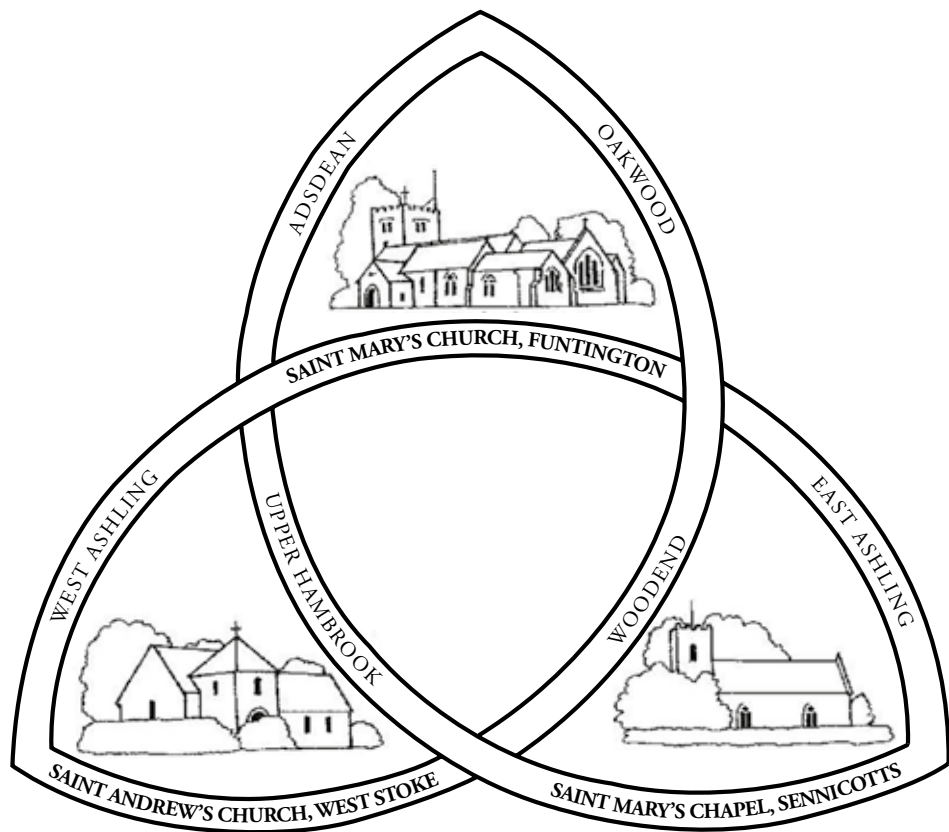


FUNTINGTON

Parish Magazine



APRIL 2022

£1

Funtington and West Stoke with Sennicotts: Who's Who

St Mary, Funtington; St Andrew, West Stoke; St Mary, Sennicotts www.funtingtonweststoke.com

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Letter from Father Andrew, Priest-in-charge

As we approach Easter, it is a sad fact that instead of focusing on the Lenten period of reflection, meditation and prayer we are actually (quite rightly) focused on the massacre and devastation of the war in Ukraine. We cannot possibly not be reviled, shocked and offended by the scenes that are unfolding on our screens, of communities, hospitals, schools and other non-military sites being targeted by deadly weapons of warfare.

What has been humbling in this process is that almost all of the world has come together to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Our thoughts and prayers must be with all those in Ukraine who have lost loved ones in this conflict and lost their home, communities and livelihood. Ukraine will never be the same again, but the people are resilient and when this atrocity is over (soon God willing) the Country will rebuild, stronger and will be a symbol to us that democracy and peace is the only way forward.

Watching all of these events unfold, I am reminded of the passage from St. Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians in which he writes about love.

The passage is a particularly challenging chapter of the Bible. It is a chapter designed to challenge us and call us to repentance, something our Lenten observances should also be doing.

As we look at this passage today. God wants to teach us three things about love:

Firstly, in verses 1 to 3 we learn the Priority of love – why it matters;

Secondly, verses 4 to 7 describe the Properties of love – what it looks like;

And thirdly, verses 8 to 13 teach us the Permanence of love – why it will last forever.

Love's priority, love's properties, and love's permanence.

What does any Christian community need more than anything else? Does it most need to be more prayerful? Or does it most need better worship, better children's work, or better house groups? Does it most need a better understanding of the Bible or a stronger faith that could move mountains? Instead of playing our part as disciples, are we seeking to find roles that put us in positions of purported power rather than driving mission and ministry?

The thing a Church needs most must be love. We may be spiritually gifted, theologically knowledgeable, financially affluent, stable (or not) and remarkably talented – but without love they count for little. Love must be the first priority for every Christian fellowship.

Paul wrote those words because some Christians in Corinth were very proud of themselves. They had some spectacular spiritual gifts, had witnessed some remarkable miracles and claimed to have heavenly knowledge that set them apart from others – but they lacked love. They looked down on their Christian brothers and sisters. They were more interested in making a name for themselves than in serving others. Their

attitudes and actions were selfish, not sacrificial. So, Paul reminds them that without love all our other spiritual gifts, talents and qualities are worthless.

The same is true today. Without love we will misuse or waste the gifts and talents God has given us. Unless love is the motivation and guide to our behaviour, we will waste the gifts God has given us. Our gifts and talents are given to help us serve other people and build up the Church, not to boost our own reputation or nurture our personal pride.

We must seek a world in which love conquers through. We do not need to go all soppy when we use the word love! The love we need to focus on is a love which respects one another for who we are, not what we are perceived to be, a love in which all people are recognised, standing naked before God, stripped of all wealth, titles, roles etc.

As we pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, of all faiths, let us also remember those in Russia who are seeking peace and are caught up in the actions of the regime in which they live.

May I wish you a Happy and Peaceful Eastertide.

Fr. Andrew

Flower Memories

St. Mary's Church Funtington are delighted to offer you the opportunity to dedicate a floral arrangement in the Church to celebrate a special event or to remember a special person for a donation towards the Flower Fund.

For further details please contact *Denise Foster* (01243 574251)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

A reminder that the APCM is on April 13th at 7pm at St Mary's Church Room.

