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FEBRUARY 2025

# THE WILDBROOKS MAGAZINE



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### This month's front cover



**Winter sunset over the Wildbrooks at Rackham. Picture by Mike Wright**

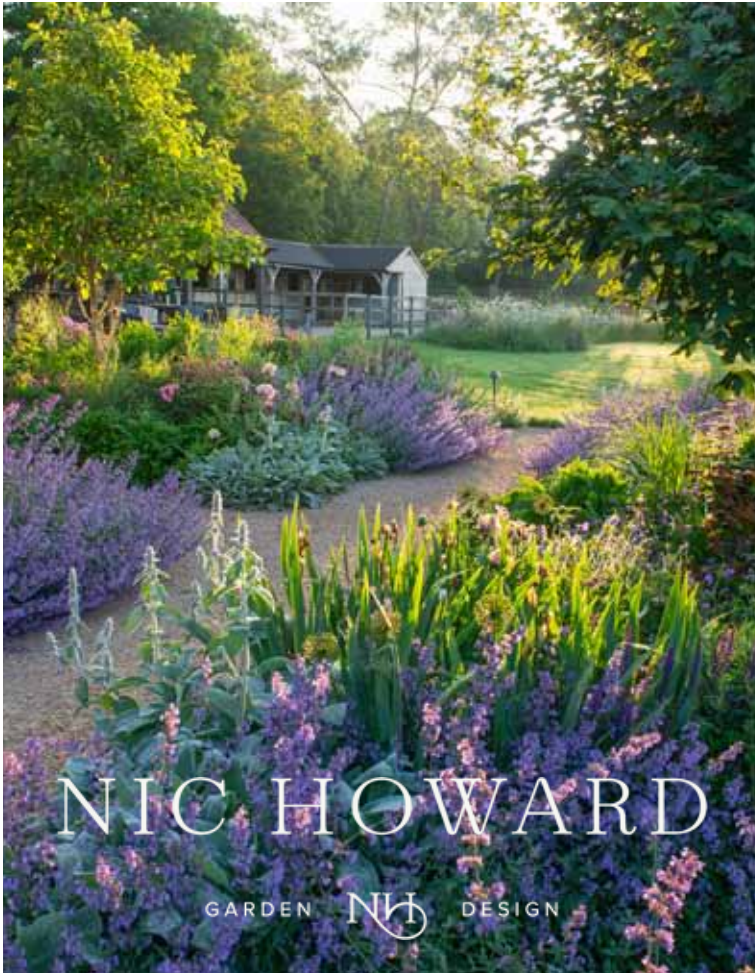


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**FEBRUARY SERVICES & BIBLE READINGS**

**SUNDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY PRESENTATION OF CHRIST**

**Gold or White Array**

- 9.15am Holy Communion Parham
- 11.00am Holy Communion Amberley
- 3.00pm Evensong for Candlemas Wiggonholt

**BIBLE READINGS**

**Sunday, 2nd February**  
*Malachi 3:1-5; Luke 2:22-40; Psalm 24*

**Sunday, 9th February**  
*Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11; Psalm 138*

**Sunday, 16th February**  
*Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26; Psalm 1*

**Sunday, 23rd February**  
*Genesis 2:4-9, 15-end; Luke 8:22-25; Psalm 65*

**Sunday, 2nd March**  
*Exodus 34:29-end; Luke 9:28-36; Psalm 99*

**SUNDAY, 9th FEBRUARY 4 BEFORE LENT**  
**Green Array**

- 9.00am Holy Communion Greatham
- 10.00am Café Church Amberley

**SUNDAY, 16th FEBRUARY 3 BEFORE LENT**  
**Green Array**

- 9.15am Holy Communion Wiggonholt
- 11.00am Holy Communion Amberley
- 4.00pm Choral Evensong featuring Coro Nuovo Amberley

**SUNDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY 2 BEFORE LENT**  
**Green Array**

- 9.00am Matins Greatham
- 11.00am Holy Communion Amberley

**SUNDAY, 2nd MARCH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**  
**Green Array**

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

**Interregnum arrangements**

During the interregnum, life of the church here continues and we are keen to keep the church active and a positive presence in the community.

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 e-mail [amberleystmichael@gmail.com](mailto:amberleystmichael@gmail.com) It is hoped that the service pattern will change very little, but please look out for updates nearer the time.

We are seeking help from visiting clergy to cover at least one Communion service each week. Elaine, our Lay Reader, will take 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](mailto:mpdavey@gmail.com) to ensure your name is on the list.



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## CHURCH NEWS

### WIGGONHOLT CHURCH

## Churchyard carols on Christmas Eve

More than 60 people attended the 2024 Christmas Eve service of Five Lessons and Carols in the churchyard at Wiggonholt Church, together with three children and one very small but well wrapped-up babe in arms, all of whom for once enjoyed a dry but chilly event. It was led by the Revd Barbara Stanton.



The churchyard service on Christmas Eve began at the time of the Covid restrictions and has now become an annual event although in previous years the weather has not always been kind.

As a result of better weather, the churchyard was decorated with electric fairy lights along the walls and through the trees by churchwardens Jenny Sadler and Cathy Folwell with the support of their partners and other family volunteers to give a magical feel to the pre-Christmas celebrations.

Musical accompaniment was provided by 14-year-old Hazel Lange on trumpet, assisted by her mother Corinne who together helped the majority of the congregation to stay more or less in tune. Grateful thanks are also given to Michael Sadler who provided visitors with mince pies and hot mulled wine that was very much appreciated for its warming qualities on such a cold evening.

Thanks also to PCC member Barbara Lorkin who with the support of her grandson Ashley Lange, aged 7, organised a collection which raised over £300 in aid of the Children's Society.

The carols and lessons were followed by a short Holy Communion service in the church. Our thanks also to local landowner Rupert Burgess for allowing the use his nearby field on which to park.

## A special choral evensong

Coro Nuovo, a leading Sussex choir of experienced and versatile singers, has selected St Michael's Church Amberley as its first venue for a new programme of singing choral evensong in Sussex churches. It takes place at 4pm on Sunday, February 16, and promises to be something very special.

There are no tickets for this – as an evensong service it is open to all, though donations are welcome.

Do take advantage of this opportunity to hear some wonderful choral music in our lovely parish church. It includes music by Stanford and Wesley.

Getting into the festive spirit on Christmas Eve at Wiggonholt



## Cathedral celebrates 950 years

Chichester950, a celebration of the cathedral's move from Selsey to the more populated Chichester in 1075, offers a vibrant and inclusive events programme, inviting visitors to explore its rich nine-century history. Highlights include an interactive exhibition, concert, summer festival and immersive light show. Entitled Religion, Rebellion & Reformation, it runs from February 14 until mid-November.

"It's important to stress that this exhibition is not only about faith," says Revd Canon Vanessa Baron. "It is about human stories. The Cathedral isn't solely a religious building – it belongs to everyone."

## In the footsteps of pilgrims

The now annual guided Old Way Loop walk, part of the pilgrimage route between Southampton and Canterbury, is taking place again during Lent, on Saturday, April 5. It starts from St Nicholas Church in Arundel at 10.30am and passes by St Leonard South Stoke to St Mary the Virgin North Stoke. There will be lunch for the walkers who can then either disperse or return to St Nicholas via Arundel Park.

Further details will be available in the March issue but meanwhile save the date. All details from Janet Aidin on (01798) 872531 or e-mail [janet@aidin.co.uk](mailto:janet@aidin.co.uk)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR &amp; GAGGLE POSTINGS

## Station parking issue

I recently parked at the station and there was a car parked outside the designated bays with a parking ticket. We got one a few weeks ago for doing the same. Someone has obviously woken up to a money-making opportunity...

**Kate Pluck**

Does anyone know where there is to park at, or near the station? None of the designated spaces are ever available when I have tried to get a train recently. It means we can't use the station unless we are able to get a lift there and back which is disappointing, especially as all the trains now stop there.

**Antonia Morris-Warburton**

Whilst moving my husband's car to prevent another ticket for us (which he had to leave on the end of the parking bays, otherwise he would have missed his train) I met the parking attendant who, it appears, arrives on the train most days at around 9.30am to check the parking.

I asked him about the two potential spaces that could be marked out for parking, one of which he was ticketing a car



**Parking problems for rail users**

parked there. He conceded that they probably could be included and suggested I contacted the car park owners but said to me not to worry about both cars (I had driven there!) then being left on the double yellow lines, as that's nothing to do with him, or the museum parking.

I doubt if the car parking company will rush to accommodate this though as they are probably earning at least £600 a week from those unmarked spaces and that's on the basis of five days a week and people paying the fine within 14 days, which is £60 as opposed to £90 thereafter.

I have mentioned this to Amberley Parish Council to see if there's anything it could help with this.

I also wonder as we now have more trains stopping at Amberley and helping to secure more custom for the museum was given as one of the reasons for this, that maybe the museum could return the favour and help out Southern Rail and the locals by allowing us to use some of their car parking area, which is huge and rarely seems to be used to capacity, particularly on weekdays? The museum could maybe allow locals to buy a parking permit which would benefit all parties.

**Sarah Weatherstone**

We also are having problems parking at station. Perhaps we should have a WhatsApp group for station lifts.

**Valerie Galbraith**

## And a response from the museum

We are aware that there are some issues with parking at the station so we are looking at whether there are other options which might help.

**Katrina Burton**

**Director, Amberley Museum**

## Drown your sorrows with Firebird Heritage

You conclude your 'You can lead a horse to water...' report on the Sportsman's beer festival held last October with a comment regarding a few locals missing a pint of Harvey's (assuming you mean Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter, as a different, seasonal, offering from the brewery was available at the festival).

By mentioning that Harvey's Best is on offer at both The Bridge Inn and the Labouring Man, we feel you may have answered your own point – with so many other great (and more local) beers, why would we want to restrict our offering to that of our competitors?

For those in search of tradition, our current best bitter, Firebird Heritage, is based on the original recipe of King & Barnes' Sussex Bitter, which, in years gone by, used to be a far more common sight than Harvey's in the pubs of the Horsham District.

We very carefully choose our ales from a variety of very local breweries, going directly to the source and building relationships in the spirit of our community project, and continuously refine the selection based on feedback and popularity. This is something unique to the Sportsman in the wider area and, based on the feedback we're getting, is celebrated by many.

We look forward to continue providing great (and reasonably priced) local beers to our community for a long time to come, and to keep organising tasting events, brewery presentations, tap takeovers, and festivals!

**Mat Rossi**

**On behalf of the Sportsman Committee**

## In praise of your Editor

Once again a huge thanks to Mike Toynbee for producing such a fantastic parish magazine, month after month. A tremendous amount of time and hard work goes into making such a varied and interesting read. Thanks, Mike!

**Pam Keeble**





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## People & Events

### Welcome...

To **Adrian** and **Mandy McGillivray**, the new owners of Wildwinds, Rackham Road, Amberley. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

### Our condolences...

To **Angela Scriven**, whose husband, **Tim**, died on New Year's Eve at St Richards Hospital, aged 92. Living in Coldwaltham, both were active and faithful members of Wiggonholt Church over many years. An appreciation will follow.

### New parish clerk

Steve Trott has taken over as parish clerk, from Vicky Spiers, who has held the post for 10 years.



A building surveyor who then ran his own company in interior construction, Mr Trott has experience in finance, compliance, risk assessments and dealing with a wide spectrum of customers/employers. He lives in Arundel and has been a regular participant at the monthly quiz nights at the Sportsman.

