

Lindfield *Life*

Inc. Scaynes Hill & Walstead

Local village talk,
by the village

Dec. 2019 Issue #131

Free

Lindfield's Christmas past

page 20

Pond Island Discs

page 56

Festive church services

page 37



**A very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year to you all
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**PS: Please don't forget to come along to the wonderful Lindfield
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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

In my head, December is always 'the' busy month of the year, but it's easy to forget just what a heavy, community-centred time November is here in Lindfield. We pay some homage to that in this issue.



Page 28 reminds us of the great work that **Lindfield Bonfire Society** does in the village. Putting on an event of that scale and quality is no mean feat and I'm sure you'd join me thanking all those who made it happen on 5th November. Similarly, I wanted to acknowledge the sterling effort that many residents made to come out on **Remembrance Sunday** to both the church and the parade down the High Street – captured on **page 48**.

This month being the Christmas issue means we are certainly not short of things to say...

As is tradition, the four **village churches** (including St Augustine's, as Scaynes Hill is part of Lindfield Rural Parish - in case you didn't know!) have taken the centre spread to ensure readers know where and when Christmas services take place – turn to **page 37**.

There's plenty of other Christmas content too. All the info you need about the **Denmans Lane Dash** is on **page 32**. Details of **Lindfield Festival Night** and a Christmas concert are overleaf on **page 4**. It's good news as **Dennis Batchelor** switches on his lights in Meadow Lane – see **page 33**. Plus there are a number of special **Christmas puzzles** on **pages 66-67** for that extra festive fix!

Even the **history feature (p.20)** looks back at Christmas' past in the village. Thanks to **Richard Bryant** and **Janet Bishop** for researching and writing this item.

The quarterly newsletter of **Lindfield Rural Parish Council** is published on **page 63**, while – on **page 34** – we pat a number of residents on the back as they were celebrated in the recent **Mid Sussex Applauds Awards**.

Happy Christmas Lindfield!

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We love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk

Charity Carol Concert

By Peter Swann

Yes, we call our annual concert traditional, as we will sing at least six carols including Silent Night and Ding Dong Merrily on High. However, there is much, much more.

The Perdido Players (Carol) Band will, as in previous years, accompany the carols plus play big band Christmas music. The church choir will sing for us a variety of songs from secular and modern carols.

Guests visitors will entertain us with readings and music, including vocals, saxophone quartet and some spontaneous items.

All participants are offering their services free to support the work of the St Peter and St James Hospice Community Nurses.

Doors open at Lindfield United Reformed Church on Thursday 19th December at 7pm, there is no charge for admission but, if you so desire, a donation to the above cause would be appreciated. Tea and mince pies will be served afterwards.

Why not enter into the spirit of Christmas in your best Christmas jumper and celebrate the wonder of Christmas with us? You would be most welcome.



Festival Night - 3rd Dec.

Lindfield's annual Christmas celebration will take place on Tuesday 3rd December on the High Street.

Organised by Lindfield Parish Council, the popular event turns the road into a thriving marketplace with many retailers moving outside for the evening, while they are joined by numerous other stalls and children's rides and amusements.

Father Christmas will arrive at the United Reformed Church at 6pm. The High Street will be closed to traffic between 5.30-9.30pm.

The Lindfield Club is open to new members

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A filmic ode to #LAF2019

By Ayesha Gilani

A slice of Lindfield Arts Festival life has been captured on film. Rok Skool in Haywards Heath commissioned the promotional video to celebrate the Festival's 10th anniversary. The 60 second reel includes footage of Lindfield's picturesque pond, High Street, festival-goers and performers. It is set to a backing track featuring vocals by local singer and Rok Skool alumni Clara Hurtado. Two years ago Clara appeared on The Voice UK 2017 and was mentored by will.i.am. Rok Skool founder Hereward Kaye, who lives in Lindfield, said: "Lindfield as a village is so wholesome, family oriented and now a pioneer for the arts too. In many ways this village punches above its weight, and the scope of its arts festival reflects that - it's so ambitious! Rok Skool has been a part of this festival since the very first discussions around the kitchen table, and we've been proudly involved in all its ten years. Like the festival itself, Rok Skool champions local musicians of all ages." Do you feature in the reel? Find out here: <https://bit.ly/2CLVvXv>

Who's this guy?

This life sized Guy enjoyed flicking through his copy of Lindfield Life while on duty at Compton House.

He was also helping to raise funds for CHECT, the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust.

Staff at Compton House regularly raise money for good causes with events including the annual Bonfire Night celebrations.

The charity was chosen after two members of staff had their son and grandson diagnosed with Retinoblastoma earlier this year.

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Salon changes name and colour

Last month one High Street shop changed branding and became Nova Medispa overnight.

Amy Clarkson became the owner of La Touche back in December 2018 and since then has been working tirelessly to implement changes to the salon.

Amy commented: "Nova Medispa will still provide all the services we were formally known for but we have been able to add to our repertoire, now offering new advanced services including Chemical Peels, Dermaplanning and Micro Needling.

"We are intensely proud of our new look salon and would love to welcome you in to see the changes," Amy continued.

A new Hydra Facial service will launch in December, which is a medical grade facial comprising of six elements including microdermabrasion and Glycolic peel.



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Flint & Company is now officially one of the top estate agents in the country – having been independently identified and recognised by the Property Academy and Rightmove as part of an initiative that works to improve service standards across the property industry, the results of which are then published in the Best Estate Agent Guide 2020.

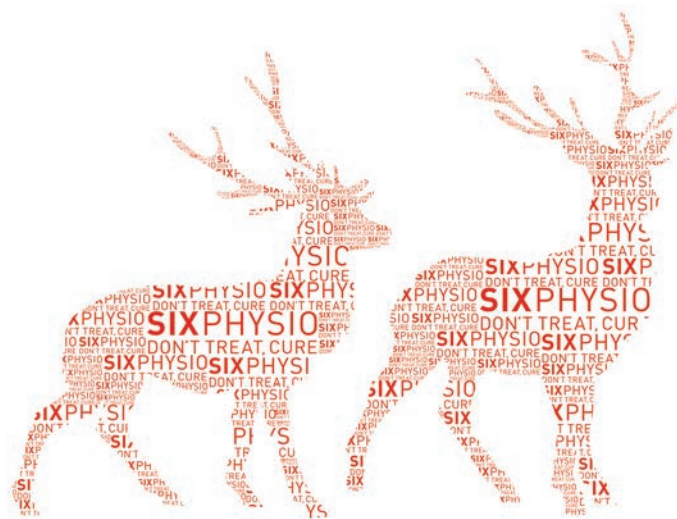
Over 3 billion data points were analysed and 20,000 mystery shops carried out in the search for this year's top performers, resulting in this relatively new local business receiving the prestigious 'Exceptional Sales Award', which was presented by Gabby Logan to Scaynes Hill resident and Flint & Co's founder Jane Todd at a recent gala event in London.

Out of 15,000 estate agents in the country Flint & Co's award now puts them in the top 3% countrywide! The awards are presented for property marketing, sales results and customer service – which consumers consider to be among the most important criteria when selecting which agent to use.

Jane explained: "Since opening in 2014, we have all worked incredibly hard to provide the very best service in our local market, and I believe this award reflects our combined efforts. I enjoy going the extra mile: advising clients on presentation before marketing to get the greatest impact from our team of highly trained professional photographers; keeping in regular contact



with buyers and sellers primarily by phone rather than email once sales are agreed and generally ensuring that stress is kept to the minimum."



Merry Christmas!

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Well done Blackthorns boys

By Karl Luckhurst, Leader of Physical Education Pupils from Blackthorns Community Primary Academy have had an extremely sporty start to the school year by taking part in seven events run by Mid Sussex Active. Our most successful event came in the form of the Blackthorns Year 6 football team and a visit to Harlands Primary to take part in the Haywards Heath area ESFA 7-a-side boys football tournament. The team beat Bolnore Village 3-1, drew 0-0 against Harlands and lost to St Joseph's 3-1 finishing second in the group (qualifying on goals scored!).

A tense semi-final followed against Lindfield Primary in which Lindfield won by the solitary goal. Congratulations to Lindfield and Holy Trinity teams which qualified for the Mid Sussex final.

Blackthorns pupils look forward to more sporting events coming up later this month, including: the girls football tournament, a dance troupe performance at Clair Hall, Indoor Athletics and Cross Country competitions.

Society objects to 'urban' flats complex

By Gil Kennedy, Chairman Lindfield Preservation Society

Developers are proposing a complex of three-storey blocks of flats plus 'townhouses' on the brow of Summerhill Lane in Lindfield, on the site of the former Tavistock and Summerhill School. The scale and density of this scheme are typical of an urban environment and are therefore entirely out of keeping with the character of a village like Lindfield. Should planning permission be granted, an ominous precedent would be set for creeping urbanisation in villages across Mid Sussex.

There are several sound planning reasons for objecting to this application. For example, the scheme would overlook neighbours and have an overbearing impact on their privacy and outlook. It disrespects the character of the village, which has no other residential structures on anything like this scale. The design is unsympathetic, consisting of a large and monotonous 'contemporary-style' intrusion into the Sussex vernacular of Lindfield's built environment. No affordable housing at all is proposed, even though smaller developments have made their contribution. Numerous historic trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders would also be lost unnecessarily.

Although the closing date for objections has already passed, the application reference is: DM/19/0260.

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Scaynes Hill to lose popular vicar Lisa

By Claire Cooper

In June 2011 the parish of St Augustine's in Scaynes Hill welcomed its first female vicar - Rev Lisa Barnett.

Eight years and three children later, and now Canon Barnett, Lisa is preparing to say a fond farewell to the village and to her parish family as she takes on a new role in Horsham.

"It's been a wonderful and eventful time," said Lisa, who is mum to six year old twins Cara and Amy and three year old Ross. "When I arrived here there was just me and my husband Stephen, but we leave as a family of five.

"The parish has been so wonderful supporting me through my maternity leave and the challenge of having a young family. My husband and I feel so grateful to those who have held our hands through the babies, twins and nappy madness!

"It will be hard to leave but, in a way, leaving should be painful as it means you have loved them and they have loved you. I'm sad to be going but proud to be leaving a church which is vibrant healthy and in safe hands."

She added that curate Lucy Hollingsworth will be working with the Churchwardens to manage things during the vacancy, supported by the team ministry, until a new vicar is appointed.

Lisa leaves in January to become team rector at St Mary's Church in Horsham. "I'll be vicar at St Mary's and support two other churches in the team - Holy Trinity and St Leonards," said Lisa.

"The main difference will be that everything is so much bigger," she added. "The first time I visited St Mary's it looked enormous! Scaynes Hill is small and cosy by comparison.

"The church is also in Horsham town centre, so I expect people will drop in as they pass by, which doesn't really happen in the village."

The parish had been suggested as a 'good fit' for Lisa some time ago. "But the time wasn't right for us," said Lisa. "Stephen was working full-time in London and the children were very young."

But when the vicar left a year ago, the opportunity arose to consider applying.

"With the children a little older and Ross about to start school, the timing began to feel right," said Lisa. "When you apply for a job as a vicar it means uprooting the whole family and deciding whether you think you could all be happy living in another town," she explained. "It's a lot to go through when you might not get the job! I prayed a lot, did a recce and suddenly it felt right."

The final decision to apply for the post came after Lisa's first visit to a Sunday morning service, which brought what she calls a 'God Moment'. "During the service a toddler wandered into the church eating a bag of crisps," said Lisa. "She was quickly followed by another child and then by their mother who explained that the children had been attracted by the music."

The family was warmly welcomed, the children were given toys to play with and ended up staying for the service and refreshments afterwards. "That's when I knew the church was right for me," Lisa recalled.