It is open to all who are on the Electoral Roll of the Church and is the opportunity to hear what has been happening in the parishes over the last year as well as vote for the Churchwardens and PCC.

If you are not yet on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, please contact Andrew Lillie, whose details are on the inside cover of the magazine. Thank you

PCC Secretary

Church Room Bookings

Chris Harvell very sadly has stepped down from his role in taking the bookings as well as holding the key for the Church Room. A role he has held now for 8 or 9 years. Chris, since retiring has taken on many varied volunteer roles and has come to the decision that he can't continue to carry on with them all. The PCC is enormously grateful for all that he has done including setting up a very efficient online bookings system. He will be sorely missed. If anyone feels they have time to take on this role please contact one of the Church Wardens.

A Light at the end of the Tunnel - A Meditation

Dear Friends,

Spring is on its way, the dark wintery days are passing. Yellow daffodils flutter in the breeze, birdsong fills the air, sparrows gather on the hedgerows and majestic swans glide on the village pond. God's in His beloved heaven, and all is right with the world, or so it seems. As I survey the scene from my bedroom window, I begin to feel there is a light at the end of the tunnel. It isn't all doom and gloom. It is in quiet meditation like this that I find the strength and courage to embrace another day. Nature has a way of restoring our souls and pointing the way forward. There is work to be done in the day that lies before us. As my dear husband used to say, 'Get up, get on and meet the world half-way!'. God has a plan and a purpose for our lives. We mustn't neglect it. Each of us is a unique human being, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Him.

When I think about these things, I want to love Him back. A light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. We must hold onto our Faith. If we will but step out with Him. He will show us the way. Did He not say, 'I am the way, the Truth and the Light. No-one comes to the Father except through Me'.

This month we shall be celebrating Easter. Remembering Christ's death on the Cross and rising again on Easter Day. If we believe this we can't enjoy our sinning any more, we want to love and serve Him back. It's a life changer.

'So make but trial of His love, experience will decide, how great is he and only he, who in His truth confide'. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, if we will but look for it.

'Take up thy cross, the Saviour said, if thou wouldst my disciple be; deny thyself, the world forsake and humbly follow after me'.
Jane Gummer

Coffee Morning in aid of the Church Flower Fund, St. Mary's Church Room, Saturday May 7th 10 am – 12 am

Do come and support us. Stalls include Cakes, Plants and donated Ceramic and Glazed Pots. For further information, please contact *Denise Foster (01243 574251)*

Bible Readings at St Andrew, West Stoke and St Mary, Sennicotts

April 2022				
<i>Date:</i>	<i>St Andrew, West Stoke</i>		<i>St Mary, Sennicotts</i>	
Sun 3 rd April	10.00 a.m. HC	Isaiah 43:16-21 John 12:1-8	-	-
Sun 10 th April	-	-	-	-
Sun 17 th April	-	-	-	-
Sun 24 th April	-	-	9.00 a.m. HC (BCP)	Acts 5:27-32 Rev 1:4-8
Sun 1 st May	10.00 a.m. HC	Acts 9:1-20 John 21:1-19	-	-

Dennis Legg - Sept 5 1931 - 21 March 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce that dear Dennis passed away on the morning of the 21 March 2022 in Pinewood Nursing Home, Chidham after a long and bravely fought illness. This was not helped by an unsuccessful back operation some 14 years ago leaving him severely disabled, a condition that he lived with and rarely complained about.

Dennis was very proud to have been born in Portsmouth and experienced the results of the Blitz. He left school to work for the Cooperative Building Society before National Service took him into the Royal Army Pay Corps. After that he returned to work for the Nationwide Building Society in Portsmouth, Guildford, Ascot, Ashford, Kensington and finally was the Nationwide Area Manager based in Winchester. Dennis loved his Squash and Tennis and in his retirement, he and his wife Valerie, who died last year, became great Village supporters. Dennis founded the men's Lunch Club with the late Brig Trefor Jones and Valerie the Ladies' Lunch Club – both of which are still running. Rachel Hammond a close friend remembers that the Leggs moved to the village almost 50 years ago. That he and Valerie were regular supporters of the Church and took a great interest in all the young of the Parish. He was also a great supporter of Lydia's racing stables and a long time member of what used to be called the Funtington Music Group. His niece is a classical singer and we used to take him occasionally to concerts at the University if she was singing. Dennis became a highly respected Church Warden. He was a gentleman to all who knew him. His immediate

neighbours will miss the stentorian commands issued by Dennis to Valerie on when to turn the tap on and off, as he wheeled himself around his beloved garden with the hosepipe!

As I looked over the fence on Monday I sensed that his Garden had wept a tear at his passing. May he rest in Peace with his much loved wife Valerie.

Details of the funeral will be notified when they have been finalised.

Tony D'Alton

Funtington WI News

For our March meeting we welcomed Jason Boswell to talk to us about 'A Year in the Life of a Beekeeper'. Jason started keeping bees 6 years ago. He brought along a beehive to demonstrate how it all works. He has honeybees, a queen bee, worker bees, all female, surprise, surprise!!, and the drones only 5% all male. The Queen lays the eggs in January with the worker bees looking after her and the eggs. Come July/August a busy time for beekeepers as the colony might decide to swarm. The Queen and 75% of the workers fly out and look for somewhere to settle, typically a branch. The hive is then left with 25% of workers, so no honey, oh dear, but the colony kept some eggs and a new queen emerges 16 days later. She then flies off to find a drone then back to the hive and build up another colony. A fascinating insight into the work of a Beekeeper, not for the faint-hearted. Jason wrote an interesting article in last month's magazine.

We welcomed a couple of people from Good Neighbours and I must say everyone thoroughly enjoyed the talk. The usual excellent tea and cakes and sandwiches followed.

Our next meeting is on April 20th with a musical evening with John Gleadall.

Jan Dunnett

A 2021 Farming Roundup

Oil seed rape established well in autumn 2020, our first crop for a couple of years following the devastation caused by flea beetle. The major pest this year was fallow deer. A large herd lives in the woods south of East Ashling and feeds in the fields by night. Not only do the deer eat the crop but the damaged plants mature later and so are unharvestable unless you can return for a second cut.

