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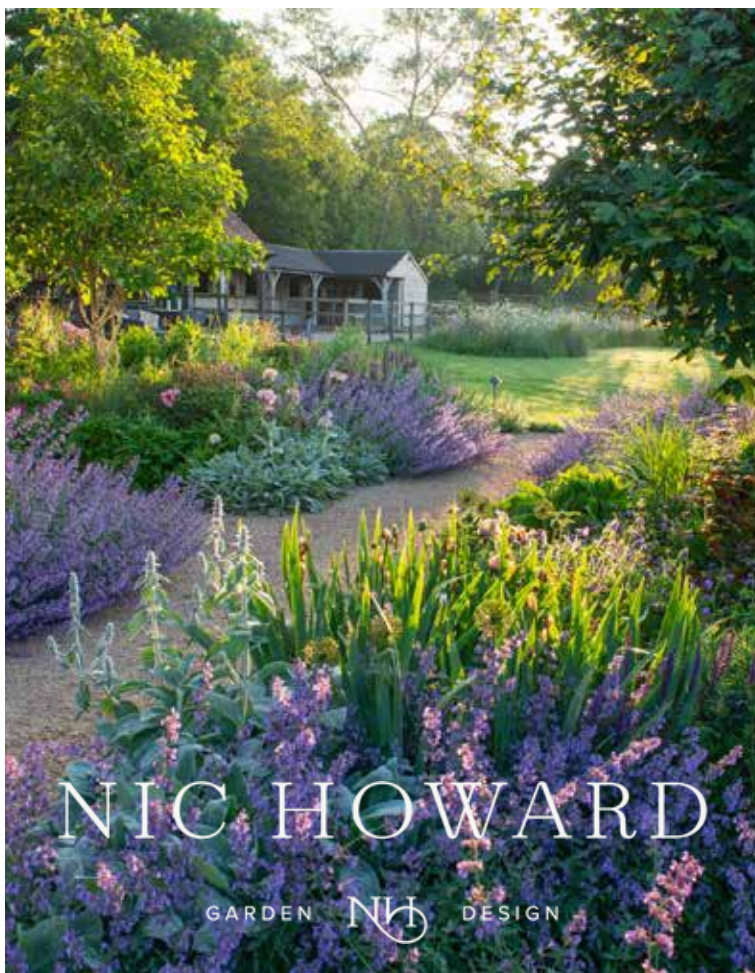
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OCTOBER SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 4th OCTOBER HARVEST THANKSGIVING Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Parham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley
6.00pm	Evensong with Harvest Hymns	Wiggonholt

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 4th October

Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; Luke 12:16-30

Sunday 11th October

Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Matthew 22:1-14

SUNDAY, 11th OCTOBER TRINITY 19 Green Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley

Sunday 18th October

Isaiah 35:3-6; Psalm 147:1-7; Luke 10:1-9

Sunday 25th October

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; Matthew 22:34-end

Sunday 1st November

Revelation 7:9-end; Psalm 34:1-10; Matthew 5:1-12

SUNDAY, 18th OCTOBER LUKE THE EVANGELIST Red Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.00am	Morning Praise	Amberley

SUNDAY, 25th OCTOBER LAST AFTER TRINITY Green Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 1st NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS Gold/White Array

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

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.





CHURCH NEWS

No vicar – and an empty vicarage

Our last vicar, much loved Revd Gerry Burgess retired in January 2024. Since then the Wildbrooks Benefice has been 'in vacancy'. That's now more than two-and-a-half-years that we have been without a vicar.

During that time, the post has been advertised by the Diocese – but only intermittently.

Arcane rules insist that an interview date is set, then the post is advertised on the Diocese website and the central Church of England website for a period of 6-8 weeks before that date. If there are no applicants (or no suitable applicants) the advert lapses and a new interview date has to be set. Every time this happens, the onus is on us in the parish to push for a new interview date and a new advertising period. It doesn't happen automatically.

To start a new advertising period we have to, first, get a response from the Diocese (which does not always happen quickly) and, second, wait for a diary date to be found when the Bishop of Horsham and sufficient representatives of the four parishes in the Benefice can get together for the interview. Only then can the advertising period start again.

It is a ridiculous system and we have protested repeatedly about it. So far this has been to no avail. However, we have just been promised that the advert can remain on the website permanently. Whether this will actually happen remains to be seen.

Behind the infuriating bureaucracy lie deeper problems. Our worshipping communities are now so small that we do not raise enough money to pay even a half time priest. We can only afford what is called a 'house for duty' priest. This means that the incumbent gets use of the house but no salary. For that, they are expected to work two and a half days a week, Sunday counted as the half day. With four parishes to look after, that is frankly impossible, making it a tiring and frustrating life for anyone who cares about doing the job properly.

Even if someone is prepared to take on this kind of role, it only works if they either have private means, a working spouse who earns enough for the two of them to live, or a house of their own somewhere that can be let out for income. This is why such posts tend to be filled by priests who are retired from a full-time clerical post, or from some other profession, but who feel they still have something to give.



After an initial letting, the New Vicarage in School Road has remained empty

Of course, if we had a full church every Sunday and lots of people giving regularly, things might be different. But that is no longer the norm in rural parishes. It seems that, with a few exceptions, only the urban churches are growing.

And many within the church nationwide fear that resources are being directed away from rural parishes to urban ones, and to projects and initiatives that do not serve ordinary parishioners. So the parishes lose priests, congregations decline further...it's a downward spiral.

And even if we could afford a paid priest, there are not enough clergy to go round anyway. Recruitment is not keeping up with losses through retirement and resignations. A recent report warned that the British vicar is becoming an 'endangered species'.*

Meanwhile, the New Vicarage in School Road has been empty now since the tenants left in July last year. We have asked what the Diocese's plans are for it but have not received a reply. That's over a year's lost income for the Diocese, which could have paid most of a priest's salary – but of course things don't work that way.

So what does the future hold for the Wildbrooks parishes? Michael Davey, my fellow churchwarden who has been coordinating services for the whole benefice, for the support of the PCC, and for Revd Barbara Stanton, the retired priest from Tangmere, who has been taking most of our services. It is thanks to these people and to other volunteers that we have managed to keep the church in Amberley alive – and the same is true for churchwardens and volunteers in Parham, Wiggonholt and Greatham.

We are doing our best to serve our parishes, to make sure that regular services, baptisms, weddings, funerals and all the other requests can be met, but we cannot do everything that an ordained priest can do. And we are tired.

I try to stay positive but we can't go on in vacancy for ever and I do wonder what state these parishes will be in five or ten years from now.

Mel Edge
Churchwarden, St Michael's Amberley (writing in a personal capacity)

*<https://www.savetheparish.com/2026/09/04/church-leaders-and-save-the-parish-join-forces-as-report-warns-the-vicar-is-becoming-an-endangered-species/>

● See Editorial on page 31



CHURCH NEWS

The seemingly endless wall saga

The Great Wall of China probably got built in less time than it is taking to get St Michael's churchyard wall repaired.

However, I can now report that of five firms who were invited to tender for the repairs, four submitted bids. The range of prices was wide, so some conversations need to be had between the PCC, our architect and the contractor(s) with the lowest bids, to make sure there will be no hidden surprises.

By the time you read this, I hope that the choice of contractor will have been made and we will have a start date. Then it rather depends on the weather. Some of the repairs require parts of the wall to be taken down and rebuilt, which can't be done if the ground behind is very wet and therefore unstable.

It is also the case that we don't have funds to undertake all the repairs in one go so they will have to be tackled in stages. I do at least feel that things are progressing now, after a long period of consultations and head-scratching about the best way forward.

Mel Edge
Churchwarden



ST PETER'S PARHAM

In summer's glow, hopes grow

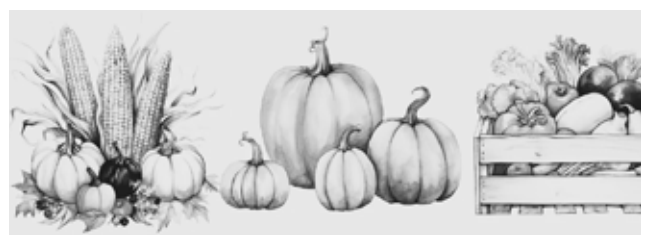
This summer the sunshine certainly smiled on Parham House's Sussex Day celebrations and Plant Fair, for which St Peter's Church were really grateful, as both days brought us closer to contemplating the next phase of our church restoration projects after finishing the roof stonework and the repainting of the nave ceiling.

Worship has continued thanks to the commitment of Rev Barbara Stanton, who makes the journey from Tangmere to lead our monthly Communion services. As with us all, fund-raising efforts also continue, supported by Valerie Myer's amazing marmalade, chocolate cakes and other goodies (pictured) made by PCC members, plus a steady supply of books and bric-a-brac in the vestry.

As memories of the hottest summer linger, it seems almost impossible to imagine winter evenings. However, our thoughts are turning to keeping St Peter's warm in the colder months.

We are now raising funds for a new shed to protect the church boiler and would love you to come along to our **Bonfire Night at the Old Rectory, Rackham, on November 7 at 6pm**. Alongside the usual BBQ and home-made soup, we're delighted to be adding live music this year. Hopefully it will be a fun evening with warm food, good company and community spirit.

E.A. Draffan



Harvest celebration at St Michael's

Harvest weekend, or 'Creationtide', as the Church of England have dubbed it this year, will happen on the October 3-4. Our Morning Service on the 4th will have a Harvest theme and harvest gifts will be invited for donating to our chosen charity, Family Support Work. The service will be followed by a celebration Harvest Lunch in St Michael's Church Hall. See full details on page 21.

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CHURCH NEWS

WIGGONHOLT CHURCH

Animal Blessing Service

On an overcast but warm first Sunday afternoon in September, Wiggonholt Church held its annual Animal Blessing Service in the churchyard. The service was led by Lay Reader Elaine Corbett and attended by a congregation of 40 adults and five youngsters.

Accompanying the humans were two miniature horses, four sheep, two guinea pigs and 12 dogs of different shapes and sizes, all of whom were impeccably behaved. Refreshments, provided by PCC members, were enjoyed by humans and animals alike and following the recent much-needed rain, the sheep took pleasure in eating the new shoots of churchyard grass as well as dog biscuits. Who knew that sheep ate dog biscuits?

With thanks to the generosity of all those who attended the service, a collection raised £200 in aid of the Addington Fund, a UK-based charity dedicated to providing housing, and disaster relief in the form of animal feed or services to farmers in need across England and Wales.

