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Events 2026



ASA Exhibition - 22nd April - 10th May

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Sussex Day 2025 - 14th June

HSBA Exhibition - 17th June - 5th July

The Plant Fairs Roadshow - 5th July

Sussex Steam Rally - 11th / 12th July

Bargello Exhibition - 15th - 26th July

Jaguar Day - 2nd Aug

Textile Exhibition - 12th - 31st Aug

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Spotlight on...the Village Bus - p30

This month's front cover



Sunset over St Michael's Church pictured by Susan Watson



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MAY SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY, 3rd MAY

EASTER 5 White Array

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

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday, 3rd May
Acts 7:55-end; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14

Sunday, 10th May
Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:7-end; John 14:15-21

Sunday, 17th May
Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-end; John 17:1-11

Sunday, 24th May
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:26-end; John 20:19-23

Sunday 31st May
Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end; Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16-end

Sunday 7th June
Hosea 5:15-6.6; Psalm 50:7-15; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

SUNDAY, 10th MAY

EASTER 6 White Array

9.00am	Holy Communion	Greatham
10.00am	Café Church	Amberley

SUNDAY, 17th MAY

EASTER 7 White Array

9.15am	Holy Communion	Wiggonholt
11.30am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 24th MAY

PENTECOST Red Array

9.00am	Matins	Greatham
11.00am	Holy Communion	Amberley

SUNDAY, 31st MAY

TRINITY SUNDAY Gold / White Array

10:00am	United Benefice	Parham
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SUNDAY, 7th JUNE

TRINITY 1 Green Array

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

Interregnum arrangements

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

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



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

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



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CHURCH NEWS

Music, poetry and the Cross

St Michael's Church celebrated Good Friday with a meditative service to commemorate the hour leading up to 3pm, the time of Christ's death on the cross.

There was some beautiful music, including Allegri's haunting *Miserere*, John Taverner's beautiful, choral setting of William Blake's poem *The Lamb* and Samuel Barber's spiritual *Agnus Dei*. The highlight was a reading of the *Dream of the Rood* – an 8th century poem which tells the Crucifixion story from the point of view of the tree that became the Cross: 'Lifted up I a great king ... I was with blood bedewed'.



Churchwarden Mel Edge

At North Stoke, this was the fifteenth consecutive year of Good Friday poetry readings (on Zoom during lockdown). The body of poetry has grown over the years and readers take what falls to them as the cycle comes round.

There were nine readers this year, with those who preferred to listen. Readings were from RS Thomas, WH Auden, TS Eliot, early and mediaeval poems: Orthodox, Celtic and Western, Stevie Smith, Emily Dickinson, a plantation spiritual, the Metaphysical poets – all on the subject of the Crucifixion – and *The Dream of the Rood*, which is read each year. Once the readings were over everyone left quietly. A special annual occasion.

A cracking Easter egg hunt



The Hallraisers held an Easter Egg hunt on a fresh but sunny Easter Sunday – with 100 tokens hidden around the Millennium Green that could be exchanged for Easter eggs. The excitement built as swarms of little legs raced around, scanning every woodpile and peeping behind the trees in the hope of finding the most tokens.

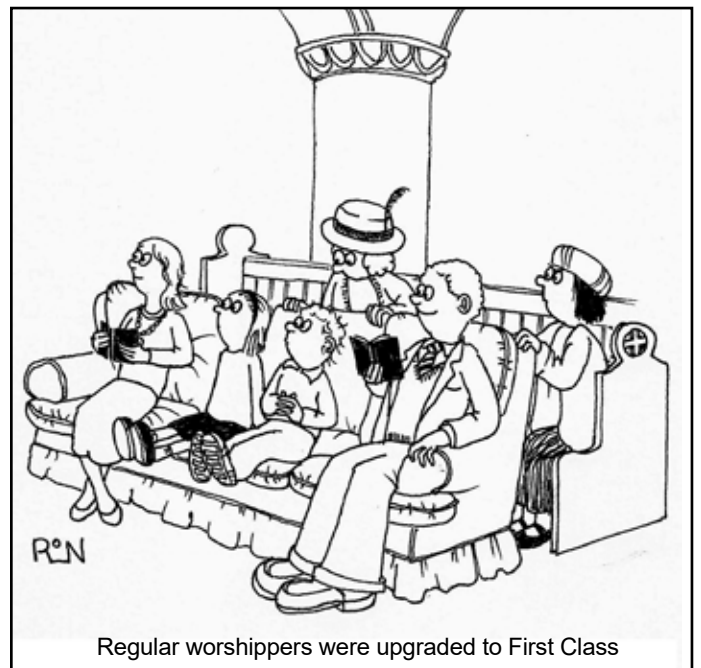
It was lovely to see so many families coming together, creating a sense of celebration and shared happiness.



Good Friday Buns & Easter fun

Buns in the Square – or rather, Buns in the Hall this year, due to the downpour – was a great success, with villagers braving Storm Dave to tuck into the traditional Good Friday treat. According to folklore, buns baked on Good Friday are imbued with various magical properties – they are thought to bring good luck, to never go mouldy and can be used to treat a range of medical complaints – no doubt why all the bun eaters looked in such rude health!

The children were kept busy by getting their best colouring pencils to work creating an egg-ravaganza of beautiful bookmarks – pictured above are Archie and Isla Crumley showing their Easter masterpieces.





CHURCH NEWS

Bags of annoyance? The saga continues...

Last June I wrote an article explaining why there were unsightly bulk bags by the north churchyard wall. It will not have escaped your notice that they are still there.

We are, though, making progress. I explained last time that there was a process we had to follow so I am repeating this below, with some updates.

We have to:

1. Consult the church architect: this has been done;
2. Commission a structural engineers' report: also done and report received;
3. Put bulk bags in place as requested by the structural engineers for safety reasons and to prevent further damage to the wall by frost or from other causes (eg parking too close to the damaged footings): obviously done;
4. Seek initial permission from the Diocese (interim Faculty) for some preliminary investigations (trial holes) requested by the structural engineers: done;
5. Seek tenders for the preliminary investigations: done, as have been the investigations themselves;
6. Appoint an archaeologist to keep a watching brief during any work requiring excavation in the churchyard: he hasn't been needed so far but will have to be on site when the repairs themselves are carried out;
7. Depending on the outcome of the preliminary investigations, obtain a detailed specification for the works: I finally received this in draft on April 15. There have been extended discussions between the architect and the structural engineers because of uncertainty about the best way to tackle the repairs without risking further collapses;
8. Seek tenders for the full works: not done yet as we have only just received the specification;
9. Ensure we have sufficient funds to cover the costs of the works: we almost certainly don't;
10. Seek confirmatory Faculty from the Diocese for the full works: now that we have the specification we are hoping this case will be added to the agenda for the May meeting of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, which oversees work



on churches. If they recommend that Faculty should be granted, the case will go to the Chancellor for a final decision. Strictly speaking, the paperwork should include tenders and evidence of funds available but as it has taken so long to get to this stage we are hoping that the DAC will recommend that Faculty is granted subject to these being acceptable.

I hope you will forgive this detailed and rather technical report on what is happening. I wanted to give ev-

eryone as full an explanation as possible. If anything is unclear do please contact me.

We are very sorry that there has been no visible progress in the last nine months. I know it is really frustrating for the church's neighbours and for everyone who walks down past the church to the pond and wildbrooks. I am frustrated myself at the time and energy this is taking up, which I'd much rather spend on other things.

We have already spent several thousand pounds to get to this stage. Until we get estimates we do not know if we have sufficient reserves to tackle the full works, but we almost certainly don't. It may be that some fundraising is required. We will look for grants, but though there are various grant-giving bodies which will help with repairs to church buildings, it is much harder to find grants for churchyard walls.

The Church of England central organisation does not provide financial support to parishes for repairs or maintenance so we have to raise whatever funds are needed locally.

Whatever the estimated costs, we will have to tackle the work in stages as funds are available.

Mel Edge
Churchwarden
amberleystmichael@gmail.com

- This update was requested in last month's readership survey (see page 20 for a summary of the results). No sooner said than done! We have also asked Amberley Castle for a similar update on the long-running repairs to the walls overlooking the Wildbrooks. This we hope (perhaps optimistically) to publish next month.,

Saying of the month...

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show my fellow creatures, let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again".

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PEOPLE & EVENTS

Welcome...

To **Kenny Brown** and **Linda Pickett** who are the new owners of 3 Hurst Cottages, Amberley. And to **Diane Lumsdane**, who has moved into 4 Hurst Cottages. We wish them all every happiness in their new homes.

Congratulations...



To **Ella van der Klugt**, pictured with her father, **Humphrey**, outside Amberley House prior to her marriage to **Tom Hodgson** on April 11 in Lewes.

Cathedral's art and textile tours

A new programme of monthly Art and Textile Tours has been launched at Chichester Cathedral, offering visitors the opportunity to experience one of the country's most remarkable collections of modern religious art and textile heritage in an engaging and dynamic way.

