

ISSUE 75

JUNE 2023

FREE

Three Parishes

Serving the Communities of Tillington, Duncton & Upwaltham

Celebration
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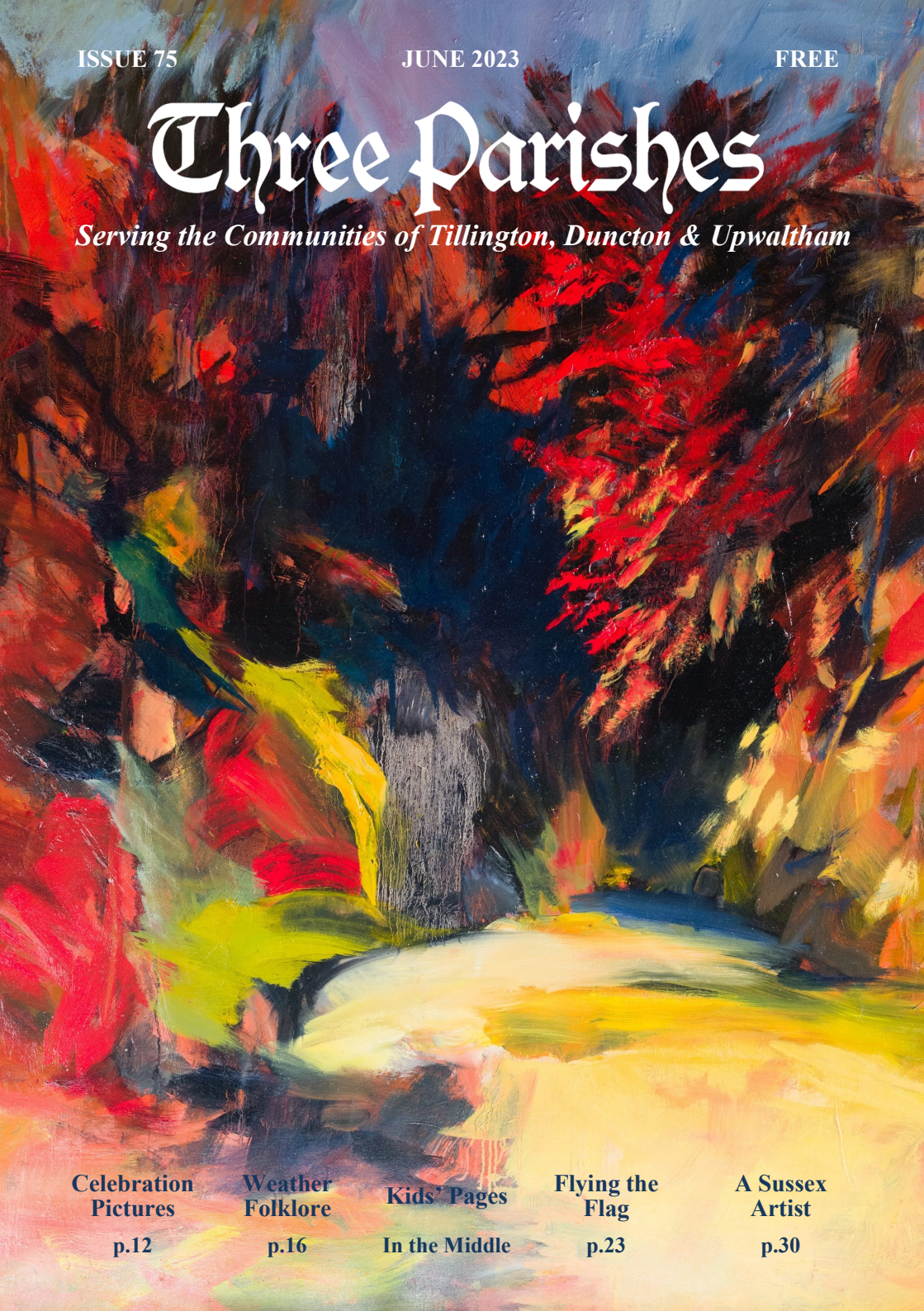
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Flying the
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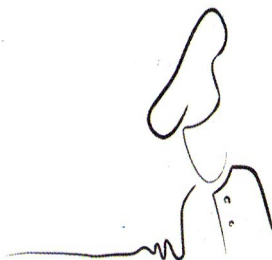
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EDITORIAL

June is the halfway point for us in the United Kingdom 'twixt the shortest days of the year. The longest day seems to sneak up on us suddenly, summer has barely begun and then the days begin to shorten.

The month is named after the Roman Junius, though some claim it is for the Roman goddess Juno. She was, it seems, happy to bestow favour on those who marry in June and take care of women generally.

The fields are ripening around us, the grass is burgeoning and those leaving their mowers in the shed a little longer are blessed with a vast array of grasses and flowers instead of smooth cut lawn. See Bev Exall's gardening article on the huge benefits of not cutting the grass! There is also much debate at present about the naming of weeds when they are simply flowers in an unwelcome place.

This month takes us to traditional joy for many – tennis, strawberries and cream and Wimbledon. We urge you not to forget the tennis courts on Tillington recreation ground, for your own Wimbledons!

The huge efforts in our villages over the Coronation weekend produced so much fun, creativity and neighbourliness, and maybe a few stirrings of pride and joy in the British spirit. Thanks from us all to those who worked so hard to get things going, despite the gloomy weather at times.

Olga, our Ukrainian guest in Tillington, braved the journey back to see her family in war-torn Ukraine. She has written a piece on the horrors and suffering there. She and Sofia feel a deep gratitude for the kindness and generosity of so many here.

Sussex Day is June 16th... and should you go past Duncton Church you will see the newly-purchased Sussex flag flying high to remind you. Louise Exall explains the finer points of high days and holidays when we are able to put the flags out.

Another celebration of our beautiful county can be seen in our cover picture "Sussex in Summer" by Tuema Pattie, who has been talking to Sue Laker about her life and art (see page 30).

We wish you many happy June days.

NOTICE BOARD

*Send your notices to
3parishesmagazine@gmail.com, headed Notice Board.
The Tillington and Duncton Facebook pages have proved useful
for some of us—use these as well*

JOINT MEN'S AND LADIES' BREAKFAST

Saturday, June 3rd
Tillington Village Hall - 8.30 am

Rebecca Mayhew

will speak on the intriguing title of "On-tree-preneurship!"



