

# Wishing all our readers a peaceful and joyous Christmas

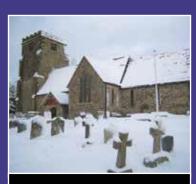


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St Mary's Church SULLINGTON



St Mary's Church STORRINGTON



St Mary's Church THAKEHAM



Holy Sepulchre WARMINGHURST (Churches Conservation Trust)

## THE PARISH CHURCHES OF

St Mary STOR<u>RINGTON</u> St Mary SULLINGTON THAKEHAM

## IN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

STORRINGTON Rector	Revd Kathryn Windslow, BTh, MPhil (742888) The Rectory, Rectory Road, Storrington RH20 4EF kathryn.windslow@btinternet.com			
Hon. Assistant Priest	Revd Charles Hadley, MA (740787) 28 Meadowside, Storrington RH20 4EG charles.felicity@gmail.com			
Hon. Assistant Priest	Revd Rupert Toovey BA (Hons), FRICS, FRSA, ASFAV (742888)			
SULLINGTON AND THAKEHAM WITH WARMINGHURST				
Priest-in-Charge	Revd Sara-Jane Stevens, (01798 813121) The Rectory, The Street, Thakeham RH20 3EP			

office.stwparishes@btinternet.com

Information about study and prayer groups, and requests for baptisms, weddings and home communions, for Storrington contact Revd Kathryn Windslow and for Sullington and Thakeham contact Revd Sara-Jane Stevens.

All telephone numbers are 01903 unless otherwise stated.



PARISH CLERG

#### Dear Friends,

Being a Christian is not easy, especially at Christmas! There is so much to do: food to prepare, decorations to put up, family to be polite to, presents to wrap... and then unwrap, how is it possible to fit CHURCH in?

I love the busy-ness and extravagance of Christmas, the family traditions, the little special touches for each household, the trimmings round the turkey and the pud. But it is genuine question. Where is the Christ in Christmas? It is about a baby, and a census (very topical for us!), and animals, shepherds and magic men, late, as men always are. But there is not much time to think about all that. Christmas, the modern Christmas, is full on, and started in October, didn't it. It is almost like a game of charades: artificial, glittery and very temporary, a trip to fairyland.

But what about ME, especially when I am the one doing it all for the others; clergy included don't forget, they need a bit of encouragement and tangible signs of appreciation. Maybe the real me is lonely, sad, hurt, in pain, a refugee, rejected or even abused, or just far too busy even to realise what my true feelings are. Can I just wrap my arms around cuddly Jesus and pretend for a few seconds that really it is all OK?

Yet in a paradoxical way, this is where the real 'me' meets the real Jesus. God so loved the world that He gave His only son, sent him to us not to judge but to love and to save. There is sentimentality about the Victorian Christmas card and the Nativity scene, but also a true rigour. The saviour of the world was a fragile baby, laying in an animal's food trough, in temporary accommodation, a pawn of a brutal, occupying regime worried about the state of their tax revenues. Who assuaged Mary's pains as she gave birth? Who helped Joseph to keep up his confidence? Was it the unkempt keepers of sheep, the weird mystics from afar, the strange truth of the story they told that this was God's way, how God intended to bring His purposes for all creation to fulfilment?

Christmas can be the best time of the year - and the worst. But if somehow the real me can connect with the real Jesus, then it is indeed Christ-mas.

Though it is our duty as citizens in a democracy to vote, we know that no political party and no government can make me feel better, or in other words, feel loved, because true love is unconditional. The humble, vulnerable, far from home Jesus Christ can. In my heart I can touch him and feel him touch me. His love will restore my soul. I can enjoy Christmas, indeed I can, with all the trimmings, all the excitement, all the commercialism, because it is fun. And because when all the razzamatazz has died down, God's love for me will still be there, a real presence.

Why not make a crib, build a little nativity stable and put it somewhere prominent in your house? Or go to Church with your friend or grand-child and see the nativity set there? Yes, Christmas can be tremendous fun: but look, you who cross the threshold of my home, look, here is the real joy of Christmas: Jesus, God's Son, born among us, born as one of us.

With love and prayer,

CHARLES HADLEY Assistant Priest, St Mary's, Storrington



#### ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS RAFA CHAPEL SUSSEXDOWN

Communion with the residents Thursday, 19 December at 11.30am

BCP Holy Communion in the Chapel at Sussexdown Please do come and join us. Visitors are welcome. For more details phone Kay Channon on 892461

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Churchwarden

Newhouse Lane

Lyndene

Storrington

RH20 3HQ

Treasurer

Allison Goodfellow (740499)

Liz Whitehead (07742 277757)

# What's happening at

Thakeham Lee, High Bar Lane

Thakeham, RH20 3EH

**Electoral Roll Officer** 

David Peacock (745595)

Storrington RH20 4QN

5 Dean Way,



# St Mary's Thakeham

#### www.thakehamchurch.com PCC Secretary Pat Snape (01798 817389)

Organist Beryl Hardie (892349) **Church Bookings** 

Wynn Lednor (743025) 4 Crescent Rise, Storrington RH20 3NB

**Bellringers: Tower Captain** Roger Watts (01798 813775)

**Gift Aid Officer** Bob Timms (01798 813807) Cootes, The Street, Thakeham RH20 3EP

#### **Safeguarding Officer**

Jane Williams (742956) Sandgate Lodge, Washington Road, Sullington RH20 4AF

PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THAKEHAM: Please contact Revd Sara-Jane Stevens on 01798 813121 to make arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage. She can be contacted at Thakeham Rectory throughout the week. Her day off is Friday.

### MESSY CHURCH

The October Messy Church, held in Thakeham Village Hall, was extremely well attended by 18 children, all accompanied by a parent or guardian, and four very young babies, which added to the lovely family atmosphere in the Hall; we do welcome all ages. The theme for November was Remembrance, with the activities organised for the children including making poppies, making a small cross of Remembrance, writing their own prayer of Remembrance, painting and a games table. All too soon it was time to clear the tables for the meal. Revd Sara-Jane gave a short talk whilst the tables were laid in readiness for the food, which consisted of sausages and mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, followed by jelly and ice cream, a cup cake and fruit juice. All the children and some adults tucked into this enjoyable meal. This is proving to be a very popular event for the children. All children are welcome to Messy Church which is held in Thakeham Village Hall on the 4th Thursday of the month (3rd Thursday in December) from 4pm to 5.30pm. Children please bring a parent or guardian along with you.

**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL • THURSDAY, 19 DECEMBER** 

# SULLINGTON & THAKEHAM

Normally 4th Thursday of the month

@ Thakeham Village Hall 4pm – 5.30pm (inc. your evening meal!) Children ... bring your adults to our Church! Crafts, games, singing, stories and new friends.



#### **NEW DISTRIBUTOR NEEDED!**

New delivery person required urgently for the Thakeham round, covering The Street, Thakeham, and immediate area. If you are able to help with this delivery round please contact Karen Arkle on 744844. ------

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH, THAKEHAM WITH WARMINGHURST OUR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

6pm Carol Service by candlelight with mince pies and mulled wine

#### CHRISTMAS EVE 🚬

**4pm** Journey to Bethlehem (children's service) The Church will be open from 3.15pm. No tickets will be issued but, for safety reasons, as soon as the Church is full to capacity (275 people) no others will be admitted.

**11.30pm** Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Christmas Day Celebration

#### HAROLD'S FAMILY SUPPORT F Family Support WORK CHRISTMAS QUIZ W Work 🥁 Get your thinking caps on!

The Quiz Sheets for this year's Christmas Quiz in aid of Family Support Work will be available in Thakeham, Sullington and Storrington Churches in early December. Your support will be very much appreciated. £1 per quiz sheet.

# Church in the Pub Ist Monday of the month The White Lion Pub, Thakeham from 8.30pm

There will be no creed, no hymns, no confessional, no set format and no expectations. Just a chance to meet drink and talk

To why not come along and just enjoy

## "Loving God and Loving our Neighbour"

# What's happening at St Mary's Sullington



#### www.st-marys-sullington.org info@st-marys-sullington.org

**Churchwardens** John Williams (742956) Sandgate Lodge, Washington Road, Sullington, RH20 4AF

Gail Kittle (745754) Sullington Manor Farm, Sullington Lane, Sullington, RH20 4AE Treasurer Gail Kittle (745754) Churchwardens Emeriti Heather Cotton (745751) Douglas Parkes (743106) Ann Salinger (01798 813481) Pastoral Care Ann Salinger (01798 813481) PCC Secretary Jo Pentecost (744454) Freewill Offering & Gift Aid Officer David Baxter (744346) Electoral Roll Heather Cotton (745751) Organist Beryl Hardie (892349) Church Flowers Altar Rota Muriel Astley (01798 812706)

Safeguarding Officer Jane Williams (742956) Sandgate Lodge, Washington Road, Sullington RH20 4AF

Lifts to Church Anne Owen (743973)

**Church Fabric Officer** Douglas Parkes (743106)

PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SULLINGTON: Please contact Revd Sara-Jane Stevens on 01798 813121 to make arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage. She can be contacted at Thakeham Rectory throughout the week. Her day off is Friday. Times of Church services can be found on page 18. Alternatively you can visit the Church website for further details.

#### Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in us

#### Don't forget to keep an eye on our website for up to date information regarding service times and events





Tea with the Vicar 12 December 3pm till 5pm Sullington Manor Farm at the home of Sue, Graham and Gail Kittle



# What's happening at

# St Mary's Storrington

#### For Clergy see page 3 www.storringtonparishchurch.org.uk office@storringtonparishchurch.org.uk

#### Churchwardens

churchwardens@storringtonparishchurch.org.uk Dennis Cowdrey (744372)

17 Bannister Gardens RH20 4PU Barbara Buchanan (741916) Broad Oaks, Melton Drive RH20 4RJ

Treasurer

David Rice (918958) 12 Turners Mead, RH20 4JZ

Parish Secretary Vivien Stuart (742888; home 745913) Rectory Office, Rectory Road RH20 4EF

#### **REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

Church Services see page 18.

**Footsteps (Sunday School):** 9.45am every Sunday, except 1st Sunday of the month, half term and school holidays.

**Choir:** Fridays, 6.40pm - 7.45pm. Anyone interested in joining the choir please contact the Revd Jacquie Peal – 743083.

Altar Servers: Revd Jacquie Peal (743083)

Bellringers: Fridays, 7.45pm - 9.30pm.

Handbells: Wednesdays, 9.30am. Kathleen Osgood (01403 780928)

Church Cleaning: Jeannie Watten (742542)

Church & Churchyard Maintenance: Ray Hunt (01798 813681) Mothers' Union: Jean Hunt (01798 813681)

**Bible Study / Home Groups:** Orchard Gardens Home Group will start a new session in the new year meeting on Wednesdays, 10.30 – 11.45am. New members are very welcome to join this friendly group. Contact Robin Lenharth on 743962.

Thursday morning Home Group meet at 51 Crowhurst Crescent (10am – 12 noon) to discuss contemporary dilemmas. A six-week study will take place in the new year – All welcome. Contact Alison on 743713.