The job offer came in a phone call as Lisa was driving back to Scaynes Hill from Horsham, having had an interview and then a tour of the Vicarage. "It felt amazing," said Lisa. "I feel very blessed and very grateful and that it's the right place for me to serve and for us as a family."

Lisa currently shares her time between her role as vicar and vocational work mentoring prospective clergy. "I really enjoy mentoring, and particularly supporting women who are exploring ordination," said Lisa. "I'm thrilled that I will be able to continue this work as part of my new role.

"Having a woman vicar is still a big deal, and there aren't many who are leading big churches," she added. "For a long time I was the only woman vicar in the diocese to



take maternity leave. Now there are two of us!"

Lisa looks back with gratitude and pride over her time serving in the village. "I'm extremely proud of how the church has grown and how community life has developed," she says.

Central to this development has been the church annexe, which was built shortly after Lisa became vicar. "The parish had raised around 80% of the funds to build the annexe but the committee members felt that it would be easier to raise the remaining £90,000 if building work had already started, so we went for it!

"I am so thankful that my predecessor had the vision to build the annexe, which is now a wonderful village hub."

Lisa's legacy also includes regular all-age communions and many memorable services from Bring your Pet to Church to Chocolate and Teddy Bear Sundays. "The pet services were really special, although I'm actually very nervous around dogs," said Lisa. "Fortunately one of the parishioners, Maria, works at a local vets and stood very close to me as I was blessing the dogs in case I needed protection!"

Another special event was the Remembrance concert in 2014, marking the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, and the opportunity to rededicate the Calvary war memorial in 2018, on the centenary of the end of the war. "These events were very special and brought people into the church who didn't normally feel they could go," said Lisa.

During her time in Scaynes Hill Lisa has baptised dozens of babies, conducted eight weddings and officiated at around 40 funerals. "For some families I have taken more than one funeral," she said. "It's been a privilege to support them through painful times."

Lisa will also be remembered for her music and the community choir she started. "I have loved being part of the community choir, and I'm delighted that it will continue to thrive under the leadership of Helen and Tim Hicks," she said.

"I'm extremely proud of the people in the parish who have got involved with church life, from the big team which runs the coffee shop, to the preachers, the youth group leaders and those who visit the housebound and elderly. The church is full of so many people serving in so many different ways.

"I'll miss the people who are so special, but fortunately I'm not going too far and Horsham is a great place to shop, so I'm hoping people will call in as part of their shopping trips!"

Lisa's last service will be on 29th December. "I haven't started writing my final sermon yet," she said. "But it will be a very special opportunity to thank the parishioners and let them know how special they are."





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Card creator open for business

A Lindfield resident is once again creating beautiful recycled Christmas cards to raise funds for a local charity.

Over the past 30 years, Chris has raised thousands of pounds for charities and this year is supporting the Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.

Every year hundreds of old Christmas cards are dropped off at Chris's home in the village ready to be recycled. With card supplied free of charge by a local printing company and Chris buying and donating the envelopes, every penny raised goes directly to charity. "I don't sell the cards, I just ask for donations to be made directly to charities," said Chris, who normally makes between 1,500 to 2,000 cards

With years of experience under her belt, Chris can rival any card shop – with themes ranging from nativity and snow scenes, animals and birds to quirky, fun and sparkly.

Chris is happy to accept orders for any number of cards and can arrange to drop off boxes of cards at local events such as group meetings or coffee mornings.

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Mo on the go for Nat

Bent Arms barman Nat Collins is midway through his Movember challenge – where he's growing facial hair for a very worthy cause.

In fact he was already sporting a fine beard before November, but Nat decided to shave it off and regrow it because 'it's such a superb cause'. Movember seeks to change the face of men's health – which impacts a number of areas. Nat himself suffers from severe depression and anxiety, so he is keen to raise awareness of mental health in particular.

You can support Nat and help him reach his target of £150 by going online:
<https://mobro.co/13895273?mc=1>



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Extended opening hours for Food Bank donations

By Penny Fanner

Due to popular demand and to make it more convenient to pop in and drop off your items, from 1st December we're extending our opening hours. The Food Bank Collection Point at Lindfield United Reformed Church will now be open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm, except Bank Holidays.

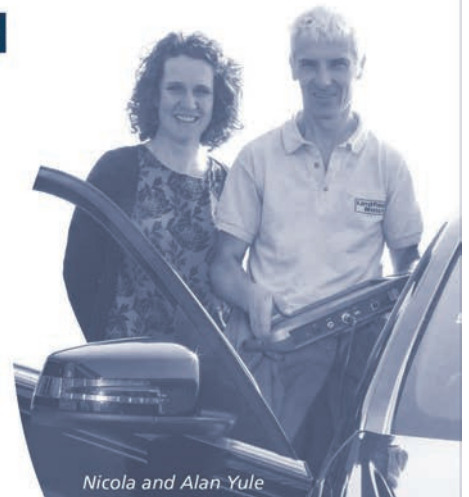
We've been overwhelmed by your generous donations to the Food Bank throughout this year. Over 1,333 items have now been received. On behalf of all those who receive these much needed gifts all year round and not just at Christmas we extend our thanks and wish you all a Happy Christmas!

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Another great year

MORE REVOLUTION



By Mathew Gurr

Lindfield 2019 has been a major success story for us and has proved to be our best year since we opened in 2015. We have seen a 40% increase in sales in 2019 compared to 2018 and I believe there are two major factors, the close knit Lindfield community - good news and recommendations travel fast - combined with Move Revolution's highly successful marketing strategy.

We are really grateful to the number of clients that have recommended us to friends and family. Whilst the 'B word' has dominated most column inches this year, we are pleased to report that buyer activity, willingness and engagement to agree a sale is far stronger than in 2018. We have also seen a wide range of homes selling this year, which adds weight to our view that the market has performed better than anticipated. Modern homes are proving to be very popular with first time buyers and young families. The ease of very little maintenance and a modern slick finish is certainly appealing to many. At the other end of the scale, one of our favourite homes in the village this year was a stunning cottage full of character, with a superb kitchen family room which led out to the garden.

There have certainly been challenges to overcome this year. Two house sales spring to mind, but looking back there is plenty to celebrate this year as we head into a new decade.



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Christmas Past

LINDFIELD HISTORY

By Richard Bryant with Janet Bishop,
Lindfield History Project Group

The Christian festival of Christmas began to be widely celebrated in the Middle Ages and many traditions established at that time have been carried forward into today's festivities. Some could, perhaps, be even older with roots in the celebration of the winter solstice, such as using evergreens as decorations. Across the country, in the 17th century much drunkenness and other misbehaviour became associated with Christmastime.

In the increasingly puritanical climate of the Commonwealth, the Puritan rulers in 1647 banned Christmas, regarding it as a Catholic invention. This ban was widely unpopular and its effectiveness questionable.

In 1660, following the restoration of the monarchy, the ban ended. The old English traditions of feasting, merriment, dancing, carol singing and decorating homes and churches with evergreens joyously resumed. All the elements of the modern Christmas festive season were brought together and popularised thanks to Queen Victoria and Albert, and Charles Dickens' popular novel *A Christmas Carol*.

The modern Christmas brought the introduction of the retail bonanza, which today starts in October. On the 25th December 1888, *Mid Sussex Times* published an article describing the 'treasures for the delectation of the public' available in Lindfield's shops. The following are a few extracts.

Masters (site of Coop) had 'an admirable display of fruit and biscuits' together with 'charming drapery and capital assortment of china and earthenware'. Similarly, Durrant's (Lindfield Eye Care) 'thoroughly enters into the spirit of the season with a show of Christmas cheer both liquid and solid', also the shop's showroom under the New Assembly Room (site of Medical Centre) 'boasts of a rare collection of novelties, including, baskets, aprons, wraps, cushions, screens, pottery, lace goods. Nearby, Miss Simmons' shop (Tufnells Home) was 'replete with a capital assortment of children's toys, ornaments, fancy

articles, stationery and favourite new booklets'.

Holman's (95/97 High Street) 'stock of geese, turkeys, duck and game is sufficiently large and varied to satisfy all who want a good roast', also 'fruit and nuts as a dessert'. Across the street Henry Simmons' shop 'looks after those fond of nuts, bon-bons and the narcotic weed while general grocery is not forgotten'. Humphreys and Charman's (74 High Street) bakeries were both praised, and the latter's 'cakes iced and plain and confectionary, will be sure to make the public plain with their bawbees' (an old Scottish low value coin). In a similar vein Wearn's shop (Somers) provided 'a trinity of temptations in the shape of toys, Christmas fruit and hosiery'. Box's butchers (Cottenhams) had a 'capital show of beef, mutton, pork, veal, lamb, turkeys and geese'. Food a plenty was available!

Feasting, for those with money, has been at the centre of the celebration and today the turkey has become the most popular meat for the festive meal. Turkeys were introduced into this country from the Americas in the mid-1500s. Early references to turkeys in Lindfield at Christmastime include, in December 1660, William Older being brought before the courts 'for the felonious taking of one turkey hen' belonging to 'Walter Brett, gentleman of Lindfield'. Three decades later, in March 1691, Sarah Edsaw, a widow living in Lindfield, entered into a lease for various lands in the parish belonging to Walter Burrell at an 'annual rent of £50, and at Christmas two fat geese and two fat turkeys'. For centuries goose was the favoured meat.

For many in the parish such meats were beyond their means, but a little seasonal cheer was brought to even the poorest. Inmates at the village poorhouse, as an addition to their usual meals of gruel and pottage, were treated to plum pudding on Christmas Day 1782. Over the centuries for many midwinter was a difficult time and charity featured strongly. The *Mid Sussex Times* on 19th December 1882 reported that in Lindfield the winter weather was 'throwing many of the labouring poor out



Olde Lindfield Waits

of work' resulting in many needing assistance from the Poor Relief Fund, and at the first distribution of soup there were 'ready purchasers for soup at a penny per quart throughout the day'.

Christmastime was recognised as a time for giving and charitable deeds, as portrayed in Dickens' story. It is also a time for carols, with old carols such as 'The Holly and the Ivy' traditionally having been sung in the street long before being taken into the church. The Lindfield Waits Benevolent Society, founded in December 1894, kept the old tradition alive singing carols 'grievously early on ye morning of ye Xmas all through ye village in aide of ye Firemen's Widows and Orphans Fund'. This was an annual event by the Lindfield Fire Brigade; the illustration is their 1912 poster.

Christmas festivities were austere during the Great War years, due to hardship and shortages of food, goods and, of course, menfolk away fighting the war. Increasing number of casualties and fear of bad news was ever present. However, Lindfield ladies devoted their time to charity and good causes. The focus each autumn was ensuring men in the military were not forgotten by the village. Money was raised for Christmas puddings, gifts and comforts such as knitted woollen scarves, mittens and socks. In 1917 the Women's Institute (WI) made or collected 92 gifts of soldier's comforts for the Royal Sussex Regiment. Similarly, the WI was very active in making children's soft toys as their availability had ceased.

Two decades later and once more Britain was at war and Christmas festivities curtailed. The Women's Institute organised that every Lindfield man and woman serving in the forces would receive a gift parcel together with a Christmas card produced by Helena Hall. In 1942 the men's gift comprised writing paper, pencil, a Penguin story book, shaving stick, razor blades, a new 2/6d piece, a game, pack of cards, woolly socks or scarf with hood end and a printed letter from the vicar. To give Christmas cheer to local children, the Canadian soldiers arranged Christmas parties in King Edward Hall as a thank you for being made welcome in the village.

