

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, WITHYHAM



# PARISH MAGAZINE



ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM

April 2021



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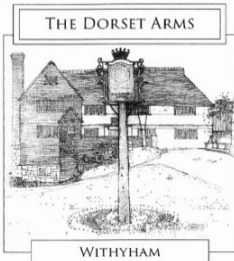
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# The Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Withyham, with All Saints, Blackham

**[www.withyhamchurch.org](http://www.withyhamchurch.org)**

Rector	<b>The Rev. Canon James Campbell</b> The Rectory, Withyham, TN7 4BA withyhamrector@gmail.com	01892 770069
Churchwarden	<b>Mr Antony Cumberland</b>	01892 864347
Churchwarden	<b>Mr Richard Halcrow</b>	01892 770607
Sexton & Verger	<b>Mr John Collins</b>	01892 662389
Licensed Reader	<b>Mrs Elizabeth Carden</b>	01342 822491
Licensed Reader	<b>Mr Donald Yonge</b>	07872 529740
Organist	<b>Mrs Sue Stone, GRSM ARCM DipEd</b>	01892 770978
Deputy Organist	<b>Mr Peter Ellefsen, BSc CEng MIEE</b>	01892 653965
Bell Tower Captain	<b>Mrs Julie Richardson</b>	01892 652008
Hon. Treasurer	<b>Mrs Anne Barker</b>	01892 661393
Hon. Secretary	<b>Mrs Alison Hunnam</b>	01892 770347
Safeguarding Officer	<b>Mrs Miriam Boobier</b>	01892 662780
All Saints Representative	<b>Mrs Sue Schooling</b>	01892 740397
Withyham Flower Guild	<b>Mrs Jill Pardey</b>	01892 661882
Blackham Flowers	<b>Mrs Sue Schooling</b>	01892 740397
Withyham Altar Linen	<b>Mrs Diane Pedder</b>	01892 770240
Withyham Church Cleaning Rota	<b>Mrs Anne Radford</b>	01892 770021
Family Support Worker Link	<b>Mrs Miriam Boobier</b>	01892 662780
Church Administrator	<b>Mrs Bridget Clayton</b> withyhamchurch@gmail.com	01342 826183



## Church Calendar - April 2021

### St. Michael & All Angels, Withyham, with All Saints, Blackham

Withyham Church reopens for Easter, subject to the same constraints that were in force prior to the last lockdown.

<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:</b> <i>Good Friday</i>		Service of Reflection (email / online)
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>:</b> <i>Easter Day</i>	09.30am	Breakfast Church (Zoom)
	11.00am	Easter Communion (Church)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong (Zoom)
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>:</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> after Easter</i>	10.00am	Family Service (Church)
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong (Zoom)
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>:</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> after Easter</i>	10.00am	Breakfast Church (Zoom)
	11.00am	Matins (Church)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong (Zoom)
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>:</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> after Easter</i>	10.00am	Breakfast Church (Zoom)
	11.00am	Matins (Church)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong (Zoom)
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May:</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> after Easter</i>	10.00am	Breakfast Church (Zoom)
	11.00am	Holy Communion (Church)

## Parish Registers – March 2021

### Funerals

On 25<sup>th</sup> February the funeral took place at St. Michael's Church, Withyham of Rosemary GOOLDEN (Forge Cottage, Withyham) who died on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021 aged 98, followed by cremation at Wealden Crematorium, Horam.

On 10<sup>th</sup> March the funeral took place at St. Michael's Church, Withyham of Robert Earnshaw MURRAY WILLIS (Rectory Wing, Withyham) who died on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 aged 68, followed by cremation at the Kent & Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells.

## Letter from the Rectory – April 2021

Dear Friends,

There is a story about a taxi driver and a vicar. Seeing his passenger's dog collar, the taxi driver remarked over his shoulder, "I feel sorry for you Christians." He looked anything but sorry – his shoulders were shaking with laughter. "There you all are," he went on, "you pin everything on your belief in an after-life. You work, pray ... and then when you get to the end, you'll discover there's nothing there after all!"

The vicar laughed too - it seemed the right response. "That's all very well," he said, "but supposing I am wrong – there's no heaven, no after-life or anything like that. Even so, I still win! Here I am, deluded, making my way through life, firm in my conviction that life isn't the product of chance. I believe with millions of others that we are here on this world for a purpose, and that a man called Jesus Christ has beaten back death on behalf of us all. In my delusion, I'm motivated by the sense of his presence with me every day. So, when I come to the end of my days, I go out into eternity believing that my energies have been spent for a lasting purpose. And then, if you are right, I won't even have the disappointment of knowing that I was wrong!"