**Sunday Lunch Club** (ecumenical): Second Sunday in the month. See page 18.

#### **STORRINGTON REGISTERS**

**Baptisms** – we welcome into the Lord's family ... 20 Oct Faye Evangeline Taylor (daughter of Abbey and John)

Funerals – we commend to God's nearer keeping ...

23 OctKevin Charles Gent (67 years)8 NovGwendolin Stocker (87 years)

# **Church Diaries 2020**

A useful pocket diary is available in St Mary's Church, Storrington, which is open daily. Please help yourself and make a suitable donation. We have a new style diary for 2020 and our thanks to all who advertise in the Church diary and in this magazine.

PCC Secretary Val Rice (918958) 12 Turners Mead, RH20 4JZ

Retired Clergy Revd John Peal (743083) Revd Jaquie Peal (743083) Verger: Michael Taylor (742218)

Sacristy Team Rosemary Wills (01798 813206) Stella Hastings & John Taylor (745477)

**Captain of Bellringers** John Taylor (745477) Pastoral Scheme Barbara Buchanan (741916) Recorder Rob and Alison Wall (743713)

**Readers and Sidesmen** Vera Blake (743974)

**Electoral Roll Officer** Val Rice (918958)

**Director of Music** Stephen Bloxham

Assistant Organists Ian Miles, Chrystalle Kersley Peter Lewis, Keith Smithers Simon Whitchurch Footsteps (Sunday School): Jackie Lee (743661)

**Church Flowers** Anna Forster (745392)

Child Protection Officer Jackie Lee (743661)

**Bible Reading Fellowship** Amanda Hislop (743700)

Bible Society Jean Hunt (01798 813681)

Christian Aid Co-ordinator Anna Forster (745392)



#### **GIFT SERVICE**

During the Family Service on **Sunday 1 December** at 10am, our children and young people are invited to bring gifts for needy children which will be distributed, through the Salvation Amy, in the Worthing, Littlehampton and Petworth areas. A simple, durable and inexpensive toy or book would be much appreciated. Please wrap gifts using ribbon or string rather than sellotape. A label stating contents and suitable age-range would help the Salvation Army staff to give the presents to appropriate children. Anna Forster (745392)

#### **CAROL SERVICE**

The main Parish Carol Service will be held on **Sunday 15 December** at 6pm with full choir. Part of the service is in candlelight. Sherry and mince pies will be served afterwards in the Church.

#### **CAROLS IN THE SQUARE**

Opposite the White Horse Inn, arranged by Chanctonbury Lions and the Storrington Churches, will be on **Monday, 16 December** at 6.30pm.

#### CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AND NATIVITY PRESENTATION

This special Family Service takes place on **Christmas Eve at 4pm**. A collection is taken for the Children's Society

#### MIDNIGHT MASS

Celebrated at **11.30pm on Christmas Eve.** Part of the service takes place by candle light.

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

The main service will be **Christmas Family Communion with Carols at 10am.** There will be a Holy Communion service at 8am. No evening service on Christmas Day.

#### CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Collections will be taken at Midnight Mass and on Christmas Day in aid of Turning Tides (formerly called Worthing Churches Homeless Project) and Church funds.

### ST MARY'S STORRINGTON CHRISTMAS GRAND PRIZE DRAW

take on the

Our Christmas Grand Prize Draw will take place at St Mary's Church, Storrington on **Saturday 14 December** at 10am at the

Christmas Coffee Morning. Many prizes including £100 cash! We are raising money to support St Mary's Church Community. Tickets are on sale now at £1 each (books of 5 available) and can be purchased from Storrington Rectory Office, Churchwardens and at Church events. Any donations of draw prizes or cash donations towards the £100 cash prize would be very welcome.





## CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Christmas is the season of goodwill.

In 2015, a group of volunteers set out to provide a happy, memorable day for members of the community who would otherwise be alone over the festive season.

Christmas Day Lunch, now in its 5th year, will again be held at the Old School, School Lane, Storrington on Christmas Day starting at 1pm. Christmas Day Lunch aims to provide a traditional Christmas lunch spent in company with lots of fun, friendship, music and hopefully a visit from Santa to complete the day.

Transport by either the Community minibus or car can be arranged.

If you wish to attend or know of someone who might benefit from company on Christmas day please contact David or Jacquie Richardson on 744178 in order to book a place.

#### HELP NEEDED TO PREPARE CHRISTINGLES FOR CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

We will be preparing the Christingles on **Monday 23 December** at 2pm in Church, and takes about an hour. If you are able to help, please bring scissors and a favourite small, sharp kitchen knife. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served. Thank you.



of the REVD KATHRYN WINDSLOW

NISTALLATION

#### as Canon at Chichester Cathedral at Evensong on

#### Advent Sunday 1 December at 3.30pm

The Revd Kathryn Windslow is to take the Stall of the Prebendary of Seaford. The Bishop of Chichester says it is an affirmation of her contribution to the wider life of the Diocese, especially as Rural Dean. Everyone is invited to attend.

There will be light refreshments provided at the Cathedral following the service.

Thank you very much for all of the very kind donations received to help with the cost of Kathryn's Canon's robe. We are pleased to say the cost has been covered and Kathryn is very grateful.

#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE ST MARY'S, STORRINGTON, BAND OF HANDBELL RINGERS?

Come and learn to play handbells - we practise in Storrington Church on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am. New players are very welcome. *Kathleen Osgood (01403 780928)* 





This popular community event is held biennially in the historic Warminghurst Church. The unique space is transformed with beautiful Christmas trees which are sponsored and decorated by local schools, businesses and groups, for festival visitors to enjoy. Additional attractions to the event include:

Refreshments
 Christmas gift stalls
 Candlelit carol service
 Music performances
 Cakes and produce
 Raffle



#### WARMINGHURST CHURCH RH20 3AW 6th – 8th December 2019 10am – 4pm

For more info:

Email: info.fowc@gmail.com Phone: 01903 891312



# **MONEY** FOR NOTHING!

easyfundraising feel good shopping

Yes, you can raise money for your Church without it costing you a penny!

Just sign up on line to easyfundraising.org.uk then nominate your chosen cause.

Whenever you shop on line you can go through this site and choose where you want to shop, be it Amazon, Tesco, Waitrose, BT and many others. An automatic donation is then made to your chosen cause. You can also choose a reminder option so whatever site you shop on line, if they are signed up to the scheme a donation will be made.

It is totally safe and you will not receive unwanted calls or emails

For more information contact Amanda Hislop 743700 or 3Heralds@gmail.com

#### Christians in Storrington Monthly Inter-Church Prayer Meetings Everyone welcome

Do join us in the side-chapel at Our Lady of England RC Church – 10am - 10.30am on the first Tuesday of each month. Tuesday 3 December – Community Church will lead Tuesday 7 January – Our Lady of England RC Church will lead One in faith and love and praise

# ADVENT: WINTER WAITING

Last leaves drift down now, Trees standing bare along the skyline – Each branch etched clear against the winter light. On the dark fields the furrows turn To bare-backed ridges whitened hard by frost. Yet deep within this sullen soil New life already waits for birth – Release to life by the returning spring. Regenerating God, harrow our hearts Till we become the opened ground In which your Spirit's seeds Take root and grow. Jill Jenkins



Grand Draw tickets available from Churchwardens or Storrington Rectory Office

A warm welcome and friendship guaranteed! More details from office@storringtonparishchurch.org.uk

Marth Shart Marth Mar

# St Mary's Church Storrington CONCERTS

The Concert and Music Committee have the following dates for your diaries...

#### 2020 dates

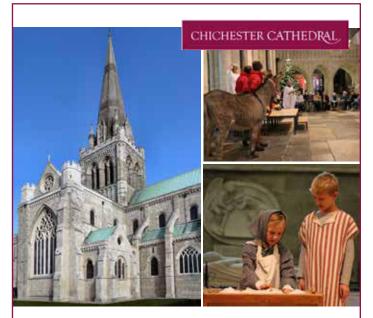
Saturday 4 January at 7.30pm – Taylor Maid Saturday 29 February at 7.30pm – Brighton Welsh Male Voice Choir

Saturday 25 April at 7.30pm – Happy Days Big Band Sunday 31 May at 3.00pm – Tea and Songs



Everyone will be very welcome (men and women, any age or ability). Either bring along something you can already do, or have a go at something different.

For more information contact: Storrington Rectory Office (742888)



### **Chichester Cathedral Carol Services**

All are welcome to the Cathedral Carol Services, special services of lessons and carols sung by the Cathedral Choir. This year's Carol Services will take place on:

> Thursday 19 December at 6pm Friday 20 December at 6pm Saturday 21 December at 3pm

Services are free Doors open an hour before each service

# TAYLOR ST MARY'S CHURCH CHURCH ST STORRINGTON

VINTAGE SWING POPULAR JAZZ LIVELY FIDDLE TUNES LATIN & MUSIC TO MAKE YOU SMILE!

# SATURDAY • 7.30PM 4th JAN 2020

TICKETS £12 (to include a glass of wine/soft drink & nibbles) FROM: FOWLERS 01903 745844 KING & CHASEMORE 01903 745761 both in high street • storrington

ORGANISED BY ST MARY'S CHURCH STORRINGTON CONCERT COMMITTEE

# WEST CHILTINGTON AND STORRINGTON MOTHERS' UNION



On 26 October, four members attended the autumn Members' Meeting in Hove taking socks and jogging bottoms for the Gatwick Detainees for Christmas. During the lunch break members wrote Christmas cards for in-mates at Lewes and Ford prisons, from MU.

The main Speaker was Caroline Virgo from the Clewer Initiative campaigning against Modern Slavery. We heard shocking reports of how people are trafficked here to work in nail-bars, hand car-washes, care homes, B&B's, hotels and farms. They work long hours for as little as 80p an hour, sometimes 70-90 hours a week, are not allowed to socialize and often have to hand over their wages to gang masters. There are 20,000 hand car-washes in the UK and most use exploitative labour. We were urged to spread the word to friends and neighbours to make people aware of what is happening in our country. Anyone having suspicions about slave labour can call the Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700, or in an emergency call 999, or call local police on 101.

At our November meeting, Jean Hunt spoke of a family visit to the township of Soweto in South Africa in 2016. Local man, Percy, showed them around his 2 -roomed 'matchbox house' which he shared with his sister, before taking them to a grim legal tavern, followed by a 'shabeen', an illegal drinking den which was a much happier place. The modern Hector Petersen Museum displayed the story of the 1976 riots in which 13 year old Hector was killed. A peaceful demonstration by schoolchildren was baton charged by the police and Hector was shot. 4000 children fled to the Church of Regina Mundi built to accommodate 2000 people. The police fired over their heads into the roof, and cracked the altar rail with their batons. A more positive experience was at the inspiring and uplifting monument that has been built expressing the hopes for the future of all the people of South Africa. Lunch was enjoyed in a local restaurant whilst being entertained by Zulu warriors dancing in the street, close by the homes of Archbishop Tutu and Nelson Mandela. A huge shopping mall stands beside the gateway out of Soweto which was built by the first black billionaire from Soweto.

We look forward to our Advent Service on **5 December**, with invited guests, at West Chiltington Church at 2pm, followed by tea and a raffle in the Church Hall.

There is no meeting in January but members will meet for a New Year Lunch on 9 January at Joanna's in Storrington.