The newly curated tours form part of Glowing+Alive – a series of events to mark the 60th anniversary of artist and printmaker, John Piper's High Altar tapestry.

The programme features a temporary exhibition exploring the story and legacy of Piper's tapestry – a bold and, at the time, controversial commission that brought vivid colour and modern abstraction into the heart of the cathedral.

Led by expert guides, the 45-minute art tours delve into the cathedral's pioneering role as a centre for artistic innovation. To find out more or to book, visit: chichestercathedral.org.uk

Local finalists in awards

Two popular local businesses are celebrating national recognition after being shortlisted in the 2026 Muddy Stiletto Awards, which champion the UK's best independent life-style venues.

The Bridge Inn at Houghton Bridge has been named a finalist in the 10 Best Loved Pubs category, while Amberley Village Tea Room is through to the finals for 10 Best Afternoon Tea provider.

Public voting runs until May 26, with the overall winners set to be announced in mid-June.

To support these local favourites, cast your vote at www.muddystiletto.co.uk. There is also a link on the Bridge Inn's website: www.bridgeinnamberley.com

The new High Sheriffs of West and East Sussex began their year in office at a formal joint Declaration Ceremony at Lewes Crown Court on Friday, March 27 – continuing a tradition which stretches back more than 1,000 years.

Former Amberley resident Gary Shipton (centre right), from Tangmere, West Sussex, and Michael Bedingfield, who lives in East Sussex, have now been appointed by the King to uphold and support the Judiciary, the Police and other Emergency Services in their respective counties. They will also be supporting and promoting local voluntary organisations.

Gary, a journalist and editor for 45 years, holds the post for a year and succeeds Dr Timothy Fooks.





The new Black Horse – a great neighbour

Amberley villagers were delighted when the Gladwin family, who have recently taken on the Black Horse, threw open their doors to the community and invited us to a grand unveiling, ahead of the official opening at the end of March.

The refurbishment took eight weeks – and the results are impressive. The snug now glows with rich red walls, the dining space has been re-arranged and brought to life by Bridget Gladwin's striking artwork and the modern breakfast room now features a record player for a touch of nostalgia as well as a 'farm-to-table' style prosciutto carving station. We were also invited to look around some of the bedrooms, which have been reimaged to balance rustic character with modern comforts, including compact, freestanding baths. Outside, the garden is now four outdoor 'rooms' with a BBQ promising relaxed, summer lunches.

We were treated to expertly mixed cocktails (the Amberley Collins was a standout!) alongside inventive canapés, including a particularly delicious mushroom marmite éclair. Later, handmade fennel and ham pies made the rounds – a perfect end to the evening.

If you didn't make it to the community night, take this as your invitation for a visit! If first impressions are anything to go by, the new Black Horse is set to become a great neighbour!

Susan Watson

Local and wild

The inaugural Black Horse Monday Wine Supper Club on April 13 was an assured, convivial affair, with the full Gladwin family on hand to host, explain and gently evangelise as guests were guided through a thoughtful three-course menu paired exclusively on this occasion with wines from their Nutbourne estate.

It opened beautifully with chalk stream trout ceviche, elderflower and pickled cucumber, the dish lifted by the poise and polish of Nutbourne Barrel Reserve Chardonnay, its bright apple and citrus notes wrapped in a creamy, subtly honeyed depth that made the match feel instinctive rather than staged.

The centrepiece was a generous helping of rotisserie chicken with wild-garlic pesto, tomato and mint salsa, plus a copious quantity of salt-baked potatoes shaved generously with truffle and English pecorino, alongside the quietly impressive Nutbourne Pinot Noir 2022, a pale, Burgundian-leaning Sussex red offering ripe cherry fruit, discreet oak and gentle elegance.



The Gladwin brothers (from the left): Richard, the restaurateur, Oliver, the chef, and Gregory, the farmer

Dessert stayed true to the mood of indulgence with torched marshmallow chocolate pie, sensibly paired with Nutbourne Forager 2024, a beautiful blush-pink late-harvest Pinot Gris whose hedgerow sweetness and freshness brought the evening to a generous, lingering close.

Altogether it was a polished yet relaxed dining experience that felt as social as it was gastronomic, and at £38 per head including wines, represented outstanding value.

Mike Toynbee



Amberley Gardens Open – Sunday, June 14, 12 noon-6pm

We are almost there! We are delighted to be opening Amberley Gardens in our beautiful village to residents, friends, families and visitors again this year.

We have around 20 gardens opening and there will be musicians at Brooklands and Old Place for the enjoyment of visitors, so tell your friends and bring your family for a brilliant day out and support the important work of Action Medical Research.

The popular Plant Stall will once again be in the courtyard of Oak Tree House offering many plants grown by Amberley gardeners as well as some donated by local nurseries. Teas, cakes and filled rolls for lunch will be available in the Church Hall and at Amberley Primary School.



Hidden treasures: Wisteria Cottage, one of 20 gardens open to visitors

There will be a raffle for a beautiful hand-made quilt donated by Linda Connell – always a much coveted prize.

Gardens will be open to the public from 12 noon until 6pm. Tickets will be on sale at the Twitten (Crofts Path), Church Street/Hog Lane and The Square, priced £10 on the day, or £8.50 in advance online at amberleyvillage.co.uk. Children under 16 are free. No dogs in gardens please other than support dogs.

If you would like to help on the day – we still need volunteers – or bake a cake for the tea rooms, we would love to hear from you. Contact: sarahwheeler1@live.com

Proceeds to Action Medical Research, a Horsham-based charity working to fund research into childhood illnesses, founded by the late Duncan Guthrie, an Amberley resident. There will also be donations to Amberley Primary School and St Michael's Church Hall. **Sarah Wheeler**

Home Front weekend

History will come vividly to life at Amberley Museum as it hosts its immersive Home Front Weekend on Saturday/Sunday, May 16/17 May.

Visitors are invited to experience the sights, sounds and stories of the 1940s, as the museum is transformed into a World War II encampment. The event will showcase an extensive display of wartime vehicles, uniforms and equipment, offering a unique insight into life on the Home Front during one of the most pivotal periods in modern history.

Guests can explore a reconstructed RAF Operations Room, providing a fascinating glimpse into the coordination and challenges of wartime Britain.

To fully embrace the spirit of the occasion, visitors are encouraged to dress in 1940s-style fashion.

Village picnic – July 12

Calling all residents of Amberley and surrounding villages! Save the date for Sunday, July 12. Grab your picnic blankets and camping chairs for a village picnic on Amberley's Millennium Green, from 1pm until 4pm.

Bring your own picnic, with or without a tipples of two – it's up to you – and join us for an afternoon of fun and friendship. Come on your own and meet familiar faces and new ones, or bring a large party – we don't mind which. It will just be lovely to see you.

There'll be entertainment for all: a scavenger hunt for the kids; live music; an ice cream van; a quiz for adults; garden games; and, best of all, home-made cakes for sale.

Dogs are more than welcome (just make sure they are kept on a lead). We're even planning to hold a competition for your four-legged friends – more details to follow nearer the time.

We'll ensure the Green is looking its best. All we need is your support to make it the village social space it deserves to be.

Attendance is free. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Amberley Millennium Green trustees

Learning to linocut

Another of Lisa Carey's popular introductory linocutting sessions is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 6, from 10am until 1pm in St Michael's Church Hall.

All tools and equipment are provided enabling participants to create linoprint blocks for printing their own greetings cards and pictures.



Amberley Millennium Green: sharing your views

A big 'thank you' to all who completed Amberley Millennium Green's recent survey. We were delighted with the number of responses we received. The draw for the bottle of English wine was won by Stella Broadbent.

It's great to hear that the Green is as loved by the village as it is by the trustees who care for it. You told us you most valued the tranquillity of the space, that it was a place to enjoy nature and safely walk dogs. In terms of how the Green should be managed, balancing the needs of community and nature racked up more than twice the number of votes compared with those who favoured prioritising biodiversity. Only two respondees wanted the Green to be manicured. As promised, we'll take this feedback on board.

You've given us a clear indication of the type of fundraising events you'd be prepared to support and have also come up with some other interesting suggestions.

Thank you also to all those of you who have indicated they will donate. We've sent e-mails to those who said they'd make a one-off or regular donation. If you haven't received that e-mail, please drop us a line (e-mail address below) and we'll send you the bank account details.

Your pledges of support have put us on a far stronger financial footing and so we feel able to press ahead with some much-needed improvements. We'll also be looking into your suggestions as to how to improve what the Green offers. Two quick observations here: the Green's Trust Deed



A much-loved public space and a safe place to walk dogs

prohibits us putting in anything that needs hard standing; also we cannot construct a more permanent bridge to the football field as any form of crossing is prohibited by Parham, which owns the field (access is only meant to be via the B2139)

One final plea: we've started our winter clear-up and have encountered quite a lot of dog mess, both bagged and unbagged. Please clear up after your dog. Free bags are provided and there is a bin near the compost area where they can be left – please don't throw them in the long grass/bushes.