As Elaine moved around the churchyard giving a blessing to each animal, we were reminded by her address during the service of the importance animals play in our everyday lives, how much they do to aid our wellbeing in both good times and bad, and how they deserve our trust and care. Our thanks to all who came and helped organise and support this much loved annual event.

Paul Higerty
Churchwarden



All creatures, great and small: a service for everyone



The Lord is my Shepherd: sheep may safely graze



Dog tired: it was all too much for this little fellow who slept through most of the proceedings



Blessed are those: 'guests' included two guinea pigs who no doubt wondered what on earth was going on...



PEOPLE & EVENTS

The Sportsman hits the headlines

The Sportsman's purchase of the freehold, officially securing its future as a community-owned pub, attracted plenty of media attention last month.



Roger Agate and Ros Simpson prepare for their interviews with the BBC Radio Sussex reporter

BBC Radio Sussex arrived on the morning of September 7 to interview Roger Agate, joined by a lively gathering of community supporters who were all keen to explain on air what the pub means to Amberley villagers and the surrounding area. There was no shortage of enthusiasm as the story of the long campaign to secure The Sportsman's future was shared with listeners across Sussex.

Later that afternoon, it was the turn of ITV Meridian, who arrived with cameras and crew to broadcast a live television interview from the pub. By closing time, The Sportsman had achieved that rare distinction: a local that had become local news.



Steve Kennett is interviewed by ITV Meridian, with Stella Broadbent and Tesh Patel

Greatham bridge feels the heat

Following a road traffic accident at the end of July, a vehicle caught fire on Greatham Bridge, which carries Greatham Lane across the River Arun. The resulting heat caused significant damage to the carriageway and the road was closed while engineers assessed how much damage had been done.



Fortunately, the news was reassuring. West Sussex Highways reported that its basic structure was sound, although the heat from the blaze had penetrated some way down into the base of the carriageway. Repairs, which were completed in early September, included resurfacing the length of the original bridge and work to its drains.

Built in the early 14th century, it is one of the oldest structures in the area and its historic status means that repairs have to be carried out with appropriate heritage considerations and permissions.

The bridge has had major attention before. In 2017 it closed for around 12 weeks while specialist stonemasons tackled erosion of its ancient stonework, particularly where centuries of flowing water had taken their toll.

Bolly good show!

English winemakers believe 2026 could be one of the best vintages the country has ever seen, as the grapes thrived in the long, dry, hot summer. It could help boost the standing of English sparkling wine over bubbly from the Champagne region of France, which has announced their lowest-ever yield this year after being crippled by severe droughts and heatwaves that have pushed temperatures beyond optimal conditions.

Both Nyetimber and Nutbourne started their harvests several weeks earlier than their usual harvest start dates, with Nutbourne starting on September 3 and Nyetimber a few weeks later.

● *Deputy Editor Susan Watson goes grape picking - page 17*



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THE AMBERLEY SOCIETY

Talks, events and celebrating the Society's 50th anniversary

The Amberley Society has a busy programme of talks and events planned over the coming months. On Tuesday, November 10, members will hear from Oriole Wagstaff, the RSPB's senior site manager for South Downs reserves, who will explain the extensive habitat restoration work recently undertaken at Amberley Wildbrooks. The talk will take place in St Michael's Church Hall at 7 pm.

The popular lunchtime talks at The Sportsman are also expected to resume during the winter. The first is likely to be presented by Ian Galbraith and will focus on the history of the Clarkson Room, the predecessor of the current Church Hall. Located in what is now part of Oak Tree House, the room was gifted to the village by the Reverend George Clarkson, Amberley's vicar from 1840 to 1897. It served as a community venue, particularly for the Amberley Men's Club, until it was controversially sold in 1964 to make way for the present Church Hall.

Founded in 1977, the Society is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. A key event will be a members' garden party, planned for late May or early June in the gardens of Oak Tree House, courtesy of David and Lillis Lyon. To mark the anniversary year, the Society is organising a series of special talks:

- January (date to be confirmed): A history of the Amberley Society, covering its origins, achievements and development since 1977. Former chairmen Mike Toynbee and Grahame Joseph will reflect on their periods of leadership. The event will also include a short film by Ian Spofforth, the Society's first chairman.
- March (AGM; probably 16th but to be confirmed): Following the formal meeting, Sandy Guthrie will speak about his father, Duncan Guthrie, the Society's second chairman and founder of Action Medical Research, the Horsham-based charity supported by Amberley's Gardens Open. Guthrie's remarkable life included service with the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during the Second World War.
- October (date to be confirmed): Jeff Feakins will present a talk on the history of Amberley School, drawing extensively on material held in the Society's archive. Topics will include 19th century Dame Schools, the development of school buildings, swimming pools, notable head teachers, and campaigns to prevent school closure.

A summer outdoor event is also planned, most likely a guided walk around the village. In addition, the Society will support the launch in Amberley of a new book on Arthur Winter-Shaw (1869–1948), a painter who lived here. Written by his great-grandson, Andy Buck, the launch is expect-



ed to include an exhibition of Winter-Shaw's paintings gathered from collections around the country.

Looking further ahead, more talks are already being planned on a variety of local subjects, including one related to Amberley Castle once current restoration works have concluded. Members can therefore expect an active programme of evening and lunchtime events over the next few years.

If you are not already a member of the Amberley Society we hope that you will join. Come along to our next meeting for a flavour of what the Society is about.

THE ARTS SOCIETIES

Unearthing history

Archeological digging near Pompeii and Thomas Cromwell, seen in a somewhat different light to that popularly portrayed, are the topics for this month's lectures for the two local Arts Societies.

On October 6, members of the West Sussex branch will hear a talk by Gillian Hovell who has excavated in Oplontis in the Pompeii region, revealing life in AD79. On the following day (October 7), the South Downs society will learn about the role Thomas Cromwell played with the institutions concerned with gold and silver: the Mint (which made it into money), the jewel house (where the king's plate was stored) and the Goldsmiths' Company (which controlled the trade and supplied the royal goldsmiths). The talk, by Timothy Schroder, stems from his book *A Marvel to Behold, Gold and Silver at the Court of Henry VIII*.

Both talks take place in Fittleworth Village Hall – West Sussex at 2pm, with coffee and tea afterwards, and South Downs at 10.45am, with coffee served from 9.50am.

The subjects of next month's talks are the *Sumptuous Venonese* (West Sussex on November 3), and *Viking Gods and Valkyries: The Art of Norse Mythology* (South Downs on November 4).

Visitors are welcome at either talk, at a cost £10.



Calling all creatives

This year's St Michael's Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, November 28 in the church hall and the church.

Every year, the Hallraisers try to make the fair a little bigger and better. It's become one of our best fundraisers but is also a fun event and an opportunity for local craftspeople, cooks and creatives of all kinds to sell their work while the rest of us can snap-up some original Christmas gifts.

If you make, paint, sew, grow, bake or otherwise produce anything that can be sold, please get in touch as soon as possible so we can allocate you a stall. Much as we want to grow the fair, space is not unlimited so get in early!

Here are some ideas for items that we know sell well:



- Candles
- Christmas decorations, including table decorations
- Plants in pretty pots
- Baked goods, especially anything that will keep until Christmas (or can be frozen)
- Cards
- Books (new, unread)
- Table linen (place mats, napkins etc)
- Preserves, sweet and savoury
- Jewellery

Please note, this is a craft and food fair. We don't sell second hand goods though we are happy to accept something brand new that may have been an unwanted gift or has been purchased in error, provided we think it will sell.

If you would like to participate and take a stall, please contact Catherine Cunningham at cunninghampc@gmail.com

STORRINGTON FILM NIGHT

A deeply emotional drama

Hamnet, the Oscar winning film starring Jessie Buckley, is this month's choice for the Rotary Club's Storrington film night on Wednesday, October 14.

It follows Agnes, a healer in late 16th-century England, and her husband, William Shakespeare, as their idyllic life is shattered by tragedy, inspiring one of his most famous works. This deeply emotional drama blends love, loss, and resilience, with a visually rich portrayal of nature and period life. It is worth seeing for Jessie Buckley's acclaimed performance, Chloé Zhao's poetic direction, and Max Richter's haunting score.

The screening is at 7.30pm, at Sullington Hall in Thakeham Road. Tickets cost £5.

Shop's well deserved award



Lee and Caroline Stace receive their trophy at the South England Prestige Awards' ceremony, Amberley Village Stores & Post Office having been named West Sussex's Independent Grocery Store of the Year. According to the citation, since opening in The Barn in 1998, the store has become an essential part of village life, offering a carefully

selected range of everyday essentials alongside exceptional local food and produce from Sussex suppliers. The judges were particularly impressed by the store's "commitment to its community, balancing the convenience of a traditional village shop with an outstanding selection of locally sourced food, gifts and essential services. Whether serving residents, walkers, cyclists or visitors exploring Amberley, the team is passionate about providing outstanding customer service, supporting local producers and creating a warm, welcoming shopping experience".

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**PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held on September 8, 2026, in the Old School Rackham

Present: Heather Cartwright (chair), Catherine Dugdale, Will Rydon and Paul Slimming. Also in attendance: Paul Marshall (West Sussex county councillor) and Vicky Spiers (parish clerk).

In a written update from West Sussex county councillor Paul Marshall, circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, it was noted that following legal advice, the Government had paused Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) plans in 14 areas, including West Sussex. The full update is available on the Parish Council's website.

Among local matters discussed, councillors considered concerns about trees along Rackham Street and heard that enquiries with the owners of Springhead had not established responsibility for the trees in question. It was agreed that the clerk should contact BT Openreach and request a site visit to determine whether any action is required.

The council also approved the purchase of three planting troughs, at an approximate cost of £30 from reserves, for the former telephone kiosk in Rackham Street. Councillors gratefully acknowledged offers from two local residents who have volunteered to plant and maintain the displays.

The clerk reported that a broken handrail and a fallen tree on Footpath 2675 (the path that leads down from Rackham Road at the top Crossgates to Rackham Old Mill) had been reported to the Public Rights of Way team, who had arranged the necessary repairs and removal work.

Councillors also noted that West Sussex Highways has launched a Highway Ranger pilot scheme focusing on smaller maintenance jobs.

The vacancy on the parish council will be advertised in the October edition of *Wildbrooks Magazine* (see page 17).

Finance matters included noting a current account balance of £4,258.52 as of July 15. Councillors also approved an increase to the clerk's salary in line with the recent Local Government Pay Settlement.

There were no planning applications requiring consideration at this meeting.