A reminder that subscriptions become due on 1 January: £27 for members, £21 for indoor members, which may now be paid by Direct Debit if members wish.

Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jean Hunt

#### STORRINGTON FLOWER CLUB Sullington Parish Hall No meeting in December!

Next meeting: Wednesday 22 January 2020

We wish all our members a Happy Christmas



**Wed 1:** Fine, bright. 40 degrees. H Nisbet at last forwards £102. Moving shrubs and cleaning border. GR brings a load of seaweed. May goes to Petworth with C Amphlett.

**Thu 2:** Generally fine and very cold from the north. 34 degrees. Letters from Hal (San Francisco) telling of his throw up of his mine appointment and nothing in view! The two Cartwrights and young Perrin Watson for a dance at Sandgate. (Am writing this at 12.50am)

**Fri 3:** Cold, frosty and fine. 33 degrees. Away at 7am to Chichester and had a pleasant out of door meeting and home in good time. May's visitors here after the ball.

**Sat 4:** Sharp frost which gave a little about noon. Dull. 36 degrees. Quite winter: covered up tender things. Mrs Fenwick and co. called. The Cartwrights left us. Have a head cold.

**Sun 5:** Advent II. Dull and cold. 40 degrees. A chill day on the thaw. Two good congregations but only three communicants. My sermons were on the Hebrews: Jesus our High Priest. Second on same subject and in evening on 'The Light from the Bible' observed in the Mission Intersession special lessons, epistle gospel and prayers.

**Mon 6:** Rainy from the south west. 43 degrees. School 26/28. Called at Sandgate apres *le bal*. Paid Miss Terry her first quarter's salary.

**Tue 7:** Dull to a gale with much rain. 51 degrees. Board of Guardians and a special district council. To settle holly hedge of Williams offered him £5.

**Wed 8:** Fine with some showers from the west. Stormy. 45 degrees. School 27/28. Took school dictation, quarter before eleven. Children most orderly and a capital attendance. Visited William Rodgers, the miserable lad who has been robbing his employer. My evening service at Threales was well attended, the Skinners came, he 74 with one eye.

Thu 9 – 11: In Town with WBC attending SE Poor Law committee. 11th stormy NW but fine. 41 degrees. Returned this evening to find Sammy and Fox here.

**Sun 12:** Advent III. Very raw, cold and wet. 37 degrees. Very poor congregations, weather being very excusing: preached a third sermon on Hebrews: Death and Judgement and a 20 year old extempore on Duty mutual of minister and people. Hal returns unexpectedly from California.

**Mon 13:** Rough and wet. 51 degrees. The two boys leave: I give up the Dinner at Pulborough. Hal relates the saving of a ship wrecked crew by his vessel the *Etrusia*!

**Tue 14:** Fine after heavy early morning rain. 47 degrees. School 23/27. Some gardening on a morning like April. Called on the nurse at Feltons and an ambulance lecture at Storrington.

**Wed 15:** Thunder storm last night and rain early, then fine. 49 degrees. Hal put the greenhouse stand to rights. I to Cobden in evening (third lecture on Prayer). Clara and Hal to Fryern. Girls to practice at Pulborough.

**Thu 16:** Much wind but fine. 51 degrees. School 27/27. Team dragging away elms and making a mess. Sorted over some very small apples, hardly worth picking.

**Fri 17:** Fine and spring-like. 48 degrees. Hal went to Town. I to a meeting of Roads Committee at Storrington. In afternoon to Barns Farm. A tea-gathering here Hoare, Meek, Austins and a young Scotchman from Galloway. Practising.

**Sat 18:** Foggy and mild. 44 degrees. Hal and I worked at mending garden paths. In afternoon May and I to Andrewes.

**Sun 19:** Advent IV. Raw and foggy. 44 degrees. An unpleasant day but very fair congregations. Preached and a final lecture on Hebrews, IX v27 & 28, a passage which I hope may remain with me and my hearers. In afternoon *extempore* on "Occupy till I come". Had lights and could get no walk. Took girls in Blunt's undesigned co-incidences.

**Mon 20:** Fine and brisk. 38 degrees. Attended a Bell Dedication service at Pulborough. Bishop preached a fluent but rather strained discourse on John I 19-22 "Who art thou?" an Advent sermon with a dash of Jubilee and Bells in it.

**Tue 21:** Fine, frosty. 33 degrees. Board of Guardians and District Council. Williams holly hedge still our *piece de resistance*. Bourke and Nappier called and teaed. Parkinson came up and asked me to preach there on New Year's Eve. Hal cycled to Worthing and ordered a dress suit: he and Cicely dined at Rowdell. Trimming up my hedge up the Church Walk.

**Wed 22:** As yesterday. 32 degrees. School 27/27. Minnie arrives for Christmas. Hal and Cicely go hockeying to the Marjessons. I had my service at Threales and ended my series on prayer. Man taking up sidings from ditches.

**Thu 23:** As yesterday. 33 degrees. Better accounts from George and my Mother. Getting greens for Church etc, sermon preparing. Had a church practice of Anthem.

**Fri 24:** Fine, bright, frosty. 36 degrees. Measuring my half rods, the ditches cleared out. Jack and his Florence walked up. May dines at Sandgate. Distribute Christmas tickets. Letters and cards in multitude, pupils Neil and Parker CHH etc.

**Sat 25:** Christmas Day. As yesterday. 36 degrees. A perfect day; slightly frosted and sparkly – chilly but not windy. Good morning and evening congregations and Anthem (*Behold how good and joyful*) at each service. Had a collection in morning for the SPCK. In evening preached on "the Zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this" and on Bethlehem. All our own party and Minnie were there.

**Sun 26:** Fine to a thaw. 45 degrees. Preached two old sermons, excusable after yesterday on the last Sunday in the year. Psalm 144 and Psalm 119. Congregations very fair just wanted a little light at the end of the afternoon service. Hal and May walk to Burpham in afternoon.

**Mon 27 – 28:** At Tunbridge Wells where found Dear Mother very weak but cheery. Administered the Holy Communion, George and Ellen joining. Wilsons at Rock House. Returned on 29 from Brighton. Very rough day. Magic Lantern in evening on China.

**Thu 30:** After a wild night heavy showers clearing gradually. 48 degrees. The girls go with Clara to Bignor for a dance.

**Fri 31:** Heavy rain storms evening fine. 45 degrees. To Chichester asylum committee, heavy storms about. Saw the Lecturn and was much struck with its delicate tracery and workmanship. Dined with Faithfull and then preached at Storrington, at 8pm from I John II 17. Patrick dined here and gave us music. The old year runs out with a clear sky, mild air and a happy home circle; the dear old Mother reported better than she has been for 6 months. Hal at home but not we hope for more than a reasonable holiday. The prognostications foretell much for the coming year, dates and prophesies focus for 1898, Foreign complications and strikes at home cause anxiety but all will be well.

Amen.

## THAKEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Phase 3:** At the time of writing the Thakeham Parish Council (TPC) has strongly objected to proposals to increase house numbers in phase 3 of the Abingworth Meadows development to 77 houses. Horsham District Council's (HDC) Development Committee will meet in December to discuss either the proposal in its current version or amended in some way. We will keep residents updated via our website and facebook.

**Village Shop**: The parish council shares the frustration of residents that, despite the technical adjudication being resolved, a settlement has still not been reached to allow the building to be completed and prospective tenants to open for business. There are also safety/security concerns about scaffolding left in situ which we have expressed to the parties, and to HDC planners.

**Community Transport**: as many readers will have seen, our latest Bulletin included a survey to gather information on residents' transport needs, and to prioritise plans to raise funding and spend it effectively. The closing date has passed, and we will analyse the results shortly.

**Roads**: In relation to the long-promised Monaghans front-of-site access changes (to discourage HGVs approaching via the narrow B2139 from the north), a contractor has now been appointed to carry out this work. Subject to further detailed Highways permissions, we expect the work to start soon.

**Rights of Way**: Thakeham and West Chiltington Parish Councils have agreed to find funds to complete the resurfacing of the central section of the bridleway from High Bar Lane to Threals Lane and expect this work to be done in early spring 2020. We continue to look at other rights of way improvements, especially to better connect Thakeham to Storrington.

An additional dog waste bin is due to be installed on the east side of the Abingworth football fields. However, HDC, who determine their location, have advised there are no other locations in Thakeham suitable.

Due to further cuts HDC has informed us they will be reducing the number of roads being gritted in the winter months. We will keep residents informed about the changes and make sure our winter emergency plan, viewable on our website, is up to date.

Thakeham Football Club are always seeking new players, sponsors and volunteers for their junior and senior teams. If you'd like to get involved please contact the secretary, details can be found at www. thakehamvillagefc.co.uk.

The annual Village Halls Week is Monday 20 to Sunday 26 January! Keep an eye on our website and facebook pages for events to celebrate the fantastic community asset we have.

In December the parish council doesn't normally meet unless there is urgent business to attend to. We clerking elves will still be busy however, and the meeting cycle will begin again in the New Year.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas!

#### **COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING** Thakeham Village Hall 10am to 11.30am

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month All ages welcome to drop-in, meet, and have a chat. info@thakehamvillagehall.co.uk Tel 01798 815467



## **RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES**

A joint event with Brownies always gives confidence to the Rainbows who may be apprehensive about moving up to the next section.

Recently the Rainbows and Brownies joined together for a visit to the Storrington Museum. For many of us it was the first time we'd been there, and it was interesting to see just how many items were on display. Jill from the museum had organised a quiz sheet and the girls enjoying looking around to find the relevant items to answer each question. As the museum room has limited space, girls occupied their waiting time with crafts and colouring, and the Brownies enjoyed teaching the Rainbows some new games.



We will all be together again, with the Guides too, when we meet for a District Dabble Day where we will be making Christmas decorations from recyclable materials. This will also enable the Rainbows to achieve part of their recycling interest badge.

Joan Parke

aRING

(F) we discover, we grow Girlguiding Girl guiding, the UK's leading charity for girls and young women, offers a hugely varied programme of events, activities and adventures for girls aged between 5 and 25.

# STORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Storrington Primary School was delighted to open its new and improved library area named 'Booktopia' last week. Governors attended the grand opening alongside the new Year 5 librarians and School Council. All were thrilled with the inviting and cosy new learning space. Sasha N, who came up with the name 'Booktopia', commented "the best thing will be seeing lots of children really the enjoying all books".



The new space includes comfy, colourful seating and a range of exciting new books for the children to enjoy. The school have been working closely with The West Sussex Library Service to ensure the book collection is well-organised and up to date so children are able to access a full range of interesting, non-fiction texts and stories that will engage and inspire a love of reading for all.

#### PLANTING CROCUSES IN SUPPORT OF ROTARY'S END POLIO NOW CAMPAIGN

Rotary in Storrington & Pulborough District has been getting its green fingers working to turn part of Steyning Grammar School and Storrington Memorial Pond into purple blooming spectacles each spring.

Members of Storrington & Pulborough District Club Rotary are planting 4,000 purple crocus corms which will be a colourful reminder each spring of the fight for a polio-free world. They were joined by members of Steyning Grammar School's Club Interact with their staff leader Tom



Leighton and some lower school students at the School's Rock Road site and will be helped by children from Storrington Primary School planting crocuses around the Memorial Pond to coincide with World Polio Day.



