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SEPTEMBER 2026

THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



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Church Street, featured as a front cover from *The Field* magazine in 1949



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SEPTEMBER SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER CREATION OF CHRIST Green Array

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

SUNDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER TRINITY 15 Green Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley

SUNDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER TRINITY 16 Green Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.30am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER TRINITY 17 Green Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 4th OCTOBER TRINITY 18 Green Array

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

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday, 6th September

Isaiah 55:12-end; Psalm 96; Matthew 8:23-27

Sunday, 13th September

Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 100:1-13; Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, 20th September

Jonah 3:10-end of 4; Psalm 145:1-8; Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, 27th September

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end; Psalm 25:1-8; Matthew 21:23-32

Sunday, 4th October

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:8-16; Matthew 21:33-end

Interregnum arrangements

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

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



For baptisms, marriages and funerals at any of the four parishes within the benefice, please contact the relevant churchwardens (details on page 44).

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



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CHURCH NEWS

Music and words enthrall audience at church concert

The now traditional summer concert at St Mary's, North Stoke, once again proved a great success. This year's event, presented by the Friends of St Mary's, featured the acclaimed Aglica Trio, comprising flute, viola and harp.

The musicians demonstrated both their versatility and artistry in a varied programme that included works by the French composers Jacques Ibert and Claude Debussy, the Welsh composer William Mathias, and the Venetian singer and composer Barbara Strozzi. Spoken introductions by Matthew Bannister and Diana van der Klugt provided fascinating insights into the lives and achievements of Strozzi and Debussy, both considered innovators well ahead of their time.

A memorable highlight of the evening was the encore, the Welsh folk song *Tra Bo Dau*, beautifully sung by flautist Carys Gittins, accompanied by viola and harp. Her exquisite performance, combined with the sensitive arrangement, was deeply moving and left a lasting impression on many in the audience.

The recital was organised by Anna Hill, formerly of Amberley, and followed a generous reception in the sunlit gardens of North Stoke Farmhouse, kindly hosted by Jane and David Lock.

All proceeds from the event will support the work of the Churches Conservation Trust.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, NORTH STOKE

Patronal Festival celebration

The Patronal Festival this year took place in the cool of St Mary's with the help of the Sussex branch of The Prayer Book Society (PBS). As well as the Friends of St Mary's and those from the Wildbrooks Benefice, there were visitors from Bognor, Barnham and London, all with various connections to the PBS or the church itself. The service of Holy Communion was taken by Canon Bruce Ruddock, formerly of Chichester Cathedral, after the intended celebrant was called to jury service at the last-minute. Despite this and other surprises the service was calm and beautiful. It was also lovely to hear the church filled with hymns accompanied by Bradley Smith of the PBS.

Afterwards there was cake and sparkling juice in the churchyard. It was a joyous occasion.

I should like to thank the Amberley churchwardens and all others who supported this service, as well as everyone who came. The festival marks the re-dedication of the church to the Virgin Mary in 2007 after this long-lost dedication was discovered in extraordinary circumstances. This coincided with the founding of the Friends of St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke.

Janet Aidin



Aglica Trio (plus one): Janet Aidin (second left) with Carys Gittins (flute), Agnieszka Żyniewicz (viola) and Lise Vandersmissen (harp)

Animal blessing at Wiggonholt

All are welcome to a special Animal Blessing service at 4.30pm on Sunday, September 6, in Wiggonholt churchyard. It will be conducted by the benefice's Lay Reader Elaine Corbett.

The service in the past has attracted animals of all shapes and sizes – there have been horses, ponies, cows, tortoises, hamsters and even, on one occasion, a stick insect.

Dogs should be on leads and small animals in cages. And if you can't bring a pet, take a photograph with you for the record or to remember a loved one no longer with us. Refreshments will be served and those planning to attend are encouraged to bring a chair with them.

New churchwarden

Paul Higgerty has taken over as a churchwarden at Wiggonholt Church following the retirement of Cathy Folwell. He continues in his role as PCC secretary.

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...details to follow very soon!



PEOPLE & EVENTS

Welcome...

To **David** and **Kathryn Morris** who have moved into New Cottage (formerly Lee's Orchard), East Street, Amberley. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

Congratulations...

Among those celebrating academic success this autumn are **William Tolson**, grandson of James Tolson, with three A-stars at A level and is off to Bristol to read law; **Flo**, granddaughter of Steve and Cyndy Kennett, with a 2.1 in chemistry at Bristol University and is now deciding what to do; and **Jamie Attard**, of Holly Tree House, Amberley, who graduated with a 2:1 in geography with applied GIS from the University of Exeter. (For the benefit of those – like the Editor – who don't know, GIS is the practical use of Geographic Information Systems to analyse, visualise, and manage spatial data for real-world decision-making and problem-solving.) So now you do!

Congratulations, too, to our regular contributor of nature notes, **Anna Allum**, who just celebrated her 20th year with the RSPB at Wiggoholt.

And full marks for enterprise... The dedication shown by young **Storm** selling lemonade to passers-by at the bus shelter at Hurst Cottages/East Street during the school holiday heatwave. The proceeds, he said, were going to his savings account for when he leaves school.

Jean Jackman

It is with sadness that we report the death of Jean Jackman, a former Amberley resident who retained a wide circle of friends in the village. She tripped while descending stairs at her home in West Burton, resulting in a brain haemorrhage and died peacefully in St Richard's Hospital two days later.

Jean, who was aged 74, first lived at East Street Farm, Amberley in the 1970s and then moved to Crossgates House. The couple founded and ran the popular Floral Fringe Fair.



● This year's fair, which was due to be held during the weekend of September 5-6 at Loxwood Meadow, has been cancelled. Explained husband Steve Jackman: "It was her fair, her love, her passion and it just didn't feel right running it without her."

New parish clerk named

Trevor Parsons has been appointed as the new clerk to Amberley Parish Council, starting on October 1.



Trevor Parsons

With a background in insurance and banking, latterly serving business customers across Sussex, Trevor has been parish clerk in Fulking, West Sussex for the past eight years. He and his wife, Claire, both grew up in Horsham and now live in West Grinstead. They have two grown-up children and became grandparents for the first time in May this year.

Hobbies include playing bridge on a Friday morning, and cycling at any time through the lanes of Sussex or up and down the Downslink.

"Having recently retired from the bank, I am now enjoying the opportunity to serve the local community and hope to play my part in supporting Amberley's councillors to make life in the parish even better," he says.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Amberley holds its annual Macmillan Coffee Morning – part of a nationwide event to help raise vital funds to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer – on Friday, September 25, from 10am until 12 noon. All are welcome.

For each of the last five years Amberley has managed to raise an amazing £2,000 and, hopefully, will be able to do the same again.

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

For offers of help and donations please contact: Clare Attard (07876) 083845 or Sandie Conlon (01798) 839320.

Call for volunteers

On Saturday, September 5, helpers are needed in the Millennium Green to carry out the annual clearing of the ditch/winterborne chalk stream. Any help you can provide, even if it's only for half an hour, is welcome.

Work will start at 10.00am. Please bring gardening gloves, preferably thick ones, and secateurs. Meet by the Swan Meadows bridge.



Celebrating success...

Awards for The Bridge Inn and Amberley Village Stores, a new direct rail service to London Bridge for commuters, a prestigious certification for Local and Wild, the company that runs The Black Horse, and the acquisition by the community of the freehold of The Sportsman – plenty to celebrate this month

Voted best loved Sussex pub

The Bridge Inn at Houghton Bridge has been voted the Best Loved Pub in Sussex in the 2026 Muddy Stilletoes Awards, an annual UK-wide lifestyle awards programme that recognises outstanding independent businesses.

It's another milestone for landlords Dave and Tash Challis who earlier this year celebrated their 20th anniversary running the popular pub.

"Having been nominated by our wonderful customers, we were shortlisted and then voted again in the final to be crowned winners," said a justifiably jubilant Tash. "The whole team are over the moon to achieve this award," she added.

"We have an amazing team – they genuinely care about hospitality and for being known for their friendly welcome. And we have some wonderfully supportive customers." The award, during this anniversary year, was "the icing on the cake".

Direct service to London Bridge

Rail passengers using Amberley station are set to benefit from the reintroduction of a direct train service to London Bridge following successful efforts to improve local transport links.

From Monday, December 14, a direct weekday service will operate between Amberley and London Bridge, providing commuters with a new travel option alongside the existing half-hourly service to and from London Victoria.

The morning departure will leave Amberley at 7.36am, arriving at London Bridge at 8.58am. The return service will depart London Bridge at 6.03pm, reaching Amberley at 7.16pm. The service has been introduced following what local campaigner Malcolm Pheasey described as "gentle, but persistent, lobbying."

The new route is aimed primarily at commuters and reflects changing travel patterns, with leisure travel now accounting for a greater share of rail journeys. As a result, trains on the route will run on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, when commuter demand is strongest.

The service will not operate on Fridays, bank holidays, or during school holidays, including half-term breaks, when the train will instead be used to provide additional capacity for leisure travellers.



Winning team: staff at The Bridge Inn with Tash Challis and the all-important certificate now proudly displayed on the bar

Shop scoops grocery store award

Amberley Village Stores & Post Office has been named Independent Grocery Store of the Year (West Sussex) in the South England Prestige Awards 2026/27.

Having served the community from The Barn since 1998, this award is recognition of everything the shop stands for: friendly personal service, quality local Sussex produce and being there for residents, walkers, cyclists and visitors.



Lee and Caroline Stace

"We could not have achieved this without our hardworking team, fantastic local suppliers and, most importantly, the loyal support of our customers," says partner Lee Stace. "Thank you to everyone who continues to shop locally and help keep our village store thriving," he added.

Local & Wild earns B Corp certification

The company which now owns the Black Horse and five London restaurants, Local & Wild, has become a Certified B Corporation, an independent certification that looks at the whole picture of how a business operates: its people, its community, its suppliers and its impact on the environment. With a final score of 96.5, Local & Wild is among the highest-scoring hospitality businesses to achieve B Corp certification in the UK.

"For us, this isn't a new direction," says the company. "It's a reflection of how we've always operated since 2012 when we first opened The Shed in London's Notting Hill, sourcing from local farmers and producers (including our own vineyard at Nutbourne), building long-term relationships with our suppliers, and trying to do right by our team and the communities our pubs and restaurants are part of."

See overleaf for The Sportsman success story



It's ours! Sportsman completes purchase of the freehold

Shareholders in The Sportsman Community pub celebrated the acquisition of the freehold at a presentation and party during the evening of August 23. Around 80-90 people attended the event.

Questioned by Matthew Bannister, Roger Agate reassured customers that the pub's management team remains unchanged, with him, Jo Westland and the rest of the staff continuing in their roles. Community ownership, however, will significantly strengthen the pub's finances by removing the burden of rent and improving its long-term viability. Plans are being developed to renovate and improve the building, including replacing the conservatory with a more sustainable structure and exploring new uses for the garage. Since



An estimated 80-90 shareholders attended the presentation and celebration



Matthew Bannister conducts a Q&A with Roger Agate, and Kate Pluck presents him with a token of appreciation



taking over three and a half years ago, the team has transformed a property that was in poor condition, re-investing this year's commercial surplus into bedrooms, the kitchen and other improvements. The pub will continue to champion local cask ales, and by the October Beer Festival (October 1-4) all beers on offer will come from local breweries.