Thank you for your ongoing support. **AMG trustees**
amberleymillenniumgreen@gmail.com



You'll be pleased to know that the slippery slope access to the western bridge to the Green has been replaced with far sturdier steps. This is one of the measures we are taking to enhance the Green's infrastructure and has been made possible by people's generosity in donating following our recent appeal. Other recent improvements include the replacement of the wooden planks in the benches with a more sustainable but environmentally-friendly option. In the coming months we will also be looking at ways of tackling the muddy access near the two gates ahead of next winter.



AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

What your councillors discussed



Highlights of the meeting held on March 12 2026 in St Michael's Church Hall

Present: Jason Charman (chairman), Hazel Allinson, Mike Attard, Ian Corcoran, Tim Simpson and Elisabeth Tooms. Also in attendance: West Sussex County councillor Paul Marshall, Celia Price (locum clerk), and four members of the public.

Amberley Parish Council considered a wide range of issues affecting the village at its latest meeting, from council communications and highways maintenance to community safety, transport and future staffing arrangements.

The meeting opened with a question from a resident about the absence of minutes from the parish council meetings held on November 22 and December 2 from the council's website. The Locum Clerk confirmed the matter would be investigated and corrected. Councillors also discussed access to council paperwork and agreed that paper copies of agendas would be made available on request, provided residents give at least 24 hours' notice before a meeting.



The new bus shelter at Crossgates

Horsham District Councillor Paul Clarke submitted a written report, which was read out by the Locum Clerk. He noted that recent "Around the District" meetings had been well received by parishes, with a new round planned for the summer. Food waste collections are set to begin from 16 March, with many households having already received their caddies. Progress on the Capitol Theatre redevelopment remains on schedule, with demolition completed and the fit out phase under way. The examination of the Horsham Local Plan is due to reopen shortly, initially focusing on housing numbers. Councillors were also informed that council tax for 2026/27 will increase by £5.15 per year, bringing the Band D charge to £180.10.

West Sussex County Councillor Paul Marshall updated the council on broader county matters. He said that updates on Local Government Reorganisation were still awaited and may not arrive until after the May elections. Several structural models are being considered, although a proposal from Brighton is not supported by West Sussex County Council, which would consider a judicial review if required. The mayoral authority programme is progressing, with elections for a Mayor scheduled for 2027 and shadow cabinet elections

planned for 2028. Councillor Marshall also confirmed that the county council budget has been agreed without cuts to services and includes significant investment in highways, aimed at improving pothole repairs.

Highways issues featured prominently. The Chair reported delays to drainage clearance, now expected in November or December, and Mr Marshall agreed to follow this up. Footpaths throughout the parish have been cut, and routine hedge cutting will pause until 1 September due to the bird nesting season. Potholes on School Road have been reported and marked, with repairs expected soon, while additional potholes outside Hurst Cottages will also be reported. A broken drain cover on the B2139 near Pickwicks had received a temporary repair, with a permanent fix hoped for shortly. Complaints about a privately owned hedge obstructing the B2139 near Mill Lane have been passed to West Sussex Highways.

Following the retirement of Pam Keeble, councillors reviewed the volunteer Tree Warden role and formally appointed Russell Coates as the new Tree and Pond Warden. The Chair also confirmed that a new bus shelter should be installed by mid April, with site clearance about to begin.

Councillors discussed recent incidents of graffiti over half term, noting that cleaning is under way. They also considered the theft of a tractor from the cricket pavilion, which has since been located in Slindon thanks to its immobiliser

and tracker. While storage is the cricket club's responsibility, the council agreed that additional security measures should be discussed at a future meeting.

Other matters included a request for the village bus to transport a class from Amberley School to swimming lessons, and confirmation that the Speedwatch initiative will restart with additional volunteers. The meeting concluded with the formation of a working group to recruit a permanent parish clerk.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, May 14, at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall.

Fittleworth Garden Trail

The annual Fittleworth Garden Trail takes place during the Bank Holiday weekend, on Sunday and Monday, May 3 and 4. This year's trail will feature several new gardens and visitors can also enjoy other popular attractions, including the beautiful Winkcombe Arboretum as well as refreshments.

The gardens are open from 1pm until 5pm and tickets cost £7.50, with no charge for under-16s.



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will be assured a very warm welcome. We have a strong junior section, introducing children to the sport in a fun, supportive environment while developing skills, confidence and friendships.

The coaching team is led by LTA Level 5 Master Club Coach, Nigel Matthews. Our performance coaching programme ranges from Mini Tennis (children aged 4 upwards) to juniors and adults of all levels. The programme also includes adult beginners, rusty rackets, improver groups, team coaching, as well as one-to-one tuition.

A cautionary tale...

During the night of March 23, thieves stole eight items of expensive garden machinery – mainly Stihl – from a garage at Castle Farm, Amberley. There is a suspicion that a drone was used to reconnoitre the area and that it was a targeted robbery.

"We have enjoyed 26 years at the western end of the village, and assumed that our out-of-sight location would always mean that we were safe, especially with the vehicle gates closed," says owner Geoff Davis. "We hadn't factored in a risk through a hidden pedestrian gate – stealing two of our wheelbarrows in the process to cart the garden machinery away!"

He went on to say that the lack of response by the police was disappointing, refusing to visit or even watch footage of the theft from a security camera. "They simply issued a Crime Number for insurance purposes, creating little confidence that the perpetrators were being pursued to control such activities." Mr Davis added that it was now understood that a similar garden tool robbery took place at much the same time in Chantry Lane, Storrington.

And a final piece of advice: "We all need to take extra care in these times, using secure locks and other theft prevention devices."

STORRINGTON FILM NIGHT

Song, Sung, Blue

The final choice of the current season of Storrington Film Nights organised by the local Rotary Club is *Song, Sung Blue*, which is being screened in Sullington Hall on Wednesday, May 13 at 7.30pm.

Based on a true story, two down-on-their-luck musicians form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, experiencing soaring success and devastating heartbreak. It stars Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson.

The next season of films will commence on September 9.

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SPRING ART FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 16TH MAY, 10.30 TO 4.30PM

ST MARYS CHURCH, NORTH STOKE

AMBERLEY BN18 9LS

***A celebration of paintings, tapestry and
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***12.00 pm and 2.30 pm - Q and A with textile
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Children's art activities throughout the day

Light refreshments Free entry

***St Mary's Church is a beautiful medieval building nestled
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Downs.***



AMBERLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Easter celebrations

Although Easter is a little way back now, we wanted to share the joyous Easter celebrations we had at Amberley. Starting with an Easter egg hunt and Easter bonnet competition, we followed this with a reflective Easter service at St. Michael's.

Willow Class shared their thoughtful Easter artwork while Maple and Oak presented a dramatic retelling of the Easter story. It was a lovely end to Spring term being able to share in these events together.



Above: A headstart in life: some of the colourful Easter bonnets

Below: a reflective Easter service in St Michael's Church



School Dance Club shines at Rother Valley Arts Festival

We were so proud of our Dance Club as they performed at the Rother Valley Arts Festival earlier this year. They took to the stage alongside other local primary schools to perform and, while dancing in the Midhurst Rother College theatre was a huge leap from practising in the school hall, the children took it in their stride. Our thanks to the children for all their hard work and dedication preparing for it and

to Zuleika Phillips and Jo Eyre who accompanied them to the event. We would love for you to visit the school and show you around; please call (01798) 831612 or e-mail office@amberleyschool.com to arrange a visit. Please do also visit our website at <https://www.amberleyschool.com/>

Lizzie Martin Executive headteacher, Arun Villages Federation

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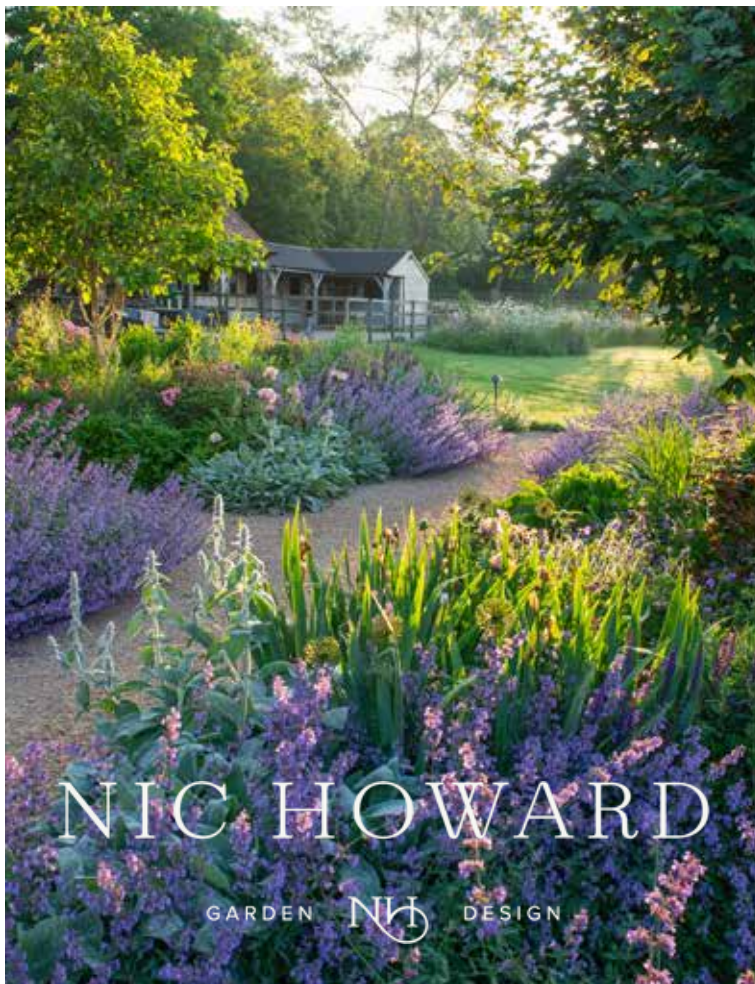
Lily Williams

Lily is originally from Amberley
and is accompanied by Jena for their first appearance at the Bridge

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Wildbrooks Readership Survey – Headline Results

Thank you to everyone who completed the Wildbrooks Readership Survey last month – we were delighted to read your responses!