Rebecca launched her *Go Ape!* business in 2002, and then in 2021 transferred it to an employee-owned business.

Go Ape! is an outdoor adventure company which runs tree top rope courses under the names Tree Top Challenge, Tree Top Adventure and Zip Trekking, as well as ground-based Forest Segway Safaris, at locations across the United Kingdom and the United States.

All are welcome. £7 on the door. No booking necessary.

Gerald and Shelley.

HEARTSMART WALK

Wednesday, 14th June at 6pm

Tillington to the River



Leader: Gerald.

Duration: 1.5 hrs. **Distance:** 3 miles.

Perfect summer stroll. Come and enjoy a gentle circular walk down to the River Rother via our new Permissive Path opened by Lord Egremont last summer. Beautiful river setting. Back via Smugglers' Lane.

Meet: The Horse Guards Inn, Upperton Road, Tillington, GU28 9AF.

If very wet, contact Gerald on 07748 597 568 if uncertain. Dogs are welcome.

FROM DAVID CROOK, OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Spring was almost non-existent this year, and it was a tough time for the gardeners among you. After the wet and chilly, though wonderful, Coronation celebrations of last month, we can now look forward, God willing, to a wonderful summer, with England hopefully wresting back The Ashes from the Aussies.



Our churches will provide the setting for many happy weddings and baptisms over the summer, with June promising to be especially busy. There are so many options for couples getting married these days, including the possibility of a ceremony in country houses, on the beach, at sea, up a mountain, underwater and so forth. But this is a bumper year for weddings in the village churches of Tillington, Duncton and Upwaltham, and the diary is already filling up for 2024.

Sunday church attendances sometimes disappoint me, but reports of the death of the village parish church are greatly exaggerated. Over 250 people packed into All Hallows for the funeral of Bill Bryder at the beginning of the year, and many of this year's weddings will see a hundred or more people assemble in our churches. In 2023, I am also officiating at more baptism services than in any of my past six years as a priest, several of them for the babies of couples I have married.

Under the Church of England parish system, I am a priest to all of you, whether you want me or not! Simply by residing in the villages of Tillington, Duncton or Upwaltham, you – and in many instances your family members – hold entitlements to church baptisms, marriages, funerals and burials. It means a lot to families, and to me, when I officiate at a service, knowing that the names of family members, past and present, are recorded in the church registers. I hope that you see your village church, and your parish priest, as a resource to support you on life's journey, in the good times and the difficult times. I am always pleased to be asked to visit for a cuppa and will bring you Communion at home if you would like that.

I have long been fascinated by the work of Gilbert & George: two people but one artist. They have recently been interviewed about their latest exhibition in East London. Their lifestyles, preoccupations and worldviews are unusual, to say the least. They finish off one another's sentences and say that they have no kitchen and no friends. I appreciate the satire in the creative work of Gilbert & George, but when I heard a radio interview with them, last month, I was puzzled by the hostility they apparently feel towards the Church. They would not be drawn into detail, but vaguely suggested that the Church needed to apologise.

There are many things for which the Church has already apologised: historic misogyny, racism, child abuse, unkindness towards divorcés, gay and non-binary people, for starters. There will doubtless be more disappointments, outrages and apologies to come, but I venture to suggest that the Church of England is a kinder, more inclusive institution than it once was, and, speaking for myself, I hold a liberal outlook on most theological controversies. If anyone reading this feels wronged or damaged by the Church, in some way, please let us talk to explore the possibilities for healing.

Enjoy the month of June!

*In friendship,
David*

FROM THE REGISTERS

All Hallows Church, Tillington

Baptism, 14 May: Rupert Burr Barden-Smith

Interment of ashes, 18 May: Edward John Wakeford

All Hallows, Tillington

Come and join us

On Sunday June 4th

At 10.15. Bacon butties from 9.45.

All-Age Breakfast Church



Moses : A Journey to Freedom

TILLINGTON
CORONATION WEEKEND IN PICTURES





GARDEN NOTES

Hello again. Are you familiar with ‘No Mow May’? It’s the initiative of an organisation called Plantlife, who started it because of the 97% loss of food sources for pollinators like bees and butterflies. No Mow May is a brilliant concept, but if you can possibly commit to not mowing for longer, ideally until the end of August, then this provides many benefits to us as well as to wildlife. Longer grass retains more moisture at the roots, so, instead of dead brown lawns in July and August, we will have lush green long grass which won’t require watering. It reduces the demands on our time, giving more time to sit and enjoy the garden and newly invited wildlife.

The ideal scenario for wildlife in your garden would be to have three different lengths of grass. Some short-mown grass paths to give access to areas such as outdoor seating, or for children to play on and for birds to feed on grubs, and for wildflowers such as Daisies, Birds-foot Trefoil, Selfheal, Buttercups, Dandelions and Clover to thrive and provide nectar. The new step would be to allow some mid length grass in designated areas, grass that is allowed to grow from May through to August without being cut, and is then cut in August with all the cuttings removed. That’s important as, if left, they will rot down and add too much nitrogen to these areas, which will feed and encourage more grass. What we want to encourage is a variety of wildflowers such as Oxeye Daisy, Meadow Cranesbill, Field Scabious and Musk Mallow – basically a perennial herbaceous border with NONE of the usual work such as weeding and watering.

Lastly some areas left uncut all year round, such as grassy strips next to hedges or along fences. These will provide corridors for wildlife to move along freely and can accommodate the full lifecycles of insects such as butterflies, moths, crickets and grasshoppers. These then provide food for the next up in the food chain such as birds, toads, newts, voles, mice and shrews. They also provide cover and nesting site potential for all this wildlife and also for hedgehogs. Due to a lack of long grass and closed off boundaries to our gardens, hedgehogs have become a rarity now. Hedgehogs need to be able to travel between gardens, hedgerows and the wider landscape in order to thrive. All this wildlife can be achieved simply by not mowing and allowing things to grow. Give it a try, it’s not too late to start now, and I promise you will love the results ... almost as much as the wildlife! Till next month ...

Beverly Exall BSc, MCIHort, MPGCA
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BRAVE UKRAINE



The war mercilessly broke into our lives, into the lives of my family, into the lives of every Ukrainian. The war changed the plans, dreams, hopes of each of us. But war is also life. A life where there is pain, tears, meetings, and separations. The most terrible thing is separation from relatives, which lasts for years. We hadn't seen our family for almost a year.

