

# Lindfield Life

Inc. Scaynes Hill & Walstead

Local village talk,  
by the village

Jan. 2017 Issue #96

Free



Lindfield Parish Council newsletter

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All your village news

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Walstead's newest farm opens

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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

As we wave goodbye to Christmas I do hope you have some time to sit down with the one remaining glass of mulled wine to peruse this our bumper **January issue!**

Whenever I meet local people and they find out what I do, they are always very kind and often can't help themselves from telling me why **they love Lindfield Life** or how they read it. This is welcome every time - as it's confirmation that we are doing a good thing in producing what is genuinely a community magazine every month.

However, I would be grateful - dear reader - if you would complete our **reader survey** to give us some concrete feedback about how we are doing. See **page 54** - where you can see the questions and can either post it back to us or fill it in online. Thank you.

On our pages this month we feature a lot of **Lindfield news!** Normally we try to keep the news at the front of the magazine - but there's so much this month, we've had to spread it throughout.

**Lindfield's Festival Night** last month was very popular again this year, so we've recorded it by way of a photo round-up - courtesy of the brilliant **Beth Mercer Photography** - see **page 30**.

Claire Cooper had the pleasure of spending time with **Anne Skinner** in our Village People feature on **page 18**. Thanks, Anne, for sharing your story and your involvement with a local theatre group.

I had never heard of the significance of January to **Guy Fawkes** - but on **page 9 Dave Hawks** explains all!

On **page 10 Caroline Young** helps to ease us into the New Year with a selection of tempting **baked treats** - so if you need a boost, you know where to flick to!

Lastly, if you were lucky enough to receive a drone for Christmas this year - local CAA licensed drone pilot **Tim Browne** shares some things you ought to know on **page 56**.

Happy New Year Lindfield!

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### Lindfield Life

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## Macmillan dinner success

By David Metcalfe

Members of Macmillan Cancer Support recently held their sixth Annual Dinner at nearby Jeremy's restaurant.

More than 100 guests enjoyed an excellent meal prepared by head chef Jimmy Gray, alongside Jeremy.

It was generally regarded as being one of the most successful of their dinners with £5,250 raised on the night.

All proceeds from the evening will stay within Sussex and support the 60,000 people going through their cancer journey as they go to the new Macmillan Horizon centre which is now open and up and running.

Members of the Mid Sussex group will once again raise in excess of £50,000 this year and since 2011 have raised more than £200,000 to help those going through their cancer journey.

There are a good number of events already in the diary for 2017, and if anyone wishes to become involved or requires information on future events please contact Lindfield resident David Metcalfe by email at [elsda@btinternet.com](mailto:elsda@btinternet.com)

## Could you become a School Governor?

Lindfield Primary Academy currently has a vacancy for a Governor to sit on the Local Governing Body (LGB).

The LGB has three core functions: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding the Principal to account for the educational performance of the academy and its pupils and the performance management of staff and also overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Academy is particularly keen to have on board someone with either a background in education or a particular interest in teaching and learning.

For more information, contact Mike Brand, Chair of the LGB, at [chair@lindfieldprimaryacademy.org.uk](mailto:chair@lindfieldprimaryacademy.org.uk)



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# Another 'Happy Day' in Lindfield!

Following on from a successful day in June, All Saints Church is hosting another gospel singing day on Saturday 28th January. Those who sign up will be treated to a day of gospel singing conducted by Karen Gibson, one of the UK's leading Gospel Choir conductors. The event is open to anyone in the local community, with no need to read music. No experience is needed and all abilities are welcome.

Chris Steynor, event organiser, explained: "The idea grew from a desire for us, as a church, to meaningfully serve the wider community in Lindfield and beyond. Though gospel music has its roots in the church, it is appreciated and enjoyed much more widely. This January we invite people from all backgrounds to experience the emotional, physical and social benefits of singing as a group – and have great fun as well!

"It's often said that January can be the most miserable time of the year... why not take this opportunity to brighten the mood and encourage the soul with gospel singing?"

The day starts at 9.30am at the church and costs £15 per person. Tickets can be bought online at: [www.wintergospel2017.eventbrite.com](http://www.wintergospel2017.eventbrite.com)



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## New alternative therapies centre open

Some will have noticed a new shop front which has appeared in recent weeks where the Parish Council offices used to be. Alex Olds Holistic Therapies is now open at 6 Denmans Lane.

Alex was born in Paris and came to the UK and settled in Sussex prior to moving out to Switzerland where she undertook her initial training in holistic and Ayurvedic treatments. Since returning to the UK five years ago, Alex has undergone further training and has learnt to combine different elements to produce a unique menu of treatments.

Back in 2006 Alex set up her own boutique in the Eaux-Vives quarter of Geneva and sees this new venture as an opportunity to combine her passion for holistic treatments with her expertise in running a small business to support a local community.

Alex specialises in fertility, pregnancy and well-woman massage, including the traditional practice of Yoni-Steam.

See the website ([www.AlexOlds.co.uk](http://www.AlexOlds.co.uk)) for details of opening hours.



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## New Gardening Group

By Heather Martin

Lindfield In Bloom has been set up with help from the Parish Council to support individuals and organisations in the village with a shared interest in our beautiful village from a gardening perspective.



Perhaps your organisation tends the flower beds outside your meeting place or would like to have a flowering planter at its entrance? Maybe you enjoy the pretty front gardens in your street when in full bloom? Or perhaps you have no experience of gardening but would like support in learning about what to do? We even have a place for you if you simply like to socialise in Lindfield and could perhaps bake a cake for a fundraising event, have a knack for photography or would like to have a go at building a planter for a local charity to use. We would love to hear from individuals and organisations from across the village, of all ages and interests and hope you will join our community group.

To find out more, come along to our first meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 23rd January 2017 in the Bent Arms pub, High Street, Lindfield.


Although not obligatory, if you know in advance that you are able to attend please let us know so that we can reserve seating. For further information please visit our facebook page: [www.facebook.co.uk/LindfieldInBloom](http://www.facebook.co.uk/LindfieldInBloom) or contact Heather Martin on 01444 487775 or by email: [Heather@heathermartin.co.uk](mailto:Heather@heathermartin.co.uk)


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# Support for parents of teenagers

By **Antonia Easley**

As the new year begins, could this be the right time for you to invest in your relationship with your teenager by attending a parenting course? The teenage years are a time of transition and, however good or challenging this time is, there are issues we could all benefit from thinking about.

Starting on Wednesday 1st February in the evening, All Saints will be running this course, a resource from Relationship Central, developed by Holy Trinity Brompton.

The course follows a DVD, which includes input from presenters Nicky and Sila Lee, a variety of professionals and also parents themselves. We allow plenty of time for discussion in groups. There are no experts in the room, just other parents keen to share and learn together.

This is what people who did the course last year have said about it:

'The course helped me think about how I interact with my teenagers and respond to them. I found some useful tools which means I'm less likely to nag now! I found the course increased my confidence in my parenting ability.'

'I found the course very insightful in learning what my teenager may be going through. It was great to share experiences with other parents.'

'The course uses the idea of 'love languages' which I have found very useful and it works! I found a way to connect with my daughter more. The course gave me strategies to deal with anger, setting boundaries and communication.'

The course will run from 7.45-9.30pm on the following Wednesday evenings in the Tiger Lounge at All Saints: 1st, 8th and 15th February, 1st, 8th and 15th March.

Topics covered over those weeks are Keeping the end in mind; Meeting our teenagers needs; Setting boundaries; Developing emotional health; Helping them make good choices. The final session will be a chance to hear how faith in God has made a difference to parents and to teenagers.

The course manual costs £1.50 but there is no other cost. Light refreshments will be provided.

To book your place please phone the church office on 01444 482405 or email [allsaints@lindfield.info](mailto:allsaints@lindfield.info)

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Photo: Paula Clark

## January anniversary for Bonfire Society

By Dave Hawk

One of the most frequently asked questions we get asked is why our bonfire celebration every year involves a procession featuring an effigy of Guy Fawkes taken through the village and then burned on the common. Fawkes himself was hanged, drawn and quartered for treason, so why do we burn him?

The answer lies in the events of 31st January 1606 when Fawkes, along with Thomas Winter, Ambrose Rookwood and Robert Keyes were executed for their part in the Gunpowder Plot which was discovered on the 5th November the previous year.

Fawkes and his co-conspirators were tied to a wattle hurdle and dragged through the streets, from the Tower of London to the Old Palace Yard at Westminster where a gallows had been erected. This parading of the traitor through the streets is the origin of our considerably less grim procession through the village. After their execution, the conspirators' bodies were beheaded and then quartered, the parts to be displayed on spikes as a warning to any other would-be traitors.

The previous week, Parliament had passed the Observance of 5th November Act. This made 5th November an annual day of thanksgiving for Sir Robert Cecil, the King's Intelligencer, who had foiled the plot.