North of the Funtington Road we grew Skyfall wheat. It's a high yielding variety and can attract a 'milling' premium if you harvest it just right. The dry spring slowed growth and reduced yield but we were hopeful of getting the premium. Alas rain in early August delayed harvest and the grain failed its Hagberg test (that's how stretchy the dough is for baking bread). However it was not all bad news since the underlying price for feed wheat is excellent.

Rain was not the only trial at harvest as finding a temporary tractor driver to help out gets more difficult each year. There is a big demand for seasonal labour from horticulture, hospitality, etc. and in the absence of east Europeans and language students, the competition for UK staff is intense. We ended up employing a gardener on a job share. This year we will again be looking for someone who can drive a tractor and wants to earn good money for a few weeks ...

No doubt there will be new challenges in 2022. For a start, the cost of nitrogen fertiliser has more than doubled on the back of higher gas prices and we look forward to learning how the government's new environmental schemes will work. *DH January 2022*

A Good Read

Deep Sea and Foreign Going by Rose George

Prepare to be amazed and alarmed: the author provides some absolutely fascinating facts, figures and statistics on international shipping. Rose George took passage onboard a massive container ship, *Maersk Kendal*, for the 9,288 nautical miles from Felixstowe to Singapore. While there are around 100,000 ships at sea; carrying nearly all the solids, liquids and gases that we need, only about 6,000 are container ships. However, they make up for their small number with their dizzying capacity. The biggest ships can carry 18,000 containers. According to Rose George, even the men who work on container ships don't show much interest in the boxes they transport: "They think they are boring, opaque, blank. Stuff carrying stuff."

Part of the challenge for anyone who writes about logistics is to show how a subject that appears remote impacts on everyone's lives. Ms George achieves this by offering some startling facts. As a post-industrial country UK has little to ship, so many containers leave here empty but return full of goods from East of Suez. This makes shipping from here cheap, so much so that it's less costly for Scottish cod to be sent 10,000 miles to China to be filleted and then exported back to shops and restaurants here than it is to pay the salaries of Scottish filleters. Isn't that madness?

Despite her size, *Maersk Kendal* only has a crew of 20 and is registered in UK, unlike many others who register under 'flags of convenience'. The two largest ship registries are Liberia and Panama. It's all about flexible safety standards and reducing costs – this is an opaque area of maritime operations. Modern sailors are a motley, multinational bunch. People from India, Bangladesh, Ukraine and Russia are common. Most populous of all are Filipinos, who are lured by the wages, and whose remittances help support the nation. Many work more than 85 hours a week and are given meagre provisions. It is not uncommon for them to be abandoned on ships for months without pay.

The author describes the oceans as the world's wildest places. Ships are uniquely mobile and the seas are difficult to govern and police. In 2009, the aged ship *Danny F 11* was ferrying cattle and sheep from Uruguay to Syria when she sank off the coast of Lebanon with the loss of over half the 83 people on board. For relatives of the missing, answers proved elusive: the vessel, Egyptian owned but flying a flag of convenience, had been in international waters when she sank. As Ms George explains, legally it was just "a small part of Panama, floating in no-man's sea". This is indeed a murky and dangerous industry.

Bob Money

Today's World

God's poor world is a sorely troubled place
Full of hatred, heartache and despair.
Created beauty, marred by the human race
Who for it and others show scant care.
Field and forest, creatures under threat
To satisfy man's all consuming need,
Polluted rivers, seas – our very air
Sacrificed to man's eternal greed.

Each day we sit and watch our children die
Victims of starvation and of strife.
Each day we sit and watch their loved ones cry,
Themselves near death, just clinging on to life.
We, who have so much, feel so inept,
So powerless to provide the care they need.
We who have listened, watch and often wept,
For better sense and more compassion, plead.

O to sleep and dream away life's cares
Postponing them until unconscious hours
Confident that when we wake again
True peace and love and hope would then be ours.
Untouched by envy and abuse of power,
The world's worst evils, famine, hunger, wars
Just nightmares – dulled by slumber opiate.

Taken from Bee Kenchington's recent anthology of poems 'A Time to Laugh and a Time to Weep', published on her 99th Birthday. Her poems written over a lifetime still have such resonance today.

Anyone interested in buying a copy please contact The Editor

Funtington in the Past - To get to Chichester 100 years ago

“There were three ways to get to Chichester, the first being to walk all the way from Funtington. This could be a leisurely walk there being no traffic on the road; in fact the road was little more than the width of Watery Lane.”

“Secondly you could walk to Bosham Station, the shortcut being through “Nineteen Acres”, (the pathway through the churchyard) through the School Dell to Mount Noddy and on to Ratham and Bosham to catch a train to Chichester.”



A Carrier by the Millpond in West Ashling c1920

“Thirdly you could travel with the carrier, Mr Chuter or Mr Joyce. The carrier would call in if he saw the letter “C” on a piece of cardboard in the window. He would pick you up about 8:30 am but didn’t come back home until 4:30 pm. For his journey he would charge a penny or tuppence. Whilst you were about your own business, he would be shopping for

other customers. You gave him the order and he would go into the appropriate shop and bring home the goods on “appro” (on approval) returning the next day with those not wanted and the money. The drapers soon came to know their customers through the carrier.”



Mr Richard Davys at Davys’ Garage now Davys’ Yard in Funtington c1928

“This changed in 1928 when Mr Richard Davys came to live in Funtington and set up a garage and taxi business which flourished. In 1931 the Southdown Bus started up a run from Chichester to Compton which was well patronised particularly as the last bus was about 10 o’clock in the evening so we were able to visit the pictures and get the last bus home. Such a pleasure was denied people living in the village until the arrival of the bus. By this time the road had been cleaned up and widened half the width it is today with overhanging tree branches cut off”

“Not many people had holidays in those days but if you were lucky and went to chapel, the



Children outside the Richmond Arms in West Ashling c1915

minister and his wife hired a bus and took all the children and their mothers to Bognor on a Thursday in August. They were treated to a tea in the tea shop along the front. No wonder the attendance at the Congregational Chapel Sunday School rose steeply pre-August as the Funtington Church Sunday School children only had a “bun fight” in the vicarage paddock!”