Rotary members throughout Great Britain and Ireland will be planting over 2.5 million purple crocus corms across their communities, adding to the many millions which have been planted during previous years. Purple has become a symbolic colour in the fight against polio, inspired by the colour of

the dye painted on the little finger of a child to signify they have received a potentially life-saving polio vaccine.

Rotary Club President, Mark Foss, commented, "We're proud to be planting these purple symbols of the Polio campaign and working with Storrington Primary School children and Steyning Grammar School's Interact Club makes it even more special. Only together can we end polio and we can all play our part in the continuing global efforts to eradicate the disease."

Rotary has committed to raising US\$50 million each year to support global polio eradication efforts, with that funding matched 2-to-1 by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Rotary has contributed more than US\$1.9 billion to ending polio since 1985.

For further information contact Robert von Bergen by email on robertvonbergen@yahoo.com or call 01798 812827.





The December lecture is on **Wednesday 4 December** from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at West Chiltington Village Hall.

A lecture by Sarah Lenton: Thinking Big – The Ups and Downs of the London Coliseum, London's largest Theatre.

The London Coliseum is now the home of English National Opera. It was the theatre that hosted *Les Ballet Russes, Annie Get Your Gun, Music Hall* and *Cinerama*. Everything about the London Coliseum is enormous: the stage, the auditorium, the number of its ghosts, the size of its problems. Sarah has been working there since 1979 and seen practically everything. She knows how many tons of sand they can tip on that stage, why there is a knife hanging from the flys and how they got away with Don Giovanni inadvertently bursting into flames. Sarah even knew some of the ghosts, while they were still alive!

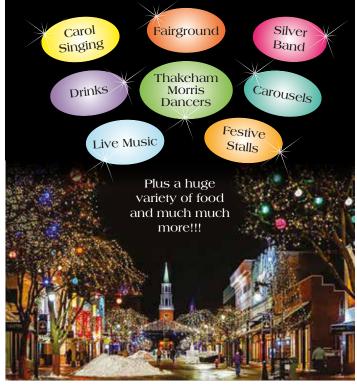
The Arts Society (Storrington) is closing after the December meeting but if you have any queries please contact Caroline Long on 744797 or by email: caroline.fflong@gmail.com.

For further information please contact the Membership Secretary, Caroline Long on 744797 or by email: caroline.fflong@gmail.com.

# Storrington Christmas Night

Thursday 5 December

Commencing with the switching on of the lights in the place villarest at 6pm by the winner of the annuals Christmas light competition.





#### Happy 50th Birthday!

Sullington Windmills WI was established in October 1969, with the newly elected Committee holding its first meeting on 19 November 1969. The founding President, Mrs Jo Clist, took the helm until the end of 1972. Since then, there have been a further 18 Presidents.

During the first year, a wide range of topics were covered from Understanding Decimal Currency, Flower Arranging, Cookery Demonstration, Fashion Show, and still one of our favourites, Wine Making.

So the 50th birthday of Sullington Windmills had arrived, and after many months of meticulous planning the birthday celebration took place on 16 October. What a celebration it was too. It began punctually at 7pm with a welcome of Bubbly and delicious 60s-style canapés. The tables were all laid fastidiously for 70 people, down to the very smallest detail, including the most stunning flower decorations. After a tremendous rendering of *Jerusalem*, a gourmet meal was served, with male waiters topping up the wine glasses.

One of our founder members, Irma Lander, was able to join us, as did our County Chairman, Yvonne Price, Chair of the Parish Council, Anna Worthington-Lees, Clerk to the Parish Council, Tracey Euesden, and past Presidents who are no longer members with us, Felicity Downe, Mary Whitfield, Maureen Girard and Dot Luxford. There were no less than 10 past Presidents at the gathering.

A cheque was presented to Anna Worthington-Lees for £200 for refurbishment of the bench in Place Villerest, Storrington. This work has been completed and the plaque was attached to the bench on Saturday 26 October at 12noon.

Our new Inspirational Women's Library was unveiled. This is a collection of books about women who have made their mark on history. These books will be available for members to borrow, and we expect it to grow and grow.

Then came time for the wonderful entertainment by Sidonie Winter, Mezzo soprano, who beguiled us all with a variety of songs, some going back to 1969. After very enthusiastic applause for Sidonie, our President, Erika Brichta, cut the birthday cake, made by Sara Harden and exquisitely decorated by Pat Snape, which was served with coffee and After Eight mints. Jean Minter created a superb floral display using our Windmill as her inspiration; she also, on behalf of all members and guests present, gave a vote of thanks for such a wonderful evening.

There was an interesting 1969 table quiz. The answers were read, the raffle drawn, and Erika thanked the very many members who had worked so hard to make this a truly happy occasion, and it will certainly remain firmly in our memories.

Our next meeting is on **11 December** when Jim Weston will answer the question "Do You Remember 1969?" with the top ten selling records of that year and many UK and world headlines. We will conclude or 50th year on a high; why not come and join us?

Meetings take place in Sullington Parish Hall and if you feel you would like to pay us a visit, or become a member, you can be assured of a warm welcome. For further information please contact Erika Brichta, President, on 742039 or erikabrichta@ hotmail.co.uk, or Sara Harden, Secretary, on 741350 or

s.harden@hotmail.co.uk.

Pat Beard

## THE UK'S FAVOURITE HYMNS

No doubt many people were surprised to discover that Jerusalem has been voted the UK's favourite hymn in a survey held by BBC's Songs of Praise. Members of the public chose from the 100 hymns that have featured most on the show over the past five years. Songs of Praise host Aled Jones made the announcement in a Songs of Praise special which was filmed at De Montfort Hall in Leicester. Jerusalem did not feature among the top 10 the last time the public voted in 2013, presumably because it isn't sung regularly in services of worship.

#### The Top 10 hymns for 2019 were: Jerusalem

How Great Thou Art In Christ Alone Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind Abide With Me I Vow To Thee My Country Gide Me O Thou Great Redeemer/Jehovah Amazing Grace Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord I, the Lord Of Sea And Sky



#### Storrington Village Hall - Vacancies

Vacancies exist for the following voluntary positions for the above organisation – **Secretary, Committee Members** and **Trustee** – Meetings about 4 times a year.

If interested contact Steven Sherlock on 743125 or Barbara Pert on 744093.

# Interested in photography? Looking for an opportunity to develop your interest and skills?

#### Come and join us, visitors welcome.

Our programme includes guest photographer talks, demonstrations, competitions, practical workshops and a monthly coffee club.

#### MEETINGS

Thursday 5 December 7.30pm 2nd Print & Projected Image Competition with an (Open Subject) theme. The judge for the evening will be David Eastley

Thursday 19 December 7.30pm Members Evening – Christmas Festivities and Entertainment

#### MORE INFORMATION:

www.storringtoncc.org.uk or contact Janet Brown



T: 01798 812183 • E: chair@storringtoncc.org.uk

CHUR SERVI AT A G DATE		St Mary's	THAKEHAM St Mary's	Sullington St Mary's
1 December	Advent Sunday	<ul> <li>8am Holy Communion (said)</li> <li>10am Family Communion: Children's Gift Service</li> <li>3pm Installation of the Revd Kathryn Windslow as Canon at Chichester</li> <li>Cathedral No evening service in Church</li> </ul>	10.30am <b>Joint all-age Christingle Service</b> (with Sullington)	8am Iona Communion (with Thakeham) <b>3pm Advent Reflection</b>
8 December	Advent 2	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion + Footsteps 6pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	8am Holy Communion (with Thakeham) 11.30am Morning Prayer
15 December	Advent 3	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion + Footsteps 6pm <b>Carol Service</b>	8am Celtic Communion	10.30am Family Communion (with Thakeham)
22 December	Advent 4	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion 6pm Evening Service (said)	9.30am Family Communion (with Sullington) 6pm <b>Carol Service by candlelight</b>	3pm <b>Carol Service</b>
24 December (Tues)	CHRISTMAS EVE	4pm <b>Christingle Service</b> (for families) 11.30pm <b>Midnight Mass</b>	4pm "Journey to Bethlehem" – see p.4 11.30pm <b>Midnight Communion</b>	11.30pm Midnight Communion
25 December	CHRISTMAS DAY	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am <b>Christmas Family Communion with Carols</b>	9.30am Christmas Celebration	11.15am Christmas Celebration
29 December	Christmas 1	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion 6pm Evensong	10.30am Joint All-age Family Communion (with Sullington)	8am Celtic Communion (with Thakeham)
2020 5 January	Epiphany Sunday	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Family Communion 6pm Evensong	10.30am Epiphany Communion (with Sullington)	8am Epiphany Communion (with Thakeham)

Midweek Holy Communion Service on Thursdays at St Mary's Church, Storrington, at 10.30am Holy Communion Service at Sussexdown on the fourth Thursday of each month at 11.30am

#### **OTHER CHURCH DETAILS**

#### **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Our Lady of England, Monastery Lane

Mass – Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8am and 10am Daily Mass: Monday – Friday 9am. For other midweek services, confessions etc., please contact Parish Priest: Fr Charles Howell 2 St. John's, Fern Road, Storrington RH20 4LW Tel: 740338

#### **STORRINGTON CHAPEL** North Street

Sunday Services 10.30am and 6.30pm Enquiries to Storrington Chapel Evangelical Church, North Street, Storrington RH20 4DH Email: contacts@storringtonchapel.org.uk

#### COMMUNITY CHURCH

Steyning Grammar School – Rock Road Campus

Family Worship - Sundays 10am Enquiries to Mrs Val Augustine Community Church Office, PO Box 1020, Storrington RH20 3UY Tel: 01798 817596

#### TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH Thakeham Road

Sunday Service 10.30am Minister: Revd Dr Frank Okai-Sam Tel: 01273 597122 (Church Office: 01903 746390 / 01273 596374) www.trinitymethodiststorrington.uk www.facebook.com/TrinityStorrington

#### WEEKLY EVENTS

Wed	9.30am	Registrar of Births and Deaths – Storrington Library – pre-booking only – 01243 64212	
Fri 9.45am Storrington Community Market		Storrington Community Market – Village Hall	

Storrington Library Opening Hours – Tel. 839050

9.30am – 5.30pm

Monday to Friday Saturday

10am – 4pm

#### The Churches of Storrington invite you to SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

A CHANCE TO GATHER TOGETHER OVER A MEAL, AND BE

WITH FRIENDS OLD AND NEW

1pm on Second Sunday each month (except August) at the Old School, School Lane, Storrington

Tickets (£4.00) are available from Louisa Austin, Church Street, Storrington



#### STORRINGTON POP-IN LUNCH CLUB **Storrington Village Hall**

First Thursday of each month (except January and August) **COFFEE served from 10.30am** 

LUNCH available: £3.00 12 noon - 1pm (Soup, Ploughman's and home-made puddings)

**ALL ARE WELCOME.** Come and meet old friends and make new ones. No need to book - just turn up. Co-ordinator: Pat Webb (893145)