## Fawkes and his conspirators were executed on 31st January 1606

He was a master of propaganda and was determined to ensure the custom would never die out. To achieve this, after the execution, Cecil arranged for a massive pyre to be constructed on which was placed an effigy of Fawkes. This bonfire was lit by King James himself and it is this act we recreate when we burn our Guy on the common.

To mark the origins of our bonfire celebrations, Lindfield Bonfire Society is holding a party in The Red Lion pub on 31st January 2017.

There will be a book sale from 4pm and a performance by Skull Drummery in the evening.

Join us to find out more about the Society and to enjoy the sight and sound of the Bonfire Drummers.

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# Winter comfort food

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## Carrot and Coconut Bars



Preheat oven to 180C. Lightly butter and base line a 28cm by 18cm baking tin.

In a large bowl thoroughly combine 250g self-raising flour, 2tsp cinnamon, 300g demerara sugar, 100g each of desiccated coconut, sultanas, coarsely grated raw carrots and 75g roughly chopped walnuts. In another bowl whisk together 2 large eggs, 1tsp vanilla, 100g melted butter and 100ml rapeseed (or other mild oil). Gently and thoroughly stir into the other ingredients, pour into the tin and level the top. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until golden brown and firm to the touch. Cool in the tin before cutting into portions.

## Quick Cheese and Oat Bread

Preheat oven 180C. Measure 375g plain flour and 75g coarse porridge oats into a bowl and stir in 1tbs baking powder and 1tsp bicarbonate of soda. With the fingertips rub in 50g butter. Stir in 50-100g grated hard cheese such as Cheddar (for extra flavour use the Cheddar with chives). Whisk 150ml plain yogurt into 300ml water (or use 300ml buttermilk), add to the dry ingredients and mix to a soft dough. Tip on to a lightly floured surface and shape into a smooth ball. Place on a floured baking sheet, mark into quarters and brush with a little milk. Sprinkle with seeds such as pumpkin or sesame or with coarse seasalt. Bake for 25-30 min or until well risen and browned. Cool (but still warm) then break into quarters and thickly slice and butter.


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By Caroline Young

One of the best ways to cheer up a cold, dark January day is to do some baking – to fill the house with delicious smells and earn lots of brownie points from your family and friends. My recipes are very simple, using ingredients you hopefully have in the cupboard. The cooled bakes also freeze well.

Happy New Year!

## Fork Cookies

Preheat the oven 180C. Beat 225g soft butter and 175g caster sugar together until light and fluffy. Sift over 325g plain flour and combine to a smooth dough. Shape walnut-sized balls of dough with the fingers and set slightly apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Gently flatten each ball with a wetted fork. Bake 10 min or until just pale golden brown. Allow to cool for 2 min then lift on to wire racks to cool completely. For the filling beat together 50g soft butter and 100g sifted icing sugar. If wished flavour with coffee essence (Camp), cocoa or finely grated lemon peel. Pipe or spoon on to the underside of half the cookies and gently place another cookie on top.

## Cheese Shortbread

Preheat oven 160C. Put 150g plain flour, 50g semolina, 50g grated Parmesan or Pecorino cheese and a pinch of salt and pepper into the processor. Buzz to combine. Add 100g diced firm butter and switch the processor on/off until the dough just forms a ball (or rub in with the fingers). With the fingers press the dough into a circle about 1.6cm in diameter on a baking sheet and prick all over with a fork. Lightly sprinkle with chopped salted peanuts, pressing them in slightly. Bake 30-35 min. Mark into portions while still warm, then allow to cool completely on the baking sheet.

Enjoy!



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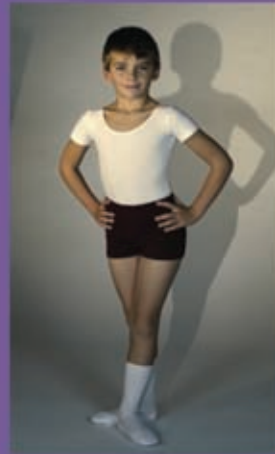
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# Carer Doreen does the double!

It's official! Doreen Knight is Carer of the Year.

The Senior Care Assistant at Walstead Place has just received a second award for her outstanding work in the field of older persons care.

Doreen, who is in her 30th year of working at the Lindfield care home, received the second title of Carer of the Year at the National Care Awards during a glittering ceremony in London. The event was compered by Keith Duffy, formerly of Boyzone and Coronation Street.

The accolade comes just a few weeks after Doreen won the Care Home Worker Award 2016 from West Sussex Partners in Care.

To win the national title, Doreen attended an interview in October following her shortlisting as one of five finalists from around the UK.

The judges chose Doreen because of her dedication and passion to care and support for those in her care every day. They said: "The scope of what Doreen achieves is endless and hugely diverse, including a vast amount of activities, shopping (in her own time), baking, dressing up for parties at the home, minibus trips - all in addition to the faultless and detailed care that Doreen provides naturally. Her enthusiasm for care and diversity is obvious, and her question to all is 'When can we do this again?'"


Doreen commented afterwards: "I'm still taking it in, but it feels very special. I'm lucky to work with a wonderful team at Walstead and I enjoy what I do. It is lovely to be recognised for my work."

Jacque Ferguson, Home Manager at Walstead Place, says: "I can't express how proud we are of Doreen. We've known for many years what a fantastic carer she is, and now it's been acknowledged locally and nationally. What an achievement!"



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## Celebrations for Lindfield butcher on reaching finals

Christmas came early for staff at Glyn Thomas & Son, the butchers in the High Street, when they discovered they had reached the finals of the Sussex Food and Drink Awards.

Owner John Cottenham, Nicola Whatford (manager) and Josh Whittington were delighted to find that the popular shop has reached the final three in the Butcher of the Year category of the annual competition.

The finalists in Sussex Food & Drink Awards 2017 were revealed following an intensive eight-month judging process, and a record of 13,000 public votes.

John, who took over the business in May, is now looking forward to attending the Sussex Food and Drink Awards Banquet on 1st February at the Amex Stadium, hosted by awards patron Sally Gunnell OBE and BBC's Danny Pike, where the winners will be revealed and receive their trophies.

"Winning would be fantastic but I'm very happy to have made it this far as one of the top three butchers in the county," said John. "The judging process has been quite intense, and I'd like to thank all our customers whose votes have supported us and undoubtedly helped us to reach the final three."

Now in its eleventh year, the awards are all about supporting and boosting local farmers, food and drink producers and the outlets that use and sell local



produce. Starting from small beginnings, the awards have grown to become prestigious and respected, with huge support from business in the county, bringing together the whole local food and farming community.

Chairman of the judges, William Goodwin, said: "Over the last decade, Sussex has really earned its place as one of the leading counties in the UK for producing superb food and drink, and this year's Grand Finalists line up offers an impressive range of first class, diverse businesses from across the county."

"The competition was really tough this year, and the 30 grand finalists should feel immensely proud at making it through to this final stage in the competition."

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# Lindfield's link to panto season

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

"I've played the wicked witch, good fairy and the back end of the pantomime cow – although I can't say I enjoyed that role too much!"



### By Claire Cooper

While most of us were enjoying the Christmas festivities and a well-earned break from work, members of the Weald Theatre Group are hard at work learning lines, rehearsing dance routines, making costumes and painting scenery as they prepare to present the group's 74th annual pantomime – *Sleeping Beauty*.

It's a busy time for members of the cast and crew, but it's also one of the highlights of their year as they get together to produce a family show and entertain audiences in their own unique style.

"Pantomime is something you either love or hate!" said Lindfield's Anne Skinner, who has been a member of the Weald Theatre Group since 1982.

"For the audiences, there's the usual mix of goodies, baddies, ghosts, topical jokes and a chance for people of all ages to join in the fun. For us it's a chance to get dressed up and be stupid!"

With roles ranging from the back end of the pantomime cow, to the fairy godmother, Anne has literally worked her way from the 'bottom up' and is now the group's Honorary President.

"I've played the wicked witch, good fairy, principal boy and the back end of the pantomime cow in *Mother Goose*, although I can't say I enjoyed that role too much!" she said. "I really loved being *The Fairy Godmother* – it's a glamorous role but not too demanding."

This year Anne has been busy helping daughter Laura with her two boys so has decided to concentrate on helping out with costumes, make-up, front of house, publicity, raffle and selling programmes and ice creams. "I do what needs doing," said Anne. "It is just nice to be involved and know you are helping people less fortunate than yourself."

Dancing has been part of Anne's life for as long as she can remember. "I started dancing as a child and haven't stopped since," she said. "I've always found somewhere I could dance and still attend classes in Haywards Heath."