Although the community successfully raised enough money to purchase the pub, further share sales are needed to repay loans and fund improvements. Roger thanked shareholders for their support, noting that investment continues to grow beyond the original target.

Kate Pluck, deputy chair of Community Sportsman Amberley said since the Save Our Sportsman campaign was launched in January 2024, the jour-



ney to purchasing the pub has been a remarkable team effort. Over the past two years, 12 management committee members had contributed a wide range of skills, determination, and hard work to make the project a reality. Together, they have tackled everything from serving drinks, maintenance, decorating, and technology implementation, to managing suppliers, navigating legal, financial, and tax requirements, hiring staff, and ultimately raising the funds needed to buy the pub.

A major challenge arose when a key community business grant was withdrawn following the election of the change of government. This left the project heavily reliant on share sales, which have successfully raised nearly £350,000. However, the campaign still faced a significant funding gap of around £440,000. At this crucial moment, Tony Baldwin introduced a private loan scheme, a solution that accelerated the purchase and may have saved years of additional fundraising. His contribution had been invaluable.

Kate also paid tribute to Roger, whose leadership, energy, and perseverance have been central to the campaign's success. From solving operational problems to steering the project through legal obstacles, Roger's tireless commitment has inspired the team and been instrumental in achieving this milestone. The speech concluded with a heartfelt thank you, a toast in his honour and a presentation as a token of appreciation.

Roger then unveiled a noticeboard inside the pub listing all the shareholders.





Second Gatwick runway gets final go-ahead

Gatwick Airport's plans to create a second fully-operational runway will go ahead after the UK's Court of Appeal dismissed a legal challenge by campaign groups.

The High Court had ruled in June that the UK government acted "lawfully" when it approved the £2.2 billion plan for Gatwick's expansion, which will see the airport's northern runway becoming fully operational instead of being used as a taxiway for aircraft.

Campaign groups Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emissions (CAGNE) and Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) had launched a legal challenge to the government's decision. But this has now been dismissed and the groups will not be permitted to appeal further.

The end of the legal process means that Gatwick could open its Northern Runway to regular flights from 2030, which will allow the UK's second largest airport to add another 100,000 flights per year.

CAGNE called the Court of Appeal ruling "deeply disappointing" and said it would use remaining funds to "continue holding Gatwick to account".

"Our focus will turn to the proposed new terminal, the decline in air quality, and the airspace changes that were not permitted to be considered as part of this planning application," the group added in a statement.

New doorstep re-use collection service for residents

Horsham District Council has announced changes to its doorstep collection service for textiles, small electrical goods and coffee pods, with a new partnership set to begin this month.

From September 4, the council will work with Anglo Doorstep Collections, a national reuse organisation, to continue providing residents with a free doorstep collection service. The partnership is designed to expand the range of reusable items that can be collected while helping the council reduce costs and make more efficient use of resources.

Anglo Doorstep Collections operates one of the UK's largest reuse collection networks, offering free collections of unwanted household items, including clothing, shoes, books, toys, small electrical goods, kitchenware, tools, linen and bric-a-brac. Items suitable for reuse are collected from residents' homes and redirected for further use rather than disposal.

Residents with non-working small electrical items that cannot be reused will still be able to arrange collections through the council's existing service via the Horsham District Council recycling collections page.

Editor honoured

At a recent gathering of the *Wildbrooks Parish Magazine* delivery team, volunteers took the opportunity to express their appreciation to Editor Mike Toynbee for his outstanding contribution to the publication over the years.

The occasion followed Mike's announcement that Susan Watson would be joining the magazine as Deputy Editor with a view to taking over the reins in due course.

Recognising the dedication, time, and effort that Mike invests in producing ten high-quality editions each year, the team of volunteer deliverers felt it was important to mark the occasion and thank him for all he has done for almost a quarter of a century.



The informal gathering, at Southdown House, courtesy of Glenys and Rob Rowe, was enjoyed by everyone present, and it is hoped that Mike enjoyed it, too. As a token of the team's gratitude, he was presented with a floribunda rose in recognition of his hard work and commitment to creating such a valued parish publication.

Pam Keeble

Editor's note: Not only did I enjoy the occasion but was delighted to see a gathering of all those who play such a vital role in the distribution of the magazine. It is genuinely a team effort – our distributors deliver the publication to your doors month in, month out, and turn out in all weathers. It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated team, headed up by Pam Keeble, who not only co-ordinates the distribution of the magazine, but has for 20 years been responsible for collecting the annual subscriptions which enables us to keep going. My sincere thanks to you all.



STORRINGTON FILM NIGHT

All about saving a pub

The new season of monthly film nights in Storrington gets under way on Wednesday, September 9, with *Mother's Pride*, starring Martin Clunes.

A comedy-drama, it's about a grieving family trying to save their failing pub – and unite a divided community – by brewing real ale and entering the Great British Beer Awards. Blending heartwarming humour with emotional depth, it celebrates the resilience and camaraderie found in local pub culture. With its strong ensemble cast and feel-good premise, critics call it a charming, uplifting watch for fans of community-driven stories.

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

Organised by the Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District, there is a bar and a raffle during the interval. Anyone requiring transport should contact John Ollerton on (07523) 322554.

The October film will be the Oscar winning *Hamnet*, starring Jessie Buckley.

Elgar, Clark and culture

Talks on one of our greatest composers and on the making of Kenneth Clark's landmark TV documentary *Civilisation* are this month's offerings for members of the local Arts Societies.

The Enigma of Edward Elgar is the title of the talk for the West Sussex branch on Tuesday, September 1. The son of a piano tuner and owner of a music shop, Elgar was largely self-taught and yet composed works that have become staples of British music. Sir Edward composed his famous cello concerto while living at Brinkwells, from 1917-1919, at Bedham, on the outskirts of Fittleworth.



The talk, at 2pm, is in Fittleworth Village Hall, where tea and coffee is served afterwards. Visitors are welcome (£10).

The following day, Wednesday, September 2, the South Downs group will hear the story behind the making of *Civilisation*, shown in 1969, including live footage and interviews in the series inspired by David Attenborough, and which involved the latest in colour film from the 13 countries Kenneth Clark visited. The talk is at 10.45am, also in Fittleworth Village Hall, with tea and coffee served from 9.50am.

Pompeii will be the subject of next month's talk for West Sussex (October 6), while South Downs will hear a lecture on Thomas Cromwell, the Goldsmiths' Company and the Mint (October 7).



Amberley's Advent Calendar

After the warmest summer on record, it seems strange to think about the winter. However, in only four months we'll be right in the middle of the Amberley Advent Calendar.

This year, the baton for the organisation has passed to me as Sue Pheasey has decided to step down. You'll be a tough act to follow Sue – many thanks for all your hard work over the years.

To me, the Amberley Advent Calendar sums up all that is great about this village: people coming together, whether it be to socialise over a glass of wine and some food, sing, be creative, test their knowledge or worship, to help raise money for worthy causes. So please don your thinking caps and start to think about events you could host between December 1-23.

All ideas are welcome: from old favourites to new ones; from those where numbers are limited to larger gatherings in the Church Hall.

Please contact me on kim.j.smith@icloud.com to discuss your ideas and help me make this year's Advent Calendar a success.

Kim Smith

Museum highlights this month

There is a full programme of events this month at Amberley Museum, covering a wide range of interests.

It gets underway with the Vintage Tractor Weekend (September 5-6), followed by the Autumn Bus Show (September 13). There is a Home Educators' Day (September 16), and a Discovery Day - Printing the News (September 17, 2pm-3.30pm, for which booking is essential). There is a Miniature Steam and Model Show (September 19-20); and the month concludes with the Land Rover Day (September 27).

Next month sees the Autumn Historic Vehicle Gathering on October 4.



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Sage enjoys a selection of garden flavours

A landscape inspired by the Greek island of Delos, a unique contemporary glasshouse, and some giant stone dogs were among the highlights of recent garden visits made by members of the Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE).

Most recently a group of 21 members visited Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent made famous by writer Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicholson and now part of the National Trust. Alongside the world renowned formal gardens the Trust has this year completed the Delos Garden, an area planted with Mediterranean trees and plants, and featuring Greek stone columns.

It was originally created as a result of a visit the couple made in 1935 to the ruins of the Greek island of that name in the Cyclades. The island provided such a source of inspiration that on their return they aimed to emulate the feel of it with the 'Delos of Sissinghurst', as Vita referred to it. Unfortunately, the project failed because the plants perished in the wet clay soil. The garden has now been completely transformed into a highly successful, climate-resilient masterpiece finally fulfilling a 90-year-old dream, and reopened in the spring of this year.

Other SAGE visits have included Woolbeding Gardens near Midhurst, a 20th century garden surrounding a Georgian mansion. Here a highlight is the 10-sided glasshouse which opens up like a giant glass flower bud overlooking a garden inspired by the Silk Route.

Earlier in the summer SAGE members were also able to explore the landscaped water gardens surrounding Sedgwick Park House near Horsham, where a pair of giant stone dogs guard the front door, surrounded by self-sown yellow poppies.

SAGE has some garden talks in the diary for later this year. New members are always very welcome: contact Cathy van Wely (cathyvanwely@outlook.com) for more details of forthcoming events.

Clare Attard/Pam Keeble



The 'Delos of Sissinghurst' as Vita Sackville-West described this part of the garden, inspired by the Greek island of the same name



The ten-sided glasshouse at Woolbeding and one of the pair of impressive stone dogs in the garden at Sissinghurst



Enjoying a day out (left to right): Simon Hoy, Peter Daughtrey, Mike Toynbee, Pat Morley, Susie Every and Pam Keeble



September 3, 10, 17, 24 The Old Vicarage, The Street, Washington, RH20 4AS (10am-4pm)*

September 5 The Cottage, Potts Lane, Pulborough, RH20 2BT (10am-4pm)

September 5 Judy's Cottage Garden, 33 The Plantation, Worthing BN13 2AE (10.30am-3pm)

September 6 Parsonage Farm, Kirdford, RH14 0NH (2pm-6pm)

September 13 Rymans, Appledram Lane South, Apuldrum, PO20 7EG (2pm-5pm)

September 22 Bignor Park, Bignor, RH20 1HG (2pm-5pm)

**Pre booking essential*



AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held on June 18, 2026 in St Michael's Church Hall

Present: Graham Smith (acting chair), Hazel Allinson, Mike Attard, Ian Corcoran, Leigh Cresswell, Paul Mustow and Tim Simpson. Also in attendance: Locum clerk: Celia Price and four members of the public.

It was agreed that Tim Simpson would pursue the asset transfer for the village car park. A member of the public asked whether a decision had been made regarding the telephone kiosk in the Square and its possible use as a tourist information kiosk. It was resolved that Mike Attard would progress the matter.

Members considered the draft response to the SDNPA Regulation 19 Consultation into its revised Local Plan. Leigh Cresswell reported that the Chalk Stream Group, Amberley Society and Parish Council had all been involved in preparing the response. Guidance on responding to the consultation was discussed and this was being offered to residents who were encouraged to respond individually. It was agreed to approve the draft response to the consultation, subject to any final amendments by the chair and locum clerk, and to be submitted by the deadline.

Members also considered a response to Horsham District Council regarding the Community Governance Review Consultation, to consider whether local governance arrangements at parish or town council level should be changed. Councillors resolved that the locum clerk would submit a response to Horsham District Council emphasising parish identity and the benefits of a smaller parish structure.