# WHAT'S ON

Decem	December			
Sun 1	Advent Sunday			
3.30pm	Installation of Revd Kathryn Windslow as Canon - p6			
Mon 2				
9am	Decorating Church for Christmas – St Mary's, Storrington			
7.30pm	Storrington Museum – Talk – p22			
8.30pm	Church in the Pub – Thakeham – p4			
Tue 3				
10am	Community Coffee Morning – Thakeham – p15			
10am	Inter-Church prayers – RC Church (side-chapel) – p10			
12noon	Gents' Meeting Club – p24			
2pm	SPACE – Arts and Crafts Club – p10			
Wed 4				
10am	St Barnabas Outreach – Library Car Park – p32			
2.30pm	Arts Society, Storrington – Lecture – p16			
7.30pm	Storrington Dramatic Society – Pantomime – p33			
Thu 5				
10.30am	Pop-In Lunch Club – p18			
	Fryern Ladies' Probus – Meeting – p24			
12noon	West Chiltington & Storrington MU – Advent Service – p13			
6pm	Storrington Village Christmas Night – p16			
7.30pm	Storrington Dramatic Society – Pantomime – p33			
7.30pm	Storrington Camera Club – Meeting – p17			
Fri 6				
10am	Warminghurst Church Christmas Tree Festival – p9			
7.30pm	Storrington Dramatic Society – Pantomime – p33			
Sat 7				
10am	Storrington Conservation Society – Working Party – p32			
10am	Warminghurst Church Christmas Tree Festival – p9			
6.30pm	.30pm ABC Animal Sanctuary – A Country Christmas – St Mary's, Storrington – p28			
2.30pm & 7.30pm	Storrington Dramatic Society – Pantomime – p33			
Sun 8	Advent 2			
10am	Warminghurst Church Christmas Tree Festival – p9			
1pm	Sunday Lunch Club – p18			
7pm	Sandgate Singers – Christmas Concert – Our Lady of England Church – p24			
Mon 9				
7.30pm	Thakeham Gardeners' Club – Christmas Party – p34			
Tue 10				
12noon	Gents' Meeting Club – p24			
Wed 11				
10am	Wild Fortune Quiet Garden – p5			
10am	Cafe in the Church – St Mary's, Storrington – Christmas Special – p9			
7.30pm	Sullington Windmills WI – Meeting – p17			
3pm	Tea with the Vicar – p5			
Sat 14				
10am	Christmas Coffee Morning and Grand Prize Draw – St Mary's, Storrington – p10			
10am	Sandgate Conservation Society – Working Party – p31			
10am	Christmas Floral Workshop – Sullington Manor – p5			
Sun 15	Advent 3			
6pm	Parish Carol Service – St Mary's, Storrington			

Tue 17	
10am	Community Coffee Morning – Thakeham – p15
12noon	Gents' Meeting Club – p24
2pm	Knit and Stitch Tea – Thakeham – p4
2pm	SPACE – Arts and Crafts Club – p10
Wed 18	
7.30pm	Rotary Film Night – Rocketman – p21
Thu 19	
11.30am	Holy Communion – Sussexdown Chapel – p3
4pm	Messy Church – Christmas Special – p4
7.30pm Storrington Camera Club – Meeting – p17	
Sun 22	Advent 4
3pm	Carol Service – St Mary's, Sullington
6pm	Carol Service – St Mary's, Thakeham
Tue 24	Christmas Eve
	Christmas Eve Services – pages 4, 5, 6 and 18
Wed 25	Christmas Day
	Christmas Day Services – pages 4, 5, 6 and 18
Sun 29	Advent 5

Details of all church activities on pages 4,5,6 and 18.

# **SAINTS AND SPECIAL DAYS**

DECEA	MBER		
Sun 1	Charles de Foucauld, 1916, hermit in the Sahara		
Tue 3	3 Francis Xavier, 1552, considered to be one of the greatest missionaries since St Paul		
Wed 4	John of Damascus, c749, saint and author of many texts and hymns		
	Nicholas Ferrar, 1637, founder of the Little Gidding Community		
Fri 6	<b>Nicholas, Bishop of Myra,</b> c.326, saint with a reputation for secret gift-giving and is the model for Santa Claus		
Sat 7	Ambrose, 397, patron saint of Milan, Italy		
Fri 13	<i>Lucy,</i> 304, patron saint of blind; island of Saint Lucia named after her		
	Samuel Johnson, 1784, poet and essayist, wrote A Dictionary of the English Language (150 years before Oxford English Dictionary published)		
Sat 14	<b>John of the Cross,</b> 1591, one of foremost poets of Spain, as well as a saint		
Tue 17	O Sapientia, Worship - part of Common Worship liturgy in C of E		
	Eglantyne Jebb, 1928, British social reformer and founder of Save the Children		
Thu 26	<b>ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR</b> , mentioned in the Book of Acts		
Fri 27	ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST		
Sat 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, remembering when Herrordered all new born males to be killed			
Sun 29	<b>THOMAS BECKET, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,</b> <b>1170</b> , saint and martyr		
Tue 31	John Wyclif, 1384, translated the Bible into common		

# STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON – REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

#### If you leave Storrington by the mini-roundabout at the east end of the Village, which was not there in Charles Mant's day, he records a local legend:

"... continuing straight over School Hill crossroads towards Thakeham until one reached the crossroads, now known as Water Lane and Incinerator Lane, stands the fine old thatched house known as The Leathern Bottle, supposed to have been a public house years ago ... further along the road there was the old Water Lane thatched cottage where Harry Knowles, one time landlord of the White Lion at Thakeham, lived – it was in this cottage that Oliver Cromwell held conference with his Generals during the War of the Roundheads [sic]. The hovel adjoining the cow shed of this cottage, we slightly repaired and used as a Fire Post at the beginning of the 1039-45 war."

I wonder how welcome Cromwell would have been, considering that as Lord Protector he abolished celebrating Christmas and associated festivities, ordering that 25 December be treated as a normal working day; there were to be no mince pies or other anticipated goodies or festivities associated with the season of jollity lasting twelve days at that time which must have been a welcome time in a rural population during a cold dark winter with little to relieve the dreariness.

#### Charles Mant continues:

"Further along the road we come to the new 'posh' Rydon School named in memory of Mr Rydon who was Chairman of the Thakeham District Council for years [now part of Steyning Grammar School] ... the school stands on the site of the old Thakeham workhouse which stood there for years – this old workhouse with its famous monkey puzzle tree was pulled down to make way for the school, originally built as a barracks for some of Wellington's troops. French prisoners-of-war captured from Napoleon were quartered here in this building; they built the road from Storrington to Washington, also that from Jackets or Jaquards Hill ... I remember as a kid seeing the 'tramps' walking through the village to this workhouse to have a night's sleep ...

There were several permanent occupiers here at the workhouse. One man I remember was Arthur, a man with a crooked foot all twisted sideways, altho' he was able to walk quite well ... At Christmas Arthur would 'play the game' quite a bit. He would stop you in the street and hand you a Christmas card and very solemnly wish you a Happy Christmas – the proper thing then was to give him a couple of shillings, wish him a Happy Christmas and hand the card back. Arthur would then carefully rub your name off the card and 'work' it on someone else. He was supposed to be a bit 'daft' but very cunning."

The Thakeham Union Workhouse seems to have been a far cry from the Dickens variety. Local people were very charitably inclined to the

the Dickens variety. Local residents, many of whom were elderly or infirm villagers. They were sometimes treated to a tea or a concert there, and were welcomed at Village events such as the annual Flower Show and in 1925 on 15 December Col Kensington proposed a



Christmas relief of 2/- per adult and 1/- per child for a week, which was carried unanimously. At that time, a very special Christmas present was given, paid for by private subscription, the Institution Wireless Set. It was proposed that a 4-valve Marcomi wireless receiving set be installed before Christmas to work five loudspeakers. In 1925 not that many private homes had a wireless set.

The month of December in many years encouraged generous people to consider the comfort and enjoyment of the residents – Mrs Wright of Brook House presented 13 armchairs for the use of the old men and Greenfields estimated for an oil stove and slippers (cost 1/3d per pair). Benevolence was not confirmed to the Christmas month, there are records of cakes, newspapers, Mrs Hope asking permission to come and read to the old folk, Mrs King of Fryern sending in jam. Concert parties and band concerts took place, Miss Asprey of Cobb Court organised an outing to Worthing and tea in 1925.

When the village school broke up for the Christmas holiday, the Rector gave each child a bag of sweets and an orange on leaving. At the end of WW1 1919, the school was dismissed at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve so the children of the



Comrades of the Great War, later to become the British Legion, could attend a tea at the Village Hall at 4pm and each child was given a bag of chocolates and an orange. Mrs Trotter gave the children a treat on 24 December recorded in 1908 and other years.

The Band played carols in The Square and they always had a big day playing at the notable houses. Christmas 1913 was a time when the band was in a very strong position, both in numbers and popularity. Charles Mant recollected:

"... without implying anything against its members, it was known to be a very expensive thing to hire them for an event because it was a rule for them to charge a small fee and refreshments. The refreshments were not a very large item because they could just lap all the beer that they could find. Just after the 1913 Christmas I met some of the principal bandsmen and asked them what sort of Christmas did they have whilst playing around the big houses? And the reply was that although subscriptions to the Band funds had been forthcoming there had been very little hospitality, usually meaning drinks, of course. So I thought of an idea and invited them to come to 'The Dawes' and give me a tune and have some supper – I was single at the time and living with mother - they said they would be delighted and a night was fixed. It was arranged that they would play outside in the street first and then come into the kitchen of the old house and give me a tune and have supper and drinks. Sandwiches were cut, some bread and cheese arranged and in due course the visit was made. My assistant for the evening to help with the 'waiting', Lionel Faithfull, who thoroughly enjoyed himself, was on duty. The Band played a tune, then had some food and beer, then another tune, more beer and so on whilst Lionel and I plied them with drinks. When they had drunk quantities of beer I suggested that they had a 'short drink', meaning of course whiskey. This went on for some considerable time until they found that the whiskey was 'taking hold of them' and wanted to weaken it by adding water. But we had arranged this beforehand and instead of water being in the water jugs, it was Gin and this helped things on very nicely and they all got beautifully drunk before we finished with them. They got their 'hospitality' all right that night

and we finally finished with them, and very late it was too, and one could hear them going home in various directions joyfully playing whatever instrument they possessed, some joyfully, some mournfully. [Name given] was heard about



1.30am playing *Oh*, *Oh*, *Antonio* somewhere in the Cootham direction.

"Prices were different in those days; beer was about 1/- [10p] a gallon, whiskey 3/6d and gin half-a-crown [2/6d]. Outside the end of Brown's Lane corner, the Revd Arthur Faithfull lived in the house opposite, naturally he was in bed at this time of the morning and could not sleep because of the noise these boys made talking so long. He finally got out of bed in a temper (he was a very hasty-tempered man) threw up the window with such force that the putty being rather weak, the glass fell out and broke around his head as he put it out [his head] to shout to them to "Go to bed at once and Shut Up!" He was frightfully wild with me when he heard next day that ... Lionel and I had made them so 'tight'. Anyway it was great fun ... also, (if only we knew it) it was the last Christmas that some of them would spend. By the time Christmas 1914 came around, some of them were no more."