Children's treats have always been a seasonal feature, earlier instances being a show entitled 'Entertainment for Children' at the New Assembly Room, Lindfield (Medical Centre site) on 30th December 1884, comprising a 'Celebrated Company of Marionettes' and 'A Musical Medley by Two Clowns'. On a less grand scale in 1895, the Sunday School organised a children's party at Lindfield School. The Mid Sussex Times reported



War Christmas party

'In addition to an excellent tea, a Christmas tree was provided, and each juvenile received something in the shape of a present'.

Needless to say entertainment was not solely the preserve of children. Adults participated in all sorts of fun such as on Boxing Day 1901 when 'a grand match' of the 'noble game' (football) was played on the Common between Lindfield Veterans and Haywards Heath Old Crocks. A good crowd watched the 'capital fun'.

Since being established in Lindfield, the churches have delivered the story of the nativity and the birth of Jesus, albeit the form of the services have changed over time. Special services and carols are now a feature of the Christmas festival today. Perhaps the true reason for the festivities is too easily overlooked among the increasing commercialism.

Contact Lindfield History Project Group on 01444 482136 or visit www.lindfieldhistory.org.uk



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After the event: Community Exercise Day

Dozens of Lindfield residents enjoyed getting fit, having fun and raising funds at the village's first Community Exercise Day.

Organised by residents Victoria Hersey and Vic Donougher, the event was held to raise money and awareness of Family Support Work, a local Sussex charity, working in the village and beyond.

The day included 11 different exercise events held back-to-back inside the main church building at All Saints Church.

Classes with local personal trainers and exercise specialists, ranged from HIIT, stretch, Swoove and cardio to chair aerobics, circuits, dance and pilates. There was even a brisk outdoor walk in the fresh air!

A pop-up cafe at the back of the church provided an opportunity for visitors to enjoy a cuppa before or after joining in the action, or just to see what was going on.

"We had a brilliant day and raised over £2,500 for FSW, which we are delighted about," said Victoria.

"Family Support Work does amazing work to support local families in crisis and, as a small charity, every penny really does count, so we're really pleased that this event raised money and awareness for them," added Vic.

Nikki Kerr, Director of Fundraising & Marketing at FSW, said: "The event was a huge hit. Every class was well supported and it was great to see different members of the community doing activities together.

"I was delighted to talk to so many people about the valuable work that FSW does and we've made some interesting and important connections. Victoria and Vic did an incredible job organising this event and we'd like to thank everybody who participated."



Victoria and Vic have already said that they would like to repeat the event next year.

The fundraising page is still open. To make a donation visit the website: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fswcommunityexerciseclass2019

For more information about the charity visit: www.familysupportwork.org



LINDFIELD PRIMARY

The autumn term has been a busy one so far for the Early Years children at Lindfield Primary! To develop our knowledge and understanding of the world, we have been looking closely at our local community and the local heroes who are part of it.

Local resident Jenny Slack visited us with her teddies and told us stories of their adventures around Lindfield. We then went to find the teddies in the windows of our local key facilities and shops on our village walk. We were visited by our local Lollipop Lady, Val Joyner, who discussed her role in keeping us safe when crossing the road, and then we learnt about fire safety during a visit from the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. We are looking forward to meeting more of our heroes and hearing about the roles of a paramedic and a police officer. We are so grateful to all our visitors in making our learning so exciting and authentic.



Lindfield Primary's indoor athletics team had great success in the first round of the Sports Hall Athletics Competition at Warden Park Academy. The team of Year 5 & 6 children took part in twenty four different events, including javelin, long jump, speed bounce and various different relays - winning seventeen of them! As a result the team came in first place, out of nine local schools, and have qualified for the Mid Sussex Final in January.

We all enjoyed an exciting visit from members of Lindfield Bonfire Society dressed in all their finery in the lead up to Bonfire Night. They told us about the gruesome history of the bonfire celebrations and, most importantly, how to keep ourselves safe around fireworks.

Year 3 were fortunate to take part recently in a workshop to learn about Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. They acted out the story of Rama and Sita and understood how good overcame evil. They also learnt a Hindu dance routine to celebrate Diwali, which involved imaginary fireworks and sticks. The children all had a wonderful time.

May we wish all members of our village community a very Merry Christmas. All are welcome to come along to the Academy to enjoy the festive fun at our PTA Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December between 1pm and 4pm.

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True to her New England roots, Mandy's design principles are grounded in practicality and function. Clapboard-clad houses and clean lines influence her creative sensibilities, which are also fueled with an enthusiastic, ever-evolving curiosity. After running a boutique design firm on the picturesque coast of Maine, Mandy and her English husband rocked the proverbial boat in 2012 by selling their house and possessions to fund an adventure for their family of five that spanned the globe. Mountains, rivers, jungles and long, windy roads eventually led the family back to the UK, settling in West Sussex. With an aspiration to maximise her professional potential, Mandy returned to formal education, attending London's acclaimed Inchbald School of Design and earning her degree in Architectural Interior Design. Subsequently recruited as a core member of Maybourne Hotel Group's award-winning design team, she continued to hone her skills designing luxury suites at Claridge's and the Berkeley for the international five-star set. Since her resignation last spring to establish Mandy Cuss Interior Design, Mandy's latest endeavor has been created with a vision for excellence. Providing expertise through a service that adds great value to the lives of others while doing work that is meaningful and fulfilling is Mandy's guiding principle.

While investing in interior design services may be unfamiliar territory for most homeowners, Mandy encourages those who have the desire to enhance their homes but don't have the time, know-how, or inclination to do it themselves to consider enlisting the expertise of a designer. Designers plan, research, develop, liaise,

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source, price, streamline, oversee, install and often help to mitigate costly mistakes. And then there's the 'magic'. Designers specialise in making the normal special through the telling of a story, the creating of emotion and the consideration of the small moments in our everyday lives - think Friday nights around a crackling fire with family or retreating to the serenity of your bedroom at the end of a long day to rest and recharge. Good design often looks and feels effortless, but it takes creative resolve, dedication, foresight, collaboration, organisation, problem-solving and a foundation of processes.

Able to assist with large projects and small, Mandy Cuss Interior Design offers a ladder of services respective of lifestyle and budget, each beginning with a free Discovery Call. The Discovery Call is a 20-minute telephone conversation for you to discuss the main touch points of your project. A Creative Consultation can then be booked, which consists of a two-hour onsite meeting during which you explain in detail how you live within your space, its functionality, your aesthetic preferences and your thoughts for the home's look and feel. As well as being the first phase of any larger project, the Creative Consultation is a definitive service in and of itself, delivering value in actionable design recommendations and guidance. Depending upon the scope of work determined and the level of service desired, Mandy makes her recommendations as to how to best proceed. A written summary and a Design Proposal follow, as appropriate. The fee for the Creative Consultation is £425.

To schedule a Discovery Call, visit: www.mandycuss.com

Bonfire Night fun



Photos by Modernity Mark Photography

By David Tingley

Lindfield Bonfire Society once again did the village proud on 5th November with a fantastic display not only of fireworks but also community spirit.

With all the rain before the event, organisers had to implement its Wet Weather Contingency Plan at the last minute, following a meeting on site on the morning of Bonfire Night with Mid Sussex District Council.

Honorary Secretary Mark Tampion-Lacey explained: "We always work closely with MSDC in the run up to the day, but we always have to balance our strong desire

not to cancel the evening with the need to protect the Common.

This is precisely why we have a contingency plan, and were pleased to have reached that agreement with MSDC.

"We don't think the change spoiled anyone's enjoyment of Bonfire Night; we've certainly not had any negative comments since the night," he continued.



Although with a different route, the procession was still full of colour, as well as heat! Roscoe Saunders was awarded first place in the fancy dress competition in the '6 and Under' category, winning the Anscombe Cup. Kester Hall dressed up as Paddington Bear and secured the top spot in '7-11 Years' and also became overall winner lifting the Geoff Honeysett Shield.

Stuart Capelin dressed up and took first place in the adults category, while Aztecs were selected to receive the Best Group Cup. Amelia Lacey took the Bob Lacey Salver for Most Topical Costume on the night.



Colouring Comp winners

Sponsored by Masters & Son, the winners of the Colouring Competition have been announced:

Up to 6 Years: Hugo Simpson (5), 7-9 Years: Emilia Buxton (9), 10-14 Years: Daisy Loft (12) and the 15 and Over category was won by Andi Frost (age 39!). Each will receive a Waterstones voucher. The overall winner was announced as Hugo Simpson, who takes the Silver Cup and who's entry is shown below.



Overall winning entry by Hugo Simpson



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Every little bit counts

By Isabella Mortimer

In this article I will be giving examples of how we, as a community, can really protect our village and communal environment.

A few weeks ago I noticed several bonfires taking place in gardens, usually on beautiful sunny days. I could see plumes of smoke and the smell lingered for several hours. Garden waste can be recycled in your own garden, by using the green wheelie bin or taking it to the rubbish dump.

This way it is not leaving such a large carbon footprint on our planet.

Local news: You can now recycle biro's! Did you know that Cloughs in Sunte Avenue have added to their eco credentials by collecting used, empty and dried out biro's, highlighters and more. This means that the tons of pens we use will not go into our landfill. So make sure when you next finish a pen, collect a few and take them all to Cloughs to recycle. Remember: every tiny bit makes a huge difference.

Did you know my Grandad's fact? The Highway Code states that 'you must not leave a vehicle's engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road'? I've seen lots of cars with the engines on, to keep warm in the winter or cool in the summer but the emissions are affecting the air, our breathing and the environment so please switch off as soon as you can.

Here are a few other things that you can do to help reduce plastic and help reduce climate change:

- Walk or cycle to school or work whenever you can
- Be mindful of what waste you throw in the bin
- Borrow and fix, rather than buy
- Plant vegetables from seed in your own pots – fun and healthy and avoids using another plastic pot
- At school and work print on both sides of the paper
- Dry your clothes outside naturally instead of using a tumble dryer
- Make your own cleaning products in reusable containers, white wine vinegar, baking powder, hot water and lemon (www.thegreenparent.co.uk has lots of other ideas)

Read lots of information at www.theoceancleanup.com who are doing lots of amazing things to help reduce plastic on a huge scale.

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Years Reception - 3

Wednesday - 4:00-5:00
Wivelsfield Village Hall
Years Reception - 3

Friday - 4:00-5:00
Ashenground Community Centre,
Haywards Heath
Years Reception - 3



Contact - Jonty Russ
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Oathall's partnership with local gym



The fitness professionals behind Haywards Heath's Switch Gym are launching a new joint health and fitness initiative with Oathall Community College.

Switch has kitted out a new £40,000 fitness facility at the college, complete with the very latest gym equipment, as part of its drive to introduce fitness to the lives of the local community. Pupils will be able to use the gym equipment during the school day as part of their physical education lessons with programmes designed by Switch coaches and PE teachers.

The installation from Switch Gym is a continuation of a package of support for the college, which recently included a £2,000 donation towards the new maths and science blocks.

Switch Academy director Chris Patch said: "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Oathall Community College. Providing professional gym equipment to the students is very much in line with our mission to get a positive health and fitness message out to the community.

"To be able to provide young people with the knowledge of how to look after their physical health from such an early age and take that into adulthood is very much part of our commitment to health and fitness education in the wider community. We are extremely proud to open our facility at such a centre of educational excellence."

Headteacher Eddie Rodriguez added:

"We are pleased to be working with Switch Gym on this exciting project. The new fitness facility will expand the breadth of PE provision at Oathall and allow our students access to a fully

equipped gym during school hours. This partnership fully supports the school's educational aims of increasing enjoyment in physical education and promoting healthy lifestyles for young people."

As part of the project, Switch Gym is introducing Switch Academy, due to launch on 14th December. This new bespoke fitness programme offers adults over the age of 16 from the local area access to small, semi-private fitness sessions at the Oathall Community College facility.