After leaving school Anne joined Caledonian as a member of the cabin crew. "I gave up flying when I had my two children but later spent a further 15 years as part of the ground crew for Continental Airlines," she said.

Anne moved to Lindfield 43 years ago, opening her own ballet shop, firstly at premises in Lewes Road and then as part of Balloons children's clothes shop in Denmans Lane. Daughter Laura inherited Anne's love of dance, joining Pauline Howard Dance School and appearing in local and professional shows at the Theatre Royal in Brighton.

Anne went on to dance in several local productions by Haywards Heath Operatic Society and Lewes Little Theatre, including *42nd Street* and *Stepping Out*. "My favourite role was Miss Hannigan in *Act Too's* production of *Annie*," she said.

She also choreographed for Haywards Heath Operatic Society's production of *Hans Anderson*, directed by Jonathan Cann, which received a NODA award.

Anne's first experience in pantomime came as an unexpected but pleasant surprise! "My friend had been cast as principal boy in *Cinderella* but had to drop out," said Anne. "When I mentioned that I'd love the part, she put my name forward and I got it! I'd always wanted to be in pantomime but never expected to be playing a leading character in my first show. My daughter was also chosen as one of the elves, so it was lovely to be in it together."

Anne has gone on to become one of the group's leading members, directing the Weald Theatre Group's first production of *Sleeping Beauty* back in 1994.

"It's wonderful to be part of such a long standing local tradition," said Anne, who explained that the Weald Theatre Group was originally founded by a group of friends during World War II to raise money for local charities. "At that time most villages would put on a pantomime, but the tradition has dwindled over the years and the Weald is one the few which remains," she said.





Over the years the annual production has raised more than £100,000 for local charities. "The Group donates all proceeds from the Haywards Heath pantomime to local charities," said Anne. "We are always on the lookout for new local charities who would like to apply to receive donations." Recent charities to benefit have included Rocking Horse, Kangaroos, Chestnut Tree Hospice, Young Epilepsy, Gladrags Community Costumes, Action Medical Research for children, Macmillan Cancer Support.

Support for the Haywards Heath pantomime remains strong as audiences enjoy the chance to continue the Christmas festivities a little bit longer. "It's a good time for the audiences as January can be a quiet month, but it's hard work for the cast who have to juggle their Christmas and New Year celebrations with learning lines, dance routines and rehearsals," said Anne.

"We are also fighting the usual winter colds, coughs and flu. Last year one of the main cast was taken ill with appendicitis and an understudy had to step in at the very last minute."

So what can audiences expect this year? "Well, it won't be your normal Sleeping Beauty," said Anne. "For a start there are three dames!" She added that producer Lance Milton is well known for putting his own stamp on every production.

Although looking forward to Sleeping Beauty's return, Anne admits that her favourite panto is Cinderella. "I also like the oriental ones like Aladdin and Ali Baba," she said.

This year's show runs from 10th-14th January at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath.

"We do six performances which is quite a lot, but as we have to book the hall for a whole week we might as well use it!" said Anne.

It includes a matinee performance on Saturday 14th at 2pm, with a further performance at 5pm. "We like to encourage younger children to join in the fun by dressing up," said Anne. She added that there's a special ticket price of £5 for the opening night performance (Tuesday), and tickets are available from the Clair Hall box office. 01444 455440.



## Free Panto Family Ticket!

Readers of Lindfield Life can get the chance of scooping a family ticket to see Sleeping Beauty at a performance of their choice.

Simply email your name and postal address to [competition@lindfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:competition@lindfieldlife.co.uk) before 8th January 2017 and one lucky winner will be picked at random on that date.



## Lindfield's Phoebe leaves on Africa trip

By Diane Flint

Eight young women, led by Phoebe Dingemans from Lindfield, are heading off to Kenya later this month on a mission trip to work with children and elderly people.

During their four and a half month visit, organised through Crosslinks, the international mission society, they will also spend time with the Samburu tribes a few hours north of Nairobi.

Phoebe, 24, has been a member of All Saints Church since she was three years old, attending with her parents Sir James and Lady Janet Dingemans.

Since graduating from Durham University she has been living and working in London and has given up her job in leadership and management training to lead the trip with Cambridge graduate Sophie Brown, 22. The pair will be responsible for a team of six 18 year olds.

They will be working with Crosslinks mission partners iServe Africa, an indigenous organisation that has links with schools, an orphanage and a home for the elderly on the outskirts of Nairobi.

"The team will work in pairs, helping out in practical ways and also trying to set up Christian meetings or Sunday school activities – to try and tell the people we are working with about Jesus," said Phoebe.

Phoebe and Sophie will also help equip their team for their return to the UK and life at university with Bible study teaching.

Each member of the team applied individually to Crosslinks and come from Glasgow, Liverpool, Cambridge and Southampton – and they are getting to know each other before they leave.

The team is currently fundraising for the trip and if you would like to give towards their time in Kenya please contact Phoebe by email: [phoebe.dingemans@stpetersfulham.co.uk](mailto:phoebe.dingemans@stpetersfulham.co.uk)

The team from left to right: Keziah Bridges, Lucy Newman, Emily Lobb, Sophie Brown, Rachel Walls, Phoebe Dingemans, Eleri Gaffey-Cosslett and Sally Rose



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# Designing with a purpose

HOME FRONT

By Jacqui Smith, interior designer

You are kind enough to read my musings all year so I thought it would be a nice change to hear from another member of the HomeSmiths team! **Catherine Hazell**, who lives in Lindfield, joined us in March this year and has very quickly become an extremely valued member of the team. Catherine talks here about her transition from fashion design to interior design...

I had always loved design and had always seen myself working in a creative workplace. After years of drooling over fashion magazines and wondering what the industry was like, I decided to do a degree in fashion.

For three years I studied the world of fashion, bursting at the seams with excitement to go into the industry I had always loved. Having graduated I started interning at magazines and trendy PR companies to gain experience. At the same time I started a small business selling clothes to make some money for the summer. After months of walking round with suitcases filled to the brim with clothes and 15 hour days doing photoshoots I quickly realised the reality of the fashion industry wasn't quite as I had dreamt it to be! This world seemed lonely and almost pointless. What was my purpose? I wasn't really sure.

As I started to feel disheartened by the fashion industry my business had started to grow and before I knew it it had become a full time job. I now had a shop online, a website and was gaining social media followers everyday. So I decided to go for it and fully commit to my business. This was my chance to make my mark in the fashion industry without all the baggage of having to work in London.

For three years I ran a successful business selling clothes but, although I loved it, I still felt like something was missing. I was still looking for a purpose in design.

Interiors had always been a love of mine. I used to go to my great-aunt's house and marvel over her William

Morris wallpapers and lime washed wooden floors. Perhaps this was the place where my design skills could really make a difference and where I would really find that purpose? I was nervous and scared and was not sure what I could offer the industry but I knew this was where I wanted to be. I wanted to leave work everyday feeling like I had done some good not feeling like I was doing something materialistic. Was this possible?

I contacted HomeSmiths and asked if it would be possible to work one day a week for some experience. I was overwhelmed by their response and my timing could not have been more perfect! It turned out that they were looking for an intern and it seemed like fate.

I arranged to meet Jacqui at The Toll House in Lindfield, a place I later realised we both shared a mutual love for. I was nervous but so unbelievably excited. We met and instantly got on, so I knew straight away HomeSmiths was for me. Over a cup of tea and a slice of cake (of course!) I learnt more about what David, Jacqui and the team did. Residential design, show homes it all sounded fantastic, but as soon as Jacqui started to talk about healthcare design I knew that this side of interior design offered the purpose I had been looking for.

Since joining I have learned about designing for dementia and other conditions. Little did I know that the interior could be so vital to how people felt and behaved and that just the smallest of changes to colour and lighting could make a huge difference, be it a 90 bed care home or a person's sitting room.

Finally I had found a job that was creative and that made a difference. Seven months on I am now the Design Assistant at HomeSmiths. I have worked on several healthcare projects and have loved every minute, learning as I go, and as every project comes to an end I can file it away knowing that I have been a part of making a difference to the way people live and their quality of life.

[www.homesmiths.co.uk](http://www.homesmiths.co.uk) 01444 440880



## Summerlands staff raise over £1,000!

By Abbey Cornell, Social Care Coordinator

Staff at Lindfield's Summerlands Care Home donned their pyjamas and took to the streets of Haywards Heath on a cold Friday Night for a very good cause!

Staff came together to help raise funds for a home minibus which will greatly impact the quality of life of many residents, both now and in the future. Staff were met halfway by home owners Sean and Deborah with a much deserved round of Domino's Pizza!

Staff walked 10K and were sponsored by friends and family. They may have felt like fools, been beeped by countless cars (even police cars) and got very tired, but they completed the walk and raised a grand total of £1,100!