Councillors were pleased to hear of the success of the recent mini Greatham Fête. Following discussion, the council agreed to give its full support to the revival of the Rackham Fête & Flower Show. It was felt that a dedicated village fête committee, operating independently of the parish council, would be the most appropriate way to take the project forward.

Road safety was also discussed. The council agreed to support Amberley Parish Council's application for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph on part of the B2139. Councillors also considered whether a TRO application should be revisited for Greatham Lane and Brook Lane. As accident data for the route currently shows no incidents up to June 30, it was agreed to review the matter again in November, when more recent information, including the vehicle fire incident at Greatham Bridge, should be reflected in the data used by West Sussex County Council. The council will also take into account the outcome of a related TRO application submitted by Coldwaltham Parish Council for neighbouring roads.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, November 10 at 6.30pm in the Old School, Rackham.



The resurfaced Greatham Bridge, following a vehicle fire which resulted in the closure of the bridge

Andrew Griffith promoted to Shadow Chancellor

Our local MP Andrew Griffith was appointed Shadow Chancellor in Kemi Badenoch's late August reshuffle, which was reported as being designed to 'change the way the party approaches economic policy'.

Andrew, who is the former Chief Operating Officer of Sky and chairman of Just East, is described in *The Times* as a 'no-nonsense, pro-growth Shadow Chancellor with real business experience'.

He was previously Shadow Business Secretary.



AMBERLEY MILLENNIUM GREEN

Many hands really do make light work

Conditions were ideal on Saturday, September 5 – the date chosen for the annual clearing of the watercourse that runs to the south of Amberley Millennium Green (AMG).

There was an incredible turnout, with AMG trustees joined by residents of Newland Gardens, Hurst Cottages, Crossgates and Amberley village centre. Many thanks to all of you who volunteered your help, whether it was to cut, clear and bag, find space in your garden waste bins or provide much-needed refreshments. The old saying “many hands make light work” was very true, as we finished the work in two hours – a record, I believe.

Owning land that borders a watercourse is a delight – but it comes with responsibilities. Riparian law states that land owners on each side of the watercourse are jointly responsible for maintaining the water flow, clearing debris and maintaining the banks and bed. Indeed, we only have to think back to the flooding of the Somerset Levels in 2014 to see the consequences of failing to clear water courses regularly.

With the 2026 El Niño expected to be the strongest on record, the impact on weather in Europe is as yet unknown. Nevertheless, climate specialists are predicting a very stormy late autumn and winter, with above-normal levels of rainfall. We need rain to refill our reservoirs and aquifers after the hottest summer on record and the driest for many years. But we also need to prepare and ensure we've taken measures to minimise the risk of flooding.

Our clearing activities focused mainly on the banks, removing vegetation (mostly hairy willowherb and brambles) that overhung the watercourse, along with growth that would fall into the ditch as it dies back. There was no need to undertake any clearing of the bed: while there are patches of fools watercress in the spring this naturally disappears over the summer as the water stops flowing.

This year, it was interesting to note that the watercourse didn't run dry until late June, a whole month later than its normal time of May. The water normally starts flowing again in the second half of September – let's see what happens this year after the drought.



Dream team? indeed, it's the Millennium Green stream team

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- Getting involved in decision making

We normally meet bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at 6.30pm in The Old School Rackham and are around one hour.

You must be 18 or over, an elector or have been a resident or worked within 3 miles of the Parish (Rackham, Wiggonholt, Greatham and Parham) for the last year.

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you, please contact the Clerk to find out more by email

clerk@parham-pc.org.uk

Kim Smith
Co-chair of Amberley Millennium Green Trust



Local Government re-organisation on pause

Just when we thought we were beginning to understand the proposed shake-up of local authorities, the shake-up has itself been shaken up.

Under its Local Government Re-organisation Programme, the government was planning to abolish the two-tier system of local authorities, where county councils sit on top of district councils, arguing that it is an efficient structure.

Instead, ministers want to create 'unitary authorities' (a single council that does the jobs currently divided between two councils, in our case, West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council) across the whole country.

The most recent proposal was to split West Sussex into two councils. Chichester District would merge with Crawley, Mid Sussex and Horsham to form a new larger unitary authority. A second unitary authority (including the Wildbrooks villages) would cover the coastal area of around 349,000 people: Adur, Arun, and Worthing.

The government officially halted the entire programme on September 7 to evaluate the plans against new legal advice and concerns about the approach and pace of change. The decision on the new West Sussex organisation, previously expected in October 2026, is therefore deferred and local elections in May 2027 will proceed under existing council arrangements.

No timescale has been announced for a new decision. Parliamentary answers as recently as 16 September simply say that the Government is carrying out a full review and will announce the next steps 'as soon as possible'.

Calling all dog owners

A fun dog show takes place on Madehurst's cricket ground on Saturday October 3, from 1pm until 4pm. There will be stalls, food, drink, cakes, a tombola and paw readings. The event is supporting St Mary Magdalene Church, Madehurst and Sage House dementia support, Tangmere.

Deliveries: some philosophical observations

If you receive an email with a photograph of a teapot you have ordered online that is in a doorway in Madrid then you are said to have been Evri'd.

If a cement mixer you have no knowledge of appears at the front of your house you are said to have been DPD'd.

If you receive a photo of a hair-drier in a drive in Swindon and August's edition *Elevator World* gets shoved through your letterbox then you are said to have been double DHL'd, UPS'd and Amazon'd.

You may find all this tiresome and frustrating but console yourself in the knowledge that it results in an increase in cohesion in rural communities since sorting things out obliges residents to collaborate and communicate and to reflect on the parlous state of, well, practically everything.

It is also an alternative daily challenge to the crossword in the newspaper and allows delivery companies to compete with utility providers, financial institutions and the Inland Revenue for who provides the loudest service.

So, if you are minding your own business mowing the lawn one day and a driver turns up and insists that you are the correct recipient of a Rolls-Royce Olympus jet engine, try to look beyond bungling delivery companies to the valuable social integration fostered within the village.

On a positive note, for the 12-year-olds among us, there is clearly an opportunity for mischief here since you can place random articles in anonymous locations then send a photo of them to your friends to hasten their downward spiral into despair.

The stress of ordering something to be delivered has to be experienced to be believed and although it may all seem like a bad dream, take heart because it is a nightmare from which, before long, your parcels may be delivered by... drones. Drones will, if they don't fall on your head and slice your ears off, be dropping packages in your back garden and down your chimney, firing Jiffy bags through letterboxes and, with pinpoint accuracy, launching parcels through Velux windows like bouncing bombs – which it seems some drones are equipped with.



The advent of drones may also explain why, when you are out for a stroll, the hedge bordering the road has Amazon parcels in it. They could, of course, have been lobbed in there by the exasperated, exploited drivers of delivery vehicles, but may also have been jettisoned there by AI drones that have become self-

aware and thought better of whizzing around at someone else's bidding, ditched their payload, and flown off to join their drone mates and plot the downfall of the human race.

Anyway; less than ten weeks until Christmas. Expect chaos.

John (Undeliverable) Fryett



My day as a Sussex grape picker

I've always thought there's something rather romantic about grape picking ... the rolling green and gold vineyards in the warm autumn sunshine, baskets overflowing with grapes and a sense of camaraderie in sharing an ancient rural tradition. It's an experience I've always wanted to have – so when the opportunity arose to spend a day helping with the Nutbourne grape harvest, it seemed too good to miss.

It was an early start. We were welcomed to the Nutbourne Estate at 7.45am by Peter Gladwin, who gave us a briefing on how to pick grapes: cut the bunches carefully, discard anything unsuitable and avoid putting foliage into the boxes.

We were then handed a bucket, a pair of razor-sharp snippers and some blue gloves as we headed off towards the vineyard rows, which stretched away in immaculate lines, the leaves just beginning to take on their autumn colours. The picking group was mainly retired local people and gap year students who wanted to earn a little extra cash and it wasn't long before we were all chatting and swapping stories on what had brought us to the vineyard that day.

The grapes are trained along a horizontal wire, somewhere between waist and thigh level, which meant picking wasn't too onerous, although my thighs and back did begin to ache at the end of the day. We started by picking Bacchus grapes – a Germanic Riesling-style variety – and later moved on to Huxelrebe, both of which contribute to Nutbourne's Sussex Reserve.

We worked in pairs and I found myself picking first alongside Richard Gladwin, who runs the Local and Wild restaurants with his brother Oliver. Later in the afternoon I picked with Louis, who recently completed his 'A' levels and hopes to join the army next year. We picked from opposite ends of the vine, gradually making our way towards each other and then crossing over, to check that no bunches had been missed.

We were expertly guided by Olivia Thomas, the vineyard's Sales and Hospitality Manager, who somehow managed to keep picking herself while also making sure everyone else knew what they were doing.



A grape escape at Nutbourne

and taking them quickly to the winery to start the winemaking process. As we lunched in the Nutty Bar, we could hear the presses already whirring and I was given a taste of fresh juice from the grapes we had picked moments earlier – which was delicious when tasted straight from the press.



From grape to glass: the barrel room at Nutbourne vineyard

ence. It turns out winemaking is part science and part art – with nature always having the final say.

In the afternoon, I got a crash course in winemaking from Olivia – which is in essence: pick, press, ferment, mature, bottle. At Nutbourne, a single-estate vineyard, the whole process takes place on site, from growing and picking the grapes to pressing, fermenting and bottling the finished wine.

Much depends on the weather, the quality of the grapes and the judgment of the winemaker. A few days too much rain or a badly timed frost can make all the difference.

Gregory Gladwin, who studied viticulture and winemaking at Plumpton College, now leads the wine production at Nutbourne with support from Emma Rice, who acts as a winemaking consultant. Emma has particularly strong Sussex roots as she grew up near Goodwood.

At the end of the afternoon, the pickers gathered once again in the Nutty Bar to toast a successful day's work with a well-earned glass of wine and generous wedge of Olivia's freshly baked cake.

