In Vietnam, we often view the United Kingdom as a generous donor country, one that provides support to communities like ours. That is why I was genuinely surprised to learn that even in a peaceful and picturesque place like Amberley, people still need to raise funds themselves to maintain and improve their community spaces. As I wrote in my reflections: "I was very surprised to learn that even in Amberley...you need to do your own fundraising for the community through grants and community members' contributions".

Hearing Susan explain how much she learnt about community mobilisation and fundraising during her time working with us made the experience even more meaningful. It reminded me that knowledge flows in many directions. What we build in one part of the world can inspire and strengthen another. Development is not a one-way street. It is a shared journey.

I was also deeply impressed by Melanie Edge and Catherine Cunningham, Susan's dedicated Hallraiser partners in this community project. Their commitment was visible in every detail, from organising the event to managing the smallest logistical tasks with care, creativity, and a warm, open heart. Their

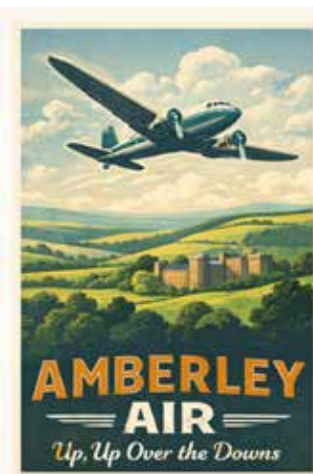


Caledonian girls: Thu Ba Pham, Di Joseph and Mandy McGillivray

teamwork embodied the spirit of service and responsibility that holds a community together.

The community fundraising event I attended was themed as a collective 'flight' and it was one of the most creative gatherings I have seen. The hall was alive with music, laughter and the warmth of neighbours coming together. Volunteers prepared food and drinks, singers performed with pride and Captain Michael Joseph delivered an inspiring and humorous talk about overcoming early challenges to achieve his childhood dream of becoming a pilot. His story lifted the room, reminding everyone of resilience and hope.

What struck me most was how simple yet powerful the event was. It was not only about raising money. It was about strength-



Amberley Air: in-flight snacks served to passengers who attended the event and check-in agent Catherine Cunningham



ening the social fabric of the village. As I noted: "It is a simple fundraising event, but also an opportunity to connect people and to motivate them to be an active member of the community where all of their talents can shine".

I was also shown the phased development plan for the church hall – a thoughtful roadmap beginning with essential improvements to make the space more welcoming. The determination behind this plan mirrors the communities I work with in Vietnam, where long-term development always begins with shared vision, collective effort and a belief that small steps can lead to meaningful change.

What I witnessed in Amberley is a beautiful reminder that community spirit transcends borders. Whether in a remote mountainous village in Vietnam or a historic village in the UK, people thrive when they come together, dream together, and support one another.

When I return home, I will share this experience with my colleagues and communities in Vietnam. Inspiration, like laughter, travels easily, floating from one village to another, reminding us that we are all connected.

Thu Ba Pham
Plan International, Vietnam

● **Footnote from The Hallraisers:** We would like to thank Thu Ba for sharing her reflections with us – and for joining in so enthusiastically at our Clouds of Laughter evening. We thought she looked fabulously stylish as a BCAL stewardess! Also, of course, we would like to thank Michael Joseph for his fascinating talk on his eventful career as an airline pilot, which had us rolling in the aisles. And to Jeff Feakins and the Sky High Singers who raised the roof as jet set crooners – so many handsome captains (and glamorous stewardesses) on one plane!

And finally, thank you to Amberley for your generosity. We raised close on £900 which is a magnificent contribution to the Hallraisers' fund to finance the third and final phase of the church hall renovation.



Your flight crew welcome you aboard (from left to right): Russell Coates, Catherine Cunningham, Jeff Feakins, Mandy McGillivray and Di Joseph



Intrepid travellers (from left to right): Ginny and Mike Malby, Nikki Illman and Libby Daghorn with Captain Michael Joseph



Preparing for take-off (from left to right): Catherine Cunningham, Di Joseph, Susan Watson, Michael Joseph, Mel Edge, Grahame Joseph, Thu Ba Pham and Jeff Feakins

Natasha, Dave and our Team
Warmly Welcome you to
The Bridge Inn
at Houghton Bridge

Home Cooked Food and Excellent Ales

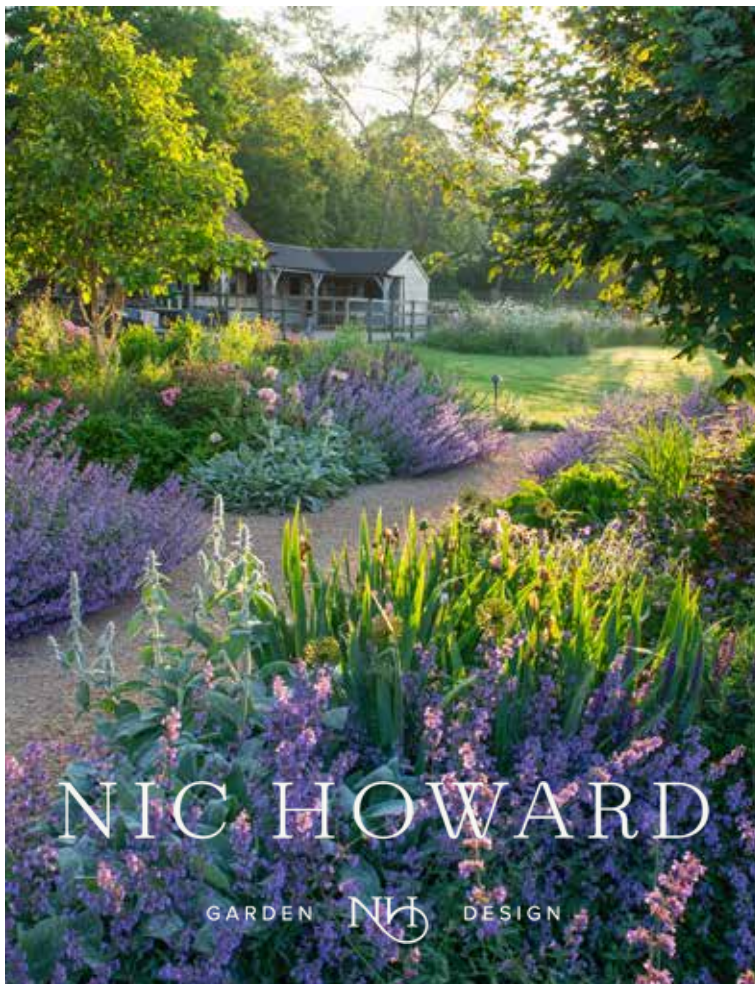
Live Music this month 12th April 3-5pm

Superstrings

OPENING HOURS

Wednesday to Saturday all Day from 12pm
Sunday 12pm until 5pm

Please see our website for latest information: www.bridgeinnamberley.com
Or Call on 01798 831619 e-mail: bridgeamberley@btinternet.com



MULTI-AWARD WINNING
GARDEN DESIGNERS,
PLANTERS & KEEPERS

We Love Plants Ltd is a renowned, multi-disciplinary, award winning design studio founded by Director and Designer Nic Howard with an enviable reputation for creating luxury, timeless, beautiful, plant-focused gardens.