"But you," the vicar continued, warming to his theme, "suppose that you are wrong and I am right. There you are, struggling to make a living and to earn enough money to keep yourself together – and you don't even know why! You try to make sense of existence, living life off your own batteries and hoping for the best. You fight off illness and decay for as long as possible, but in the end you have to accept that you will die. And then you are in for a terrible shock – you will find yourself confronted by the very person you have ignored all your life. You'll realise that everything you have been living for was wasted - it has all been for nothing. Now, just supposing ...". But the taxi-driver wasn't listening any more – he was busy doing a U-turn. If only he could have done the same with his thinking, the vicar reflected.

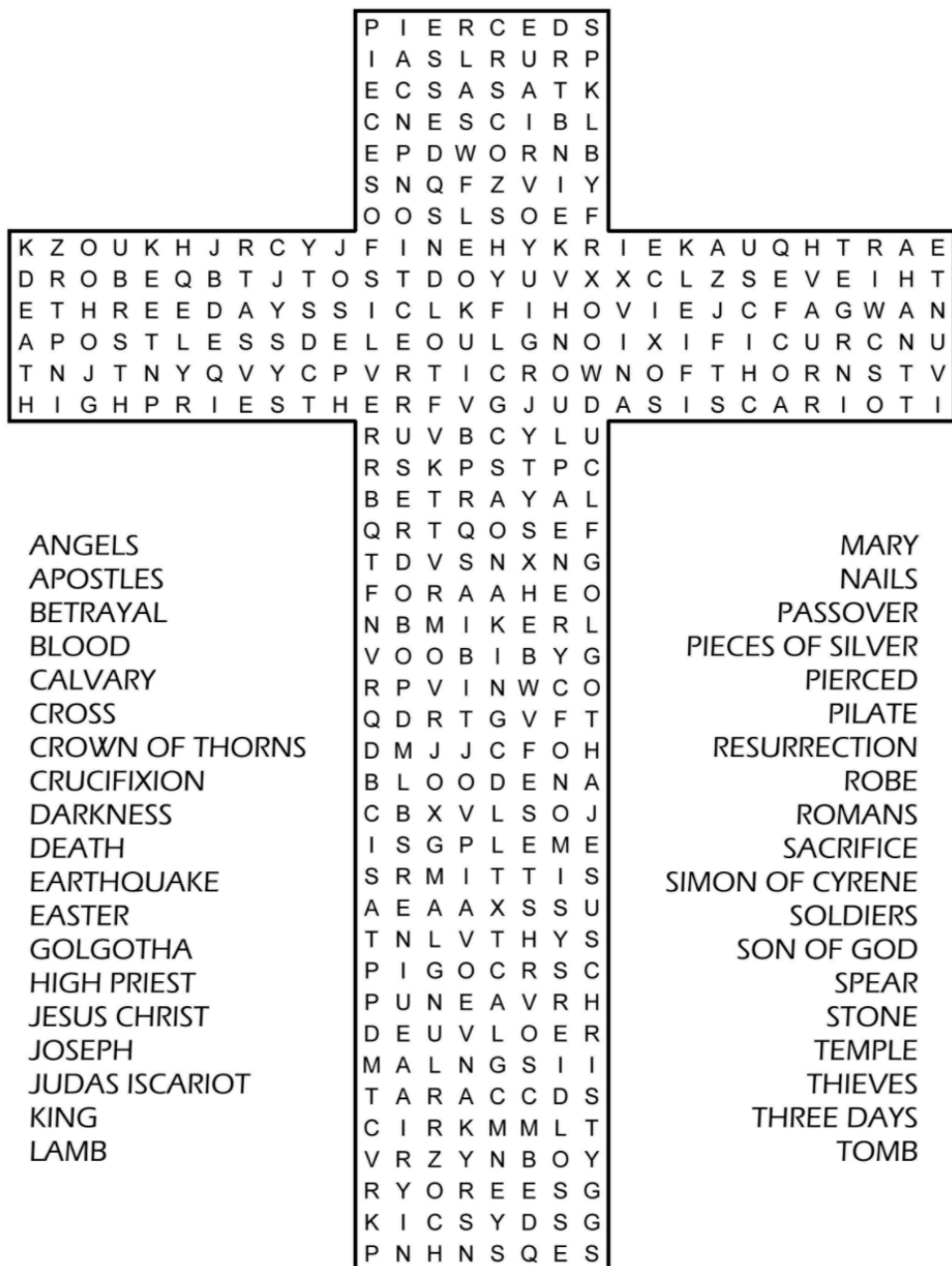
The vicar who told this story was Richard Bewes, one-time Rector of All Souls Church, Langham Place in Central London. He concludes, 'Was Jesus really raised from the dead? Millions of people have come to the breath-taking conclusion that something really did happen on that first Easter Day – something that can change each of our lives.'