It was particularly heartening to know that the magazine is so widely enjoyed – well deserved recognition for Mike Toynbee and his team of volunteers.

80 readers

completed the survey.

99%

of those who responded awarded the magazine 4 or 5 (out of five) stars, with only one disappointed reader awarding the magazine one star.

Most read ...

is the *News - local People & Events* page, followed closely by the *features* and *interviews with local people*.

Least read ...

are the crossword and the monthly quiz – with a suggestion for a cryptic crossword to replace the current ‘quick’ crossword, to introduce competitions (poems, photos) and to include a children’s page with colouring and puzzles.

Seen as most useful ...

is the monthly calendar of local events, the advertisements by local businesses and the local tradespeople directory.

Suggestions included expanding event listings to a 25-mile radius of Wildbrooks, to include art, fetes, films and clubs, National Garden Scheme openings and National Trust events.

Seen as least useful ...

are the timetables – tides, bus and trains.

The winner of a half case of wine is ...

Malcolm Pheasey



Comments were resoundingly positive

- ♥ “I absolutely love Wildbrooks magazine. It is an invaluable part of community cohesion, full of interesting, useful articles, love the editorials when Mike gets going on something, and the full reports of local events.”
- ♥ “Most entertaining and essential to keep abreast of local news.”
- ♥ “I love the magazine and always try to read through it. Sometimes it is a skim, sometimes I read it from cover to cover. I am less interested in historic articles - maybe just me - but love to see/hear what is going on in and around this lovely village.”
- ♥ “I enjoy the recipes. Maybe a gardening tip provided each month.”

Ideas for future features included ...

- ✓ Anonymous (and honest) restaurant reviews.
- ✓ Updates on the restoration work of the church and castle walls.
- ✓ Regular features on local artists, craftspeople, artisans.
- ✓ Contributions from Amberley diaspora.
- ✓ More information on newcomers to the village; more on campaigns such as helping restore the Wildbrooks.

Offers of help

Most people said they are too busy with other volunteer roles to help – but four have offered to help with magazine distribution (we will pass their names to Pam Keeble, lead distributor) and two others have offered to contribute articles – thank you! We will be in touch!

Next Steps

Over the coming months, we will take forward all these suggestions – watch this space! Although people found the timetables to be ‘least useful’, we will continue to include them for those that do – although perhaps think how they can be designed to look more interesting.



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS
SATURDAY MAY 16th
10.00am – 4.00pm

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Community pub set for full ownership as The Sportsman secures its future

Big news for The Sportsman: after more than two years of hard work and determination, we have raised enough funding to buy the pub outright. In a major milestone for the village, announced at our Annual Members Meeting on April 20, The Sportsman is on track to become a fully community-owned asset.

It's a remarkable achievement. What began as a campaign to save a much-loved local from an uncertain future has grown into a thriving, community-powered success story.

We've had our challenges, particularly the withdrawal of a key government grant in 2024. Thankfully, a number of local private lenders have stepped forward to top up the funds raised from 141 shareholders, giving us a total of nearly £792,000.

Financially, the business is now on a much firmer footing, with historic VAT issues resolved and we have turned round a small loss in 2024 to a profit in 2025. Grants from Horsham District Council have supported some small-scale improvements including a "proper" coffee machine and four electronic bikes which we plan to hire out.



One of the most impressive achievements has been financial resilience. We had expected to need to use summer profits to carry us through the winter, traditionally a difficult period, but our

January-March 2026 results show every month in the black.

We couldn't have done it without our manager, Jo Westland, who brings a wealth of hospitality experience and who goes well beyond the call of duty to keep the pub running smoothly.

She's supported by a team of staff and volunteers who deliver everything front and back of house – and underneath in the cellar – as well as organising events, maintaining the building and helping out whenever needed.

And people are noticing. Visitors, some returning after years away, have been quick to praise the atmosphere, often describing it as a "proper pub," full of character and warmth.



Quiz nights have proved a great success



The Sportsman: a thriving, community-powered success story

The Sportsman was voted the third best pub garden in West Sussex by readers of the *West Sussex County Times*, quite an achievement for a pub which has almost no actual garden, to quote our chairman, Roger Agate. It has also been welcomed back into CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* for both 2026 and 2027 after a 25-year absence, and was recently named Pub of the Year by the local CAMRA branch – an award recognising quality, service and overall experience.

Events have helped bring the community together, too. Four beer festivals have been held so far, each building on the last, with March's event selling out completely. Our twice-monthly quiz is regularly over-subscribed. Various village groups now meet regularly in the pub. We have also attracted media attention, featuring in the *i* newspaper, *West Sussex County Times*, *West Sussex Gazette* and soon in *All About Horsham* magazine.

While securing the funds to purchase the pub is a huge step forward, there is still work to do. Loans will need to be repaid, reserves built up, and further investment made to help the business grow.

That's why we're now calling on the community once again. We need help with long-term fundraising and grant applications; we could do with more legal and specialist financial expertise on the committee; and hands-on help with admin, social media, technology, and running the pub's e-bike scheme.

The Sportsman has come a long way, and its future is looking brighter than ever. But its continued success will depend, as it always has, on the support of the community it serves.

If you'd like to play a part, now's the time to step forward – because this isn't just a pub. It's your pub.

Kate Pluck

Deputy Chair of Community Sportsman Amberley Ltd



Pictured at the well-attended Sportsman’s Annual Members’ Meeting on April 20 in St Michael’s Church Hall are the members of the management committee (from left to right): John Fryett, Stella Broadbent, Elaine Beach, Roger Agate (chair), Kate Pluck (deputy chair), Graham Smith, Matija Rossi and Bradley Kelynack. Above right: Jo Westland (business manager) and Kate Pluck were both presented with bouquets in recognition of their hard work and valuable contribution to the success of the community pub during the past year.

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10am (Approx 60-90 mins)**

**Saturday, 23rd May
at The Sportsman
10.30am to 11:30am (1 hour)**

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the 16th or 23rd**

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Eagerly awaiting the arrival of Amberley's summer visitors

Catherine Briggs writes about the swift and house martin project currently underway in Amberley. Photography by Paul Stevens

Our summer migratory birds will shortly be arriving in the UK, flying approximately 4,000 miles from southern Africa to our shores, and we are looking forward to being reunited with them in Amberley.

Some house martins and swallows have already arrived in nearby Bury and the Storrington swifts are expected to return soon. Common to all three species is their gliding flight which is an adaptation to a diet of aerial insects. Their acrobatics and their swooping flight make them all iconic and they are such a wonderful part of our summer skies.

We have an important and significantly sized colony of swifts nesting under the eaves of the St Michael's Church roof each summer. Adult breeding pairs will be returning at the beginning of May and numbers will rise noticeably when the juvenile swifts arrive in late June or early July. Thirty-five swifts were counted flying over the churchyard simultaneously one July evening last summer. The group flight was spectacular with their distinctive 'swee-ree' call, twisting and swerving but somehow never colliding. There are often social screaming parties flying along Church Street.

Swifts are remarkable birds spending almost their whole lives in flight; they eat, sleep and mate on the wing. They only stop flying to raise their young before returning to Africa at the end of July. Unlike house martins and swallows – which land and perch on the ground, fences, wires, buildings and trees – swifts don't perch. Their Latin name *Apus apus* means 'footless'.

Swifts have a mystery about them as they fly so fast and high and are mostly out of sight. The brevity of their stay here in the UK – a mere 12 weeks – also adds to their mystery and there is a feeling of sadness at seeing them go at the end of July, hoping that they'll return the following year. Somehow the skies feel a little empty once they've gone.

We have a swift and house martin project in Amberley run by Pam Keeble and myself, which is part of the Central Arun Valley Swift & House Martin Project linked to Sussex Wildlife Trust. A grant from Wilder Horsham enables us to buy some swift boxes, as well as some villagers privately funding their own boxes.