01883 744 020

hello@weloveplants.co

www.we-love-plants.co.uk

Instagram @nichoward





Goshawk: phantom of the forest

For many of us, film and literature may be the closest we get to experiencing the sharp detail of certain charismatic wildlife goliaths: the breath of a Bengal tiger, the splashing breach of a humpback whale or the down-the-barrel fire-eyed stare of a goshawk.

If you've watched this year's film adaptation of Helen Macdonald's bestseller, *H is for Hawk*, you'll have been treated to some beautiful close-ups of these impeccable birds. Cherish these shots – they're not common.

Nicknamed 'Phantom of the Forest', goshawks are extremely secretive, flying under the radar and shrouded in mysterious woodland wonder. It's said their name was bestowed upon them by medieval falconers: goose-hawk, for their apparent ability to take down geese. Anyone who's ever had a run in with a lairy farmyard goose will know they're quite a contender, and the name immediately conjures images of the goshawk's mighty strength and hunting prowess.

Goshawks share a similar barred chest, yellow legs, and bright eyes with their cousin, the sparrowhawk. But the similarity ends with size, and with a wingspan of up to five feet, a female goshawk can easily weigh four times as much as a female sparrowhawk.

Despite their impressive bulk, goshawks are tricky to spot, and surprisingly agile. Preferring to nest and hunt in deep forest, they whip through thicket and glade at speeds of up to 38mph to silently dispatch unsuspecting birds and small mammals with spearing golden talons.

Like many awesome predators, these magnificent birds get a tarnished reputation. Historically persecuted, by the late 19th century goshawks were all but extinct in the UK. Due to accidental escapees, and perhaps some deliberate releases, these birds have bounced back. Despite this, their trauma is not as much in the past as you would like to assume, vilification and very real crimes against the species are still happening. Along with added threats of habitat loss and climate change, this serial oppression has slowed their steely return.

But return they do. Although populations are patchy across the UK, those that do persist are strong in number, including here in Sussex, with around 65 breeding pairs now thought to be resident. If you see one, consider yourself lucky. But if you miss out, don't despair. Lean into the mystery, the stuff of film, and tales of the forest. You might not have seen them. But they've probably seen you.

**Kerry Williams
Communications Officer – Conservation,
Sussex Wildlife Trust**



Despite the fact there are thought to be 65 breeding pairs in Sussex you will be lucky to see one

What's the buzz?

As temperatures rise and spring flowers start to bloom, a queen bumblebee emerges from her hibernation spot in a rotten log. She is hungry and needs to find a new home...

First, she must quickly build up her strength by feeding on nectar from spring flowers. Then she searches for a dry, sheltered nest site...perhaps a tangle of long grass, a bird box or abandoned mouse hole. She then gets cosy, burrowing into the grasses, dry leaves or hold nest to create a small round chamber.

Inside the chamber, the queen produces wax flakes and shapes them into a cup which she fills with nectar collected from flowers. She also collects pollen from flowers, packing it together into a tight clump and laying her first batch of eggs on top. The queen sits on top of these eggs, shivering her flight muscles to generate enough heat to keep the eggs warm. She feeds from the little nectar pot when the weather is too bad to visit flowers.

After four to six days, the eggs hatch into white larvae. These wriggling offspring munch their way through the pollen that surrounds them. The queen now faces a tricky dilemma – she must keep the nest warm (a constant 25-32°C) by shivering, or her offspring will die. But she must also leave regularly to feed on flowers and bring back more pollen and nectar – planting nectar-rich flowers that bloom in early spring can make such a difference.

After two to three weeks, the larvae spin themselves tough, silky cocoons. The former larvae dissolve into a soupy liquid before rebuilding themselves into adult bumblebees. After two weeks, the new bumblebees force their way out of the pupae and then bite their way out of their cocoons. The queen's first batches of eggs all hatch into female workers. This army of daughters takes over the important job of collecting pollen and nectar from flowers, to help feed new larvae and fill more wax pots with nectar.

There are several species of bumblebee to look out for – identification and naming is often related to the colour

continued overleaf



Picture: Pete Richman

Picture: Graham Osborne



continued from previous page

band at the end of their abdomen – buff-tailed, white-tailed and red-tailed bumblebees could all be seen.

When thinking of bees, we naturally think about the sound of hives humming with thousands of bees busy at work. But there are many more bee species in the UK, most of which are solitary bees who do not have hives, worker bees or a social structure.

A spring-time favourite is the hairy-footed flower bee (pictured below). Because of their round, furry appearance they could be mistaken for a small bumblebee – their quick darting flight is a good way to tell them apart. Although they are solitary bees they often nest close together in large groups. Male hairy-footed flower bees are a gingery brown with blonde hairs on their faces. They have distinctive long feathery hairs on their legs – hence the name. They can often be seen patrolling flower-rich areas in search of a mate, chasing off any other insects who enter their territory. Females look very different to males; they are black all over, except for orangey red hairs on their hind legs – they like to visit primroses, comfrey and lungworts such as pulmonaria.



Picture: Carey Lodge

At the moment, I'm particularly excited about a special bee that has been creating a buzz on the sandy slopes of our heathland – the early colletes bee. Despite the large numbers that you can see here at the nature reserve, they are solitary bees and are a *Red Data Book* species. This indicates that they are rare due to their specific habitat requirements – bare sandy soil they can readily dig in. The female will dig a tunnel up to 50cm deep with branching chambers in which she lays her eggs. She secretes an oily substance from a special gland in her abdomen and uses her short tongue like a paint brush to coats the insides of the chambers with the oil. This ensures that the underground egg chambers are waterproof and resistant to fungal attack!

Most of us appreciate bees as producers of honey and as pollinators of our garden flowers, fruit and vegetables, but delving just a little deeper into their lifecycles and behaviour reveals just how complex, intricate and incredible these insects are.

Anna Allum

Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB, Wiggonholt

February rainfall

There were just two dry days during the whole of February, with 142.5mm (just over 5½in) of rain. The total rainfall for the first two months of the year amounted to 324.4mm (12¾in)

Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey



RECIPE

Chicken prosciutto

Amberley Village Stores stocks all the ingredients you need for this easy to make lovely Italian dish. The sauce is light and picquante, just the thing for a warm Spring evening. Serve it with rice and a salad or green beans and new carrots. Serves two.

You need

- 2 small skinned chicken breasts or one large one sliced lengthwise
- 2 slices of prosciutto crudo
- 4 sage leaves
- 3 generous tablespoonsful of crème fraiche
- 1 glass of dry white wine
- 2 tbs olive oil
- ½ oz unsalted butter
- Parsley or chives to decorate (optional)



Method

Lay out the prosciutto slices and place two sage leaves on each. Roll up each piece of chicken in a slice of prosciutto with sage and secure it with a cocktail stick. Melt the oil and butter in a heavy-bottomed pan, add the wine and the chicken rolls and heat. Cook until the oil and wine mixture starts to “chatter” indicating that the wine has almost evaporated. Remove the pan from the heat and turn down the stove to a low simmer, cover the pan and return it to the heat to cook very slowly for about 10 minutes until the breasts are cooked through (test them by prodding them with a sharp knife). Keep an eye on the cooking, turn the rolls once, do not let the mixture brown: add a little more wine if necessary to prevent this.