Happy Easter!

**James Campbell**

# YOUNG CHURCH

## Easter Word Search



ANGELS  
 APOSTLES  
 BETRAYAL  
 BLOOD  
 CALVARY  
 CROSS  
 CROWN OF THORNS  
 CRUCIFIXION  
 DARKNESS  
 DEATH  
 EARTHQUAKE  
 EASTER  
 GOLGOTHA  
 HIGH PRIEST  
 JESUS CHRIST  
 JOSEPH  
 JUDAS ISCARIOT  
 KING  
 LAMB

MARY  
 NAILS  
 PASSOVER  
 PIECES OF SILVER  
 PIERCED  
 PILATE  
 RESURRECTION  
 ROBE  
 ROMANS  
 SACRIFICE  
 SIMON OF CYRENE  
 SOLDIERS  
 SON OF GOD  
 SPEAR  
 STONE  
 TEMPLE  
 THIEVES  
 THREE DAYS  
 TOMB



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SINCE 1890

**Family Support Work - March 2021 update**  
**from Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing**

Dear Friends,

I write this as schools are reopening to all pupils for the first time since last year. It is fair to say that our families have found this latest period of lockdown and homeschooling very challenging, but overall they have been incredibly resilient and managed to get through it, thanks to the fantastic support offered by our practitioners. As we make tentative steps back into some sort of normality, we are very proud that our families have coped so well over the last year.

We are interviewing candidates this week for the new practitioner roles that were mentioned in my last update and hope to have some good news regarding appointments shortly, which we will of course share with you as soon as we can.

After some hugely generous donations to our food bank over Christmas which kept us well stocked throughout January and February, we are now running low on many items. If anybody is in a position to arrange a food collection, we are in need of nearly everything, with the exception of pasta and tinned tomatoes, of which we have plenty. Tinned meats and fish, tinned vegetables and fruit, soup, tea/coffee and table sauces would be particularly welcome. We are able to collect if you have a large quantity of donations – please contact Spencer in the office on 01273 832963 or by email [spencer@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:spencer@familysupportwork.org.uk) if this is the case.

With the Government's road map giving us some of idea when we may be able to resume our face-to-face activities, we are planning how to do this both safely and successfully, and I hope to be able to share news with you in the next update of our plans for the rest of the year. In the meantime, thank you all for continuing to share our news and support us in prayer during the last month.

**February's work in numbers**

- 311 individual visits and 163 support calls with families supporting 33 grandparents, 354 parents and 296 children
- 18 supported meetings with other agencies carried out remotely
- 24 online group sessions held, including half-term activities
- 396 food deliveries made

Continued on next page .....

### Prayer points

- Pray for wisdom for our interview panel in selecting the right candidates for the new practitioner roles
- Give thanks for recent funding successes that will provide some stability in the coming months
- Pray that our staff remain healthy both physically and mentally after an incredibly tough few weeks

### **Michelle at FSW**

It's with great sadness I report that Michelle is to leave Rotherfield Deanery, the Deanery I represent for Withyham Church, with effect from Easter 2021. She will still hold a part-time position with the Uckfield Deanery, combining this with her new position of Contact Centre Co-ordinator with the Mothers Union, with whom FSW have joined forces.

In essence, Michelle has made this difficult decision due to travelling times and the distances the post entails, from where she is living in Eastbourne.

I will miss Michelle dreadfully, having worked with her closely for many years on a personal level to serve and assist local families & children. She has been a marvellous support to us all, with her wonderful, caring and approachable manner making it so very easy to warm to her.

**Miriam Boobier**

## **Churchwardens' Notes**

Hopefully we are almost there, with an end to lock down in sight and a gradual return to normality.

Return to worship in church will commence on Easter Sunday with social distancing restrictions in place. Singing will not take place for the time being as we await directives from the Church of England regarding this. We will keep restrictions under review as the Government's "roadmap" unfolds.

The pandemic has highlighted the benefits of technology for not only in keeping us in touch but also for the need to relay services where congregations are restricted. With this in mind a review of our capabilities is being undertaken including the feasibility of establishing an internet connection in the church.

