

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, WITHYHAM



# PARISH MAGAZINE



ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM

September 2021



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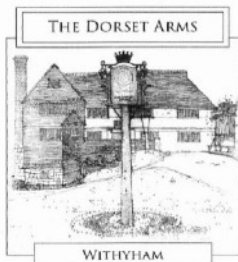
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# The Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Withyham, with All Saints, Blackham

**[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 Richard Halcrow</b>	01892 770607
Churchwarden	<b>Mrs Jill Pardey</b>	01892 661882
Sexton & Verger	<b>Mr John Collins</b>	01892 662389
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 - September 2021

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

*(all services in Withyham Church unless stated)*

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>: 14<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>	9.45am	Family Service
	11.00am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>: 15<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>	9.45am	Family Service
	11.00am	Matins
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>: 16<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>	9.45am	Family Service
	11.00am	Matins
	6.30pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>: 17<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>	9.45am	<i>Zoom Church</i>
	11.00am	Harvest Festival, Withyham
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>: St. Michael &amp; All Angels</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: 18<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>	9.45am	Family Service
	11.00am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Harvest Festival, <u>Blackham</u>

## Parish Registers – August 2021

### Marriage

On 14<sup>th</sup> August the marriage took place at St. Michael & All Angels Church, Withyham between Joel William HARROP and Louise Helen WILSON.

### Funeral

On 14<sup>th</sup> August, the interment of ashes took place in St. Michael's Churchyard, Withyham of Frederick ('Fred') William STILLWELL of 48 Balls Green, Withyham who died on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 aged 85.

## From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

‘People will forget what we say, they will forget what we do, but they will never forget how we made them feel’, said Maya Angelu, an American poet and civil rights activist, on one occasion.

There is an instructive story near the beginning of the Bible about kindness. Abraham had sent his servant Eliezer to find a wife for his son Isaac. Standing by a small town well, Eliezer prayed, *“Let the woman who offers to water my camels be the one you have chosen.”* Suddenly Rebecca turns up and says, *“I will draw water for your camels also,”* (Genesis 24:13-14). Rebecca had no idea that meeting Eliezer and being kind to him would change her life.

In the Old Testament times it was customary to offer water from a well to a stranger. It was known as the law of hospitality. In the New Testament the author of the Book of Hebrews wrote, *‘Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.’* But who’d offer to provide water for camels? One camel alone can drink forty gallons, and Eliezer had ten of them! The task would have taken literally hours, but Rebecca obviously did what she was used to doing – just getting on with life and always looking to help others in the everyday routines of life.

It is striking too that Rebecca was generous to a stranger. She didn’t know this man or that these well-watered camels would lead her to Isaac, whom she would marry and so become a member of the family whose lineage would include Jesus himself.

As someone put it, perhaps the message of Rebecca is, ‘if you want to succeed, show up on time, stay focused, work hard and be a problem solver not a problem causer’; live by Jesus’ maxim in Matthew 5 to *‘go the extra mile.’*

Camels can be romantic from a distance, pictured in a desert landscape; they can travel at up to 40 mph; but at closer quarters are big and ugly. Yet from her engagement with them, Rebecca’s life was changed. As we emerge from the restrictions that we’ve been living with for 18 months, kindness that goes the extra mile and blesses others will be precious.

**James Campbell**

## **Churchwardens' Notes**

We look forward to welcoming visitors to Withyham Church for the Flower Festival which runs from Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> to Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am until 5pm each day. Entry is free, with donations to Hospice in the Weald and Withyham Church. Refreshments will be available.

There have been complaints about the state of the churchyard. McNaughton's have said that the wet summer has made grass cutting difficult, especially with the extra growth the rain has encouraged. They now inform me that due to staff shortages and other commitments they will find it difficult to keep up with the grass cutting. With a large churchyard and limited budget we keep the old churchyard in a wild state which is ecologically friendly and cut the new churchyard and certain paths in the old churchyard. Hopefully in the Autumn, unlike last year, we can have a churchyard clear up.

**Richard Halcrow & Jill Pardey**

## **Harvest Festival 2021**

We shall be holding the annual Harvest Festival Service at St. Michael's, Withyham on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am.

As in previous years, if you are able to donate any dry and tinned food for local families supported by Family Support Work, that would be much appreciated. It can either be brought to Church or left on the Rectory veranda.

We shall also be holding a Harvest Festival Service at All Saints, Blackham on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6.30pm.