We have also lent out some callers to village residents with nest boxes. They are important for these birds



Swift by name, swift by nature

and particularly for swifts, as the chances of nest uptake increase tenfold when a caller is used. Swifts have a photographic memory and return to precisely the same nest cavity each year; if it is blocked off or changed/moved, the swift will reject it and their breeding cycle is affected. They are also faithful to their breeding partner. CAV's Swift & House Martin Project is campaigning to support the

introduction of swift bricks into building regulations, which has been accepted by the Scottish government but rejected by the UK government. For more information [www.https://swift-conservation.org](https://swift-conservation.org)

We are currently expanding our village swift project to include house martins, as they also need our support. They naturally build mud nests so often choose to build near water, as there is a source of mud and insects nearby. Alternatively, by putting up man-made nest cups under eaves, preferably facing west, east or north so not directly exposed to the sun, we can help to save the birds about ten days of work, so that they can start their breeding cycle earlier and likely increase the number of broods per year. Before this, they primarily nested on cliff faces. It is important that the surfaces of soffits are as rough as possible to prevent the collapse of mud nests.

In Amberley we have several breeding pairs of house martins in various locations in the village where there are man-made nest cups as well as a location in Hog Lane where the house martins have gathered mud from the Wildbrooks. We were delighted to have our first pair of breeding house martins last summer on our house near the Millennium Green, two years after Paul Stevens, a local ecologist, made and installed six house martin nest cups under our eaves. The house martins arrived last June, raised four chicks that fledged at the beginning of August and all leaving for Africa in late September. We used a peak boxes caller <https://peakboxes.co.uk/> to attract them. For more info-<https://housemartinconservation.com>

Swallows also feed on aerial insects and like to nest in open outbuildings such as barns, preferring open countryside. They build cup-shaped nests from mud and other materials.



Food delivery: hungry house martin chicks

continued overleaf



continued from previous page

They also overwinter in Africa, arriving in the UK in the spring and returning to Africa in the autumn. Their conservation status is green at present. We can help by installing man-made nest cups in open garages, barns and open sheds which are always accessible.

Swifts, house martins and swallows all migrate to southern parts of Africa during our winter and visit the UK to breed during summer. They each have their own unique nesting habits, and all are insectivorous. Both swifts and house martins have declined by 68 per cent and 48 per cent respectively (and in the SE of England by as much as 70 per cent for house martins) over the past 25 years and are on the Red List of Conservation Concern due to habitat loss and a decline in insect numbers. Changing weather patterns due to climate change affect migration, breeding and insect numbers for feeding. Another factor is loss of nest sites because when properties are renovated, traditional nest sites under eaves are often blocked up, and nest cups removed from soffits.



A swallow feeding a chick on the back of a garden chair

We can help all these summer migratory birds by leaving nests rather removing or blocking them, having native plants in our gardens and if possible, patches of wildflowers which encourage insects which are a food source for these birds.

Come and find out more about these birds at our churchyard open afternoon on Open Gardens Day on Sunday, June 14 2-6pm and also by coming to a talk by Paul Stevens, ecologist on swifts, house martins and swallows taking place in St Michael's Church Hall at 7pm on Friday, June 26. Paul is the conservation lead for House Martin Conservation UK & Ireland and Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS). Paul has made and installed all the nest cups for house martins and swallows and swift boxes in Amberley as well as putting up the callers. He has been a stalwart supporter and provided essential help and advice to our village swift and house martin project.

Catherine Briggs

AMBERLEY WILDLIFE UPDATE

Watch out: there's a cat about

As spring settles in, Amberley enters what should be a thriving season for our wild birds. The breeding period is now underway and will continue through August – a crucial window when fledglings take their first uncertain steps (or flights) into the world. But as many of us know, this is also when they face some of their toughest challenges.



One of the biggest threats comes from an unexpected source: our beloved pet cats. Even the best fed cats are natural hunters, and fledglings – still learning the basics of flight – are especially vulnerable. The good news is that there's a simple, effective step we can take to give these young birds a fighting chance.

A small bell, a big difference

Fitting your cat with a detachable collar and bell can dramatically reduce the number of birds they catch. The bell gives birds a vital early warning, and the detachable design ensures your cat stays safe—no risk of getting snagged on branches or hedges.

Jeff the cat, a local trailblazer in responsible fashion, has worn one for years and hasn't brought home a bird in ages. Collars are inexpensive (handy, since they occasionally go missing), come in a cheerful range of colours, and are easy to find at Hanwells in Storrington or online via Amazon.

How you can help

If you share your home with a cat, please consider adding a bell collar during this sensitive season. It's a small gesture that can make a meaningful difference for Amberley's wild bird population at a time when they need it most. Together, we can help keep our village a place where both pets and wildlife thrive.

So, if you have a cat, please consider helping the wild birds at a critical time in their year.

Fraser Wheeler

Cats have nine lives...

Many people believe the saying that cats have nine lives comes from an old English proverb that could be several hundred years old. The proverb states, "A cat has nine lives, for three he plays, for three he strays, and for three he stays."



A place to call home

It's a busy time of year for the birds. Many of them will have found themselves a mate by now and won't need to sing quite so loudly, although there will be the odd bachelor still pelting out his tune with enthusiasm.

For those new pairs, however, they will need to conserve their energy for the more pressing task of building a nest. They'll need a warm and dry place for their eggs to go, somewhere safe from predators and strong enough to withstand adverse weather – quite a tall order! Different species have their own particular nest-building techniques, some requiring more skill than others.

If you live near woodland, you might be lucky enough to give a home to a nuthatch; slate-blue on the back, chestnut under the tail and a black bandit mask across its eyes. Nuthatches don't excavate their own nest holes but are expert plasterers, gathering mud or dung to reshape and resize the hole. In woodland they might customise a hole previously used by a great-spotted woodpecker, but they will use nestboxes, too.

For others, constructing a nest requires considerably more dedication and skill. The male wren, for example, has his work cut out; he weaves up to half-a-dozen nests out of moss, grass and feathers and then awaits his choosy female partner who will inspect his work and select the one in which she will lay her clutch of precious eggs.

But the bird who should be the envy of any construction worker is the long-tailed tit. Their glorious, egg-shaped nest is fashioned from moss, lichen and spider's silk, taking several weeks to build. The nest is then lined with as many as two thousand feathers. As well as the comfort of a feather mattress, the chicks then have a nest that will stretch and flex as they grow – perfect!

Out on the wetlands, very little construction work takes place. Wading birds, like lapwing, simply make a small dent



Master builder: a long-tailed tit tests his handiwork

or scrape in the mud in which to lay eggs. They incubate their eggs for about a month, defending their nest from predators by mobbing them or feigning injury. As soon as they hatch, rather than being bald, blind as helpless as many chicks are, the fluffy long-legged chicks are up on their feet and scurrying round within hours.

When you look at pairs of ducks, the male will almost always be the brighter coloured, showier of the two. But the female is perhaps a little duller-looking with good reason – she must sit on a nest on the ground incubating her eggs for around four weeks. Both she and her eggs are vulnerable so she relies on good camouflage to remain hidden.

There is, however, an exception: the shelduck. Both male and female are bright and highly visible – white with bands of chestnut and black, and a red bill. The female has no need for camouflage during nesting as she will find a disused rabbit hole and hide underground until her ducklings hatch. She will then lead these little fluffy humbugs down to the nearest pool.

Observing birds nest building and raising young can be fascinating and very rewarding – especially if they have selected a home that you have put up for them. But do remember that this is an important and exhausting time for the parents and ensure that you give them space. This is important for ground-nesting birds, who are especially vulnerable to disturbance – you can help them by keeping to marked paths, keeping dogs under close control and giving them plenty of space.

Anna Allum

Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB, Wigwag

Help our kelp project

Five years ago, the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project was born. The story starts with seaweed.

Kelp, a large brown seaweed, used to be plentiful off the Sussex coast. Imagine this forest of the deep, creating a habitat for marine wildlife. Black Sea bream would dig and spawn in gravel nests. Blue mussels would provide a grounding for the kelp to attach to, and engineer further resources for others, like starfish and plaice.

The chalk reef outcrops would writhe with life: scuttling spider crabs, swaying ethereal-looking piddocks and the occasional fin-flap of an undulate ray. Seals would benefit from these supreme hunting grounds. From above, gannets would spear the surface to take their fill of the abundant

continued overleaf



Up and running: a lapwing chick is quick off the mark



Picture: Paul Naylor



Spiny starfish on kelp

continued from previous page

beneath-the-waves buffet. And so, safely and sustainably, could we.

In the 1980s things changed. Storms, marine heatwaves and poor water quality had a negative effect, and persistent damage has been caused by intensive trawling for commercial fishing. This indiscriminate practice decimated the biodiversity of the seabed. By the end of the century, 96 per cent of Sussex kelp was lost, and with it, a whole eco-system wiped out, in repeated, traumatic acts of destruction. All happening under the waves, beneath our noses, yet out of sight.