**Antony Cumberland & Richard Halcrow**

### **Chichester Cathedral**

A brief reminder that information about recent developments and activities at the Cathedral, as well as exciting news about the future, may be found at [www.chichestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk). For details of the important work done by the Friends, scroll down the home page and find details under "Cathedral for the Community."

## **Address given by Michael Goolden at the Funeral of Rosemary Goolden at Withyham Church on 25<sup>th</sup> February**

99 years ago today ... Rosemary or Ro or Granny Butter or Ro-Ro was born. Her father was Christopher Lowther and her mother Dorothy Bromley Davenport ... she did have strong opinions and values, which were a firm guiding force throughout her life ... her early years were touched with great sadness ... a sister was born but died as a baby ... when she was 12 her father ... died suddenly.

Ro was sent off to boarding school ... and then to France and Austria to learn French and German. Her teens were decidedly unsettled. When War broke out, she enlisted in the Wrens at the age of 17 ... rising to the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer. But the War brought further sadness as all three of her half brothers were killed.

It was during the War that she met Douglas, introduced by their mutual friend Frank Giles, and they were married on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1945 in Mayfair, when Ro was 23. Frank and Kitty were great friends throughout their lives, and it was through them that they came to live in Withyham over 70 years ago ... one friend wrote, 'Along with the Church and the Dorset Arms, Ro was Withyham.'

Horses always played a big part in Ro's life. She had ponies as a little girl ... and continued to ride right into her 80s. Dogs were also important to her ... Wilkes ... succeeded by a succession of Basset Hounds – Cheerful, Bashful, Blissful, Joyful and Bonnie ... and the last was Maud, a much-loved border terrier.

(Later) ... she volunteered with the WRVS ... Meals-on-Wheels ... a Governor and great supporter of the Village School ... and set up the Withyham Art Group.

In due course, grandchildren came along ... then great-grandchildren ... the sad end of an era ... thank you and goodbye to our lovely and wonderful mother.

*The full version of this address can be seen at [withyhamchurch.org](http://withyhamchurch.org) under 'Notices'.*

## Robert Murray Willis 1952-2021

Robert died at Pembury on 6<sup>th</sup> February having contracted Covid-19 only a couple of weeks or so before. His death was a terrible blow to his much-loved family – Fenella and their children Tom, Will and Lucy, his elderly mother Kay and older brothers James and Charlie. It was a shock too to the many people who knew him locally, since he and Fenella moved from Tunbridge Wells to the Rectory Wing eight years ago.

In the announcement of his death in the Daily Telegraph the family described Robert as an *‘adventurer, naturalist, gold miner, Royal Engineer, ‘free spirit’ and wonderful storyteller.’*

Anyone who knew Robert would know that one side of A5 would never begin do him justice; the anecdotes and stories that accompanied him through his life were just too many.

At his funeral, James and Charlie and Tom and Will all spoke about Robert. These tributes can be found in full on our Church website: [withyhamchurch.org](http://withyhamchurch.org) under *‘Notices’*, together with what Lucy read at the Crematorium.

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;  
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow  
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.  
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,  
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,  
And soonest our best men with thee do go,  
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.  
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,  
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,  
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well  
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?  
One short sleep past, we wake eternally  
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

***“Death, be not proud” - John Donne***



**NOTES FROM WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Withyham Parish Council serves residents of Blackham, New Groombridge (the East Sussex side of the River Grom), Marden's Hill (St John's, Crowborough) and Withyham.**

**Withyham Parish Council (WPC) met on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. To follow are the headlines plus other news.** Full action from this meeting is available on our website [www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk) and Facebook on [www.facebook.com/WithyhamParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WithyhamParishCouncil). Minutes can also be obtained from the Clerks at the Parish Office.

**The Parish Council is currently conducting its Council and Planning meetings remotely via 'Zoom'.** Members of the public can view meetings via the WPC YouTube channel where they are shown until the minutes become available. Members of the public wishing to attend or address items on the agendas should email their question / comment to the Clerk by the morning of the meeting.

Members of **Groombridge Men's Sheds** joined the first ten minutes of the meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss a couple of conditions in the draft underlease. It was agreed that further legal advice should be sought and the outcome discussed with GMS. Everybody was congratulated on getting the project to this stage. It is hoped that we are within sight of a finish to the legal paperwork!

