

MARCH 2015



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Churchwarden:	Mr Richard Carden	01342 822491					
	Cat Street House, Upper Hartfield, T	N7 4DP					
Churchwarden	Mr Antony Cumberland	01892 864347					
Woodmead, Orchard Rise, Groombridge, Kent, TN3 9RX							
Sacristan & Verger	Mr John Collins	01892 662389					
	9 Whitehill Close, Crowborough TN	6 1JG					
Licensed Reader:	Mrs Elizabeth Parish	01892 864989					
	6 Lynwood, Groombridge TN3 9LX						
Licensed Reader:	Mr Donald Yonge	07872529740					
Organist: Mrs S	ue Stone GRSM ARCM DipEd	01892 770978					
Deputy Organist: Mr	Peter Ellefsen BSc CEng MIEE	01892 653965					
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Caretakers:	Diane Pedder	01892 770240					
	Link Rep: Mrs Sheila Jones	01892 864117					
Website: www.withyhamchurch.org							

St Michael & All Angels Withyham with All Saints Blackham CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2015 & APRIL TO EASTER DAY

Sunday in month	ļ	ST	MICHAELS WITHYHAM	ALL SAINTS BLACKHAM
Sun 1 Mar	1	9.30 am		Holy Communion
Lent 2		11 am	Sung Eucharist	
		6.30 pm	Evensong	
Thu 5 Mar		10 am	Holy Communion with Lenter	n Meditation
Sun 8 Mar	4	9.30 am	Family Eucharist	
Lent 3		11 am	Matins	
		6.30 pm	Evensong	
Thu 12 Mar		10 am	Holy Communion with Lenten Meditation	
Sun 15 Mar	5	9.30 am		Holy Communion
MOTHERING		11 am	ALL AGE SERVICE FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY	
SUNDAY (LENT 4)		6.30 pm	Evensong	
Thu 19 Mar		10 am	Holy Communion with Lenten Meditation	
Sun 22 Mar	4	9.30 am	No Family Service	Holy Communion
Lent 5		11 am	Matins	
		6.30 pm	Evensong	
Thu 26 Mar		10 am	Holy Communion with Passiontide Meditation	
Sun 29 Mar	5	9.30 am	FAMILY EUCHARIST, WITH DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS	
PALM SUNDAY		11 am	MATINS, WITH DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS	
		6.30 pm	Evensong	
Wed 1 Apr		10 am	Holy Communion with Holy V	Week Meditation
Thu 2 Apr				
MAUNDY <u>≃</u>		8 pm	EVENING EUCHARIST OF T	THE LORD'S SUPPER
THURSDAY Fri 3 Apr	ļ			
		2 pm	LITURGY OF THE DAY	
GOOD FRIDAY	Į.	- r · · ·		
Sat 4 Apr		8 pm	EASTER VIGIL & FIRST E	UCHARIST OF EASTER
HOLY SATURDAY		-		
r	1	9.30 am	EASTER EUCHARIST at Black	ckham, Family Service style
Easter Day		11 am	ALL-AGE EASTER SERVICE	
			EASTER EUCHARIST to follow on, Prayer Book	
			style, shortened	
			No Evensong	

LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER: MOVING ON TOWARDS NEW LIFE

Withyham Rectory February 2015

Dear Everyone,

Easter celebrates *The New Life*. Lent and Holy Week provide space for us to prepare for it. Through this season we recall how Jesus went out into the Wilderness, to find his identity and vocation; how he was led through suffering and death; and how at Easter he rose to the New Life.

This year, as we travel together through this holy season, the hymns and the readings and the sermons will focus on New Life for our Church. The course is called: *St Michael's, Withyham – a Church Seeking Renewal.* Here is the programme, and the themes will loosely apply to all services on a particular Sunday.