Shops were always a very important part of Christmas preparations. The Louisa Austin premises in Church Street was a butcher's shop from the 18th century onwards and in later years put on a magnificent show of probably local produce, there were at least two



slaughter houses in Storrington and Selden, the last butcher there still slaughtered animals every Monday into the 1960s in what is now Bax Court. The photograph shows the upper storey just under the roof, carcases hanging all along obscuring the windows and below along the ground floor frontage, whole sides of beef and large joints and fowls, with more laid out on slabs on the pavement. Health and safety and food hygiene did not seem to



affect these displays or bother customers.

The large village emporium next door and spreading around the corner into West Street, Greenfields, had its upper room cleared before Christmas so

that Mrs Greenfield could set up her Penny Bazaar. The firm sent out leaflets well before the big day listing the food, pudding and mincemeat ingredients in stock, and the prices. I remember in the 1960s large wooden cabinets in the back of the shop with capacious drawers full of various dried fruits, demerara sugar, etc, which would be weighed into paper bags according to the customers' orders.

Mr Sidney Marsh was the one who suggested the big tree in The Square be lit up for Christmas which was agreed, and continued for many years.

> Joan Ham (Village Historian)



夑 West Chillington Dramatic Society 🤸

We hope you didn't miss our November production of Edwin Preece's latest three act play *The Three Days of Christmas;* if you did then you missed a pre-Christmas comedy treat.

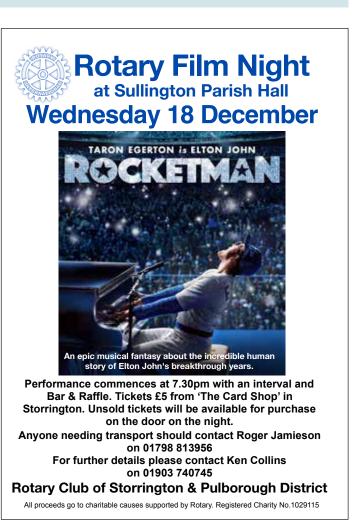
Our next significant event is our Members' Evening on **14 December** when a number of members will be demonstrating their wide variety of talents and skills in a 'Do Your Own Thing' event. This will be accompanied by our traditional Turkey Pie supper, raffle and, of course, a bar. Tickets, £5 for Members, £10 for Guests, are available by e-mailing chairman@wcds. co.uk or telephone Geofrey Steward on 01798 874932. If you have a party piece you would like to share with us then please do contact Hermin Daley on 745598, who will try to find a slot in the programme of acts.

Many of you will remember the television series *The Darling Buds* of May by HE Bates. Originally a short story written in 1956, it was first produced as a play in 1959, with a film and television series following a few years later. We will be staging the latest version of the play in May 2020. With a cast of 16, including five children ranging in age from 15 to 10 years old, auditions will be held on 6 and 9 January at West Chiltington Village Hall from 7.30pm. We would love to hear from anyone interested in taking part, so do contact the Chairman by e-mail chairman@wcds.co.uk .

If you would like to learn more about our activities, why not come along to the auditions on either 6 or 9 January or take a look at our website www.wcds.co.uk or contact our Membership Secretary, Christine Pearson on 01798 874456.

It now just needs me to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Geofrey Steward, Chairman



# STORRINGTON & DISTRICT MUSEUM

The talk on **Monday 2 December**, will be given by Carmen Kew. Entitled 'Story Telling (with costumes)', the content is something of a mystery, but it sounds intriguing and just right for pre-Christmas entertainment. 7.30 pm at The Old School. Entry is £5 to include home-made mince pies and mulled wine. £4 to Museum Society Members.

2020 probably will see some changes in the Museum as we try to revamp the exhibits and bring more out of storage. Also there will be some afternoon talks as we try to interest those members who dislike going out in the winter evenings.

We are trying hard to recruit new Stewards as more than one of our long-standing members have had to retire. Being a Steward requires very little effort or special knowledge. You need to enjoy meeting people, have an interest in Storrington and its surrounding villages, and can spare just three hours a month either from 10am to 1pm or from 1pm to 4pm on Wednesday and Saturday and 10am to 1pm on Sunday morning. Visitors do come in and ask questions but if the Steward doesn't know the answers then they complete an enquiry form which is passed to the Curators who can do the necessary research. There are always two Stewards on duty – why not come with a friend?

The talk on 7 October was 'You the Jury' by Peter Thompson, a Barrister, and was very much enjoyed by us all. It was delivered without computer help, no slides, no notes. I suppose it is the nature of his calling that he has to be heard, but he did not need the Museum sound system as I could hear every word, which is such a bonus. So, addressing us loudly and clearly, magisterially even, he asked us to consider the court, and especially the jury, who can only rely on facts. But what are facts? Sometimes what once appeared to be a fact is no longer one, as with Dr Crippen. Apparently, what seemed like a cast iron case against him, because he ran away and because a body, which was definitely female, was found in the basement of his house, has changed, because forensic science now says the body was male, and so was unlikely to be his wife!

It is the same for another high profile case, that of Timothy Evans, who was hanged for the murder of his daughter. The facts became somewhat confused when, sometime later, it was discovered that Evans' landlord who lived in the same house was a serial killer, one John Reginald Christie. Despite an enquiry, this case has never been satisfactorily settled.

So what are facts? And what is truth? It's a very pertinent question at the moment! In court, however, it is the barrister's job before a judge, to present 'the facts' as they see them to the jury. Importantly, Peter Thompson emphasised that in British Law you do not prove innocence. The defendant is either found guilty or acquitted. Acquittal is not the same as innocence, it means that not enough conclusive evidence has been produced to make a safe decision of guilt. The jury has to make that decision.

Peter Thompson then told us more about jury service. When he became a barrister in 1971, the jury was usually composed of twelve men, or, occasionally, eleven men and one woman, and still in 2019 no attempt is made to balance gender, age or ethnicity. Names are drawn from the electoral register totally randomly. It is seen by many as a civic duty, but some try to evade it. Not many excuses work nowadays however. In the past, employers could write to get exemption for their employees, which led to juries composed of retirees and the unemployed. Now if you can prove that you have to go to hospital or if you have a holiday booked, for example, you can be exempted.

To be called at the moment you must be between 18 and 75. You must not be a policeman or in some special military or civil service post. Nor can you serve if you have been in prison in the last ten years, nor if you are mentally impaired. If you ignore the summons to serve you will be fined £1000. Even being a judge will not excuse you, as the (true?) story of Judge Cutler shows. He was summoned for jury service in the court where he was to be judge; a bit of a dilemma! There is no limit to the number of times you can be called. It is strange how some people are called two or more times and others never, but that is what happens with a random system.

A prospective juror arrives at the appointed court and waits, not knowing if he will be needed or not because more people are called than are actually needed, as any juror might be challenged or objected to, by either barrister. This challenging seems to be quite arbitrary.

Peter Thompson told us about the clothes all barristers wear. Gowns date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century when, being normal wear, they could be any colour. They have been black since the death of Charles II when all the courts went into mourning. The barristers' gowns are made of 'stuff'. A QC's is made of silk. Charles II was also responsible for the wigs. The winged collars and the white band are the regulation uniform, as is a white shirt, which no one ever sees. Such are the quirks and foibles of the law. The big blue bag holds all the gear when you begin and until you prove yourself capable, and you get a red one from your 'pupil supervisor' if you do a very good job, but you have to pay for it.

This write up does not really do justice to the talk which was peppered with jokes and telling explanations and little stories. It was suggested that Peter Thompson should have been an actor, but he said not; in court you have to be honest and it would be detrimental to a case if anyone thought you were acting.

The Museum will close for a winter break from Thursday 12 December, and re-opens in the New Year on Wednesday 15 January. But between these dates, on 6 January, there will be a talk by Gordon Stephenson about Southdown Buses, to coincide with the current exhibition.

Mary Wilson

Old School, School Lane, Storrington RH20 4LL Tel: 740188 www.storringtonmuseum.com E-mail: contact@storringtonmuseum.com Registered Charity No. 1084853 Weds and Sat 10am – 4pm • Sun 10am – 1pm

# STORRINGTON COMMUNITY MARKET We're open every Friday between 9.45am and II.I5am in the Village Hall in West Street.

Cakes, biscuits, pies and savouries, jams and marmalades, local honey, eggs, k nitted hats, jewellery and crafts, books and magazines, DoTerra Essential Oils, local fruit and veg, plants,

Our Christmas Market will be on Friday 13 December 9.45am – 12pm with lots of special stalls, competitions and a Memory Tree with donations to Chestnut Tree Hospice.

mushrooms, The Village Deli, Boutique 35 fashion and Forever Aloe health products. Tea, coffee and biscuits in our cafe.

> We're closed for the 27 Dec and 3 Jan, we re-open on Friday 10 January at 9.45am.

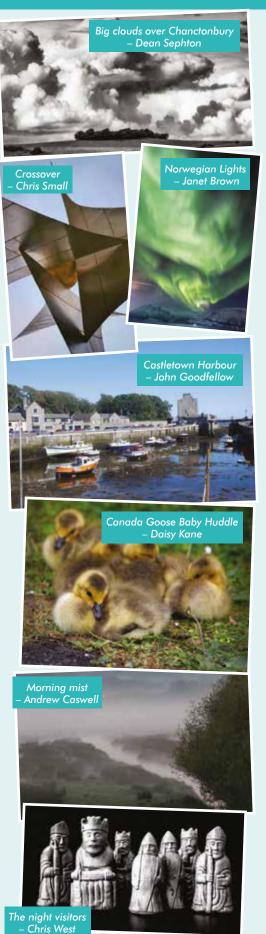
The Village Minibus is available every other week. Contact Velda on 892962.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT**



Bee on lavender

Kristina Byng



One of the things that can sometimes put people off joining a camera club is the perception that they are only for serious photographers with 'big' cameras or those who wish to enter competitions and exhibit photos. Whilst most clubs do have competitions, they are not the key aspect and members have the choice as to whether they enter or just view other members' images that are entered. The type of camera used is also no barrier as our members use a variety of different cameras, including phone cameras, that can also provide great shots and, as is the case with some of our members, film is also making a comeback.

You may feel that your images aren't good enough when compared to some of those seen in magazines and galleries. We are all constantly learning, and photography is no exception. Like any pastime or hobby, the best way to learn is to practice and pick up advice or hints and tips from others who have more knowledge. Our members have different experience levels and, to support learning, we hold monthly 'Hints and Tips' sessions to provide a forum for sharing knowledge covering all levels.

As part of our seasonal programme we recently had a 'Critique' evening with Keith Gibson who provided the comments. Advantages of these evenings is the ability for everyone to enter images in a non-competitive situation and one purely geared to how the image is perceived with tips on where you might wish to improve it. There is also the opportunity to query the comments and for other members to contribute which is something not available on a normal competition evening.

The images submitted for Keith to review continued to show a diversity of subjects that included landscapes, wildlife, aeroplanes, people, helicopters, castles, yachts, abstracts in both colour and black & white. It didn't matter whether you were a new or long-standing member as Keith didn't know. He had positive comments about all the images as he went through, with some having more than others in terms of helpful comments on where, what or how they might be improved. Examples of the suggestions covered areas such as moving position slightly, changing the key point of focus and trying a different aperture or shutter speed. As a judge, Keith enjoyed the informal nature of the evening too as he felt there was a wider selection of 'real' images as opposed to those that are selected for the competitions mainly as members were using the evening as a learning opportunity.