But some people did notice. The Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA) formed a case for a Near-shore Trawling byelaw, and production company Big Wave created *Help our Kelp*, a film narrated by Sir David Attenborough. Other organisations joined the fight, and a campaign of the same name was launched.

It worked. In March 2021, trawling was prohibited from 304 square kilometres of the Sussex coast. The byelaw is one of the largest in the UK. The collective became the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project; twelve organisations*, co-ordinated by Sussex Wildlife Trust, who have continued to monitor and advocate for the recovery of our seabed.

Benefits are underway: Black Sea bream and blue mussels are on the increase. But nature takes time to recover. These five years have been focused on laying the groundwork to enable the steady return of these great forests and their inhabitants. Rewilding our ocean, piece by piece. With patience and collaboration, the story of our Sussex shores gets wilder each year. Although it started it all, kelp is really just the beginning.

*Sussex Wildlife Trust, Blue Marine Foundation, Zoological Society of London, Queen Mary University of London, University of Brighton, Adur & Worthing Councils, Sussex Underwater, Big Wave Productions, Sussex IFCA, University of Exeter, University of Sussex. **Kerry Williams Communications Officer Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust**

RECIPE

Carrot cake

Cake-makers preparing contributions for the upcoming Amberley Gardens Open teas might like to consider this lovely moist cake with a cream cheese and honey icing which is not sickly. It first appeared in *Flavours of Amberley*, published in 2002.

You need

Cake

- 6 oz organic wholemeal flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 4 oz grated carrot
- 4 oz brown sugar
- Grated rind of 1 orange
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp milk
- 4 oz butter

Icing

- 4 oz soft cheese
- 1 tsp clear honey

Decoration

Walnuts



Method

1. Sieve together the flour, baking powder, and cinnamon.
2. Cream together the butter, sugar, carrot, and orange rind.
3. Beat in the eggs, then fold in the flour mixture and milk.
4. Grease and line a 7 or 8 inch sandwich tin.
5. Bake as above. Allow to cool, then turn out.
6. Mix the soft cheese and honey and spread on top.
7. Decorate with walnuts.

Because of the cheese icing, any cake left should be kept in a tin in the fridge.

Jane Arkwright

March rainfall

The month proved somewhat drier than February, when we had just two dry days with 142.5mm (just over 5½in) of rain. In March there were 17 wet or damp days with a total of just 41.4mm (1½in)

Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey



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The Village Bus

Lisa Carey provides an insight into the Amberley & Slindon Village bus both from the perspective of a volunteer driver and a passenger

As a relative newcomer to Amberley, I recently became one of the volunteer drivers for the Amberley and Slindon community bus. Last week I thought it might be fun to sit further behind the steering wheel than I normally do and experience the Wednesday trip to Chichester as a passenger. For just £3 return, it's a real bargain – far cheaper than driving and paying for parking. (It's free for bus pass holders and the under 16s.) The bus picks up passengers from Rackham and Amberley just after 09.30 before heading off to Slindon to collect more fares. The journey itself is worth it for the views alone, as the seats are so much higher than in a car, offering glimpses of sweeping fields, hedgerows, and cottages bathed in early sunlight.

Arriving in Chichester, the bus conveniently stops by the Cathedral, placing you right at the heart of the city. I headed straight for the bustling food market stretching from Market Cross down East and North Streets. Stalls were already busy with shoppers browsing the myriad variety of products and produce on offer, including cheeses, artisan breads, meats, fruit and vegetables, plants, eggs olive oil, hats, bags, shoes and jewellery.

I wandered first to the French cheese stall, easily one of the highlights. The vendor offered generous samples, each cheese more tempting than the last. I tried a creamy brie, a pungent Roquefort, and a nutty Comté that melted on the tongue. It felt as though a little piece of France had arrived in West Sussex.



Chichester market is open on Wednesdays

From there, I followed the smell of artisan bread, sitting in rustic baskets beside the stall. I chose a loaf of sourdough to accompany the Brie I had just purchased and then headed off to the stalls overflowing with fruit and vegetables – glossy tomatoes, baskets of strawberries, and lush green beans that looked freshly picked. Nearby, a plant stall added a burst of colour.

After browsing my fill of the market, I made my way to the Novium Museum, just a short walk from the Cathedral. Entry is free, and it's well worth a visit. The museum blends Chichester's ancient Roman history with engaging modern displays. I



Some of the nine volunteer drivers

spent a fascinating half-hour learning about the Roman Baths discovered beneath the building and seeing artefacts unearthed from the local area. The space is airy and well laid out – perfect for a relaxed visit.

Before catching the minibus back, I took a peaceful walk around the Bishop's Palace Gardens in the Cathedral grounds. The gardens are beautifully kept, with benches nestled among trees and views of the Cathedral's impressive spire rising against the sky. I had picked the perfect day for the wonderful display of jewel coloured tulips. Birds sang from the hedges after the morning's rain, and the whole area had a calm, reflective atmosphere – a fitting end to a busy morning.

The minibus was waiting right where I'd been dropped off earlier, and as we drove back towards Amberley, the countryside opened up once more. I sat with my market finds beside me, feeling content. Traveling this way saved money on petrol and parking, but more than that, it turned the trip into an experience – from the simple pleasure of good food to the quiet beauty of the Sussex landscape. A morning in Chichester, with its charm, flavours, and history, is one of those outings that leave you grateful for the small joys of local life.

Just the ticket...

The Amberley & Slindon Village Bus service has been running for more than 40 years.

Make of bus: Ford Transit (the current bus entered service a year ago, following the theft and subsequent torching of the previous vehicle)

No. of seats: 13 (plus driver)

No. volunteers: 9 (including 3 from Slindon)

Destinations: Pulborough/Storrington (Mondays am); Bognor (Mondays pm); Worthing (first Tuesday of the month); Chichester (Wednesdays); Littlehampton/Rusington (Thursdays)

Fares: £3 return (£2 single), Bus Pass holders and children under 16 free

Private hire: The bus may be available for hire by local community groups. Contact Phil Greenwood for details: (07840) 128995

Full details of the timetable – see page 35

Hallraisers' Summer Event

Scent Soirée 3 - The Rose, Queen of Flowers

Back by popular demand, the fabulous Michael Donovan is returning to Amberley, to host a third Scent Soirée on:

Wednesday, 3 June, at 7pm in Amberley Church Hall

Indulge your nose, enjoy a glass of wine, take home a bag of samples and relish an insider's guide to fragrance. Whether you're searching for your signature summer scent or simply wish to experience the art of perfumery, this is an evening designed to delight.

Roses are the most popular flower in the world for good reason and have been used to scent the skin since ancient times, when the Romans used rose water to refresh and perfume.

Join us at our summer Hallraisers' event to celebrate 'The Queen Of Flowers' in her many forms, from the heady sensuality of the Turkish rose to the full-blown glamour of Bulgarian roses. We shall map the development of rose scents across the ages and learn to appreciate the



Making a welcome return: Michael Donovan

subtle nuances that make this exceptional bloom one of the most versatile in the perfume panoply.

Both as a leading lady and as a supporting scent that brings out the best in others, the rose is without doubt the most important and celebrated single note available to The Master Perfumer.

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This evening is dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of her seductive beauty in all its many forms.

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EDITORIAL

Where would we be without our volunteers?

If you find yourself at a loose end, there's always something to do in Amberley. You can book yourself on an uplifting garden visit with SAGE. You can take a trip to Chichester or the coast on the Village Bus. You can enjoy a stroll to our community-owned pub The Sportsman for a glass of wine, or drop into the eco hub for a sociable chat while your items are mended, at no cost. You can settle down for a cosy night in to read the latest book club choice. The options are endless.

And if you need some help, you can contact AGNES – Amberley's community support initiative. Also think of the magnificent work led by the Churchwardens who have made our beautiful 12th century church into a community hub, or the Gardens Open team, who have raised significant sums (over £13,000 in 2024) for charities. There are also the incredible achievements of the Amberley Society in saving the Wildbrooks, the Black Horse and the North Stoke ('Gurkha') footbridge.

These activities (and many, many more) all have one thing in common: they are managed and run by volunteers, most of whom are retired and in their 60s, 70s and even 80s. Far from winding down, this dynamic group has devoted its skills, time and energy to making the Wildbrooks a great place to live.

In fact, volunteering is so firmly hardwired into our village culture that everyone seems to have at least one volunteer job. Through their unpaid work, our volunteers act as the backbone of our Wildbrooks community, making it stronger, healthier and more vibrant.

They help to maintain resilience in our rural environment, meaning we are better equipped to overcome challenges (think of our COVID response). The trusted networks also bind us together, helping to build a more connected and compassionate community, with a strong sense of responsibility towards people, place and the environment. Without volunteering, there would be social isolation, a lot less to do – and generally, life here would be a lot less fun. The proof of the positive impact volunteering has is that everyone wants to move here, yet no-one wants to leave.