Remove the chicken rolls to a hot plate and keep them warm. Blend the crème fraiche into the pan juices, heat gently but do not boil. Put each piece of chicken on to a heap of plain boiled rice (make sure the rice is hot) and pour over the sauce, Sprinkle a little chopped chive or parsley.

Note: Chicken breasts come in various sizes, the standard ones from the village shop are quite large and a half of one each is fine for those with modest appetites.

Why are there 13 in a ‘Baker’s Dozen’?

It started back in the 1200s. Bakers in medieval England were notorious for cheating customers out of bread. As a result, Henry III passed a law that anyone who sold underweight bread could be thrown in jail. Thus, scared bakers started adding an extra loaf to their orders just to be safe. Hence, the baker’s dozen was born.

R.J. ELLIOTT & SON

Complete
Decorating
and
Maintenance
Service



Tel: 01903 732363

Mob: 07532 231345

Established over 40 years



**The Roost
at Stream Barn,
The Square,
Amberley, BN18 9SR**

Family or friends looking for quality self-catering accommodation in Amberley?

New conversion of an old farm building, offering stylish and comfortable self-contained studio accommodation for two. Located in an enviable position in the heart of the village, with unrivalled views. Modern utilities and furnishings, whilst retaining rural charm.

Weekly lets, long weekends, short and last-minute breaks.

Contact: Sandie and Geoff Conlon on

(01798) 839 320

www.selfcateringarundel.co.uk



M.D. Woodger

Domestic Boiler Maintenance
Service/Repair/Commissioning
of oil-fired boilers and Aga cookers
Registered OFTEC technician

Telephone

01730 894211 07795 831589 (mobile)

Rydon Landscapes

Garden Design and Construction

1 Dora Cottage, Greatham

Pulborough

Tel: (01798) 872359

Mobile: 07711 663862

COOK IS COMING TO AMBERLEY!

We are thrilled to announce that Amberley Village Stores is now an official stockist of COOK - the award-winning, hand-prepared meals that taste just like home-made (only better!).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: TUESDAY, 21st APRIL
(10% off launch day)

Need it delivered?

Add COOK meals to your weekly Amberley grocery delivery!

Order online: www.amberleyshop.uk

E-mail: info@avsshop.co.uk

Website www.amberleystores.co.uk



01798 831 171

Opening hours: 7.30am-5pm weekdays
and 8.30am-4pm Saturday/Sunday



What is the point of Point-to-Point?

Point-to-Point racing is an amateur version of National Hunt racing or the Steeplechase and has been held at Parham for 70 years. The name Point-to-Point refers to the points of the church steeples that the horses used to follow during a race.

Home of the Crawley & Horsham Point-to-Point, Parham provides a fun, social countryside day out for all the family, with good racing year after year. It is an amateur sport, that provides a stepping stone for many upcoming jockeys, horses and trainers.



April 26, are from 12.30 onwards. Access to the course is via Hurston Lane, Storrington, just off the A283.

This year Parham features six races over fences, two pony races, a fun dog show, beer tent, funfair and a wide variety of trade stands to browse, in addition to plenty of local food and drink stalls; there's something for everyone. This year's meetings, on Saturdays, March 28 and

Three charities are benefiting from this year's meetings: the Kent, Surrey, Sussex (KSS) Air Ambulance and two farming charities – Jamie's Farm and The Farming Community Network. Tickets are £25 per person at the gate, with free admission for children aged 16 years and under.

W. Bryder & Sons

est. 1863



In the sad event of the loss of your loved one you can rely on W. Bryder & Sons to help you every step of the way.

INDIVIDUALLY TAILORED FUNERALS

To suit all budgets, arranged by our friendly 5th generation family run business.

Peaceful funeral homes in the heart of the South Downs countryside

Headstones & Memorials / Grave Maintenance

We can be contacted 24 hours a day

Petworth

The Gables, Tillington, GU28 9AB

01798 342174 (24 hours)

Pulborough

95 Lower Street, Pulborough, RH20 2BP

01798 872000 (24 hours)

www.wbryderandsons.co.uk | info@wbryderandsons.co.uk



The History of SAGE

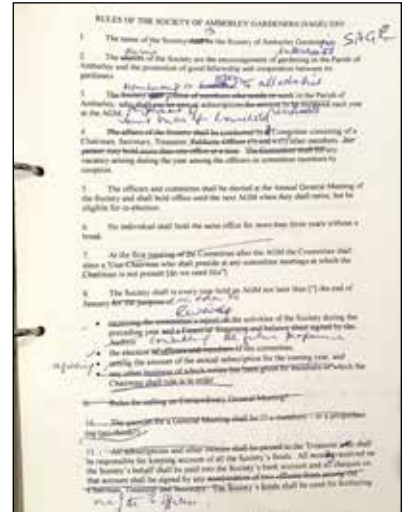
The Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts

I spent a fascinating two days pouring through the SAGE archives held in the Old Forge Surgery, Church Street, to see what I could find about the history of SAGE, complemented by Rhona Hoy, Sandie Conlon and Sue Wood's several scrapbooks of newsletters and garden guides.

In June 2002, when the crowds had left Amberley Gardens Open, the hosts met at Pat and Tim Ashby's house, Pear Tree Cottage, Hog Lane, for drinks. It was there that it was decided to form The Society of Amberley Gardening Enthusiasts (SAGE). Jo Wheeler came up with the name. Jo, Pam Ffoulkes Roberts and others subsequently set up a constitution – a photo of this draft is shown (top right).

tage, Stream Barn and Stream Cottage.

There was an annual long-distance visit to a special garden such as Kew, Sissinghurst, Exbury, Mottisfont and Beth Chatto to name but a few. This was surpassed in April 2008 when not one, but three, were visited: Highgrove and Nymans in April, and Exbury in May. Highgrove was a highlight, renowned for being 15 acres of organic gardens developed by the King since 1980. The preferred coach company used then was Richardson's Travel of Midhurst.



SAGE is good for you: original poster inviting membership

The first meeting was held in May 2003 when a committee was elected with Pat Ashby as chair, Sandie Conlon as secretary and Joy Hall as treasurer. The original objective – which is still in place today – was 'the encouragement of gardening in the parish of Amberley and the promotion of good fellowship and cooperation between its gardeners'.

The society began with 28 enthusiastic members which quickly rose to 50. Membership now stands at 60.

Many wonderful visits have taken place over the years to both well-known gardens, small cottage gardens and more formal Manor House ones.

The 'G' in SAGE stood originally for 'gardening' but this changed in August 2010 after discussion by society members, who decided that since all members shared an interest in gardens, but not all members were active gardeners and, therefore, the word 'garden' should replace 'gardening'.