Overall, it was a very inclusive and interesting evening with positive feedback from everyone who felt that it had been extremely worthwhile and educational.

Kevin Harwood



www.storringtoncc.org.uk or contact Janet Brown T: 01798 812183 E: chair@storringtoncc.org.uk

## FRYEN LADIES' PROBUS

As usual we were made to feel most welcome at The Roundabout Hotel in West Chiltington for our monthly lunch and get together on 7 November. The menu looked inviting and after a delicious meal we settled down expectantly to listen to a local speaker, Tony Pratt, talk to us about 'The Arun Valley Postcard Trail'.

'The Arun Valley Postcard Trail', we were told, started as the title for a series of short documentary films, based around Tony's massive collection of cards built up over the years from pre WW1. As the title suggests ,the River Arun provides the central theme, featuring not only the beautiful landscapes but histories of people associated with the River as users or observers. Tony found that exploring this theme in



he uncovered many interesting stories involving characters who inhabited these hinterlands, such as John Harvey of The Littlehampton Shipyard, Edward Tickner, Edwardes of Burpham, John Robertson (ship owner), Jose Weiss of Houghton and The Docks of Pulborough.

The River Arun is the longest river, with its entirety in West Sussex, and is 37 miles in length. It is also the 2nd fastest flowing river in England and runs from its source near the eastern outskirts of Horsham, at St Leonard's Forest, to the English Channel at Littlehampton Harbour. Throughout this journey we were shown illustrations of old postcards resulting in a kaleidoscope of stories and depicting many Sussex villages, Tansy's Cottage in Peppering, sheep washes in the river, sailing and steam vessels, ferry men, census data, old maps, barges and, in particular, Arundel with its fairy tale Castle and then on and on to the sea.

We travelled from Littlehampton up through to Arundel, Burpham, Houghton, Bury and then through to Pulborough and Stopham. The River was only navigable using small craft for 20 miles from the coast up to Stopham Bridge, with its seven arches dating back to 1420, but the flood plains were extensive, as can be seen today. The River has changed dramatically over the years and with dense foliage it can even be hard to see. Sadly, the use of the River declined from around 1863 with the introduction of mainline trains and more road bridges, leaving behind the past revealed only in postcard trails. However, we appreciated our glimpse into times gone by, the awareness of local history and the nostalgic memories ignited.

Joan Richardson gave our collective thanks and said how beautifully researched Tony's presentation was and hoped to see his series of short documentaries soon on Brighton TV.

The meeting ended and we shall meet again to hear Jonathan Jones talk about Christmas Crackers on **5 December. Happy Season's Greetings to all of you, from all of us.** 

Russ Fry

## SANDGATE SINGERS

Sandgate Singers will be performing traditional Christmas Carols at Our Lady of England Catholic Church, Storrington on **Sunday 8 December** at



7pm. Tickets will be £10, to include wine and mince pies, and will be available from the Card Shop, Storrington or at the choir's Monday rehearsals. We will be making a collection for the charity Love Your Hospital at this event.

We will be holding a Race Night on Saturday 18 January 2020 at Sullington Parish Hall, to include a fish 'n' chip supper. This year we aim to have a bar and a raffle and profits will go towards staging our March concert at Arundel Cathedral.

At the beginning of the autumn term we started rehearsing for our spring concert. This will take place in Arundel Cathedral on Saturday 14 March 2020 where we will be performing Haydn's Creation and the cathedral will be beautifully lit by atmospheric lighting effects.

We had a 'Creation' workshop on Sunday 20 October at our rehearsal hall and were joined by 16 extra singers from other choirs who will hopefully be joining us for the concert in March. It was useful to rehearse the whole piece and we were joined by Neil Jenkins, who edited and translated the new English version of *The Creation*.

Our Community Singing Group, an offshoot from the main choir, visit local residential homes and community groups. We sing songs and encourage participation from the audience which has met with great success. In November we sang at The Shelley in Worthing, Valerie Manor in Upper Beeding and Osmund Court in Billingshurst.

If you would be interested in joining Sandgate Singers please contact our Chairman, John Fisher on 741256 or visit our website. We meet on a Monday evening at Sullington Parish Hall from 7.15pm. Come along and try us out!

See our website: www.sandgatesingers.com or find us on Facebook.

Sheila Ferrier







### Gardening in the dark

If, like me, your time in the garden fits around daytime activities, we find ourselves with a problem as we get closer to the shortest day. Weekends can be busy in the run up to Christmas, so what's a gardener to do when it's dark outside?

#### Make time for house plants



When the curtains are drawn, you can still get your green kicks by building up your collection of house plants. I like to have at least one foliage plant in every room. In the kitchen, that could be a windowsill of herbs, or a jungle of ferns and glossy-

leaved plants in the bathroom that tolerate low light levels and enjoy the humidity. A couple of warnings: if you have children or pets in the home, then do check your plants aren't harmful to them, and avoid positioning plants near radiators or behind curtains as they won't enjoy the extremes in temperature.

#### Focus on the front door

In summer, I hardly notice the front of the house as I'm heading in and out, but when the skies are grey, a cheery hanging basket is just what's needed to lift my spirits. Last month, I grabbed an hour one weekend to pick up some Cool Wave trailing pansies and variegated ivy



which should last right the way through to spring. Remember that you'll still need to water baskets and containers in the winter occasionally.

#### Do your research



Winter is a great time to get inspiration from other gardeners on what to grow next year. Gardeners' World may be absent for a while, but why not catch up on past episodes of Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time through the BBC Sounds website? Or spend time browsing through catalogues and nosing about in the gardening section of your local bookshop. Next time someone asks you what you want for Christmas or birthday, you'll be able to furnish them with your wish list of rambling roses, heritage seeds and botanical bestsellers.

Cheryl Brown



Storrington & Pulborough District Rotary and Chanctonbury Lions Clubs

# PLEASE LET US RE-CYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

If you live within 3 miles of the centre of Storrington & Pulborough or within Ashington Village

For a DONATION of £5 we will collect and Re-Cycle your tree between 6th & 12th January

#### Just call 07477 829967 or email recyclexmastree@hotmail.com with your name and address

In aid of charitable causes supported by ROTARY and LIONS Rotary Registered Charity No1029115

#### ROTARY CHRISTMAS TREE RE-CYCLING SCHEME RAISES FUNDS FOR CHARITY

The Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District provides a seasonal service that is welcomed by the Community and which helps to 'green' our area.

For the third year running, Rotary members will be collecting Christmas trees from homes after twelfth night, from 6 January, then recycle them at an Ashington farm to provide material for use on the farm, all for a minimum donation of £5 per tree.

Last year the trees were collected from households in the Storrington, Pulborough and Ashington areas with the help of Chanctonbury Lions Club. 184 trees were collected raising  $\pounds1,000$ , which was donated to Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.

The trees are chipped, with the residue ready for use on a public footpath around the farm, by Rob Dakin of Findon Valley Tree Care. Rotary's project coordinator, Ray Miles said "Given the positive comments from residents last year, we are delighted to be running the service again. For a small donation, residents can avoid all the inconvenience and mess of transporting trees to the tip or burning them, knowing that they will have a 'green' end use and that a very worthwhile charity will benefit in the process."



# WEATHER WATCH

# The golden month was somewhat tarnished this year

October has been described as 'the golden month' but it also is one of the wettest months of the year and the latter was the mood that prevailed in 2019. The number of tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic this season which included October was much higher than normal and it enlivened the jet stream which led to a steady passage of low pressure systems affecting Sussex.

I recorded a rainfall total of 135mm at Storrington by the end of the month and this is about 30% above par. It was the wettest since 2013 with recent Octobers being drier than average. Further afield, it was even more drenched with over 160mm of rain falling at Steyning and 145mm at Littlehampton. With such an unsettled month, it was not unexpected that there were two days when thunder was heard and one of them on 18 October produced a fall of hail too. There were several rainbows as well and I made a point of turning off the A27 onto the panoramic Devil's Dyke Road high on the Downs above Hove to photograph one on the 15th.

There were only three dry days in the first three weeks so it will not come as a surprise to learn that sunshine was at a premium with only around 65% of normal amounts. Still it could be worse

for during 1914 Killarney in Eire recorded 81 consecutive days of rain!

Temperature-wise it was very close to the average, being slightly higher than par, mostly due to some mild nights



as there were no really warm days with the max of 18.9°C on the 1st. There was a distinct autumn chill on the morning of the 28th with the first air frost of the season. This is recorded at a height of 1.2 metres above the ground inside a louvred instrument container called a Stevenson screen.



It was designed by Thomas (1818–1887), Stevenson a Scottish civil engineer who also built many lighthouses, and his son was the renowned author Robert Louis Stevenson. After various modifications, the design was accepted by the British Meteorological Office. It is always painted white on the exterior to reflect direct solar radiation. There were several grass or ground frosts, one as early as the 3rd, as generally it is several degrees colder close to the ground on a clear and fairly calm night.

There were three days from 27th to 29th when the air pressure rose

quite high and there was no rain. Although it was chilly the old saying "when the glass is high and rising still, no rain today, no weather ill" sprung to mind.

Ian Currie, Weatherman and editor of Weather Eye magazine



# ABC ANIMAL SANCTUARY A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Saturday 7 December St Mary's Church, Storrington 6.30pm

An entertaining evening of music and readings with a Country Christmas theme.

A variety of musical artists will be supporting the event plus the audience will be singing some traditional carols to get people in the mood for Christmas.

The organisers will be dressed in Christmas costumes creating a wonderful atmosphere of a real Country Chiristmas.

Tickets £10.00 from www.abcanimalsanctuary.co.uk or Fowlers Estate Agents, to include wine and mince pies.

A raffle will be held during the interval with some great prizes.

All monies will be going to support the animals at the ABC.

Registered Charity Number: 1133827.

The Sanctuary was founded and led by actress Alexandra Bastedo over 30 years ago until her death in January 2014.

The first rescue was a donkey and since then the sanctuary has become home to unwanted donkeys, ponies, horses, miniature Shetlands, sheep, goats, cats, pigs, poultry and birds.

The aims of the ABC Animal Sanctuary are to rescue abandoned animals and those in distress, to provide them with care and protection and, where possible, find them a new home where they can be happy, safe and properly cared for. In some instances, where the animals are very old, need permanent special diets or have personality disorders through ill-treatment, they are guaranteed care and protection and a home at the sanctuary for the rest of their lives, cared for by the volunteers who work at the sanctuary.

Funds are vital to the running of the sanctuary and every penny raised is spent directly on the animals. As well as food and providing the necessary bedding, a large expense for the ABC is veterinary treatment. Minor ailments can often be treated but for the larger animals and more serious illnesses daily medication and veterinary care is unavoidable. The sanctuary is run totally by volunteers and is a registered charity.

For further information please contact Annette Gardner, ABC Events Committee, on 07956 924329 or email annettegrd@aol.com



# SANDGATE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

A great deal has been achieved this year, not lest the introduction of the new Water Lane conservation area and the introduction of a bridging link into Sandgate Park.

Many thanks are due to Cemex for their brilliant work in establishing the Water Lane park area and also the many generous donators who enabled the bridge to be constructed. All of this activity adds to the aim of people like Enid Clarke-Williams, Roy Armstrong and Don Filliston who were great visionaries in the creation of a Country Park.