This extract comes from a book written by the Women’s Institutes of West Sussex called *Within Living Memory* (1993) part of a series published Countryside Books. Contributions were received from more than 100 WIs including the Funtington and West Stoke Women’s Institute. Much of this story will no longer be “*Within Living Memory*” but quite amazingly former residents of the parish have been able to provide me with more information.

Richard Davys’s daughter Sybil Martin tells me that her father came to live here with his parents in 1923 and began to sell and repair bicycles. Five years later after he had married, he learned to drive and repair cars and to provide a taxi service.



A fossil picked up on the beach during a Sunday School outing c1915.

Dorrie James tells me that when she was growing up in West Ashling in the 1920s, she attended a Sunday School in Funtington in the morning and another Sunday School in the Congregational Chapel in the afternoon. She was invited to tea in the tea shop on the front in Bognor as well as the “bun fight in the vicarage paddock”!!

Alec Peters tells me that his grandmother went with her daughters on a Funtington Church Sunday School outing in a charabanc in the 1910s and has shown me the evidence; a fossil that she picked up there and always used as door stop!!

Note *The pictures come from my own collection. The former residents have kindly agreed that I might include their names.*
Geoffrey Boys



Ukraine

We cannot send this magazine out without sending our heartfelt support for Ukraine. All our thoughts are with those incredibly brave people who are showing such resolve and courage in the face of such appalling tyranny and destruction.

Funtington Parish Magazine – Annual Report (2021-2022)

It is now a year since Jo Laird and I began editing the magazine. I can't believe that we have managed to produce 12 monthly issues already. It is quite a task and has been a big learning curve for both of us. Much respect goes to Katie Symonds who held the role as sole editor for seven years!

We could not have done it without the wonderful support from all our regular contributors, news reports from the local clubs and societies, book reviewers, and recipe providers. To the Vicar for his monthly letter and Jane for her letters of meditation which have been so comforting to so many.

A big thank you too to our 'Distributors'. There are sixteen of these unsung heroes scattered throughout the Parish from Hambrook, Adsdean, Lynch Down, Davys Court, Church Lane, Watery Lane Funtington, Heather Close, Malthouse Lane, Southbrook Road, East Ashling, West Stoke and Densworth! You know who you are and we could not do it without you!

We have increased circulation by 25 and now have nearly 300 paying subscribers. We will have another push at marketing as we collect this coming years subscriptions. We print about 340 copies per month which are distributed to all three churches and Adsdean Farm Shop (where we have a collecting tin).

We will keep the annual subscription the same this year at £10 (£18 for those receiving it by post to cover a second class stamp) and try to cover any printing increases by selling some more advertising space. A few advertisers have dropped by the wayside, so again an effort to sell more space is on the cards and has already been discussed by Jo and I.

The Magazine is a non-profit making operation, but despite that we have managed to make a small profit and intend to give a donation to the Red Cross Ukrainian Appeal.

Spread the Word.... Do your neighbours enjoy reading your copy of the Parish Magazine? If not perhaps they don't know what a good read it is and how much local information it covers.

So... please do spread the word and encourage your friends and neighbours to subscribe.

The Editors

Funtington Flora

Lesser Celandine - Many of the local road verges and banks are studded with Lesser Celandines, particularly in damper places. These flowers are in the buttercup family and have the same buttercup yellow colour but have seven to twelve petals. Look too for their heart-shaped glossy green leaves, often marbled with paler green.



Cherry Plum - The earliest cherry species to burst into flower is Cherry Plum. Its white flowers open before the leaves. Its shoots are green and thornless, unlike Blackthorn (Sloe) which is a little later to flower and has dark brown twigs and long spines. Hawthorn flowers even later, in May, after its leaves have opened first. You can see Cherry Plum blossoming in the hedge between West Ashling pond and the school entrance.

Sweet Violet - The deep purple Sweet Violets are blooming low down under the tall trees near the Cherry Plum, closer to Funtington school entrance. Some but not all flowers are fragrant. You can tell Sweet Violets from other species such as dog violet because the green sepals, which surround the purple petals, have rounded tips.



Community Road Verge in East Ashling - West Sussex County Council has granted Community Road Verge status to the sloping bank below the hedge, opposite the Horse and Groom pub in East Ashling. The council will now only mow once a year, in the autumn. This should allow the wild flower species (79 species already) to bloom and flourish. *Helen Dignum*



Two familiar garden birds

This time of year the dawn chorus is ramping up to its full symphonic glory. One of the loudest participants is the Robin. If you have been listening carefully to his song over the last couple of months you will have noticed that he has been adding in more notes and melodies as the year has progressed. This he does to make him more attractive to his mate. He is one of the first to sing in the morning, starting before the sun is up and will continue until late in the evening. Come April he is singing his full repertoire. Bird song generally has two functions to attract a mate but also to stake out the bird's territory.

Our Robin is highly territorial. During the winter the male and female hold separate territories and both will sing rather soulful songs to mark them out. It is not unusual to see these birds also scrapping with other Robins protecting their territory. The behaviour can be extremely aggressive during the breeding season and the males will occasionally kill another intruding Robin. In fact in some areas 10% of adult male Robin's deaths are thought to be from territorial disputes. Once mated the Robins will nest almost anywhere where shelter is offered, often taking advantage of



Adult Robin



Probably a 6 week old Robin (partial moult)

discarded items around the garden. The nest is usually within six feet from the ground and is composed of leaves, grass and moss and lined with finer grasses and hair. She will start to lay her eggs in March and if the season is a good, a pair of Robins might get to raise three clutches during their breeding season. She lays between 5-6 eggs each brood which are a pale buff cream colour with reddish brown spots. The chicks fledge within 3-4 weeks, both parents feeding their offspring until the female starts sitting again and the male will take over sole feeding duty. Once the chicks have fledged they are independent. The fledglings do not have the characteristic red breast of the adult, but are heavily speckled in brown but can be identified because they have that typical 'robin-like' shape. Juveniles get their red breast after their first moult which is when they are about 6-7 weeks old.