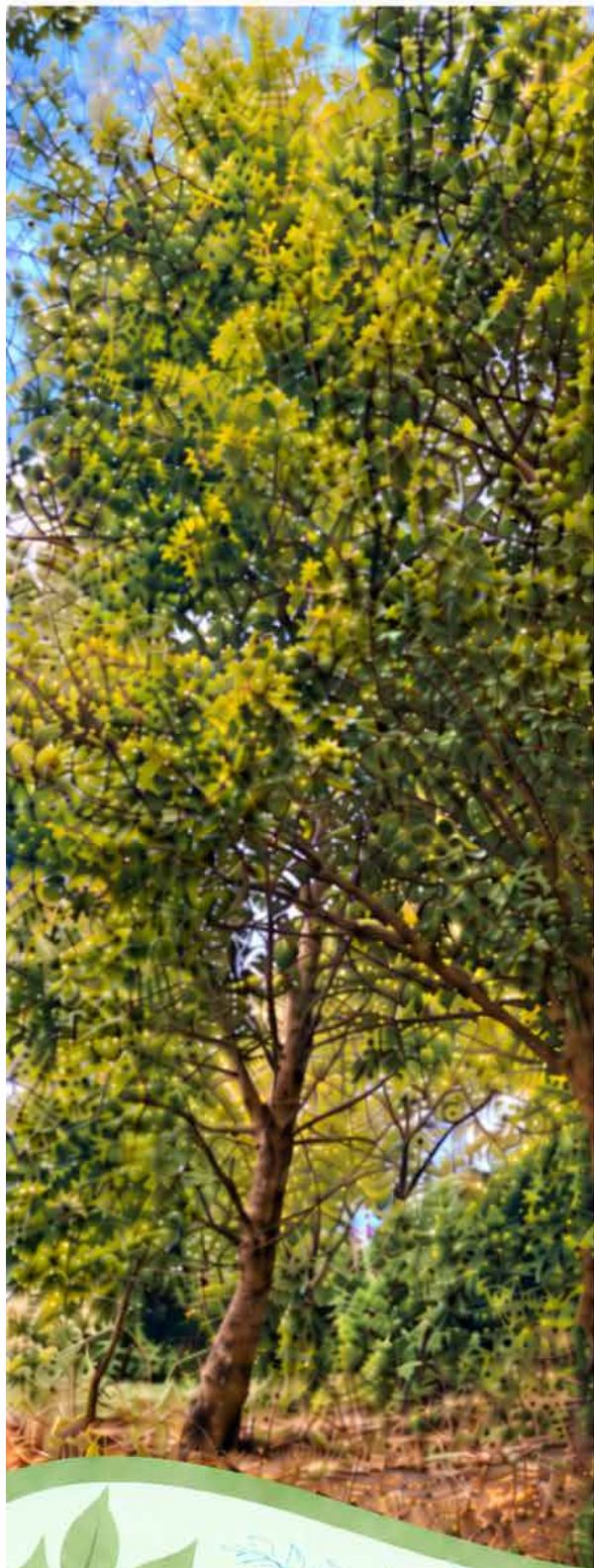
Vines, sunshine, and a glass in hand, who needs Provence when Sussex does the job perfectly.

Susan Watson



The Gladwin family were out in force: Richard's daughters Imogen & Iris with Mum Lizzie

Raising Funds for Pollarding on Amberley Millennium Green



Amberley Millennium Green has had extraordinary tree-related costs so far this year.

- A poplar tree was deemed likely to become unstable after losing a large bough in the high winds in early June. By law we were required to take action. The options were felling or severely pollarding. **We chose to save the tree** as we recognised the wider benefits. This unexpected work has meant that our tree costs have been, so far this year, more than three times our budgeted amount. Choosing pollarding over felling also means we will have ongoing costs as the tree will need to be repollarded every five years.
- We have worked hard to increase revenue in 2026, both via fund raising activities and also via increasing the number (and value) of regular donations from individuals. This has been successful. We have also taken advantage of grants from South Downs National Park where available.
- Whilst we have sufficient funds to cover our day-to-day operations, the funds we had identified for future improvements have taken a hit as a result of these extraordinary tree-related costs. This is threatening our ability to improve winter access to the green as we had planned to do this autumn.

This means we would like to ask Amberley's residents to provide further financial support for this village charity, either via regular or one-off donations, so that we can get this programme of improvements back on track. Our goal is to raise £500.

Account name: Amberley Millennium Green Trust

Sort code: 089299

Account number: 67338511

The Millennium Green is a community asset for everyone, and the safeguarding of such an established tree contributes to the biodiversity, landscape character and climate resilience of this important local green space.

Any help you can give is much appreciated.

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**SPORTSMAN OKTOBERFEST**

Not blending in: 171 ways to pour a pint

Matija Rossi, The Sportsman's very own biersommelier, previews this month's landmark beer festival

The Sportsman will be holding its fifth beer festival on October 1-4 (Thursday-Sunday), and its first since the community bought the freehold in August.

It has been an exciting year for the pub, having done really well throughout every month so far thanks to the amazing support, and having celebrated winning the title of CAMRA branch Pub of the Year 2026. Another big beer-related step has been the very recent change in the permanent beer line-up, which now better represents the local community spirit of the pub. From September, all of the permanent lines feature a range of Sussex-brewed beers, replacing the corporate mass-produced foreign brands. Each has been very carefully selected for the highest quality so that every pint can be served with confidence and pride.

This festival will see the first ever increase in the number of different beers: there will now be 18 cask ales, up from 15. This was motivated by the incredible demand seen at the March beerfest – by Sunday evening every single drop of beer had sold out! There will also be two different ciders, following the popularity of the one that was on offer the last two occasions.

A lot could be said about the festival line-up itself – best done at the event over a pint or two! As always, the range will feature beers all the way from Cornwall to Orkney (by now a festival staple), chosen for their uniqueness, high quality, and how hard they are to get hold of. Probably the one that stands out the most is the legendary Sarah Hughes' Dark Ruby, a 6% ruby mild brewed at the Beacon Hotel, a traditional Victorian pub near Dudley (Midlands). Other rarities include a cask Märzen (the traditional Oktoberfest lager style), a special cask release of Verdant's Lightbulb modern pale ale, a Belgian-style IPA, and much more. Rarer still are two one-off collaborations brewed to mark the purchase in August and held back for the festival: Community Spirit, a 6% Festbier made with Aleworks, and Freehold, a 4.1% porter made with Newtown.

The theme that ties the line-up together on this occasion is blending, reflected in the variety of styles to experiment with. The idea originates from some early research conducted during some pleasant festival evenings and perfected at the pub throughout the summer – particularly on Fridays.



It might seem unusual at first, but the practice of blending has been commonplace throughout history, and still survives in parts of the world, including areas of Sussex. One of the historical reasons for blending is that, for a long time, brewers would brew two kinds of ales: ones meant for ageing over extended periods of time, called "stale", and fresh ones meant to be served right away, called "mild" (which is the origin of the modern style's name, but at the time only referred to the ale's age). Stale ales had much stronger, often tart, flavours and were significantly more expensive, which is why drinkers had their own preferred blends of the two, varying according to personal tastes and budgets.

In Britain the practice of blending continued well into the 20th century, a time when people commonly ordered drinks such as mild and bitter, light and bitter, brown and mild, or stout and bitter. These often consisted of a half pint of draught, with a bottle of more expensive ale to liven it up. However, some were simply two draught beers poured into the same glass.

To this day a common drink in Lewes pubs is the mother-in-law, a blend of old and bitter. This October's festival will feature a range of all the above-mentioned drinks and more, so what better opportunity to try some blending! With 18 casks on, there are 171 different pints to be poured (18 straight, 153 in pairs), so maybe start with some of the traditional blends before getting into more experimental territory ... Why not try a lighter-bodied dark ale combined with a modern hoppy IPA?



Hallraisers' Christmas Fair

**Saturday, November 28
from 10am to 4pm**

St Michael's Church Hall, Amberley

It's never too early to start preparing for Christmas – so why not start the advent season at the Hallraisers' Christmas market, which will return on 28 November this year.

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

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

What's not to love!

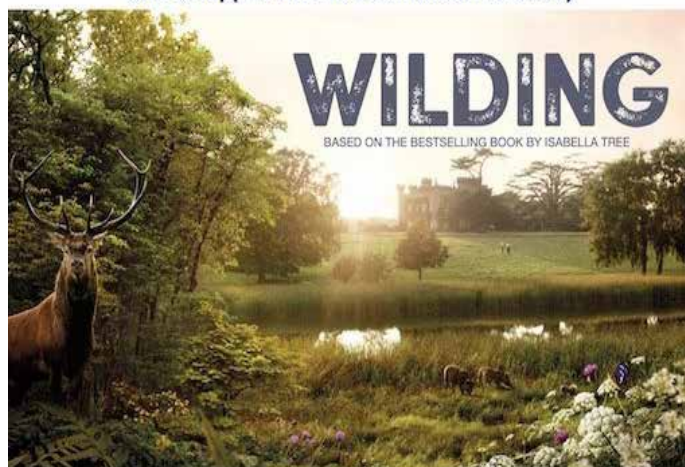
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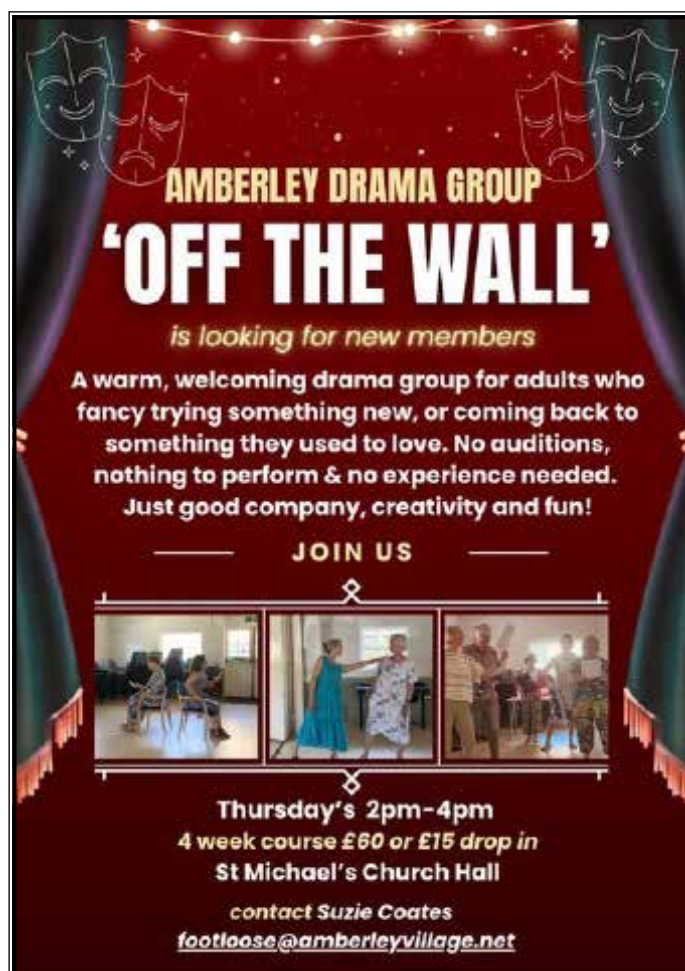
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Autumn at Amberley Museum

There is plenty to look forward to at Amberley Museum this October, with a varied programme of events celebrating the region's industrial heritage, history and community spirit.