Summerlands staff would love to thank all those who have supported them in their quest for a well-deserved minibus!



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# Highest honour for war veteran Eric

By Diane Flint

A Lindfield war veteran has recently received France's highest distinction, the Légion d'honneur, in recognition of his military engagement in the liberation of France.

Eric Youlton, 96 who lives in Savill Road with his wife Hazel, was just 19 at the outbreak of World War Two, and in June 1944 he was one of the first soldiers to wade ashore on to the Normandy beaches in the D-Day landings.

A member of the 8th Battalion Rifle Brigade, part of the 11th Armoured Division, Eric and his comrades fought their way across France and Germany towards victory for the allies in 1945.

His medal was awarded by the French President, and in a letter from the French Ambassador in London Eric was told: "We owe our freedom and security to your dedication, because you were ready to risk your life."

He received the medal in time to wear it proudly at this year's Remembrance Day service at All Saints Church.

"I only joined the London Rifle Brigade because I followed two of my friends from the church choir. I often wonder how different my life would have been if I didn't volunteer," said Eric. But he added that wherever he was posted he knew he was in God's hands.

He and Hazel moved to Savill Road in 1967 when the house was first built and it was there that they raised their three boys – Michael and twins Anthony and Terence.

Eric has always been involved in the Lindfield community – with the scouts, school PTA, Probus and Horticultural Society.

He is a regular member of All Saints church and attends the church's Tuesday morning group for over 55s, Tiger@Ten.

"It's very sociable and I really enjoy it," said Eric, a former insurance claims inspector, who enjoys doing crosswords and chatting to friends.



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## Planning matters

The Society assessed about 170 planning applications in Lindfield Parish in 2016 and a further 71 in Lindfield Rural. We opposed three major schemes that would have severe adverse effects on our village: Wates' proposal for up to 200 dwellings south of Scamps Hill, Taylor Wimpey's plan for 130 houses off Gravelye Lane and Reside Developments' scheme for 49 units north of Barrington Close.

Following arguments by both Parish Councils, the Society and Cllr Andrew Lea – and many written objections from residents – Mid Sussex District Council's planning committee refused the Wates and Taylor Wimpey applications with a substantial majority in each case. Reside Developments' case has yet to be heard. Wates and Taylor Wimpey have, unsurprisingly, appealed and hearings will be held in the first half of 2017. The society has already met with the District Council to urge a more robust approach in defending against appeals. We will be following this process closely.

Another upcoming housing challenge concerns Lindfield's Neighbourhood Plan. This is an official planning document that was formally adopted in March 2016. Importantly, it excludes further bolt-on developments outside the built-up area of the village. This has not pleased developers, some of whom have mounted a legal challenge. At the time of writing, no judgement has been made.

Another development at the time of writing is the review by a Government Planning Inspector of Mid Sussex District Council's draft District Plan. The Council has been at work on this for nearly a decade, but there is a clear danger that central government will insist on an even higher housing target than that proposed in the plan. A decision is possible in January 2017.

## Heavy goods traffic and the village street scene

In March 2016 the Society completed a series of meetings with nine parish councils and two town councils to establish support for a Traffic Regulation Order to limit the access of Heavy Goods Vehicles to rural roads in Northern and Central Mid Sussex. West Sussex County Council, the body responsible for highways, has yet to respond.

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Thanks to active members who value the Conservation Area, the installation of appropriate street lamps has been largely successful. Efforts to restore kerbs damaged by construction and other heavy vehicles continue.

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The challenges facing us in 2017 demonstrate the importance of solidarity and engagement on behalf of our village. We always welcome new members, in particular new participants in the management committee. We would like to thank all our members for your support in 2016, and we wish you and all readers of Lindfield Life a happy and prosperous New Year.

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Rachel Ricketts, Weight Loss Consultant

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# Christmas in Lindfield



**By David Tingley**

The village was not only festooned with the usual pretty Christmas lights but, on Lindfield Festival Night, the High Street was closed and bustling with folk of all ages.

This year's event was held early in December and certainly brought the crowds out. Fortunately for organisers - Lindfield Parish Council - the evening was both dry and relatively warm!

Lindfield Primary Academy got the party started with a rousing set of Christmas songs and carols. But there was other music too, as Mid Downs Radio provided all the hits from their mobile broadcast unit on the High Street, where students from Rok Skool took their turns to show off their talents later, plus Lindfield's newest coffee shop Lindfield Coffee Works had a musician in residence for the night.

The food offering was varied this year with the likes of churros from The Toll House, curry from the Scouts, a fish and chip van and also warm mulled wine, among others.

Of course, as usual, younger children (and some older ones!) enjoyed a visit to Father Christmas at the back of the United Reformed Church hall.

It's one of those evenings in the village's calendar when it's great to come out, bump into friends and celebrate being a community together.

Thank you to Lindfield Parish Council for organising the event on an annual basis.







# Award-winning drama academy arrives in Lindfield

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



From this month Ariel Company Theatre will open its doors to students every Saturday afternoon from its new location of Lindfield Primary Academy.

The drama school, which is its fifth in Sussex, has just celebrated its second birthday and the move to Lindfield will provide excellent drama training and rehearsal facilities for children aged 4 to 19.

Ariel's drama academies are much more than just out of school activities to keep young people occupied, they provide skills for life, new friends and exceptional theatrical training. They help children fulfil their potential and build confidence. Some follow their dream and go on to act in film and television or go on to a full-time drama school, others meanwhile just have a whole lot of fun and the opportunity to perform on some of the largest stages in Sussex.

Ariel has won recognition in many areas, including being named the Kallikids best UK Theatre Class in 2014 & 2015; the 2015 winner of the County Times Community Awards best Volunteer Group. However, it's the feedback from our students and parents which for us is the biggest pat on the back we can receive!

"I love my afternoons at Ariel, all the people that go there are very nice," said Charlie, aged 9. "The tutors make each lesson really interesting and fun. I don't know what I would have done if I didn't go to Ariel because they've made me progress and built my confidence up. I would recommend it off the scale! If you want to sing, dance or act - Ariel is the place for you."

## Helping students fulfil their potential

Nicci Hopson is the founder of Ariel. With a lifelong passion for performing and teaching, Nicci started teaching drama at a local primary school. After six years she decided to strike out on her own to make drama classes more accessible within the local community and Ariel's first drama academy was born in 2004.

From the first Burgess Hill academy, Nicci and her enthusiastic team of talented tutors have expanded to

create successful academies in Crawley, East Grinstead, Steyning and Haywards Heath, plus two busy choirs and a number of drama classes for children and young adults with special educational needs.

## The chance to shine

Every year students take part in an annual showcase at a major venue such as the Hawth Theatre in Crawley or Chequers Mead in East Grinstead. Full to the brim of musical theatre classics, moving drama pieces and exhilarating dance, these provide students with the opportunity to perform and show what they have learnt. In addition students are always encouraged to audition for Ariel's major productions and plays. A full gallery detailing past productions can be found on our website.

"I have attended Ariel Company Theatre since 2008," 18 year old Emily commented. "It has honestly been one of the best experiences I've had because it has opened up so many opportunities for me. Not only has it allowed me to grow in confidence as a person but I have formed lifelong friendships and taken part in so many fantastic things.

"Ariel has helped me to identify and develop my individual strengths through LAMDA classes and workshops. I've also really enjoyed being part of a group in Musicality Choir and larger productions, allowing me to perform in theatres and learn from other people."



The Lindfield Academy team, Erin, Megan, Alex, Hannah, Chloe and Caroline, are looking forward to working in Lindfield and welcoming students old and new to Lindfield Primary Academy.

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# New Year, new service time at the URC

From this month Lindfield United Reformed Church (opposite The Stand Up Inn) is to have just one morning service instead of two at the new time of 10am.

Minister Keith Morrison explained: "It will be good to have all the generations of the church family worshipping God together; an excellent opportunity for the children and young people to get to know the older folk in the congregation and to learn from their maturity in the Christian faith.

"Likewise, it will also be a pleasure for many of the older generation to be part of the same worship service as the youngsters, which has only happened occasionally for a number of years now."

The morning service will be followed by coffee and a time to chat and to get to know one another better.

The evening service will continue to be held in the church lounge at 6.30pm each Sunday.

A very warm welcome to any of the services awaits friends old and new.



## Hassocks – not that one!

The hassocks, or kneelers as they are commonly known, in All Saints Church Lindfield were lovingly stitched between 1966 and 1968 and have hung on the pews ever since. As part of the current ASPIRE church development project currently taking place, there will no longer be a use for the hassocks.

Fifty of the hassocks are being retained and will be refurbished and the balance are available to go to a good home. If you are someone who made one of the hassocks, know someone that did, or would like one, please contact the church office on 01444 482405.

You can choose your hassock between 10am-12 noon on Saturday 14th January and Monday 16th January.