During the year that we were not in Ukraine, a lot has changed: there is no longer that calm life without the sirens that never existed before the war. People are alarmed and nervous because of this. Almost every day in the territory where my parents live, young soldiers who gave their lives in the fight for peace are being buried. And it's very scary!

It is scary when parents lose their only son, and it is scary when you learn about the death of your classmate or acquaintance. This is very scary!!!

It is scary when the unknown and the uncertainty about the future denies peace to so many people.

It is scary when our children cannot be sure about their future. So many schools have been destroyed, so children cannot study fully, due to constant power outages and lack of Internet. Sofia's school was completely destroyed by Russian bombs.

It is scary when you yourself do not know what awaits you in the future. But courageous Ukrainians do everything for a faster victory! We are proud to be Ukrainians! Wherever we are, we represent the whole country. We are very grateful to all the people of Tillington and all the people of England for their help and support during this difficult time for us! This is very important for us and Ukraine!

Olga Mykhailichenko

WEATHER FORECASTING BY FOLKLORE

Modern weather forecasting is dependent on satellite technology to predict changing wind patterns, temperatures, humidity and barometric pressure. Despite all this science, our mobile phones, radio and television forecasts are often at variance, whereas a look at the weather vane, the cloud formation, the thermometer and the barometer can give some immediate local guidance about what to expect and what to wear.

For hundreds of years country folk and seafarers have devised some catchy proverbs to help us.

'Ne'er cast a clout till May is out' is seasonal after a wet cold month.

'The Oak is out before the Ash, we are in for a splash. The Ash is out before the Oak, we are in for a soak'.

The old favourite: *'Red sky at night shepherd's delight, red sky in the morning shepherd's warning'*.

'Cows lie down when its about to rain' but *'Pine cones open when good weather is coming'*.



Then, the night signs: *'Dew in the night, next day will be bright'*, *'Rain before seven, fine by eleven'*, and *'Clear moon frost soon'*; but, *'If three nights dewless there be, 'twill rain, you're sure to see'*.

For predicting good weather: *'If spiders are many and spinning their webs, the spell will soon be very dry'*. The explanation is that high humidity and moisture in the air make webs heavy and fragile, so the wise spiders spin in good weather.

'If the new moon holds the old moon in her lap, fair weather follows'. In fine weather, the pressure increases and the atmosphere clears so the shadow of the full moon can be seen in the crescent of the new moon. In the context of changing barometric pressure: *'When the glass falls low, prepare for a blow; when the glass is high, let your kites fly'*. Finally, for good weather *'When dew is on the grass, rain will never come to pass'*.



For predicting bad weather: *'Flowers smell best just before the rain'*. With an increase in moisture, the aromatic molecules more easily attach to the surface lining in your nose.

The clouds are also good predictors. ‘*Mackerel sky, mackerel sky, never long wet, never long dry*’. Also ‘*Mackerel skies and mares’ tails make tall ships carry low sails*’. Although the alto-cumulus clouds (mackerel sky) and cirrus clouds (mares’ tails) are associated with immediate good weather, they herald the approach of a warm front with stormy thicker clouds following. So, ‘*When clouds appear like rocks and towers, the Earth’s refreshed with frequent showers*’.

Birds flying high are associated with high barometric pressure and good weather – see the swifts and swallows at this time of year. Geese are also a good predictor: ‘*If the goose honks high, fair weather. If the goose honks low, foul weather*’.



The wind direction will indicate some general patterns. North and east winds tend to be colder and drier. West and south winds are warmer but moister: ‘*When the wind is in the east, it’s good for neither man nor beast. When the wind is in the north, the old folk should not venture forth. When the wind is in the south, it blows the bait in the fishes’ mouth. When the wind is in the west, it is of all the winds the best*’.

Finally, both humans and animals tend to raise their game in good weather. Bright days are associated with more negative ions in the atmosphere and a more buoyant feeling. Conversely, with low barometric pressure we become more dour, and animals become more irritable too. So, ‘*When the ass begins to bray, surely rain will come that day*’, and ‘*When your joints all start to ache, rainy weather is at stake*’.

Ian Fergusson



LOCAL GARDENERS

PLEASE SHARE THE JOY!

We know many of our readers find a great deal of joy in the garden. There are some glorious plots (of all sizes) in our three parishes which attest to the love, creativity and hard work ploughed into the caretakers' unique green spaces.

We hope to run a series showing local gardens, whether these be large or small, wild or highly cultivated, old or new, and whether the main glory is in the spring, summer, autumn or, yes, even winter.

Please send in your photographs and let us know what has inspired, delighted, surprised or even frustrated you in relation to creating and tending your garden

Carol Twite's submission (page 22) tells us why she would not be without a garden. Now we are waiting to hear from YOU!



Please email 3parishesmagazine@gmail.com. (We will be happy to write something for you and take the photographs if you do not have the time or inclination to do this yourself.)

MY DESERT ISLAND DISCS

by *Abbie Hodd*

(*Abbie runs the riding stables in Tillington*)

1. Ludovico Einaudi – *Leo*. I love listening to Ludovico Einaudi, it always makes me feel peaceful and calm, and this is my favourite.
2. Jack Johnson - *Do you remember*. Jack Johnson is real ‘feel good’ music and makes me feel good.
3. Pink and Keith Urban – *One too many*. I absolutely adore Pink and I am so excited that we have tickets to go and watch her live at Hyde Park in June!
4. Mozart – *Symphony No 40*. My mother had this along with many other classical tapes in her car and this always evokes memories of my Mum, my eldest daughter Daisy and me driving to do the horses with this blaring out loudly.
5. Hozier – *Work Song*.
6. Kirsty McColl – *Days*. Kirsty McColl has the loveliest voice to listen to and this reminds me of my best friend who died at a young age from a long-standing eating disorder: partly with a happy smile remembering us singing along to it together, partly with a wry smile because she borrowed the CD and found every reason under the sun not to return it.
7. The Beautiful South - *Perfect 10*. This is mine and Steve’s karaoke song that we sing as a duet really, really badly.
8. Red Hot Chilli Peppers - *Under the Bridge*. I have fond memories of the juke box in The Crown in Midhurst where I spent maybe too much of my time as a young adult, replaying this song again and again. I still love it.