All welcome!

**JMC**

## **Fred Stillwell**

Kath and Adrian would like to express their gratitude for all the messages, cards and flowers we received on the passing of Fred. They all mean a lot to us and I am sure that we are not the only people who will miss him.

Thank you - Kath and Adrian



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

Dear Friends,

The summer holidays are now in full swing and we are so pleased that we have been able to organise some activities for our families, who have been desperate for a change of scenery after all these months in lockdown. We have had a day at Arundel Castle Cricket club, which included forest school and meditation and was greatly enjoyed by both parents and children. There have also been trips to the beach and circus visits, as well as individual family outings for those who cannot cope with large groups.

Our foodbank is in greater need during these holiday weeks as we try to provide food which is normally given through free school meals, and we would like to thank all those who have been collecting for us. Although our stores have improved a little, we are still in need of most items to keep the shelves adequately stocked – particularly tinned fruit and vegetables, jams and spreads.

We held our first staff day in the middle of July, which was the first time for 2 years that the whole staff team were able to see each other in person and catch up on each other's news. It was wonderful to share stories, and we were delighted to have been joined by the outgoing Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Sir Peter Field. You can see photos from the day on our Facebook page.

We are looking forward to our sponsored walk from Amberley to Arundel later this week, our first mass participation event for such a long time. We have also recommenced our speaking engagements at churches and have been delighted to update congregations on our activities over the last 18 months. If you would like to invite us to speak at a service then please get in touch with the office on [admin@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:admin@familysupportwork.org.uk)

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers as we look ahead to September and the recommencement of a more 'normal' working pattern.

Continued on next page .....



### July's work in numbers

- 236 individual visits and 243 support calls with families, supporting 33 grandparents, 295 parents and 341 children
- 60 supported meetings with other agencies carried out remotely
- 28 face-to-face group sessions held
- 358 food deliveries made

### Prayer points

- Give thanks for the opportunity to spend time together as a staff team and support each other
- Pray for those children who will be receiving exam results in the coming weeks and the important choices they will be making
- Pray for the work of our Family Contact Centre in Eastbourne, run jointly with Mothers' Union, as many more families are needing this important service



**F Family**  
**S Support**  
**W Work**

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# YOUNG CHURCH



## ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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M	C	O	Y	G	C	Y	W	G	O	K	S	C	R
L	Q	T	B	Y	D	H	L	T	K	A	Z	T	M
W	B	C	J	E	K	N	C	N	F	D	N	N	F
K	A	R	D	Z	D	E	H	E	E	V	K	A	R
D	G	R	F	Q	T	I	G	C	D	V	N	V	N
K	N	L	C	O	D	U	E	R	Q	V	A	R	P
P	A	T	R	H	A	Q	E	N	Y	F	V	E	Z
C	I	P	L	R	A	D	F	W	T	V	N	S	H
Z	D	T	D	W	A	N	B	D	E	F	E	N	D
R	R	G	T	E	D	P	G	R	L	Q	M	R	P
J	A	O	L	V	J	T	Y	E	F	Z	C	H	R
L	U	O	G	T	N	B	M	N	L	W	R	L	M
X	G	D	L	E	C	N	I	R	P	R	X	X	B

**ARCHANGEL**

**DEFEND**

**GOOD**

**GUARDIAN**

**HEAVENLY**

**LEADER**

**OBEDIENT**

**PRINCE**

**PROTECTOR**

**SAFEGUARD**

**SERVANT**

**SWORD**

## EXPLORING SOFTWARE ALTERNATIVES - Roger Lyon

Buying general-purpose software used to be like buying furniture: simply pay for what you need in a single purchase. Today, many software makers are encouraging, or even demanding, recurring subscription licences rather than a single payment. Why is this happening and what are your options?

Writing complex software is expensive and requires the collaboration of many skilled people. Running a business can be challenging when users buy just once every few years.

Microsoft's *Office* subscription can be a pretty good deal; a number of users can share the same licence at a pinch. However, there are other suites offering word-processor, spreadsheet and presentation makers. *WPS Office* has all this free and prides itself on working with Microsoft's files. The long time stalwart offerings of *LibreOffice* and *OpenOffice* are also popular options.

Closely allied to office suite software is desktop publishing. This is dominated by Adobe, which has moved to fairly hefty monthly retainers. Instead, why not consider the powerful and freely-available *Scribus* produced by a bunch of generous geeks, or the modestly priced *Affinity Publisher*. *Affinity Publisher* is part of a suite of programs for all your design, photo editing and publishing requirements.