"Switch Academy has been designed specifically to provide all the advantages and more of a personal trainer at a fraction of the price and at a location that is convenient," said Chris. "We are looking forward to a long, successful partnership with the school and its students and to welcoming our first Switch Academy members."



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Photo: Paula Clark

Boxing Day Beer Run now in fifth year

The fifth annual Denmans Lane Dash will once again bring festive fun to Lindfield High Street on Boxing Day.

The popular event sees villagers dashing from the Stand Up, along Denmans Lane and back again, half pints in hand. The winners are those finishing in the top six with the most beer left in the glass.

The first Dash was held back in 2015 by Denmans Lane resident Ray Gower as an idea to brighten up Boxing Day for family and friends. Since then the event has grown way beyond Ray's wildest expectations, attracting around 50 revellers, many in full fancy dress!

The event has also raised hundreds of pounds for charities, including the Sussex Heart Charity chosen by Ray last year after he underwent a triple heart bypass operation.

This year money will be donated to the Trevor Mann Baby Unit.




To join the Dash, get along to the Stand Up from midday on 26th December. The race will start at 1pm.

For up to date information search for Denmans Lane Dash on Facebook.

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Meadow Lane lights return

Christmas in Lindfield wouldn't be Christmas without Dennis Batchelor's annual festive display.

Once again the Meadow Lane pensioner will be transforming the front garden of his bungalow into a winter wonderland to raise money for charity.

From 14th December the garden will be open to visitors who will enjoy the many fun and festive displays, from traditional trees and reindeers to a life-size singing and dancing Santa and even a talking parrot!

There's also a selfie booth to capture those all-important Christmas memories.

Donations for St Peter and St James Hospice will be welcome.

The garden will open from dusk every day from 14th December to New Year's Day.

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Lindfield does well in community awards

By Claire Cooper

Inspirational Lindfield residents were honoured at the recent Mid Sussex Applause Awards ceremony in East Grinstead.

The awards, a new initiative from Mid Sussex District Council, recognise local 'unsung heroes' who give up their time to make a difference in their local communities. Awards were presented by the sponsors and by High Sheriff of West Sussex, Davina Irwin-Clark.

Swoove Fitness founder Esther Featherstone was delighted to pick up the 'Business in the Community Award'. "I am incredibly proud of winning this award as it recognises the huge amount of hard work that I, and all Swoove instructors up and down the country, put in to their local community," said Esther. "The energy and time they give to fundraising for small causes is wonderful and I want to thank them all. The local community inspires me every day living in this gorgeous village and I am just over the moon that our efforts have won us this award. Thank you."



Swoove stands for singing, whooping and moving, and classes are available for everyone, young and old, those with limited mobility and special needs. Swoove has raised over £64,000 for charities and Esther aims to raise £1million in her lifetime.

Lindfield Life's Recycling guru, Colin McFarlin, was a joint winner of the Take Pride in Mid Sussex Award. Colin, who was nominated by editor David Tingley, volunteers as a Waste Prevention Advisor. As well as producing a popular monthly recycling column for the magazine, Colin has delivered 28 talks to local groups and notched up 220 hours of volunteering during 2019!

Attending the award ceremony with wife Chris, Colin

was thrilled when his name was announced as one of the winners. "Receiving this award is such a great honour," said Colin, who recalled the suspense as the sealed envelope was opened. "There were lots of very worthy nominations in each category, and we all had a nerve-racking wait for each announcement, which started with 'and the winner is..' just like we see on the TV!

"To be recognised for the work I do on recycling is good, but to receive the first prize was amazing," he added. "It has given me even more enthusiasm to keep promoting recycling through events and talks all around Mid Sussex."

Colin shared the award with Rob McIntyre from the Balcombe Garden Guerrillas who care for the gardens at Balcombe Station.

Lindfield couple Linda and Brian Dove, representing the Spire IT Support Café, picked up a joint Stronger Communities Award.

"We were surprised and delighted to be joint winners in the 'Stronger Communities Award' category," said Linda.

"We are part of a dedicated and committed group of volunteers, who give friendly support to those needing IT help. Over the last 12 months we have held 280 'one to one' sessions, tackling a myriad of problems."

She added that the project started five years ago with IT drop in sessions at the Spire Café, behind St John's Church in Burgess Hill.

"We currently have a team of four volunteers who aim to provide help and advice at the weekly sessions and work on a 'one to one' and 'first come first served' basis



covering laptops, tablets and mobile phones using Apple, Android and Windows software," said Linda.

"Many of those attending our sessions are senior citizens and we strive to give them confidence to send emails, visit websites and tackle online activities.

"We are grateful to St John's Church for the use of the Spire Café and internet facilities to hold our sessions and to MSOPC (Mid Sussex Older Peoples Council) for its continued promotion of the service."

The award was shared with 'Sussex Oakleaf's The Big Mental Health Pop Up' project.

Oathall Community College staff member Peter McCleery was also pleased to pick up an award at the Afternoon Tea event. The Young Achievers Award was open to nominees who had overcome significant personal difficulties but still made a positive difference to other young people in the area. Peter, who has autism and is a full time ICT technician at the school, was instrumental in creating a public petition to highlight the issues surrounding the closure of Haywards Heath College. He was delighted to receive his award from the High Sheriff.



Co-op manager Matt Asky was commended in the Business in the Community Commendations.

Matt was nominated by Mid Sussex Older People's Council for giving 'outstanding support to the community'.

The nomination read: 'He shows a great interest in the functions that MSOPC are doing and supports us by donating food, such as mince pies for Christmas Tea. He gives us his help and support to know how we can apply for funding from the Co-Op to support older people'.

'Matt is particularly keen to help resolve loneliness and isolation in our community and, as well as supporting MSOPC, helps other local charities. He is always kind and caring and never minds going the extra mile to help'.

And last, but not least, we were extremely proud that our family of magazines – Lindfield Life, Cuckfield Life, Hurst Life and Hassocks Life – also received a community commendation in the Business in the Community category.

Chairman of Mid Sussex District Council Cllr Colin Trumble who hosted the new awards said: "We would like to thank all our sponsors who helped support the awards and make this such a glittering occasion. The celebrities of this event though are, of course, all those honoured and recognised, and what a fantastic range of projects, stories and events we have heard from across our fabulous district. A huge congratulations to everyone awarded and those commended, they really are stars in our community."

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(Peter Larson)

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Lisa Barnett

Keith Morrison
Stuart Silk

Mervyn Weeks
Hugh Bourne





All Saints Church

www.allsaintslindfield.org | Email: allsaints@lindfield.info | Tel: 01444 482405

Sunday 15th December	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Morning Worship (with usual children's groups for 0-14s)
	3.30pm	A service of Lessons and Carols with choir and string orchestra (1)
	6pm	A service of Lessons and Carols with choir and string orchestra (2)
Tuesday 17th December	10am	Carols and readings for Seniors (over 55s) in the Church followed by coffee and mince pies
Sunday 22nd December	9.30am	Nativity
	11.15am	Holy Communion service
	7.30pm	Contemporary Carols with All Saints Community Orchestra
Christmas Eve	3pm	Christingle Service (1)
	4.15pm	Christingle Service (2)
	5.30pm	Christingle Service (3)
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	8am	Christmas Communion (BCP)
	10am	Christmas Day Celebration
Sunday 29 December	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.15am	Combined service
	6.30pm	Contemporary Evening Service

Lindfield United Reformed Church

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

Sunday 15th	10am	Family Service (with a Messy telling of the Nativity!)
Thursday 19th	7.30pm	Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 20th	6.30pm	Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service
Christmas Day	10am	Family Worship
1st January	10am	Church Open for prayer

Lindfield Evangelical Free Church

Contact info? Leave line here.

Sunday 22nd	10.30am	Morning Service
Sunday 22nd	4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight Service followed by tea in Hall
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Morning Family Celebration Service
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Morning Service
Tuesday 31st December	11.30pm	Watch Night Holy Communion - An opportunity to give thanks for the old year and to pray in the New Year.

St Augustine's, Scaynes Hill

More information: Canon Lisa Barnett (01444 831827, revlisa@btinternet.com)
or Jenny Walker (01444 831696, jennypwalker@gmail.com)

Sunday 1st	10am	Christingle Service—All Age Communion
	5pm	Carols around the Christmas Tree followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Sunday 8th	3.30pm	Christmas Family Fun—making Decorations followed by children's picnic tea.
Sunday 22nd	10am	Parish Communion with Nativity Play
	6pm	Christmas Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Christmas Eve	4pm	Children's Christmas Celebration, with craft activity
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10am	All Age Christmas Communion

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Sussex Butcher of the Year

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The changing of the seasons brings an array of new delights to the butcher's shop window at 40 High Street, Lindfield.

Cottenham's of Lindfield-Craft Butcher is a huge advocate of eating good meat seasonally, which is produced from local animals of known provenance. John Cottenham and his highly skilled team are passionate about their craft and thoroughly deserve their Sussex Butcher of the Year Award. The judges declared that 'if you haven't been to this shop then you should pop in to say hello as it's a really fabulous food experience... they really are pushing the boundaries in what can be achieved in butchery. They are just doing everything right! A truly superb butcher's shop.'

Since taking over in 2016, husband and wife team John and Sally, have taken on adjacent extra cold storage space and fitted a state of the art new refrigeration unit which enables them to more easily satisfy customer demand. John explains: "As we are a master butchers, breaking down a whole carcass and minimising wastage, we need extra storage space to hang our beef, for example, without interruption as it improves with weeks of hanging. We are renowned for the quality of our meat and so it is important to me that conditions for its preparation are perfect." Cottenham's of Lindfield works with local farmers it knows and trusts who have the highest standards of animal welfare and whose farms and animals it's familiar with. These partnerships are an essential part of Cottenham's story and the reason you can have absolute confidence in the provenance and quality of its meat.

"The extra space also helps us try to keep up with customer demand for venison and game." John is a qualified and experienced deer stalker and so provides a unique link in championing this wonderfully wild, sustainable food source. "We've introduced a lot of customers to this versatile meat, which is very lean and healthy. From field to butchery, we are completely in



control and our venison can be transferred from where it was sourced and in our new cold store within an hour."

John explains: "We are constantly reviewing things and have recently changed to even more local suppliers for our free-range chicken, and we also offer local Lindfield goat which is proving very popular. Similarly, our turkeys are from a small, local family farm with over 30 years' experience of rearing birds slowly in the traditional way. As can be seen on our website www.cottenhams.com/christmas both white and bronze turkeys have a vast amount of space to roam and socialise, along with bales and branches for natural roosting behaviour."

John also makes a bold statement on his website regarding eating less meat. "Better to enjoy good quality well produced meat a little less frequently than bland and textureless mass produced meat of unknown source. Remember a more economical cut from a well-bred animal that's led a stress-free life and eaten a good natural diet will always be better than a prime cut from a poor animal."

Cottenham's of Lindfield also prides itself on good old-fashioned personal service. It has a free local delivery round used by customers young and old for orders big and small. John says: "The best bit about Cottenham's of Lindfield is being a part of such a vibrant rural community with a lively, well-supported high street with customers who care and back what we are doing. We love spotting our Cottenham's bags for life all over Sussex (so far, we have given out several thousand) and we encourage folk to bring in their reusable food storage containers for transporting their meat home in a convenient and sustainable way. Good food connects people and puts a smile on their faces. We are proud to support the local schools and bonfire society as we are passionate about the local kids understanding and respecting where their food has come from and the tradition, care and craft that has brought it to them."

Cottenham's of Lindfield-Craft Butcher is taking Christmas orders now - please order early by calling 01444 483303 or email: orders@cottenhams.com.