Pam Keeble



McBean's rare orchids



Beth Chatto's garden

The first trip was to Borde Hill Gardens in June 2003, during its rose celebration week. Mary and Guy Leonard offered the first local garden tour in July 2003 at their home, Rhiw, in Church Street, a stunning multi-level landscape which was designed by Robin Williams, Chelsea gold medalist. This was followed by a tour of three more Amberley gardens: Stack Cot-



One of the early outings for SAGE members



Twenty-two years later: SAGE summer social 2025

Parham

HOUSE & GARDENS

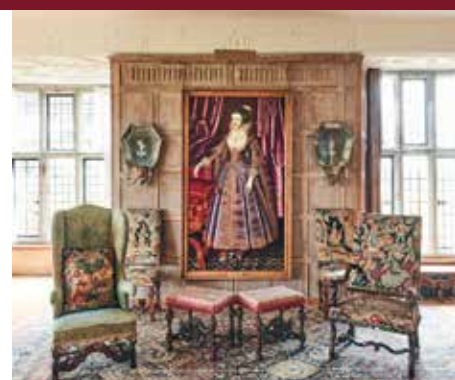
Open Wed, Thur, Fri & Sun

12pm - 5pm | House from 2pm

TRIPADVISOR & GOOGLE ★★★★★



Set within an ancient deer park below the South Downs, Parham is one of the country's finest Elizabethan Houses.



- Historic Elizabethan Home
- Four-Acre Walled Garden
- The Greenhouse
- The Pleasure Grounds
- Joanna's Boutique Tearoom
- Garden Shop and Gift Shop

Parham House & Gardens

Pulborough, West Sussex

RH20 4HR • 01903 742021

w3w/// this.songbird.contain



Events 2026



Easter Opening - 5th / 6th April

ASA Exhibition - 22nd April - 10th May

Sussex Day 2025 - 14th June

HSBA Exhibition - 17th June - 5th July

The Plant Fairs Roadshow - 5th July

Sussex Steam Rally - 11th / 12th July

Bargello Exhibition - 15th - 26th July

Jaguar Day - 2nd Aug

Textile Exhibition - 12th - 31st Aug

www.parhaminsussex.co.uk



Know your Sussex

'If you love good roads, conveniences, good inns, plenty of postilions and horses, be so kind as to never go into Sussex ... the inhabitants are savage'.

So wrote Horace Walpole, the youngest son of Britain's first prime minister, Robert Walpole, on a trip to Sussex in the summer of 1749.

Perhaps a rather harsh assessment of our glorious county ... but Sussex does have a centuries-old reputation for being – and seeing itself – as separate and culturally distinct from the rest of England: for example, we had our own currency, known as the 'sceat' in the 8th century and we were the last Anglo-Saxon kingdom to be Christianised under the missionary work of St Wilfrid.

This is perhaps due to our geography – we are separated from London's sprawl by The Weald forests and the North Downs, with the coastal marshes to the east and west and 75 miles of coastline to the south. Indeed, Sussex historically looked towards the sea for trade, rather than north towards London, with 17th and 18th-century maps often placing south at the top.

Whilst it could be argued that we have seen little improvement in our patched up, puddly, pothole-filled roads since Walpole's day, we do now have a glorious selection of pubs and other assets and activities to enjoy. And with the Sussex resort of Bognor frequently topping the rankings as the sunniest British town and Brighton often being described as the most Continental city in the UK, there seems little reason to receive any more hostile tourist reviews!

The Traditional Dialect of Sussex: *We Wunt be Druv*

Whilst on the subject Sussex's unique cultural identity, the people of Sussex still have a reputation for independence of thought, with an aversion to being pushed around, as captured in the Sussex motto: *'we wunt be druv'*.

The phrase is thought to originate from mediaeval Sussex and specifically the Weald, as there is evidence that common people were freer from manorial control in the Wealden area than in the rest of the county. Later, it was used all over Sussex - it was the motto of the Amberley Village Parliament at the end of the 19th century – and is still closely associated today with the Sussex bonfire tradition.

Perhaps the sentiment is best captured in a poem by W Victor Cook, a West Sussex author writing in 1914:

Some folks as come to Sussex,
They reckons as they know –
A durn sight better what to do
Than simple folks, like me and you,
Could possibly suppose.



Picture: Roz Bassford

Penny for your thoughts: the Cliffe bonfire

But them as comes to Sussex,
They mustn't push and shove,
For Sussex will be Sussex,
And Sussex won't be druv!

Extract from *Sussex Won't be Druv* by William Victor Cook, 1875 to 1955, an author and poet who lived in Sussex.

Sussex Dialect: are you aglooking at me?

Whilst there are still some old Sussex words still in common usage such as 'twitchen' meaning narrow passageway or alley...sadly, the Sussex dialect is dying out. Why not resurrect it by throwing some old Sussex words into your next conversation at the Sportsman – there are some wonderful examples!

- Aglooker - someone who stares rudely
- Blobbit – a baby frog
- Butter my wig! – an exclamation of surprise
- Dudman – a scarecrow
- Dumbledore – bumblebee, perhaps JK Rowling's inspiration for the wizarding headmaster
- Goistering – loud, rowdy laughter, often used to describe women.
- Gubber or clodgy or slob – thick mud. Appropriately there are over 20 words to describe different types of mud!
- Hensome – someone courteous and pleasant
- Huckmuck – a short, thick-set person
- Knuckerhole – a water hole or underground stream
- Sniggler – a slight frost
- Snottgogs – Yew berries
- The Devil's Prayerbook – a way to refer to playing cards

Susan Watson



Lancing College Family of Schools



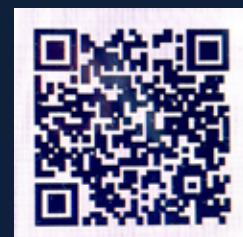
***INDEPENDENT PREP SCHOOL
FOR CHILDREN FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 8
Daily minibus from Amberley and surrounding villages***

VISITORS WELCOME!

FIND OUT MORE:

01798 831456

The Manor, Bury, RH20 1PB





EDITORIAL

Print is dead ... long live print!

Last month, Pam Keeble and I went to the Old Forge in Church Street, where some of Amberley's historical documents are kept, to see what we could find for Pam's article on the history of SAGE. After we acclimatised ourselves to the dark and dank storage room, we opened a filing cabinet to reveal a treasure trove of Parish Magazines from the late 1890s. The paper was yellowing with a dusty, musty scent, but as we leafed through the pages, we were offered a fascinating insight into life in the Wildbrooks over 125 years ago. Beautifully written, illustrated and printed, the magazines transported us into a world which centered around the church, the seasons and the land. Life was simple – but the magazines showed how it was also a world of good manners, courtesy and quality standards.

It set me thinking. These printed magazines have survived more than 125 years – but will digital records survive just as long? We try to digitise everything - photos, correspondence, books, music - thinking that online content will last forever. Yet only last week I tried to reconnect with some old friends via the website Friends Reunited, to find it no longer exists.