Powerful photo-editing is another Adobe-dominated domain. In a recent move, Adobe are offering their *Lightroom* and *Photoshop* software for £10 per month. There are excellent alternatives available including *Luminar 4* and *ON1*, behind whose curious names lie remarkably powerful packages. Do check out *Luminar's* other software - they have an AI-powered version which is fun and offers new capabilities.

Finally, turning to music production, the venerable *Cakewalk* is now alive, up-to-date and freely available.

Your software purchase is an opportunity to encourage the smaller players to inject healthy variety into the software market. Take a look at the website for more information and links. [RLComputerSolutions.co.uk/software](http://RLComputerSolutions.co.uk/software)



"You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago."

## Circular walk from Blackham along the Sussex Border Path

Length: about 4 miles - Time: 2 hours max

This walk is pretty flat and not very demanding, but some parts are a bit muddy at the moment and there are some areas of long wet grass and undergrowth, so walking boots or wellies will be required, and it might be wise to avoid shorts or short-sleeved shirts. A compass and an Ordnance Survey map are always useful; if you don't have an OS map, you'll find something helpful at <https://www.bing.com/maps?osid=d98453c5-10fd-4d13-b458-299ee1306782&cp=51.142578~0.135751&lvl=15&style=s&imgid=4925f0e6-e5e0-4922-9e7f-0f7b383a6c23&v=2&sV=2&form=S00027> and you may well find that your smartphone has a compass on it (assuming you can find a small child to show you how to work it, of course). All references to crops are correct at the time of writing, but naturally may look completely different if you do this walk in a few weeks time!

Start from the junction of Ironchurch Lane & Willetts Lane and walk N along Ironchurch Lane towards the church. At the church turn L and then fork right at a house called "Chippings", down the drive to Nore Farm. There are good views to the R towards Hobbs Hill Farm & beyond. At the gates of Nore Farm turn L along a grassy path, which could be muddy. Carry on uphill and through a metal gate. You should now have Tollhurst Farm on your L and at the time of writing, a field of maize to your right. Carry on to another metal gate which carries a rather worrying "Beware of the Bull" sign. I saw no bulls however, just a few very benign cows. I gave them a courteously wide berth and proceeded diagonally right, past a pond, to another metal gate at the bottom of the field. If you have a dog with you, it must be on a short lead at this point. On the exceedingly rare occasions when people have been injured by cattle, it's often because the animals have been stirred up by an unrestrained, excitable dog. This is particularly important if the cows have calves with them. Go through the gate and straight on along another grassy track, again with maize to the right. Ignore a path off to the left and carry straight on, slightly downhill, through another metal gate and into a little strip of woodland, soon heading uphill again. As you emerge at the top, about 100 yards before a road, turn R along a narrow path between hedges. There is a post here with a yellow marker "H66". Proceed downhill to a crossroads of tracks, with footbridges to the L and straight ahead. Turn R here, in an easterly direction through a little patch of scrub, into a field. You are now on the Sussex Border Path. Turn L along the field edge, with a large patch of Himalayan Balsam to your L, and beyond that a stream called Kent Water, which forms the boundary with Kent.

(Cont.....)