Vicky Spiers continues as parish clerk for Parham Parish Council.

### New Year Honours

Trevor Beattie, former chief executive of the South Downs National Park Authority, received an MBE in the New Year Honours List for his services to the natural environment.

At the helm of the National Park for 12 years, he led the way across many important projects, including increasing access to the National Park from urban areas with major infrastructure routes such as the Centurion Way and Egrets Way.

And Rose Aidin, eldest daughter of Janet Aidin, was the recipient of an MBE for services to Art History and to young people.

### Business as usual

Following the closure of its forecourt and shop just before Christmas, Turners Garage at Bury Gate is now concentrating on vehicle servicing, repairs and MoTs. The forecourt and shop may reopen under new management in due course.

### AMBERLEY SOCIETY

### Important Society meeting

The Amberley Society annual general meeting, which takes place on Tuesday, March 18, will pay tribute to its chairman Grahame Joseph, who is standing down after 17 years in the role.

A new draft constitution will also be presented to the membership. At the time of going to press, the speaker and topic at the meeting, which is in St Michael's Church Hall and starts at 7.30pm, had not been confirmed. All welcome.

### Charity auction raises £1,400

A hugely entertaining auction at The Sportsman on January 23 raised £1,187 – boosted by Gift Aid to £1,483 – for Chestnut Tree House children's hospice.

Auctioneer Gary Shipton, Editor In Chief and Regional Director of *Sussex World* as well as editor of the *West Sussex County Times* and *West Sussex Gazette*, was in top form, encouraging his audience to bid generously for a range of items, from unwanted Christmas presents to a magnificent dolls house donated by a wellwisher from Storrington, and which was bought on behalf of the hospice.

### Change of date

This month's Eco Hub and Repair Cafe have been brought forward to Sunday, February 2, because St Michael's Church Hall will be closed from February 3 until March 7 for the kitchen refurbishment. It is being held on Sunday to avoid clashing with an important Amberley Parish Council meeting the previous day to discuss the South Downs National Park's Land Availability Assessment.

The Eco Hub and Repair Cafe is open from 10am until 12.30pm and provides recycling and environmentally-friendly refills. It will resume its usual second Saturday of the month schedule from March 8.

### All change at SAGE

At a well attended annual general meeting on January 27, the outgoing chair, Sarah Ffoulkes Roberts, and the committee were thanked for all their hard work.

Elisabeth Tooms was elected as the new chair, Pam Keeble takes over as hon. treasurer, and Cathy Van Wely as hon secretary, with Clare Attard, Susie Every and Valerie Galbraith joining the committee.

The AGM was preceded by an excellent talk by Ben Pope on the joys of container gardening.

**LIVES REMEMBERED****Jim Endacott, 1939-2024**

Many Wildbrooks' readers will remember Jim as a founder member of the Amberley Book Club, a stalwart of Millenium Green team and above all, as a gentleman who embodied all the very best qualities a man can strive to possess.

Born in Portsmouth in 1939 at the start of the Second World War, Jim Endacott grew up in the city and attended Portsmouth Grammar school, where he went on to become Head Boy. At school, he made a great friend, Jeremy Appleton. Their friendship was important as Jim went on to marry Jeremy's younger sister, Sue. Jim was 16 and Sue was 13 when they met. From that moment, they were together until Sue's death in 2021 – a true love story.

Jim went on to university in Manchester but on completing his degree, he settled back nearer London to be close to Sue, who was training to be a nurse at Guy's hospital. Always sporty and a keen rugby player at school, Jim played first class rugby at Blackheath Rugby Club and also had trials for England. Jim and Sue married in December 1965 in Portsmouth and settled in Sussex. They went on to have three boys, Pip, Mark and Tom.

After they were married, Jim took up a teaching contract with the army, expecting to be posted to sunny Cyprus, but was actually offered Singapore. Thriving in the newly independent country, Jim continued to play rugby and once turned out for a Singaporean side that took on the Thailand national team. After the game, he returned home slightly the worse for wear and declared happily that due to the tradition of swapping mementos with the opposition, he now had a Thai Tie!

After four years in Singapore, Jim and Sue returned to the UK with the boys in tow. Jim took up a teaching post first at Collyer's and then at Christ's Hospital in 1979, where he taught for over 20 years. Here, he made a big impact on the school as teacher, sports coach and housemaster. At the same time, Sue was Housemistress at Coleridge, one of the boarding houses at the school.

English language and literature were Jim's great delight. Jim's sons remember how he would read them poems in his lovely deep voice which would hold them captive, bewitching them into silence.

The joy of books and playwrights bewitched his pupils too. Generations of them recall Jim's inspiring English lessons at Christ's Hospital – and also, how he always managed to perfectly balance support and encouragement with the boundaries that are needed to get the best out of young people. Jim's family received many tributes from appreciative students after his death: 'Jim was such an inspirational



**A formidable double act: Sue and Jim, married 57 years**

teacher and person. His calm manner and respectfulness to his pupils in the classroom and on the rugby pitch was unparalleled' and 'I saw him as a very positive father figure in my life. I cannot imagine how my life would have gone if it were not for Jim's positive influence. I am thankful for all the happy memories I have of him and Sue'.

Jim was also well known and respected by generations of Horsham sports people through his playing and coaching at Horsham Rugby Club.

Jim and Sue retired to Amberley in 2000 and soon both played a full role in village life. They were two of the original members of the Amberley Book Club, and Jim was an active member of the Millenium Green team. Sue joined SAGE, became a driver for the Amberley Good Neighbours Emergency Scheme and chaired the Amberley Millenium Green Trust.

When Sue died in 2021, after 57 years of marriage, Jim was lost. They had been a formidable double act: Sue was always front and centre but Jim was always there in the background, quietly keeping things grounded. Happily, friends and family were able to rally round, helping to bring back a little colour and interest to Jim's final years.

Jim lost his battle against cancer at home, surrounded by those he loved and looking out over the Wildbrooks, in his place of happiness.





## Mandy Clapperton-Blake, 1943-2024

Sadly missed by the Wiggonholt congregation, Mandy died suddenly and unexpectedly at her home in Nutbourne in late September, her three beloved dachshunds at her side.

Mandy is remembered with great affection by her wide circle of friends, as evidenced by the large number of mourners who came from far and wide to pay their respects at her funeral and burial at St. Mary's Church, West Chiltington, on November 14.

She had a long and successful career as a fashion editor with *Vogue* magazine. She travelled the world working on shoots with well-known photographers, and she worked closely with Mary Quant, whom she much admired. New York was home during her time with American *Vogue*.

A life-long dachshund owner, Mandy retired to her cottage in Nutbourne and enjoyed life there with her canine family, to whom she was devoted. Sociable and hospitable, she was passionate about current affairs, film, theatre, tennis and horse-racing, but dachshunds came first. A loyal, wise, kind and generous friend and fellow-worshipper with a sparkling sense of humour, we miss her.

Annie Rydon has kindly taken on two of her beloved dachsies, Min and Murphy, and the black and tan (Hebe, pictured with Mandy) has gone to a close friend. Rest in Peace, Mandy.

**Juliette Lester**

## A treat for music lovers

Chichester Music Society has successfully launched a new series of programmes which directly enable music students to receive coaching from prestigious performers and then have the opportunity to perform in public. The first of these concerts this year is on Wednesday, Febru-

ary 5. The society is delighted to welcome back pianist Martino Tirimo, who is regarded by critics and fellow artists as one of today's most distinguished musicians. He will work with three exceptionally talented piano students of Chichester University during the afternoon from 2pm. This will be followed by an evening recital when, in the first half, each of the students will play a short solo piece and one will join Martino in duet playing the *Schubert Rondo in A Major Op.107*.

The second half of the concert will be given by Martino Tirimo and will be devoted to music by Chopin, including *Andante Spianato* and *Grand Polonaise op22*. This is an exciting, innovative and enjoyable programme and we hope to welcome a goodly number of music lovers.

The workshop and concert will take place at University of Chichester in the Elizabeth Swann room of the Music centre. The public are welcome to come to the afternoon workshop at no cost, from 2pm; tickets for the concert at 7.30pm, priced £15 (free entry for students of Chichester University & faculty) are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/chichester-music-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chichester-music-society).

Car parking is at the university can be free if you contact Chris Hough at [chichestermusicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:chichestermusicsociety@gmail.com) in advance with your car registration details, otherwise you have to pay with your mobile phone on the paybyphone app.

**Cyndy Kennett**

### STORRINGTON FILM NIGHT

## Desperate times, desperate measures

What do you do if your pension is cut? Well, if you are anything like retired couple Arthur and Martha, who refuse to accept the injustice of their circumstances, you take up robbing banks.

*Golden Years*, a comedy starring Simon Callow, Una Stubbs, and Bernard Hill, is this month's choice for the Storrington Film Night on Wednesday, February 12. The showing starts at 7.30pm in Sullington Hall, Thakeham Road.

Tickets, priced £5, are available in advance from the Card Shop in Storrington, with any unsold tickets available at the door on the night. As usual, there is a bar and raffle during the interval. Anyone requiring transport should contact John Ollerton on (07523) 322554.

The March film will be *Paddington in Peru*, starring Hugh Bonneville and Emily Mortimer. Paddington returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy. With the Brown family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey.

Storrington Film Nights are organised by the Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District.

- "The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder." **Alfred Hitchcock**



# Land Availability Assessment: a Parish Council statement

In response to the release of the National Housing Strategy, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is reviewing its Local Plan, which involves a re-assessment of land with potential for housing within the Park to meet evolving national housing targets and local needs.

The revised Land Availability Assessment (LAA) has added a number of new sites across the Park that have the potential for housing, and included in a shortlist (reduced from over 800 to 48) are the fields formerly associated with East Street Farm in Amberley, known locally as the Piggery and the Middle field, and 'Harvey's' field alongside the B2139 which is also included

in the LAA but termed by the SDNPA as a 'green corridor'. The inclusion of this land in the LAA is subject to a public consultation (Regulation 16) which will be held by the SDNPA from January to March 2025, and any proposals for development that emerge would be subject to the normal planning process.

Amberley Parish Council (APC) is monitoring the progression of the review not only in terms of land allocation but also in terms of community priorities for new green spaces and a new community centre. The APC will provide more information on the approach to SDNPA, and how the community can be involved, in due course.

● See Editorial comment on page 37

## A point of view

**Geoff Uren, a former chairman of Amberley Parish Council, suggests some points for consideration in forming a response to the SDNP Land Availability Assessment for Amberley**

**AMBERLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.** Amberley has a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which states that development should be within the Settlement Boundary (SB). None of these three fields are within the SB, so the proposal for development in the LAA is in direct conflict to the Amberley NDP. When the Amberley Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2032) was made, we were asked by the SDNPA to provide six new dwellings. We over-delivered on this commitment by providing a total of 10 homes on the Swan Meadows site, so local housing need has been fully addressed.

**LANDSCAPE AND CONSERVATION.** Amberley is a village in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is not (yet) a town where infilling might be considered the norm and more acceptable. The fields which were part of East Street Farm are important in protecting the character of the village. It was decided when we made our NDP that the fields which are the subject of this LAA should be excluded from development on the grounds of landscape, ecology and conservation. As the SDNP Local plan states: "There are many heritage features in the landscape and these contribute to local distinctiveness reflecting the time depth which is present in the landscape (Design and Layout 5.12)". These fields are the legacy of the farming history, and act as an effective 'green belt' around the Conservation Area and prevent the merging of the more modern housing with the old.



found the presence of owls, bats, hedgehogs, rabbits, slow worms, dragonflies, butterflies and wildflowers. They are also frequented by raptors which prey on this wildlife. Through light grazing these fields have been allowed to flourish and a rich biodiversity to develop in this secure and unique niche (quite different to the surrounding gardens and Millennium Green habitats), close to the village centre. Loss of this habitat would be a piece of ecological vandalism.