Apparently, this is commonplace and known as 'digital decay'. Digital information is not inherently permanent. It requires active maintenance, compatible hardware and functioning software to survive, meaning that as technology evolves, older data becomes inaccessible. Or that data is simply deleted – apparently, a quarter of all webpages that existed between 2013 and 2023 have simply vanished, including familiar sites like GeoCities, Google+ and MySpace. It's a similar story with the Domesday Book. The modern online version made by the BBC in 1986 lasted barely a generation, as the technology became defunct. Yet the original manuscript persists unchanged on vellum, and can still be viewed in the Kew Archives.

The Parish Magazines in the Old Forge, which have survived four generations and two world wars, still offer a feelgood read. And in the chaotic world of 2026, there is still something strangely comforting about settling down with a cup of tea and The Wildbrooks Magazine to enjoying the physical experience of turning pages with familiar names, faces and community events – as Mike Toynbee always says, Wildbrooks carries stories that are too local for even the local papers!

Of course, the brilliance of the magazine is entirely due to Mike, who has edited it singlehandedly for 25 years. Having now helped Mike a little, I am honoured that he has invited me to become Deputy Editor. It is impossible to think how the magazine can be improved and my best effort will be to encourage more people to contribute ideas and articles, so each issue fully reflects and captures the wonderful community in which we live. So whether you have a titbit for Bystander or an idea for a regular column, drop me a line at susan.wildbrooks@gmail.com. Who says print is dead? Long live print!

Susan Watson



Who doesn't love a bit of John Clare? Writing in the early 19th century, his evocative poetry depicting the traditional English countryside and rural life was steeped in nature, especially the landscapes of Northamptonshire, where he grew up. In his sonnet *Young Lambs*, John Clare celebrates Spring's arrival, noticing the emergent buttercups and how early flowers grow in the most sheltered spots. However, it also records the fragility of rural life – broken hedges, weathered remnants and a newborn lamb that seems more dead than alive in a rather jarring (but un sentimental) ending.

Young Lambs

The spring is coming by a many signs;
The trays are up, the hedges broken down,
That fenced the haystack, and the remnant shines
Like some old antique fragment weathered brown.
And where suns peep, in every sheltered place,
The little early buttercups unfold
A glittering star or two – till many trace
The edges of the blackthorn clumps in gold.
And then a little lamb bolts up behind
The hill and wags his tail to meet the yoe,
And then another, sheltered from the wind,
Lies all his length as dead – and lets me go
Close bye and never stirs but baking lies,
With legs stretched out as though he could not rise.

John Clare (1793-1864)

Deadline for the May issue is

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

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

or e-mail mike@brooklandsamberley.com



Property Watch

Homes for sale and to rent locally

Amberley

High Street 4-bedroom house
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,795,000**

Church Street 4-bedroom house
(John D Wood, Country House Department) **£1,595,000**

Church Street 2/3-bedroom Grade II listed cottage
(Private sale - 07709 470 248) **OIRO £950,000**

Newland Gardens 3-bedroom detached house
(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£785,000**

Houghton Bridge

Riverside 3 x 2/3-bedroom lodges
(seasonal occupation)
(Parkmove) **£175,000-185,000**

Houghton

Off B2139 3-bedroom detached house
(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£850,000**

South Lane 4-bedroom detached Grade II listed cottage
(Batcheller Monkhouse, Pulborough) **OIE £800,000**

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

Wiggonholt

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

Home Visits
7 Days A Week

PC & Laptop Repair

Upgrades & Updates

Printers & Smart Devices

Servicing & Maintenance

Virus & Malware Removal

Scam & Fraud Support


Home Networking

www.immrse.uk


IMMRSE

Home & Business
Tech Support

01403 613 068

 07535 043939

hello@immrse.uk

 Find Us On Facebook



LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse & Recycling Calendar – April



Household refuse collections (Amberley/Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt): collections for non-recyclable waste will be on Tuesdays, April 7 and 21; recyclable (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on Tuesdays, April 14 and 28. Orange top bins (food recycling) will be collected on a weekly basis.

For Church Street and Hog Lane: collections for non-recyclable waste will be on Wednesdays, April 1 and 15; mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be collected on Wednesdays, April 8 and 22. Collections for garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be on Mondays, April 13 and 27. Orange top bins (food recycling) will be collected on Wednesdays

Amenity Tip Opening Times

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

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

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

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

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

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

Village Bus Timetable

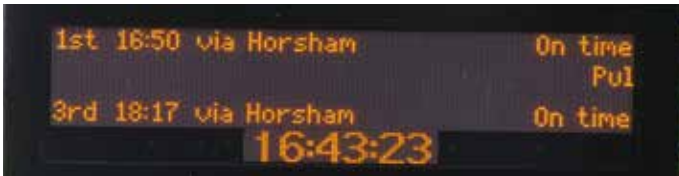
On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Village Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers. We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver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

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

Amberley and Slindon Bus timetable 2026									
Monday AM	Monday PM	First Tuesday of the Month	Wednesday	Thursday					
Pulborough/Storrington	Bognor	Worthing	Chichester	Rustington					
Out	Out	Out	Out	Out					
Amberley Square	10.00 Rackham Street	12.35 Havenwood	9.15 Rackham Street	9.35 Rackham Street					9.35
Hurst Cottages	10.03 The Sportsman	12.38 (via Shellbridge Road)	9.38 The Sportsman	9.38 The Sportsman					9.38
The Sportsman	10.06 Hurst Cottages	12.39 Slindon Coronation Hall	9.20 Hurst Cottages	9.39 Hurst Cottages					9.39
Rackham Street	10.10 Amberley Square	12.41 Top Road/Church Hill	9.23 Amberley Square	9.41 Amberley Square					9.41
Storrington	10.20 Bridge Inn	12.43 Houghton	9.33 Bridge Inn	9.43 Bridge Inn					9.43
Pulborough (Sainsburys)	10.40 Houghton	12.45 Bridge Inn	9.35 Houghton	9.45 Houghton					9.45
	Slindon Coronation Hall	12.52 Amberley Square	9.37 Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52 Slindon Coronation Hall					9.52
	Top Road/Church Hill	12.54 Hurst Cottages	9.40 Top Road/Church Hill	9.54 Top Road/Church Hill					9.54
	Havenwood Park	13.01 The Sportsman	9.42 Havenwood Park	10.01 Fontwell Village					9.57
	Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	13.07 Rackham Street	9.45 Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	10.04 Havenwood Park					10.00
	Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	13.25 Worthing - South Street	10.15 Chichester Market	10.18 Queens Street Arundel					10.05
		Haskins Garden Centre	10.30 Chichester Cathedral	10.23 Littlehampton					10.20
				Rustington (Waitrose)					10.30
Return	Return	Return	Return	Return					Return
Pulborough	12.03 Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	15.30 Haskins Garden Centre	12.50 Chichester Cathedral	13.30 Rustington (Waitrose)					12.15
Pulborough Tesco	12.05 Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	15.41 Worthing (Sea front, M&S)	13.05 Asrundel Road, Fontwell Village	13.45 Littlehampton					12.25
Storrington	12.25 Havenwood Park	15.46 Rackham Street	13.30 Havenwood Park	13.48 Queens Street Arundel					12.40
Rackham Street	12.35 Slindon Coronation Hall	15.52 The Sportsman	13.33 Slindon Coronation Hall	13.58 Havenwood Park					12.45
	Top Road/Church Hill	15.56 Hurst Cottages	13.35 Top Road/Church Hill	14.00 Fontwell Village					12.50
	Houghton	16.06 Amberley Square	13.37 Houghton	14.10 Slindon Coronation Hall					12.53
	Bridge Inn	16.08 Bridge Inn	13.40 Bridge Inn	14.12 Top Road/Church Hill					12.55
	Rackham Street	16.13 Houghton	13.42 Rackham Street	14.17 Houghton					13.05
	Sportsman	16.17 Slindon Coronation Hall	14.00 The Sportsman	14.20 Bridge Inn					13.07
	Hurst Cottages	16.18 Top Road/Church Hill	14.02 Hurst Cottages	14.21 Rackham Street					13.12
	Amberley Square	16.20 (via Shellbridge Road)	14.23 Amberley Square	14.23 The Sportsman					13.15
		Havenwood	14.09 Havenwood	Hurst Cottages					13.16
				Amberley Square					13.18