**GRANTS:** Residents new to the parish may not know that we have a fantastic scheme for supporting local initiatives. Every year we set aside an agreed amount in our budget to fund local projects up to £2000. Those wishing to be considered are asked to describe their intended activity, the expected benefit to the community and how much they are requesting from WPC to achieve their aims and objectives. The applicants are required to attend a meeting of the Finance Committee to answer any questions that councillors might need for clarification. It all sounds very formal but can be well worth it, as a resident from Balls Green found on Monday. He applied for a grant to help make residents in Withyham more secure and safer with their businesses and homes. Having observed how successful Blackham Village Watch has been, residents of Withyham would like to form Withyham Watch. It is intended that by investing in signs, stickers and other deterrents, it will demonstrate that Withyham is a community being vigilant and proactive in preventing rural theft. The Parish Council was pleased to support this initiative.

In the last year we have also funded materials for scrubs (Covid 19), new gates at Blackham Village Hall, CCTV and signage for Blackham Watch, support for youth activities at Clued Up in Crowborough, contributed to the running costs of Wealden Citizens Advice and put money towards volunteer tools for the Ashdown Conservators, to name but a few! Churches, schools, organisations and clubs have all benefited from this Grants system, of which we are very proud.

**PARISH PLAN:** Yes, we are forging ahead with this in spite of Covid 19 making it difficult for us to consult you, but we are using all the social media platforms we have to seek your views, as well as writing to you. It is so important that we evaluate the activities that drove our previous five years as this will help us to determine how we can support you in the community for the next five, and highlight new challenges.





**GROOMBRIDGE POST OFFICE:** In spite of this current lockdown, the council is making progress with securing the post office. As you know, we have set in motion the mechanisms to buy the building in which the Post Office is housed, as it will be so much more convenient for residents to continue to access the Post Office if it is part of the 'hub' of shops that are located in Groombridge. To date:

- A building survey of the premises has been undertaken
- An application to the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) has been made to enable the purchase of the building. This is a lending facility operated on behalf of HM Treasury for local authorities such as town and parish councils to fund capital projects. Our solicitor remains on standby to start conveyancing as soon as the PWLB loan is confirmed, and set up the commercial lease between WPC and the Community Interest Company which we had to form.
- The contract with Post Office Ltd has been signed and returned, following an interview with the Clerk and the Chair, as two of the Directors of the Community Interest Company
- Architect Plans are being finalised asap so that we may go out with specs for conversion quotes
- A Building Group is overseeing checks on utilities and the separation of the residential part of the building from the post office to enable the high standard of security required by Post Office Ltd.

We now look forward to:

- Instructing our solicitor to purchase the building once the loan has been agreed
- Recruiting and training up a third post office staff member
- Confirming post office counter staff and negotiating job descriptions and contracts for existing members of staff; we couldn't do without their knowledge and experience, could we?!
- Identifying work to be done to establish a flourishing retail side
- Engaging and training volunteers for the retail side
- Undertaking conversion and shop fitting to separate the post office premises from the residential part of the building. (This will enable Rosie, the current post mistress, to lease that part for a while, and create some income for the Parish Council to offset the overall costs).

There will be many other tasks in addition to this list that are all very challenging, but we are determined they will result in saving the Post Office. Thank you to all of you who are giving your time to supporting us in this venture.



**GROOMBRIDGE PLAYGROUND:** The Play Area refurbishment team are looking at ways in which the playground can be opened this Spring, but they require volunteers to respond to the safety evaluation that has shown it needs 1) new playground bark chips and 2) minor maintenance such as a coat of paint to some equipment. Please look out for contact details or contact the clerk; details below if you are able to help.

**Di Kelly: Chair**

**Parish Office: 01892 864557 / [clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk)**

**The Old Station, Station Road, Groombridge, TN3 9RD**

## “Rose-tinted spectacles”

**Virtual tours** of some wonderful and inaccessible places offer you new vistas from the comfort of home. Links are available on my website at [rlcomputersolutions.co.uk/tour](http://rlcomputersolutions.co.uk/tour)

Tours range from flat collections of photographs through to remarkable virtual tours such as Yosemite Park. Google Earth, including its web version, lets one fly from landmark to landmark.

Take your pick from such famous locations as the Sistine Chapel and nearby tours, the glorious pictures of the National Portrait Gallery, or one of thousands of museums collaborating with Google to document their exhibitions.

Tours from professionals ready to share their insights and take questions usually have a price between £20 - £40.