There will only be one work-party in action this month on Sullington Warren on **Saturday 14 December** from 9.30am till 12midday, where no doubt the Christmas spirit will be in evidence, so if you feel like a bit of gentle exercise at your own pace, then you will be more than welcome.

Anyone can join these working parties that also operate in Sandgate Park and occasionally up on Warren Hill.

The next presentation at the Sullington Parish Hall will be held in February.

To learn more about the Sandgate Conservation Society, who work closely with the National Trust and Horsham District Council, please contact Brian Burns on 743001 or see web site sandgate-conservation.org.uk.

Brian Burns



# ANNUAL PUMPKIN DISPLAY AT SLINDON "OCTOPUSES GARDEN"

## NEVER JUDGE A CHOCOLATE BY ITS SHELL

You may have noticed a small chocolate shop featured recently on BBC One's

Escape to the Perfect Town. If you did, then you will know that MooCoco is a recent addition to village life in Storrington.

My name is Kim and I am this small boutique and bespoke artisan chocolaterie's proud owner, specialising in the production of traditional, handfilled chocolates and chocolate gifts for all occasions, having just celebrated my first anniversary. The term chocolaterie is used where all the chocolate is made on the same premises where it is sold.



I am a professional caterer by training but found chocolate the perfect medium to bring together a bespoke, traditional art with my passion for originality and creativity. I simply love innovating new flavour combinations to tantalise the taste buds, and believe that a tasting experience should incorporate a whole variety of contrasting, yet complementary, textures and flavours.



I use a signature chocolate to create a sumptuous outer shell within which is concealed a hidden surprise with each bite designed to reveal a scrumptious and indulgent filling, such as my Huckleberry, Soft Salted Caramel, Cardamom & Olive Oil Honey and Ginger Crunch.

I am not only fervent about creating high quality chocolates, but also passionate about delivering you an experience too. MooCoco is not only a chocolaterie, it's a sanctuary, a place of nostalgia, luxury and indulgence. Come and relax with an arranged tasting experience to try flavours you might desire over a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, and perhaps engage in conversation allowing me to get to know you whilst sharing my knowledge of what you are tasting.

Although perhaps better known for my hand-filled chocolates, I also make chocolate confectionary and sculptured creations. Some of these are made using single origin chocolate. This means that my cocoa beans have been sourced from a single plantation, from



one country, rather than several different plantations in various locations. I know exactly where the cocoa beans have been grown, and the journey they have taken to get from 'bean to bar'. As for my creations, these sometimes-intricate sculptures often look too good to eat and if you visit my chocolaterie, you'll see first-hand!

Come visit me anytime, but especially for Christmas, Valentine, Easter and Mother's Day.

MooCoco, Gatley House, Mill Lane, Storrington Phone: 366962. Email: kim@moococ.co.uk or see my web site www.moococ.co.uk





Lesley Baker, trained at the National Trust and with over 20 years' experience of arboreal work, gave us a very interesting, amusing and entertaining talk on some of her experiences when working on and with trees.

Once she was asked by London Zoo to make safe a large Plane tree with a crown trim to reduce wind resistance of the tree thereby making it more stable. While this was



being carried out some of the keepers

from the Zoo collected the cut foliage to give to the animals they were looking after. However, one of the keepers always came late when they were working on the tree and had to be cautioned away. He explained he was on the far side of the Zoo looking after the elephants and that was why he was always late, so they made sure after this there were always a few fresh branches in a safe position for him to collect. They say that one good turn deserves another and so it was here, at the end of the job, they enlisted the help of a female Indian elephant to help move the larger limbs on to a trailer for removal from the site.

Members were also offered topical gardening tips, two of which are innovative as well as being eco supportive:

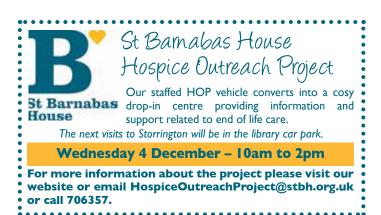
 Rather than throwing a broken plastic plant pot in the bin, and so to landfill, very carefully, with scissors rather than a knife, cut it down one side, then cut out the bottom. Cut away the damaged part. What remains, cut out strips for plant labels. This way you can get the right size and shape of label you want.

Any good stationer sells waterproof pens to use on these labels. I'm currently using Bronze metallic on black labels, but there are other options.

2. Avoiding old crocks! This is neither rude nor ageist! Again it is trying to reuse something instead of chucking it in landfill. Save the plastic netting which covers supermarket fruit punnets, and instead of lining a pot with broken crocks when you are potting, stuff 1 or 2 nets in the bottom of the pot to help with drainage. Your pot will be lighter too.

The first meeting of 2020 on **17 January** is a talk from Penny Green talking on rewilding at Knepp Castle. Outing tickets will be on sale at this meeting. Web site: storringtonhorti.org.uk

Michael Webber





## STORRINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

On 18 October a Climate Change Public Forum took place in Pulborough Village Hall. Five very knowledgeable speakers provided information to a full audience about the causes of climate change and what needs to be done to prevent it becoming catastrophic. We learned for about 11,000 years our climate has been fairly stable. Now the earth's average temperature is rising rapidly. The chief culprits are carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere, caused by human activity, leading to the greenhouse effect. It is a global problem requiring international, national, local and individual action. The remedies include the planting of a large number of trees, changes in farming practice, strict building regulations to ensure low energy use homes, reduction of use of carbon based fuels, modifying our diets by eating more veg, minimising car use and flying (a main offender), recycling and reusing. The list goes on. The point was made that we all need to be involved. Yes Governments and Councils must act, but we can apply pressure by example and lobbying.

At our well attended AGM on 26 October, Chairman Mick Denness gave a brief summary of the activities of the Society over the past year and outlined plans for the future. These include extending our work areas to include Hurston Warren SSSI.

The speaker for the afternoon was Sarah Ward, Sussex Wildlife Trust's Marine Officer. She spoke of the variety of Sussex coastal habitats and the wildlife they support. Problems are caused by damage, degradation, pollution, climate change and pressure on resources. Her work includes liaison with developers, the fishing industry and dredging companies in the interests of conservation. Encouraging developments are the extending of Marine Conservation Zones and the project to restore the kelp forest, the latter helping to capture carbon dioxide. A very informative and entertaining talk.

Disappointingly, the work party on 2 November had to be cancelled due to high winds and rain. Something to do with climate change? Our next work party will again be at Fryern Dell on **7 December** starting at 10am. The aim is to clear selfseeded trees around the pond. Healthy, gentle exercise among like-minded people, and a coffee break. Come along, there is the risk you may enjoy it!

For information about this and all our activities, or on becoming a member, please get in touch with Chairman Mick Denness on 745971, or see our website www.storringtonconservation.org.uk.

Stuart Kersley



Tickets priced £10 (£5 for children) are available from Fowlers Estate Agents, members of the cast or online www.storringtondramatics.co.uk.

Rehearsals have already begun under the direction of Natalie Atherton and the cast, consisting of local young talent and more seasoned actors, have responded well to her enthusiastic approach.

SDS has always presented a high-quality pantomime and this year should be no exception. Come and enjoy this Whole New Storrington has in its midst. Most of all come, participate, enjoy, lose yourselves in a fictional wonder world.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/HLD

# **Home Library Direct**

Helping people to continue accessing library services from home



Do you know someone who loves reading but cannot go to the library due to age, illness, disability, caring responsibilities or other reasons?

Our Home Library **Direct volunteers** deliver books, large print books and audiobooks to people in their home. We can also offer help to use our online services

someone who would like this service, please ask in the library for further details and an application form or complete the online form at.www.westsussex.gov.uk/HLD

**Contact Storrington Library** www.westsussex.gov.uk/HLD Phone: 01903 839050 Email: storrington.library@westsussex.gov.uk

# **STORRINGTON FLOWER CLUB**

In October, we were treated to a delightful afternoon Michelle when King gave her demonstration entitled Tutti Frutti. Each arrangement contained fruit or a vegetable from around the world.

We started with Granny apples Smith from Australia which included pink gerbera and was complemented by an assortment of foliage. From there we moved to England with the



conference pear with a beautiful arrangement of white spider chrysanthemums and carnations. Fatsia leaves, ferns and tessels gave depth and colour to the display.

To Sicily next with lemons. Yellow canna lily predominated this design complimented by variegated orange and yellow roses with variegated ivy leaves. A vase containing dried lemons almost made the mouth water.

On to Seville with all shades of orange gerbera complimenting the oranges from that region. The addition of white carnations made for a fabulously bright and colourful arrangement.

Of course you couldn't miss out grapes from the fruit bowl so on to Rome, with a very elegant display of white spider chrysanthemums and carnations with eucalyptus leaves and assorted soft green foliage.

Our last port of call was Mexico, the home of orange bell peppers. Variegated phormium leaves, yellow chrysanthemum and orange roses brought all together, with the inclusion of the large leaves of the Swiss cheese plant.

Throughout the afternoon Michelle gave us many tips and ideas, and was very complimentary about our members' contributions on the competition table.

Our next meeting will be 22 January. Guests are very welcome to join us; you don't need to be a flower arranger to enjoy an afternoon of entertaining chat and company.

Helen Jenkins





The Club's AGM took place in October. The acting chairman, Dave Kirkwood, was elected as Chair for the coming year and the committee, apart from Peter Dowsett, were all willing to restand and were duly elected. Dave reported on the Club's year, the successful plant sales and show and the increased membership. The Club's financial position was also sound and the figures were presented by Treasurer Christine. All officers and committee members plus helpers were thanked for their endeavours during the last year.

Following the AGM Jacqueline Aviolet entertained members with a light hearted talk titled 'I'm a tulip, What are you?' Jacqueline was able to tell everyone present what flowers and plants were named after their Christian names. Surprisingly, apart from the names Mary and Marion there were no repeats.

We also held our 2nd plant sale of the year in October which was a success in raising funds for the Club despite the awful weather on the day.

The meeting on 9 December is our Christmas party. Enjoy a light meal, quizzes and good company. Tickets are £5 for members and £6 for guests.



Meetings take place at 7.30pm on the second Monday in the month in Thakeham Village Hall, apart from January when the Club doesn't meet. We welcome new members and guests; come along to the Hall on Club night or ring Linda Turk on 01403 741068 for further details.

Sandra Jenkins

# Note from the editor....



December means many things for me, including the manic rushing around buying presents, decorating the house and planning enough food to feed the 5000!

But this month in particular also marks another consideration to make – the 'B' word! Yes, what bird shall we have Christmas Day? Turkey, chicken, partridge or pheasant? Joking aside, the country has a major decision to make on 12 December, and there is so much uncertainty.

However, there is one person we can rely on, who never tells lies, who always comes up with the goods and is a constant, dependable and truthful entity – that is God. He fulfils all His promises and is always there when we need Him. God promised us eternal life through His son, Jesus Christ, if we believe and trust in Him.

So, whatever happens on 12 December, you still have the assurance God is with you, and there for you, always.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and may God's blessings be with you, your family and loved ones.

Amanda Hislop (Editor) 3Heralds@gmail.com



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