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and ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM



PARISH MAGAZINE



June 2025



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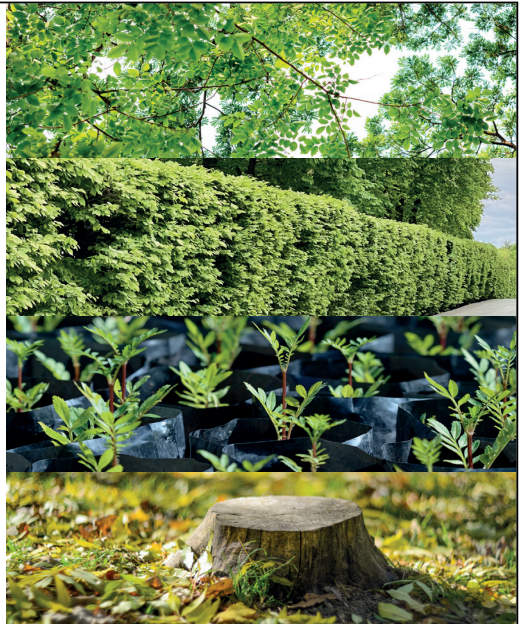
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The Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Withyham, with All Saints, Blackham

www.withyhamchurch.org

Rector	The Rev. Canon James Campbell The Rectory, Withyham, TN7 4BA withyhamrector@gmail.com	01892 770069
Churchwarden	Mrs Jill Pardey	01892 661882
Churchwarden	Mrs Gilly Halcrow	01892 770607
Sexton & Verger	Mr John Collins	01892 662389
Licensed Reader	Mr Donald Yonge	07872 529740
Organist	Mrs Sue Stone, GRSM ARCM DipEd	01892 770978
Deputy Organist	Mr Peter Ellefsen, BSc CEng MIEE	01892 653965
Bell Tower Captain		
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs Anne Barker	
Hon. Secretary	Mrs Alison Hunnam	01892 770347
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mr Donald Yonge safeguarding.withyhamchurch@gmail.com	07872 529740
Blackham Church	Mrs Sue Schooling	01892 740397
Withyham Flower Guild	Mrs Jill Pardey	01892 661882
Withyham Altar Linen	Mrs Diane Pedder	01892 770240
Withyham Church Cleaning Rota	Mrs Anne Radford	01892 770021
Family Support Work	Mrs Miriam Boobier	01892 662780
Church Administrator	Mrs Bridget Clayton withyhamchurch@gmail.com	01342 826183

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From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

As we get older, opportunities narrow and increasingly there are things that we can no longer do. It's always encouraging to hear the stories of those who buck the trend; and for some of us, the recent spell of glorious mid-May weather conjures up images of the crack of leather on willow.

Sally Barton made her international debut in Gibraltar's second T20 team against Estonia, aged almost 67, making her the oldest debutant in international cricket. Since lockdown, wicketkeeper Sally has been living on 'The Rock' where her husband Ian Tarrant, is the Anglican Dean. Previously they'd been missionaries with CMS (Church Mission Society) and spent ten years in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Sally enjoys Gibraltar because *"we can see Africa out of our apartment window... and remember our time there... which was brilliant."*

The Gibraltar team won a three-match series against Estonia in what was the first time the British Overseas Territory had played a women's T20 international. Sally told the BBC, *"The words 'too old' just aren't in my vocabulary. I never thought I would play international cricket in my sixties, but it goes to show that you shouldn't let anyone tell you it is time to stop playing sport. I might not be as fast as I used to be, but my endurance and everything is still there. My overriding memory of my debut, though, is the efforts of my team mates to get that win."* The grandmother of three said she caught the bug from her cricket-mad Yorkshire-born Dad. His *"idea of heaven was going to the West Indies, watching the MCC on tour with a glass of rum in his hand."*

A recent newspaper headline pronounced, *'70 is the new 50... so keep on working.'* According to the International Monetary Fund, those aged 70 in 2022 had the same cognitive function as the average 53-year-old in 2000. The research was based on detailed surveys of over one million people aged 50 and over in 41 countries, testing functions such as memory, orientation and basic maths. As well as living longer, most people are ageing in better health, the report added – encouragement for those of us who've passed this milestone.