**Public webcams:** Some beautiful and interesting webcams may be found among the many on [Windy.com](http://Windy.com)

To give your experience an added twist, you may choose to splash out on one of the virtual reality (VR) headsets available. These give a wonderful ‘wow’ factor to wandering through cities and towering across savannah like some benign Godzilla. Naturally you would need a set of virtual reality headgear such as Oculus Rift which currently costs around £300.

**Roger Lyon**

The Parish Magazine is now back in print permanently as life is slowly moving forward. Last year we were in print only for 7 months, so we did not ask you for any contributions during that time. However, it does cost money to produce our magazine each month, and we are most grateful to all the advertisers that support us. Unfortunately, that is not enough to cover our costs over the year. Therefore I am asking you to be generous enough to donate towards the printing expenses.

Currently, cash and cheques are more difficult to deal with, so we have now set up a way to pay online, directly into the account. Details are as follows:

**Account name: Withyham & Blackham PCC**

**NatWest Bank sort code: 60-06-27**

**Account no: 33547181**

**Reference: Magazine**

If paying online is not an option, then please use the enclosed envelope. We will appreciate which ever method you may choose.

Thanking you all in anticipation.

**Janet Funnell, Magazine Distributor**

## A Blackham Walk



I did this walk the other day and really enjoyed it - it's not too long (3.75 miles) and the views are long and lovely. It's also very quiet, and despite the fact that there is a bit of road walking, the roads are not busy and you're unlikely to get mown down. It is fairly undulating and there is one pretty steep climb near the beginning, but what is it they say about 'no pain, no gain'? It was muddy in places too, though that should improve with the coming spring and summer weather. For now, you'll definitely want good boots or even wellies. I haven't included a printed map of the area for fear of getting sued but here is a perfectly legitimate link which you may or may not want to make use of -

<https://www.bing.com/maps?osid=6105658f-73d2-4017-b278-5736dcdbff9f&cp=51.144484~0.146903&lvl=15&style=s&v=2&sV=2&form=S00027>

Start from the junction of Ironchurch Lane and Willetts Lane and walk N along Ironchurch Lane to the church. Turn right down the hill, over the railway bridge and past the golf course, and over Kent Water to a sharp right-hand bend. Go straight on up the drive to Hobbs Hill Farm and when the drive turns left into the farm carry straight on onto a bridleway. Climb **steeply** upwards to the top and then keep following the bridleway (lovely views back towards Blackham) until you reach Bassetts Lane. Turn left along the lane past Frienden Farm to Bassetts Mill, and then left into the drive to Prinkham. When you reach Prinkham, go along a narrow footpath to the left of the house and emerge into a field. Turn half right across the corner of the field and over a stile into a larger field. Turn left and walk along the field in a roughly southerly direction, heading for a footbridge over Kent Water. Once over the bridge and safely back in East Sussex, carry straight on uphill, heading for a bridge over the railway. You can pause here and do a bit of trainspotting, though you may need to be patient. Carry straight on across the next field until you reach an east-west track. Turn left. In a few paces you reach a small wood on the right. Technically, there is a footpath diagonally through this wood but it's very indistinct, so you're better continuing along the path you're on, until you reach the entrance of Nore Farm. Turn right up the drive to reach Sussex Lane by a house called 'Chippings'. Turn left back to the church and then right down Ironchurch Lane back to the start.

## Groombridge and Hartfield Surgery Patients Participation Group

Our last article referred to the imminent retirement of Drs. Andrew Wolfle and Karen Whichello and the interest many of you had expressed in being able to contribute to a farewell gift. We have arranged two ways in which a contribution can be made:

- 1) An on-line transfer to a secure PayPal account or
- 2) A cash donation.

A secure dedicated account has been set up with PayPal by Geraldine Ormonde, the PPG treasurer, to accept donations from either debit or credit cards. Bring up Google or whichever search engine you use on your computer, tablet or smart phone and then enter the following link into the address / search bar at the top of that page.

[bit.ly/Andrew-Karen-Retirement](https://bit.ly/Andrew-Karen-Retirement)

Make sure it is copied exactly as it is case sensitive. Missing out a capital letter or dash will result in the link not opening. There is no need to be a member of PayPal - you can make a donation as a guest - but you will be asked for your email address. When you click on the above address you will be presented with a page headed Dr. Andrew Wolfle and Dr. Karen Whichello. If you click on the heading 'Contribute' you will be able to make a payment of whatever amount suits you; there is a £1 minimum. You will also be able to see the total amount donated as at that time and you can if you wish leave a message.