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Clough's Deli

BEHIND THE COUNTER



By Mary Collins

Much has changed since Albert Clough founded his laundry on Sunte Avenue in 1934. Not only has the area changed significantly but, through a series of reincarnations, the laundry became a general store, competing with the likes of Tremaine's in Lindfield. It later added a Post Office and evolved into a delicatessen and, more recently, a wholefood store. Whatever its guise, it has been a cornerstone of village life for 85 years.

Mark Clough, Albert's grandson, is now in charge, having taken over the business in 2012 from his father David. Now in his 80s, David still helps out in the shop a few times a week. Mark says of his father: "He is remarkable and after 55 years he still loves being here – he will never give up and I will never be able to catch him up!"

Amiably chipping in on this interview, David is full of wonderful anecdotes about the shop's former days under his own father's management and when he ran the shop with his friends Ernie and Norman, and recalls: "My father was so hard up he only ever had very limited stock so dotted one of each can on shelves around the shop."

Chatting more about the shop's history, Mark says: "It certainly had a colourful past and has long been a wonderful hub for the community. My grandfather and father built up the business by delivering food to residents around the area – the business thrived and by the 90s they were making 400 deliveries a week – they were like the Ocado of their day!"

The shop soon became famous throughout Sussex for its cooked hams. Indeed, they once had a cook room in the back of the building where the hams were boned, tied and cooked. "Sadly, that all changed when new rules, regulations and risk assessments came in and it had to stop. At the time we felt like bakers not being able to sell bread – so we had to reinvent ourselves," says Mark.

Prompted by David, Mark reveals that in the late 80s the Post Office was robbed: "The place was cased, and they broke into my parent's house in Wivelsfield, threatened them with baseball bats and tied them up. They then used my dad's van to get here and let themselves in with his stolen keys – in excess of £20k was stolen from the safe." David interjects: "It was good that we were smokers because we burnt through the ropes with a lighter before calling the police!"



Having helped out in the shop from the age of nine, Mark always wanted to join the family business, and after a career as a British Telecom engineer, he retrained and came on board as the sub-postmaster: "It was the only way I could get into the business at the time, but by 1994 the post office was no longer making money and was closed, so I finally moved into the shop."

Working alongside his father for more than ten years, Mark took over the business when David retired. But it wasn't all plain sailing. According to Mark: "It was an horrendous time for the shop, and for us personally, and it was so much hard work. Business wise, it was an immense job trying to unwind something that had been going for so long in one direction, and on a personal level, my wife Donna and I moved from Seaford thinking we could live above the shop, but we hated not being near the sea.

"And, with the shop in disarray with building work, it was a completely crazy time. To compound the misery, British Gas decided to close the road to lay a new mains pipe – it really was awful. But we made it through with a lot of enthusiasm and support from our customers who loved our bright new shop."

Remarkably he credits the humble sandwich for turning around the business: "They literally saved us. We were making perhaps one or two a week and then it became a big new part of what we did. We now we make hundreds every day and also supply local businesses with lunches."

With a passion for service, quality products and with a keen eye on the environment, Mark is credited with growing the business into the award-winning independent store we know today, with its range of meats, pies, scotch eggs and an extensive line-up of cheeses, all locally sourced wherever possible, from the likes of High Weald Dairy in Horsted Keynes, Allsop and Walker from Mayfield, and the Traditional Cheese Co. in Stonegate.

With Christmas at the forefront of his agenda, he says: "We are always massively busy. Many of our customers are firmly continuing the traditions their parents, and indeed grandparents, started years ago and we are very much part of that – they come to Clough's because they believe it's really not Christmas Day without one of our cheese boards!"

Mark and Donna, who runs the catering side of the company and looks after design and marketing, have moved the shop towards wholefoods. "We live on healthy foods and we wanted to offer the same ranges to our customers," says Mark. In line with this new strategy, Clough's launched its package free, environmentally friendly range of products earlier this year and now stock organic foods, natural and organic toiletries, eco-friendly household cleaning products, coffee beans and a wide range of herbs and spices. In the new year they will extend their range with dietary supplements, organic wines and oils.

Reflecting on the change, Mark says: "It is probably the best thing we have ever done, and our customers have embraced the service – we started with one shelf of package-free goods and now we have six, and where there was just one glass jar there are now 40. It is cheaper and, without the unnecessary packaging, it's a great way forward for the business and for our customers."

Despite living and breathing the business, Mark still has time to indulge his other passions. A keen sportsman, he says: "I have been windsurfing for 40 years and I love sea swimming. Walking is also a huge part of my life and worries soon fade away with a bracing walk along the beach with the dog. I also love to cook and have recently discovered gardening – I have grown tomatoes, courgettes and runner beans, though the latter were not as successful as I had hoped!"

Reflecting on what makes the shop so special, Mark explains: "We really have had some mad magical moments with customers – it is very much a community hub with lots of laughter and chit chat. We know our customers and we hope we cheer their day. They certainly cheer ours. The local support and community spirit help hold the area together and helps bond people. Long may it continue."





Keep some things simple this month!

SIMPLY GOOD FOOD

Savoury bread and butter pudding (serves 3-4)

At least an hour before baking cut the crusts off 6 large slices of bread (any kind) and lightly spread with butter plus a little mustard and/or pickle. Top three slices with a layer of ham (or crisply grilled bacon) and a generous handful of grated (or sliced) cheese plus some thinly sliced tomatoes (optional). Top with the remaining bread and cut each sandwich into triangles. Arrange in a buttered shallow baking dish, on edge and slightly overlapping – like roof tiles. Whisk together 2 large eggs with 600ml full fat milk – or half cream, half milk, plus seasoning. Pour through a sieve over the bread. Cover and chill for at least 1 hour. Preheat oven 170°C. Sprinkle a little more cheese over the top, pop in the oven and cook for 45-60 min or until just set and golden brown. Serve freshly baked with a crisp green salad.

Pasta with asparagus and creamy chilli sauce (serves 2)

Cook 175g penne pasta to packet directions adding 250g asparagus spears, cut into 2.5cm pieces, for the last few mins. Cover and leave to stand for 5 min. Whisk 2-3tbs chilli sauce or jelly into 100ml crème fraiche. Drain the pasta/asparagus and tip back into the pan. Stir in the sauce and gently heat until bubbling hot. Serve topped with grated Parmesan cheese.

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By Caroline Young

There is plenty to do at home in December – presents, decorations, cards and, of course, The Cake and The Pudding. I don't want to be making complicated recipes for our family meals. Here are some of my favourite dishes, inexpensive, simple to make, not too much washing up afterwards but warm and filling for chilly days. They could all be made ahead of baking, apart from the asparagus dish, then covered and refrigerated.



Pasta and leek bake (serves 4-6)

Preheat oven 180°C. Make a sauce with 50g butter, 25g plain flour and 425ml milk. Whisk in seasoning, a grating of nutmeg and 250g grated cheese. Cook over low heat, stirring until the cheese has melted. Cook 225g pasta shapes to packet directions adding 3 finely sliced leeks to the pan for the last 5 mins. Drain (reserve a little of the water), return to the pan and add the cheese sauce. Add a little of the pasta water if the mixture is too stiff. Tip into a buttered shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with fresh breadcrumbs and/or more grated cheese and bake for about 20 min until golden brown.

Gnocchi in tomato ragu (serves 4)

Using a large pan, gently cook 1 finely sliced large onion, 2 thinly sliced carrots, some crushed garlic and 2 sticks of celery in 2tbs rapeseed oil until soft. Stir 400g can cherry tomatoes, 2tbs tomato puree, 2tbs dry vermouth and 2tsp sugar and cook over low heat for about 15 min to make a thick sauce. Preheat oven 180°C. Cook 450g pack gnocchi to packet directions, drain and add to the sauce. Tip into a shallow baking dish, top with fresh breadcrumbs (or cut the bread into tiny cubes) plus some grated Parmesan or Cheddar cheese. Bake for about 30 min or until golden brown.

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Photo: Emily Gillson

Remembrance Sunday

Hundreds of Lindfield folk turned out on Remembrance Sunday at All Saints Church for the annual tribute. It started before 3pm with a short ceremony at the War Memorial, where the crowd was able to arch around to watch on the closed High Street. After this a service was held in the church where it was standing room only. Ministers from all three village churches took part in the service, which also featured contributions from the community, including children from both primary schools.

Following the service, the High Street was closed to traffic again in order that the procession (which included Royal British Legion, Scouts, Guides and Lindfield Bonfire Society) could form again to parade down to the King Edward Hall – where tea and cake was served.


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Goodbye my friend

By John Freeman

I am writing to tell you a little bit about my best friend Joanna Gale-Smith. I don't often write about my friends, but she was an extremely good friend of mine who was always full of life, full of the joys of spring and most definitely had a spring in her step.

Jo, better known as the 'garden fairy', who most of you in Lindfield would have come across cutting hedges, digging gardens, even helping me put up vast fences!

Jo developed breast cancer a few years back, which was hard enough coping with and trying to stand by her giving her support when she needed it and when she didn't. She successfully came through this and was always so positive beyond belief. She started her gardening business shortly after this recovery and made it her own from the start. I'm not sure where the 'garden fairy' actually came from but it was well suited to her.

Back in August she was complaining of headaches and dizzy spells, which for a fit girl was rather surprising. After nagging her to go to see her doctor, she was later admitted to the East Surrey Hospital in Redhill. I, along with many others and her two beautiful daughters, went to see her there where we were to learn she had developed a swelling on her brain along with a tumour.

Now to say this was an extreme shock is an understatement! My good friend, my best friend, lay in hospital with this all going on in her head. Jo, being a strong-minded person, showed amazing strength as she was told this news by her doctors.

A few weeks passed and she was able to go home - albeit to a friend's house to be looked out for, but shortly after arriving she was rushed back to the Princess Royal Hospital. She remained at PRH for a couple of long, lonely weeks and, seeing her as much as possible, she looked in good spirits for someone who couldn't stand being where she was.

Joanna found herself being driven away from hospital back in September only to be admitted to the St Peter & St James Hospice near Chailey. This news to me, and others, was just devastating. It was such a shock, thinking this does not happen to a girl my age!

Joanna died on 23rd September. She was a beautiful, talented and wonderful person who we all miss terribly. She leaves behind two amazing daughters Mia and Chloe.

I miss my beautiful friend.



Joanna Gale-Smith
9th October 1970 - 23rd September 2019

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174 'swoovers' take over village hall

The Big Swoove - a 40 hour Swoove Marathon - held at the Scaynes Hill Millennium Centre over the last weekend in September was a huge hit.

174 local 'swoovers' from the ages of three to 82 took part in the event aiming to raise £40,000 for 40 local charities. A delighted organiser and Swoove founder Esther Featherstone said: "The whole event from start to finish was extremely humbling. One swoover from Eastbourne completed the whole 40 hours, with others doing as many as 30!

"The fewest we had were ten in the twilight hours, which is just brilliant. Delirium may have set in at points as we were instructing on very little sleep, as were the swoovers who were keeping us going!" The last hour saw guest star instructor Emily join Esther on stage. Emily is 30 and has Downs Syndrome.

"Emily was so inspiring and I couldn't have been prouder of her," said Esther. "She had the support of her 'Embark' friends who swooved with us for the last hour. The very last cool down number we signed and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I am sure this had nothing to do with the lack of sleep!



"We are currently at £20,000 - which is phenomenal, but I always raise the amount we set out to get, so myself and all of the instructors are going to spend the next year raising the next £20,000 for the 40 very deserving charities."

If you would like to donate please visit: www.swooveaid.com

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Smuggling comes to Lindfield

Lindfield resident Richard Mason takes a look back with one eye on the history books and another on local folklore to put together this fascinating and amusing story of days gone by.