A friend of the gardener the Robin is doing quite well in the south. Harsh winters will affect its numbers, but its productivity does rather help a quick recovery.

Another garden bird that is very vocal in the dawn chorus with its rich melodious song is the Blackbird. A low pitched fluted warble is often delivered from a prominent perch within its territory. This is also a territorial bird maintaining it throughout the year. The Blackbird is



Adult male blackbird

monogamous and the male and female will occupy the same territory. They can be told apart quite easily as the Blackbird is 'black' but the female is 'brown' with a varying degree of speckling on the breast. The male will defend its territory, but with a lot less aggression than the Robin. He tends to raise and bow this head and then rush the intruder chasing it away.

The Blackbird will start to nest in March, building it in a dense creeper or bush, typically Honeysuckle, Ivy, Holly or Hawthorn. The nest is cup shaped, built by the female who uses grasses and leaves which are bound together with mud. She will lay usually four eggs which are a bluish green with pale brown

spots which are denser over the larger end. She will incubate for about two weeks, and then the chicks take a further two weeks to fledge. The fledglings will continue to be fed by the parents for another couple of weeks, and can often be seen following a parent around begging for food. If successful at breeding, the Blackbird will use the same nest again to raise a second brood and sometimes in the south will even attempt a third one.



Adult female blackbird

The nest of the Blackbird is often not well hidden and is subject to quite frequent predation, particularly from domestic cats and foxes. Magpies, Jays and Sparrowhawks will also often seize chicks and even adult birds.

Interestingly the Blackbird is one of those birds that have been shown to have 'unihemispheric slow-wave sleep'. This is where one side of the brain is effectively asleep, while the other retains some low grade activity characteristic of some wakefulness. Scientists believe this has enabled the species to rest in areas of high predation but still retain some alertness. Thus the Blackbird continues to do quite well in our Gardens.

Kevin Tarrant



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The amateur tree surgeons have been busy!



main trunk of the tree remains, along with some huge fallen boughs which are immovable without industrial lifting gear.

The main trunk of the tree is hollow, which contributed to its demise, and it is a blessing that no one was close to the tree when it came down on the Friday morning.

It is hoped that the large mound of branches



Following storm Eunice, a group of enthusiastic volunteers, some complete with chainsaws spent three weekends working to clear the ancient sycamore which fell in the Vicarage Paddock. The tree, which had a girth of 19 feet and could possibly have been 300 years old has been reduced to hundreds of logs and an extremely large heap of twigs and branches. The



and twigs may be used as a beacon to celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee in June.



Natural England at Kingley Vale - April 2022

I am sure many readers will have grown up around Kingley Vale so will already be familiar with its many special qualities. Designated as one of the country's first National Nature Reserves in 1952, it is much valued for its ancient yew forest and chalk grassland, as well as its rich archaeological history and stunning 'coombe' landscape.

Together with my colleague Rachel, I am one of the lucky custodians responsible for managing this amazing place. We work for Natural England and it is our job to look after the reserves' various habitats and wildlife, as well as managing visitor access and dealing with less enjoyable issues like anti-social behaviour. We are assisted in this role with a small group



of volunteers, some very charismatic Belted Galloway cattle, and an increasingly elusive flock of sheep. Over the next 12 months myself and Rachel would like to share with you some of the seasonal news and events that take place at Kingley Vale.

April species focus - Adder

As Spring emerges, there are many species we could focus on but I would like to start with the adder.

Being the UK's only venomous snake, the adder is often much maligned and poorly characterised in old folklore and literature. But if you look closer you will see a small, shy and exceptionally beautiful creature. The real shame is that few people get to encounter them, probably down to both their natural shyness and more alarmingly the steady decline in their UK population. However at Kingley Vale we still have decent numbers due to the reserve's rich mosaic of grassland and scrub.

April is a great time to spot adders as the males are already out basking in the sun (to enable them to produce sperm after the winter slumber) and the females start to emerge later in the month ready for mating. If you are really lucky you might even encounter one of springs greatest spectacles, with dancing adders fighting each other for breeding rites.

But to find an adder you need to think like an adder! Best to head out on a warm sunny day and skirt the grassland edge. They love basking in hidden little pockets just outside the scrub where they can quickly retreat to safety. Tread lightly and keep your eyes peeled as they really are masters of camouflage!



First adder of the season enjoying the sunshine

The adder also offers some great lessons in reserve management. Like so many species, adders thrive in a rich habitat mosaic where they can move around without the threat of predation. Although they need open habitats like chalk grassland, they never stray far from cover especially with so many predators around – just look up to see the ravens, kites and buzzards circling overhead! So for us reserve managers it is important to ensure plenty of scrubby edges and islands in and around the grassland. We also need to ensure the cattle and sheep don't graze right up to the edge. The cattle are preferable here as they tend to leave a much rougher tussocky sward which is ideal for many invertebrates as well as reptiles.

The adder's poor mobility also represents another conservation challenge. Many nature reserves like Kingley Vale are small and isolated and often surrounded by arable farmland. This can lead to genetic problems and inbreeding for less mobile species. It is therefore important for us to work closely with our neighbours to encourage 'softer edges' around the reserve. Many farmers already do this through their agri-environment options like field margins and hedgerows which act as great wildlife corridors.

If you would like to learn more about adders please visit the Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust website: <https://www.arc-trust.org/adder>. If you spot an adder in Kingley Vale or elsewhere please make a note of the location and inform your local Biodiversity Record Centre. If you can safely take a photo that is a bonus for identification. You can also do this via the iRecord App or website (<https://irecord.org.uk/>) which allows wildlife sightings to be collated, checked by experts and made available to support research and decision-making at local and national levels.

Steve Walker

Good Neighbours

We held a lunch in the Church Room on 11th March. There was a good turn out of about 35 people – both Clients and Volunteers. Thank you to the Volunteers who supplied transport and lots of delicious food.

AGM: We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday 27th April at 7 p.m. at the Church Room, Funtington. This is a public meeting and we would welcome anyone who is not a Volunteer to join us and to find out more about our Scheme – please email: jml@laird.uk.net to let us know that you will be joining us.