The relocation and installation of a bin at the pond was also discussed and agreed to approve the proposal in principle, subject to the necessary permissions being obtained.

Graham Smith provided an update on the recruitment of a new parish clerk. Members were advised that one candidate had withdrawn on the day of interview and that a late application had subsequently been received. Having considered whether the vacancy should be readvertised, it was agreed that it was appropriate to proceed with the late applicant and that the council would approve the appointment, subject to the satisfactory outcome of the second interview.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, September 10 at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall

Assets & Amenities committee meeting

On July 9, there was a separate meeting of Amberley Parish Council's Assets & Amenities Committee, held at The Surgery, The Square.

Present: Jason Charman, Ian Corcoran, Paul Mustow, Hazel Allinson and Graham Smith. Also in attendance: Russell Coates (Tree & Pond warden)

Ian Corcoran was voted as interim chair until Hazel Allinson had completed her medical treatment. It was agreed that the car park would come under the remit of the Assets & Amenities Committee once the ownership had been transferred from Horsham District Council. Meanwhile, there would be action regarding the resetting of the timer controlling the car park lights so that they would operate correctly once the evenings start to draw in.

Graham Smith agreed to complete the installation of the additional security features at the cricket club pavillion and liaise

with the club [following the theft of the tractor from the pavillion and its subsequent recovery]. Hazel Allinson said that she understood a new team would be using the football field this season.

It was agreed that an on-site meeting would be held in September to enable members of the Assets and Amenities Committee to see the scope of any repairs or

placements of play equipment that would be required for the playground.

Pond warden Russell Coates advised councillors that the pond was suffering from an infestation of azolla weed and this would require action to prevent its spread and growth. Jason Charman said that 'Pete the Pond' had agreed to provide an annual maintenance service which would include treatment of the azolla weed.

A couple in Newland Gardens, who had offered to help with landscaping services and provide grass cutting for the pond area, would be approached with a view to taking on the work.

The failure of Amberley Castle to clear the vegetation at the corner of School Road and Turnpike Road (alongside the staff house it owns) was discussed. It was agreed to ask the new clerk (when in office) to write to West Sussex Highways Department to pursue the continued lack of action on the part of Amberley Castle.

It was further agreed to request the new clerk to write to the estate agent handling the sale of Field End (on the corner of Mill Lane and the B2139) to request that the new owners prioritise the cutting back of the overgrown hedgerow to the boundary line to improve visibility for drivers exiting Mill Lane on to the main road. *Parham Parish Council meeting report overleaf*



Parlous state of the village pond



PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held at Rackham Old School on July 14, 2026

Present: Heather Cartwright (chair), Catherine Dugdale, Claudia Fisher and Paul Slimming. Also in attendance: Paul Clarke (Horsham District councillor), Vicky Spiers (parish clerk) and one member of the public

The Parish Council heard from the clerk that, despite efforts to fill the current councillor vacancy, no expressions of interest had been received. As a result, the position would be advertised again in the hope of attracting a suitable candidate.

Prior to the meeting, Horsham District councillor Paul Marshall had provided the clerk with an update. He reported that a government announcement regarding Local Government Reorganisation was expected shortly. He also noted that Horsham District Council's recent Community Governance Review consultation had generated 305 responses, reflecting significant public engagement in the process.

Horsham District councillor Claudia Fisher informed the meeting that HDC was currently undertaking two further surveys. One was focused on air quality issues in Storrington, while the second sought residents' views on road safety concerns across the district.

During the public participation session, a resident asked for further information regarding the ongoing drainage issues affecting Rackham Street. Councillors were advised that a Southern Water engineer had recently carried out a site inspection. Following testing of all Southern Water infrastructure in the area, the engineer confirmed that the equipment was operating correctly and that there was no evidence of leaks.

He suggested that the water was most likely the result of natural underground springs combined with run-off from the South Downs and surrounding farmland. The engineer acknowledged that the manhole housing the water meters was poorly situated at the entrance to a field and advised that the owner could contact Southern Water if they wished to discuss relocating the meter.

The condition of trees along Rackham Street was also considered. Springhead's head gardener had carried out an

inspection and it was agreed that the parish council chair would take photographs and discuss the findings with the owner of Springhead to determine any necessary action.

The clerk reported that replacement panes for the telephone kiosk in Rackham Street had been ordered and delivered. Claudia Fisher and a local resident suggested enhancing the kiosk with flower troughs. Following discussion, councillors agreed that a trial installation should be explored and that the chairman could approve the associated costs via e-mail. The fitting of the replacement glass would be postponed until a decision had been made on how the flower displays would be attached.

Claudia Fisher also updated councillors on the ongoing governance review, noting that draft recommendations arising from the consultation would be published shortly. The clerk was asked to contact the clerks of Coldwaltham and Amberley Parish Councils to gauge interest in exploring the creation of an 'Arun Valley Parish'.

Among the planning matters considered was an application to convert existing stables, a tack room and office at The Parlour, Greatham Lane, into short-term holiday accommodation. Although Parham Parish Council had objected to the proposal, citing concerns over increased traffic, noise, light pollution affecting the dark skies policy, and potential impacts on roosting bats, the South Downs National Park Authority had approved the development.

Councillors also held a lengthy discussion about the possibility of reviving the Rackham Fete and Flower Show. The



Councillors discussed the possibility of reviving the Rackham Fete and Flower Show

conversation prompted many fond memories of the event, and it was agreed that further investigations should be undertaken. As part of this process, the council would contact former organiser Sue Bulloch for advice and guidance.

A request from Coldwaltham parish councillor Iain Dreger was considered regarding the possibility of resubmitting a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on Greatham Lane and Brook Lane from 60mph to 40mph following the publication of the West Sussex Road Safety Strategy 2025–2036. Councillors noted that an earlier application had been rejected due to a lack of accident evidence. However, the clerk agreed to review available collision data and report back at the September meeting.

Finally, councillors agreed to trial an earlier start time of 6.30pm for the September and November Parish Council meetings.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, September 8 at the new time of 6.30pm,

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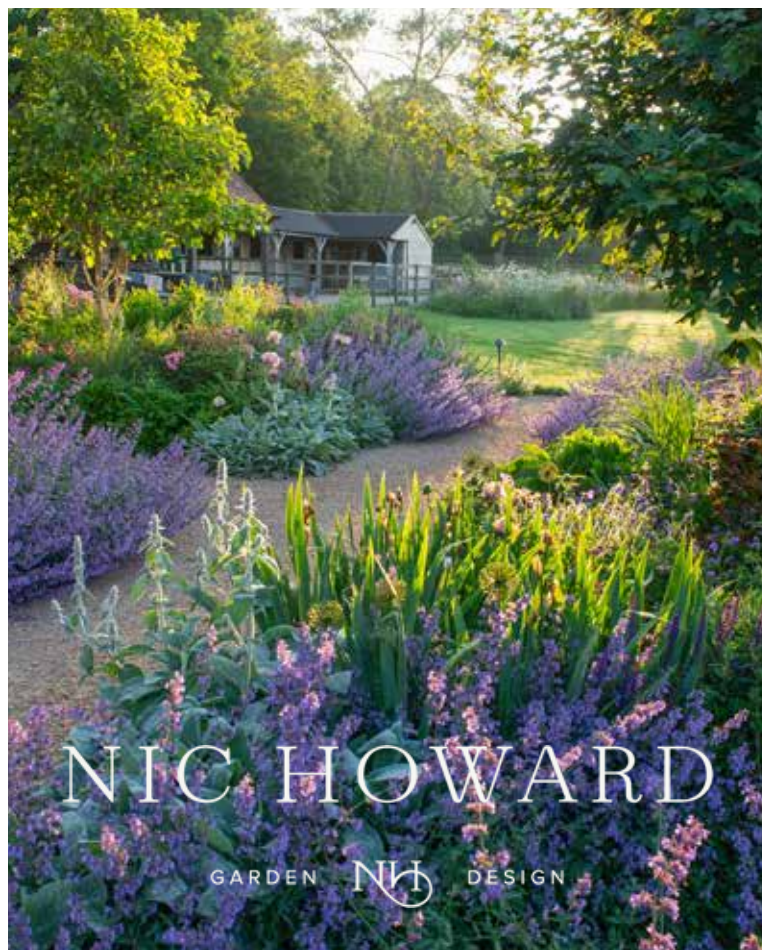
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SOCIETY OF AMBERLEY GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS

A garden gathering rooted in friendship

The much welcome rain for gardeners towards the end of August fortunately paused sufficiently for around 45 members of SAGE to enjoy their summer social in the evening sunshine in the garden of Brooklands in East Street, home of Mike Toynbee. As always, it proved a convivial gathering with the wine and beer flowing as freely as the conversation. True to tradition, the catering did not disappoint. Committee members and volunteers served an array of delicious gourmet treats, including pea, lemon and mint toasts, spiced Lebanese potatoes, smoked eel on toast, crostini, smoked salmon and some hoisin duck rolls, not forgetting the traditional chipolatas and sausage rolls.

Photography: Mike Beck



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AMBERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

A busy and inspiring time

Pupils at Amberley School enjoyed a fantastic few weeks at the end of the summer term, filled with learning, team-work and memorable experiences.

Oak Class visited a local Hindu Mandir, where the children had the opportunity to explore Hindu beliefs, traditions and daily practices. They were fascinated by the beautiful and intricate statues and showed tremendous curiosity,



respect and enthusiasm throughout the day. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about a different faith and culture, bringing their classroom learning to life. It was a truly enriching experience, full of discovery and memorable moments that pupils will continue to

build on back at school. Staff were particularly impressed by the thoughtful questions children asked and the respect they showed throughout the visit.

We also recently held our annual sports day, which was a tremendous success. It was wonderful to see pupils competing with determination, resilience and enthusiasm while staying true to our school values. Children encouraged their teammates, applauded the efforts of others and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the event. It was particularly pleasing to see healthy competition balanced with kindness and respect for both teammates and



opponents. Congratulations to Stott House (Blue Team) for their well-deserved victory.



If you have a child and would like to find out more about Amberley School, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the school to arrange a visit and discover what makes our school community so special. Call: (01798) 831612 or e-mail office@amberleyschool.com

Jo Eyre

Acting Co-Headteacher, Arun Villages Federation



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Picnic on the Green on a perfect summer's afternoon

An estimated 100 people – from young families to octogenarians – attended the second Picnic on the Green on a hot, sunny afternoon on Sunday, July 12.

Organised by the Amberley Millennium Green trustees, the event proved a great success. Some came with just a blanket to spread out on the ground while others took a more formal approach with tables and chairs. Everyone found cool, shady areas for shelter from the sun. Fortunately, there was also a welcome breeze.

Excellent musical entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon by *Picnic! at the Disco*, led by Ian Thomas with Steve Jay, from Amberley's RetroTonic lending a hand. The ice-cream van did a roaring trade, as did the cake stall, run by Dominie Merchant and Tina Bishop, with a delicious selection baked by the trustees (and their spouses)

who were also responsible for setting up the gazebos and games.

Gillian Emery was responsible for organising a scavenger hunt and a word game, but on the advice of a vet, the planned dog show organised by Jill Couling had to be cancelled as a result of the extreme heat.

One issue in the feedback was the lack of loos but as co-chair Kim Smith explained: "It was one of the reasons we confined the length of the event to three hours. Portaloo rental costs are expensive and we would then have had to charge for tickets to attend which might have deterred some people from attending."