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[www.kiddicarudaynursery.com](http://www.kiddicarudaynursery.com)



# Spare some of your time and help raise thousands for Lindfield's village hall

By Sarah Richmond

Had a great time at Village Day on the common or made record time at the Village Run back in the summer? Why not volunteer an hour of your time to sell programmes, book in the runners, set up stalls or help with the fancy dress procession down the High Street?

Or if you love gardening, baking or crafts, could you whip up the Competition Tent? (Otherwise it may be rested this year...) Perhaps you are a graphic designer and fancy donating your skills to create our fabulous Village Day souvenir programme?

Both events help to raise over £9,000 to maintain the King Edward (village) Hall, which is a registered charity. Get in touch via the website [www.kingedwardhall.org.uk](http://www.kingedwardhall.org.uk) to take part - just an hour selling raffle tickets or directing runners is all it takes.

Village Day is on Sat 3rd June and, for procession fans, the theme this year is Strictly Lindfield....so dancing or village-related, the costume choice is yours!

For the more energetic, the 5k and 10k runs - through our beautiful Sussex countryside - both take place on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 2017. Look out for booking details in next month's Lindfield Life.



Photo: Clare Ozkan Photography

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# Is your child aiming high?

If your child is aiming high, then a community initiative launched by Cumnor House Sussex might be just what you're looking for. The school is offering two fully-funded bursary places covering the full cost of a child's education from Year 4 (age 8+) through to Year 8 (age 13+) and thereafter to Year 13 (age 18) at one of Cumnor's senior independent school partners.



The bursaries, which are means-tested, are for children who are academically gifted and/or show particular potential in sport, art, music or drama. Applicants must currently attend a state-maintained primary school.

Families living in Lindfield, Scaynes Hill, Cuckfield, Staplefield and the wider community attend Cumnor House Sussex - which is located in a wonderful setting in Danehill with views across the countryside and of the Ashdown forest. The school prides itself on nurturing happy, fulfilled children who are given every opportunity to reach their full potential. The class sizes are small, the teachers inspiring and the facilities extensive.

"Life is incredibly vibrant, fun and busy at Cumnor - for the children and their parents," says Lucy FitzMaurice, who lives in Lindfield. "Our children have thrived since joining from primary school. The opportunities that Cumnor offers every child, both inside and outside the classroom, are second to none with its extensive academic, sporting, music, drama, DT and IT facilities."

Cumnor's first fully-funded pupil started in September 2016 and the school is looking to offer a further two places to start in Year 4 in September 2017. The deadline

for applications is 30th April 2017.

"We're incredibly lucky to have our first funded child and family as part of the Cumnor community," says Christian Heinrich, Headmaster. "They are taking full advantage of everything that Cumnor life has to offer and it is a great privilege to be able to offer further funded places within the local community."

A leading independent school for boys and girls, Cumnor prides itself on providing a safe and unhurried childhood for active and ambitious children. The Cumnor House motto - Aim High, Be Kind, Dare to be Different - is at the heart of the school's principles. Staff are encouraged to seek the best in, and for, each individual child during their time at the school, in preparation for moving on to senior school and for life beyond.

Anyone interested in seeing Cumnor House Sussex in action is encouraged to come along and visit our next Open Day taking place on Saturday 28th January 2017 from 10am - 12noon.

**To find out more about the bursary opportunities and the Open Day, call Cecilia Desmond on: 01825 792 006 or email her at: registrar@cumnor.co.uk.**

**You can also find out more about Cumnor House Sussex by visiting our website at: [www.cumnor.co.uk](http://www.cumnor.co.uk)**





## New coffee offer

Lindfield resident Katrina Wale (pictured) is starting something new in Haywards Heath. She has worked in retail for the last ten years but her passion lies in coffee, food and people.



"My love of speciality coffee comes from when I lived in Australia," Katrina comments. "The café culture there is mostly independent and the majority sell speciality coffee.

When I was living there and trying this uniquely roasted coffee, I became an immediate convert!

"My vision for Flinders is to create a café that becomes an extension of people's homes, a place to meet friends and family, to work or to just relax in comfort on your own.

"Haywards Heath was an automatic choice for Flinders as it is a central hub for the community and I felt that our unique style of café would add to an already thriving High Street."

Flinders Coffee opened last month and sits neatly on the corner of South Road and Haywards Road where Katrina hopes to be a cornerstone of the community.

## Meditation classes restart

Recently relocated Lindfield resident Lesley Metherall is to take over running a course entitled How to Transform Your Life at the Haywards Heath branch class of Bodhisattva Kadampa Meditation Centre - a registered charity based in Hove.

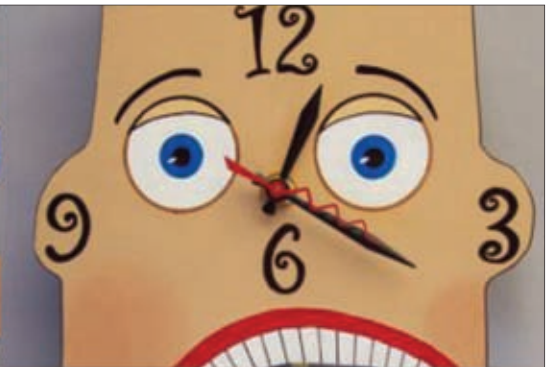
Lesley and her husband Phil moved to Sussex from Cornwall to be near their three daughters.

Lesley explains: "The classes involve a relaxing breathing meditation, topic of the night with discussion, main meditation and tea and biscuits." The weekly course starts on Monday 6th February at 7.30pm at Haywards Heath Town Hall.

Lesley has been studying Kadampa Buddhism and meditation for the last ten years. "I understand the Haywards Heath branch class has been running for many years so it's a privilege to carry it on."

She continues: "I've found that meditation has taken me smoothly through the end of my career as a children's writer and has enabled me to keep a happier mind than I might otherwise have had, although winding down a career as a writer was actually what I wanted to do - time for some serious study to get my teeth into!"

Although the teachers are unpaid there is a charge per class of £6 each, which goes to help other classes in the area flourish.



This February 2017 half term holiday, the Studio will be running fun art workshops including painting, drawing, pastels and print!  
BOOKING STARTS FROM 9TH JANUARY 2017!

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## Even Dogs in the Wild by Ian Rankin

### BOOK REVIEW

By Cavan Wood

To keep a series of novels going with a hero is quite an achievement. John Rebus is a very flawed detective; retired but still of use to Police Scotland and his colleagues.

Yet through his character, modern Scotland has been explored in all its social and political complexity.

Rankin is one of the most skilled writers of his generation, being able to bring together characterisation, plot and commentary on the way we live.

The novel's theme is one that all too often has been in the news headlines but is dealt with with an insight and a power that surprises.

Genre novels like detective fiction can often tell us more about who we are and what is important. It is also hugely enjoyable as just a good read.

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# Poppy Appeal

By Pauline Parkyns

Our village has again been amazing in its support of the Poppy Appeal.

We have already raised £9,000, which is £1,000 up on this time last year.

My sincere thanks go out to all the collectors who give up their time to collect for us and to everyone for their generosity.

The Poppy Appeal supports the many casualties from our Services community who will need care now and into their old age.

I would also like to thank Jane Harding, who is now my Deputy, and Kevin Clarke who gives invaluable help in the delivery and collection of boxes.

Thank you again to Lindfield Life for its help in recruiting many new collectors.

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**"I am a 66-year-old woman diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis 23 years ago, affecting my knees and wrists. 6 years ago I decided to deal with my disease using natural therapies and diet. Within 4 years it was in remission. 2 years ago it started up again, including joints in my hands. My previous approach did little to appease the inflammation and pain. After reading an article about the healing of Melissa's son and the ensuing clinic she set up, it seemed it would offer just what I had been missing.**

**Just TWO months into my Ayurvedic treatments and following the holistic advice of the Ayurvedic Doctor for diet and lifestyle I have 90% mobility and strength back in my knees, my hands and wrists are making steady progress and I have renewed energy levels. Everyone at the clinic is welcoming, caring and calm and truly interested in doing their very best to heal." JFL**



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## 2017: Time for a change?

### OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Are there things you'd change about yourself, your personal situation or your career? And if you could make these changes, can you imagine the impact they would have? It's an exciting thought and together we can make them a reality.

Lindsey Jones, the Founding Partner at The NineDot Partnership Ltd comments: "At NineDot we facilitate change, whether in a business environment or in a personal capacity. Working with each client, we adopt a tailored approach, blending proven coaching practices and powerful NLP strategies to suit the client's needs. This combined approach has proven to be hugely successful, and the blend is always client specific." Lindsey explains that sometimes clients don't know where to start and on other occasions clients may have a clear goal but feel thwarted in their attempts to achieve it, often before they start.