We understand that the Bottom Field has been excluded from consideration in the LAA, instead being designated as a 'Green Corridor'. It would be interesting to learn the reason for this. A corridor from where to where? It is bounded by the B2139 to the south, School Road to the west and Newland Gardens to the east. Housing development in the Middle or Top fields would further constrict this 'corridor'. Wildlife in this Bottom Field is vulnerable to traffic on the B2139, as evidenced by the frequent presence of roadkill. It would be far more appropriate for the 'Green Corridor' to link the Top field with the Millennium Green, football field and open farmland. These areas are already connected by green space, and offer a far larger and more wildlife-friendly environment than does the Bottom field.

The exclusion of the Bottom field from consideration for development is, therefore, questionable. Development on this (Bottom field) site would avoid the traffic impact of access via Hurst Cottages, as direct access could be from houses directly on to the B2139. This is how houses on the south side of the road have access. The Bottom field already has a car park, and would be the best site for a community hall and a possible re-sited village shop. The landscape impact of development in this Bottom field is also less than would be the case in the Middle and Top fields. Local Plan Strategic Policy SD6 is relevant here.

These fields, especially the Top and Middle fields, are important habitats for wildlife. The late Richard Robinson carried out an assessment of wildlife in these fields, and



**TRAFFIC.** Access to any development in the Top and Middle fields, as outlined in the LAA, is via Hurst Cottages (“subject to appropriate access from Hurst Cottages”, according to the LAA). As any visit to the area would confirm, this road is totally inadequate to handle an increased level of traffic, which would then route out of the village via East Street, High Street and School Road to the B2139. Increased traffic could also affect Hog Lane and Church Street. The road through Hurst Cottages is unsuitable for the volume of traffic that housing development would incur. Has the traffic impact of development even been considered?

On-street parking in East Street, High Street and School Road further restrict access. At present, the congestion caused by builders’ vans, oil delivery lorries, school drop-off and visitor plus customer parking for the Black Horse are bad enough, and would be greatly increased by site traffic generated by any development. Increased traffic would also present increased road safety issues for cars, cyclists and walkers, especially at the blind corner by the Black Horse.

What about traffic during the construction phase, if development were to go ahead? Is it seriously proposed that lorries access the site either via Rackham or the narrow streets of Amberley? There are also dangers inherent in the access through Hurst Cottages, which is used as a play area for very young, usually unaccompanied, children. Indeed, a play area is situated immediately adjacent to the most dangerous bend with access to the side fronting the road. Increased traffic would also negatively affect the Millennium Green, an important Local Green Space.

**CONCLUSION.** The community of Amberley has always been mindful of a duty to protect the unique character of the village. It is a ‘Dark Skies’ environment, which could be completely negated by further development. As demonstrated by our delivery of housing as part of our NDP, the community is not anti-development, but it does want to be able to determine where such development takes place.

This LAA, if accepted, will override local concerns and NDP priorities, and undermine the ‘Landscape led’ mission of the South Downs National Park. Any development on the three fields in Amberley would conflict with Strategic Policy SD4 of the South Downs Local Plan, in particular, with “3. The settlement pattern and individual identity of settlements and the integrity of predominantly open and undeveloped land between settlements will not be undermined.” Also, the proposal to designate the constrained Bottom field as a Green Corridor is inappropriate, as it does not provide an unconfined and connected access for wildlife. The Top field does allow this, and is far more appropriate as part of a Green Corridor. Strategic Policy SD4 states that “Green and blue corridors will be safeguarded. Development proposals should identify and take opportunities to create and connect green and blue corridors”.

## Museum’s half-term activities

Amberley Museum will be celebrating the 2025 International Day of Women and Girls in Science with an inspiring inventors’ trail for all the family (February 19-21) as part of its half-term activities.

Across the museum young visitors will find different inventions designed to solve a problem or make life easier. Many of the inventions were designed, led or inspired by women such as Caroline Haslett, an electrical engineer, and Mary Anderson who patented the design that led to the modern windscreen wiper.

There will be hands-on family craft activities (Wednesday to Friday, 11am-3pm) when children can make their own windmill inspired by the museum’s DANDO windpump.

On Wednesday, February 19, there will be an opportunity to have a go at the traditional craft of woodturning with the West Sussex Woodturners, and take home a small wooden keepsake (£1.50 charge per person).

At the pottery studio youngsters can join the museum’s resident potter, Nancy Scantlebury-Thompson, to make beetles and bugs to take home and paint. Sessions run from Saturday, February 15 until Sunday, February 26, with a small additional fee of £2.50 each.

### THE ARTS SOCIETY WEST SUSSEX

## A carpet ride to Khiva

The traditional role of carpet weaving and embroidery in Khiva, a desert oasis in Uzbekistan, played a huge part in the social lives of Central Asian women and how social and political influences led to the decline of textile production.

This is the subject of a talk entitled A Carpet Ride to Khiva by Chris Aslan to members of the Arts Society West Sussex at their meeting on Tuesday, February 4.

Next month’s talk, on March 4, will be about Antoni Gaudi, the Spanish architect and designer who created the magnificent Sagrada Familia.

Venue for the talks, which start at 2pm, is Fittleworth Village Hall. Tea and coffee are served afterwards and visitors are welcome (£10). For further details contact Gilly Myers on (07805) 731663 or e-mail [westsussex@theartsociety.org](mailto:westsussex@theartsociety.org)

## Food waste collections

From next month local businesses will be able to benefit from a new food waste collection service provided by West Sussex County Council. This will be followed by a home food waste collection trial in selected areas from February next year, with full household collections rolling out by March 2026.





## Princess Royal visits Amberley Museum

By our royal correspondent

It's not often we get a visit from royalty. Queen Elizabeth 1 is rumoured to have visited Parham House sometime during her reign. King Charles II is known to have passed this way during his escape in 1651 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester. And the young Princess Elizabeth is also thought to have been a guest at Parham before becoming Queen.

The latest visit, in early December, was by the Princess Royal who arrived by helicopter in the grounds of Amberley Castle before being given a police escort to Amberley Museum. During her visit she met a number of museum volunteers across the site and undertook the official opening of the newly restored Bagging Shed and Loading Bay, which is located by the entrance and visible from the main road.

She began her tour of the museum outside the Rail Exhibition Hall, getting the opportunity to see the West Sussex steam roller, Joan, which had been fired up for the occasion, and met some of the rail volunteers with the Blue Star loco. She then met volunteers from the wheelwrights, cycle shop, bus and maintenance teams, before being treated to the sight of the Tramocar and vintage bus parked outside the Southdown bus garage.

The Princess also stopped off at the Arundel gin building and met volunteers from the plumbers, the steam crane project and woodturners. Here she was presented with a walking stick made by craftsman Ken Wood, with an appropriate horse's head handle carved in walnut.

Following the tour, Her Royal Highness visited the restored Bagging Shed and Loading Bay. This late 19th century working building, which was once the heart of the bustling Amberley chalk pit and limeworks, has been restored and made more

accessible thanks to a grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Museum Estate and Development fund, administered by the Arts Council.



The Princess Royal, who was formally welcomed by museum director, Katrina Burton, then performed the official opening of the building by unveiling a plaque during a short, outdoor ceremony attended by more than 100 museum volunteers and invited guests. She congratulated everyone on the recently awarded King's Award for Voluntary Service, and wished the museum well for the future.



The Princess Royal with Katrina Burton, the museum's director

## Talented young musician

Jaren Ziegler, who won the BBC Young Musician String Final in 2022, aged 16, playing the viola, is performing at this month's Chichester Chamber Concert with the Heath Quartet.

The performance, in Chichester's Assembly Room, is at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 27. The programme includes works by Haydn, Bruckner, Electra Perivolaris and Mozart. Tickets are £25 and free for under-25s.

## The Amberley Society

### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, March 18**  
**at 7.30pm**

### St Michael's Church Hall

**All welcome, including non-members**



Whilst not difficult to get to grips with the layout in the Sportsman it may be worth clarifying the names of the bars for navigation purposes and so that hordes of patrons are not circulating in a fog of inebriation trying to find each other and their destination.

The bar at the west of the building that is attached to the conservatory is called the Saloon Bar. The bar at the east of the building that gives access to the B&B is called The Snug, and the bar between is called the Public Bar. Of course, patrons are at liberty to give whatever names they wish to the bars, since, as can be seen, none of the existing titles are in any way descriptive of the nature or status of the bars and the reasons for them are a mystery

However sad, one of the great pleasures of my life is to sit in a pub when it is quiet and do the crossword. And so, before 2024, visiting The Sportsman early evening got me out of the house and into a social setting where I could attempt and fail puzzles in the paper. Not that I particularly wanted time to myself and was happy to chat to early arrivals or direct them to bar-staff or other patrons whose conversation was interesting and engaging.

Panic ensued when the future of the pub looked dodgy and this pastime might be threatened so I joined forces with oth-

## Why you should support your local

**While efforts continue to purchase the freehold of the pub, regular John Fryett appeals to fellow residents to continue patronising The Sportsman during the lean winter months**



**All set to welcome in the New Year: Roger Agate, Jo Westerfield (resident manager) and Sean Brooks**

ers to keep the pub open, but for the purely selfish reasons of wanting somewhere to go for a drink and a chat and stave off the ravages of dementia getting defeated by elementary riddles.

However, upkeep of the premises has involved being present for longer periods at times other than the evenings and the value of the pub to the village has become apparent in many ways. Not least it provides employment for locals but it is also neutral ground where patrons can reflect on the shocking state of the world, bounce their woes and troubles off similarly afflicted victims and air the occasional scrap of good news or glimmer of favourable future

prospects. And, of course, there are all sorts of palatable beverages to be had. People are enjoying themselves; and the positive comments and encouragement that are received are an endorsement of the principles on which the pub is operated.

The pub is not easy to keep afloat financially though and its future is largely dependent on footfall. This tends to decrease in the winter months, particularly after the New Year, so, to summarise, the purpose of this rambling nonsense is to appeal to Amberley residents to continue to patronise the pub during this period. You will find that the staff remain as cheerful and friendly as in the summer, the fare on offer is just as appetising and the company and conversation as varied and eminent as ever.

## THE SPORTSMAN, AMBERLEY

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- Tuesday 10-11.30am Infants to Seniors
- Wednesday from 7pm Village Chat Night (all welcome)
- Friday 2-3.30pm Knit and Natter (all crafters welcome)

### EVERY MONTH

- 2nd Monday 7.30pm Quiz Night (booking essential)
- 2nd Saturday from 10am Classic Car Meet
- Last Thursday from 7pm Open Mic Night





## Amberley Goes Wild Calendar 2026

### January Submissions

Thanks to all those Amberley residents who have submitted their beautiful Sussex wildlife images, during January 2025, for entry into the calendar selection for 2026. Please participate and send your images to [wildsideuk1@gmail.com](mailto:wildsideuk1@gmail.com): subject AGW2026







## AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

# What your councillors discussed



### Highlights of the meeting held on January 16, 2025, in St Michael's Church Hall

**Present:** Jason Charman (chairman), Elisabeth Tooms, Paul Mustow, Tim Simpson, Leigh Cresswell, Hazel Allinson and Graham Smith. Also in attendance: West Sussex County councillor Paul Marshall, Horsham District councillor Paul Clarke, Vicky Spiers (parish clerk), Steve Trott (the new clerk from January 17) and six members of the public.