The month begins with the Autumn Historic Vehicle Gathering on Sunday, October 4, one of the museum's most popular annual events. Since 1978, the gathering has celebrated the museum's beginnings and paid tribute to the dedication of its volunteers and staff. Visitors can enjoy an impressive display of around 150 vintage and classic vehicles, including cars, motorcycles, steam and stationary engines, buses and commercial vehicles. Together they represent more than a century of transport history.



Museum volunteers and vehicle owners will be on hand to share stories and knowledge, while visitors can also enjoy rides on a vintage bus and aboard Peter, the museum's beautifully preserved 1918 steam locomotive. For those seeking a hands-on experience, there is even the opportunity to take the controls of a locomotive on one of the museum's industrial

railway lines for a suggested donation of £5.

The following weekend, October 10-11, Amberley takes a step into an alternative Victorian world with its lively Steam-punk Weekend. Expect a host of eccentric games and activities, from airship racing and teapot racing to walking the plank, cheese rolling and the wonderfully curious art of tea duelling. Throughout the site, stalls, performers and musicians will help create a unique atmosphere, with entertainment provided by The Sallys, Major Blunder and acoustic performer Leigh Pooley.

History enthusiasts may be particularly interested in the museum's Discovery Day: Chalk, Flint and Arun Valley Prehistory on Thursday, October 15, from 2pm to 3.30pm. Led by the museum team, this special afternoon combines a guided tour with hands-on activities. Participants will learn how the chalk landscape of the South Downs was formed, how flint was used to create tools, and how prehistoric communities lived and worked in the Arun Valley. Part of the tour follows the museum's Nature Trail, offering a fascinating insight into both the area's geological and human history. Advance booking is essential as places are limited.

Railway enthusiasts can look forward to Autumn Industrial Trains on Sunday, October 18, when the museum's remarkable collection of industrial locomotives takes centre stage. Demonstrations, rides and exhibits will bring the story of industrial railways to life. Adding to the occasion, members of the Surrey Morris Minor Club will display a selection of their cherished classic vehicles, giving visitors the opportunity to admire these iconic British cars and learn more about their history from enthusiastic owners.

The month concludes with a suitably spooky Halloween Evening and Ghost Train on Saturday, October 31, from 6pm to 9pm. As darkness falls over the museum, visitors are invited to explore the site after hours, keeping a watchful eye on the woods for any mysterious figures lurking among the trees. The Ghost Train departs every 15 minutes from both the Museum's Amberley Station and Craggside Station, offering thrills for brave passengers of all ages. Hot food, drinks and refreshments will be available throughout the evening from Limeburners Café and Pepper Lane Stop.



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KNOW YOUR SUSSEX

A short history of Sussex wine

Winemaking in Sussex has deep roots, with vines grown here since Roman times and vineyards belonging to monasteries and wealthy landowners recorded in the Domesday Book across medieval England.

The modern revival gathered pace in the late twentieth century. Bolney helped lead the way in the 1970s, while Nyetimber planted with Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier in 1988, showing that Sussex could produce sparkling wines of real distinction.

Since then, the county's chalk and greensand soils, long growing season and increasingly favourable climate have helped establish Sussex as one of the leading regions for English wine. Today, vineyards large and small, dot the county, from celebrated names such as Nyetimber to local favourites such as Nutbourne.

In 2022, Sussex wine received 'Protected Designation of Origin' (PDO) status. This is a legal geographical designation, showing that a product comes from a particular place and is made according to defined quality standards. For Sussex wine, this means that wines using the protected 'Sussex' name must be produced from grapes grown in the county, so confirming our reputation as a distinctive wine region.

Susan Watson



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Not just a load of bungaroosh...

Here in the South Downs, where rolling chalk hills meet quiet historic villages, stone walls stand not merely as property boundaries, but as tactile records of local heritage. Among these, flint stone walls are the most iconic, defining the architectural character of Sussex with their rugged, gleaming textures.

Amberley folk have recently been afforded the opportunity to see this living tradition unfold in real time. Local resident Peter Henderson braved the brilliant summer sunshine to construct a traditional flint stone wall right at the entrance to his house, situated opposite the historic Black Horse pub.



Peter Henderson rebuilds a traditional flint wall at The White House, Amberley

Watching him work under the summer heat – meticulously selecting nodules of flint, matching their jagged edges and setting them carefully into lime mortar – offered a compelling lesson in patience and craftsmanship.

Flint is a difficult material to master. Field flints are irregular, stubborn nodules formed over millions of years from the remains of marine organisms that once settled on a warm cretaceous seabed. As chalk

slowly hardened, silica collected into nodules of flint, scattered throughout the Downs. Watching Peter layer these dark, shiny stones against the backdrop of Amberley's timber-framed cottages sparked a curiosity to explore the wider story of flint across the Downs.

The region surrounding Amberley is world-famous for traditional South Downs flint architecture. Unlike the crude poured-slurry method of bungaroosh found further east, the flint walls near Amberley represent precise, centuries-old Sussex stone craft.

The Curtain Wall of Amberley Castle is a massive 60ft high medieval curtain wall surrounding the 900-year-old castle. Built from a blend of local field flints, chalk rubble, and heavy stone quoins, it represents one of the largest and most complete defensive flint structures in Southern England.

The historic industrial chalk and flint quarry pits at the Amberley museum supplied the raw materials for centuries

of Sussex walling. The museum's site features retained industrial lime kilns, flint crushing structures, and retaining walls built directly into the chalk face.

Amberley itself is known as the 'Pearl of Sussex' largely because of its intact rows of thatched, flint-walled cottages, admired by so many tourists as they stroll along Church Street. These walls demonstrate knapped flint work (where flints are split in half to reveal glossy, dark-grey glass-like interiors) paired with clay brick dressings and lime mortar.

Located just four miles northwest of Amberley, Bignor Roman Villa is home to historic estate walls that showcase various traditional flint-masonry styles. These include 'snail-creep' which features halved flints set with thin mortar lines, and 'galleting', in which small flint chips are pressed into lime joints to keep out water.

Some of the finest surviving examples of flint craftsmanship can be seen around Parham and Arundel. The landscape here is rich in chalk and flint and historic estates made extensive use of local materials. At Parham, the surrounding parkland and estate buildings are enclosed by long stretches of traditional flint boundary walling, designed both for durability and for a subtle visual harmony with the Downs beyond. These walls were often built in phases over centuries, repaired and extended by estate workers who inherited techniques passed down through generations.

Around Arundel, flint takes on a more architectural character. The town's proximity to the South Downs and its long history as a seat of nobility meant that flint was used not just for field boundaries, but for churches, garden walls and formal estate structures. Some of the taller garden enclosures here are said to have been built in the Georgian and early Victorian periods, when flint combined with brick dressings became a fashionable way to display both rustic authenticity and refined craftsmanship.



An example of galleting at West Dean

What makes these walls particularly fascinating is that they blur the line between geology and human skill. Each stone carries a trace of ancient seabed, yet its final form is shaped by the precise strike of a mason's hammer, they are not just boundaries but records – layered, repaired, and reshaped over centuries – quietly holding together the history of the Sussex landscape.

Lisa Carey

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Poisons affecting Amberley owls



Ben Ayling is a local biologist and field ornithologist involved in monitoring birds of prey

For several years I have been monitoring the raptors in the Amberley area, such as the barn owls (*tyto alba*). This species is reliant on grassland habitats and field margins where their prey species reside, such as field voles, shrews and field mice. Brown rats are also a very important part of their diet and this species is known to also live in closer proximity to humans, due to the shelter and food that can be found including farmland, but also any holding that is near a field.

This species (brown rat) and our way of controlling their populations is what brings our methods of doing this in direct conflict with species like the barn owl. These methods are also used on game bird estates to manage the impact of rats on birds raised for shooting events. Due to the increased level of feed for the gamebirds and the increase in the biological mass from the game birds themselves; this can make the population of rodents increase and therefore attract the attention of the barn owls when they are foraging, which also raises the risk of owls coming into contact with rodents that have consumed superwarfarins.

Second-generation anti-coagulants which are also known as superwarfarins, target the biological mechanism of blood clotting and they do this by inhibiting the enzymes which allow this to occur. They have a high level of potency and therefore induce death through haemorrhaging in the rodents. Due to their efficiency, it means that if a barn owl was to eat these rodents that had consumed the superwarfarin, they would only need to eat a few for this to also be fatal to them.

In early April 2025, I was contacted by Sarah and John who



Chrissie and Ben ring the owlets

are two residents of Amberley and Rackham, to say that a barn owl had been observed behaving in an unusual manner and then very shortly after, found deceased on the ground.

The owl was sent off to Natural England, so that it could go under anatomical and toxicological analysis. The report following these analyses found that the owl had a skull fracture and significant levels of brodifacoum (superwarfarin) in its tissues, which was seen as the main contributor to its death. The results of this report provide a reoccurring pattern for raptors that have succumbed to anticoagulant poisoning, in that they display these physical traumas, such as the skull fracture in this case. This fracture is most likely to have occurred due to the owl becoming disorientated in flight because of the thinning of its blood and ultimately crashing and suffering the resulting fractures.

Natural England came to undertake an investigation and although the location of where the source of the Brodifacoum (superwarfarin) that the owl had come into contact with was not found, all local landowners were informed of the practices that should be consistent with the use of this poison.

The barn owl that died was the breeding male of a pair that nested in Amberley and Rackham. This pair use the wild-brooks and the surrounding areas for foraging and during July 2024, I had been to ring the three chicks of this pair with Penny Green, an ecologist working on the Wiston Estate.

At the start of September (2026), I was contacted by Ginnie in Rackham, to say that the adult birds had been seen returning to and from the box and that the screeches of the chicks had been heard on the arrival of the adult birds when they were dropping off prey items.

Chrissi Twitchen – who works with the British Trust for Ornithology – and I returned to check the box and once I had climbed the ladder and opened the door of the box, I had five barn owl faces looking back at me, which you can never be fully prepared for, however it is certainly one of the best things you can see.

All five chicks were brought down to be ringed and processed under licence. The brood consisted of three males, which were all fully feathered, and there were signs that at least one had already been outside of the box due to its muddy feet. The other two were females and they still had a significant number of downy feathers and had yet to develop their full set of flight feathers. This result of five chicks felt particularly rewarding due to having lost the breeding male the previous year and was a good sign that the owls have not been in contact with significant levels of superwarfarins.