I’m not keen on re-reading books, nor am I keen on re-watching films. However, a book that I would be happy to read repeatedly is Somerset Maugham’s *Collected Short Stories Volume One*. As a child I was always searching for more and more books to read, and found this in my mother’s bookcase. It was captivating and eye-opening at the time! It’s something that I have read again many times over the years and thoroughly enjoy.

My luxury item would be lots of paper and a pen so that I can write and doodle.





A SUBALTERN'S LOVE SONG

By John Betjeman

Miss J. Hunter Dunn, Miss J. Hunter Dunn,
Furnish'd and burnish'd by Aldershot sun,
What strenuous singles we played after tea,
We in the tournament – you against me!

Love-thirty, love-forty, oh! weakness of joy,
The speed of a swallow, the grace of a boy,
With carefullest carelessness, gaily you won,
I am weak from your loveliness, Joan Hunter Dunn.

Miss Joan Hunter Dunn, Miss Joan Hunter Dunn,
How mad I am, sad I am, glad that you won,
The warm-handled racket is back in its press,
But my shock-headed victor, she loves me no less.

Her father's euonymus shines as we walk,
And swing past the summer-house, buried in talk,
And cool the verandah that welcomes us in
To the six-o'clock news and a lime-juice and gin.

The scent of the conifers, sound of the bath,
The view from my bedroom of moss-dappled path,
As I struggle with double-end evening tie,
For we dance at the Golf Club, my victor and I.

On the floor of her bedroom lie blazer and shorts,
And the cream-coloured walls are be-trophied with sports,
And westering, questioning settles the sun,
On your low-leaded window, Miss Joan Hunter Dunn.

The Hillman is waiting, the light's in the hall,
The pictures of Egypt are bright on the wall,
My sweet, I am standing beside the oak stair
And there on the landing's the light on your hair.

By roads "not adopted", by woodland ways,
She drove to the club in the late summer haze,
Into nine-o'clock Camberley, heavy with bells
And mushroomy, pine-woody, evergreen smells.

Miss Joan Hunter Dunn, Miss Joan Hunter Dunn,
I can hear from the car park the dance has begun,
Oh! full Surrey twilight! importunate band!
Oh! strongly adorable tennis-girl's hand!

Around us are Rovers and Austins afar,
Above us the intimate roof of the car,
And here on my right is the girl of my choice,
With the tilt of her nose and the chime of her voice.

And the scent of her wrap, and the words never said,
And the ominous, ominous dancing ahead.
We sat in the car park till twenty to one
And now I'm engaged to Miss Joan Hunter Dunn.

Note: Betjeman, although married, was captivated by a work colleague called Joan Hunter Dunn and wrote this poem in 1940, fantasising about a parallel life with her. She later recalled the poem captured her lifestyle accurately, although she was to go on to marry a civil servant. She died in 2008.

Only one for tennis? And a load of balls.

June and tennis are almost synonymous, but supposing you can't find a partner or just want some quiet unobserved practice on your own? Well, I have the answer, being the happy recipient of a magic box which fires tennis balls at you over the net. It takes about forty balls and will dispatch them at preselected speeds and trajectories, with an option of side-to-side oscillation. Wonderful for improving hand eye co-ordination and fitness at any age.

The only downside is that it can't dispense strawberries and cream.

All love, Forty.

MY FAVOURITE HOBBY - GARDENING

The garden is my favourite part of our home in Fittleworth. I love spending time here, pottering, enjoying the fresh air and just being outside. Each season is a joy and brings with it great change, challenges and pleasures.

It was owning my first garden in Pinner, London that marked the beginning of my love for plants of all kinds. It didn't take long to learn the basics. When our children were small, I began growing plants and preparing hanging baskets and soon progressed to making them for friends and neighbours. I found real peace in the garden here. We used to visit my parents for holidays in Cornwall where my mother had a creek-side garden where she loved growing plants from seed although partially sighted. We would come home with the car full of plant cuttings and garden paraphernalia.

Our first move was from Pinner to a village just outside Nottingham for Stewart's job. Here we had a cottage garden. I enjoyed creating a wild flower meadow with poppies, cornflowers and corn marigolds. I dug up a lawn for vegetable beds. I began to show the garden at the annual Open Gardens and I grew in confidence. Our final move was to Fittleworth.



We chose the South Downs as a beautiful part of the country to live. Here I took on another challenge, a woodland garden which needs very different plants such as ferns, wood anemones, primroses and foxgloves. We dug a large bed out of the lawn and had dug up tree roots which took considerable time. We have a lot of wildlife as we back onto the woods. Visitors here include badgers, foxes, rabbits, squirrels, a deer and even a mink! Sadly, there is no suitable place to have a greenhouse so I have 'grow lights' in our sunroom. The garden is too damp and shady to grow vegetables so I have an allotment in Petworth.

All in all, I have been very lucky to have had lovely gardens and be surrounded by the wonder of nature. It is great exercise, good for the soul and something I wouldn't be without.

Carol Twite



Petworth Festival 2023

Tuesday 11 - Saturday 29 July



Highlights include:

**TENEBRAE • JESS GILLAM • JENEBA KANNEH-MASON
CLIVE ANDERSON • SHAKATAK • THE MANFREDS
RAYNOR WINN WITH THE GIGSPANNER BIGBAND • THE JIVE ACES
AMAAN & AYAAN ALI BANGASH WITH JENNIFER PIKE**

And many more!

BOX OFFICE OPENS 9 MAY

TICKETS AND FURTHER DETAILS AT

www.petworthfestival.org.uk   

Taking in twelve venues and with 5 star performers lined up from every conceivable art form we really hope you will join us - both in June and July.

There are few things in life that match the thrill of astounding talents in close proximity, bringing to life their skills, passions and energies and we have superb performers lined up day after day.

They're all live and on your doorstep, so come join us and plan your festival journey!