Wed 18 Feb, Ash Wednesday: Opening the Door

Sun 22 Feb, Lent 1: Seeking the New Life

Sun 1 Mar, Lent 2: The Church at Prayer: Morning & Evening Prayer,
The Eucharist

Sun 8 March, Lent 3: Moving on from the values of this world; Spiritual beauty of a worship space (architecture, silence, music, stillness)

Sun 15th March, Mothering Sunday (Lent 4): Welcoming, nurturing . . . The Church as our Mother. The Church as a Family.

Sun 22 March, Lent 5: Giving & Receiving. Thankful receiving God's gifts. Giving: ourselves, our time and energy, our money.

Sun 29th Mar, PALM SUNDAY: Holy Week: the Pivot of the Christian Year Sun 5 April, EASTER DAY: The New Life.

PCC members and others are invited to join *Evening Prayer at the Rectory at 6.30 p.m. on Thursdays in Lent*; and to attend the Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper on *Maundy Thursday*, 2nd April at 8 pm, and the Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter on Holy Saturday at 8 pm.

Further information about the Holy Week services is given on page 3 (below).

This comes with every blessing for a joyful Easter renewal – both at the personal level and for our church.

Alastair Ferguson

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2015

IN THE PARISH OF WITHYHAM

These Holy Week Services follow closely what has been done since earliest times.
This week is the pivot of the Church's Year.

Sunday 29 March PALM SUNDAY **9.30 am, at the Family Service**

Distribution of Palms, Procession, & Eucharist of the Day

11 am Matins, preceded by Distribution of Palms 6.30 pm Evensong

<u>Christ enters the city of Jerusalem for</u> <u>the last time.</u>

"It is written 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you into Galilee: there you shall see me, says the Lord."

- Magnificat antiphon, Palm Sunday

Thursday 2nd April MAUNDY THURSDAY 8 pm Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper

'Where charity and love are found, there is God.' - from the Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Friday 3rd April GOOD FRIDAY 2 pm Liturgy of the Day

The Passion and Death of Christ

Saturday 4th April HOLY SATURDAY 8 pm The Easter Vigil

<u>From Death to Life:</u> the ancient Easter Liturgy

Sunday 5th April EASTER DAY

At All Saints, Blackham

9.30 am Easter Eucharist

Family Service style

At St Michaels

11 am All-Age Easter Service

to be followed by

11.40 am Easter Eucharist

Prayer Book style (shortened)

No Evensong

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ : the dawn of Redeemed Creation

'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ has burst his prison, And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has risen;

All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise undying.

> - St John of Damascus, 8th century

Churchwardens Notes – December 2014/January 2015

Snowdrops are now covering large areas of the Churchyard and with them we can begin to see the first very welcome signs that Spring is on its way.

We have now approached a company recommended by the architect regarding the repairs to guttering on the church, which urgently needs attention, and are awaiting their quotation. An extension to the faculty for these works has been obtained and we hope to be able to give a further report shortly.

The date for the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** has been set for **Friday 20th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Kings' Hall**. We urge parishioners to attend if they are able to do so.

The Annual Church Fete will be held on Saturday 18th July. Richard Carden and Antony Cumberland