Sparrow house

I've just moved house, and there are some significant upgrades for me to marvel at: dishwasher, stairs, letter-box. Some novelties may wear off, but I can't imagine I'll ever get over the little gang in the garden – this house comes with sparrows.

They wait in nearby bushes en masse, heads cocked, peering into the windows of my living room and my soul, until I give in and top up the mealworms. They descend in a flurry, teasing treats from above and cleaning up on the ground. They perch on the wobbly bird bath, perennially tilted by a clumsy woodpigeon, to take dainty sips, at odds with their otherwise boisterous behaviour.



Picture: Alan Price

Sparrows have suffered a 70 per cent decline since the 1970s

In sparrow fashion they lord it over this tiny territory of brick and buddleia, a group of males, females and juveniles, the size of the males' black bib denoting their status in the apparent rabble. Despite best efforts, my eyes are dragged from my screen, hands stationary on the keyboard, transfixed.

This may be recognised by those who have a similar squad to window watch. House sparrows have historically been associated with humans and our homes, the last part of their Latin name, '*domesticus*', translating to 'belonging to the house'.

Sparrows have learned that we grow, and drop, delicious snacks. Their varied diet of seeds, berries and insects is supplemented by offers in the crumb department. One once landed on my mate's pub garden plate and crammed in a stodgy beak full of cauliflower cheese.

Sparrows appear ubiquitous, found in rural and urban areas, farmland, gardens, parks, hedgerows, railway stations – you name it. But despite their apparent abundance, they've suffered a whopping 70 per cent decline since the 1970s and have been on the UK Conservation Red List since 2002. The usual suspects of overdevelopment, agricultural intensification, climate change, habitat and food loss, historical persecution, and predation by pet cats all feature in their population plummet.

You can help your own charismatic crew. Grow native plants for a buffet of seeds and insects, or provide hanging feeders of mealworms or fat balls from May to October, including seeds and nuts from November to April (cleaning feeders regularly, and no flat feeders, to prevent the spread of disease). Water is a lifeline for wildlife all year round. And if you are lucky enough, as I now find myself, to have even a little outdoor space – keep it wild. Your neighbours will thank you.

Kerry Williams

Communications Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Spider season

It's a misty autumn morning. The leaves are turning golden and fairytale fly agaric toadstools are popping up to brighten up the damp, dark places with their jewel-like colours. And all of the grasses and brambles are adorned with dew-covered spider's webs. I can't help but admire the beauty of the scene – lace-like webs decorated with diamonds – but at the same time I can't help but shudder at the thought of just how many spiders are 'out there'!

It's also the time of year when the male house spiders start wandering around – all long hairy legs and waving palps – and seem to find your bathroom particularly attractive...

I have to admit to not being terribly brave when it comes to spiders so decided that now was the time to confront my fear, find out a bit more about them and do a bit of myth busting along the way.

I'm going to start with the orb web spiders, such as the familiar garden spider who spins the most beautiful circular web and fastidiously repairs it when broken by a passing creature who's too big to be trapped. We may even welcome the presence of one of these spiders in our gardens as they trap other insects that we might consider to be pests, injecting them with venom, wrapping them in silk and then waiting for their insides to liquefy before sucking them up like soup. It is the plump female who we see positioned at the centre of her web. The male is much smaller and his courtship of the female is full of peril – having mated the female does sometimes have the male as a snack!

Among this group is the exotic looking wasp spider with vivid black and yellow banding. We occasionally find these in the long grass at Pulborough Brooks, with their webs spun low down in the grass ready to catch their favourite prey – grasshoppers. It is sometimes known as the 'Writing Spider' as it forms letters in its web.



Viewed perhaps with less apprehension are money spiders who weave handkerchief-sized hammocks over the bushes in autumn. If one lands on you or you spot one in mid air descending down its invisible thread it will bring you good luck and prosperity.

Not all spiders spin webs... we have some that are ambush predators. Wolf spiders look slightly felted with dappled greys and browns. The female can be seen carrying her egg sack around with her and sometimes giving her spiderlings a lift on her back. The male attracts his mate by singing – or at least what passes for singing in the spider world – a low purr made by rubbing his palps together.

There are jumping spiders whose jerky movements make them rather like articulated toys. They leap on their prey having spun a safety harness first. One to look out for is the zebra spider – a rather cute black and white striped creature who claims a warm window as its hunting ground.

There is also an appropriately-named fencepost jumping spider which, although nationally scarce, can be found on many a fencepost at RSPB Pulborough Brooks. Apparently,



The sinister looking fence post jumping spider

jumping spiders have the best eyesight of any invertebrate.

We then come to spiders in the home. Daddy long legs spiders create a scaffolding of fine threads in un-dusted corners of the house. There is pervading story that these spiders have the most powerful and toxic venom but cannot bite you because their jaws are too small. This is non-

sense; their poison is weak and while a very large specimen could in theory pierce human skin, it would be no worse than a pin prick. And they do also bring a benefit that you are less likely to suffer from other spiders if you have a daddy long-legs spider in residence.

Thankfully, there is no evidence to support the myth that we swallow half a dozen spiders in our sleep every year, but I'm not at the stage where I can encourage house spiders and invite them into my home. While these are the ones I struggle with most (they once held the world spider record for speed), I can't blame them for coming in and exploring – they have evolved to live inside and the males are just eager to look for a mate.

Apparently, placing a conker in each corner of your room works as a deterrent. I've not yet tried it, and don't know if there is any science involved, but as it is also the season for conkers it might be worth a try.

Anna Allum
Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB Wiggonholt



Aubergine Supper

The aubergine (*Solanum melongena*) is a plant species of the nightshade family. Low calorie and packed with vitamins, minerals and powerful antioxidants - I've never liked them, as I find they absorb too much oil and don't taste of anything.

BUT ... I thought there must be something I can do with them and so I developed this concoction of my own, which is easy and delicious. (The numbers can be adapted.)

You need:

- 2 medium aubergines – chopped into bite sized pieces
- 1 large red onion – chopped
- 4 large cloves of garlic – chopped
- 1 jar of butter beans in juice
- 1 jar of Ottolenghi pomegranate, rose and preserved lemon harissa

Method:

1. Fry onions and garlic in olive oil (or oil of choice) until brown – remove and save.
2. Fry aubergine pieces in olive oil and when cooked, return onions to pan.
3. Add at least 1/2 jar of butter beans and juice – more, if more moisture is needed
4. Add salt and pepper to taste.
5. Add 4 tablespoons of the harissa paste (more is you want a stronger taste).
6. Make sure all the ingredients are mixed well.
7. Serve with greek yogurt and vegetables of choice.

I have changed my mind about aubergines!

Jenny Robinson

If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share with Wildbrooks readers, please send it to:
susan.wildbrooks@gmail.com



The South Downs skies: once a plane-spotter's heaven

Look up at the sky above the South Downs today and the chances are that you will see little more than airliners carrying holidaymakers and business travellers to and from destinations across Europe and beyond. Occasionally, a tug aircraft can be seen towing a glider into the skies from Parham, while military Chinook helicopters from their base at Odiham in Hampshire sometimes pass noisily overhead on training exercises. Every now and then, the unmistakable growl of a Spitfire from Goodwood's historic airfield turns heads and evokes memories of a different age.

For those who remember the decades immediately after the Second World War, however, the skies above the Downs presented a far more exciting spectacle. During the 1950s and early 1960s, aircraft of every shape and size could be seen almost daily. They operated from nearby military airfields including the Royal Naval Air Station at Ford, RAF Tangmere and RAF Thorney Island, while others appeared on test flights from aircraft manufacturers further afield, particularly Bristol's Filton airfield. The open countryside and relatively sparse population of the South Downs made the area ideal for training exercises, flight trials and navigation practice.

One local resident who made the most of this golden age of aviation was Peter Daughtrey, a lifelong resident of Amberley and an enthusiastic plane-spotter. Armed with keen eyesight and remarkable dedication, he kept records of the many aircraft he observed crossing the Downs. His notes now provide a fascinating snapshot of a bygone era and are likely to stir memories among former pilots and aviation enthusiasts throughout the Wildbrooks parishes.

Many of the aircraft names on Peter's list are now largely forgotten. Yet for a generation of schoolboys who spent hours assembling Airfix kits, names such as Sea Fury, Sea Hawk and Javelin still carry a certain magic. Among the most familiar sights were Hawker Hunters, one of Britain's most successful jet fighters. The aircraft achieved international fame in 1953 when Squadron Leader Neville Duke flew a specially prepared red Hunter at a world air speed record of 715.69 mph. The record was set along a measured course between Littlehampton and Rustington. Today, the aircraft itself is preserved at the Tangmere Military Aviation Museum, while a commemorative plaque on Rustington seafront marks the achievement.

Perhaps the most remarkable aircraft Peter ever witnessed was the enormous Bristol Brabazon.



Plane gorgeous: a Gloster Meteor

At the time it was the largest aircraft in the world, a giant four-engine airliner designed to usher in a new era of luxury air travel. Despite its impressive size and advanced design, the Brabazon never entered commercial service and remains one of British aviation's most ambitious failures. Seeing such an aircraft above the Downs must have been an unforgettable experience.

The South Downs skies also witnessed more sombre moments. Older residents may recall the tragic wartime crash of a Hurricane fighter in 1941. The aircraft came down in a field south of Crossgates during a training flight, killing its young Polish pilot. It was a stark reminder that flying, even away from the front line, carried immense risks.

Peter's records include an impressive variety of aircraft. From Ford came Fleet Air Arm types such as the Sea Venom, Sea Vixen, Sea Fury, Sea Hawk, Firefly, Avenger, Seafire and Wyvern, together with the Dragonfly helicopter and the sleek Supermarine Scimitar. Tangmere contributed famous aircraft including the Meteor, Javelin, Hunter and Spitfire. Meanwhile, the skies above Thorney Island were frequented by transport

aircraft such as the Argosy, Beverley and Hastings.

Today the skies above the Downs may be quieter, but for those who remember that extraordinary period, every passing aircraft still carries an echo of a time when the South Downs truly were a plane-spotter's heaven.

Mike Toynbee



Tangmere: Neville Duke with the world air speed record Hawker Hunter



EDITORIAL

Rural churches still matter

When people think about the church, they may only think about the Sunday service and other religious events. But in rural communities such as ours, the church has a larger, often more secular, role to play in binding the community together and supporting the marginalised, the less well off and the sick. In other words, it's a tremendous force for good. That's why rural churches must not be allowed to disappear. However, they are facing challenges that increasingly threaten their survival.