TILLINGTON, DUNCTON AND UPWALTHAM CHURCH SERVICES
DURING JUNE 2023

	All Hallows Church, Tillington	Holy Trinity Church, Duncton	St Mary's Church, Upwaltham
Trinity Sunday, 4 June	Breakfast Church 9.45am/All-Age Service at 10.15am		
Wednesday 7 June	BCP Holy Communion at 10am		
Barnabas the Apostle, 11 June	Parish Communion at 9.30am	Parish Communion at 11am	
Second Sunday after Trinity, 18 June Fathers' Day	BCP Holy Communion at 9.30am		Fathers' Day Country Service at 11.30am
	Five-parish Evening Prayer online via Zoom at 6pm. Please contact David to register for his weekly email with Zoom links.		
Wednesday 21 June	BCP Holy Communion at 10am		
Third Sunday after Trinity, 25 June	Morning Prayer and Praise at 9.30am	BCP Holy Communion at 10.30am We welcome Revd Canon John Bundoock	
Fourth Sunday after Trinity, 2 July	Breakfast Church 9.45am/All-Age Service at 10.15am		

For additional services in group – see page 25.

David Crook, Priest-in-Charge

Kids' Pages



WIMBLEDON TENNIS



Everyone has heard of Wimbledon and the big tennis competition that happens every year. Do you like playing or watching tennis? However, how much do you know?

Prize money : If you had won Wimbledon last year, you would have won £2,000,000, the same for men and women. If you didn't win, but were in the final, you would have won £1,050,000.

Next big question: why is it called tennis and when was it first played? The most credible accounts on the origins of tennis date back to 11th or 12th centuries. In that time French monks played handball on improvised court yards, and the game was dubbed in French "jeu de paume" or game of the hand. They played "jeu de paume" on monastery walls, or over a rope hung in the monastery courtyard. As the monks served the ball they shouted at each other "tenez" which in French means 'take it' or 'receive'. As a result, the word tennis got coined from the French word 'tenez'. Real Tennis – one of several games sometimes called “the sport of kings” – is the original racket sport from which the modern game of tennis is derived.

Why is it called “lawn Tennis”? Lawn tennis is called lawn tennis because once upon a time it was simply a tennis court marked out on the lawn (which



is, of course, grass!) You can play tennis on other surfaces, such as on a hard court, or a clay court. Wimbledon is the only Championship event played on grass. The other Championship events are held in France, Australia and America. If you are good enough to win all



four, you have won a grand slam! (And a great deal of money!)

ETON MESS RECIPE

Lots and lots of strawberries

A little white sugar

Meringues (you can buy them ready made)

Lots of thick cream, whipped

Method:

Mash the strawberries with a little sugar

Break up the meringues and fold them in with the strawberries and cream

YUM YUM



Do you know what all these tennis terms mean? Can you do any of the shots?

- 1 Ace
- 2 Backspin / Underspin
- 3 Topspin
- 4 Approach Shot
- 5 Bounce
- 6 Drop shot
- 7 Hawk-Eye
- 8 Heavy
9. Kick Serve
10. Return Ace

 **COLORING BOOK**



Can you spot the eight differences between these two pictures?



ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN OUR GROUP DURING JUNE:

4 June: 9.30am Parish Communion at Fittleworth; 11am BCP Holy Communion at Stopham

11 June: 8am BCP Holy Communion at Fittleworth; 9.45/10.15am Breakfast/All-Age Service at Fittleworth; 6pm BCP Evensong at Stopham

25 June: 9.30am Parish Communion at Fittleworth; 11am BCP Holy Communion at Stopham.

2 July: 9.30am Parish Communion at Fittleworth; 11am BCP Matins Stopham.



RAINFALL FOR APRIL 2023

Recorded by Fran Trimming in River
(previous years recorded by John Mayes in Haymarsh)

Year	Month	Year to Date
2023	94ml	351ml
2022	8ml	160ml
2021	2ml	228ml
2020	52ml	297ml
2019	11ml	187ml

!! STOP PRESS !!

We've just heard that Bella the Deer is now a Mum!



We hope to have a news update in next month's Magazine.

HE WAS THERE – THE FINAL ALLIED VICTORY IN THE NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN

Duncton resident Michael de Burgh is due to celebrate his 100th birthday on Sunday 11th June. To meet Michael is a great privilege and to hear first-hand his memories of his wartime service, and to hold the binoculars which helped save his life when the leather strap was shot away. Now replaced with ordinary string, the binoculars seem more like a museum piece today.

Aged just 19, Michael was encouraged to join up by his uncle, Colonel Ronald McDonnell, a regular serving officer with whom he used to stay as a child. The idea of joining the cavalry and having the opportunity to ride had great appeal, but the reality, when he was able to enlist, was a period of six months training at the Armoured Fighting Vehicles School in Bovington, learning to drive a tank before he ever learned to drive a car, before being deployed to North Africa with the 9th Lancers as a Troop Commander.

Arriving in North Africa, Michael recalls the company sergeant's words - "They're now sending us schoolboys." Following the Allied victory of the second battle of El Alamein in October 1942, there was still fighting to be done to drive the Italian and German Axis troops back towards Tunisia until the final North African campaign victory of the Battle of Tunis, won by the allied forces in May 1943. Michael arrived around this time and was involved in the efforts to push back the enemy and recover strategic assets.



From North Africa to southern Italy, where his uncle was also still serving: he recalls his uncle calling out "Good luck, Michael" as he watched the troops heading for the front. Shortly afterwards, Colonel McDonnell's tank took a direct hit and he was killed. His own father, Lt Col Hugo de Burgh, had also been reported captured and sent to a POW camp during this time (later escaped). Later on in northern Italy, during the Spring 1945 offensive, it was Michael's turn to receive a direct hit on his tank, receiving significant wounds in the process, but he was to be pulled clear by Sergeant Reg Hunt before the tank went up in flames. The two men remained lifelong friends until Sgt Hunt's death aged 104.

After the war, the still young Lt de Burgh returned to Africa to Tanganyika (now Tanzania) to spend a period as a sisal grower. Sisal was a valuable crop until plastic took over many of its applications. Since sisal was no longer so valuable, Michael took the decision to return to the UK and joined Guinness, where he worked for many years, settling once again in Sussex in the family home and where his own son and his family now live.

Michael's great joy throughout his life has been his enjoyment of all country pursuits – all, that is, except shooting, having experienced quite enough loud artillery during the war. At the foot of the South Downs, next to chalk streams where there used to be trout to fish, Duncton has provided a peaceful and calm backdrop compared to his wartime experiences. His garden cottage adorned with photographs, letters and medals from his wartime experience is where he spends his days, lovingly cared for by his son Shaun.

Wishing Michael a very Happy Birthday on 11th June.

Sue Laker



ANYONE FOR CROQUET?