In addition to her 25 years of international industry experience and whilst working full-time in People Management, Lindsey has formalised and invested in her skills by deliberately training with the very best. As a certified Coach, a Master Practitioner in NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) and a certified Hypnotherapist, Lindsey is able to blend a range of powerful techniques to achieve significant results.

We asked Lindsey to explain NLP, she comments: "NLP is a process of reprogramming the brain. If we think of the brain as a super-computer we can think of NLP as a way of adding new functionality... by using Coaching and NLP together, we can very effectively 'reprogram' the way we think, react and behave, giving us new opportunities and exciting outcomes."

Furthermore, Lindsey is a certified *PRISM* Practitioner, allowing her to use state of the art neuroscience to map preferred behaviours to identify default strengths, which further enables the coaching process.

"It has been a turning point in both my life and my business"

The NineDot Partnership Ltd has formed an alliance with The Alternative Healthcare practice in Haywards Heath, which means Lindsey has access to excellent private consulting facilities with a lovely vibe. If clients can't get to Haywards Heath, then Lindsey will find a suitable venue or meet you over Skype.

"I have a number of business clients, some with their own start-ups, others who want to transition to a new career. Other clients are tackling more personal issues, including depression, weight management and negative self esteem. At The NineDot Partnership Ltd we always tailor our approach to suit you, allowing you to make changes you'll be proud of!"

You might want to: set new directions and achieve new goals, build your business, develop your communication or leadership skills, overcome limiting beliefs, cure fears and phobias, tackle anxiety, lose weight, stop smoking, manage stress... and more.

A recent client comments: "A brilliant coach! Working with NineDot and Lindsey has been a powerful and effective process. It has been a turning point in both my life and my business, leading to growth and success, both personally and professionally!" Rebecca, Paris St. Cloud, Dinard – Nov 2016.

**For more information call Lindsey on: 07704 681 332 or email on [info@ninedotpartnership.com](mailto:info@ninedotpartnership.com) or visit [www.ninedotpartnership.com](http://www.ninedotpartnership.com); Or contact The Alternative Healthcare on 01444 474 447 to make an appointment.**



## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS AND OFFICE STAFF WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL NIGHT

The High Street was packed with people enjoying the lively atmosphere and festive cheer at our Christmas Festival Night on 6th December. We were very lucky that the weather was calm, dry and mild. Thank you to everyone involved in making it a successful and very enjoyable family evening.

The stalls set up by local charities and small businesses along the street offered a good range of gifts, cards, decorations and other items, food, hot drinks and entertainment.

Quite a lot of the local shops were open during the evening and a great deal of effort had been put into dressing shop windows, which all looked fantastic. We're so fortunate in Lindfield to have such a wide range of shops and a variety of places to eat at the heart of our community.

Mid Downs Radio added to the atmosphere with festive music to suit all tastes and conducted interviews over the loudspeakers. They also handed over the mic to some very talented young singers.

Father Christmas was greeted by a very long queue of children waiting patiently with their grown-ups to have a chat with him and get a small present in the grotto which was set up ready for him in the United Reformed Church. He said afterwards that he had a wonderful time, he talked to even more children than last year and he enjoyed singing with the choir of schoolchildren who were singing so beautifully in the church as he came in.

Lindfield Parish Council wishes to thank the many people on whom the success of this event depends, in particular: members of the United Reformed Church for making this vital indoor venue available and for providing



refreshments and a warm welcome, Mid Downs Radio for festive music and announcements and Gary from Masters and Son for chauffeuring Father Christmas to his grotto in style.

The evening could not go ahead without the co-operation of 6-10 Traffic Management, who set up and manned the road closure, and Event Medic Services - we are very grateful to them, to Siamax who provided a set of two way radios and to Haywards Heath Town Council staff for putting up the advance warning signs.

Thanks also go to Tom Kidger from Goddenwick Farm for donating a Christmas tree for the village and to John Cottenham at Glyn Thomas and Son for letting us put it on the butchers shop roof. As always we are indebted to the people who kindly provide the power for the High Street Christmas lights from their properties.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the event. We hope that our local shops benefited from the evening and that people who had stalls on behalf of local charities were successful in raising money for their causes.

Members of Lindfield Parish Council:

They can all be contacted, in the first instance, via the P

**Cllr. William Blunden**  
(Chairman)

**Cllr. Valerie Upton**  
(Vice Chairman)

**Cllr. Mike Allen**

**Cllr. Judith Durrant**

**Cllr. Alan Gomme**

**Cllr. Stephen Henton**



Lindfield Parish Council Office is open on Tuesdays 1pm to 4pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am to 1pm – when members of the public are welcome to come along to look at planning applications for Lindfield, buy concessionary railcard vouchers or simply seek advice on issues of concern. However, if you do need to speak with someone outside our normal opening hours, then please contact the Clerk who will be happy to make alternative arrangements with you.

Parish Clerk:  
Mrs Christine Irwin

Deputy Parish Clerk:  
Mr Iain McLean

Responsible Financial  
Officer: Mrs Tracy Ely

## TRAFFIC SURVEY

By Councillor Alan Gomme, Chairman: Planning and Traffic Committee

As residents may know, the Parish Council commissioned a traffic survey about a year ago, the first stage report of which was received quite recently. Since then we have been in discussion with Creative Roads Limited, our consultant, about the recommendations made so far and the possibility of finding some funding for some of them from S106 (planning agreements) developers' contributions. These discussions have been quite productive in that the consultant has managed to identify funds from the Limes development and others, which could be used within our parish for suitable, eligible traffic management schemes.

We believe that solving the issues around the High Street/Lewes Road junction should have the highest priority of the recommendations made, and we have asked our consultant to now further investigate the possibility of having traffic lights controlling that junction. Our priority here is to improve the safety of pedestrians as they walk along the Lewes Road and through the narrow section at the side of Penny Black the barbers, as well as crossing the High Street. We have asked for more research and modelling on this junction and to develop a way of testing the effectiveness and disadvantages of this solution by the use of temporary traffic lights for about a week or so in early 2017.

This test will include traffic counts not only in the Lewes Road and High Street but also in the 'rat run' routes both prior to the test installation as well as during it. It will also be conducted during normal term time and, if at all possible, will avoid a period when road works are scheduled in our village.

Since the report was published, there has been a further suggestion made to the Parish Council about looking at the possibility of having a one-way scheme to assist traffic flows around the High Street. We have referred this on to our consultant and asked him to assess its merits and likely cost and to discuss this option with his contacts at West Sussex County Council Highways.

The Traffic Survey Interim Report can be found on our web site, and we welcome any views.

## LINDFIELD PARISH DIRECTORY AND YEAR BOOK (the green diary)

The 2017 diaries have been delivered and we hope people still find them useful for the information they contain. As always, we are indebted to the stalwart team of volunteers who deliver the diaries to every home in, and adjacent to, our parish – not a mean feat considering some of the vicious letter boxes they have to contend with!

Unfortunately advertising is still on the decline and this year we have had to reduce the number of pages for the second time in the last ten years. We are very grateful to the businesses that support the diary by advertising, some of which have done so for many years, and we hope that others of you with businesses in the community will consider advertising in the 2018 edition. Our smallest advert is currently only £45 – not so bad when you consider that the diaries are in use all year.

## SNOW CLEARING

We are hoping this will not be a bad winter, but we would like to make an appeal to those of you who are able, to consider volunteering for snow clearing if needed. Please contact the Parish Office if you feel you would like to offer to help in this way (484115).

Parish Office, or by reference to the Lindfield Village Directory and Year Book, which contains details of individual contact numbers.

Cllr. Margaret  
Hersey

Cllr. Simon  
Hodgson

Cllr. Roger  
Pickett

Cllr. Ron  
Plass

Cllr. Stewart  
Shortland

Cllr. Christopher  
Snowling

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Margaret and Derrick Johnson

It was very sad to learn that Margaret and Derrick Johnson have both died recently, within three weeks of each other. Margaret was our West Sussex County Councillor for twenty eight years, during which time she fought hard to get the best she could for Lindfield, and Derrick was a valued member of Lindfield Parish Council for nineteen years. They were both highly respected members of this community. May they rest in peace.

### White Horse Public House

Further to the short article in our last newsletter, we have been pleased to see that work has been taking place on the conversion of the premises to an Indian restaurant and we hope to see it completed in the near future.

## Mid Sussex District Council Community Awards

The Parish Council was delighted to nominate Betty Billins for a Community Service Award, presented at the MSDC Chairman's Garden Party in September, in recognition of her twenty five years of service as a Standard Bearer for the Women's Section of the Lindfield Royal British Legion and sixty five years as a poppy collector, as well as the support she gives to the Parish Council as one of the diary delivery team and a Spring Clean volunteer.