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



The Post Office is now your local bank

No need to drive miles to your nearest branch

Use the shop to help subsidise the Post Office

OPENING HOURS

● Monday & Friday 9am-1pm ● Closed Wednesday

● Tuesday 1pm-4pm ● Thursday 1pm-5pm

BANKING

Banking available for all major banks ie cash withdrawals, paying in cash and cheques etc

FOREIGN CURRENCY

Euros on demand. All other currencies can be ordered and received within 24 hours

Local Farmers' Markets

Storrington Community Market

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

Chichester

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

Ford

Ford Airfield First Saturday (7.30am-2pm)

Steyning

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

Arundel

Town Centre Third Saturday (9am-1pm)

Pulborough Village Market

Village Hall Fourth Saturday (9am-12.30pm)

Petworth

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



APRIL DIVERSIONS

1. Who became US president following the death of J F Kennedy?
2. What does GPS stand for?
3. Whose nom de plume was Mary Westmacott?
4. What is the top ranking film for all time, allowing for inflation?
5. Penguins can be found in the Arctic. True or false?
6. Who was the author of Paddington Bear?
7. Who is the current presenter of Desert Island Discs?
8. World's highest capital city?
9. Most popular boy's name in the UK in 2025?
10. Who is third in line of the throne?
11. Which flower blooms at night and closes during the day?
12. What were the original seven deadly sins?
13. What does the term 'light welter' refer to?
14. What is the name of Dublin's main rugby ground?
15. What is 'a cappella'?
16. Which Italian dessert translates to "cooked cream"?
17. According to the nursery rhyme, if little girls are made of sugar and spice and all things nice, what are little boys made of?
18. What is sold by a costermonger?
19. In the TV comedy series *Blackadder*, what was Blackadder's first name?
20. In 1889, what took over from the Great Pyramid as the world's tallest building?
21. Which battle of 1485 was the last in the War of the Roses?
22. Which two London boroughs begin with the letter 'E'?
23. Who became the only Formula 1 racing driver to win the World Championship by driving his own car when he did so in 1966?
24. Which flower gives us the expensive spice saffron?
25. What does IPA stand for in beer?
26. The song *The Rhythm of Life* comes from which musical?
27. Name of the leader of the Green Party?
28. How many strings does a viola have?
29. Who competes for the Solheim Cup?
30. Who painted the *Mona Lisa*?

Answers: page 39

Quick crossword

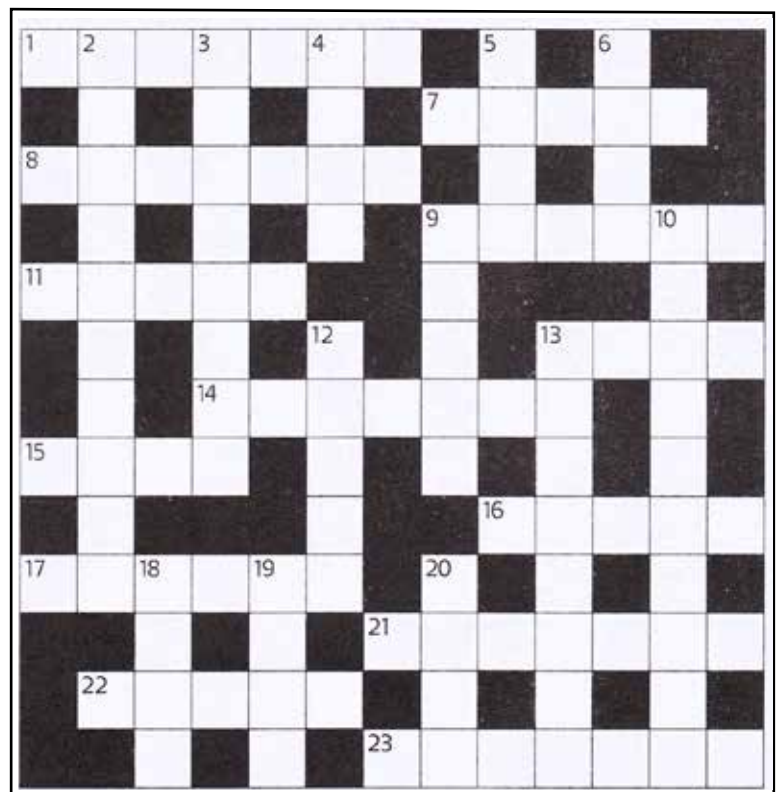
Across

1. Red Indian child (7)
7. Large wading bird (5)
8. Dumbfounded (7)
9. French brandy (6)
11. Filth (5)
13. Peel (4)
14. Capital of Kenya (7)
15. Let it stand (printing term) (4)
16. Annoyed (5)
17. Painter (6)
21. Notices (7)
22. Beach Boys' song: _____
John B (5)
23. Aerial (7)

Down

2. Electricity generator (10)
3. Salve (8)
4. Solicit (4)
5. Embargo (4)
6. Threadbare (4)
9. Villain (5)
10. Mariner (4,6)
12. Conflict (5)
13. Irritating (8)
18. Story (4)
19. Early (4)
20. Shortly (4)

Solution: page 39





APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

1st Wednesday

Talk: Cezanne and Van Gogh – Death as a Career Move, The Arts Society South Downs, Fittleworth Village Hall, 9.45am

Easter holiday activities, Amberley Museum, from 10am (continues until April 12)

5th Sunday

Season reopening, Parham House & Gardens, from 12 noon

7th Tuesday

Talk: Battersea Power Station – Four Iconic Chimneys, The Arts Society West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 1.30pm

8th Wednesday

Film: *The Choral*, Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, 7.30pm

12th Sunday

Vintage Car Show, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Music: Super Strings, The Bridge Inn, 3pm-5pm