“Sumer is icumen in / Loudly sing cuckoo”. Well, not quite. For, though we live in such a beautiful area, sadly I have yet to hear one. Last year, standing on the croquet lawns in front of Duncton Village hall while enjoying the stunning views and playing the lovely game, I did. The Rother Valley Croquet Club has been in front of the hall in Duncton for over 20 years and has a view to die for – two beautiful lawns, a practice lawn, a club house, all the necessary mallets (unlike golf you need only one weapon!), there being no need to have your own. Also, there’s a loo!

Just like at any sports club, there are times when by just turning up there will be someone to give you a game. There are matches, both friendly and league, against other clubs and you would be surprised how many clubs there are in the south. There are social events, and teaching sessions with qualified coaches who are very happy to do one-to-one lessons should anyone like help before joining in a club session.

No, this is not a game that requires strength with the opposition bashing your balls into the bushes, a) because we haven’t got any bushes and b) because that would be self-defeating as it would mean the end of the opposition’s turn. Yes, it is a game of cunning tactics and guile but it is learnt very quickly – a basic game taking around 45 minutes. It is also a very rare thing in the games world as ladies play on equal terms with the men. In tennis, squash, golf and other sports a man’s inherent strength will always put them at an advantage but in croquet it is the mallet that does the work, no strength required. So, come on, ladies, bring friends and family and show them how. It is not a game just for the old and bold, when the international squad has young university players.

In years gone by the game was connected with vicars playing (hence the reputation) but back then the vicarage and the big house were the only houses in the village with a big enough grass area to have a lawn and that could afford someone to mow it. Our lawns are professionally mowed, fed, treated and generally cared for. Your vicar David’s lawn is not big enough, or flat enough, so come to Duncton and give us a go.

Our website is <https://www.rothervalleycroquet.co.uk/> and has all the relevant information, or give me a ring and I will be very happy to help.



Katherine Minchen
01730 813586; katharine@kelross.co.uk

HOLY TRINITY – THE CHURCH FLAGPOLE

Holy Trinity Church in Duncton is lucky enough to have a flagpole in its churchyard and recently Oliver Hartley very kindly managed to source and gift 3 lovely new flags, which some of you may have noticed flying during recent events.

The new Union flag was flown in May as suggested by the College of Arms, to celebrate the coronation of our new king and the St. George's flag flew in April for St. George's Day. We also have a new 'Sussex flag' which is only flown once a year on 'Sussex Day', which is always celebrated on June 16th, and we will of course be flying our new flag on that day this year.

The Sussex flag with its six gold martlets on a blue ground (Pantone Blue 286 and Pantone yellow 109) was first registered with the Flag Institute in 2011, having been certified by the institute's chief vexillologist, Graham Bartram, as meeting the conditions to be the definitive flag of Sussex.

We have for some years flown a Union flag at Holy Trinity on the prescribed days but the one we had was not in a good state and had become ragged, which is deemed disrespectful. Our bright new flags mean that we are now able to fly our flags with pride.

Flag Flying Days for 2023

The days which the College of Arms has set for when and where flags should be flown in 2023 are as follows:

- 1 March, St David's Day (in Wales)
- 13 March, Commonwealth Day
- 17 March, St Patrick's Day (in Northern Ireland)
- 9 April, His Majesty's wedding day
- 23 April, St George's Day (in England)
- 6 May, Coronation Day
- 17 June, official birthday of His Majesty, the King
- 21 June, birthday of the Prince of Wales
- 17 July, birthday of the Queen Consort
- 8 September, anniversary of His Majesty's accession
- 12 November, Remembrance Day
- 14 November birthday of His Majesty the King
- 30 November, St Andrew's Day (Scotland)

Also (in the Greater London area) on the days of the opening of Parliament, whether or not His Majesty is in attendance.

Louise Exall

A SUSSEX ARTIST



How could I have missed “Sussex Landscape: Chalk, Wood and Water”, the most popular exhibition ever put on at Pallant House Gallery, which ran from November last year to this April? The exhibition featured works by sixty-nine artists and attracted press comment such as “encapsulates everything I love about Sussex” from Julian Roup in the Guardian. Of all the artists featured, only five are still living, one of whom is our dear neighbour, Tuema Pattie.

Although born in Dublin and trained at Belfast College of Art, it so happens by serendipity that Tuema has become a Sussex artist, whose paintings include views of Burton Park, Arundel Cathedral and even my house in Duncton, which she has transformed with a little artistic licence to a glorious swirl of colours against the backdrop of the South Downs.

The evolution to Sussex artist all started when a young student at Cambridge was asked by his room-mate to act as his navigator for the Circuit of Ireland Motor Rally in the late 1950’s. Tuema’s father at the time was involved in the motor industry in Northern Ireland and was hosting events involved with the rally. Hence the young Cambridge student came to meet the young Irish artist. The following year, he returned once more to compete in the rally. Once again they did not win the rally but Geoffrey invited Tuema to attend the university May Ball with him that Spring and subsequently she moved to London.

Early married life in London was busy, but she still found some time to paint the urban landscapes characteristic of her earlier work.. Painting had to take a back seat when children came along and Geoffrey embarked on a political career, becoming first an MP and then a Government minister, which found her lending wholehearted support to her husband’s career until a move to Sussex

1989 allowed her more time to paint and travel opened up a range of inspired landscape paintings of the Galapagos, Antarctica, Spain, Italy and Uzbekistan.

Her Sussex landscapes too, like those of the exotic locations, are viewed through her eyes and imagination to produce abstracts of stunning colour palette and brush strokes. The Pallant House Gallery exhibition included a canvas painted in 2018, “*Looking from Selhurst Park Road*” and “*The Downs from Selham*”, an oil on paper image.

In October 2021, Tuema held a retrospective of her work in London, “*From Conventional to Experimental*”, which opened up a body of 100 or so of her works to a wider audience. Whilst Tuema’s style is undoubtedly and identifiably her own, she has enjoyed the companionship of other local artists through a regular weekly meet-up to paint and to discuss technique at Duncton village hall, as well as working under the tutelage of the artists Piers Ottey and Christopher Baker in Sussex and Robin Child in Devon.

Although Tuema has exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and prestigious London and Irish galleries, she also exhibits locally at the Kevis House Gallery and in past years, at the Roundtree Tryon Gallery and at Moncrief Bray Gallery. She has also been kind enough to offer works for silent auction in aid of local causes and is the most generous supporter of Petworth Cottage Nursing Home, holding a fundraiser annual lunch in the gardens of her Duncton home. We are so lucky to have her here in Sussex.