## MOBILE CIVIC AMENITY COLLECTIONS

The refuse freighters will be in the Tollgate car park on Sunday 15th January 2017, between the hours of 10am and 12noon, for the collection of household and garden waste. Please note that due to current legislation they cannot accept items such as televisions, computer monitors and fluorescent tubes. These can still be taken to a civic amenity centre. Please do not leave rubbish in the absence of the refuse freighter. A further collection has been arranged for 12th March 2017. The list from April 2017 is not yet available.

## Parish Council meetings

### JAN - MAR 2017

Tuesday	10th January	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Thursday	12th January	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8pm
Thursday	19th January	Full Council	8pm
Tuesday	31st January	Planning and Traffic Committee (full)	8pm
Thursday	2nd February	Environment and Amenities Committee	8pm
Tuesday	21st February	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Thursday	2nd March	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8pm
Tuesday	14th March	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Thursday	16th March	Full Council	8pm

All meetings are held in the King Edward Hall, unless shown otherwise. Please check the noticeboard in Denmans Lane for any additional meetings that may be called. All meetings are open to the public and there is a period set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions/comments, except at 'plans only' Planning and Traffic Committee meetings. At all meetings of the Planning and Traffic Committee, up to two people for and two against each planning application are allowed to speak, for a maximum of two minutes each, at the invitation of the Chairman.





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# Farm now open

## SCHOOL NEWS



**Students, parents and staff at Great Walstead School have gone back to the soil for much of this year, helping to create an exciting new facility – their own school farm!**

**Farm manager Kelvin Dutton explains how the project has unfolded and how an area of overgrown land has evolved to become a thriving smallholding and home to ducks, chickens, lambs and a pair of pigs!**

### By Kelvin Dutton

This summer a project was started to build a School Farm on the site of the walled Victorian kitchen garden deep in the woods of Great Walstead. This would be based around a plan written by the Scholars of 2016, using sustainable and organic methods as well as aspects of permaculture design. The site was overgrown and unmanaged, with the exception of a small area used for gardening club. It was a long way from its original First World War era splendour. After a few days of clearing away mountains of brambles and nettles, glimpses of its grandeur started to appear, firstly with a brick built pig sty. Hacking away decades of ivy growth really did show the workmanship that had gone into the magnificent walls.

As far as we are aware, the site originally would have grown fruit and vegetables for Great Walstead House (in its pre-school days) and, we have been told, could have employed around 40 gardeners.

In the north east corner of the site would have stood a rather grand Victorian glasshouse which was heated using spring fed water pipes. Traces of the spring, the water system and the heater grates are all that remain.

The summer flew by and after eight weeks of very hot work the site was starting to resemble something like a farm. We had moved in two orphan lambs (which had previously lived in the Headmaster's garden), two Kune Kune pigs, ten chickens and two ducks. A large shed and polytunnel had been built, both with running water and electrics.

The summer term saw a lot of activity, with all year groups involved in the building and development of the farm. We try to get everyone involved with planting and animal husbandry as much as possible, and we are always welcoming visits from Reception and Nursery who drop by regularly.

The School Farm continues to evolve. (This is something that Great Walstead has done before but not since the 1950s.) The end goal is to have a thriving vegetable and fruit farm supplying a 'veg and fruit box' scheme for parents and teachers. This will not only help to teach our children about the importance of good, healthy and sustainable food but also create a small student-led business, utilising this amazing asset and getting our students outside and thinking about where their food comes from.

An important part of the farm was always going to be its orchard. On the 16th October we launched our Hurricane Day Orchard Appeal. Each year the School marks the Great Storm of 1987 - when a large number of trees were lost in Great Walstead's woods - by planting a tree. This year we also wanted to raise money to help those whose lives were so badly affected in Haiti, following Hurricane Matthew. So, we asked parents to sponsor trees bought for the orchard, with £10 of every donation going to the Haiti relief effort. Many parents came forward and we managed to get over 30 trees (these were supplied by Sussex Fruit Trees, a local supplier). The orchard now has many different local varieties of apple and pear, as well as several types of cherry, medlar, plum, damson and greengage.

At a recent School Farm Open Day, parents and children enjoyed planting the trees they had kindly sponsored (pictured above). Everyone donned their wellies and got stuck in (and were rewarded for their hard work with chocolate brownies and mugs of tea). By the end of the afternoon we had planted our entire orchard! The children picked their own tree which was labelled with their name. They can now look forward to coming back every year and having a photo taken with their tree, watching it grow as they grow and hopefully eating some of its crop along the way.





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# Lindfield link to RSPCA advert

A charity advert which has melted the hearts of thousands of animal lovers all over the country this Christmas has also struck a chord with Lindfield residents.

The RSPCA's festive video, Give A Little Love, which shows a dog finding her forever home and passing on the love to other rescue animals, features a moving song written and performed by former Lindfield student Lucy Ellie Cooper.

Launched earlier this month, the advert became an instant hit - viewed more than 200,000 times on social media and sparking thousands of shares and more than 10,000 comments and reactions.

It was also shared by celebrities include Ricky Gervais and Chris Packham, with many other viewers heralding the film as their favourite Christmas advert.

"We've been overwhelmed by the response to the film and the song," said Lucy, who attended Lindfield Primary School, works at the RSPCA headquarters in Horsham and co-wrote the song with Brighton musician and record producer Alistair Gavan.

"Writing a song for a high profile campaign is a huge responsibility, but luckily Ali and I had a few ideas we thought would work. We were delighted with the final result and feel incredibly proud to have been a part of the charity's first ever Christmas film."

Lucy, who performs under the name Lucy Ellie, is a regular at Lindfield Arts Festival, and other Sussex venues with her band The Hopheads.

The short film was made by the charity's broadcast team of just three and was filmed at two RSPCA centres in November. The video also features several staff members and a number of rescued animals and aims to highlight those animals who have been rescued from cruelty and neglect.

The starring role is filled by real life RSPCA rescue dog, Irish Setter Bridie, making her film debut.

Amie Hill, video producer at the RSPCA added: "We are absolutely amazed at how popular our video has been, and are just so happy that the public has taken Bridie's story into their hearts. We wanted to make a heartwarming Christmas video for our supporters to enjoy, and to have beautiful Bridie star in the film is fantastic, particularly given her own story."

Bridie was discovered in 2014 with thirteen other fully-grown Irish Setter dogs, crammed into squalid puppy cages at the home of a dog breeder. They were some of the worst conditions the inspector had ever seen.

She was rehomed with Dr Julia Wrathall, Chief Scientific Officer at the RSPCA, who also features in the video. Julia said: "Bridie is a fabulous example of how, when shown a little love, animals can be completely transformed, leaving behind the past and giving so much back to us. When she was first rescued, Bridie was terrified of the outside world and very nervous and skittish. But she has blossomed into a fantastic, friendly,



affectionate, and happy dog. She is a testament both to the inspectors, vets and animal centre staff who rescued and cared for her, and to her own resilience and willingness to give life - and humans - a second chance.

"Her wonderfully positive nature has shone through, despite the horrors of her former life. I am delighted that Bridie has featured in this video. She is so inspiring and I feel really privileged to have her in my life."

To watch the video visit:  
[www.youtube.com/rspcauk](http://www.youtube.com/rspcauk)



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For more information look on our website [TheSloopInn.com](http://TheSloopInn.com)



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# Tell us your views

READER SURVEY 2017

I would love to know what YOU think of our magazine. I'd be really grateful if you would be prepared to spend just five minutes of your festive time to answer a few questions about what you like and maybe what you dislike about Lindfield Life. And, of course, if you have any suggestions about how to make the magazine even better, I'd love to hear those too!

You can complete it anonymously if you choose to, however if you would like to be entered into the draw to win a £50 shopping voucher to spend in Lindfield shops, then do please give us your name and contact details.

## Do you read your copy of Lindfield Life?

- I read it cover to cover, in one sitting
- I read features mentioned on the front cover
- I flick through it but don't really read the articles
- No, it goes straight into the recycling

## Do you use the magazine to search for local services or businesses?

- Yes my first place to look would be Lindfield Life!
- Yes I may notice an advert but would also research a wider area
- No, I would never call one of the advertisers

## Have you ever called one of our advertisers?

- Yes, in the last 6 months
- Yes, in the last 12 months
- Yes, but over 12 months ago
- No I've never called one of your advertisers

## Have you noticed the Open for Business pages?

(these are usually one page articles or features explaining a business offering)

- Yes I find them useful
- Some interest me
- No idea what you are talking about
- I don't read these articles

## When you've finished with your copy of the magazine, do you:

- Keep it out ready to refer to during the month
- Put it away but available if needed
- Chuck it in the recycling

## How would you react to the following statements?

Lindfield Life is the best local magazine I've ever seen

- Strongly Disagree,  Disagree,  Neutral,
- Agree,  Strongly Agree

For ease you can do it online - simply enter this short URL into your web browser: <http://bit.ly/2hUPx6p> or click on the link from [www.lindfieldlife.co.uk](http://www.lindfieldlife.co.uk). Or cut out the page below and post it to: Lindfield Life Reader Survey, Kipper, The Barn, Hurstwood Grange, Haywards Heath, RH17 7QX before 10th January 2017.