I have seen lapwings in this field, but sadly not recently. At the field corner, bear left along a narrow path into some scrubby woodland and continue along in an easterly direction, still with Kent Water to your L. Cross 2 wooden footbridges and enter a field of maize. Turn L along the field edge, with woodland on the L and maize to your R. You should soon be able to pick out a railway embankment in the trees to the L. Bend round to the R and then look out for another wooden footbridge to your L, which could be a bit overgrown and hidden. Cross this bridge and carry on along the edge of the field as before. Eventually, the path turns left under the railway. As you emerge on the other side, you are presented with another field of maize. The path continues across the field, slightly to the R, which may seem impossible, but if you look closely you will see two narrow gaps through the crop, about a tractor's width apart. These are a bit shy of the metre-wide strip that farmers are supposed to leave along rights of way, but this is not the place to bang on about that. So, grit your teeth, thank your lucky stars you heeded my advice about suitable clothing, and sally forth into the maize. Emerging on the other side, hopefully unscathed, continue straight on along the field edge as before, with the maize to your R and scrubby woodland & Kent Water to your L. Bend to the R, then fork L, still keeping Kent Water to your L. Continue along, and eventually you will see in front of you a wooden stile with a gap next to it. Go through the gap and you should soon see, diagonally to your L, a metal gate and a smart new wooden footbridge. Cross the bridge (into Kent), turn immediately R (east), and continue along to a wide metal farm gate. Go through the gateway (could be muddy) and continue along a fairly narrow track which bends gradually R. Emerge into a field and carry on in the direction of a house in the distance. As you near the house, bear over towards a small stile in the R corner of the field. Cross this stile onto a road. Cross the road very carefully, turn R and then immediately L into a long field, with Villa Golf Course to your R. Walk right along to the end of the field, to a gap in the hedge with a wooden footbridge. Go over the bridge and taking care to show due courtesy to the golfers and avoid flying golf balls, pass round to the R of the green towards a metal gate. Go through the gate & along the R edge of the field, with the golf course on your R. Cross a wooden footbridge, with a sort of metal stile at either end, and turn immediately R along the field edge. Soon reach another smart new wooden footbridge on your R, which you should cross and then continue across the field towards the buildings of Willetts Farm. Continue through the farmyard and along the track. As you leave the farm behind there are lovely views in all directions. Carry on over the railway and along Willetts Lane to the starting point.

# BLACKHAM VILLAGE CAFÉ AND MARKET

(first Saturday of every month except January)



**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**10am – 12.30pm**

**BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL**



Meet your friends at “The Stage” café, enjoy filter coffee, tea and a piece of delicious homemade cake.

Produce for sale at the market includes: bread, free-range eggs, pasties and other baked savouries, cakes, scones, preserves, honey and wild bird food.

***Blackham Village Hall is a registered charity whose sole purpose is to promote and maintain the hall for the enjoyment of and benefit of the community.***

## Withyham Parish Amblers

Walking at a relaxed pace for pleasure

### SEPTEMBER WALK



- Date:** **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021**
- Meeting point:** Broadwater Warren Nature Reserve car park, Broadwater Forest Lane.
- Nearest postcode:** TN3 9NZ
- Time:** 9.15 for a 09.30 departure.
- Join us for a pleasant circular walk around  
Broadwater Warren RSPB Nature Reserve**
- Duration:** 1 hour 20 minutes approximately.
- Type of walk:** Undulating walk along wide footpaths. Suitable walking attire and footwear strongly recommended.
- Dogs:** Well-behaved dogs are very welcome but will need to be under close control in the Reserve.

**For more information:** [karen.white@ferviduswhite.com](mailto:karen.white@ferviduswhite.com) 07941 055011  
[clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk) 01892 864557

**A Withyham Parish Council *Forward for 5* Initiative**

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Learn new skills.  
Build confidence!

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Volunteering not only enriches the lives of others, but yours as well.

#### ***What's in it for us?***

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running the post office and its many vital services.

*Come and be part of something special*



## **Groombridge and Hartfield Surgery Patients Participation Group**



Finally, 4 months after their retirement from the Practice, patients were at last able to meet with Andrew Wolfle and Karen Whichello at the Village Hall in Groombridge on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Although social distancing and the wearing of face coverings were the order of the day, that did not deter the many patients who came to thank them for their services to the community and wish them a happy retirement.

The gifts which had been purchased as a result of the generous contributions from so many were on display and included:

- Life membership of the National Trust
- A range of workshop tools
- A range of garden tools
- A commission to a local artist to paint a picture of their cottage
- 2 anti-gravity reclining garden chairs
- A book containing all the goodwill messages from patients, photos and information about the Groombridge and Hartfield surgeries. (We hope to have a copy of this book in each of the surgeries in the near future.)

The end of an era: 1995 – 2021

Tony Howell





## Retirement

We both wish to say a very big thank you to our patients who generously contributed to the wonderful array of retirement gifts presented to us by the surgery Patients Participation Group at the retirement event on 31<sup>st</sup> July, at which we also had the pleasure of meeting with many of you in person. We look forward to exploring the country with our life membership of the National Trust and to developing our hobbies of wood-working and gardening with our lovely new tools. However, we also hope to have plenty of time to relax in our luxuriously comfortable garden chairs!