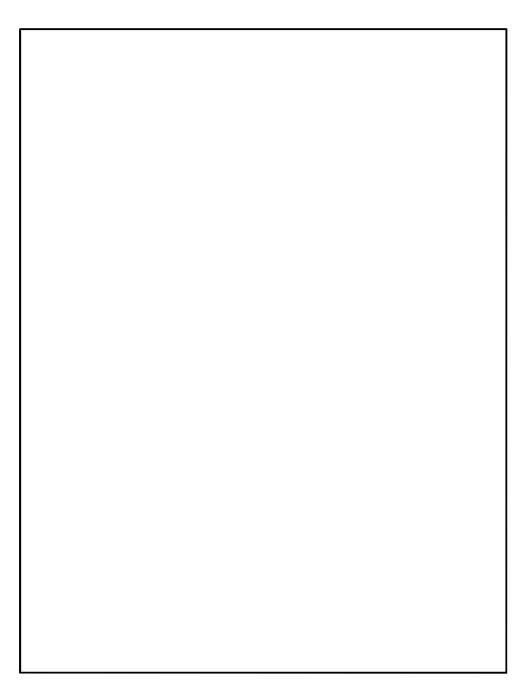
CELEBRATE WITHYHAM

Celebrate Withyham is here to let everybody know about and support what is happening locally from the pantomime to the art group, the cricket club, comedy nights and a wide range of regular, and one off events. It also will create things for the young of the village to do and make sure older residents are looked after. The aim is for everybody to communicate. The inaugural meeting to elect the officers to the Celebrate Withyham Committee took place on Monday 23rd February.

Paul Sellars was elected as chair, and **Nancy Thomas** as honorary secretary. The draft Constitution was approved. **www.celebratewithyham.co.uk** which is the new village website is up and running and will soon list all the various activities that take place in Withyham together with village news and whom to contact. There will also be links to other village websites, facebook pages etc

It will also provide a place to list local skills and trades. We do want as much support and help as possible whether to join the committee or simply help out at an event. If anyone requires further information or would like to be involved in any way please contact Paul Sellars on paul@paulsellars.co.uk or leave a message on 01892 770263.

YOUNG CHURCH



Have you heard about the Blackham Link?

The recent petition to ESCC has successfully raised the profile of the footway beside the A264 to link Blackham to Ashurst railway station and ABSA pavilion and grounds. Withyham Parish Council has now applied on behalf of the community for funding under the ESCC Match Funding Scheme. We are awaiting a decision in March and if it is agreed then this small village faces a mammoth task of fund raising but with your help we can succeed. The Parish Council are very supportive and have allocated £10,000 for the preliminary designs but the remainder will be up to the community to find. Any ideas for fund raising, offers of help, ideas for grants and donations will be welcome.

This is an exciting chance for the communities to join together and achieve something which has been on the agenda for many years and hopefully will make the A264 safer for all. Further details of any progress will appear here and please speak to Emma Bowers, Robin Ashby or Linda Weekes with your views. Thank you and we look forward to talking to you about it.



Enjoy a great day out and fundraise for your local Hospice

The Hospice in the Weald Travel Club gives an opportunity for individuals or groups of people to come together and socialise in a fun and friendly way. Throughout 2015 enjoy a range of excursions and trips to Cambridge, Stratford-upon-Avon and Portsmouth, amongst many others, all

by luxury coach.

Last year the Travel Club raised £15,000 towards providing care for our patients, families and carers in West Kent and East Sussex. This is enough to run our Hospice Day Service for 2 weeks or to fund care for 4 patients in our In-Patient Unit.

Lyn, one of our members says, "The friendly atmosphere of the Travel Club outings helps for a relaxing day, especially if you are on your own. The convenient parking and ease of travelling by coach makes it an enjoyable and entertaining day out".

Our annual membership for new and existing members is priced at £10 per person or £18 when purchasing two memberships.

We are sure you will find something of interest to tempt you on-board. Please contact Maddy Boyle on 01892 820533 or maddy.boyle@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Children at church

3-year-old Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time as I am."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied: "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

Mum had been teaching her three-year old daughter the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat after mum the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo.

Mum listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail.

A four-year-old was praying "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

The Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church???" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Mum was making pancakes for Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake and Mum saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

So she said "If Jesus was sitting here, He would say, "let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait."

And Kevin turns to Ryan and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

Mummy had invited some friends to dinner. At the table, she turns to her six-year-old daughter and says "Would you like to say the blessing???"

"I don't know what to say," the girl replies.

"Just say what you heard Mummy say."

The girl bows her head and says, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner???"

EASTER LILIES

There is a long-standing tradition at St Michaels that people who wish to commemorate their loved ones who have departed this life, present lilies which form the basis for the floral decoration of the church at Easter.

There will be a list and envelopes at the back of the church for those who wish to donate a lily in memory of their loved ones. Please write the names of those to be remembered on the list and donate £1.50 per lily (Cash or Cheque made out to Withyham Church Flower Fund) in the envelope provided.