All in all, a most enjoyable afternoon, with cake sales and ice-creams raising more than £250 for Millennium Green funds.



Picnic! at the Disco, led by Ian Thomas



Judy Agate (left) and Tina Bishop with the well-stocked cake stall





“What I did in my summer holidays”

Un été en deux temps

The Pheaseys had what might be called a summer of two halves. The first half was spent at our house in France. We had got a six-month visa and left for France on May 1.

In France I usually add to my vocabulary – words about plumbing, car maintenance, car write-off (last year), calling an ambulance and, this year, bank card fraud. All vocabulary I hope I never need again. A word to the wise, do not try to buy online in France, the complications are really tedious. Incidentally, spark plugs are ‘bougies’ or candles. My struggles with the French language aside, the main feature of this summer was the wildfires. Mercifully we were unaffected but could see smoke and flames when we were driving along the main road to Narbonne. Scary!

We were always going to come home for August because ‘France is too hot!’ Ha! This year it was too hot from the middle of May onwards. Don’t believe all you hear about French houses being built to withstand the heat – our house in Amberley is much cooler in similar temperatures.

The main reason for our return was our golden wedding anniversary. We had always thought these were only for old people. Apparently not. I tried not to dwell on the possibility of the weather breaking on July 31 and planned a ‘bring your own picnic’ event so I could sleep at night without worrying about buffet food, having stockpiled canapés and desserts. On the day the sun shone but not too harshly and about 50 friends and family from near and far joined us to celebrate. We had a lovely day and hope our guests did, too.



Sue and Malcolm Pheasey

A summer afternoon

Let me take you back to June 12th this year, when Amberley’s Gardens Open was held. Two friends helped me with this and among the 920 visitors to my garden was a very special and interesting man called Ronnie from The Wildflower Project. After our conversation about jackdaws, he promised to return in the evening with two jackdaws that he had nurtured from a few weeks old. It was an amazing experience as the birds were free to fly to the trees and returned to him when he called them. Happily, they have now been adopted by a jackdaw family.

This experience led me to arrange a get-together with some friends on a beautiful summer’s day in August on my patio overlooking the Amberley Wildbrooks, enhanced by the view of some Belted Galloway cows and deer. Ronnie’s talk about birds held people entranced. Later on, we were able to hold Ronnie’s companions: Autumn the barn owl, Moss the kestrel and Pip the little owl – something some of us had never had the opportunity to do. Good food, wine, companionship, a view and, of course, Ronnie and his birds was a magical experience.

Jenny Robinson



Commonwealth Games adventure

Six of us, including our mum and three friends, travelled to Glasgow by train to attend the netball matches at the 2026 Commonwealth Games. We stayed in a centrally located Airbnb for five nights, which meant we could easily walk to The Hydro, one of the UK’s largest indoor arenas and a fantastic venue for the competition.

It featured 12 of the world’s top netball nations, and we watched four qualifying matches: England v Malawi, Scotland v Wales, England v Australia, and Tonga v Northern Ireland. We are pictured here with Jo Harten, an ex-England netball player. We also attended the Women’s Artistic Gymnastics final. None of us had seen gymnastics before, and it was incredible to watch – definitely one of the highlights of the trip.

Just outside the city centre, there was a park with large screens showing live events, and we spent time there soaking up the atmosphere. As we explored Glasgow, we often saw athletes from around the world in their team kits, which added to the excitement. Although it rained for a couple of days (it was, after all, Scotland!), the trip was great fun and an unforgettable experience.

Sophie and Martha (aged 15)





Novice Nana

The highlight of my summer (apart from the wonderful Open Gardens event) was the first visit to Amberley of our granddaughter Gigi. Excitement all round – we had to get this right! Then we realised we had no equipment necessary for a seven-month-old; we have a very temperamental cat and temperatures of 37 degrees were predicted. A shout out on Gagggle produced a cot, a highchair and playpen so we were all set.

However, the cot did not fit through the doors and needed dismantling and erecting three times, the playpen took over the entire lounge and the highchair in our dining room was a food launchpad for something very mushy that I had lovingly prepared. We set off for the seaside and there were gasps of horror: there is no air-con in the car! So, with windows wide open and wind in our hair (except Gigi who hasn't any yet) we set off. Coffee and bacon butties (adults only) and something squishy and messy for Gigi, we strolled the prom, paddled in the sea, played at the penny arcades, ate ice-cream and when we got back Gigi slept better than she ever had before. So we did it again the next day! They had a grand time...and are coming back for Christmas phew! **Sarah Wheeler**



**Gigi Wheeler with parents
Will and Annabelle**



A summer of runes and riddles

Surprisingly, I found myself immersed in ancient writing systems this summer. I enjoyed the church Easter readings of *The Dream of the Rood* (for readers who haven't discovered the glories of Old English poetry, this poem is delicious – a weirdly psychedelic retelling of the traditional crucifixion story). Whilst in Dumfriesshire, I visited the Ruthwell Cross – an 8th century, 18ft High Cross, on the side of which are runes from lines of the poem. The Cross is in a tiny village church and stumbling across such a magnificent symbol containing the text of this great poem in such a simple setting was simply breathtaking.

Next, inspired by The Sportsman book club's August choice, *There are Rivers in the Sky*, I dropped in to the British Museum to take a look at cuneiform – the oldest known form of writing and used in about 15 Mesopotamian languages to record everything from mundane invoices to epic poems. I did enjoy the beach and other proper summer activities – but both these visits were fascinating. I must be a geeky girl at heart – after all, my name is not SWATson for nothing! **Susan Watson**

World Cup fever

The World Cup kept me up late at night, persuaded me to get up very early in the morning and by the time it ended I was exhausted. I now needed something to ease the tension and I found it! The gentle art of braiding. Learning a new skill at The Sportsman with a gorgeous pint in my hand and under the expert guidance of Steve Kennett, I was taught how to make a bracelet by braiding. The keen group of braiding students had to intertwine seven different coloured yarns, using a simple cardboard tool and following a regular pattern.

Sounds easy, but we did this for at least an hour, while chatting and drinking and consequently forgetting the procedure! In the end all three pupils finished their beautiful bracelets and proudly wore them on their walk home. After the lesson had finished, all three of us were keen to learn more braiding techniques. Especially me, as there are still a couple of weeks of summer left before the start of the next football season! **Mike Emery**



Discovering the delights of Northern Spain

At the start of the summer, John Fryett, Simon and Rhona Hoy, and I, with my sister Debbie as my co-driver, took three cars across to northern Spain by ferry for a five-day driving adventure, mainly through the dramatic Picos mountains. The scenery was simply stunning, the roads silky smooth and blissfully free of potholes, and traffic all but disappeared once we left the motorways behind. We stayed in two Paradors, Spain's state-owned luxury hotel chain, many occupying former castles, palaces and grand country houses. Following John's expertly plotted route, we headed to Fuente Dé, 135km from Santander, where we stayed in a modern mountain lodge beneath a cable car. From there, we spent a night in a charming hotel overlooking the beach at Comillas before continuing to Limpias.

There, we checked into an impressive Parador that had once served as the summer residence of King Alfonso XIII.

Our Brittany Ferries crossings across the Bay of Biscay were remarkably calm. While whales remained elusive on this occasion, we were thrilled to be accompanied by playful dolphins. **Mike Toynbee**





SPOTLIGHT ON...



Amberley Ecohub

Fighting waste one item at a time.

By Catherine Briggs

What if the things we throw away are not really rubbish at all? From broken kettles and moth-eaten jumpers to empty shampoo bottles and hard-to-recycle plastics, Amberley Ecohub is showing there is another way.

A visit to the Ecohub might see you arrive with a broken toaster and leave with it working again. You might bring a favourite jumper for repair, refill an empty shampoo bottle, or drop off items your council cannot recycle. Along the way, you can enjoy homemade cake, cheese scones and a chat with neighbours who share an interest in living more sustainably.

The Ecohub is about more than recycling. It is about changing our relationship with the things we buy, use and throw away.

Before you throw it away, could it be repaired?

When something breaks, the modern response is often to replace it. A kettle stops boiling, a lamp fails, or a toaster gives up, and buying a new one can seem easier than repairing the old.

But convenience comes at a cost. Every new appliance requires raw materials, energy, manufacturing and transport before it eventually becomes waste itself.

The Ecohub repair team helps interrupt that cycle by extending the life of household items. Over the past five months, volunteers have completed 22 electrical and mechanical repairs and sharpened 54 garden tools, knives and scissors. All repaired electrical items are PAT tested before being returned.

This work matters because the UK generates around 1.65 million tonnes of electronic waste each year. Known as WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment), it includes everything from kettles and coffee machines to laptops, phones, televisions and power tools. Even toys and vapes may contain electronic components.

These items are far from worthless. They contain valuable materials such as copper, aluminium and gold that can be reused, reducing the need for further extraction of natural resources. Repairing a toaster is not just about saving money; it is about keeping materials in use for longer and reducing demand for new products.



A lifetime of mending

Textile repair is another important Ecohub service. Volunteers Anne and Jane have both spent years sewing and repairing clothing.

As Anne explains, previous generations rarely threw fabric items away. Clothes were mended, altered and eventually repurposed as cleaning cloths or patches. She transferred from Horsham Ecohub when Amberley opened in 2023, joining Jane, a village resident.

Together they tackle a range of repairs, including darning, patching, replacing zips and altering garments affected by wear, moth damage or changing sizes. Over the past five months they have repaired 24 items.

Their work addresses a growing problem. An estimated 300,000 to 336,000 tonnes of clothing are discarded in the UK each year, equivalent to around a billion garments. Many people even throw away unworn clothes with tags still attached.



Repairing clothing does more than save an individual garment. It challenges the idea that fashion is disposable. The environmental impact is significant too. Producing a single pair of jeans requires around 20,000 litres of water, making every repaired item a small but meaningful act of conservation.

Tackling the plastic problem

The Ecohub's work does not stop with repairs. Plastic reduction is another major focus.

Its refill stall offers eco-friendly household and personal-care products, including shampoos, body washes, laundry liquids and cleaning products.



Recycling the difficult things

One of the Ecohub's most useful services is collecting items that cannot be recycled through ordinary household collections.

Materials are sent to specialist schemes including TerraCycle, Recycling for Good Causes and Recycle4Charity. The Ecohub also provides information about programmes such as Boots Scan2Recycle.

Over the past three years, the hub has diverted an average of 5kg of difficult-to-recycle waste each month from general waste streams. These schemes also raise funds for charities including Sussex Green Living, Link to Hope and NECS Uganda.

Small actions, bigger change

Recycling aluminium, steel, glass, paper and food waste all saves energy and natural resources. Yet perhaps the greatest lesson of the Ecohub is that environmental action is built from small, everyday decisions.

Repair instead of replace. Refill instead of rebuy. Reuse instead of discard

Before putting something in the bin, ask one simple question: Is this really waste?

Amberley Ecohub meets on the second Saturday of every month from 10am to 12.30pm in the Church Hall. Bring a broken item, an empty bottle or a difficult-to-recycle material. Stay for a drink, a slice of homemade cake and a conversation.

Sometimes the most environmentally-friendly thing you can buy is nothing at all, and the most sustainable thing you can do is keep using what you already have.

Why plastic matters

Plastic pollution does not disappear when it goes into a bin. It can enter rivers and oceans, where it poses a threat to wildlife. Animals can become entangled in discarded plastic or mistake it for food.