Thank you!  
David Tingley, editor

**Complete the Reader Survey online**  
<http://bit.ly/2hUPx6p>

The articles/content in Lindfield Life are specifically relevant to Lindfield

- Strongly Disagree,  Disagree,  Neutral,
- Agree,  Strongly Agree

Lindfield Life has a good balance of advertising to editorial content

- Strongly Disagree,  Disagree,  Neutral,
- Agree,  Strongly Agree

**Finally, do you have any comments or suggestions for our magazine?**

You don't have to, but if you'd like to be entered into the draw for a £50 Lindfield shopping voucher then give us your details here...

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## New Year... New Game

### TEEING OFF



**By James Verrall, Head Golf Professional**

2017 will be your golfing year! Start the year in a positive frame of mind and start preparing early. This month we will look at getting your putting up to scratch, something you can always practise at home if the weather means you can't get out on the golf course.

The putting principles do not change from winter to summer, just the pace and length of the stroke. With this in mind, let's look at some key putting points to help you on the greens.

First, position the ball ahead of middle in the stance. You need to make contact with the ball on the upstroke and having the ball forward will help to accomplish this. Take a stance shoulder width apart as this will create a stable base to help keep your body still. Then, when making the stroke, just use your shoulders to rock back and forth to move the putter.

You will need some acceleration of the club head at impact and this is easier if you have not made too long a backswing. The general rule is swing back 1/3 and swing through 2/3.

If you look at the picture you can see my head is still down even though the ball is rolling towards the hole. You can also see that my left wrist and watch face is pointing towards the hole; this is important and shows the wrists have not moved during the stroke.

Get some putting practice in early this year and see the benefits in your game in 2017. For any more advice you are always welcome to visit us at Haywards Heath Golf Club, just a few minutes away.



# Do you know the Dronecode?

By Tim Browne, Nubis Vision

Were you a good boy or girl last year? Did Santa bring you one of the latest flying machines - a drone, to reward you for your good behaviour? Well, I'm afraid that good behaviour must continue once you take your drone out to play. With the number of drones now available and being used for a multiple of applications, including just having fun, the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) has produced a simple set of rules and guidelines, called the Dronecode, that, if followed, allows you to get the most out of your drone without getting you into trouble or upsetting anyone.

To help you familiarise yourself with the Dronecode, the CAA has provided this simple acoustic:

- D**on't fly near airports or airfields
- R**emember to stay below 400ft (120m) stay 150ft (50m) away from people and property
- O**bserve your drone at all times
- N**ever fly near aircraft
- E**njoy responsibly

Announcing the Dronecode initiative, the CAA stated: 'The Dronecode is a simple set of rules and guidelines established in legislation which outline how to fly drones safely and within the law in the UK'. A dedicated website, [www.dronesafe.uk](http://www.dronesafe.uk), has also been launched, explaining full details of the Dronecode, all backed by a wide range of leading aviation players, drone retailers and manufacturers and the Department for Transport.

Andrew Sage, at the air traffic control provider NATS, said: "Drones are an incredible, inspiring technology but it's vital that people are using them safely. With the number of reported drone incidents on the rise, it's important that people understand their legal obligations and fly safe, having fun whilst ensuring other users of the UK's airspace aren't put at risk. We hope that [dronesafe.uk](http://dronesafe.uk) will help to achieve this."

Alongside this announcement, the CAA, with tourism board VisitEngland, has also launched the 400ft Britain competition. The aim of the competition is to celebrate the beauty of the countryside while educating drone owners on how to safely use the technology with the

Dronecode at its core. To submit entries, captured by your drone flying no higher than 400 feet above ground, post your images or video on social media using the hashtag #400ftBritain. The competition runs until 31st January 2017.

So, enjoy your new drone. Fly safely and responsibly, and, if you're good again this year, Santa may bring you one of the many new fantastic drones that are due for release in 2017!

## New lady pro joins golf club

Haywards Heath Golf Club, located in Lindfield, is delighted to announce that new PGA Professional Belinda Whent has joined its expanding professional team.

Belinda is in the third and final year of her PGA degree and enjoyed most of her golfing career at Cooden Beach. As an amateur golfer she has played and trained with both county, Sussex, and England teams, as well as individually winning the U18 South Region England.

She is passionate about golf and being able to pass on her knowledge and enthusiasm to others.

"Throughout my time as an Assistant Professional," Belinda explains, "I have been lucky enough to be able to work with aspiring junior golfers and help them to fulfil many goals, coach successful ladies teams and to work with golfers of all abilities to either get them into golf or to develop them to reach their potential."

She is looking forward to being able to help the golfers of West Sussex achieve their golfing aspirations and especially excited to become a part of the junior golf development in the area.





# Stay warm, stay well and save money this winter!

Do you find it difficult to stay warm in your home?  
Do you have problems paying your energy bills?  
Are you aged over 65 or do you have children under five?

The Heat for Health partnership aims to support residents to keep warm in their homes with free information on how to keep energy bills affordable, help with finding funding for energy efficiency measures such as loft insulation, more efficient heating or secondary glazing and support with applying for other help.

Heat for Health is a Mid Sussex partnership initiative, with Mid Sussex Older Peoples Council taking the lead, and aims to reduce fuel poverty in the area for those living in their own homes, aged 65+ or families with a child under five.

For more information, telephone 01444 477191 or email [heat@midsussex.gov.uk](mailto:heat@midsussex.gov.uk)

## Sudoku #6

	1			4	6			8
6		1				7		
		9		2			4	
	1	4					9	7
9			8	5	6			
				3				
6								
	4	7	5			3		2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

<< #5 Solution

Find the solution to #6 in next month's magazine

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# What's on in January

## AT KING EDWARD HALL

- 3rd **Lindfield Afternoon WI** – 2.15pm  
(Contact la16wi@gmail.com or call Jacquie on 01444 454816)
- 11th **Lindfield Horticultural Society** – 8pm  
LHS is delighted to welcome Nigel Boldero who will talk about Heritage Gardening, telling us about a number of sites he has worked on, including the regeneration of the Walled Garden at Blickling Hall. Visit Nigel's blog 'The Old School Garden' at [www.audaxdesign.org](http://www.audaxdesign.org) for more of his gardening tales. Entry £1 members, £2 visitors. All welcome. (Membership enquiries call 01444 456509 or visit [www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk))
- 26th **Film Show Evening** – doors open 7.30pm  
A Street Cat Named BOB (12A)  
(Tickets available from Tufnells, High Street from 3rd January 2017)

Please refer to the King Edward Hall notice board for additional information regarding the above events.

If you would like to hire the King Edward Hall please contact the Honorary Bookings Secretary for further information on telephone number 01444 483266 or by email on [bookings@kingedwardhall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@kingedwardhall.org.uk)

## AND ELSEWHERE

- 10th- **Sleeping Beauty Pantomime**  
14th Clair Hall, Haywards Heath  
(More info: [www.wealdtheatre.co.uk](http://www.wealdtheatre.co.uk))
- 15th **Mobile Civic Amenity Collection** – 10-12noon  
Tollgate Car Park  
Household and Garden waste collection by the council
- 18th **Mid Sussex Decorative & Fine Arts Society** – 10.15am, Clair Hall, Haywards Heath  
King George IV, The Greatest Royal Collector of Art lecture by Oliver Everett on the many works of art collected by King George IV for his many palaces. (Non members welcome: £7 on the door)
- 19th **Mid Sussex Association National Trust** – 2.30pm  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath  
Tales from the River Bank – A glimpse of past life in the River Ouse Valley by Ian Everest
- 28th **Happy Day in Lindfield** – 9.30am-5pm  
All Saints Church: Another day of gospel singing for the whole community (See page 53)

## Lindfield Market back next month

By Alison Falconer, Market Manager

The Market reopens on 2nd February. Our opening times will be 10-11 am with all our usual goodies.

We will be holding teaching knitting and crochet at sessions every Thursday subject to holidays. The cost of each session is £1 which includes a tea or coffee and a biscuit. Please do come along and try.



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## *Invitation*

*Mark Revill & Co Estate Agents would like to invite you to consider a free market valuation of your home.*

*If you are thinking of selling and would like to obtain an updated value of your home, please contact the local experts who are successfully selling throughout Mid Sussex.*

## *RSVP*

*Contact our High Street office below and we will make arrangements to visit you at your convenience.*

Your Local  
Property Experts

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