Put your name on the envelope and get it to **Jill Pardey**

????? QUIZ, MAD OF RNLI ????
FRIDAY 6TH
MARCH
7.30. FOR \$.00 P.M.
START.

AT THE KINGS' HALL, WITHYHAM

HOT AND COLD BUFFET WITH LOTS
OF LOVELY PUDDINGS.
BAR AND RAFFLE
ENTRANCE £9.00
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STONE NESS WALLED GARDEN

Stone Ness Walled Garden offers social and therapeutic horticulture to local people with learning difficulties and mental health issues

2014 was a World Cup Football year and those of you that follow the action at SNWG will know that we held our own Walled Cup with sports such as Hanging basketball and Scare Croquet amongst others. The Grand Final at our Open Day in July was enjoyed by everyone and was finished with an exciting penalty shoot-

Now during this cold, wet windy winter I had an idea:

Why not set up a football group?

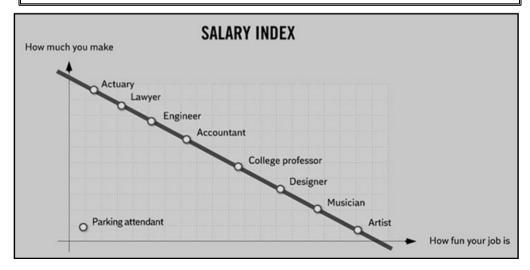
I have made provisional enquiries at the Ashurst Sports Ground (a mile from here on the A264 by the railway bridge) and we could probably use their pavilion and pitch on a weekday afternoon.

To set the ball rolling we need:-

- 1. At least 10 adults with learning difficulties or mental health issues who would enjoy an organised kick about. I have been asking all of my local contacts but hope that others reading this would be interested
- 2. A time when everyone is available
- 3. Transport (tricky as buses are few and far between)
- 4. A keen referee/coach/co-ordinator

So who out there wants to play and would anyone like to help achieve this goal? Please contact: Jean Burgess

Tel: 01892 740305



WITHYHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, March 2015

The spring show is a little earlier this year on Saturday the 28th March, in the hope that it will be just right for a good show of narcissi and spring flowers. The hall will be open from 9pm on the day for our members to get their exhibits staged for the show, and we will be open to the public at 2.30pm with the presentations at around 4pm. Everyone is invited you do not have to be a member and there will be a tombola, raffle and of course cream teas to tempt you.

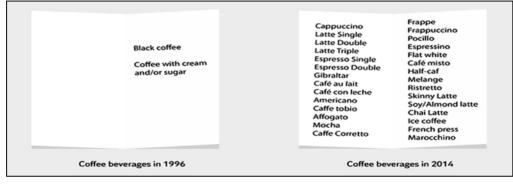
Membership cards are now being distributed so if you have not got one yet please contact Liz Hunt, our membership secretary, on 770375 and she will be able to provide one for you. The cost is £4 (£3.50 for over 60's) for the year, of course you can pay your subs at the show as Liz will be there.

I will be taking names for our first trip which will be on Sunday the 17th May to Ramster Gardens, all the events are shown in your membership card and you may book your seats for all of the trips when you see me.

Garden tips for this month are: 1. Prune hydrangeas by cutting back old flower heads to the first pair of strong buds, and cut out up to a third of the oldest stems, pruning back to their base. 2. In the kitchen garden early potatoes can be planted later in the month, plant onion and shallot sets, get at the weeds as early as possible by hoeing regularly and you can direct sow hardy veg such as carrots, parsnips, spinach, radish, lettuces, broad beans and peas. 3. Why not try growing some strawberry runners in the greenhouse and enjoy them at least two weeks before the ones growing outside, put them either in a big pot or try a hanging basket. Prune the blackcurrants now by thinning out the oldest stems to maximize the new growth as blackcurrants fruit on one or two year old wood. Aim for the bush to be open in the centre and the remaining stems to be as upright and evenly spaced as possible, remove about a quarter of each stem. 4. Do not forget to start on your sweet peas early as we will be having a summer show specifically for roses and sweet peas when we hold our AGM on the 19th June this year.