As trained Marine Mammal Medics with British Divers Marine Life Rescue, my family and I have seen the effects first-hand on seals, dolphins, whales and porpoises. The problem often begins long before plastic reaches the sea. Most plastic products start life as tiny pellets called nurdles. These pellets can escape during production, transport and processing. Environmental groups such as Fidra's Great Nurdle Hunt have documented nurdle pollution on beaches across the UK.

Over time, nurdles break down into microplastics that enter ecosystems and food chains. Scientists estimate that around 80% of all plastic ever made still exists somewhere in the environment. This is why reducing and reusing plastic is so important.





All systems glow: Church Hall renovation project

The final phase of St Michael's Church Hall renovation will focus on the main hall itself. The plans include more sustainable heating and lighting, improved acoustics and a new floor, with better audio-visual equipment and storage (you may already have noticed the benefits of our summer clear-out, which has removed all the clutter from around the room).

Over the past year, Churchwarden Mel Edge has been sourcing estimates for the work and is also preparing a renovation plan, some elements of which may require planning permission, as we are hoping to install solar panels.

Once Mel has finalised the plan and any planning permission has been received, we can start applying for grants which – as with the earlier kitchen and bathroom upgrades – we hope will fund about 75 per cent of the work.

Mel's current thinking is that she will have completed the estimates and plan by the end of the year, enabling the planning and grants applications to start early in 2027, with renovation work starting later in the summer.

In the meantime, community fundraising for the project continues – and the Hallraisers thank everyone who continues to support us. Every contribution brings us a little closer to creating a warmer, more versatile hall for the whole community.

Salad Days – taste of victory!



The salad tasting champions savour their winning moment

Fundraiser – Salad Days

In July, Lisa Carey hosted what turned out to be a fiercely competitive salad dressing tasting evening, where teams battled it out to identify herbs, oils, vinegars and a host of mystery ingredients in a series of carefully concocted dressings. Who knew anchovies are the ultimate secret weapon in a winning salad dressing?

After some impressive taste-testing - and perhaps a few educated guesses – Team Tasteless emerged victorious, proving they had the evening's most discerning palates. Why not try out the top three dressings, as voted for during the fundraiser, for yourself? The recipes are below – the perfect way to savour a last taste of summer.

Fundraiser – The Queen of Flowers



Dusty-May Fairweather makes scents of it all

In another popular fundraiser in June, Michael Donovan – one of the original Hallraisers – returned to Amberley with his glamorous assistant Dusty-May, to deliver his third Scent Soirée.

This time, roses took centre stage, as we explored the 'Queen of Flowers' in her many fragrant forms – from the heady sensuality of the Turkish rose to the full-blown glamour of Bulgarian roses.

Michael told us the fascinating story of how roses have been used in fragrances over the centuries, as well as discussing the best way to build a summer scent wardrobe and how to wear perfume in warm weather. We left the evening smelling of roses with renewed appreciation for their extraordinary role in the world of fragrances.

Susan Watson

AMBERLEY'S *favourite* SALAD DRESSING

ORANGE, DATE & ANCHOVY

An intriguing, umami-rich blend sure to surprise and delight.



- 4 large dates, pitted and chopped
- 8 anchovy fillets, chopped
- 1 orange, zested and juiced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 tbsp sherry vinegar
- 1 tsp black pepper



Mash dates, anchovies, garlic and orange zest with a fork into a paste. Whisk in oil, vinegar and pepper.

PERFECT WITH GREEN SALADS, NEW POTATOES, ROASTED VEG OR AS A DIP.



South Downs storytellers

Gillian Emery highlights two Amberley authors who shaped children's literature

From William Blake, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Hilaire Belloc to Philippa Gregory, Kate Mosse and Julia Donaldson, West Sussex and the South Downs have long provided inspiration for a distinguished list of writers. As a retired primary school teacher who believes passionately in the power of reading, I was delighted to discover that our part of the Arun valley is linked to two influential and popular children's authors.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Best known for writing the lyrics to the hymn *Morning has Broken* (1939), Eleanor Farjeon lived in a cottage in Mucky Lane (now South Lane) in Houghton during the First World War and was a frequent visitor to Sussex. For most of the twentieth century she was a beloved household name to generations of young children for her enchanting stories and verse.



Of the South Downs Farjeon wrote, 'They've healed me more, and given me more strength and certainty and peace than any other living thing.' She considered her time in Houghton to have been the most formative years in her life. A prolific and versatile writer, the landscape, flora, fauna, and people of Sussex and the South Downs are celebrated in much of her work.

The children of Houghton used to gather outside Farjeon's cottage to play their favourite skipping games. Their traditional rhymes have been

beautifully preserved in the story *Elsie Piddock Skips in her Sleep* (1937), the story of a little girl who has a magical talent for skipping that eventually earns her the friendship of the fairies. The character of Elsie was inspired by a little girl called Elsie who used to skip in Mucky Lane – you can discover more about the real Elsie on the following page.

Farjeon was a habitual Rambler, setting off from Houghton to follow paths which now

form part of the South Downs Way. In 1915 D H Lawrence described walking with Farjeon over the Downs from Houghton to Chichester, meeting early 'in one of those white Sussex mists which muffle the meadows before sunrise'. Farjeon's *All the Way to Alfriston* (1918) was based on a walk

in the other direction, across the Downs from Chichester to Alfriston in East Sussex.

A Sussex Alphabet was first published in 1924 as a series of twenty-six short poems for *The West Sussex Gazette*. The poems appeared together in a limited-edition book in 1939. Each verse reflects Eleanor Farjeon's deep love and knowledge of Sussex. Our very own Wildbrooks are mentioned in the verse for letter K:

Kingcups

The floods on Amberley Wildbrooks

In Spring spread out for miles,

And the kingcups grow in the water

Like clustering golden isles.

The consistent quality of Farjeon's poetry and prose was recognised in her own lifetime. She was presented with the 1956 Carnegie Medal – the UK's oldest and most prestigious book award for children's writing – for *The Little Bookroom*. In the same year, she won the inaugural International Hans Christian Andersen Award, and in 1959 she was awarded the inaugural American Regina Medal for her work for children. Shortly after her death in 1965 the Eleanor Farjeon Award was created in her memory to honour service to children's literature. The award is still presented annually by the Children's Book Circle.

Although the writing of Eleanor Farjeon may be less widely known these days, her name remains familiar here in Sussex. One of the three houses at Amberley Primary School is called 'Farjeon' in her honour. This year teacher Jonny Mott of Bury Primary School set all 26 verses of *A Sussex Alphabet* to music. Children from Bury, Slindon and Petworth primary schools learned, performed and recorded these new songs as part of their Sussex Day celebrations. The children enjoyed exploring the poems, which speak of a Sussex which in some ways has changed, but in many ways remains the same Sussex Farjeon wrote about one hundred years ago.

Noel Streatfeild (1895-1986)

Noel Streatfeild, probably best remembered as the author of the much-loved story *Ballet Shoes*, was born in Sussex and moved to Amberley at the age of two, when her father was appointed vicar of Amberley with Houghton. She lived in the village until 1902.

The second of five children, she gained her three younger siblings while living in the original Amberley vicarage. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Streatfeild spent much of her time there reading alone in the garden or by the fire. It is thought that her years in Amberley



continued overleaf





A good read: Gillian Emery with copies of Eleanor Farjeon's *A Sussex Alphabet* and Noel Streatfeild's *Ballet Shoes*

continued from previous page

were the happiest years of her childhood. Her time in the village is described in the semi-autobiographical *Vicarage Family* trilogy.

Streatfeild found growing up in a strict ecclesiastical household – her father later became Bishop of Lewes – very restricting. She was an imaginative and rebellious child who hated every school she went to. She gained a reputation as a disruptive pupil and chafed at the social restrictions placed on middle-class girls at the time.

During the First World War Streatfeild worked in a canteen and a munitions factory, and at the end of the war she went to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. For ten years she pursued an acting career and travelled the world. She was not very successful, but her familiarity with the stage was the basis of many of her popular books for children. Thereafter she lived a busy literary life in London.

Ballet Shoes, published in 1936 and illustrated by her sister Ruth Gervis, was Streatfeild's first children's book. The heartwarming story of the lives and ambitions of adopted sisters Pauline, Petrova and Posy Fossil received universal praise and was an instant bestseller. It was runner-up for the inaugural Carnegie medal (which Streatfeild won two years later for *The Circus is Coming*) and launched a very successful career writing for children.

Noel Streatfeild revolutionised children's literature with her unsentimental, authentic stories about young people pursuing their dreams in the arts and in sports. She believed that children's books 'were like doors, opening on to different worlds' and that those worlds should be both beautiful and truthful. *Ballet Shoes*, in particular, continues to endure in film, television, radio plays, and more recently a National Theatre production. It has never been out of print.

Research consistently confirms that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator that a child will grow up to enjoy a happy and successful life. In 2026, The National Year of Reading, it seems fitting to celebrate the lives and work of Eleanor Farjeon and Noel Streatfeild, two children's authors who have inspired a love of literature in generations of children.

In search of Elsie Piddock

There's a charming children's story set in Sussex called *Elsie Piddock Skips in her Sleep*, by Eleanor Farjeon. Maybe you read it as a child – or have read it to your children or grandchildren.

Published in 1937, it's the story of a little girl called Elsie Piddock who skips so impressively that the local fairies decide to invite her to learn some special fairy skipping steps. Later as a 109-year-old, she returns with her magic skipping rope gifted by the fairies, to save her village from a wicked developer, defeating his plans to build factories on the children's skipping grounds.

It's whimsical and enchanting story. I love that on another level, it can be read as a tale of courage and community spirit – and that the heroine is a 109-year-old woman! (Ladies – there's hope for us all!)

For two years Eleanor Farjeon lived in Houghton, in a thatched cottage at the end of Mucky Lane – a track leading off New Barn Road towards the river, now called South Lane. The Elsie story was directly inspired by Eleanor's time at Houghton, from her delight in seeing the children skipping outside her cottage and hearing them singing the old rhymes that were handed on through generations of children.

The best skipper of all, Eleanor tells us, was Elsie Puttick – whom she renamed as Elsie Piddock. But who was the real Elsie Puttick/Piddock immortalised by Eleanor Farjeon?

In 1967, an English actor called Denys Blakelock was so captivated by the story that he decided to track her down. His sleuthing led him to discover that the real Elsie and 'born skipper' had since married and was none other than...Mrs Daughtrey, the mother of Peter, and now living in Hurst Cottages, Amberley, aged 84.



Elsie Puttick

Peter tells me that his mother was a quiet and unassuming lady who enjoyed knitting and needlework. While she knew of the skipping girl story, she did not know she was the inspiration until out of the blue in 1967, Denys Blakelock knocked on their door and asked Elsie if she was indeed the Miss Elsie Puttick of Mucky Lane, Houghton.

Peter also tells me that Elsie remembered Eleanor well and was thrilled to hear she was the original skipping girl. After the doorstep meeting, Elsie wrote to Denys Blakelock enclosing a sketch of Eleanor's cottage which Peter had copied from an old photocard of South Lane. Denys was delighted to have found both the real Elsie and the exact location of the story that had enchanted him.