By Richard Mason

Most will know that on the northern flank of our beautiful village flows the River Ouse, these days more a super-stream than a river as its lack of usage means that banks have eroded, trees past their sell by date have fallen into it and natural forces allowed to rule supreme. Tranquillity is now the name of the game; its usage these days restricted to just fishermen and the occasional walker, some of whom will see a kingfisher and, the very lucky, an otter.

But this has not always been the case, in days gone by the river was navigable to cargo boats, some carrying bricks and building material to create the largest brick built construction in the world - the Balcombe Viaduct - and others the movement of goods between Mid Sussex and the sea at Newhaven, some 28 kilometres distant, not least the transport of cannon balls that had been made by the Wealden iron industry and then sold to the French to bombard English soldiers.

The River Ouse with its collection of locks began commercial life in the late 17th Century and reached Lindfield in 1809. The linkage with the South Coast was recognised by the smuggling fraternity who established the method and means to exploit the village's easy access to centres of population close to London as here a north-south well-used track had existed for thousands of years.

There is a popular misconception that smugglers, also known as 'owlers' during Oliver Cromwell's time, were gentlemen who were motivated by the spirit of adventure rather than commercial opportunity. With very rare exceptions nothing could be further from reality. Nearly all were braggarts of some description whose sole motivation was to make money and who by fear and coercion took advantage of the local population to assist them. It should be remembered that this was a time when physical punishment, deportation and even death was the fate of all who were involved in defrauding the Inland Revenue.

It was also a time of extreme poverty. Incomes were largely driven by agriculture and the wages a mere pittance. Many land workers were to be encouraged to assist smugglers where the earnings for one night's work could exceed a week of legal activity. It is known that smugglers, in an attempt to motivate the local population by fear, resorted to tales of witchcraft and other supernatural forces for this was the age of Sussex folklore and superstition.

Perhaps it is an exceptional statistic that in 1782 three hundred pack horses were led through Lindfield's High Street all loaded with contraband.



So Lindfield became a smuggling heart with the Tiger Inn at its centre. Beneath the building were large cellars, and these were used to stockpile brandy and other goods with a high value due to Custom and Excise duty until they could be transported to London. Supplementing the Tiger's storage space it is believed that a large tomb outside the south door of All Saints Church was similarly used. It was unmarked by neither a residents name nor the date of death and seen as a catchment point approved by the pastor at that time that was presumed to be rewarded with a bottle or two of the brandy stored!

There may be other links with All Saints and the River Ouse. When the church was being refurbished recently with the work completed requiring the replacement of its stone floor, it was thought by some that a smugglers tunnel linking the two maybe discovered that connected Old Place with the river. At least as far as All Saints was concerned no evidence came to light.

A number of factors were to contribute to the demise of Lindfield's role as a smuggling centre, along with many other Sussex villages. The hard-pressed government Preventative Officers were to obtain reinforcements from Royal Navy personnel after the Napoleonic Wars making smuggling a far more dangerous profession and this combined with the Revenue reducing the high rate of taxes on spirits especially making the operation far less profitable. Locally, and with the arrival of more efficient means of transport, the role of the River Ouse was to decline and by 1861 the river became locally unnavigable. The age of the train had arrived.



Let us leave the age of smuggling to the words of Rudyard Kipling's A Smuggler's Song:

*If you wake at midnight, and hear a horse's feet,
 Don't go drawing back the blind, or looking in the street,
 Them that ask no questions isn't told a lie.
 Watch the wall my darling while the Gentlemen go by.
 Five and twenty ponies,
 Trotting through the dark -
 Brandy for the Parson, 'Baccy for the Clerk.
 Laces for a lady; letters for a spy,
 Watch the wall my darling while the Gentlemen go by!
 Running round the woodlump if you chance to find
 Little barrels, roped and tarred, all full of brandy-wine,
 Don't you shout to come and look, nor use 'em for your play.
 Put the brishwood back again - and they'll be gone next day!*

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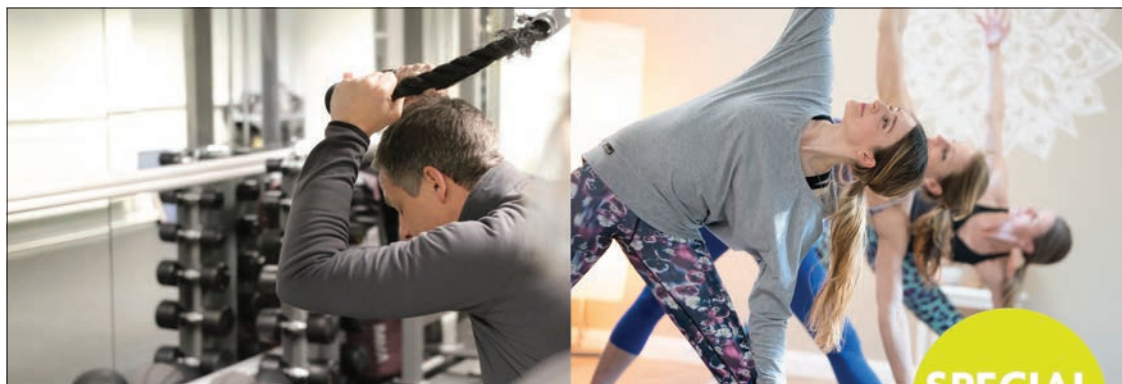


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No job too small for plumber Godfrey

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Lindfield family man Godfrey Muneri is happy to be known as the local plumber for fellow residents. But there is more to this plumber than a bag of tools and a branded van!

The first thing you (probably) don't know about Godfrey is that he is a former professional footballer. Born in Zimbabwe, football was Godfrey's first love and he spent three years playing for the Zimbabwean equivalent of Manchester United – Dynamos. Although he's long since hung up his professional boots, Godfrey does still enjoy playing twice a week locally. He also spent four years running a franchise restaurant in Brighton! But ten years ago Godfrey decided to change career direction: "I enjoyed the restaurant business and loved the customer side of things, but the retail trade was getting tougher and tougher, so I was keen to find another way to provide for my family," he commented.

Godfrey went back to college in 2009 in order to gain his City & Guilds plumbing qualifications. "I was already pretty 'handy' around the house but I knew that I needed to be fully skilled in order to start the plumbing business," he explained.

Now Godfrey looks after a wide variety of needs for his local customers. He attends between five and seven jobs a day, which can range from full bathroom installations to replacing a tap or fixing a toilet flush.

"An increasing number of customers are reconfiguring their bathrooms. Many older people are taking out baths and putting a shower or full wet room in its place – to make access easier for them. These kinds of



projects are great to do, as it makes a real difference to the homeowner," Godfrey continued. But it's not only large installs which make customers happy; sometimes the small fixes can do the same. "A lady I visited recently simply needed the stopcock switching off, to immediately remedy a tap which had been running all night. As soon as the water stopped pouring, her relief was obvious. I could then fix the problem for her."

Godfrey can tackle all manner of plumbing issues, including looking after hot water cylinder tanks, fixing leaking taps and toilets that won't stop flushing, shower conversions and a bathroom's complete refurbishment or just a refresh. "Reviving the bathroom can be as simple as removing the old silicon around a bath and running a new, clean line along the edge. A cost-effective and easy solution which is popular with customers!"

Although Godfrey currently works on his own, he does use a few trusted subcontractors for extra capacity or specific types of jobs. For instance, as Godfrey isn't Gas Safe registered he can't personally service a boiler or connect a new gas cooker – but he will always get it organised for his customers.

Godfrey and his wife Zoe moved to Lindfield, from Brighton, five years ago with their three sons. "We love being in the village, which very much feels like home now," he says. All the boys go to school locally and one has recently been 'spotted' by a Crystal Palace scout, so looks to be following in his dad's sporting footsteps!

When you next have a need for a plumber, call Godfrey at C&G Plumbers on 07833 726 411 (24 hour response) or 01444 215 323. Godfrey is on Check-a-trade and also a member of Rated People, and offers OAP discount to his customers. www.candgplumbers.co.uk

Pond Island Discs

By Ayesha Gilani

There is nothing more joyful and triumphant than singing yourself hoarse and tearing up the dance floor to a live band in the run-up to Christmas. A gig with your besties is the perfect antidote to any 'Bah humbuggerly' that may arise from those bleak midwinter blues. Thanks to Lindfield Arts Festival, I discovered that our village is brimming with some fantastic local bands. Here they reveal the inspiration behind their names and the songs they love performing. Catch them when you can – you'll be in for a treat. Pond Island Discs wants to champion home-grown musical talent. Are you a singer-songwriter or a band that performs in the area? Drop me a line via: editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk. Feliz Navidad!

Rusty Mondays

Hangin' On the Telephone by Blondie

Our chosen song is nobody's favourite, just well loved. Each band member brings their own personal flavour that crashes into punk rock. This song has power and passion from the first word to the last chord. It's energetic, has a great beat, brilliant lead break and some cool chord progressions. It fits our style perfectly. We started off jamming together very infrequently and we'd always apologise for being really rusty. The only free night we could get together? Monday! Follow us on Facebook Rusty Mondays.



The 100 Monkeys Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen

The 100 Monkeys was formed in 2014 by professional musicians on the principal of delivering great groove and vocal excellence. The name derives from the philosophy of the development of the collective consciousness, which sounds pretentious but we are not! The song we most enjoy playing is Bohemian Rhapsody. Why? Because we do it properly, all the way through, including the opera bit! We want to make you dance, sing and party! Next gig 31st December at St Francis Social Club, Haywards Heath. Visit www.the100monkeys.com



CrYsis

Born To Be Wild by Steppenwolf

This is the song we love performing together. It's an awesome song and it's the first one we learnt and played together! We always start with this one - a good loosener so to speak. The band was formed four years ago by five local guys who should have known better! We're a load of guys of a certain age playing rock covers your mid-life CrYsis! Follow us on Facebook [crysisrockband](https://www.facebook.com/crysisrockband).



The Vinyl Capris Got to get you into my Life by The Beatles

The Vinyl Capris formed in 2009 with a mission to write original songs that capture the lost art of the 'hook'. Since then we have added an eclectic mix of classics to our original material but if we had to choose one song it would be Got to get you into my life by The Beatles. It showcases the best of popular songwriting and of course has a great hook. As for our name? The vinyl-roofed Capri signalled entry into the 80s and it was the aspirational car to have. We felt it related to the era that best identified our influences. See the website www.thevinylcapris.com



Soulville

Do I Do by Stevie Wonder

We're a six piece band playing, as you'd expect, soul music ranging from well-known floor fillers to some favoured lesser performed soul classics by artists such as Chaka Khan, Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys and Michael McDonald. We're all locally based and have been playing professionally for years. There was a special vibe and fab chemistry between us right from the start. Our favourite number is Do I Do by Stevie Wonder. It's demanding on every level, but it is such a great track and goes down brilliantly live. Band contact mrsrolphy@hotmail.co.uk. Next gig Fri 29th November at The Boars Head, Crowborough 8pm.



Off the Record Pinball Wizard by The Who

Formed in 2012 Off the Record is a five piece rock and pop guitar band so great that it sounds like the record! The most excellent song we perform is undoubtedly Pinball Wizard by The Who. Our lead singer has been known to squeal with delight when the guitar and bass comes in! Follow us on Facebook [offtherecordssussex](https://www.facebook.com/offtherecordssussex).



VE grants available

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020 a national three-day celebration will take place from 8th to 10th May.


Mid Sussex District Council would like to support local people in their efforts to mark the occasion and the Cabinet Grants Panel recently agreed to provide grants of £250 to those who are organising street parties and events for the VE commemoration weekend.

For full details of the VE Day commemoration grant funding, including a straightforward online application form, visit: www.midsussex.gov.uk/grants


Got a fab photo of Lindfield?

We are always on the lookout for photos of the village for our front covers. If you have an image which you think fits the bill, please email the best resolution file in to photos@lindfieldlife.co.uk. If your image gets used in print, you'll receive a £20 shopping voucher to spend on the High Street.