This is a timely reminder: volunteering is not optional in Amberley; it has become essential to the enjoyment of our lives and our social cohesion. We must invest in it, champion it and ensure it thrives. So a massive thank you to all our generous and talented volunteers – and if you don't currently volunteer, why not join a group that interests you; many are listed in the Parish Directory on page 40.

Because without our vast network of volunteers, there would be no community – that thing that makes Amberley and the Wildbrooks unique. As a wise person once said: 'volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.'

Susan Watson



Ted Hughes (1930–1998) was a Yorkshire-born poet, translator and children's author who served as Poet Laureate from 1984 until his death. Known for his wild, nature-inspired poetry, he is considered to be one of the 20th century's most significant writers. An excerpt from his poem *Swifts* sums up the joy of the birds' return in May, with its comforting reassurance that the 'globe's still working'. This accompanies Catherine Briggs' uplifting article on page 25 which highlights the work Cathy is leading to ensure that Amberley provides a hospitable environment for all migrating birds – with considerable success.

Fifteenth of May. Cherry blossom. The swifts
Materialise at the tip of a long scream
Of needle. 'Look! They're back! Look!' And they're gone
On a steep

Controlled scream of skid
Round the house-end and away under the cherries. Gone.
Suddenly flickering in sky summit, three or four together,
Gnat-whisp frail, and hover-searching, and listening

For air-chills – are they too early? With a bowing
Power-thrust to left, then to right, then a flicker they
Tilt into a slide, a tremble for balance,
Then a lashing down disappearance

Behind elms.
They've made it again,
Which means the globe's still working, the Creation's
Still waking refreshed, our summer's
Still all to come. **From *Swifts* by Ted Hughes**

Deadline for the June issue is

FRIDAY, MAY 15

**Contributions should be sent to The Editor,
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or e-mail mike@brooklandsamberley.com**



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Whats on – April

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



Whats on – May

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

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LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse & Recycling Calendar – May



Household refuse collections (Amberley/ Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt): collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Tuesdays, May 5 and 19**; recyclable (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on **Tuesdays, May 12 and 26**. Orange top bins (food recycling) will be collected every Tuesday.

For Church Street and Hog Lane: collections for mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be on **Wednesdays, May 6 and 20**; garden waste (brown top bins for registered users) will be collected on **Mondays, May 11 and 25**. Collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Wednesdays, May 13 and 27**. Orange top bins (food recycling) will be collected weekly on Wednesdays.

Amenity Tip Opening Times

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

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

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

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

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

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

Village Bus Timetable

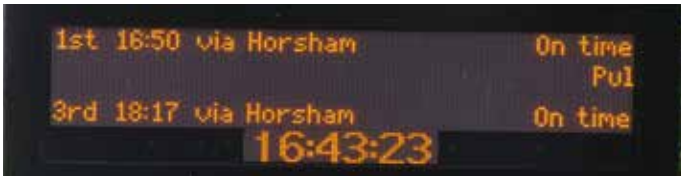
On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Village Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers. We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver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

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

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



LOCAL INFORMATION



Southern Trains Timetable (from December 2025)

Monday-Friday

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

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

From London Victoria to Amberley: 05:54, 06.35, and then at 05 and 35 minutes past the hour until 22.35.

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins

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

PH – Portsmouth Harbour; P&S – Portsmouth & Southsea;

C – Chichester

Saturday

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

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 27mins

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

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 23mins

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

PH – Portsmouth Harbour; P&S – Portsmouth & Southsea;

C – Chichester

Sunday

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

Typical journey time to London Victoria 1hr 24mins

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

Typical journey time from London Victoria 1hr 20mins

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

B – Bognor Regis; PH – Portsmouth Harbour.

Compiled by Malcolm Pheasey



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Local Farmers' Markets

Storrington Community Market

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

Chichester

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

Ford

Ford Airfield First Saturday (7.30am-2pm)

Steyning

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

Arundel

Town Centre Third Saturday (9am-1pm)

Pulborough Village Market

Village Hall Fourth Saturday (9am-12.30pm)

Petworth

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



MAY DIVERSIONS

1. How old was Luke (the Nuke) Littler when he won his world darts championship?
2. What was the name of the club in Liverpool where the Beatle played?
3. What sport was conceived by pupils at Harrow School in the 19th century as a derivative of 'rackets'?
4. Who is Harry Webb better known as?
5. Who was the first poet to be buried in Westminster Abbey in what is now referred to as Poet's Corner?
6. Who directed the 1960 horror film *Psycho*?
7. The opening of the Eiffel Tower in 1889 marked centenary of what?
8. Who played Rodney in *Only Fools and Horses*?
9. What popular dish was created in Britain by Bangladeshi chefs in the late 1960s?
10. Who circumnavigated the world in 1966-67 in *Gypsy Moth IV*?
13. What popular phrase was coined to describe the British Empire?
14. Who said "I may not be a lion, but I am a lion's cub, and I have a lion's heart"?
15. What did Phyllis Pearsall create and design single-handedly, walking 3,000 miles in the process?
16. What do the Duke of Wellington, George Stephenson, Elizabeth Fry and Winston Churchill have in common?
17. Which actor played Edward Lewis in *Pretty Woman*?
18. Which nursery rhyme character "kissed the girls and made them cry"?
19. Why do we call a useless or troublesome gift as a 'white element'.
20. What colour is the cross on the flag of Finland?
21. Which Roman Goddess is also a brand of margarine?
22. Which spirit replaces vodka to turn a *Bloody Mary* into a *Bloody Maria*?
23. Where in Britain would you find the Sperrin Mountains?
24. Name four Celtic languages
25. What do Germans do with a 'handy'?
26. USB is an abbreviation for what?
27. Who was Donald Duck's girlfriend?
28. Name the Bavarian village noted for its Passion Play, performed every tenth year.
29. Who wrote the opera *Turandot*?
30. The Kelvin scale is a measure of what? **Answers on page 39**

Quick crossword

Across

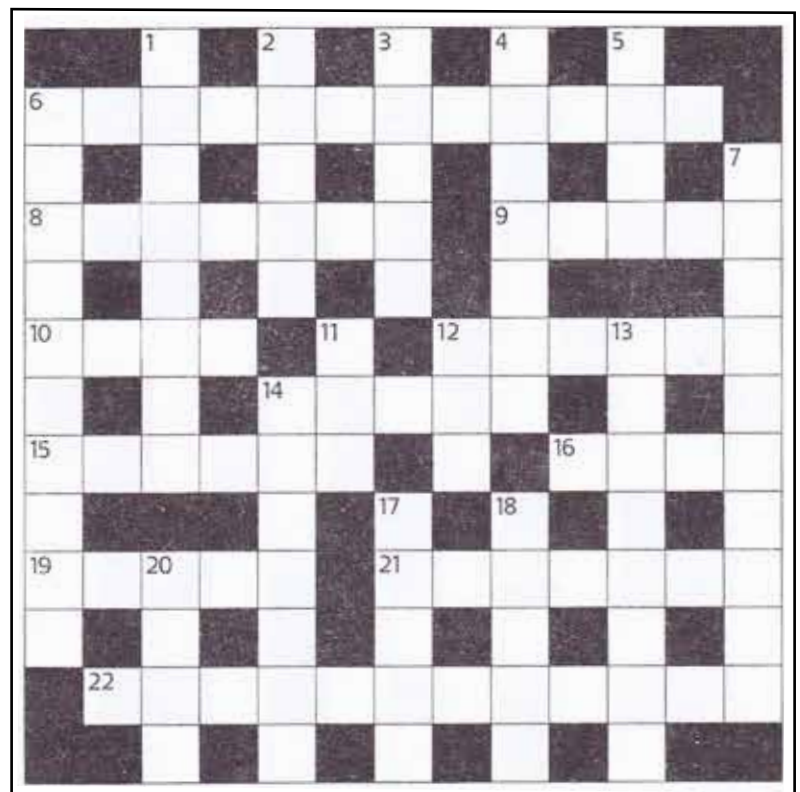
6. Spineless creature? (12)
8. Latent, sleeping (7)
9. Partition (5)
10. Botany Bay explorer (4)
12. Glittering decorations (6)
14. Relating to sound (5)
15. Midday nap (6)
16. Dutch colonist in South Africa (4)
19. Crucial (5)
21. Red-stalked plant (7)
22. Support with proof (12)
3. Italian basil & pine nut sauce (5)
4. Illicit trade (7)
5. Dumbfound (4)
6. Hesitant (10)
7. Disgraceful (10)
11. Long fluffy scarf (3)
12. Handy hint! (3)
13. Illegal passenger (8)
14. Chic (7)
17. Extensive (5)
18. Stale smelling (5)

Down

1. Summit (8)
2. Big ____, ex TV snooker show (5)

20. Genuine (4)

Solution: page 39





MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE

4th Monday (Bank Holiday)

Motorcycle Day, Amberley Museum, from 10am

5th Tuesday

Talk: *Girls Behaving Badly – Jane Austen’s Wicked Women*, The Arts Society West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 1.30pm