Councillors agreed an increase of 12.89 per cent for the 2025/26 budget precept which means a rise from £108.07 to £122 per annum, based on a Band D household. Increased costs for the council was given as the explanation for the substantial rise.

Leader of West Sussex County Council Paul Marshall said it would have a balanced budget for the next financial year, with continued investment into adult social care and children's services. He went on to say that the Cabinets of West and East Sussex County Councils and Brighton & Hove City Council had agreed to submit an expression of interest to be considered for the Government's Devolution Priority Programme, indicating support for a Sussex Mayoral Strategic Authority. As a result, next May's elections may be deferred.

Horsham District councillor Paul Clarke reported that the HDC Local Plan had been suspended by the Local Plan Inspector and all scheduled hearings had been cancelled.

The clerk read out a statement from the council advising that the SDNPA's Land Availability Assessment regarding a potential site for housing in Amberley would not be covered at this PC meeting but in detail in the public consultations on January 18 in St Michael's Church and February 1 at The Sportsman.

Chairman Jason Charman confirmed that a contractor had fixed the outflow pipe for the village pond and had also undertaken a survey with suggestions to the PC for additional work for the pond and surrounding area. This would be discussed in full at the next Assets and Amenities committee meeting. It was also noted that the two coppiced willows at the pond would shortly be removed.

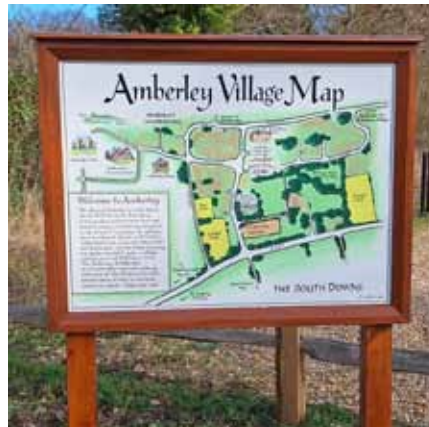
Among the planning applications, one relating to Pickwick, Turnpike Road, for a change of use from one dwelling to four, which had been turned down by the SDNPA, had been taken

to appeal. And despite repeated attempts by the park authority to resolve outstanding maintenance issues with the developer of Swan Meadows, no response had been received.

However, Graham Smith, who is also a resident, said the developer had fitted a non-return valve to the pipe by the new bridge, and residents were hopeful that the remaining outstanding issues would also be rectified in the near future.

Mr Charman advised that WSCC contractors had confirmed that remedial drainage works were necessary on the B2139 by The Cricketers. CCTV would be used to establish if there was a collapsed pipe. Work was expected to be undertaken in April. A damaged manhole cover located on land adjacent to the B2139 had been repaired and East Street would be closed for up to five days at the end of January. Ruffs path resurfacing work will be a priority for 2025, with work expected to start by the end of April, weather permitting.

Hazel Allinson told councillors that the Hurst Cottages bus shelter was being used on a weekly basis as a community larder with food from the Pulborough Pantry – an initiative of St Michael's Church.



**Smart new village map in the car park (with a spelling mistake to be corrected)**

Tim Simpson reported that the new village map had been installed in the car park, and that a spelling mistake would be rectified by the sign writer. He noted that the car park lights were currently not working and that further investigation was required to establish the cause.

Elisabeth Tooms added that parking the bus in the village car park was going well, and that they had a steady stream of passengers.

Fraser Wheeler had provided an update prior to the meeting on behalf of the Climate Action and Nature Recovery Working Group. He is working with a prominent energy industry figure focusing on the lack of power in Amberley along with the increasing requirement expected as a result the SDNPA's Land Availability Assessment proposal.

The council agreed to pay Amberley Cricket Club its annual donation of £1,000 and also to make a donation of £388.80 from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to the Friends of St Mary's North Stoke for a new brown tourist direction sign. It was also agreed to move funds from General Reserves to Administration to pay for the planning consultancy services of Steve Tilbury.

Vicky Spiers, who was attending her final meeting as clerk, was thanked by a member of the public for her 10 years' work on behalf of the parish.

**Date of the next meeting:** March 13 at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall.



## A Christmas feast...

The Village Christmas Lunch in St Michael's Church Hall, one of the highlights of the year, is always a sell-out and the 2024 event was no exception. Around 65 residents enjoyed good food, good company and some merry entertainment involving not a little audience participation. Some takeaways were also delivered to those unable to attend.

The traditional meal of turkey and all the trimmings was the best many could remember. As always, it was prepared by a small army of volunteers in various homes, delivered to the hall in relays and served piping hot. Following the meal there were some rousing seasonal songs by Catherine Cunningham, Kate Pluck and Mike Wright with everyone joining in.

Many of the diners were regulars, but none more so than 92-year-old Pam Ffoulkes Roberts, who has attended all but possibly one of the Christmas lunches since moving to Amberley in 1987, a record that is unlikely to be surpassed.

Organiser Sarah Wheeler thanked all the many volunteers – from vegetable preparers, cooks, servers and washer-uppers – who worked so hard to make the event a success. Profits and donations raised £400, split between Sussex Air Ambulance and Medecins Sans Frontieres.



**Mike Wright, Catherine Cunningham and Kate Pluck (above) entertain with some seasonal songs, some audience participation by Sarah Wheeler, and (below) a small army of potato peelers and Brussels sprouts shredders. Pictures by Mike Beck and Susan Watson**







**St Michael's Church  
Amberley  
BN18 9ND**

# **Choral Evensong**

**Sunday  
16 February 2025  
4.00 pm**

**Coro Nuovo**

*Conducted by  
Rev Michael Maine*

*Smith Responses  
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis - Stanford in C  
Anthem: Thou wilt keep him - Wesley*





## Journey to the Crib – the perfect prelude to Christmas

It might not have happened this year... With the earlier demise of Amberley Village Singers, there was little prospect of The Journey to the Crib playing its usual role as the last door of the Amberley Living Advent Calendar on Christmas Eve. Until, that is, Cyndy Kennett stepped in to direct the singing and a really good group of singers were eager to join in.

Fortuitously, Marcus Lyon agreed to narrate the story of the Journey, adding his own take on the role by casting himself as an Amberley artist searching for the perfect setting for his next masterpiece.

The Lorica Trust were keen to come with donkeys Al and Teddy. And Luke and Sam Read were more than ready to don costumes and reprise the role of shepherds, along with their magnificent ram, Draco.

David Lyon has been involved in the Journey every year and, with a smile, dusted off the Kings' crowns and invited regular royals, Jay Simson and Russell Coates, to join him outside Oak Tree house as the Three Kings... They had clearly sourced their gifts from a well-known online merchant!

Mike Wright was a shoe-in for the Art Angel (get it?) Gabriel coming with exciting news for the young Mary (Flo Lyon) in

The Square. Once we had signed up our Holy family – Sophie and Tom Young with their cheeky one-year-old, Rex (thanks to Jim the Postie for putting us in touch!), we knew we were in business. Plus we had Rex's brother Arthur as donkey handler and sister Grace as the Star Angel to complete the cast.

With Cyndy conducting the singing, the Journey set off down Church Street with a huge entourage of 'pilgrims' enjoying the long trek to Bethlehem and the Crib in St Michael's church, meeting the shepherds with Draco at Hog Lane and the Kings at Oak Tree House. Number three King, Russell, unable to locate his wig, was a little late to join the line up – hence just two Kings in the picture!

Having greeted the Baby Jesus at the Crib, the crowd of pilgrims which filled the church, raised a cup of mulled wine to toast his miraculous birth.

A retiring collection raised £228 for the work of the donkeys and their escorts at the Lorica Trust, East Clayton Farm, Washington with children with learning difficulties. (See [www.eastclaytonfarm.org.uk](http://www.eastclaytonfarm.org.uk) for more details)

As ever, the Journey to the Crib provided the perfect prelude to Christmas... See you next year? **Ros Simpson**







Photography by Mike Beck, Pam Keeble and Marcus Lyon





## A record-breaking Open Doors Living Advent Calendar

Where to start? Well, August, that's where. I was approached once again by the residents of Drewitts farm eager to bag dates for two events, one at the very end of November and one in December.

They were quickly followed by the residents of Newland Gardens and soon after that the other dates were quickly filled. There were a record-breaking 20 open doors for old favourites and new, soon-to-be old, favourites.

New events included carol singing at both the Sportsman and the Bridge Inn (not on the same day thanks to a tip-off from Mike Toynbee), Christmas card and gift-tag making, an Alpine evening in Newland Gardens and a coffee morning, which I hope will pave the way for more day-time events in future.

The Euro Christmas food evening expanded to take in the whole world and the age range of those going through the open doors extended from 3-91!

My sincerest thanks to everyone who opened their doors and planned such lovely activities. The total raised was £5,129.30 of which £1,927.80 was in aid of the village hall improvement fund, and £2,621.50 which went to a variety of charities selected by the hosts. And £580 was raised for Freedom from Torture. Heartfelt thanks to all who went through the open doors and gave so generously.

Finally, my annual warning: if you opened your door this year, I will be in touch in September and if you thought about opening your door but were daunted by the prospect – be brave, it's fun.

**Sue Phasey**



Events included a festive card and tag-making workshop, a quiz night and Classic Car Saturday at the Sportsman







The popular wreath-making session in the Church Hall and winners of the best Christmas jumper competition at the Sportsman



Model trainspotting (far left) and enjoying an Alpine-themed Christmas in Newland Gardens (below)







# Fabulously festive – Hallraisers’ 2024 Christmas events

With the Church Hall kitchen refurbishment just around the corner, the Hallraisers hosted a number of festive events as part of Amberley’s Open Doors, in a final push to reach our fundraising goal.

To kick things off, there was a sparkling Christmas Fair. Moving from its usual venue of the chilly Square to a warm and fragrant Church Hall, visitors could sample spiced apple juice and mince pies while they perused a range of festive stalls. The traditional offerings – Janet Aidin’s delicious homemade jam and festive gingerbread and crafts made by our Ukrainian friends Iryna and Viktoria – went down particularly well. There were also some new stallholders: our own Hallraiser Michael Donovan with gorgeous gifts from his shop Roullier White and the suzani jackets by Lulu Fern proved to be particularly popular, as did Tesh Patel’s hand-crafted wooden Christmas trees. Santa (the perfectly cast Steve Kennett) was also there to ho-ho-ho it through the morning, looking resplendent in his fur-lined jacket as he handed out lucky dip gifts.

Next was Stella’s Tunics, where Stella Kemp had put her hand to sewing some gorgeous tunics from repurposed fabrics, in aid of the kitchen refurbishment fund. They sold like hotcakes and were much admired when they were

sported by their elegant owners at various Christmas events later in the month.

Finally, Drewitt’s Farm hosted a celebration of global holiday traditions, where guests could sample traditional treats from around the world. Fuelled by warming glühwein and fragrant glögg, there was something to suit every taste ... from the spicy flavours of India to the succulent tastes of sunny New Zealand to the fresh panettone and apfelstrudel from snow-capped Europe – with no passport required!