Platinum Jubilee: Our next social event will be a tea on 7th June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Bee Kenchington's Birthday Tea

A group of Bee's friends celebrated her 99th Birthday with tea, sandwiches and a delicious cake. Valerie Rizzo gave her a lovely picture which she had coloured beautifully



Date for your Diary – The Newly Revived West Ashling Duck Race!

Saturday 25th June 2022, Mill Fields, West Ashling

Spend a fun afternoon at the newly revived West Ashling Duck Race to be held in the grounds of The Mill fields in West Ashling. Profits will go to help our Village Hall.

Buy or sponsor a specially crafted Duck and support your duck as it fights its way down the stream to win the race.

There will be fantastic prizes for the best decorated Duck, the winning Duck, the penultimate Duck over the finish line and the Duck with the most sponsorship. All sponsored Ducks will also be entered into a draw for the chance to win yet another breathtaking prize!



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BUY AN OBELISK AND SUPPORT UKRAINE RED CROSS APPEAL



I am making willow garden obelisks to support the Ukraine Red Cross Appeal.



The obelisks will be made from my own Sussex willow, harvested from my Westbourne allotment. They are ideal for supporting climbers such as sweet peas or clematis.

Prices start at £30 for a 4ft obelisk to £40 for a 6ft obelisk.

Every penny of sales will go to the Red Cross appeal. To order email southdownsbasketmaker@gmail.com or phone Jill on 07729 638439. Available whilst willow stocks last!

The Garden Show at FIRLE Easter 15 – 17 April 2022

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The Garden Show in Spring at Firle Place is back! Now in its 14th year proving that it's the perfect time and place to plot and plan for the garden year and be inspired with over 200 stalls.

Visitors have the opportunity to wander up to beautiful St. Peter's Church and into Firle Place Herb Garden and around the Park where lambs will be frisking about. There are plenty of activities to keep all the family occupied.

Garden Show Ticket Prices on the Gate

Adults £10, Concessions £8, Child £4 (4 yrs and under FOC) Family £26

[Pre-book your tickets online 15% discounted!](#)

NB: No dogs allowed in the Showground & Firle Gardens (except those needed to assist)

www.thegardenshows.com 01243 538456 www.firle.com

Spring is finally here

The similarity to a honeybee colony is quite remarkable; here we have a group of industrious, socially-minded women all dedicating time and effort to enrich the lives of themselves and their 'sisters'. Some setting the agenda, some organising the outings, and some offering tea and home-made cake. Oh, and a couple of men hanging around the fringes desperately hoping for a look in. All of them doing their bit to ensure the good health and longevity of the colony. Funtington and West Stoke branch of the Women's Institute.

I had the pleasure of doing a short talk at their monthly meeting a couple of weeks ago and was taken in by their warmth, humour and avid interest. Despite it being my first time doing a 'bee talk' to more than just someone who then regretted asking, they stayed the course and didn't break into a slow handclap. We are fortunate to have such an active group in our parish.

As predicted, the warm weather in late March gave us 'beeks' the chance to open our beehives for the first time since October, and, despite Storm Eunice doing her utmost to wreak havoc upon our apiary, we have managed to get all ten of our hives through the winter without loss. Much can happen to a colony in winter, but the two biggest killers are starvation, where a colony simply doesn't have enough stores to last them through until spring, and disease, where principally the Varroa mite can reduce numbers to such an extent that the colony is too small to stay warm. I'm glad our hard work and attention last autumn means all our colonies are fit and well – it bodes well for the summer.

Aside from checking the health of our colonies, the main job right now is a good spring clean – each of our colonies will get a clean, sterilised beehive to move into, swapping out the one they have lived in for the past year. This new home kick-starts them into action as they will have lots of new comb to build to give the queen somewhere to lay her eggs. Making new comb is a team effort; the juvenile honeybees secrete a waxy substance from a gland in their abdomen that other bees collect and mix with propolis (tree sap that sets solid) by chewing it in their mouths to form beeswax. The beeswax is regurgitated and formed into new comb, each cell a perfect hexagonal shape. Lots of energy is required to make comb, the juveniles need honey to make the wax and the hive needs to be kept warm enough to make the wax pliable, so each bee has her job to do.

And finally, nothing says 'spring is finally here' more than the annual West Sussex Beekeeping Auction, right? Held in late April in a big field near Pulborough, it's a chance for friends to meet up in glorious sunshine, share plans for the coming season, and haggle with each other over second-hand beekeeping equipment. Sheer bliss!

Jason Boswell

Letter from Gillian Keegan MP

We're very fortunate to have some amazing charities and support services in our area. Last month, I visited the Apuldram Centre that supports adults with learning disabilities locally. The Centre has been running for 30 years and offers daytime occupational activities such as cookery, gardening and woodwork, as well as supported living. I met with Rachel, the Chief Executive, who showed me around. It was wonderful to meet the staff and those using the centre's services and I had a brilliant time joining in with a silent disco and exercise classes. As the Minister for Care, I'm always keen to better understand what can be done to support these services, it is a subject that is close to my heart as an aunt to a boy with Downs Syndrome. I am currently supporting the Downs Syndrome Bill to become legislation on behalf of the Government. It will place a duty on local authorities to assess the needs of those with Down's Syndrome and to plan for these accordingly.

Just down the road in Bosham, is St Wilfrid's Hospice, which is another much-loved local service. 2022 is a particularly special year as it marks the Hospice's 35th year of operation and they've supported over 20,000 patients during this time. Since their move into their new facility, the Hospice has been able to offer 18 rooms as well as a 'hospice at home' service that enables people to spend their final days in their own homes. The team have faced huge challenges during the pandemic, balancing the need for people to visit their loved ones whilst also keeping patients safe but Alison, the Chief Executive, and her team have done an incredible job. We're so lucky to have an asset like St. Wilfrid's in our area.