6th Wednesday

Talk: The Mayan Civilisation of Central America, The Arts Society South Downs, Fittleworth Village Hall, 9.45am

7th Thursday

Election Day: West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council, St Michael’s Church Hall, 7am-10pm

9th Saturday

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

10th Sunday

Southern Classic Car Club meet, Amberley Museum, 10am

Music: Lily and Jena, The Bridge Inn, from 3pm

11th Monday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

12th Tuesday

Parham Parish Council Meeting, Old School, Rackham, 7.30pm

13th Wednesday

Film: *Song, Sung Blue*, Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, 7.30pm

14th Thursday

Amberley Parish Council Meeting, St Michael’s Church Hall, 7.30pm

16th Saturday

Goodwoof, Goodwood House, 9.30am-5pm

Open Day, Storrington Tennis Club, 10am-4pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 st				1 st	2 nd
					Low 05.40 High 12.10 Low 17.56	High 00.25 Low 06.15 High 12.45 Low 18.30
3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
High 00.57 Low 06.48 High 13.16 Low 19.04	High 01.24 Low 07.21 High 13.44 Low 19.36	High 01.50 Low 07.53 High 14.13 Low 20.10	High 02.18 Low 08.26 High 14.44 Low 20.43	High 02.50 Low 09.00 High 15.20 Low 21.22	High 03.29 Low 09.42 High 16.05 Low 22.10	High 04.18 Low 10.35 High 17.07 Low 23.14
10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
High 05.32 Low 11.44 High 18.33	Low 00.33 High 07.04 Low 13.02 High 19.43	Low 01.48 High 08.10 Low 14.11 High 20.41	Low 02.47 High 09.05 Low 15.08 High 21.32	Low 03.36 High 09.54 Low 15.56 High 22.18	Low 04.22 High 10.40 Low 16.41 High 23.02	Low 05.06 High 11.27 Low 17.27 High 23.48
17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
Low 05.52 High 12.15 Low 18.14	High 00.35 Low 06.40 High 13.05 Low 19.03	High 01.22 Low 07.29 High 13.55 Low 19.53	High 02.11 Low 08.21 High 14.48 Low 20.46	High 03.03 Low 09.14 High 15.43 Low 21.42	High 04.00 Low 10.12 High 16.43 Low 22.45	High 05.04 Low 11.18 High 17.49 Low 23.57
24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th
High 06.14 Low 12.30 High 18.56	Low 01.08 High 07.26 Low 13.36 High 20.04	Low 02.10 High 08.33 Low 14.34 High 21.03	Low 03.05 High 09.29 Low 15.25 High 21.53	Low 03.52 High 10.17 Low 16.11 High 22.36	Low 04.34 High 11.00 Low 16.52 High 23.17	Low 05.14 High 11.40 Low 17.31 High 23.54
31 st						
Low 05.51 High 12.17 Low 18.07						

TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON

Homefront Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Spring Art Festival, St Mary’s Church, North Stoke, 10.30am-4.30pm

17th Sunday

Goodwoof, Goodwood House, 9.30am-5pm

Homefront Weekend, Amberley Museum, from 10am

Spring Industrial Trains, Amberley Museum, from 10am

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

23rd Saturday

Half-term activities, Amberley Museum, from 10am (until May31)

24th Sunday

James Bond at Amberley, Amberley Museum, from 10am

26th Tuesday

Quiz night, The Sportsman, 7.30pm*

29th Friday

Guided tour of Parham House, 11am*

*Booking essential

Dates for the diary

Amberley Gardens Open **June 14**

Talk on swifts, swallows and house martins, St Michael’s Church Hall
June 26

Goodwood Festival of Speed
July 9-12

Sussex Steam Rally, Parham
July 11-12

Village Picnic, Millennium Green
July 12



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Accommodation: Self-catering

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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

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

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

Robert Sadler, locally-based registered osteopath 01798 874736

Storrington Physiotherapy Clinic, Filipa Barnes & Sean Case 01903 743538

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

Answers to Diversions (see page 37)

1. 17, making him the youngest in history 2. The Cavern Club 3. Squash 4. Cliff Richard 5. Geoffrey Chaucer in 1400. His house was nearby and he had enjoyed royal favour during his lifetime 6. Alfred Hitchcock 7. The French Revolution 8. Nicholas Lyndhurst 9. Chicken tikka masala 10. Sir Francis Chichester 11. The sun never sets on the British Empire (in reference to its far-reaching territories) 12. Elizabeth 1 13. The first A to Z map of London 14. Their images appeared on £5 notes 15. Richard Gere 16. Georgie Porgy 17. It was the custom of the Kings of Siam to present an elephant to individuals they did not like 18. Blue 19. Flora 20. Tequila 21. Northern Ireland 22. Breton, Cornish, Cumbric, Gaelic, Irish, Welsh 23. Make telephone calls – it is what they call a mobile phone 24. Universal Serial Bus 25. Daisy 26. Oberammergau 27. Puccinni 28. Temperature

Crossword solution

ACROSS: 6. Invertebrate 8. Dormant 9. Fence 10. Cook 12. Tinsel 14. Sonic 15. Siesta 16. Boer 19. Vital 21. Rhubarb 22. Substantiate **DOWN:** 1. Overcome 2. Break 3. Pesto 4. Traffic 5. Stun 6. Indecisive 7. Deplorable 11. Boa 12. Tip 13. Stowaway 14. Stylish 17. Broad 18. Musty 20. True



PARISH DIRECTORY

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Neighbourhood Watch		Malcolm Pheasey.....01798 83904
Parham Parish Council Clerk		Vicky Spiers (clerk@parham-pc.org.uk)..... 01903 20894
Police		Non-emergency number..... 101
Rackham Old School Association		Sue Bulloch.....01798 872038
Rackham School Hall Reservations		Jennifer Hooper.....01903 742695
Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE)		Elisabeth Tooms (toomsfirth@btinternet.com).....01798 839232
Stoolball Club		Sandra Turner.....01243 82125
Village Bus		Philip Greenwood.....01798 831803
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BYSTANDER

Amberley then (remembered)

We love it when our readers share their memories of Wildbrooks with us and following the story from Robin Wills in last month's Bystander, we were delighted to receive a follow-up e-mail from Sue Bulloch.

"I was surprised and delighted to see the article in Bystander in your April issue on ice hockey.

"My father was Tommy Grace and I can remember Robin Wills. In the mid-fifties when the floods froze sufficiently, my two sisters and I, our Mum (who was also a good ice skater) and Dad always found somewhere to skate. We used to push an old kitchen chair along to help us stay on our feet! People looked on in amazement from the trains.



Tommy Grace

"My Dad played ice hockey for Wembley Lions, training at Brighton Tigers, and also playing for the England National team at the 1939 World Championships. He was an indoor speed skater too, holding the indoor mile record in his early days.

"I also remember playing table tennis in the hut by the Bridge Inn."

Sky-high innovation

If newspaper delivery by drone seems too good to be true ... that's because it is. Alas, the village shop's April 1 e-mail about its revolutionary 'Amberley Air Drop' service was an April Fool's prank (although Bystander would like to register a strong interest in bacon rolls by air, if anyone's taking notes).



Very funny, chaps. There's nothing like the promise of piloting a pilotless system to get hopes soaring. Bravo to Colin and Lee for fooling Bystander and the rest of us at least for a moment, as we scanned the skies for incoming bags of shopping.

The great lentil sacrifice

Over Easter lunch, Mike Wright's family wandered into that annual tradition of comparing what everyone had bravely 'given up' for Lent.

Millie – one of the youngest and a lifelong, deeply committed enemy of anything resembling a pulse – piped up with great seriousness that she had "given up lentils for Lent". She paused, clearly pleased with herself, then added, "And honestly, if it would make me more religious, I'd be quite prepared to give them up for life."

A bold sacrifice, indeed. We may well have witnessed the early career of a future female Archbishop of Canterbury – one taking a firm and principled stand against legumes.

A winning smile

Congratulations to Sue Adams, who wins the Clouds of Laughter unclaimed raffle prize by correctly identifying the photo in last month's Bystander as Pam Keeble. Pam flew as a stewardess with East African Airways in her 20s and is pictured here in her smart navy 'winter' uniform. She went on to have a long career with Pan American World Airways.



Lost in translation

Looking for a suitable restaurant in Belgium for an evening meal after visiting war graves at the Tyne Cot cemetery at Paschendale and then attending the daily ceremony at the Menin Gate, friends of Bystander sought help from AI. "Where is the best place in Ypres for moulles," was the verbal question via Google. Answer: "The best place for a mole catcher is..." Clearly, AI needs a hearing aid or instruction on edible saltwater bivalve molluscs.

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

Typographical error

Due to a typing error, Saturday's story on local artist Jon Henninger mistakenly reported that Henninger's band mate Eric Lyday was on drugs. The story should have read that Lyday was on drums. The Sentinel regrets the error.



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