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Ballet pupils dance with the pros

Christmas came early this year for fourteen fortunate pupils of the Gielgud Academy of Performing Arts (GAPA) who performed in the Vienna Festival Ballet's (VFB) production of The Nutcracker at Clair Hall in Haywards Heath.

The popular full-length ballet was performed to a packed house in October, with six GAPA girls and two boys dancing as the party children in the prologue scene, and six younger pupils performing as the Mice in the battle scene between the Rats and Nutcracker Soldiers.

GAPA Principal Suzanne Gielgud explained: "This unique experience gave the aspiring youngsters the opportunity to watch the professional dancers in their pre-show warm up class and rehearsals. In addition, once the children had performed their dance, they were able to watch Act 2 from the wings on side of stage, giving them a glimpse into what a future career in the ballet profession would be like."

Performing as the girls in the party scene were Beatrice Jenkins, Beatrice Hersey, Fleur Record, Ella Richardson, Eliza Hutchison and Emma Batley. Eliza, 12, said: "I loved dancing with the ballet company and seeing how a professional ballet works. I'll never forget it."

The GAPA boys performing in the party scene were Billy Byers and Oscar Ward Dutton. Oscar, 13, said: "It was particularly inspiring to watch the men who were all so talented."



The little Mice were Eliza and Lili Boniface, Orla Carter, Ella Burns, Harriet Relf and Eleanor Spensley. "It was an amazing experience to watch from the wings all the beautiful talent," said nine year old Eleanor, from Lindfield.

Holiday snaps

We love seeing your copy of Lindfield Life getting around the world, so do please take a snap and email it in to photos@lindfieldlife.co.uk - thanks!



Tim and Clare Richardson celebrating with Singapore slings

Singapore has topped the list of holiday destinations for our residents this autumn!

Gardening enthusiasts Tim and Clare Richardson are seen celebrating with Singapore slings after winning their dream holiday in a BBC Gardeners World Magazine competition last year.

The rooftop bar at the Fullerton gave them the perfect view of the iconic Marina Bay Sands hotel.

Also in Singapore were Lindfield Life readers Rachael & Richard Jackson.

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A collage of six small images arranged in a 2x3 grid. Top-left: A duck on a pond. Top-right: A street scene with buildings. Middle-left: A bird on a roof. Middle-right: A stone pillar. Bottom-left: Purple flowers. Bottom-right: Pink roses.



Rachael & Richard Jackson in front of Marina Bay Sands

Is everything sorted?



Christmas Tree



Presents



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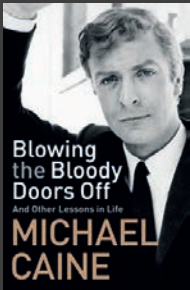
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Blowing the Bloody Doors Off by Michael Caine

BOOK REVIEW

By Cavan Wood

Michael Caine's book has the subtitle 'and other lessons in life'. The 86 year old film actor is a remarkable man and the wisdom he has acquired in a sixty plus year career is impressive. Yet this is not just an old man telling us his memories of long ago - he is very generous and encouraging to the modern generation of acts. It is also more than a man just reflecting on acting: there are some really telling and thoughtful reflections on pursuing the best life. You will be a much richer person for reading this book.

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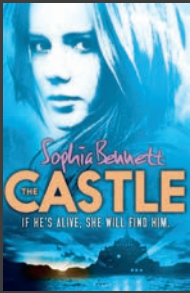
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The Castle by Sophia Bennett

BOOK REVIEW

By Emily Jones, Oathall student

I really enjoyed reading this book because it has a great storyline and introduces lots of different struggles for the character. This keeps the reader involved and wanting to know what happens next.

The main character, Peta Jones, gets a strange call after her mother remarries. She supposedly lost her dad to a bomb but Peta is convinced he is still alive when she gets this phone call she sets out to find him.

I thought this book was so good because the characters are really loveable and the storyline keeps it interesting. I would recommend this book to all ages but particularly Years 7-9. If you like mysteries and a gripping storyline then this a good book to choose.



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Local theatre alive and well in KEH

By David Nicholas

Mayhem, misunderstanding and hilarity ensued in Lindfield Dramatic Club's riotous production of Alan Ayckbourn's comedy *Ten Times Table*, which was directed by Ron Skinner. Running for three successful nights, I went on the Friday night, which was a full house and I can see why. The play tells the story of the first pageant in the village of Pendon. It starts with the committee planning the event, which a Marxist firebrand is determined to hijack but is pitted against the right wing, fur coated and middle-class wife of the chairman. The absolutely marvellous and well executed final scene was the pageant itself, which saw the members of the committee struggling to succeed, locked into the hotel with ill-fitting trousers, chaos and a stylised horse. The day looks like it's turning to disaster.

The LDC performance was spectacular with the King Edward Hall stage dressed as the hotel and the players in the finest costumes. Strong acting by the cast, blessed with good comic timing, generated much



laughter from the audience. Special mention goes to Anne Skinner stepping into the leading role of Helen with script book in hand to cover after a cast member unfortunately had to withdraw at the very last minute, and to Martin Linaker as Captain Barton bringing all the strategy and demeanour of *Dad's Army's* Captain Mainwaring in his finest hour to the role, in underpants and military uniform, as the grand strategy was set up and turned into disarray. The play marks a reinvigorating performance for the LDC and I look forward to their spring 2020 production.

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Lindfield Rural Parish Council Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

Millennium Village Centre, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, West Sussex RH17 7PG
Tel: 01444 831499 email: clerk@lindfieldrural-pc.org.uk www.lindfieldrural-pc.org.uk

Autumn Statement 2019

By John Dumbleton, Chairman, Lindfield Rural Parish Council

I am pleased to submit my six-monthly report (the other is represented by the Chairman's Report) to afford residents an update on the Parish Council's (PC) involvement in the community.

Housing has again taken centre stage with the developments at Heathwood Park, Lindfield Meadows (Gravelly Lane) and Scaynes Hill (adjacent to The Farmers) all progressing in various stages of development. The Parish Council sends representatives to Community Engagement meetings, where other Agencies, Stakeholders, Local Residents and various groups liaise with the developers in an attempt to minimise disruption. The proposed development at Walstead (Wates 200 homes with school) is in abeyance supposedly for Wates to find a partner to develop the site.

However, one such site that is causing problems is off High Beech Lane (opposite the Haywards Heath Golf Club (HHGC) where the stability of the land is causing considerable consternation for the residents south of the area who are battling to prevent any such development. Both Lindfield PCs are in support of the residents in the attempt to persuade MSDC to reject any such application due to that fragile terrain.

With regard to the proposed development at the Haywards Heath Golf Club and grounds, the community has had some success in preventing development by, firstly, being successful in creating it as a Community Asset and secondly MSDC removing the whole site from their 'Housing Site Allocation' indicating that Lindfield had had enough new housing. However, the developer is still battling to overturn that decision!

The PC continues to establish ways of enhancing the Scaynes Hill Common, Anchor Pond and Walstead Burial Ground and is grateful for advice from residents. With regard to the last-named location we have recently commissioned a survey of the many trees and bushes to ascertain a maintenance programme. It is noted that some of the trees are over 200 years old.

The PC continues to maintain a 'Works Outstanding' list with details of works and progress. Many environmental elements and traffic calming measures are included. As part of our lighting update, The Hollow and roads off had been considered for the next tranche to be converted to LED. We have also purchased a second 'speed indicator device' and will be publishing the results of the data that was gathered in our next publication in Lindfield Life.

The PC has recently installed a defibrillator in the Fuel Station in Scaynes Hill (opposite The Farmers) and it is felt appropriate to arrange a familiarisation seminar. This will be arranged for early in the New Year. For further information speak to staff in the Parish Office.

I would wish to take this opportunity on behalf of Parish Councillors and staff of wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Would you like to make a difference in your community?

Vacancy for a member of Lindfield Rural Parish Council – could YOU fill it?

We have had a Parish Councillor vacancy for many months now and are still seeking a suitable person to represent our area as a Councillor. Could that person be you?

Can you make a difference to your local community? Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? Lindfield Rural Parish Council has a vacancy for a new member to be co-opted to the Council.

Councillors represent the interests of the whole community, and Government is more than ever looking to communities and local councils to respond to very local needs and priorities. Lindfield Rural Parish Council is looking for community-minded, proactive and practical people able to deal effectively with a range of issues. Councillors are required to attend monthly evening meetings. Also important is the ability to communicate and to work as part of a team with other Councillors.

As a Parish Councillor you will be influential in local projects and plans and take responsibility for decisions made that will have a real impact on the future of the community.

Councillors must be over 18 and be a British National or a qualifying citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Community. They must also live or work or own land within the Parish or within 3 miles of its boundaries. Please note that this is an unpaid voluntary position.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Council, please contact Santi Gil, Clerk to the Council, Lindfield Rural Parish Council, Millennium Village Centre, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, West Sussex, RH17 7PG. If you want to know more, please pop in for a chat about the role. Closing date, 12 noon on Monday 6th January 2020.

Clerk's Update

The new footpath on Scaynes Hill Common has been completed. We would like to thank Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) for approving the expenditure from Section 106 grants (Section 106 grants are those funded from Housing Developers when they undertake projects in the locality). The work was unfortunately hindered by torrential rain during the last few days of the project. This made it very difficult to complete without some disruption to the area, as much heavy machinery had to be used on sodden ground. This project was undertaken, after suggestions from local residents using the area, for the need of an updated path.

We have recently taken delivery of a new Speed Indicator Device (SID) that, once again, was kindly supplied through Section 106 funding from MSDC. You will shortly be seeing this device in operation on our streets. What you do not want to see is the angry face but the nice smile, showing that you are adhering to the speed limits and keeping our community safe.

Please remember we are still looking for a new Councillor to join our team. Could that be you?

We would love to get involved in more community-based events and it would nice to see more people volunteer and come up with ideas or projects. In other words, get those thinking caps on!

We wish you all a Merry Yuletide and hope you have lots of fun with your festivities.

Santi Gil, at clerk@lindfieldrural-pc.org. uk or call on 01444 831499

Sarah and I staff the office Monday to Thursday, but can often be out and about. The office is open to the public on Tuesdays 12.30pm to 1.30pm and Thursdays 10am to 11am.

For a visit outside of these hours, please just call us to arrange, we welcome your company!

Your Parish Councillors:

John Dumbleton (chair)
Trevor Webster (vice chair)
Brian Bunt
Keith Head
Chris Hersey
Margaret Hersey

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Tel: 482270 Parish Clerk: Santi Gil
Tel: 482270 Finance Officer: Sarah Anderson

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Lindfield Rural Parish Council Office is open to the public on Tues 12.30pm to 1.30pm & Thurs 10am to 11am

Section 106 Funded Project Photographs



New Scaynes Hill Common Path



"Smiley Face" Speed Indicator Device

Council meetings in 2020

Monday 13th January
Monday 24th February
Monday 6th April

King Edward Hall Lindfield
St Augustine's Church Annex, Scaynes Hill
King Edward Hall Lindfield

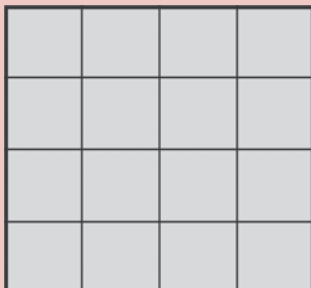
All meetings commence at 7.30pm

Time for a break

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE FUN...

In this, our festive issue, we have given you a bumper collection of brainteasers to have a go at. Answers on page 72.

MAGIC SQUARE



GREETING CARD IDEA

From the 16 letters of the phrase above, find four words which fit the grid so that they can be read both horizontally and vertically.