If you have any concerns or difficulties with this procedure you can email Geraldine on [ormondegeraldine@gmail.com](mailto:ormondegeraldine@gmail.com) and she will send you a link which you can click on and get direct to the page.

Cash in an envelope, marked 'PPG', can be handed into the Post Office in Groombridge or posted into the letter box at the Hartfield surgery; again include a message if you wish. Should you prefer a cheque, it will need to be made out to 'Groombridge and Hartfield PPG'. Follow the same procedure as for cash; we will then transfer that amount into the fund.

If all the good news about the fall in COVID cases continues we should be able to organise a presentation this summer.

In the meantime don't drop your guard - keep safe.

**Tony Howell - Chairman, PPG**

Doctor puzzle.....

A father and son were in a car accident where the father was tragically killed. The ambulance brought the son to the hospital for immediate surgery. In the operating room, a doctor came in, looked at the little boy and said, "I can't operate on him - he is my son." How can this be?

Solution on p. 18

## **The Arts Society Ashdown Forest**

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 2pm**

Lecturer: Julia Marwood

**'Two Glasgow Girls: Bessie MacNicol and Norah Neilson Gray'**

Sadly, Susie Hodge is unable to deliver our lecture in April about the artists of the Glasgow School but we are delighted that Julia Marwood has stepped into the breach with her lecture focusing on "Two Glasgow Girls", which promises to be fascinating.

Bessie MacNicol and Norah Neilson Gray were two of the many women who benefited from the enlightened leadership of Francis Newbery at the Glasgow School Art after 1885.

Both artists achieved significant critical acclaim at home and abroad and are part of the important group of women now called the Glasgow Girls.

This lecture explores the short but productive lives of these New Women and illustrates their important contribution to the great flowering of art in Glasgow at that time.

Julia Marwood first saw the work of Klimt in Vienna as a young student. This was just the beginning of her lifelong passion for art. After early retirement from her career teaching German and English she now has the great pleasure of spending all day, every day, looking at and talking about art. Julia particularly enjoys visiting galleries in Scotland to indulge in her love of the Glasgow Boys, Glasgow Girls and Scottish Colourists. As a tour guide at Manchester Art Gallery and a regular speaker to a variety of groups, she loves to share her joy of looking at art.

Lectures are available to members only at this time, but you are welcome to join us by contacting our Membership Secretary Donald Speedie in advance of the lecture on 01892 663388 or email [ADFASnews@gmail.com](mailto:ADFASnews@gmail.com).

## **Forthcoming Events in the Withyham Village Hall**

**REGRETTABLY, THERE WILL BE NO EVENTS IN THE KING'S HALL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION, but we are hopeful that after June 21<sup>st</sup> we might tentatively start to plan events.**

**Regular hirings are postponed until Government guidance allows, but again from May 27<sup>th</sup> some renaissance may follow – we hope.**



## Groombridge Horticultural Society



We have had a few beautiful days lately and gardens are coming to life. Now that we are able to socialise to a certain extent outdoors, perhaps the same can be said of us too and we will be eagerly looking forward to even nicer weather ahead.

However, it's not looking as though the Society will be able to hold any indoor events or coach trips in the first half of this year at least, so we are going to run another **Virtual Spring Show this month** so that people can share their flowers and handicrafts. The classes are as follows:

- 3 daffodil stems in a vase (any colour / size but one variety only)
- 1 daffodil stem in a vase (all white or white with a coloured trumpet)
- Any pot of indoor or outdoor flowering plant(s)
- Any flowering shrub (in situ)
- 1 item of handicraft
- Juniors (under 16) - a vase of flowers / foliage
- Juniors (under 16) - an item of handicraft

It almost goes without saying, but please do enter only recently taken pictures of your own flowers or plants, and handicrafts you have created yourself that have not been entered to one of our previous shows.

There will be prizes of £20 gift vouchers for the adult classes and £10 each for the two junior classes (please do tell us the age for any junior entry to aid judging). These classes are open to all and we hope that people will enjoy viewing the entries on our Instagram and Facebook pages and / or our website.

Please email your photos to the society's email address: [groombridgehorticulturalsociet@gmail.com](mailto:groombridgehorticulturalsociet@gmail.com). The deadline for entries is Friday 9th April and we will announce the winners the following week. Good luck!

In other news, we are hoping to run our usual **Spring Plant Sale**, which is currently scheduled for **Saturday 1st May**, either outside at the village hall or by taking pre-orders for collection; we will contact members soon to confirm details and update our website with the final arrangements.