They are funded by voluntary giving and congregations are expected to pay their own running costs, maintain buildings that are hundreds of years old and contribute substantial sums to the diocese through the 'parish share', which helps to pay for clergy and other costs across the diocese. And as attendance has fallen by at least 25 per cent in every diocese in England since 2015, this funding model is increasingly under severe strain.

In 2025, the parish share from the four Wildbrooks churches was £16,000 representing 30 per cent of unrestricted income – a significant portion of the funds that were raised. And despite contributing £16,000 to the diocese, we are still without a parish priest.

It is perfectly reasonable that parishes should contribute towards the cost of their priests. The difficulty is that they are simultaneously expected to insure, heat, light and repair some of the most architecturally demanding buildings in Britain with funds donated by a dwindling congregation.

On the other hand, the national church manages an investment fund of well over £10 billion. What exactly is it holding this wealth for? Because there is little point in preserving an enormous investment fund for the future if, by the time that future arrives, parish churches have closed and congregations have disappeared.

The Church of England needs to decide what it regards as its core business. If the parish church – a force for good in virtually every community in England – remains fundamental to its mission, then protecting that network should surely rank among its highest financial priorities.

And the government cannot wash its hands of the problem either. Church buildings are at the heart of Britain's national heritage. Society cannot demand that medieval churches are preserved to exacting conservation standards and then expect a small congregation to pick up the entire bill.

The government needs to take a fresh approach by reinstating the VAT rebate scheme for church repairs that it abolished in 2024, introducing more imaginative government heritage funding and holding franker conversations about the cost of preserving the buildings they value.

Because the present model increasingly looks unsustainable.

Susan Watson

POETRY CORNER



Edward Thomas

Edward Thomas (1878-1917) is one of the finest poets of the British countryside. He was a writer and literary critic before turning to verse, where he found his subject in the lanes, woods and villages of southern England.

Digging is about the sensory experience of working in an autumn garden and finding a quiet sense of peace in the cycle of decay and renewal. Thomas enlisted during WW1 and was killed at the Battle of Arras, aged just 39.

Digging

To-day I think
Only with scents - scents dead leaves yield,
And bracken, and wild carrot's seed,
And the square mustard field;

Odours that rise
When the spade wounds the root of tree,
Rose, currant, raspberry, or goutweed,
Rhubarb or celery;

The smoke's smell, too,
Flowing from where a bonfire burns
The dead, the waste, the dangerous,
And all to sweetness turns.

It is enough
To smell, to crumble the dark earth,
While the robin sings over again
Sad songs of Autumn mirth.

Deadline for the November issue is

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

or e-mail mike@brooklandsamberley.com



LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse & Recycling Calendar – October

Household refuse collections (Amberley/Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt): non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Tuesdays, October 6 and 20**. Collections for recyclable (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be **Tuesdays, October 13 and 27**. Orange top bins (food recycling) will be collected every Tuesday.



For Church Street and Hog Lane: collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, October 7 and 21**; garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on **Mondays, October 12 and 26**. Collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Wednesdays, October 14 and 28**. Weekly collections for orange top bins (food recycling) will be every Wednesday.

Amenity Tip Opening Times

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

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

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

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

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

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



AMBERLEY & SLINDON BUS STOP

Village Bus Timetable



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



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



The fare is a flat-rate £3 per return journey (£2 single fare). Bus Pass Holders, and children under 16, travel free.



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

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

AMBERLEY AND SLINDON BUS TIMETABLE



MONDAY AM

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



RETURN	
Pulborough	12.03
Pulborough Tesco	12.05
Storrington	12.25
Rackham Street	12.35



MONDAY PM

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



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



FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

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



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



WEDNESDAY

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



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



THURSDAY

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



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

£3
RETURN

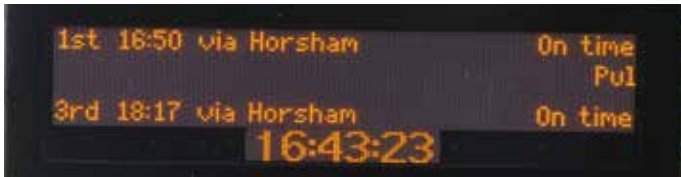
£2 SINGLE FARE
Bus Pass holders and
children under 16
travel free.



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Southern Trains Timetable (from December 2025)

Monday-Friday

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

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

From London Victoria to Amberley: 05.54, 06.35, and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 22.35.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins

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

Saturday

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

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

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

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins

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

Sunday

From Amberley to London Victoria: 07.58, and then at 58 minutes past the hour until 21.58.

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 24mins

From London Victoria to Amberley: 07.32, 08.32, 09.35 and then at 35 minutes past the hour until 22.35.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 20mins

From Amberley to Arundel and beyond (all Bognor Regis and Portsmouth Harbour (divides at Barnham) except as shown): 09.02B, 09.58PH 10.58 and then 55 minutes past the hour until 22.56B and 23.55B.

B – Bognor Regis; PH – Portsmouth Harbour.

Compiled by Malcolm Pheasey



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- 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)

Steyping

High Street Car Park

First Saturday (9am-1pm)

Arundel

Town Centre

Third Saturday (9am-1pm)



Property Watch

Homes for sale and to rent locally

Amberley

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



East Street 4-bedroom house (pictured above)
(Jackson-Stops, Chichester) **£1,725,000**

High Street 4-bedroom house
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£1,650,000**

Church Street 4-bedroom house
(Hamilton Graham, Steyning) **£1,500,000**

Church Street 4-bedroom house, former Manse
(Sims Williams, Arundel) **£1,150,000**

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

The Alley 3-bedroom Grade II listed cottage
(GL&Co, Storrington) **£850,000**

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

Church Street 2-bedroom Grade II listed cottage
(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£795,000**

Mill Lane/Turnpike Road 3-bedroom detached bungalow
(Fowlers, Storrington) **£575,000**

Hurst Cottages 4-bedroom semi-detached house
(Mansell McTaggart, Storrington) **£525,000**

Greatham

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

Houghton Bridge

Riverside 2-bedroom Tingdene lodge
(seasonal occupation)
(Lodges and Caravans for Sale) **£159,995**

Houghton



South Lane 5-bedroom detached house (pictured)
(TA UK) **£2,000,000**

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

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(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£775,000**

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



October 1

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Pre-booking essential

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October 26

Denmans Garden, Denmans Lane, Fontwell, BN18 0SU (9.30am - 4pm)
Pre-booking essential

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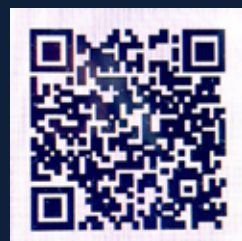


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Whats on – September

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27th - Quiz Night



Whats on – October

25th Quiz Night

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OCTOBER DIVERSIONS

1. In which country is Dar Es Salaam?
2. What is the world's most expensive spice by weight?
3. What is a baby rabbit called?
4. What is the Papaver rhoeas flower better known as?
5. How many legs does a lobster have?
6. What is the proper term for your funny bone?
7. What is the capital of Hawaii?
8. What do you call a pack of jellyfish?
9. Where is the next FIFA World Cup to be held?
10. What unique feat did Red Rum achieve?
11. What pickled buds are used to make tartare sauce?
12. What colour light is shown on the starboard side of a boat or plane?
13. In Alice in Wonderland, what colour roses does the Queen of Hearts hate?
14. What is the largest island in the Mediterranean?
15. The Suez Canal links the Mediterranean with which sea?
16. What is the national flower of Spain?
17. Who was the author of *Dear Amberley*?

18. In a deck of playing cards, which King does not have a moustache?
19. What is the dog called in the Punch and Judy show?
20. Which series of Disney movies is primarily set in the kingdom of Arendelle?
21. Who was the first presenter of University Challenge from 1962 until 1987?
22. What was the world's first purpose-built motor-racing circuit?
23. Who is the current Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police?
24. An exultation is the collective noun for what birds?
25. Which grain is used to make semolina?
26. What was the former name of Belize?
27. Which of Henry VIII's wives lived at Nyetimber Manor, Nutbourne?
28. Who were Robert LeRoy Parker and Harry Alonzo Longabaugh better known as?
29. Which UK newspaper was the first to include a crossword?
30. What word can be a basket for food and could also mean to hinder?

Answers on page 39

Quick crossword

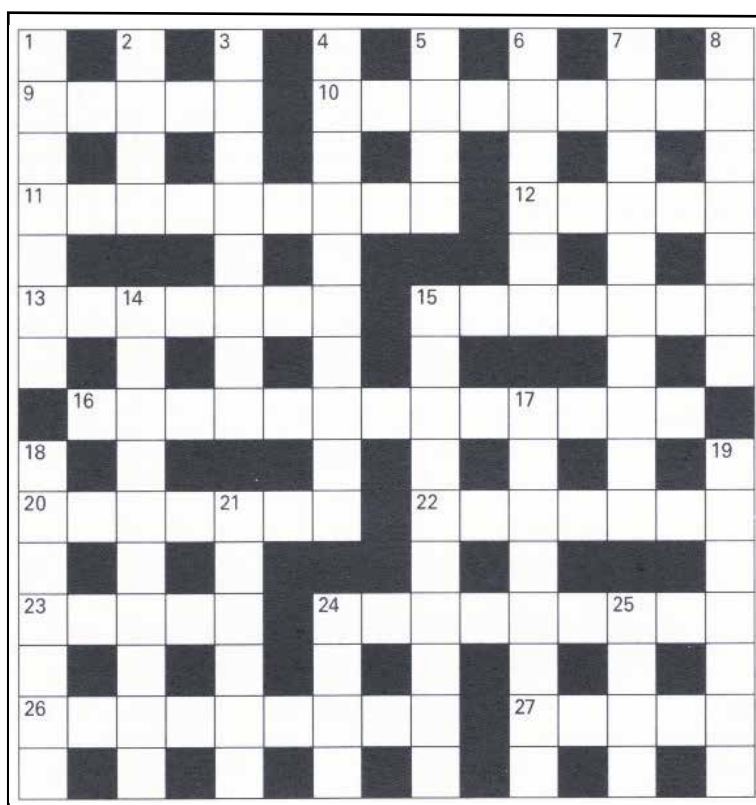
Across

9. Made a choice (5)
10. Not temporary (9)
11. Underdress (9)
12. Clever deception (5)
13. Planned moves (7)
15. Caretaker (7)
16. Leaping off a bridge while secured by the ankles (6,7)
20. Precisely (7)
22. Most in order (7)
23. Upright and rigid (5)
24. Female shop assistant (9)
26. Coarseness (9)
27. Ingenuous (5)