In July 1995 we took over from Dr Peter Steel in running the Groombridge surgery with about 2500 patients and combined with Hartfield surgery in 2002. Over the years, the practice has expanded to about 5500 patients and during this time, we have been fortunate to have worked alongside many excellent medical colleagues and administrative staff who have all helped shaped the development of the practice into what is now the Groombridge and Hartfield Medical Group. We would like to thank every team member for their help and support to us personally, as well as for that given to the patients and the practice as a whole.

It has been a great privilege and a special responsibility to care for our patients over the past 25 years. The continuity of care provided by working in a small village practice over so many years has been especially rewarding. Patients who were children when we started in 1995 have had children of their own and patients who were yet to retire are now in their 90s. We have always tried our best to develop the practice and to work with you to achieve the best health outcomes. It hasn't always been easy, especially when things in medicine don't always go right, but we have many cherished memories of our patients and we would like to thank you for the support you have given us during our working lives. Thank you also for your willingness to support the training of the future GPs, medical students, paramedics and nurses who have also worked at the practice. Covid 19 turned General Practice upside down in March 2020 and we thank you for your understanding during this very difficult time.

We send our best wishes to the new team of GP partners who will now lead the practice: Dr Matt James, Dr Victoria Rittner and Dr John Mifsud. With the support of Dr Chrissie Ashdown, Dr Harri Roe and the wonderful surgery team, we are confident that you will be well cared for in the future. We hope that you will support them all, in the same way that you have helped to make our working lives so special. Thank you.

Dr Andrew Wolfle and Dr Karen Whichello



## Groombridge Horticultural Society



We hope you've been making the most of the British countryside this summer. We've been out and about visiting more gardens on our staycations and getting lots of inspiration for our own gardens. Hestercombe in Somerset, pictured here, has been one of my favourites this year and I'm seriously wondering if I can squeeze in a sunken garden or waterfall somewhere on my own patch (don't tell my husband!)



It's so nice to be able to visit attractions such as this and I think we appreciate them even more after a year of limitations. We very much hope that will be the case with our Society events when they resume but we have decided not to run our Autumn Show in September as it is usually a crowded, indoor event.

Therefore, our next event will be the **Autumn Plant Sale on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**. This event will be run in the same way as the Spring Plant Sale (without the torrential rain hopefully!) with an excellent range of quality, good value plants from Jordans nursery near Crowborough. Come and visit us at the back of the Groombridge Village Hall from **9am to 12 noon**.

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We are in the process of confirming with our October and November speakers and fully anticipate that these events will go ahead, so it is not long now until it's business as usual. We can't wait to see our members again and we're already planning a full 2022 year of shows, speakers, visits and more. It will be worth waiting for!

We look forward to seeing you all soon. Stay safe and enjoy your gardens.

### **2021 Remaining Events – all to be confirmed**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October** - Ian Beavis on the flora and fauna of Tunbridge Wells

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November** - Christmas floral demonstration

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

## Forthcoming Events in the Withyham Village Hall

**We are tentatively planning to initiate events and would ask you to pencil in the following dates that we hope might come to fruition; please watch this space....**

<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Quiz</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Christmas Market</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Carols</b>

**Regular hirings have started and we welcome back the Art, Bowls and Choir groups. If you are interested in joining the Art Group, please contact Ali Hunnam at [alihunnam@hotmail.com](mailto:alihunnam@hotmail.com).**

## 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 at 01892 770347 or email [rickhunnam@hotmail.com](mailto:rickhunnam@hotmail.com)

### Winners:

August 2021: £20 Judith Fuller £15 Stephen Whittaker £10 June Noble

Any time you're tempted to feel that the content of this magazine is a little, well, unexciting, just take a look at this excerpt from a local Leicestershire paper. That's it, by the way - that's the whole dramatic story.....





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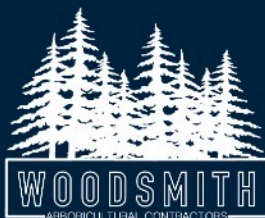
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# Claire Nash Solicitors



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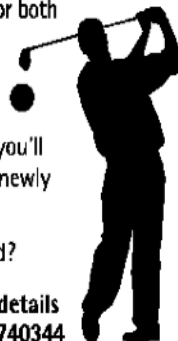
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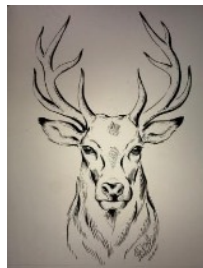
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WPC Office hours: Monday 12:00 - 17:00

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

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