Susan Watson

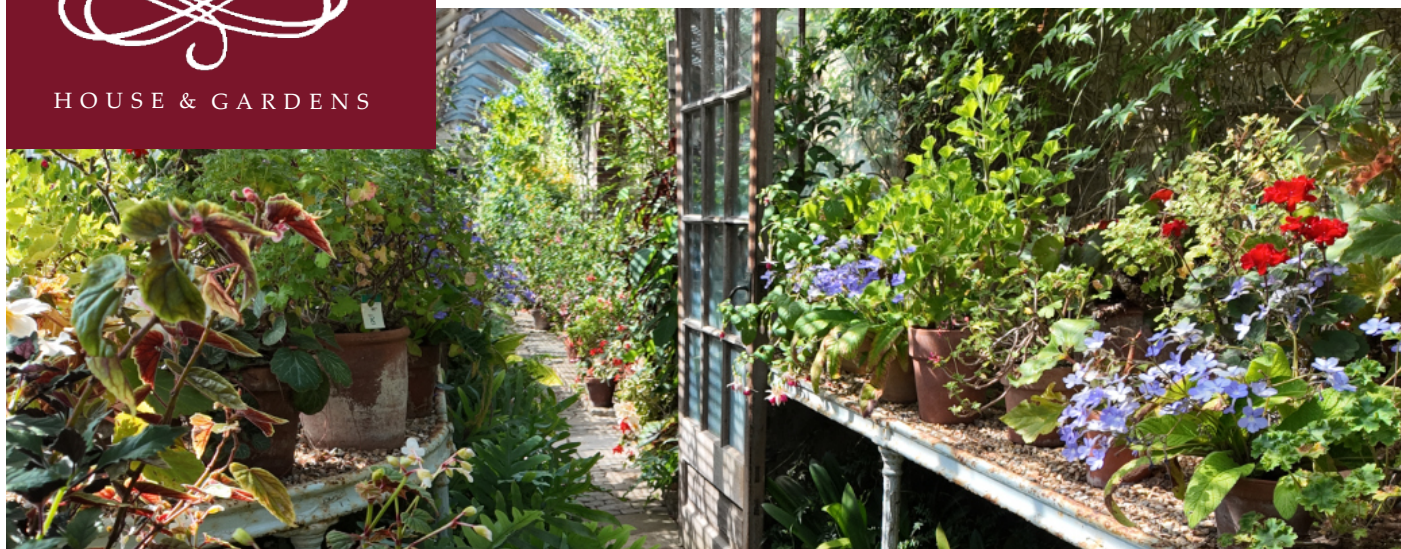
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Subterranean heatstroke blues

This summer has been a tad warm. We've been seeking shade, suddenly all too aware of the importance of the cover of trees and a faint leaf-fanned breeze. While we sweat in our gardens, another struggle is taking place, under loungers and paddling pools, in baked earth. The heat is a challenge for our wildlife, and our subterranean friends are no different.

Moles have large spade-shaped digging paws to enable them to move through thick soil and are additionally equipped



Picture: Steve Bottom

Contrary to popular belief, moles are a gardener's friend: taking care of plant-munching slugs, and aerating soils with their digging, which supports garden drainage

for underground life by velvety fur that sits in either direction to allow for easy reversing. Their tunnels, sometimes used for generations, are habitual to the mostly solitary-living moles, who whizz around them like little fuzzy subway trains.

But it's a different story when the ground is too dry; it becomes impenetrable. Additionally, the mole's prey of earthworms and other soft-bodied invertebrates like beetle larvae are in short supply or will move deeper underground in search of moisture and cooler soil. Moles can prep for drought somewhat; a toxin in their saliva can paralyse earthworms, which they store in larders in deeper chambers, but these are finite.

With moles needing to eat 50 per cent of their body weight every day, and living an almost exclusively underground life, the situation is making them hungry, dehydrated, and desperate. Many are being found above ground in the daytime, where they can quickly fall foul of heat exhaustion or predation from birds of prey or pet cats.

It can seem rather hopeless – but you can help. Providing water in gardens and outdoor spaces aids wildlife all year round, but especially during times of water stress and drought. Creating shade is also hugely beneficial and could be the difference between a mole's home being manageable, or impossible.

Moles are a gardener's friend, taking care of plant-munching slugs, and aerating soils with their digging, which supports garden drainage. The excess soil moles excavate can be used elsewhere in the garden, a far easier way of coping with

molehills than trying to interfere. If disturbed, Moles are likely to start excavating in another spot, so a hands-off approach means fewer molehills for you, and less energy expended by the moles.

When it finally rains, rejoice. Those expert diggers can put their paws to use, feed up on plump juicy meals, and once again manoeuvre below our feet with ease, keeping the soil, which we so depend on, healthy and resilient.

Kerry Williams
Communications Officer - Conservation,
Sussex Wildlife Trust

A fall of firetails

A cool morning mist has left dew clinging to the silk threads, turning otherwise invisible spider webs into glistening masterpieces that blanket the meadows and hedgerows. A bird darts out from the hedge line, dives down into the long grass and returns to its perch with insect prey. It flicks its tail and I see a flash of rusty-red. It's my first redstart – or firetail – of the autumn.

This bird is the male – a striking fellow who is pinky-red below with a black face, silvery-white forehead, grey back and striking red tail. I wonder if there will be a female nearby – her colouration is more subtle with pale orangey-red underparts and pale brownish upperparts but sharing the red on the tail.

The common redstart is a summer visitor to Britain and Ireland, arriving in April and departing through August, September and October for its wintering location in sub-Saharan Africa. They travel mostly at night, flying under the cover of darkness, stopping along coastal scrub, hedges, and open woodlands to refuel during the day.



Picture: Ben Andrew (RSPB)

The redstart takes four to six weeks to complete its 2,000-mile plus journey to and from sub-Saharan Africa

Around 95 per cent of migrating birds travel by night – the cooler night air is less turbulent and stops small birds from overheating and losing too much water (continuous wingbeats generate a huge amount of body heat). Flying at night makes them less vulnerable to predation – hunters like

continued on page 34

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continued from page 32

hawks and falcons rely on sharp vision so they won't be hunting in the dark.

Night-time travel also means that you have the daylight hours free for finding food and resting along your route. The nature reserves in the Arun Valley, including here at RSPB Pulborough Brooks, act like a service station for redstarts and other migrating birds.

If there are difficult conditions overnight – wet weather or strong southerly winds – this makes flying really tough and you'll find that lots of migrating birds are forced down from the sky. This is known as a 'fall' and on the morning after you can find that the hedgerows and bushes are full of small birds including redstarts, spotted flycatchers and warblers.

So, if you are flying at night, how do you know which way to go? One way is to do a bit of stargazing or study celestial cues. Redstarts use the setting sun, and under clear night skies use stars, to calibrate their internal compass. Some of the latest research suggests that special proteins (called cryptochromes) found in the retinas of migratory bird's eyes act like a biological compass. The light stimulates these proteins and makes them sensitive to the Earth's magnetic field, allowing them to 'see' which direction is polewards.

That such small birds, like this redstart, undertake such long migratory journeys is incredible. Weighing in at around 15 grams (about the same as one AA battery) and with a wing-

span of 22 centimetres, the redstart takes four to six weeks to complete its 2,000-mile plus journey. And that's just one way – it will have done the same thing the other way around in spring!

Anna Allum
Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB Wiggonholt

An exceptionally hot and dry summer

During what nationally has been one of the hottest and driest summers on record, the Wildbrooks parishes have recorded some record temperatures as well as drought conditions. After such a wet start to the year, there were 49 dry days



during July and the first half of August, when there was no measurable rainfall. In June, despite the fact there were 18 damp days, the total rainfall amounted to just 68.2mm (a little over 2 ½ in). A couple of very brief showers in July failed to register anything on the gauge. On June 24, the temperature reached 36°C (96.8°F) degrees, rising to a Sussex record of 38°C (100.4°F) the following day. On July 9, 36°C was again registered, with 35°C (95°F) the next day.

Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey

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Amberley and its electrified future

A global energy transformation is underway, the age of electricity, powered by renewables. Solar is the largest source, with wind second, and together they are predicted by the International Energy Agency (IEA) to account for more than half of world electricity generation by 2050 (nuclear will be another large contributor).

China has become a green super power, now generating enough clean electricity to power the entire EU (installing equivalent of 100 solar panels per second). This is not altruism – China recognised its dependence on foreign oil and gas, the economic rationale of transition, and its potential for influence abroad. Even in the US, where the Administration has sought to thwart the solar and wind roll-out, clean energy has increased equivalent to Turkey's total power generation, exacerbated by the Iran situation and the growth of data centres. The direction of travel is clear – renewables will do well regardless of politics when they are shown to be affordable, efficient, and a domestic resource.

In the UK the National Grid is undergoing a fundamental transformation to accommodate radical digitisation, and growth in renewable power and storage (£30 billion investment over next four years). For example, there are now millions of generators both producing and distributing power, as well as consuming it. The grid is becoming greener, substantially bigger, more distributed, more flexible, and more intelligent. Anyone who uses the Kraken software platform, developed by Octopus Energy and now licensed elsewhere, will understand such development well when the car is automatically charged at a time when electricity is cheapest, and when to sell power back into the grid at profit.

So where does this leave Amberley? In April 2024 I wrote a *Wildbrooks Magazine* article about Amberley's 'dirty secret': a rural idyll with one of the highest carbon emissions per capita in the country, due principally to its oil-fired heating, and extensive use of private transport powered by fossil fuel. Anecdotally, positive change seems to have been incremental.

On electric cars, there was a wonderful article recently by Rory Sutherland, which I believe worth paraphrasing:

The scenario is one where we are all driving electric cars. A rogue engineer from Volkswagen then comes up one day with what he believes to be a brilliant idea, the invention of a petrol car. He takes it to his boss:

Engineer: It's wonderfully complicated. We have a huge tank of inflammable liquid that feeds into cylinders where we engineer a series of explosions. Then as they only produce



Boss: Cheaper?

Engineer: Uh, no.

Boss: Simpler to make and maintain?

Engineer: No, 250 parts in a drive chain (EVs have seven).

Boss: So what's the upside?

Engineer: Can refuel it quickly.

Boss: At home?

Engineer: Are you insane? Have to drive to a massive place where you can buy expensive Guinness and 'ping' meals.

Boss: So the 0.5 per cent of the population who routinely drive 350 miles a day and have enormous bladders and don't need to stop, will benefit slightly, the rest will not.

The engineer subsequently found alternative employment.

Electric cars are now competitively priced to buy and lease; they are cheap to run for as little as 2p-a-mile; with average savings of £1,400pa in running and maintenance costs; also you cut 1,900 kgs of pollution. And 95 per cent of EV owners say they will never go back to petrol.

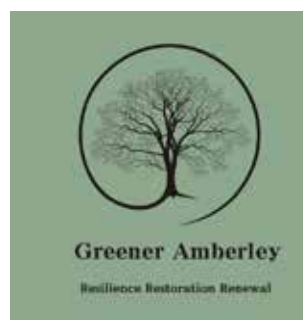
A no brainer, surely?

Heat pumps are over three times more efficient than oil-fired boilers. They are cheaper to run, and will be cheaper still when the government removes gas from the wholesale electricity price. No need to buy oil which is subject to price spikes, as with the wars in Ukraine and Iran. No need for smelly oil tanks. No combustion, and local pollution. Eliminates CO2 emissions. With solar panels and a battery, it is also possible to mitigate electricity costs. And you can sell excess power back into the grid. Some heat pumps now provide cooling in summer, too.