We look forward to receiving your show entries and to seeing all our members as soon as we are able to. Stay safe and enjoy your gardens.

[www.groombridgehorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.groombridgehorticulturalsociety.co.uk)

Answer to the riddle on p.16 -

The doctor is the little boy's mother. If you didn't get this, you're a dreadful sexist!

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### **Withyham AED – Automated External Defibrillator**

We reported last year that there is now a defibrillator housed on the external wall of the Kings' Hall for use in a cardiac arrest emergency. The machine has a recorded sequence of messages to explain how to use the device; therefore it can be used by anyone in an emergency, allied to CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), particularly chest compressions. No shock will be applied unless the machine has detected that this is an appropriate course of action. Recently the machine was used; the responders were pleased to inform the Hall that it was easy to use and very reassuring, because they learned that the patient was not in cardiac arrest and so did not need a shock. The patient made a good recovery. However, the responders advised that many people they know were not aware that the machine was available, so we are repeating the notification. There are similar machines in both Hartfield and Groombridge, outside their village halls.

### **The Kings' Hall Withyham 100 Club**

We are very grateful for everyone's support but are happy to encourage more local people to become members and help our fund raising for further maintenance and improvements.

After two and a half years, we have reached 100 members!!!!!! THANK YOU.

However, please do keep joining and increase the size of the December Bonus!

Each number costs £12 per year; if you would like to join please contact Rick Hunnam (01892) 770347 or email [rickhunnam@hotmail.com](mailto:rickhunnam@hotmail.com)

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# Claire Nash Solicitors



When it comes to getting legal advice, it's always difficult to know where to go, particularly when it's required for matters of a more sensitive nature.

Local solicitor, Claire Nash, understands the

stress that going through any legal matter can cause, which is why she will do what she can to make the process as stress free as possible for her clients - whether it's making a will, obtaining equity release, marital affairs or administering a loved one's estate.

Claire also understands the importance of being flexible to meet her clients and offers an out of hours, home visit service if required, be it during office hours, evenings or at weekends.

## **Wills**

It is estimated that over 60% of the adult population in the UK do not have a will. It is not as complicated as people may think - a simple Will can be surprisingly inexpensive, even when drafted by a qualified solicitor. To not have a Will in place could mean your assets may not go to your chosen beneficiaries.

## **Matrimonial Matters**

If you are considering divorce or separation, or if you've received a divorce petition from your spouse or civil partner, please come and talk to us. Claire offers a free initial consultation where you are able to discuss the process and issues which concern you most. You'll be able to ascertain whether any further professional input is necessary and this initial consultation is offered on a no obligation basis. You've got nothing to lose by speaking to Claire first.

## **Equity Release**

Part of effective inheritance tax planning can sometimes involve obtaining an equity release mortgage on your property. This would allow you to remain in your home whilst you enjoy a lump sum payment, perhaps for home improvements, a luxury purchase or as a gift to

a loved one for a deposit on a home for example. You should always seek advice from a qualified independent financial advisor to take you through your options before engaging the services of an equity release solicitor.

## **Lasting Power of Attorney**

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document that allows you to appoint a person(s) to make decisions about matters concerning you if you ever become unable to make those decisions yourself. It gives you the chance to appoint those you know and trust to make decisions that are in your best interests when you are at your most vulnerable.

## **Probate**

Probate may be required when a loved one passes away. Essentially it means the accessing and distribution of the person's estate according to their Will (if they left one) or according to the law of intestacy (if they did not leave a Will). You will not need to pay money up front on a probate matter - fees and disbursements are paid from the estate monies when they become available.

If you find yourself in need of legal advice in any of the above matters, remember Claire Nash Solicitors aim to provide you with the highest professional service and advice, whilst always being approachable, personal, caring and committed to helping you achieve your desired outcomes, and they're local.

Call Claire Nash Solicitors on **01892 731 082** or email [info@clairenashsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:info@clairenashsolicitors.co.uk).

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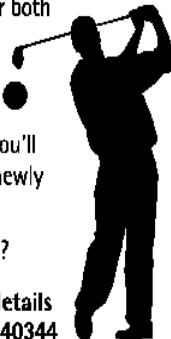
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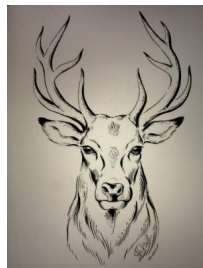
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WPC Office hours: Monday 12:00 - 17:00

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*A councillor is always present at the monthly Community Café in Groombridge.*

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