Down

1. Canal-side footway (7)
2. Let it remain (4)
3. Counselling (8)
4. Re-covering of furniture (10)
5. Slow run (4)
6. Container of milk (6)
7. Opposition (10)
8. Boilermen (7)
14. Brave (10)
15. Newshound (10)
17. Expressing admiration (8)
18. Merrymaking (7)
19. Played for time (7)
21. Fractious, irritable (6)
24. Snow buggy (4)
25. Part of the eye (4)

Solution: page 39





OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

1st Thursday

Beer Festival, The Sportsman,
12 noon-10pm

2nd Friday

Beer Festival, The Sportsman,
12 noon-10pm

3rd Saturday

Beer Festival, The Sportsman,
12 noon-10pm

Fun Dog Show, Madehurst Cricket
Ground, 1pm-5pm

4th Sunday

Autumn Historic Vehicle Gathering,
Amberley Museum, from 10am

Beer Festival, The Sportsman,
12 noon-10pm

Music: Willow Avenue, Bridge Inn,
3pm-5pm

6th Tuesday

Talk: *Pompeii: Digging Deeper with
the Muddy Archeologist*, The Arts
Society West Sussex, Fittleworth
Village Hall, 2pm

7th Wednesday

Talk: *Thomas Cromwell, the
Goldsmiths' Company and the Mint*,
The Arts Society South Downs,
Fittleworth Village Hall, 9.45am

10th Saturday

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

Steampunk at Amberley,
Amberley Museum, from 10am

12th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

14th Wednesday

Film: *Hamnet*, Sullington Hall,
Storrington, 730pm

15th Thursday

Talk: *Chalk, Flint & Arun Valley
Prehistory*, Amberley Museum,
2pm-3.30pm*

Littlehampton Tide Timetable - October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 st High 02.30 Low 08.34 High 14.51 Low 20.58	2 nd High 03.14 Low 09.20 High 16.36 Low 21.49	3 rd High 04.08 Low 10.17 High 16.34 Low 22.56
4 th High 05.24 Low 11.37 High 18.06	5 th Low 00.30 High 07.12 Low 13.21 High 19.52	6 th Low 02.06 High 08.42 Low 14.42 High 21.10	7 th Low 03.15 High 09.45 Low 15.40 High 22.06	8 th Low 04.50 High 10.32 Low 16.27 High 22.52	9 th Low 04.47 High 11.15 Low 17.07 High 23.34	10 th Low 05.26 High 11.56 Low 17.45
11 th High 00.14 Low 06.03 High 12.34 Low 18.22	12 th High 00.52 Low 06.39 High 13.08 Low 18.57	13 th High 01.25 Low 07.13 High 13.39 Low 19.30	14 th High 01.56 Low 07.45 High 14.07 Low 20.01	15 th High 02.23 Low 08.17 High 14.32 Low 20.34	16 th High 02.53 Low 08.50 High 15.01 Low 21.09	17 th High 03.27 Low 09.30 High 15.37 Low 21.52
18 th High 04.11 Low 10.20 High 16.28 Low 22.51	19 th High 05.35 Low 11.32 High 18.14	20 th Low 00.12 High 07.02 Low 13.05 High 19.34	21 st Low 01.49 High 08.12 Low 14.32 High 20.38	22 nd Low 02.57 High 09.09 Low 15.32 High 21.30	23 rd Low 03.41 High 09.55 Low 16.03 High 22.12	24 th Low 04.20 High 10.33 Low 16.39 High 22.51
25 th Low 03.56 High 10.11 Low 16.16 High 22.31	26 th Low 04.33 High 10.50 Low 16.53 High 23.11	27 th Low 05.11 High 11.30 Low 17.33 High 23.52	28 th Low 05.52 High 12.10 Low 18.15	29 th High 00.34 Low 06.36 High 12.51 Low 19.01	30 th High 01.19 Low 07.24 High 13.37 Low 19.50	31 st High 02.09 Low 08.06 High 14.29 Low 20.46

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**Clocks go back one hour on
Sunday, October 25**

17th Saturday

Film: *Wilding*, followed by Q&A
session with Tony Whitbread,
Sullington Parish Hall, 7pm

18th Sunday

Autumn Industrial Trains,
Amberley Museum, from 10am

27th Tuesday

Quiz night, The Sportsman,
7.30pm

Dates for the diary

Hallraisers' Christmas Market
November 28

Amberley Christmas Lunch
December 11

31st Saturday

**Hallowe'en Evening and Ghost
Train**, Amberley Museum, 6pm-9pm*

* Booking essential





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

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

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

Public Houses

The Black Horse, Amberley 01798 831183

The Bridge Inn, Houghton Bridge 01798 831619

The Labouring Man, Coldwaltham 01798 873337

The Sportsman Inn, Amberley 01798 831787

Retail

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

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

Answers to Diversions (see page 37)

1. Tanzania 2. Saffron 3. Kit 4. Poppy 5. Ten 6. Humerus 7. Honolulu 8. A bloom 9. Morocco, Portugal and Spain 10. Won the Grand National three times (1973, 1974 and 1977) 11. Capers 12. Green 13. White 14. Sicily 15. The Red Sea 16. Carnation 17. The Revd Noel Staines 18. King of Hearts 19. Toby 20. Frozen 21. Bamber Gascoigne 22. Brooklands, near Weybridge 23. Sir Mark Rowley 24. Skylarks 25. Wheat 26. British Honduras 27. Anne of Cleves 28. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid 29. The Sunday Express in 1918 30. Hamper

Crossword solution

Across: 9. Opted 10. Permanent 11. Petticoat 12. Trick 13. Tactics 15. Janitor 16. Bungee Jumping 20. Exactly 22. Neatest 23. Erect 24. Sales girl 26. Roughness 27. Naive

Down: 1. Towpath 2. Stet 3. Advising 4. Upholstery 5. Trot 6. Carton 7. Resistance 8. Stokers 14. Courageous 15. Journalist 17. Praising 18. Revelry 19. Stalled 21. Tetchy 24. Sled 25. Iris



PARISH DIRECTORY

Churchwardens:	Amberley	Melanie Edge (amberleystmichael@gmail.com).....07973 16336 Michael Davey (Secretary) (amberleystmichael@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	Jenny Sadler (jen@southernrcranes.co.uk)..... 01798 874613 Paul Higerty (Secretary) (paul.higerty@btinternet.com).....01798 812953
St Mary The Virgin North Stoke (acting chair)		Janet Aidin (janet@aidin.co.uk).....01798 87253
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Deputy Editor		Susan Watson (susan.wildbrooks@gmail.com).....07948 961595
Parish Magazine Distribution & Subscriptions		Pam Keeble (pamwkeebble@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		Trevor Parsons (clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk)07767 422733
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		Mike Emery / Kim Smith07410 988066 / 07711 635916
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 879749
Rackham School Hall Reservations		Jennifer Hooper.....01903 742695
Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE)		Elisabeth Tooms (toomsfirth@btinternet.com).....01798 839232
Stoolball Club		Sandra Turner.....01243 82125
Village Bus		Philip Greenwood.....01798 831803
Village Lunch Team Leader		Sarah Wheeler (sarahwheeler1@live.com).....01798 831194
West Sussex County Councillor		Paul Marshall.....033 022 23841



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Major Surgery in East Street

A story from East Street, where many residents and visitors have been admiring the restoration of the Grade II listed barn, comes this month courtesy of Grahame Joseph.

Grahame tells Bystander it was originally a two-bay threshing barn, dating from around the end of the C16th and was



later used as an artist's studio. The last professional artist to work there was Harold Latham, who continued to do so until his death in 1971. The barn then passed to his daughter, Helen, and remained much as Harold had left it until it was sold in 2013 - complete with ashtrays full of cigarette butts.

The barn was in a poor state and who better to take on the task of bringing it back to life than its present owners, Ed and Hannah Dawe, who are both doctors - particularly as Ed is an orthopaedic surgeon.

Its ancient oak skeleton has required major surgery, and it has been fascinating to watch the craftsmen at work, saving as much of the original structure as possible. Joints affected by rot and insect infestation have been carefully cut away, with new oak scarf-jointed onto the sound parts of the original timbers. This extensive arthroplasty has given the barn new hips in the roof, together with new knees and ankles lower down. After a long and delicate operation, the patient's prognosis is looking excellent.

Ed and Hannah's neighbour across the street, himself a retired surgeon, wittily remarked that "it must be costing them an arm and a leg".



Joint repairs

A matter of village etiquette

The editorial in the *Wildbrooks*' summer issue about the challenges of parking in the village provoked an interesting discussion in The Sportsman one evening, on matters of village motoring etiquette. Imagine the scene. You are driving through the village when an approaching car pulls over to let you through. Being a courteous Amberley resident, you naturally raise one hand from the steering wheel in grateful acknowledgement. But the dilemma is: how much hand?

A single raised finger (index, not middle) is understated and sophisticated but may be too low key and missed by the approaching driver. Two fingers would definitely be misinterpreted but a whole hand is excessive and perhaps should only be reserved for someone who has reversed fifty yards down School Road and mounted the verge to let you pass.

Alternatively, how about a vibrant thumbs up? And should you include an extravagant smile too? One of the group described how she had developed her own signature move, starting with a simple hand up but then seamlessly transitioning into a thumbs up, just to put a bit of extra thanks on top. Another told us he once let a bus out and the driver saluted. He's been chasing that high ever since!

And what is the proper etiquette after *receiving* a thank you wave for giving way? Should you wave back? A thank you for saying thank you? The agreed response was - yes wave, but it's got to be a lesser wave than the initial thank you wave. If you're close enough, a head nod is also acceptable and probably preferable.

So there we have it. Village motoring etiquette is a finely calibrated business. And if you don't wave at all? Well, this is Amberley. Someone will know who you are.

Passport to Amberley

News that the residents of Piddington, a tiny village in the heart of rural Oxfordshire, have voted to leave the UK and style themselves as the 'Principality of Piddington' has more than a whiff of the old Ealing comedy, *Passport to Pimlico*.

But are similar separatist stirrings already afoot in Amberley? Well, it seems that preparations for independence may already be more advanced than anyone realises. As from this month, The Sportsman intends to serve only Sussex-brewed beer - so if Amberley follows Piddington's example and declares independence, at least one important element of foreign policy has already been settled!

The wrong kind of sunshine

After leaves on the line and snow on the line, we now have too much summer on the line, as the heat bent the rail track in the Arun Valley, resulting in speed restrictions and a reduced timetable through Amberley during much of September.

Apparently rails, like the rest of us, don't perform too well when they get too hot!



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