13th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

16th Thursday

Discover Day: Relocated industrial buildings, Amberley Museum, 2pm-3.30pm

Annual Parish Meeting, St Michael's Church Hall, 7.30pm

18th Saturday

GRRC Members' Meeting, Goodwood (all day)

19th Sunday

GRRC Members' Meeting, Goodwood (all day)

Spring Industrial Trains, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Basingstoke Classic Car Club meet, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Littlehampton Tide Timetable - April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 st		1 st Low 05.32 High 12.00 Low 17.49	2 nd High 00.21 Low 06.08 High 12.39 Low 18.25	3 rd High 00.58 Low 06.43 High 13.14 Low 18.59	4 th High 01.30 Low 07.16 High 13.44 Low 19.31
5 th High 01.58 Low 07.47 High 14.11 Low 20.01	6 th High 02.20 Low 08.17 High 14.36 Low 20.33	7 th High 02.43 Low 08.48 High 15.04 Low 21.04	8 th High 03.11 Low 09.22 High 15.37 Low 21.41	9 th High 03.47 Low 10.03 High 16.21 Low 22.32	10 th High 04.37 Low 11.01 High 17.41 Low 23.47	11 th High 06.23 Low 12.27 High 19.20
12 th Low 01.25 High 07.52 Low 14.05 High 20.31	13 th Low 02.49 High 08.56 Low 15.12 High 21.28	14 th Low 03.39 High 09.47 Low 15.57 High 22.13	15 th Low 04.20 High 10.31 Low 16.36 High 22.54	16 th Low 04.58 High 11.12 Low 17.15 High 23.35	17 th Low 05.36 High 11.55 Low 17.54	18 th High 00.15 Low 06.15 High 12.27 Low 18.35
19 th High 00.56 Low 06.58 High 13.20 Low 19.18	20 th High 01.37 Low 07.42 High 14.13 Low 20.04	21 st High 02.20 Low 08.29 High 14.49 Low 20.52	22 nd High 03.06 Low 09.19 High 15.41 Low 21.45	23 rd High 03.59 Low 10.15 High 16.45 Low 22.50	24 th High 05.08 Low 11.28 High 18.04	25 th Low 00.15 High 06.36 Low 12.59 High 19.32
26 th Low 01.41 High 08.06 Low 14.15 High 20.48	27 th Low 02.49 High 09.15 Low 15.14 High 21.44	28 th Low 03.41 High 10.06 Low 16.02 High 22.31	29 th Low 04.25 High 10.50 Low 16.42 High 23.11	30 th Low 05.04 High 11.31 Low 17.21 High 23.50		

TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON

Compiled by Hazel Allinson

21st Tuesday

SAGE garden visit: Manor of Dean

22nd Wednesday

Home Educators' Day, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Exhibition: Association of Sussex Artists, Parham House, from 12 noon (continues until May 10)

24th Friday

Bridge Tea Afternoon (Hallraisers), St Michael's Church Hall, 2pm

25th Saturday

Parham Point-to-Point, from 12.15pm

26th Sunday

Spring Bus Show, Amberley Museum, from 10am

28th Tuesday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

*Booking essential

Dates for the diary

Spring Art Festival, St Mary's Church, North Stoke **May 16**

Paella Cooking Class **May 16**



Storrington Tennis Club Open Day **May 16**

Goodwoof **May 16-17**

Sussex Steam Rally, Parham **July 11**

Goodwood Festival of Speed **July 9-12**



AT YOUR SERVICE (LOCAL TRADESMEN AND SERVICES)

Accommodation: B&B (graded)

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

Accommodation: Self-catering

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

Bouncy Castles etc

Crockerz Castles, bouncy castle and obstacle course hire 01903 800048

Catering Services

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

Estate Agents

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

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

Funeral Directors

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

Garages, car servicing, repairs

Turner's Garage, Bury, Fuel, MoTs, tyres, ex-hausts, brakes, batteries 01798 831417

Garden

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

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

Hairdresser (Mobile)

Catherine Rowland, for all your hairdressing needs 07846 699319 / 01403 242280

Heating oil / fuel / boiler engineers

Amberley Energy Syndicate, collective buying power for heating oil 07949 512171

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

Home / household

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

Logs

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

Painting / decorating

Jonathan Capelin, quality interior and exterior decorator 01798 817402

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

Pest Control

Southdowns Pest Control, everything from wasps to moles 01903 886125 / 07883 072988

Plumbing/Heating engineer

Philip Jones, heating installations, powerflushing specialists 01903 872811/07778 303592

Public Houses

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 831171

Schools

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

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

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

To advertise in these columns, or elsewhere in the Wildbrooks Magazine, contact: mike@brooklandsamberley.com or call 01798 831 114

Answers to Diversions (see page 37)

1. Lyndon B. Johnson 2. Global Positioning System 3. Agatha Christie 4. *Gone with the Wind* 5. False 6. Michael Bond 7. Lauren Lavigne 8. La Paz, Bolivia (3,650 metres /11,975ft) 9. Muhammad 10. Princess Charlotte of Wales 11. Evening primrose 12. Pride (vainglory), Greed (avarice), Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Wrath (anger), Sloth (acedia) 13. A boxing weight 14. Aviva Stadium (formerly known as Lansdowne 15. Singing without instrumental accompaniment 16. Panna cotta 17. Frogs and snails and puppy dogs' tails 18. Fruit and vegetables 19. Edmund 20. The Eiffel Tower 21. Bosworth Field 22. Ealing and Enfield 23. Jack Brabham 24. Crocus 25. India Pale Ale 26. *Sweet Charity* 27. Zack Polanski (born David Paulden) 28. 4 29. Professional women golfers representing Europe and the United States (female equivalent to the Ryder Cup) 30. Leonardo da Vinci

Crossword solution

ACROSS: 1. Papoose 7. Heron 8. Stunned 9. Cognac 11. Grime 13. Toll 14. Nairobi 15. Stet 16. Vexed 17. Artist 21. In-forms 22. Sloop 23. Antenna **DOWN:** 2. Alternator 3. Ointment 4. Seek 5. Veto 6. Worn 9. Crook 10. Able seaman 12. Fight 13. Tiresome 18. Tale 19. Soon 20. Anon