I look forward to seeing you at Spring Show, should you require any information, as always please contact me or one of the committee.

Val Edwards Secretary



Thomas' School Association presents Sport

SCHOOL QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 7th March 2015



Music

7.30pm in St Thomas' School Hall Tickets £12.50

Fish & Chips/ Veggie option **Bar & Raffle Prizes**

Mrs Byford as Quiz Master

For further information please contact: Amanda Newington (millymollydaly@hotmail.com)





Hartfield Playschool

Celebrating 50 years in 2015! Founded 50 years ago, Hartfield Playschool is a well established community Playschool in a beautiful setting, taking children from 2-5 years. We are open between 9am-3pm Monday to Friday during term time. **Recent Activities:** "Frozen" Theme –

the children have been making 'Sven Soup' and Marshmallow 'Olaf' Snowmen Puppets, and investigating ice and frost in our beautiful garden.

New Tables & Chairs: the latest additions provided by fundraising money have been a set of lovely new tables and chairs for our main room.

Coming Up:

Annual Fundraising Quiz Night and Raffle on Saturday 7th March We will be celebrating World Book Day and Comic Relief in March Playschool's 50th Anniversary Week of Celebrations – more info coming soon

For more information visit our website at www.hartfieldplayschool.co.uk or call us on 01892 770830. Charity No.103305

WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL (WPC) Notes Feb2015

Actions from the last meeting are on our website, on facebook and can also be obtained from the Clerks. (for contact info please see the back cover of the magazine)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4: This bumper, four page issue of our quarterly newsletter is twice its previous size with much to share with you! If you have not received it, please contact the clerks. There are a few houses and farms who will be receiving it by second class post but we do try and keep this to a minimum. If you would like to volunteer to deliver please contact us.

GROOMBRIDGE WARD: WPC thanked Roy Harvey for refurbishing the Village sign with paint and gold leaf in line with the agreed maintenance plan that came with this excellent gift to commemorate the Millennium from the History Group to WPC and the community. A petition from residents in Groombridge to reduce the speed limit on Station Road will be presented to ESCC Cabinet on Tuesday 10th February.

The WPC Maintenance Contract has ended and until this is filled there won't be any road sweeping in the village. Please contact the clerks if you wish to take this paid job.

WITHYHAM/BLACKHAM WARD: There is a finger still missing from the fingerpost at the junction of the A264 and Ironchurch Lane (to be reported to ESCC).

A meeting was held with representatives of the 'Celebrate Withyham' Association on Monday 19th January, focussing on how young people in the village could be supported.

PARISH PLAN ANALYSIS – NEXT STEPS: A summary document of the responses is now on our website. It was thought that the response rate was reasonable in survey terms and that it highlighted many issues already identified by the Parish Council for future action, but was essential in confirming evidence of need. A group is being formed of councillors and residents (including young people) to move this on to form the Parish Plan We want to hear from you if you wish to be part of this group.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2015 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Groombridge Village Hall

This will be a celebration of our great Open Spaces in the parish. There will be stall holders to talk to you about their associations and activities. Speakers will describe the attraction of their Open Space and respond to your questions. Children will be able to learn about outdoor activities such as Bushcraft. There will be a directory of clubs and societies to inform residents of contacts, activities and meetings. (See Ad in Magazine) **LITTER PICK:** On Saturday March 28th there will be a 'litter pick' in Groombridge

between 9.30 and 11.00 a.m. Gloves, rubbish sacks and litter picks will be available from outside the Village Hall and a hot drink will be ready for you upon your return.