Sue Laker



Our beautiful cover picture is Tuema’s vibrant, evocative interpretation of “Sussex in Summer”



**IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL
RESIDENTS OF DUNCTON VILLAGE**



Please take a minute to read this message.

As you may be aware as well as the Council elections on 4th May the Parish Council were also up for re-election. Unfortunately, only one person stood for election, resulting in a Parish Council that is unable to perform its functions as we lack the minimum number of Councillors required to hold a meeting and conduct business.

This means that the Parish Council can't undertake its usual work (in recent times this has included work such as the Jubilee Orchard, annual events such as the village fireworks etc.). It also means that we will have no say in relation to Council decisions which affect the village, such as those concerning roads (including speed limits), planning etc.

Please consider whether you would be willing to join the Parish Council – we meet 6-7 times per year in the evening and outside of meetings the amount of time taken is really dependent on how much you and the Parish Council decide to get involved in (it is entirely a voluntary activity).

I would be happy to discuss with anyone who wants further information on what is involved (andrew@dunton.org or 01798 344 577). If you are willing to join the Parish Council, please contact either myself or the Clerk (Hannah-Louise O'Callaghan at clerk.dunton.org or 01798 865 189) for further information as to what is required.

Please consider whether this is something that you could take part in!

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this.

Regards,
Andrew Mills



**IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL
RESIDENTS OF DUNCTON VILLAGE**



LIGHT UP THE BARBECUE!

The long summer days are the perfect time for al fresco eating. Try this delicious salad and so-good salsa to add variety and flavour to your barbecue meals

Orzo Salad

Orzo is a fine bead shaped pasta and makes a delicious salad.

Put the required amount of orzo in a pan of salted boiling water and cook for 8-10 minutes, until it has a little bite in it! Drain and leave to cool, possibly stirring in a drizzle of olive oil to keep the pasta grains apart.

The following vegetables can be chosen and chopped into 1-2 cm squares and fried or roasted in the oven, in olive oil until fairly soft ... you may like them quite crunchy ... the choice is yours: red onion, garlic, aubergine, green or yellow pepper, celeriac, celery, courgettes, chestnut mushrooms (don't overcook).

Add each set of vegetables to the pasta in a big bowl, add salt, and pepper. Stir it round and taste as you go. Herbs like marjoram, oregano, fennel seeds, basil and coriander add a delicious flavour. Some like to add pancetta cubes for a salty kick, but not if you want to keep it vegetarian.

I add chopped baby tomatoes at the end, without cooking them. Olives and Feta cheese also go really well in the mix. Stir it all around, seasoning until it tastes just the way you like it.

This very "individual" salad will go really well with barbecues ... roll on summer!

Shelley Fergusson

Quick and Easy Salsa

Chop the following ingredients, mix together in a bowl and serve!

4 - 6 fresh plum tomatoes
1 red onion
1 garlic clove
Juice from ½ lime
Coriander
Splash of white wine vinegar
Salt and pepper to season

Also delicious served on bruschetta

Kevin Compton

STAG BEETLE

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

I've only ever had one sporting hero. In the red corner, standing 6ft 6 and weighing in at 365lbs, Big Daddy kept my Gran and me glued to the TV set on wet Saturday afternoons as he wrestled Giant Haystacks or Kendo Nagasaki in his sequinned Spandex.

In June, stag beetles – the big daddies of the beetle world – are emerging from the ground and getting ready to rumble. There are around 3,000 different species of beetle in Sussex and an estimated 29,000 species across Europe. Just as Big Daddy's 64-inch chest earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records, the 2.5 inch long stag beetle holds the coveted title of Europe's Biggest Beetle. And, like a 26 stone man in a spangly leotard, the adult male stag beetle is equally impressive and ludicrous. Its 3-segmented black and maroon armoured body is crowned with a ridiculous pair of trademark stag-like 'antlers'. They are actually modified mandible mouthparts and are used to impress the antler-less females and to grapple rival males.

Before these tiny Titans step into the ring they have to put in some long hours in training. The beetle's larvae spend an incredible 5-6 years munching on a dead-wood diet of buried logs and roots, building the bulky body that will sustain them to survive above ground. As adults they will live for just a few weeks without feeding, relying solely on the fuel tanks accumulated underground. In early summer, after pupation and transformation, they burst from the ground and go looking for a fight. I always find it incredible that these chunky, bulky beetles can fly but on warm evenings they whir through the air with the grace and subtlety of a Chinook, on aerial reconnaissance for females. But if another male beats them to it that's when things get nasty.



In my fantasies I imagine these beetle brawls to play out on a dead tree stump. A crowd of over-excited elderly invertebrates gather round; the grasshoppers and crickets chirping in with a chorus of "We shall not be moved" while the earthworms and earwigs chant "Eas-eh! Eas-eh!" The fighters face off before charging and locking antlers. With incredible strength a stag beetle can lift his opponent into the air, holding him there heroically before spectacularly body-slaming him down onto the stump.

We're fortunate that southeast England is a hotspot for these Herculean heavyweights but sadly our stag beetles are on the ropes. The loss of old trees from the countryside has had dramatic impacts on the survival of the beetles' underground larvae and their numbers are declining. My tip for spotting a stag Beetle is to look for them in June in Henfield churchyard in West Sussex or around Ringmer in East Sussex.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, *Wildlife* magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

Great Outdoor Theatre in Duncton

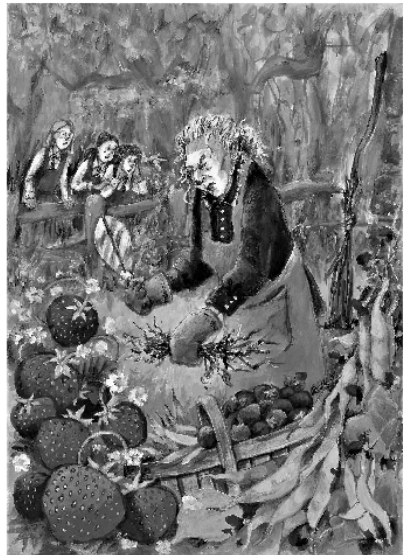
*The Village Hall field, Duncton
Thurs 6th July at 7.30pm
Picnics from 6.00*