There's also been some big news in the Department for Health and Social Care. Subject to consultation and a vote in Parliament, vaccinations will no longer be a condition of deployment for health and social care workers; ensuring our response to Covid-19 remains proportionate and balanced as we build our wall of defence against the virus. This decision has been made to reflect the change in circumstance as we've moved from Delta as the dominant variant to Omicron, which is less severe. That said, I cannot stress enough the importance of getting a vaccine if you're eligible, to protect you and those around you. There are thousands of appointments available across our area, which you can book online on the national booking website or by calling 119.

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CHICHESTER MUSIC SOCIETY

Student Showcase Wednesday 13th April 7.30 pm at the Chapel, University of Chichester.

Our annual Student Showcase will be our next event. Six Students from the Music Department will take part including a flautist, guitar player, a pianist and 2 singers. We await news on the sixth performer! The Showcase will offer a prestigious performance opportunity rather than a competition this year, with the performers receiving donations from our Robert Headley Fund.

Visitors £15. Tickets available from Ticket Source

(ticketsource.co.uk/chichester-music-society) or Elizabeth Stanley 07973 410407 (elizabeth.stanley617@btinternet.com).

AUDITIONS – Calling All Budding Thespians!

The FUNTINGTON PLAYERS are holding auditions on Tuesday 26th April at 7.30 p.m at West Ashling Village Hall for their Autumn Production which will be *The Titfield Thunderbolt*, by Philip Goulding.

The branch line between Mallingford and Titfield is losing money and British Rail is intent on closing it down. In desperation the villagers decide to take charge and run it themselves with hilarious results!

Anyone interested in auditioning for a part or wanting to help backstage is very welcome.

Annual Subscriptions for the Parish Magazine April 2022 – March 2023

It is that time of the year again! We will be collecting your annual subscription for the Parish Magazines this month. We are happy to report that we can hold the cost to £10 for the year. If the printing charges do increase we will compensate by selling more advertising space.

Details on how to pay are included in the enclosed letter from the Treasurer.

You can pay online (which is preferred), but please give your name as a reference.

Or by cheque made out to Funtington PCC and send to The Editor, 3 Dukes Meadow, Funtington PO18 9LU or by cash to your usual distributor.

Thank you for your support

The Editor

Social Activities

Let's Dance (for the not so young!)

Monday afternoons (term time) 2.30pm 'til 3.30pm

St. Mary's Church Room, Church Lane, Funtington PO18 9LH

Contact: Kathryn Wignall at Kathryn.wignall@tiscali.co.uk

Eucharist on Wednesdays (followed by coffee morning for all)

You are invited to come to Eucharist and coffee held every Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Church Funtington for a short service. Everyone welcome to come and join us for coffee and biscuits afterwards at 11am in The Church Room. A good time for meeting others, sharing and laughter.

Funtington and West Stoke W1

The next meeting is on 20th April at 7pm for a musical evening with John Gleadall. Visitors are always welcome at our W1 meetings in the Village Hall. Please phone Sue Nicholson for more details. 01243 574722

Funtington Bridge Club

The club now meets every Thursday at St. Mary's Church Room, Funtington. Rubber Bridge from 1.30pm until 5pm £3 per person including tea, coffee and biscuits. Contact Roger Freeguard for details 01243 576650

Solution to crossword 11 (compiled by Paul Pridmore)

ACROSS.

1 Spot-check 8 Glove 9 Rimbaud 10 Ante 11 Filmgoer 13 Strays 14 Flagon 17 Catullus 19 Asia 21 Erasmus 22 Pluck 23 Androcles

DOWN.

2 Plotter 3 Tree 4 Hermit 5 Camomile 6 Halo 7 Adirondack 8 Goatsucker 12 Cyclamen 15 Gesture 16 Hussar 18 Tear 20 Epic

Bosham Chidham & District Horticultural Society

As the deadline for inclusion in the local publications fall before our March meeting I am unable to report on that meeting. Our meeting in February was very well attended and we welcomed several visitors. However I did not want to miss an opportunity to inform any newcomers to the local area of our activities. We meet at Bosham Village Hall at 7.30 on the second Thursday of the month with a few exceptions. It's a great way to get to know people in the locality as you have a chance when you arrive to have a cuppa with our friendly members before the meeting starts. We have a wide range of speakers and also have a raffle, and a competition of your best flower/vegetable. Each year we have two important events: The **Coffee Morning and Plant Sale** which will be held this year on **Saturday 14th MAY** in the Village Hall from 10-12 noon. This is a great chance to buy your plants all ready to plant out, both flowers and vegetables – there are always members on hand who are experienced gardeners and can help you with ideas and planting. There is also a cake stall, book/puzzles stall, and a raffle and of course there is coffee and tea served with biscuits and cakes! The money raised at this sale helps us to pay for our speakers at the meetings. In June we have an outing to a members garden which is always a very popular event. **On August 13th** we hold our **Annual Show** in the Village Hall from 2pm onwards. We are proud of this Show as we get exhibitors from all around the area and it is quite a spectacle. As we are affiliated to the RHS this show is done in accordance with their rules and the qualified Judges enjoy coming each year. You do not have to be a member to exhibit at our show. The Members work hard to keep this Show in the calendar of local events each year, but we thoroughly enjoy it on the day! I do hope that this short article will inspire you to join us as a visitor or maybe a member. Take a look at our website for all up to date information www.bcdhs.org.

Rozie Bradley - Secretary

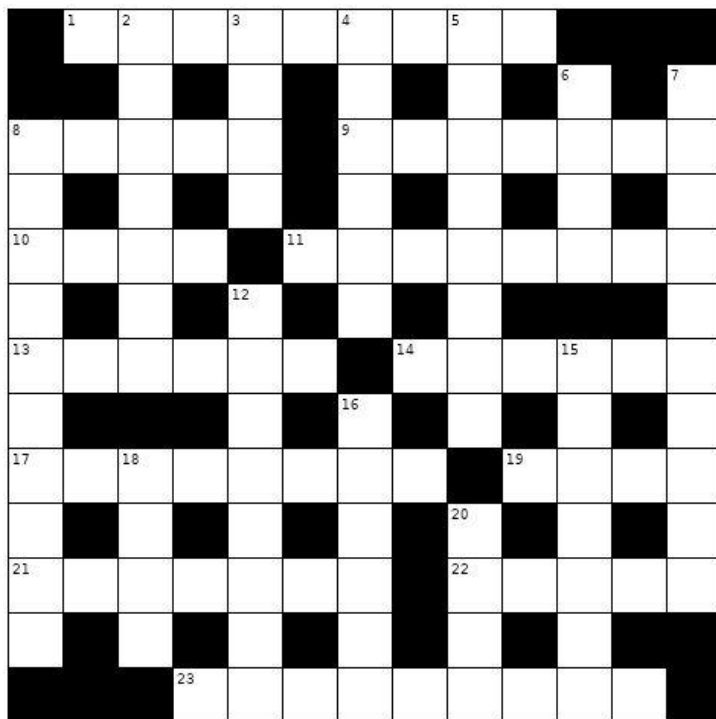
STOP PRESS

The Parish Magazine 'gathering'