The events – together with the sale of Joy Cameron’s Christmas cards – raised an astonishing £2,130 towards the Church Hall kitchen refurbishment. The Hallraisers thank everyone who supported us at our festive events, particularly the Chalkpath Theatre Group, who donated all the money they raised at their Christmas production to the kitchen renovation fund.

**Susan Watson**

- The Church Hall will be closed between February 3 until March 7 2025 for the kitchen refurbishment to take place.

### *More pictures of Hallraisers’ events overleaf*

## Amberley Roving Supper 25

Change of date – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Please note we’ve changed the previously advertised date. Further details will follow in March



**Stella Kemp’s colourful tunics from repurposed fabrics proved hugely popular**



**Sue Watson and Pam Keeble did a brisk trade in Amberley Christmas cards and tea towels**





### Church Hall Christmas Fair



Photography: Mike Beck





### Christmas around the world

A celebration by residents of Drewitts Farm with food and drink from Greece, Spain, Morocco, Turkey, US and more



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## Ringing the changes of the black-tailed godwit

It's at this time of year when the wetlands of the Arun Valley are looking at their finest and busiest, teeming with ducks, such as whistling wigeon and handsome pin-tails, geese, swans and wading birds. A large flock of lapwings taking to the skies, spooked perhaps by a dashing peregrine falcon, is always an impressive sight but it is the black-tailed godwits that I enjoy watching the most at this time of year.



Picture: David Andrews

Colour-ringing provides researchers with data on movements and behaviour

Black-tailed godwits are elegant wading birds with very long legs and very long beaks. During the winter, often reaching a peak in February if the water levels suit them, up to 1,000 of them can be found squabbling and bickering over the juiciest worms that the mud at Pulborough Brooks and Amberley Wildbrooks has to offer.

In among the tangle of legs and beaks you could notice the odd flash of colour – some of these birds have been colour-ringed. Attaching a unique combination of colourful plastic rings – what I like to think of as ‘birdy bling’ – to the legs of the black-tailed godwits allows scientists to monitor these individuals and gather information on their movements, lifespan and behaviour.

Whilst regular surveys like the monthly Wetland Bird Surveys that are carried out nationally give us data on population trends, the data from colour-ringing studies reveal the

fascinating stories about individual birds. One of our volunteers recently spotted three colour-ringed birds out on the wetlands and reported them to the research team who promptly replied with information on those individuals. The first was a newcomer to Pulborough Brooks but not to Sussex, spending most of its winters since 2010 in Chichester or Langstone Harbour before returning to Iceland to breed. The second was a young bird rung as a chick in Iceland and now learning about suitable wintering sites. And the third was a Pulborough regular who was first reported here in January 2012 and then on many subsequent winters.

So what has colour-ringing taught us? With some of the Sussex ‘regulars’ you can see a pattern of movement between sites on the coast (like Pagham Harbour) and then sites inland like Pulborough Brooks. When the reserve is fully flooded or covered in ice they move down to the coast. Conversely, if it's stormy weather they tend to move

*continued on page 33*



## Winter wildlife wonderland

Although we all suffer from those dark, gloomy winter days and cold weather conditions, our wildlife is still out there but frequently suffering, too, from penetrating cold, wind and lack of food. However, for those not hibernating, all creatures still have to eat and can be found foraging in many areas. Good locations are Warnham Nature Reserve near Horsham (Adults £4 entry and children free), Arundel Wetland Centre and Knepp Estates.

The images above were all taken in West Sussex and are examples of birds spotted and photographed in January.

Please participate with camera or phone and e-mail your images to me at [wildsideuk1@gmail.com](mailto:wildsideuk1@gmail.com): subject AGW2026. Best images for inclusion in *The Wildbrooks Magazine* and candidates for the Amberley Goes Wild calendar 2026.

**Richard Sharman**

# 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 873876

Email: [caroline@amberleypottery.co.uk](mailto:caroline@amberleypottery.co.uk)

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

Opening Hours: *Thurs-Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm*

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

# CONNECT REFLEXOLOGY

## Reflexology

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

Appointments at The Old Forge Surgery:

Tuesday 9am - 1pm  
Wednesday 1pm - 5pm

Home visits available locally by appointment

Contact Clare on  
07895 302787

# The Labouring Man Coldwaltham

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



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



01798 873337

[www.labouringman.com](http://www.labouringman.com) [thelabouringman@gmail.com](mailto:thelabouringman@gmail.com)



*continued from page 31*

away from the coast towards more sheltered inland sites. This shows how important it is to have a network of protected wetland sites.

We've seen that individual birds will often use the same sites every winter so they must have a good memory and navigational system.

The black-tailed godwits that we see here breed in Iceland, arriving in their breeding grounds between mid-April and mid-May. While some spend their winter here in the UK, others move further south to the west of France and Portugal. Colour-ringing has shown that most black-tailed godwits pair for life but must synchronise their arrival in Iceland despite often spending the winter up to 1,000km apart and with no evidence of them meeting up prior to crossing the Atlantic. How this is achieved is a mystery.

## RECIPE

### It's marmalade-making time

**The marmalade season is upon us, one of the most exciting times of the year for preservers. From January through to the end of February, Seville oranges arrive from Southern Spain, ready to be peeled, shredded and turned into delicious marmalade. Buy them from Amberley Village Stores.**

#### You need

500g/1lb 2oz Seville oranges

50ml/2fl oz lemon juice

1kg/2lb 4 oz white sugar: regular, not with added pectin

Soft dark brown sugar, optional

#### Method

Weigh the oranges and make a note of the weight, as this will tell you how much of the other ingredients you'll need, to ensure the marmalade sets well. The basic ratio is: both the sugar and the strained liquid from the sliced and simmered oranges should roughly equal twice the weight of the uncooked whole oranges. So if you start with 500g/1lb 2oz whole oranges, after cooking you want to be left with a litre/1¾ pint of liquid once the peels have been strained out, and you need 1kg/2lb 4 oz of sugar.

Cut the oranges in half and squeeze out the juice, as this makes chopping the peel less messy. Remove any pips from the juice, spoon any remaining pips out of the peel, place them in a tea cup and cover with water. Then chop the peel into shreds about 0.25cm/¼in across and place

The male must arrive first, but not so early that he returns to find the ground still frozen and he's unable to feed and not so late that the female has arrived before him. She won't wait for long – if he leaves it too late she'll find herself a new male. The following year, all is forgiven if he arrives on time!

Black-tailed godwits are beautiful to watch; they are always busily feeding and occasionally take to the skies as a large flock whirling over the wetlands with any winter sunshine catching their bright-white undersides. As you explore the winter wetlands keep an eye out for these lovely birds and consider that the next bird that you spot may have been hundreds of miles away just 24 hours previously or could break the longevity record for the species of 25 years. Some may be starting to acquire the stunning russet tones of their breeding plumage getting ready to return to Iceland and to reunite with their partners.

**Anna Allum Visitor Experience Manager, RSPB, Wiggonholt**

these in a bowl with the juice and cover with water. Leave both overnight, as this will help the marmalade set well.

The next day, place the peel and water in a saucepan. Sieve the pips, place their soaking water (which will have jellied slightly) into the saucepan, then tie the pips in muslin and drop this into the pot. Bring to the boil then simmer for 2-3 hours, topping up with water so that the fruit stays well covered, until the peel is soft when squished between your fingers. Alternatively, cook in a pressure cooker for about 30 minutes.



Strain the juice from the peel and measure it. Whatever the original weight of fruit was at the beginning, you want about double that in cooking liquid. So if you started with 500g/1lb 2 oz fruit, then try and have roughly a litre/1¾ pint (in other words 1000ml or 1000g) of cooking liquid left. If you have more, boil it down in a saucepan to intensify it. If you have less, top it up with water to dilute it.

Then add the sugar (double the weight of the oranges), plus 1-2 tbsp brown sugar if you like to make the colour darker. Add the strained peel, plus 50ml/2fl oz of lemon juice for every 500g/1lb 2oz uncooked whole oranges used. Bring to the boil, skim off any white froth and pips that rise to the surface, and then boil until the temperature reaches 105C/220F.

Meanwhile, sterilise enough jars in the oven and have the lids washed and ready. When the marmalade reaches 105C/220F, turn the heat off and leave for 10 minutes. Ladle the marmalade into a jug then pour this carefully into the jars, leaving just a bare 0.5cm/¼in gap at the top. Screw the lid on tightly and leave undisturbed until completely cold.



# 2024 That Was The Year That Was...

## Our annual round-up of the past year

You are not alone if 2024 left you exhausted. It was a difficult year all round. The ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, endless changes of leadership both at home and abroad, a General Election, a struggling economy and problems as a result of the increases in the cost of living, and strikes by train drivers, doctors and nurses all contributed to a year perhaps best forgotten.

Both here and in the United States, voters sent the incumbent parties packing. French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to call snap parliamentary elections after rightist parties did well in the European parliamentary elections backfired. Germany's ruling coalition crumbled after its constituent parties fared poorly in state elections in September. What accounted for the global anti-incumbency mood? Unhappiness with the state of the economy looks to be a common thread.

Here, a deeply divided Conservative party, in power for 14 years, lost an 80-seat majority to Labour, who romped home with 412 seats, leaving the Tories with just 121. The Lib Dems increased their presence from 11 seats to 72. However, Labour's share of the vote was a mere 34 per cent. Defeated Prime Minister Rishi Sunak resigned and was subsequently succeeded by Kemi Badenoch as leader of the Conservatives.

Having arrived on a crest of a wave, Labour's popularity plummeted within six months of taking office, reversing a number of pre-election pledges. Chancellor Rachel Reeves, having already cut the universal winter fuel allowance for millions of pensioners, promptly raised taxes by £40 billion.

Both the King and the Princess of Wales were treated for cancer and Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, resigned.

There was an assassination attempt of US President-elect Donald Trump during a pre-election rally. President Joe Biden was persuaded, late in the day, not to run for a second term, standing aside in favour of Vice-President Kamala Harris. Despite having been convicted of falsifying business records Trump won the election.

To ease the pressure on overcrowded jails, the government released 2,800 prisoners early, while migrants continued to make the hazardous journey across the Channel in small boats – almost 37,000 people, which was fewer than the previ-

ous year, but an estimated 78 lost their lives in the process.

The impact of AI (Artificial Intelligence) increased considerably during the year, but the sales of electric cars stalled, due largely to the high cost and the withdrawal of incentives. Even so, 381,970 fully electric were sold in the UK, accounting for almost 20 per cent of all new cars registered during the year.

The Taylor Swift phenomenon swept the world. In the UK alone, she played to almost 1.2 million people, generating an estimated £1bn for the country's economy. The star's headline-dominating tour culminated with an eighth show at Wembley also saw her equal the overall record for the most nights at the venue on a single tour, set by Take That in 2011.

There were riots in a number of cities following the stabbing to death of three young children who were attending a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in Southport.

On a more positive note, Team GB brought home a total of 65 medals, including 14 gold, from the Paris Olympics, finishing in seventh place overall. The Paralympic team also did well with 114 medals (49 gold), second to China in the rankings.



**Dame Maggie Smith, who lived in Fittleworth, was known to do her shopping at Waitrose in Storrington**

In football Manchester City topped the Premiership for the fourth consecutive year, but were runners-up to rivals Manchester United in the FA Cup Final. England's cricketers won nine of the 17 Test matches played and Surrey won the county championship for the third successive year, the first time since Yorkshire achieved the feat in 1966-68. At Wimbledon, Carlos Alcaraz defeated Novak Djokovic in the

men's singles final and Andy Murray announced his retirement. *I Am Maximus*, ridden by Paul Townend, stormed home to win the Grand National and *City of Troy*, ridden by Ryan Moore, won the Derby. Cambridge claimed victory in the Boat Race, celebrating a double success in both the men's and women's races. And Max Verstappen clinched his fourth Formula 1 World Championship.