The government is now giving a grant of £9,000 to switch from an oil-fired boiler to a heat pump ([gov.uk/clean energy](https://www.gov.uk/clean-energy)). Heat pumps do require good insulation, and they are not suitable for all houses (though we have an old house and it works well). Has to be worth looking into.

Let's ditch Amberley's 'dirty secret', join the power revolution, and make our rural idyll a sustainable example to others throughout the land.

Fraser Wheeler





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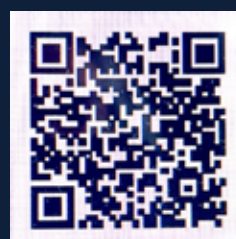


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EDITORIAL

Water, water, everywhere... but for how long?

The Sportsman's Book Club chose an inspired read for August: Elif Shafak's *There Are Rivers in the Sky*. It is a compassionate, thought-provoking novel – and running through it is a powerful truth: that climate crisis is, at its heart, a water crisis with most climate impacts felt through water ... droughts, floods and changing rainfall.

That message could hardly be more relevant. In the Wildbrooks, we have become accustomed to a weather pattern that would once have seemed exceptional. Mild winters with months of relentless rain are now followed by prolonged summer droughts, when our gardens wither and rain becomes a distant memory. Increasingly, this is our new normal. Alarmingly, Greener Amberley's recent National Emergency Briefing on Climate & Nature presented an even bleaker future, with a stark warning of systemic environmental collapse and severe water shortage, unless urgent action is taken.

Against this backdrop, it is impossible not to ask: what has Southern Water done to prepare?

The answer is uncomfortable. Meaningful investment in new water storage and resilience has lagged far behind the scale of the challenge. Since privatisation in 1989 the company has viewed water as a commodity, rather than a precious natural resource. Shareholder returns have taken precedence over investment to secure future supply and accompanied by continuous asset stripping – Southern Water plans to decommission 43 of 93 reservoirs, while building only one.

Meanwhile, around a trillion litres of treated water have been lost through leaky pipes and the company has received multiple major financial penalties – most recently a fine in July 2026 of £7.1 million for repeated illegal sewage discharges. Also in July, four of its former executives, including its former Chief Executive, were convicted for conspiracy to defraud the regulators over the company's environmental performance.

And all this while our population is expanding and demand is rising. *There are Rivers in the Sky* ought to be compulsory reading for every member of Southern Water's leadership team.

I recently attended Southern Water's roadshow in Worthing and, to be fair, the staff I met seemed knowledgeable and genuinely enthusiastic when explaining the company's plans. They spoke openly about a culture shift within the organisation and its ambitious programme to improve water resilience over the coming decades. I left with the impression that many people inside the company genuinely want to turn things around. I hope they succeed. But hope is not a strategy.

The transformation required is enormous. It will take years to rebuild infrastructure, restore public trust and reverse decades of underinvestment. And with customers now being asked to fund much of that investment through higher water bills, the public is entitled to expect results rather than promises.

Southern Water has an opportunity to become a leader in water treatment and management. But if it fails to value water now, the future will teach us its value in ways we would rather not learn.

As Elif Shafak wrote: 'Water remembers, it is humans who forget'.

Susan Watson

Poet's corner

Dame Carol Ann Duffy is a Scottish poet who served as the Poet Laureate between 2009 and 2019. She was the first female poet to hold the role and used her tenure to highlight both political and social events, writing on topics from the expenses scandal to David Beckham's legs. As the autumn school term begins, *Mrs Tilscher's Class* takes a nostalgic look back at a 1960s primary school, contrasting the cosy bubble of class with the stark realities of the outside world.

Mrs Tilscher's Class

You could travel up the Blue Nile
with your finger, tracing the route
while Mrs Tilscher chanted the scenery.
Tana. Ethiopia. Khartoum. Aswân.
That for an hour, then a skittle of milk
and the chalky Pyramids rubbed into dust.
A window opened with a long pole.
The laugh of a bell swung by a running child.

This was better than home. Enthralling books.
The classroom glowed like a sweet shop.
Sugar paper. Coloured shapes. Brady and Hindley
faded, like the faint, uneasy smudge of a mistake.
Mrs Tilscher loved you. Some mornings, you found
she'd left a good gold star by your name.
The scent of a pencil slowly, carefully, shaved.
A xylophone's nonsense heard from another form.

Over the Easter term, the inky tadpoles changed
from commas into exclamation marks. Three frogs
hopped in the playground, freed by a dunce,
followed by a line of kids, jumping and croaking
away from the lunch queue. A rough boy
told you how you were born. You kicked him, but stared
at your parents, appalled, when you got back home.

That feverish July, the air tasted of electricity.
A tangible alarm made you always untidy, hot,
fractious under the heavy, sexy sky. You asked her
how you were born and Mrs Tilscher smiled,
then turned away. Reports were handed out.
You ran through the gates, impatient to be grown,
as the sky split open into a thunderstorm.



LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse & Recycling Calendar – September

Household refuse collections (Amberley/Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt): recyclable (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on **Tuesdays, September 1, 15 and 29**. Collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Tuesdays, September 8 and 22**; and **August 11 and 25**. Orange top bins (food recycling) will be collected every Tuesday.



For Church Street and Hog Lane: collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Wednesdays, September 2, 16 and 30**. Mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be collected on **Wednesdays, September 9 and 23**. Garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on **Mondays, September 14 and 28**. Weekly collections for orange top bins (food recycling) will be on Wednesdays.

Amenity Tip Opening Times

Billingshurst: Newbridge Road, RH14 9HZ
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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

Chichester

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



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



THURSDAY

Rustington

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



THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS
WHO KEEP THE COMMUNITY MOVING



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



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

Whats on – September

11th Live Music: Harry Pannell

27th - Quiz Night



Whats on – October

25th Quiz Night

01798 873 337

www.labouringman.com thelabouringman@gmail.com



Property Watch

Homes for sale and to rent locally

Amberley

New Barn Road	6-bedroom house with pool (Savills, Petworth)	£1,950,000
High Street	4-bedroom house (GL&Co, Storrington)	£1,650,000
Church Street	4-bedroom house (Hamilton Graham, Steyning)	£1,500,000
Church Street	4-bedroom house (John Wood & Co)	£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)	£899,950

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) **£595,000**

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

Off B2139 5-bedroom detached house with pool
(Henry Adams, Storrington) **£2,000,000**

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

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

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

RECYCLING PLASTIC PLANT POTS

AS PART OF THE UK GOVERNMENT'S SIMPLER RECYCLING POLICY

YES PLEASE!

THESE CAN BE RECYCLED AT HOME

NON-BLACK PLASTIC PLANT POTS & TRAYS in KERBSIDE RECYCLING BINS

PLACED IN KERBSIDE RECYCLING BINS

MINIMUM SIZE 40mm x 40mm

ENSURE THEY ARE CLEAN & DRY (NO SOIL OR COMPOST)

PLACE IN BIN LOOSE, NOT STACKED

NO THANKS!

THESE GO TO THE RECYCLING CENTRE

BLACK PLASTIC PLANT POTS

TAKE ALL BLACK PLASTIC PLANT POTS

TAKE ANY SIZE BELOW 40mm x 40mm

USE HOUSEHOLD WASTE CONTAINER AT RECYCLING CENTRE

or take back to participating garden centres for REUSE



SEPTEMBER DIVERSIONS

1. What type of pastry is used for profiteroles?
2. What is added to Earl Grey tea to give its distinctive flavour?
3. Eccles cakes are named after a town in which county?
4. What was the name of Wellington's horse?
5. What is antimony?
6. What precious metal denotes a 70th wedding anniversary?
7. In Cockney Rhyming slang what do these words stand for? 'Boat Race', 'Bricks & Mortar', and 'Pen & Ink'.
8. Singer Jenny Lind was known as what?
9. In which city would you find the Rijksmuseum?
10. What is the northernmost country in Africa?
11. What is someone who believes in antidisestablishmentarianism opposed to the disestablishment of?
12. In 1942 during WW11 what was the weekly ration for an adult for eggs?
13. If you completed the Three Peaks challenge, which three UK mountains would you have climbed?
14. What are the equivalent ranks to a general in the RAF and Royal Navy?
15. Which European country has the largest population?
16. What is the current cost of a First Class stamp?
17. In England and Wales, what is the maximum age for jury service?
18. Who was the founder of Monster Raving Lunatic Party?
19. Which fruit is created by drying plums? Prunes
20. What do these bingo calls 'Dirty Gertie', 'Brighton Line', and 'Stop & Run' mean?
21. How long was Liz Truss leader of the Conservative Party?
22. Which car manufacturer produced a model called the Dolomite?
23. What are the two tunnels under the Thames for use by pedestrians?
24. What was the name of the building in London's Aldwych which served as the headquarters for the BBC World Service?
25. What are Grey Dagger, Forrester and Dingy Footman species of?
26. What is measured on the Mohs scale?
27. Who said "The ballot is stronger than the bullet"?
28. What is the name of Monaco's ruling family?
29. What is the name of the Chancellor Exchequer's official country residence?
30. What is the Fifth Commandment?

Answers on pag 43

Quick crossword

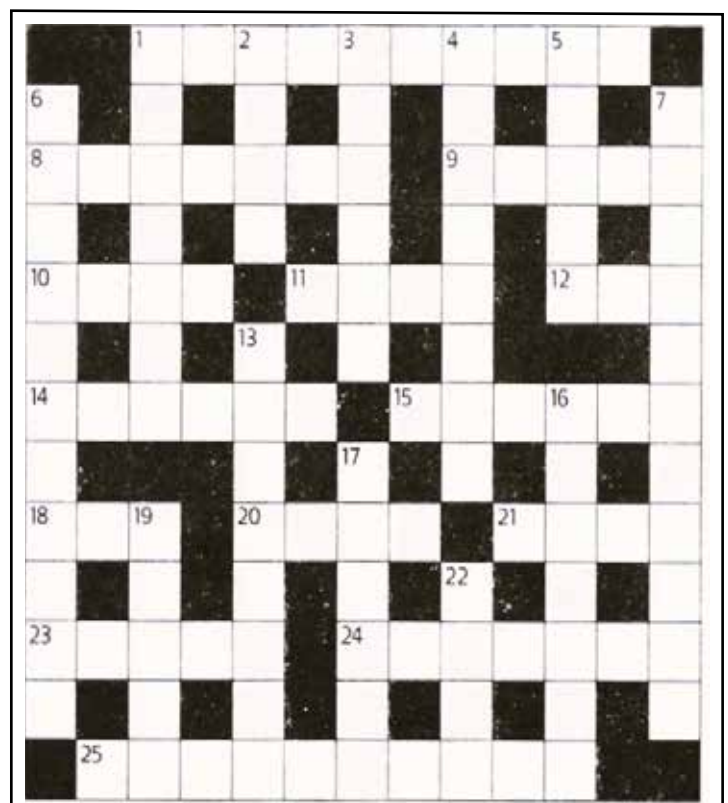
Across

1. Hit recorders of *Three Times a Lady* (10)
8. Penguins' breeding place (7)
9. Stop-watch (5)
10. As well (4)
11. Table-shaped hill (4)
12. Sea inlet (3)
14. Male goose (6)
15. Church official (6)
18. Insane (3)
20. French designer ___ St Laurent (4)
21. Place, stead (4)
23. Bravery (5)
24. Aniseed-flavoured liqueur (7)
25. Claim (10)