Miss Poppewell's Garden

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A rib-tickling comedy of manners set in the fictitious Sussex village of Little Inkleing in 1940 woven with poignancy and gently unearthing buried things from Miss Poppewell's past

TICKETS £23 + concessions
Book online or ring 01323-501260
**Bring low-backed chairs or rugs
and picnics.**



www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk

PETWORTH FOOD BANK report May 2023

Foodbank update

At Easter, the team in Petworth delivered the Kids' Lunch Packs to children in our area. These are given to children who have free school meals during term-time due to low income and whose parents register for them. The KLPs cover the 10 lunches they are missing due to school holidays. The number of children needing them this year was up by 32% compared with Easter last year and so we expect similar numbers for the summer. We are very fortunate that the boxes are made up for us by Seaford College students and staff and with donations from parents. We had a freshly baked loaf of bread supplied for each child by SØDT bakery and Easter eggs from the Rotary Club. We are running out of room and if any Church/ Village Hall has an accessible room/ place that we could store KLPs, especially the Christmas ones, that would be so useful. We're so short of space at the URC and we have to run down the number of our stored emergency food parcel boxes, which can cause us difficulties in busy periods like December. It would be for around 10 days before the start of each of the main school holidays.

Foodbank Demand

Compared with the year 2021/2022, demand in the Petworth area rose by 106% in 2022/2023. Even for those of us volunteering at the Foodbank and experiencing the additional workload, seeing this figure in black and white was something of a shock. Whereas last year, we were largely managing to meet demand with our local donations, this year we are having to have far larger top-ups from the main warehouse in Chichester. As demand has risen across the whole of the Chichester District, this has put a strain on the warehouse. In the first quarter of this year, the warehouse gave out 33.4 tonnes of food but only received 23.5 tonnes – clearly this kind of shortfall is not sustainable in the long term. The type of demand we are seeing is varied and can often be very short-term. For example, we see people starting a new job but not getting paid for a month, or losing a job and having to wait for a universal credit payment or adjustment. Other families that may have been managing have then had a couple of weeks when they couldn't afford to buy food because of a gas or electricity bill. We would greatly appreciate anything the churches can do to both make people aware that they can seek help from the Foodbank and, secondly, to encourage donations locally. Donations need to be long-life, in-date, unopened and with a full list of ingredients (due to allergens). A list can be found on the website www.chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Seaford College Community Day

We are delighted that some students and staff from Seaford College are going to come back to the Foodbank in Petworth at the United Reformed Church for

a spring-cleaning day this July. This made a tremendous difference to the room last year and it was fun to work with them. They are also going to be cleaning the hall upstairs this time.

*On behalf of Petworth Foodbank (one of the Chichester District Foodbanks)
01243 773687, option 1.*



The Lavington Park Federation

Graffham CE Infant and Duncton CE Junior School

We had such fun in school celebrating the King's coronation in May! We all dressed up in red, white and blue, made our own jewelled crowns, orbs and sceptres and painted flags. Each child was given a beautiful celebration mug as a memento of this great occasion.

As we write, Year 6 are busy with their end of key-stage assessments, and are looking forward to their forthcoming residential trip, ticking off the traditional Year 6 milestones at the end of their primary school years with us.

The summer term is indeed whizzing by and soon our thoughts will turn to next year's classes, with current pupils spending time with their new September teachers and Year 6 pupils having a trial day at their new secondary schools. Before long we will be busy rehearsing for our annual summer performance, a joyful occasion held around the amphitheatre on Duncton's playing field, which always rounds off our school year in rousing fashion.

We can't believe that summer is upon us and another school year is already drawing to a close!

Find out more about our school – including 'virtual tours' - on our website, at www.graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk

AND : please do take a look at and "like" our Facebook page, set up by the 'Friends of Graffham and Duncton' <https://www.facebook.com/pg/friendsofgraffhamandduncton>

PETWORTH & DISTRICT OVER 60S CENTRE –
THE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

JUNE 2023

There will be bingo sessions on Wednesday 7th and 21st at 2.00pm, and the minibus will be available to bring members to the Centre. On Tuesday 6th June we are invited to join Easebourne Ladies to help them celebrate their 70th Anniversary at St Mary's Easebourne and we will be able to use the minibus.

The minibus is available on Tuesday mornings to transport members to the Centre.

Our AGM and Cream Tea will be held on Thursday 6th July at 22.00pm – make a note in your diary.

On Wednesday 30 August our Annual Outing will be to Canterbury – look out for the notice in the Centre.

Caroline Stoneman – House Committee Chairman (01798) 342942

PETWORTH VILLAGE BUS JUNE 2023

There will be a shopping trip on Friday 2ndth June to Worthing and the Trading Post at Barnham and to Horsham on Friday 16thth June. There are also trips to the Friendship Centre (Petworth Over 60s) on Tuesday mornings and Bingo on 7th and 21st at 2.00pm. The minibus will also be available to go to Easebourne on the afternoon of 6th for Easebourne Ladies 70th Anniversary celebrations.

The Pub Lunch on Friday 30th will be to The Scarlett Arms at Walliswood, booking essential through me. (Postponed from May.)

Trips could be arranged on a Tuesday afternoon to Lidl in Billingshurst if wished; please contact me if interested.

For booking and further details please contact local organiser Caroline Stoneman on 01798 342942

The Arts Society West Sussex

On Tuesday June 6th, Steven Desmond will give a talk on

The Odd Couple - The Gardens of Edwin Lutyens & Gertrude Jekyll

Edwin Lutyens, well known for his drawings and elaborate jokes, and the eccentric Gertrude Jekyll became the talk of Edwardian society.

On Tuesday July 4th, Margaret Watson will give a talk on

“Life on a Harp String”

Take a trip with Margaret as she delves into the 5000 year history, development and design of the harp, and hear her play this fascinating instrument

Talks held at 2pm in Fittleworth Village Hall RH20 1JB

Doors open 1.40. Coffee & tea afterwards

Non-members welcome for £7 (cash, please)

Contact Jackie Buckler on 01903411086

or email westsussex@theartsociety.org

www.theartsocietywestsussex.org

I invented silent tennis.

Its like regular tennis but without the racket.

Never date a tennis player.

Love means nothing to them.

What do you call a girl standing in the middle of a tennis court?

Annette.



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