Those no longer with us include actors Alain Delon, Mitzi Gaynor, Glynis Johns, Dame Maggie Smith, David Soul (Starsky and Hutch) and Donald Sutherland; comedian Bob Newhart; conductor Andrew Davis; musicians Duane Eddy, Jack Jones, Quincy Jones, Kris Kristofferson, Sérgio Mendes and Liam Payne; DJs Johnnie Walker and Steve Wright; artist Frank Auerbach; novelist Edna O'Brien; politicians Alexei Navalny (Russian opposition leader), Alex Salmond; cricketers Raman Subba Row, Graham Thorpe and Derek Underwood; golfer Peter Oosterhuis; former England football manager Sven-Göran Eriksson; rugby players J P R Williams; swimmer David Wilkie; snooker player Ray Reardon; TV medical expert Dr Michael Mosley; and tech entrepreneur Mike Lynch.



## Meanwhile, here in the Wildbrooks parishes....

Following the departure of tenants Lee and Sophie Forbes and the closure of The Sportsman on New Year's Eve, an action group was set up to save the pub from permanent closure. The campaign SOS – Save Our Sportsman) received early support from Arundel and Southdowns MP Andrew Griffiths and volunteers put a lot of time and effort in getting it shipshape for an Easter reopening as a community pub. There have been a range of special events, including an autumn beer festival, and monthly quiz nights proved popular. Jo Westland joined as full-time manager in September.



**Andrew Griffith, Arundel & Southdowns MP, lent his support to the SOS Save Our Sportsman campaign**

There were minor changes to the Village Bus schedule and the introduction in June of a half-hourly train service at Amberley after a lengthy campaign. Another successful outcome of a campaign was the introduction of a 20mph speed limit throughout the village of Amberley and an extension of the 40mph limit on the Turnpike Road (B2139) eastwards for a distance 225 metres, taking it well beyond the football field. Controversially, large white 20mph roundels were painted on roads throughout the village without any consultation.

In January, we bade farewell to the Revd Gerry Burgess, who retired after five years, initially as the priest-in-charge



**A Midsummer Celebration: Russell Coates and Jane Arkwright**

of the Wildbrooks parishes and then as their vicar. She and her husband, Steve, were given a rousing send-off at a post-service party in St Michael's Church Hall, with a number of presentations, including an engraved glass bowl, a picture of St Michael's and a cheque.

The Hallraisers' Church Hall renovation fundraising programme continued apace with a number of well-supported and highly successful events during the year. These included a popular Burns Night dinner, a second sweet smelling talk on scents at Amberley Castle, a Midsummer Celebration on a glorious June evening in the garden of Oak Tree House, a Bastille Day lunch and a Christmas Fair. These events raised a total of £6,200, which together with various successful grant applications, the Hallraisers' impressive total was £24,000, enabling work on a new kitchen expected to start in the spring of 2025.

St Peter's Church Parham benefited from a painstaking redecoration of its interior while fundraising continued for roof repairs.

The Bishop of Horsham, Ruth Bushyager, accompanied the Friends of St Mary the Virgin, North Stoke, on the second Old Way Loop walk, part of the ancient pilgrim route between Southampton and Canterbury, which takes in Arundel, South Stoke and North Stoke.

Camilla Nash reluctantly hung up her driving gloves after 10 years as the wheel of Amberley Cars, much to the disappointment of her many customers.

Jenny Robinson organised a series of Saturday morning CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) training sessions – a lifesaving technique that's useful in many emergencies.

A talk by Amberley resident and wildlife photographer Richard Sharman highlighted the decline in birds, insects mammals and butterflies and used the occasion to launch Amberley Goes Wild, a project designed to engage the community in helping to preserve the natural world around us. Residents are being encouraged to submit local wildlife pictures they have, or will be taking, for possible inclusion in a 2026 calendar. Vicky Spiers, Amberley Parish Council's clerk for the last ten years, announced she was standing down, although remains clerk for Parham Parish Council.



**Amberley Cars: Camilla Nash hung up her driving gloves**

*continued overleaf*



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The Society of Amberley Garden Enthusiasts (SAGE) enjoyed a number of garden visits and talks, including one by Parham head gardener and two of his team on flowers for floral displays. And it turned out to be a record breaking year for Amberley Gardens Open, with more than 1,000 visitors admiring 20-plus gardens. As a result, the organisers were able to donate over £13,000 to Actional Medical Research, and £750 to Amberley Primary School.

Despite a damp day, the annual Macmillan Coffee morning once again raised an astonishing £2,000 and a table-top sale for the Malawi Schools Project, which is supported by Amberley residents, also raised an impressive £800.

A Greener Amberley initiative, led by Fraser Wheeler, produced a strategy which was endorsed by Amberley Parish Council. Volunteer activities have ranged from wild-flower cultivation in the churchyard and hedgelaying on the Millennium Green to recycling and refilling at the Eco Hub in St Michael's Church Hall, along with a monthly Repair Café.



The train now arriving at Amberley: the new half-hourly service

The work of more than 400 volunteers at Amberley Museum was officially recognised with the presentation of the King's Award at a ceremony performed by Lady Emma Barnard, Lord Lieutenant for West Sussex. And at the end of the year, there was a visit by the Princess Royal to open the newly restored Bagging Shed and Loading Bay. She toured the site where she met and chatted to many of the volunteers.

There were accolades, too, for the Black Horse which was voted Best Destination Pub by readers of an online travel portal; and the rebuilt Mile House, in Rackham Road, which won a string of architectural and design awards.

Amberley Parish Council purchased a new grass-cutting tractor for Amberley Cricket Club, and for use on the Millennium Green and football pitch.

Those sadly no longer with us were Ray Badham, June Bassett, Eric Blunden, Roger Cheesley, Richard Edy, Jim Endacott, Betty Litchfield, Charles Shaw, Richard Sawyer and Ann Stilwell. They are all missed.

Mike Toynbee

The George & Dragon, Houghton TEL:

01798 831559

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[www.thegeorgeanddragonhoughton.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgeanddragonhoughton.co.uk)

WELCOME TO THE G & D!

Our wonderful fire is lit & we are all warm & cozy!

"February is the month of Love!"

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Valentines Day!

Treat that wonderful person in your life to a delicious Valentines Dinner!

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!

Please do check our website for further info.

\*\*\*

BAR OPENING TIMES

Monday & Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday - Sunday: 12.00 - Close

KITCHEN

Monday & Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday - Saturday: 12.00 - 2pm & 6.00 - 8pm

Sunday: 12.00 - 2.30pm

These times maybe subject to change without notice.

FOR ALL INFO DO CHECK OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM OR JUST GIVE US A CALL - WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!





## EDITORIAL

### To build, or not to build?

That is not the question. The question is how best to go about opposing any unwanted development, which is the problem now facing residents. If Horsham District Council has its way, it would happily sell off all three former East Street farm fields it owns to replenish its depleted coffers. However, HDC is no longer the planning authority, the South Downs National Park having recently relieved the district council of that responsibility.

But the SDNPA is under pressure from the Government, like everywhere else, to identify suitable sites for housing development – hence the Land Availability Assessment consultation which is currently underway.

The question is whether one opts for all-out opposition to any proposal to build more houses on that site, or anywhere else in the area for that matter, or engages with the park authority in an effort to ensure the best outcome in the event of houses being built on the site.

It might not, of course, even be earmarked when the decision is made but there is unease among residents that there may be a certain inevitability about the outcome. It could be argued that the site is enclosed within the village and is therefore suitable for development for that reason. The big stumbling block, needless to say, is access. As it stands, the proposed access would be via Hurst Cottages which makes no sense as all the traffic would have to negotiate its way through the village, past the school, through the narrow High Street where often vehicles have to reverse to let someone through, up East Street which is difficult because of parked cars, and then navigate all through the Hurst Cottages estate.

Any objections have to be based on sound planning principles. It's no good simply saying we don't want it. Living here we have the advantage of a better understanding of our local environment than planning officials elsewhere

As it happens, Amberley has in the last 20 years added 40 new homes when you take account of Castlevue, Drevitts Farm, Newland Gardens and the more recent Swan Meadow developments – a disproportionately high number in terms of the number of households in the parish.

This piece is being written before the SDNPA presentation in the Church Hall where, no doubt, a better understanding of the thinking will hopefully emerge. Being part of the national park should, in theory, provide us with better protection – its remit is to conserve the natural environment, promote public enjoyment, improve the local community, plan for the future and develop the local economy. Engagement is going to be a much better option than simply burying our heads in the sand.

**Mike Toynee**

With the approach of  
Valentine's Day,  
a love poem  
by Lord Byron



### She walks in beauty

She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;  
Thus mellowed to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.  
One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impaired the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lightens o'er her face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,  
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.  
And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent!

**Deadline for the February issue**

**Monday, February 10**

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

**or e-mail [mike@brooklandsamberley.com](mailto:mike@brooklandsamberley.com)**



## Know your Sussex

### Little known facts about the county in which we live

#### ‘We Wunt be Druv’

The unofficial motto of Sussex means “we will not be driven”, asserting that the people of Sussex – Sussaxons – have minds of their own, and cannot be forced against their will or told what to do. It is believed that the phrase originates from the Weald of Sussex where, in medieval times, this part of the county was freer from control from the ruling classes than other parts of Sussex.



“We wunt be druv” - the Villiage Parliament

#### A legacy that benefited the village

Bill Smith, a life-long resident of Amberley, bequeathed the proceeds of his home – Ivy Cottage, in Hog Lane – to the village in 2002. As a result of his generosity, two charities – the Amberley Village Shop Trust and the Amberley Welfare Trust – each benefited by more than £150,000.

#### Nobel prizewinner

John Galsworthy, best known for *The Forsyte Saga* and who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1932, lived at Bury House the The Street, Bury, for the final seven years of his life. His ashes were scattered across the South Downs from an aircraft.

#### What people did

According to the 1813-1838 analysis of Amberley’s *Baptismal Register*, there were 29 different occupations listed. Apart from farm workers, there were nine servants, five carpenters, five bricklayers, four publicans, three butchers, three shopkeepers, two cordwainers (shoemakers), two tailors, two higglers (itinerant salesmen), two dealers, two blacksmiths, two limeburners, two bargemen, two bakers and one hawker, carrier, fisherman, mantua worker (dressmaker), wheelwright, toll keeper, thatcher, miller, glazier, merchant and clerk in Holy Orders.

#### The Old Ale House

The Thatched House, in Hog Lane, now a private residence and subsequently renamed, was one of the last remaining beer (or ale) houses in the country. It was still serving beer until early 1967 and still had a ‘mineral water’ room for teenagers to play dominoes.

#### The words for *Morning has Broken*

Eleanor Farjeon, popular children’s author and poet, who wrote the words for the hymn, *Morning has Broken*, was a regular visitor to Humphrey’s at Greatham, where the Meynell family lived and with whom she was great friends. Author D H Lawrence also stayed there.