PARISH DIRECTORY

Churchwardens:	Amberley	Melanie Edge (mel.edge@me.com).....07973 163369 Michael Davey (Secretary) (mpdavey@gmail.com).....07749 690024
	Greatham	Diana van der Klugt (dianavanderklugt@btinternet.com).....01798 875663 Robert Englehart.....01798 872502
	Parham	Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com).....07909 640948 Jill Sloan (Secretary) (jill@jsloan.com)..... 07517413481
	Wiggonholt	Cathy Folwell (cathy.folwell@icloud.com)..... 01798 872546 Jenny Sadler (jen@southernranes.co.uk)..... 01798 874613
St Mary The Virgin North Stoke (acting chair)		Janet Aidin (janet@aidin.co.uk).....01798 87253
Parish Magazine Editor		Michael Toynbee (mike@brooklandsamberley.com).....01798 831114
Deputy Editor		Susan Watson (susan.wildbrooks@gmail.com).....07948 961595
Parish Magazine Distribution & Subscriptions		Pam Keeble (pamwkeeble@gmail.com)..... 01798 831050
Amberley CE Primary School		Paul Armitage.....01798 83161
Amberley Church Hall Bookings		Adrienne Greenwood (ad.greenwood@btinternet.com).....07746 488615
Amberley Good Neighbours Emergency Service		Cyndy Kennett.....07745 407185
Amberley Energy Syndicate		Dave Cole (amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com).....07949 512171
Amberley Parish Council Clerk (locum)		Celia Price (clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk)
Amberley Parish Trust		David Vokins.....01798 839086
Amberley Society		Ian Galbraith (ian@ecomis.com).....01798 839006
		Jeff Feakins (feakster@aol.com).....01798 831538
Amberley Village Stores and Post Office		Colin Woods..... 01798 831171
Amberley Welfare Trust (Village Surgery)		Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com).....01798 831340
Bell Ringers (Amberley) Tower Captain		Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com)..... 07909640948
Cricket Club		Keith Dalmon.....01798 83188
Home Safety Checks		West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.....03458729719
Member of Parliament		Andrew Griffith (andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk).....0207 219 4557
Millennium Green Trust		Judy Agate (judy@greencaterpillar.org).....07525 48474
Neighbourhood Watch		Malcolm Pheasey.....01798 83904
Parham Parish Council Clerk		Vicky Spiers (clerk@parham-pc.org.uk)..... 01903 20894
Police		Non-emergency number..... 101
Rackham Old School Association		Sue Bulloch.....01798 872038
Rackham School Hall Reservations		Jennifer Hooper.....01903 742695
Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE)		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.....033 022 23841

Southdowns Pest Control

All aspects of pest control
Rats, Mice, Moles, Wasps, Fleas, Rabbits Pigeons, Gulls
All bird-proofing installed
Fully insured Family run



NPTA

Contact: Paul Ward

Tel: 01903 882561 / 07883 072988

E-mail: southdownspc@gmail.com

www.southdownspestcontrol.net



BRIDGE TEA AFTERNOON



PROCEEDS TO BE SHARED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE CHURCH HALL RENOVATION FUND AND THE MALAWI SCHOOLS PROJECT

THE HALLRAISERS ARE DELIGHTED
TO INVITE YOU TO A
BRIDGE TEA AFTERNOON
AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL, AMBERLEY

ON FRIDAY 24TH APRIL, FROM 2.00 - 5.00PM

AN AFTERNOON OF SOCIAL BRIDGE
WITH A DELICIOUS TEA AND SPOT PRIZES

£50 FOR A TABLE OF 4

FOR TICKETS EMAIL CATHERINE: cunninghampc@gmail.com

PROCEEDS TO BE SHARED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE CHURCH HALL RENOVATION FUND AND THE MALAWI SCHOOLS PROJECT



CROCKERZ CASTLES



BOUNCY CASTLE & OBSTACLE COURSE HIRE, WEST SUSSEX

info@crockerzevents.co.uk - 01903 800048 - www.crockerzcastles.co.uk



BYSTANDER

Amberley then

We're always delighted when readers get in touch! Following last month's editorial – Amberley: then and now – Robin Wills shared a vivid memory from his younger days. Now in his late 80s, Robin grew up in Kennards before moving to Houghton Bridge, where his parents ran the Bridge Inn for many years. It's sad that our four seasons seem to have morphed into just two – wet and dry – so Bystander always enjoys a dip into winter nostalgia, particularly about our vanishing winter life and traditions.

"I enjoyed reading about the lady who skated on the ice-covered Wildbrooks – but I think I might be able to top that. When I was about 11 or 12, around 1949 or 1950, a very nice fellow from Coldwaltham named Tommy Grace, who used to play ice hockey for the Brighton Tigers, took a group of us local lads out on to the Brooks at Houghton Bridge. Armed with proper sticks and pucks, we all had a go at playing ice hockey – something I've never forgotten.



Cleared for take-off

The great and the good of Amberley were at *Clouds of Laughter* last month, a talk by Captain Michael Joseph (pictured below) on his life working as a BA pilot. The aviation-themed evening proved to be huge hit – as well as an opportunity for a punfest, with quips coming faster than departures at Heathrow, thanks to a full cabin of jest-setters! Bystander particularly enjoyed Captain Michael's reminiscences about the colleagues he encountered whose names were well suited (or otherwise) to their occupation.



- Nothing inspires confidence quite like boarding a flight commanded by Captain Hazzard.
- Captain Cook who was known for impeccable navigation skills, as long as the destination was anywhere but Down Under.

- Captain Crewe and his crew – a legendary unit known for their impeccable teamwork.
- Isadora Manuel – a stewardess who was living proof that when the captain says 'cabin crew, doors to manual', she takes it personally!

Other airline classics include Captain Seymour Sky, First Office Ron Button, Otto Pilot and 'Captain Morgan'. (On disembarking, the passengers were tempted to tell him that his flying was great, but his rum needed work.)

A familiar smile?

And speaking of the *Clouds of Laughter* fundraiser...one raffle prize is still unclaimed! The Hall-raisers would like to award this to the first person who correctly identifies the charming stewardess opposite...now a well-known Amberley resident.



Email your answers to Catherine at cunninghampc@gmail.com

Cheers to the champions!

Bystander was delighted to see smiles all round at The Sportsman last month – staff and customers alike – when the pub was presented with its award as CAMRA's Pub of the Year for the Arun & Adur area. For Jo Westland, the Sportsman's business manager, and all the staff and volunteers, it was recognition for all the hard work that has gone into making the pub the success it is as it celebrates its second anniversary as a community-run venture. Added to that is its re-entry in the *Good Beer Guide*, thanks largely to the efforts of Matija Rossi, who has been responsible for sourcing all the beers served.

Customers were equally delighted with the well-deserved award as all cask ale beers that afternoon were half-price! At £2.50 a pint you would have to go back at least 15 years to enjoy that sort of price in this part of the world. Cheers!



Some of the members of the winning team (from left to right): Jo Westland, Lauren Jones, Matija Rossi, Joanna Codling and Roger Agate



SLINDON COLLEGE

Independent School | Day and Boarding | Boys aged 8-18 | Specialist Learning Environment



Scan for
Open Morning
information



Maximum class size of 10 | Individualised curriculum pathways

In-house therapists and specialist dyslexia teachers

Broad range of enrichment activities

Flexi, Part-time, Weekly boarding | Award winning pastoral provision



THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

www.slindoncollege.co.uk

Arundel | West Sussex

CReStED



JACKSON-STOPS

PROPERTY EXPERTS SINCE 1910

Successfully selling property in
Arundel and the surrounding
South Downs villages.

If you have a property to sell please call us on:

ARUNDEL*

01903 885886

*Virtual Offices

CHICHESTER

01243 786316

jackson-stops.co.uk



EMSWORTH*

01243 370300