BOX CLEVER

Fill the 6 x 6 grid with as many boxes as there are numbers printed in the grid. Each box must be either square or rectangular and must contain just one of the numbers. The numbers show how many squares there should be in each box.



MISSING LINK

Each pair of words has a missing word between them that acts as a link to both (e.g. FRONT – DOOR – MAT). The initial letters of the six answers (reading downwards) will spell out a tree.

STERLING -----
 SALMON -----
 TRUNK -----
 TURN --
 WEDDING -----
 DEAF -----

LINING
 GIN
 RAGE
 START
 WALK
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SUDOKU

There is just one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. This is a logic puzzle, and you should not have to guess!

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

NONAGRAM

W	O	N
F	S	T
R	I	D



How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found. **15 Good; 18 Very Good; 21 Excellent.**

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

___ _ _ **T** _

What words link the following definitions?

1. a side;
2. a group of people;
3. a social gathering;
4. those involved in something.

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Puddle play

Reader Hannah Marshall was out walking with her sons last month when they discovered 'Lindfield's biggest puddle' at the bottom of Finches Gardens. You can imagine what happened next!



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Raffle

Emotional performance by ACT Theatre

ACE Theatre Company's recent production of *Bothered and Bewildered* tackled the subject of dementia.

Audiences laughed and cried at the story of Irene's worsening condition and the ways in which her daughters cope. Chrissie White gave a totally believable performance as Irene and Chris Clarke as her imaginary friend (Barbara Cartland) provided wonderful observations on men, diet and make-up.

Hannah Jay and Karen Hunt played her daughters with exactly the right levels of concern and frustration. Josh Squire and Charlotte Faulkes played the roles that gave us the secrets of Irene's past, whilst David Burton, Kieran Gladman and Steve Gray completed the cast.

Chrissie White received this from an audience member: "I wanted to congratulate you and your fellow cast members on an excellent production of *Bothered and Bewildered*. I came along to the King Edward Hall with my husband on Saturday evening and we both felt that you totally inhabited the role of Irene. I am sure



that the production has been mentally exhausting and draining for you, but you should be so proud of what you have achieved."

This performance also supported dementia charities and over £500 was raised across the three venues where the play was performed.

ACE's next production – *Corsets and Courtesans* – will be at the King Edward Hall on 24th and 25th April 2020. It is a rollicking comedy, going from the sublime to the ridiculous, and will guarantee laughs galore!

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Christmas unwrapped

RECYCLE THIS

By Colin McFarlin, Volunteer Waste Prevention Advisor WSCC
Christmas is a busy time and poses more recycling questions! In this month's extended column I try to give quick answers to a range of festive waste dilemmas...



Christmas Tree – did you know that in West Sussex Christmas trees are turned into compost when you recycle them? In Lindfield you can drop your real tree to Lindfield Common car park, Backwoods Lane (until 10th January) after you've finished with it. I call it treecycling!



Wrapping paper – remove as much packing tape as possible. Paper in the Blue recycling bin, tape in the Black top rubbish bin.



Cardboard – flatten boxes and remove as much Sellotape and packing tape as possible. Cardboard in Blue bin, tape in Black bin.

Christmas cards – remove bows and ribbons. Cards in Blue bin (even glittery ones!), everything else in Black bin.

Sweet/chocolate boxes/tins/tubes – metal, cardboard, plastic or paper can all be recycled (Blue bin).

Glass bottles – beer, wine and champagne in the Blue bin, without the tops please. Metal tops can go in the Blue bin separately. Plastic tops and corks in the Black bin.



Plastic bottles – fizzy drinks bottles in your Blue bin.

Plastic/foil trays – from Mince Pie and other food packaging, in the Blue bin please.

Christmas paper chains – in your Blue recycling bin.

REMEMBER the bin must close. If the lid will not close it may not be collected. Do NOT leave recycling next to the bin as it may not be collected.

What to do with other items that cannot go in your recycling bin...

Plastic wrapping paper, bows and ribbons – if you cannot reuse them place them in your Black top rubbish bin.

Tinsel and baubles – take to the Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS), 'the tip' to you and I.

Christmas fairy lights – as an electrical item take to the tip and not in your kerbside bin.

Artificial trees – take to the HWRS.

Batteries – take them to any supermarket that sells batteries, or the HWRS.

Textiles – from old rags and holey tights to clothes that don't fit any more, bag them up and take them to a charity shop that accepts 'rags' or take them to your HWRS. Do not put in your kerbside bins.



Broken toys – if they cannot be fixed, take to the HWRS.

Used paper napkins – Black top rubbish bin.

Broken crockery or cups – it happens at Christmas(!), take to the HWRS.

Old drinking glasses – take to a charity shop, or - if broken - put them in your Black bin.

Disposable plastic plates and cutlery – try to avoid as they will have to go in your Black top bin.

Please note: your Christmas and New Year rubbish and recycling kerbside bin collections operates from Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January. Visit: www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling for details.

HWRS – Now on winter opening hours. For example, Burgess Hill site is closed on Thursdays. From 1st December you will need to show you are a resident of West Sussex to use the HWRS. Take with you your driving licence or utility bill. TOP TIP: photocopy them now and keep in the car or ready to take with you.

In the new year I would love to hear from you about your 'Recycling Wisdoms' and share your ideas in this column.

What do you do to recycle more, what do you do to recycle better in your house? Tell me about your local community recycling points.

Email the editor (with a photo if possible) to send these in to me. Happy (Christmas) recycling!

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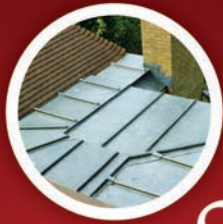
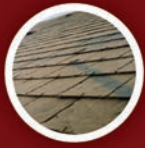
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CHRISTMAS PUZZLE ANSWERS

From the puzzle fun on page 66

BOX CLEVER:

			6	
	2		3	
		4		2
4				
			6	
		9		

SUDOKU:

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

MISSING LINK: silver; pink; road; up; cake; ear.
Tree: spruce.

TRAIN OF THOUGHT: Party

NONAGRAM: disown; dost; first; fist; foist; fortis; frons; frost; frowst; rosin; sift; snit; snort; snot; snow; SNOWDRIFT; soft; sort; sown; stir; stow; strow; strown; swift; sword; sworn; swot; wist; worst; wrist.

MAGIC SQUARE: tare; acid; ring; edge

What's on...

ELSEWHERE

November

- 30th **Concert by Brighton Consort** – 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint -
An Elizabethan Feast – music for Advent,
Christmas and Candlemas. (Tickets from
www.brightonconsort.org.uk or 01273 833746)
- 30th **St Andrew's Night Supper** – 7pm
Lindfield Golf Club - By Mid Sussex Caledonian
Society with musical entertainment (more info:
secretary@midssussexcaledoniansociety.org.uk)

December

- 1st- **The Nativity** – 7.30pm
5th Wivelsfield Parish Church - drama by Angela
Black, not suitable for under 12s (£10 www.ticketsource.co.uk/wlt)
- 3rd **Christmas Festival Night** – from 6pm
Lindfield High Street - High Street closed
between 6-9pm. Shops open, rides and stalls on
High Street, Father Christmas in URC.
- 5th **Dementia Café** – 2-4pm
Court Buses Community Hub, Hurst - Hurst
memory Christmas tea party
- 5th **Mid Sussex National Trust** – 2.30pm
Clair Hall - 'Christmas Past in West Sussex' by Dr
Caroline Adams
- 6th- **Cuckfield Christmas Tree Festival**
8th Holy Trinity Church - Decorated trees, open from
11.30am across the weekend (£5 adults, kids FOC)
- 7th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm
Outside The Talbot
- 7th **Christmas Market** – 10am-4pm
Great Walstead School, Lindfield - Gifts, festive
entertainment, food stalls (free admission)
- 8th **Christmas Concert** – 3-5pm
Warden Park Academy, Cuckfield - Popular and
festive classics from Ensemble Reza and the
community orchestra (£10/£5 from Pepperbox or
www.ensemblereza.com)
- 9th **Wreath-making Workshop** – 9.30am
The Talbot, Cuckfield - By Chez Fleur
(£50pp, call 07811 892644)
- 9th **Mid Sussex NHS Retirement F'ship** – 10.15am
Mid Sussex Golf Club - Christmas Meal
- 10th **Wreath-making Workshop** – 7pm
The Queen's Hall, Cuckfield - By Chez Fleur
- 12th **HH Ceramics Group** – 10am
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - Patricia Ferguson will
give a talk on 'Dolls' Houses and Ceramics' (First
visit free, 01444 483372 or 452804)

- 13th **Christmas Carol Concert** – 3.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield - Organised by
Alzheimer's Society
- 13th **HHD U3A** – 2pm
Adastra Hall, Hassocks - Weald Ukulele and Song
Band (U3A members only)
- 14th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm
High Street – Seasonal produce
- 14th **Christmas Wreath Workshop** – 10am-12.30pm
The Village Hall, London Lane, Cuckfield -
Fundraiser for NSPCC Cuckfield. Demonstration
and all materials provided (£20pp, book via 01444
831602)
- 14th **Candlelit Celebration of Christmas** – 7pm
Newtimber Church, BN6 9BT - A festive evening
of songs, poetry and story-telling with folk group
Cotillion (Tickets £10/£4 includes mulled wine and
mince pie. Book via Lucy 01273 831877)
- 14th **Christmas Concert** – 7.30pm
St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath - Mid Sussex
Choir sing John Rutter's Magnificat (Tickets £12)
- 15th **Christmas Carols** – from 12noon
The Greyhound Pub, Keymer - BBQ and raffle.
Proceeds raised in aid of Chestnut Tree House
Children's Hospice. All very welcome to join in the
festivities.
- 15th & **Sussex Chorus Carols** – 6.30pm
22nd The Coach House, Sheffield Park & Gardens
(TN22 3QX) - Christmas music and carols
(tickets: www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
- 17th **Advent Carol Concert** – 8pm
Ardingly College Chapel (free entry)
- 18th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10am
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - Lecture: Grandfather
Frost & Old New Year - The Russian Christmas by
Dr Rosamund Bartlett (Non members welcome, £7)
- 26th **Denmans Lane Dash** – 12noon
The Stand Up Inn - Fun race starts at 1pm

Want to promote a local event?

If you know of an event taking place in Lindfield
or beyond, do let us know and we'll do our best to
include it in our listings in this magazine.

Email the details to: editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk.

What's on

AT KING EDWARD HALL

December

- 5th **Christmas Workshop** – 7pm
Workshop making aromatherapy candles and felted baubles (Ticket £35 from 07810 878862)
- 7th **Mid Sussex Older People's Council** – 2pm
Christmas Party - tea with entertainment provided by 'Anything Goes' (Info: Nicola@msopc.org.uk or 01444 424760)
- 8th **Lindfield Horticultural Society** – 8pm
Talk by Andrew Harding 'The Perils of Gardening'
- 12th **Lindfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm
The History of Pantomime and 'Pantos What I Wrote'. New members are very welcome (contact: secretaryLEWI@gmail.com)
- 21st **Christmas Concert** – 7.30pm
By Adur Concert Band (Tickets £10/£5 from Tufnells Home or St Peter & St James Hospice Shop or 07711 422433)
- 22nd **Christmas Wishes show** – 2.15pm
Matthew Goodgame and The Spinettes present this fundraiser in aid of the Alzheimers's Society. Classic Christmas songs with mulled wine, raffle and children's face painting (Tickets £12/£10/£8 on door - cash only - 07515 552491)

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 Booking Secretary for further information on telephone number 01444 483266 or by e-mail on bookings@kingedwardhall.org.uk

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nicenstripy (gardening services)	3
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Sarah Lacey Dry Cleaning	22

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