## Property Watch

### Homes for sale and rent locally

#### Amberley

<b>New Barn Road</b>	6-bedroom detached house with swimming pool <i>(Jackson-Stops, Chichester)</i>	<b>£2,750,000</b>
<b>High Street</b>	4-bedroom detached house <i>(GL&amp;Co, Storrington)</i>	<b>£1,850,000</b>
<b>East Street</b>	4-bedroom detached house <i>(GL&amp;Co, Storrington)</i>	<b>£1,250,000</b>
<b>Church Street</b>	Grade II listed 2-bedroom cottage <i>(GL&amp;Co, Storrington)</i>	<b>£825,000</b>
<b>Church Street</b>	Grade II listed 2-bedroom thatched cottage <i>(Jackson-Stops, Chichester)</i>	<b>£800,000</b>
<b>East Street</b>	2-bedroom detached house <i>(Comyn &amp; James, Pulborough)</i>	<b>£700,000</b>

#### Houghton Bridge

**Riverside** Three 2-bedroom lodges (sold separately)  
*(Parkmove, nationwide)* **£175,000-£185,000**

#### Houghton

**Off B2139** 4-bedroom detached house  
*(GL&Co, Storrington/Jackson-Stops, Chichester)* **£1,300,000**

**B2139** 3-bedroom semi detached barn conversion  
*(Henry Adams, Storrington)* **£700,000**

#### Rackham

**Rackham Street** 3-bedroom detached house  
*(Jackson-Stops, Chichester)* **£1,250,000**

#### To Rent

#### Crossgates

**Rackham Road** 5-bedroom detached house  
*(The Country House Company, Hants)* **£10,000pcm**





**LOCAL INFORMATION**

**Refuse & Recycling Calendar February**



Household refuse collections (**Amberley/Crossgates/Rackham, Mill Lane, High Titten, New Barn Road, Houghton Bridge, North Stoke, Rackham, Greatham and Wiggonholt**): mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) and garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be collected on **Tuesdays, February 4 and 18**; collections for non-recyclable waste will be on **Tuesdays, February 11 and 25**,

For **Church Street and Hog Lane**: collections for garden waste (brown top bins for registered users only) will be on **Mondays, February 3 and 17**; non-recyclable waste will be collected on **Wednesdays, February 5 and 19**; mixed dry recyclable waste (blue top bins) will be collected on **Wednesdays, February 12 and 26**.

**Amenity Tip Opening Times**

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

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

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

**Littlehampton: Mill Lane, Wick, BN17 7PH**  
9am-4pm (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). No trailers

Appointments are now required at all local recycling sites. Bookings can be made at any time online by visiting [www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle) or by calling the Customer Service Centre on (01243) 642106. Proof of residency (ie driving licence, valid bus pass or current utility bill) is required at all WSCC recycling centres.

**Village Bus Timetable**

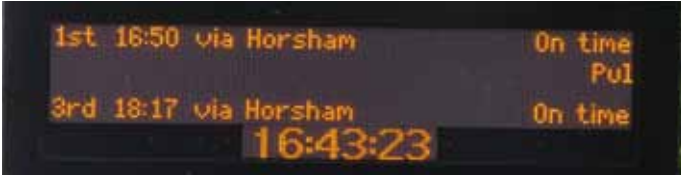
On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week (plus the first Tuesday each month), the Amberley and Slindon Village Bus can take you to various destinations thanks to our team of volunteer drivers. We routinely stop at a range of places in Amberley, but as this is a 'hail-and-ride' service the driver 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) and 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/](http://www.amberley-pc.org.uk/)

Amberley and Slindon Bus timetable 2024									
Monday AM		Monday PM		First Tuesday of the Month		Wednesday		Thursday	
Pulborough/Storrington		Bognor		Worthing		Chichester		Rustington	
<b>Out</b>		<b>Out</b>		<b>Out</b>		<b>Out</b>		<b>Out</b>	
Amberley Square	10.15	Rackham Street	12.35	Havenwood	9.15	Rackham Street	9.35	Rackham Street	9.35
Hurst Cottages	10.18	The Sportsman	12.38	(via Shellbridge Road)		The Sportsman	9.38	The Sportsman	9.38
The Sportsman	10.20	Hurst Cottages	12.39	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.20	Hurst Cottages	9.39	Hurst Cottages	9.39
Rackham Street	10.23	Amberley Square	12.41	Top Road/Church Hill	9.23	Amberley Square	9.41	Amberley Square	9.41
Storrington	10.35	Bridge Inn	12.43	Houghton	9.33	Bridge Inn	9.43	Bridge Inn	9.43
Pulborough (Sainsburys)	11.00	Houghton	12.45	Bridge Inn	9.35	Houghton	9.45	Houghton	9.45
		Slindon Coronation Hall	12.52	Amberley Square	9.37	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52	Slindon Coronation Hall	9.52
		Top Road/Church Hill	12.54	Hurst Cottages	9.40	Top Road/Church Hill	9.54	Top Road/Church Hill	9.54
		Havenwood Park	13.01	The Sportsman	9.42	Havenwood Park	10.01	Fontwell Village	9.57
		Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	13.07	Rackham Street	9.45	Arundel Road, Fontwell Village	10.04	Havenwood Park	10.00
		Bognor Regis (Morrisons)	13.25	Worthing - South Street	10.15	Chichester Market	10.18	Queens Street Arundel	10.05
				Haskins Garden Centre	10.30	Chichester Cathedral	10.23	Littlehampton	10.20
								Rustington (Waitrose)	10.30
<b>Return</b>		<b>Return</b>		<b>Return</b>		<b>Return</b>		<b>Return</b>	
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)		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 15, 2024)**

**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

**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)**



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## DIVERSIONS

- The jazz club in Harlem (New York) where Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway regularly performed?
- Southampton's largest theatre is named after which historic vessel?
- The royal played by Olivia Coleman in *The Favourite*?
- Annual sporting event played at Flushing Meadows in New York?
- The famous English plumber born in 1836 who invented the floating ballcock?
- The root vegetable rutabaga is more commonly known as what?
- What is the main constituent of plaster of Paris?
- Instead of paper or electronic ballots, what items are used cast votes in The Gambia?
- Chanson d'amour* was the only UK number one single for which pop group?
- At what two places do all lines of longitude converge on Earth?
- Which bird, according to ancient legend, is said to sing only when it is about to die?
- E is represented by a single dot in Morse code. Which consonant is a single dash?
- What are Scottish mountains over a height of 3,000 feet called?
- The last dodo died in 1681, or thereabouts, in which country?
- What is the highest rank in the English peerage after Duke?
- England competed against which test cricket side for the Wisden Trophy?

- The Butlin's holiday camp was founded in which town on the North Sea coast?
- Gary Oldman won an Oscar for portraying which real-life person?
- Name for the code of silence observed by members of the Italian Mafia?
- Which country contains the point of land furthest away from any ocean in the world?
- What was completely abolished in the UK on November 9, 1998?
- According to the song how many ways did Paul Simon find to leave his lover?
- The luxury liner *Queen Elizabeth 2* is now a floating hotel in which city?
- Marlon Brando and Robert de Niro both won Oscars for portraying which character?
- What colour studs mark the left edge of a road?
- Ralph Teetor is credited with inventing cruise control in 1945. What was particularly remarkable about him?
- Hollywood's nickname?
- Which West Indian nation this year celebrated its first Olympic medal – won by a woman athlete?
- Which is the only film directed by Alfred Hitchcock to win a Best Picture Oscar?
- In 1956, which country was the first to host the Eurovision song contest?

Answers on page 44

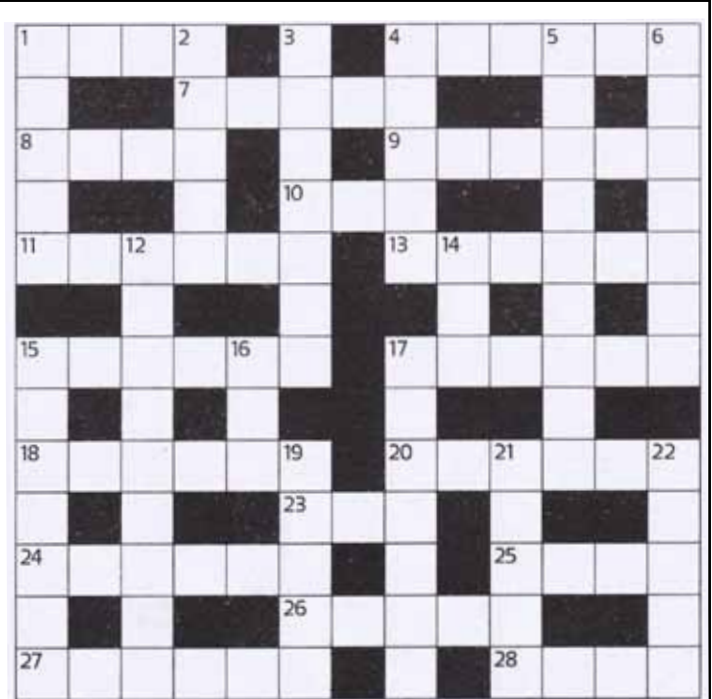
### Quick crossword

#### Across

- Price (4)
- Carved (6)
- Portray (5)
- Miserly (4)
- Turn up (6)
- Go brown (3)
- Middle (6)
- Coiled [anag] (6)
- Border (6)
- Iceshoes (6)
- US state (6)
- Solicitor (6)
- Midge \_\_ singer/songwriter (3)
- Merged (6)
- Dry (4)
- Bring about (5)

- Immune (6)
  - Cardinal number (4)
- #### Down
- Children's paper (5)
  - Doctrine (5)
  - Design (7)
  - Song, \_\_\_ *By Your Man* (5)
  - Science subject (9)
  - Funfair attraction (7)
  - Story (9)
  - Hard wood (3)
  - Gauge (7)
  - Type or kind (3)
  - Quieten (7)
  - Accounts check (5)
  - Dock (5)
  - Tracking device (5)

Solution on page 44





**CALENDAR OF EVENTS / TIDE TIMETABLE**

**1st Saturday**

**Public meeting:** Amberley Parish Council meeting to discuss SDNPA's Land Availability Assessment, The Sportsman, ??? time