A fun time was had by all to mark the first year of new editorship of the magazine. Organised by the Editors to thank all those who have contributed articles and distributed it around the Parish.

Photographs will be in the May edition

Crossword no. 11



ACROSS

- 1 A random (and rash?) inspection (4-5)
- 8 Winter hand warmer (5)
- 9 Paul, French poet contemporary with Oscar Wilde (7)
- 10 A stake placed in gambling (4)
- 11 Cineaste (8)
- 13 Wanders from the true path (6)
- 14 Large bottle or jug for wine (6)
- 17 Roman writer of love poetry (8)
- 19 The largest continent (4)
- 21 Dutch philosopher and Renaissance scholar (7)
- 22 Courage needed to pull a guitar string (5)
- 23 Slave who befriended a lion (9)

DOWN

- 2 Graphic peripheral for Guy Fawkes? (7)
- 3 General Sherman is the world's largest (4)
- 4 He may be lonely and crabby (6)
- 5 Aromatic herb used for tea (8)
- 6 Ring of light round saint's head (4)
- 7 --- Mountains, in N.Y. state (10)
- 8 Bird also called nightjar (10)
- 12 Flower like primula with turned-back petals (8)
- 15 A movement of the body to express an idea or feeling (7)
- 16 Light (gay?) cavalryman (6)
- 18 A lachrymose laceration (4)
- 20 Long narrative heroic poem (4)

Saint Mary, Funtington Combined Rota.

St. Mary, Funtington – April 2022 Church Rota

Day	Service	Flowers	Brass	Elements	LaMoCs	Intercess	Sidesmen	Readings
3 rd April Lent 5 <small>JM Pu</small>	10:00 Family Service			-	-	Borbone family	Jimmy Faure Andrew Hughes	Jimmy Faure Isaiah 43:16-21 Andrew Hughes John 12:1-8
10 th April Palm Sunday <small>AB R</small>	10:00 Sung Eucharist	Lent – NO Flowers	Miriam Callas	David & Miriam Callas	Liz Lancaster	Nigel Brown	Nigel Brown Anne Maddock	Nigel Brown Isaiah 50:4-9 Anne Maddock Philippians 2:5-11
14 th April Maundy Thursday <small>AB R</small>	19:00 Eucharist & Stripping of Church			In Sanctuary		-	Nick La Hive	Nick La Hive Exodus 12:1-14
15 th April Good Friday <small>AB</small>	10:00 Stations of the Cross			-	-	-	David Callas Ann Tupper	David Callas Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 Ann Tupper 1 Cor 11:23-26
17 th April Easter Day <small>AB W</small>	10:00 Sung Eucharist	Easter Flowers	Liz Lancaster	Ann Jones & Sue Simms	Carolyn Watt	Jane Gummer	Carolyn Watt Liz Lancaster	Carolyn Watt Acts 10:34-43 Liz Lancaster 1 Cor 15:19-26
24 th April Easter 2 <small>DN W</small>	10:00 Sung Eucharist			Liz Collet & Pat Hill	Kay Knowles	Anne Maddock	Jimmy Faure Neil Watt	Jimmy Faure Acts 5:27-32 Neil Watt Rev 1:4-8
1 st May Easter 3 <small>JM W</small>	10:00 Family Service	Debbie Hughes	Anne Maddock	-	-	Borbone family	Denise Foster Kay Knowles	Denise Foster Acts 9:1-20 Kay Knowles John 21:1-19

If unable to carry out a duty please arrange your own relief & amend notice at back of Church

Parish Services April 2022

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ALL CHURCHES, SERVICES & EVENTS!

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
Sun 3 rd April Lent 5	10:00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew, West Stoke
	10:00am	Family Service	St Mary, Funtington
Wed 6 th April	10.30am	Said Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
Sun 10 th April Palm Sunday	10:00am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
Mon 11 th April	7:00pm	Holy Communion	St Mary, Sennicotts
Tue 12 th April	7:00pm	Holy Communion	St Mary, Sennicotts
Wed 13 th April	10.30am	Said Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
	7:00pm	Vestry & APCM	Church Room, Funtington
	7:00pm	Holy Communion	St Mary, Sennicotts
Thu 14 th April Maundy Thursday	7:00pm	Eucharist & Stripping of Church	St Mary, Funtington
Fri 15 th April Good Friday	10:00am	Stations of the Cross followed by procession to St Wilfred & St Mary, Chidham	St Mary, Funtington
Sat 16 th April Easter Saturday	10:00am	Morning Prayer	St Mary, Funtington
Sun 17 th April Easter Day	7:00am	First Light of Easter	Cobnor Shoreline, Chidham
	10:00am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
Wed 20 th April	10.30am	Said Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
Sun 24 th April Easter 2	9:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sennicotts
	10:00am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
Wed 27 th April	10.30am	Said Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
Fri 29 th April	2:00pm	Memorial Service	Elizabeth HICK R.I.P.
Sun 1 st May Easter3	10:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Andrew, West Stoke
	10:00am	Family Service	St Mary, Funtington

See PARISH WEBSITE and CHURCH NOTICEBOARDS
for ALL INFORMATION & UPDATES:
www.funtingtonweststoke.com

Deadline for Magazine content for the May Edition
Wednesday 19th April 2022
Please send to
editorfuntingtonmag@gmail.com