If you would like to organise a litter pick in your village or area of the parish, please contact the clerks to arrange for equipment and manpower to be made available for you. **ELECTIONS:** WPC Elections will be held on 7th May 2105. We have two vacancies in

Withyham/Blackham ward and one in Groombridge. Why don't you come along to our **RECRUITMENT** session on **Saturday March** 14th 2015

Diana Kelly: Chairman.

Old Jim (This article was contributed by Patrick Scott, whose father was Rector of Withyham for many, many years!)

On a summers day at about the age of 6 I was drawn to the sound of hammering at the top of the church yard. I, of course, went to investigate. There was a man probably in his 60s hanging a new gate at the top of the churchyard which led into what was then known as Church walk. This was a public footpath which went down to cross the river and then onto the drive to Buckhurst Park. The path was rerouted later when a large oak fell and destroyed the bridge over the river and some years later was sadly closed.

Anyway back to Jim. I don't remember much about him but he wore an old trilby style hat. Jim was Buckhurst Farm's maintenance man and drove an old Grey Massey Ferguson tractor. On this first meeting I was briefly chastised for standing on the gate. The lesson I learnt was if you have to climb over a gate do so at the hinges because to do so elsewhere puts too much strain on the gate and ultimately the latch will not meet the catch. Jim was full of useful tips and advice, the sort of stuff that was common sense that most parents used to teach their children but sadly do not today.

Jim was full of stories and ancient folklore "Hello Patrick are those warts on your fingers?" "Yes Mr Sargeant". "Would you like to get rid of them. They aren't very nice are they? I'll buy them for threepence." "Oh." I said. "Now what you need to do is agree to sell them to me - Okay?". "Yes Mr Sargent" "Shake hands boy and do not look at your knuckles for a month - promise?" "Yes Mr Sargent." "Off you go lad. Here, take a winter mixture with you." He offered me a sweet I took it and dropped it on the ground. I went to take another one from his bag but Jim said "No. Pick that one up blow the dirt off it and suck it. A bit of dirt won't harm you and it will prevent disease and illness later in life. And to this day I know he was right. We wrap ourselves in cotton wool. Hygiene is over the top and we lay ourselves open to disease and infection.

However, I digress. One month later I went down to Welfares, the village shop, and Jim was working just up the drive to Buckhurst Park with his new tractor, a second hand yellow Massey Ferguson 35. These were normally red, but this one was a sell off from the council and for a year or two more it was the only tractor on the estate with a cab.

"Hello boy, how are you? Have your warts gone?" "I don't know. You said I mustn't look at them and I haven't". "Come here boy. Shut your eyes. Hold out your hands palms down. Keep your eyes shut now turn your hands over."

I felt something in my right palm. "Close your hands, turn them over and open your eyes". I did so and all three warts were gone. And when I opened my hand there was three pence. And if any of you, dear readers, don't believe me, next time I come to St Michael's for matins ask me to show you where they were.

Patrick Scott

PARISH DIARY MARCH 2015

Friday 6th 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. RNLI QUIZ NIGHT

Kings' Hall, Withyham (See Magazine)

Saturday 7th 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Blackham Village Market

Blackham Village Hall (See Advertisements)

Saturday 7th 7.30 p.m. St Thomas' School Ouiz Night

St Thomas' School Hall (see Magazine)

Monday 9th 7.30 p.m. WPC monthly Meeting

Parish Office, the Old Station, Groombridge

Friday 20th 7.30 p.m. **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** Kings' Hall, Withyham (See Magazine)

Midday Wednesday March 25th Deadline for April Magazine

ADVANCE PARISH DIARY APRIL 2015

Saturday 18th 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. WPC ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Groombridge Village Hall

Midday Saturday 25th April Deadline for May Magazine

Saturday 28th 9.30 to 11.00 a.m. Litter pick in Groombridge

(See WPC Notes)



Logs For Sale



2.2 cubic metres for £120, cut to length, delivered and unloaded at your home

Stoves and open fires catered for

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St Michael's School Mi	iss Katie O'Shea (Headteacher)	01892 770307					
Dorset Arms Angling Club	Fred Stillwell	01892 770661					
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