**2nd Sunday**

**Eco Hub & Repair Cafe,** St Michael's Church Hall, 10am-12.30pm

**3rd Monday**

**St Michael's Church Hall:** closed for refurbishment (until March 7)

**Music:** Martino Tirimo and piano students at Chichester University Music Centre, 2.30 and 7.30pm

**4th Tuesday**

**Talk: A Carpet Ride to Khiva,** The Arts Society West Sussex, Fittleworth Village Hall, 2pm

**9th Sunday**

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

**12th Wednesday**

**Film: Golden Years,** Sullington Hall, Storrington, 7.30pm

**16th Sunday**

**Choral Evensong with Coro Nuovo,** St Michael's Church, 4pm

**17th Monday**

**School half-term**

**19th Wednesday**

**Amberley Museum** half-term activities, from 10am

**20th Thursday**

**Amberley Museum** half-term activities, from 10am

**21st Friday**

**Amberley Museum** half-term activities, from 10am

**27th Thursday**

**Music: Chichester Chamber Concert,** The Heath Quartet, Chichester Assembly Room, 7.30pm

**Littlhampton Tide Timetable – February**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1st</b> High 00.55 Low 06.51 High 13.08 Low 19.14
<b>2nd</b> High 01.36 Low 07.34 High 13.50 Low 19.56	<b>3rd</b> High 02.16 Low 08.18 High 14.33 Low 20.40	<b>4th</b> High 03.00 Low 09.04 High 15.19 Low 21.26	<b>5th</b> High 03.48 Low 09.55 High 16.11 Low 22.20	<b>6th</b> High 04.44 Low 10.59 High 17.16 Low 23.31	<b>7th</b> High 05.53 Low 12.20 High 18.38	<b>8th</b> Low 00.59 High 07.21 Low 13.44 High 20.15
<b>9th</b> Low 02.17 High 08.46 Low 14.53 High 21.27	<b>10th</b> Low 03.21 High 09.47 Low 15.48 High 22.21	<b>11th</b> Low 04.11 High 10.37 Low 16.35 High 23.08	<b>12th</b> Low 04.53 High 11.22 Low 17.15 High 23.49	<b>13th</b> Low 05.33 High 12.02 Low 17.53	<b>14th</b> High 00.27 Low 06.10 High 12.38 Low 18.29	<b>15th</b> High 01.02 Low 06.44 High 13.10 Low 19.01
<b>16th</b> High 01.31 Low 07.16 High 13.37 Low 19.33	<b>17th</b> High 01.56 Low 07.47 High 14.01 Low 20.03	<b>18th</b> High 02.16 Low 08.18 High 14.27 Low 20.34	<b>19th</b> High 02.42 Low 08.50 High 14.57 Low 21.04	<b>20th</b> High 03.16 Low 09.26 High 15.36 Low 21.44	<b>21st</b> High 04.00 Low 10.18 High 16.32 Low 22.46	<b>22nd</b> High 05.08 Low 11.36 High 18.21
<b>23rd</b> Low 00.21 High 07.02 Low 13.13 High 19.45	<b>24th</b> Low 02.02 High 08.14 Low 14.37 High 20.50	<b>25th</b> Low 03.05 High 09.11 Low 15.28 High 21.42	<b>26th</b> Low 03.50 High 09.58 Low 16.10 High 22.28	<b>27th</b> Low 04.30 High 10.44 Low 16.49 High 23.12	<b>28th</b> Low 05.09 High 11.27 Low 17.30 High 23.54	

TIDAL DIFFERENCE ON THE RIVER ARUN +90 MINUTES AT HOUGHTON BRIDGE

COMPILED BY HAZEL ALLINSON

**Dates for the diary**

Amberley Society AGM **March 18**

GRRC Members' Meeting,  
Goodwood **April 12-13**

Easter Sunday **April 20**

Wedding Fair, Slindon House  
**April 26**

Amberley Revival **May 24**

Goodwoof **May 17-18**

Festival of Speed **July 10-13**

Sussex Steam Show, Parham  
**July 12-13**

Glorious Goodwood  
**July 29-August 2**

Goodwood Revival  
**September 12-14**







## AT YOUR SERVICE (LOCAL TRADESMEN AND SERVICES)

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**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

### Catering services

**Jane Bellinger**, professional *cordons 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

### Financial Services

**Spinnaker Wealth Management**  
Nigel Evans, Principal 07967 381341

### Funeral Directors

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

### Garages, car servicing, repairs

**Turner's Garage, Bury**, MoTs, tyres, exhausts, brakes, batteries, shop 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

### Heating oil / fuel / boiler engineers

**Amberley Oil Syndicate**, collective buying power for heating oil 01798 872371

**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

### Hotels / restaurants / cafes / tea rooms

**Amberley Village Tea Room** 01798 839196

### 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

### 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

### Taxis

**Amberley Cars**, locally-based lady driver, airports, ports etc 07939 263495

### Well-being

**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, contact Mike Toynbee on 01798 831 114 or e-mail [mike@brooklandsamberley.com](mailto:mike@brooklandsamberley.com)

## Answers to Diversions (see page 41)

1. The Cotton Club 2. Mayflower 3. Queen Anne 4. US Tennis Open 5. Thomas Crapper 6. Swede 7. Gypsum 8. Marbles 9. The Manhattan Transfer 10. North and south poles 11. The swan 12. T 13. Munro 14. Mauritius 15. Marquess 16. West Indies 17. Skegness 18. Winston Churchill (in *The Darkest Hour*) 19. Omerta 20. China 21. Capital punishment 22. Fifty 23. Dubai 24. Vito Corleone – *The Godfather* 25. Red 26. He was blind 27. Tinsel Town or sometimes, the Dream Factory 28. St Lucia – Julien Alfred won the women's 100 metres race 29. Rebecca 30. Switzerland

## Crossword solution

### Across

1. Cost 4. Sliced 7. Enact 8. Mean 9. Attend 10. Tan 11. Centre 13. Docile 15. Margin 17. Skates 18. Alaska 20. Lawyer 23. Ure 24. United 25. Arid 26. Incur 27. Exempt 28. Four

### Down

1. Comic 2. Tenet 3. Pattern 4. Stand 5. Chemistry 6. Dodgems 12. Narrative 14. Oak 15. Measure 16. Ilk 17. Silence 19. Audit 21. Wharf 22. Radar



## 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 87250
	Parham	Valerie Myers (vmyers69@btinternet.com).....07909 640948
		Jill Sloan (Secretary) (jill@jsloan.com).....01798 872163
	Wiggonholt	Cathy Folwell (cathy.folwell@icloud.com)..... 01798 872546
		Jenny Sadler (jen@southernranes.co.uk)..... 01798 874613
St Mary The Virgin North Stoke (acting chair)		Janet Aidin (janet@aidin.co.uk).....01798 87253
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Magazine Editor and Advertising		Michael Toynbee (mike@brooklandsamberley.com).....01798 831114
Magazine Distribution & Subscriptions		Pam Keeble (pamwkeeble@gmail.com)..... 01798 831050
Amberley CE Primary School		Paul Armitage.....01798 83161
Amberley Church Hall Bookings		Adrienne Greenwood (ad.greenwood@btinternet.com).....07746 488615
Amberley Good Neighbours Emergency Service (AGNES)		Cyndy Kennett..... 07745 407185
Amberley Oil Syndicate		Jill Couling (amberleyenergysyndicate@gmail.com).....01798 831845
Amberley Parish Council Clerk		Steve Trott (clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk).....07767 301299
Amberley Parish Pond & Tree Warden		Pam Keeble.....01798 83105
Amberley Parish Trust		David Vokins.....01798 839086
Amberley Society		Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com).....01798 831340
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
CPR Emergency Number		.....07838 947521
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 Phasey.....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)		Sarah Ffoulkes Roberts (sffoulkesroberts@yahoo.co.uk).....01798 874713
Stoolball Club		Sandra Turner.....01243 82125
Village Bus		Philip Greenwood.....01798 831803
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## Oil and trouble

Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble. Well, it would appear that not all oil-fired boilers in the village have been burning as perhaps they should, with a number of residents complaining that there have been lengthy delays in deliveries, just as winter really started to bite.

Villain of the piece seems to have been Watson, which has a nationwide distribution business. It appears its 'Journey to net Zero' has been accelerated, with one local couple having had their promised delivery postponed four times. Looking at the company's website, which is advertising 'career opportunities for HGV drivers' we can probably safely assume that is the root of the problem. It is not alone, of course, as there is still a national shortage of drivers, although not as critical as it was in the past. However, the problem is no doubt exacerbated during the festive season or, at least, that is predictably what the excuse is.

The other two syndicate suppliers, Certas and Local Fuels, seem to be faring somewhat better. But can someone tell me why the price always seems to shoot up just before I place an order? That is the burning question.

## Credit where credit's due

It is always refreshing to read of announcements in the New Year Honours List to those who actually deserve them rather than individuals who receive them automatically for simply doing the job they are paid to do, or worse still, for being rewarded for failure (which almost guarantees you a life peerage). I was therefore delighted to see that Rose Aidin, Janet Aidin's eldest daughter, was the recipient of an MBE "for services to Art History and to young people".

She founded and now runs a charity (Art History Link-Up) which teaches A level Art History to state sixth-formers who would otherwise not have access to the subject – there being only eight state schools in the country which teach it. A number of her students get prestigious university places year-on-year, based partly on these results.

Co-incidentally, there was an article by Edith Hall in the *Financial Times* last month about the withdrawal of classics teaching from our state schools. "This is a national educational problem, along with music," says Janet. "One

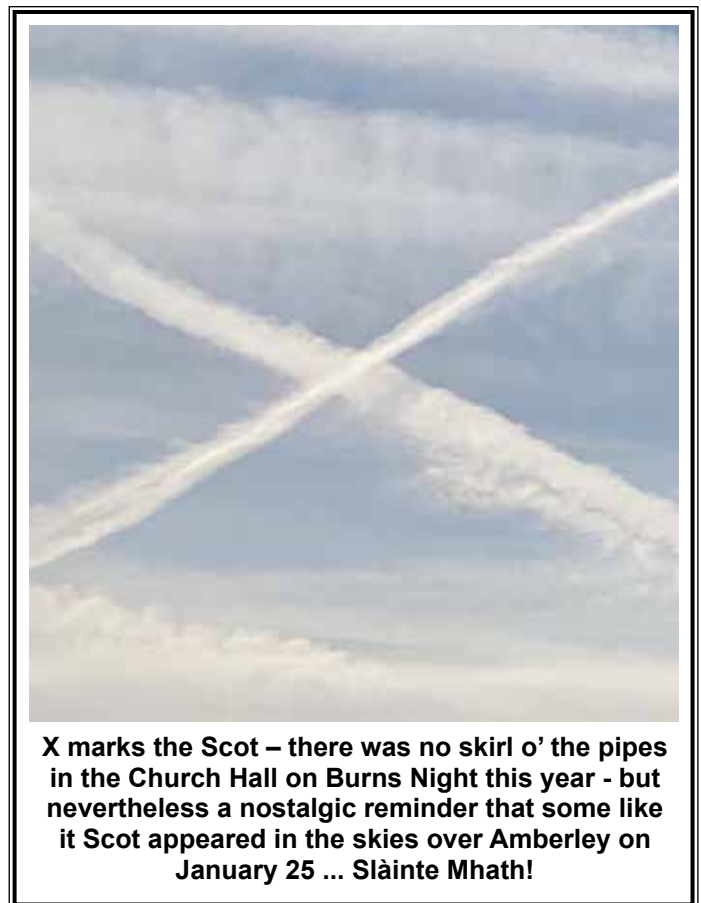
might suggest the Government return these important subjects to the national curriculum rather than honouring in the breach those who pick up the state deficit." Hear, hear.

## Budget blues for businesses

Proposing a vote of thanks at the excellent Village Christmas Lunch, our esteemed Editor said he didn't generally air his political views in public but, sadly, had witnessed a few local businesses that had run into trouble as a result of Rachel Reeves' autumn budget.

A local bra manufacturer had gone bust, a submarine company had gone under, a manufacturer of food blenders had gone into liquidation, a dog kennel had to call in the retrievers and a company supplying paper for origami enthusiasts had folded. A local strip club had gone tits up, Interflora was pruning its business and Dyno-rod had gone down the drain.

But the saddest one was the ice cream van man found dead, covered in nuts and raspberry sauce. He couldn't take it any more and topped himself...



**X marks the Scot – there was no skirl o' the pipes in the Church Hall on Burns Night this year - but nevertheless a nostalgic reminder that some like it Scot appeared in the skies over Amberley on January 25 ... Slàinte Mhath!**

## Carry on up the Kitchen!

Overheard in a planning meeting for the new Church Hall kitchen, when deliberating on the best heat resistant worktops ... 'we have to think how people will use the countertops, particularly the ladies with their hot bottoms'. Ooh Matron!



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