Down

1. Catherine ____, author (7)
2. Humble (4)
3. Essential gas (6)
4. Archaic (8)
5. ___ Gantry, Burt Lancaster film (5)
6. Layout (11)
7. Early battleship (11)
13. Crease-resistant cloth (8)
16. Woman's hairstyle (7)
17. US state containing Reno (6)
19. Actress, ___ Hannah (5)
22. Italian white wine (4)

Solution: page 43





SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

1st Tuesday

Talk: *The Enigma of Edward Elgar*,
The Arts Society West Sussex,
Fittleworth Village Hall, 2pm

2nd Wednesday

Talk: *The making of Kenneth Clark's
Civilisation TV series 1969*, The Arts
Society South Downs, Fittleworth
Village Hall, 9.45am

5th Saturday

Vintage Tractor Weekend,
Amberley Museum, from 10am

6th Sunday

Vintage Tractor Weekend,
Amberley Museum, from 10am

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

7th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

8th Tuesday

Parham Parish Council meeting,
Rackham Old School, 6.30pm

9th Wednesday

Guided Clock Tour, Parham House,
11am*

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

10th Thursday

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

12th Saturday

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

13th Sunday

Autumn Bus Show, Amberley Museum,
from 10am

Cricket: Amberley CC v Zambuca
Tigers, (home), 1.00pm

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

Littlehampton Tide Timetable - September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
		High 02.14	High 02.51	High 03.31	High 04.19	High 05.24
		Low 08.15	Low 08.51	Low 09.34	Low 10.25	Low 11.37
		High 14.36	High 15.12	High 15.55	High 16.48	High 18.04
		Low 20.34	Low 21.13	Low 22.01	Low 23.02	
6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Low 00.31	Low 02.13	Low 03.29	Low 04.24	Low 05.09	Low 05.50	High 00.40
High 07.08	High 08.50	High 10.01	High 10.54	High 11.40	High 12.23	Low 06.30
Low 13.21	High 14.52	Low 15.56	Low 16.45	Low 17.29	Low 18.10	High 13.03
High 19.53	Low 21.21	High 22.23	High 23.12	High 23.57		Low 18.50
13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
High 01.19	High 01.56	High 02.28	High 02.58	High 03.27	High 04.00	High 04.50
Low 07.09	Low 07.44	Low 08.18	Low 08.49	Low 09.23	Low 10.01	Low 10.53
High 13.41	High 14.15	High 14.46	High 15.12	High 15.40	High 16.15	High 17.13
Low 19.27	Low 20.03	Low 20.35	Low 21.06	Low 21.41	Low 22.25	Low 23.27
20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
High 06.19	Low 00.58	Low 02.51	Low 03.43	Low 04.23	Low 04.13	Low 05.32
Low 12.08	High 07.41	High 09.04	High 10.01	High 10.38	High 10.35	High 11.48
High 18.54	Low 14.11	Low 15.20	Low 16.05	Low 16.41	Low 16.33	Low 17.49
	High 20.14	High 21.27	High 22.14	High 22.02	High 22.50	
27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th			
High 00.02	High 00.38	High 01.14	High 01.51			
Low 06.05	Low 06.39	Low 07.15	Low 07.52			
High 12.22	High 12.58	High 13.33	High 14.10			
Low 18.23	Low 18.58	Low 19.35	Low 20.15			

TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON

14th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

16th Wednesday

Home Educators' Day, Amberley
Museum, from 10am

17th Thursday

Discovery Day: Printing the News,
Amberley Museum, 2pm-3.30pm*

18th Friday

Goodwood Revival

19th Saturday

Goodwood Revival

Miniature Steam & Model Show,
Amberley Museum, from 10am

20th Sunday

Goodwood Revival

Miniature Steam & Model Show,
Amberley Museum, from 10am

Cricket: Amberley CC v Bolney,
(home), 1.00pm

25th Friday

Macmillan Coffee Morning,
St Michael's Church Hall,
10am-12 noon

Guided House Tour, Parham House,
11am*

27th Sunday

Land Rover Day, Amberley
Museum, from 10am

Cricket: Amberley CC v Walberton
(away), 1.00pm

28th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

* Booking essential



AT YOUR SERVICE (LOCAL TRADESMEN AND SERVICES)

Accommodation: B&B (graded)

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

Accommodation: Self-catering

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

Bouncy Castles etc

Crockerz Castles, bouncy castle and obstacle course hire 01903 800048

Catering Services

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

Estate Agents

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

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

Funeral Directors

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Garages, car servicing, repairs

Turner's Garage, Bury, Fuel, MoTs, tyres, exhausts, brakes, batteries 01798 831417

Garden

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

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

Hairdresser (Mobile)

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

Heating oil / fuel / boiler engineers

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

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

Home / household

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

Logs

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

Painting / decorating

Jonathan Capelin, quality interior and exterior decorator 01798 817402

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

Pest Control

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

Plumbing/Heating engineer

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

Public Houses

The 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 41)

1. Choux 2. Bergamot oil 3. Lancashire 4. Copenhagen 5. A silver-grey metalloid element used in alloys, flame retardants and electronics 6. Platinum 7. Face, Daughter, and Stink 8. The Swedish Nightingale 9. Amsterdam 10. Tunisia 11. The Church of England 12. One 13. Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon 14. Air Chief Marshal and Admiral 15. Russia is the most populous country in Europe, with over 110 million people in its European part 16. £1.80 17. 75 18. Musician David Sutch, also known as Screaming Lord Sutch, 3rd Earl of Harrow, or simply Lord Sutch 19. Prunes 20. 30, 59, 81 21. 49 days, making her the shortest serving Prime Minister in history 22. Triumph 23. Greenwich and Woolwich 24. Bush House 25. Moths 26. The hardness of minerals 27. Abraham Lincoln 28. Grimaldi 29. Dorneywood 30. Honour your father and mother

Crossword solution

Across: 1. Commodores 8. Rookery 9. Timer 10. Also 11. Mesa 12. Ria 14. Gander 15. Deacon 18. Mad 20. Yves 21. Lieu 23. Nerve 24. Absinth 25. Allegation

Down:

1. Cookson 2. Meek 3. Oxygen 4. Outdated 5. Elmer 6. Arrangement 7. Dreadnought 13. Terylene 16. Chignon 17. Nevada 19. Daryl 22. Asti



PARISH DIRECTORY

Churchwardens:	Amberley	Melanie Edge (mel.edge@me.com).....07973 163369
		Michael Davey (Secretary) (mpdavey@gmail.com).....07749 690024
	Greatham	Diana van der Klugt (dianavanderklugt@btinternet.com).....01798 875663
		Robert Englehart.....01798 872502
	Parham	Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com).....07909 640948
		Jill Sloan (Secretary) (jill@jsloan.com)..... 07517413481
	Wiggonholt	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
Parish Magazine Editor		Michael Toynbee (mike@brooklandsamberley.com).....01798 831114
Deputy Editor		Susan Watson (susan.wildbrooks@gmail.com).....07948 961595
Parish Magazine Distribution & Subscriptions		Pam Keeble (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 (locum)		Celia Price (clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk)
Amberley Parish Trust		David Vokins.....01798 839086
Amberley Society		Ian Galbraith (ian@ecomis.com).....01798 839006
		Jeff Feakins (feakster@aol.com).....01798 831538
Amberley Village Stores and Post Office		Colin Woods..... 01798 831171
Amberley Welfare Trust (Village Surgery)		Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com).....01798 831340
Bell Ringers (Amberley) Tower Captain		Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com)..... 07909640948
Cricket Club		Keith Dalmon.....01798 83188
Home Safety Checks		West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.....03458729719
Member of Parliament		Andrew Griffith (andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk).....0207 219 4557
Millennium Green Trust		Judy Agate (judy@greencaterpillar.org).....07525 48474
Neighbourhood Watch		Malcolm Pheasey.....01798 83904
Parham Parish Council Clerk		Vicky Spiers (clerk@parham-pc.org.uk)..... 01903 20894
Police		Non-emergency number..... 101
Rackham Old School Association		Sue Bulloch.....01798 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

Amberley Pottery

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



Telephone: 01798 831876

Email: caroline@amberleypottery.co.uk

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

Opening Hours: Thu-Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm

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

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connectreflexology@gmail.com

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Pulborough

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01798 872000 (24 hours)

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Don't look now!

"You are going to go blind! The invisible radiation will burn your eyes! You need the special eclipse glasses that you can't get anywhere!" So went the frantic cries in the run up to the total solar eclipse on August 12, as people scrambled to find safe ways of watching the celestial spectacle.



But the resourceful folk who gathered at The Sportsman Inn were not to be deterred. According to our Sportsman source Lauren Jones there was an impressive collection of home-made viewing solutions on display. There were the craft-club classics: a pinhole projector fashioned from an Amazon delivery box and a decidedly Blue Peter-style eclipse viewer made from a cereal box, white paper and tin foil.

One particularly safety-conscious local opted for a welder's mask (shade 14 rating). Another favourite was the colander method, projecting the sun's image through the colander's holes. Bystander favoured the colander version, but simply ended up straining her eyes (oh yes, the old ones are the best!).

Happily, Lauren managed to procure a proper pair of eclipse glasses and was able to watch the eclipse safely – the best way to look on the bright side.

Coach capers

Outings in days gone by were made in rattling charabancs, with passengers wrapped against the elements and every



journey an adventure. Today's travellers, by contrast, glide along in air-conditioned luxury aboard 56-seat coaches complete with all mod-cons. So there was no little amusement when a mighty 40ft (12.5m) coach appeared to collect just

21 members of SAGE for a leisurely outing to the beautiful gardens of Sissinghurst in Kent. A much smaller vehicle had been ordered, making the arrival of this road-going leviathan something of a spectacle. The driver performed a minor feat of wizardry on departure, neatly turning the coach around thanks to the school gates being open. Alas, on returning, the gates had been firmly shut and padlocked, turning a straightforward drop-off into an unexpected drama.

With no option but to press on towards The Square, the driver embarked on an epic quest to turn the vehicle round. School Road, Church Street and the High Street briefly became the stage for an automotive ballet as he manoeuvred this way and that, much to the fascination of onlookers. After several determined attempts, he was last spotted carefully backing down School Road towards the B2139.

Watching the unfolding spectacle, the assembled SAGE members wisely decided that discretion was the better part of valour and made a swift and rather cheerful retreat.

Horsepower and history

Amberley Castle is no stranger to distinguished visitors, but even its ancient walls must have raised an eyebrow this summer. During the Goodwood Festival of Speed in July, the Castle's grand frontage was transformed into a glittering automotive treasure chest, with machinery worth an estimated £10 million gathered on the manicured lawns.



The reason for this extraordinary congregation of horsepower was McLaren, the supercar marque, which took over the castle for the duration of the festival. For a few days, the usual complement of luxury vehicles found themselves sharing space with an array of automotive exotica that looked more at home on a racetrack than beside a medieval castle.

Passers-by could be forgiven for thinking they had stumbled into a gathering of mechanical royalty. Sleek curves, eye-watering price tags and enough horsepower to power a small village appeared to be the order of the day.

As for the reason behind the lavish display, rumour has it that it may have centred on the formal handover of a particularly special McLaren, reputedly worth a cool £2 million, to a billionaire customer. Whether fact or festival folklore, it certainly added an extra layer of intrigue to an already dazzling spectacle.

For a brief period, Amberley Castle became less a castle hotel and more a fairy-tale stable for some of the world's most extraordinary motoring thoroughbreds.



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