For the Christian, the challenge is not just to keep going, but to stay focused on our Gospel priorities. In Matthew 24:13 Jesus said, *"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."*

James Campbell



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Churchwardens' Notes

by Jill Pardey & Gilly Halcrow

At the Annual Meeting Sue Schooling retired from the PCC after 40 years of service and a presentation was made to her with grateful thanks. She will continue to look after Blackham Church. Paul Radford after 27 years service, and Jackie Watson also resigned, and their places have been taken by Anne Radford and Imogen Wedd, and we wish them all well.

The congregation said farewell to Elizabeth Parish (Carden), on 11th April, who had done so much for the Church as Lay Reader and Rector's wife.

The Church now has a defibrillator stored in the Belfry and we have been assured that the instructions are simple, should we ever need to use it. The Church also has a card machine so that visitors can make cashless donations. If the Churchyard is looking unkempt in parts it is because the grass cannot be cut until the daffodils have died down in some areas.

The completion of building work on the Chancel will begin on September 15th with services at Withyham moving to the Nave. In the meantime we still await news of the results of the quinquennial inspection which took place on 17th April.

Church Calendar – June 2025

St. Michael and All Angels, Withyham, with All Saints, Blackham

(All services at Withyham unless stated)

Sunday 1st Sunday after Ascension

11.00 am	Holy Communion
6.00 pm	Joint Evensong at Holy Trinity Church, Markbeech

Sunday 8th Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

11.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
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Sunday 15th Trinity Sunday

9.45 am	Zoom
11.00 am	Matins
4.00 pm	Service of Wholeness & Healing
6.30 pm	Evensong

Sunday 22nd 1st after Trinity

11.00 am	Matins
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Sunday 29th Peter the Apostle

11.00 am	Matins, Blackham
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Sunday 6th July 3rd after Trinity

9.45 am	Zoom
11.00 am	Holy Communion
6.30 pm	Evensong

Parish Registers – May 2025

Marriage

On 24th May the wedding between Thomas ('Tom') James MORRIS and Charlotte Louise TRIBLEY took place at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Withyham.

Funerals

On 7th May the funeral took place at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Withyham of Elizabeth Anne PARISH (CARDEN) who died on 11th April 2025 aged 80, followed by burial in the Churchyard.

On 19th May the funeral took place at the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery Chapel of Jennifer ('Jenny') Ann SKINNER who died on 11th April 2025 aged 90.



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Congratulations

by Anne Barker



Withyham Rector, James Campbell, was presented with a painting by Gilly Halcrow on behalf of the Parish, to celebrate his 70th birthday and the continuation of his role at the Church, during a gathering in April. The painting is of the Churchyard magnolia tree in full bloom. James took up his current position in 2016, and the former London west end chartered surveyor was said to be “delighted” with the presentation and the continuation of his role.



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Family Support Work May 2025 update

by Martin Auton-Lloyd ,
FSW Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

Our weekend at Dalesdown for families from all across Sussex was greatly appreciated by those who went. The theme this year was 'Festival' creating the sense of being at a music festival with activities including making instruments, hair decorating, face painting, singing around the campfire, and marshmallow toasting. As one of our mums said, "It was our first family holiday, and it was lovely to go somewhere together. My daughter enjoyed playing with other children, making new friends. The access was good, the activities excellent, everyone was lovely." We are back at the Dalesdown centre in September, if you would like to support this activity as a volunteer or sponsor do get in touch.

On 6th May, Gemma Crowther-Goscheff Co-ordinator Officer for East Sussex, and Harry Clark as Receptionist and Administration Assistant at Garton House, joined us. We were also sorry in April to say goodbye to Nikki Kerr our Director of Fundraising for the last seven years and we wish Nikki well in the future.

We continue to see the demand for our work grow



and the waiting lists that we hold are getting longer. At this time with many children being supported having educational needs we are only too aware of the anxiety that is created around exams. We are helping some of our families deal with the additional pressures this brings to their lives

April's work in numbers

- 151 individual visits and 577 calls with families supporting 203 adults and 149 children
- 43 supported meetings with other agencies
- 49 group sessions held supporting 579 parents and 343 children
- 65 food deliveries made

Prayer points

- Pray our new staff members Gemma and Harry settle in quickly
- Pray for all the children and young people we support as the exam season starts
- Pray for our Board as they meet this month and for all of the Practitioners as they support families

An advertisement for Amora Care. It features a photograph of a female caregiver in a blue uniform with yellow trim, smiling and holding the hand of an elderly woman with short white hair. The woman is wearing a blue patterned top. The background is a solid blue. In the top left corner is the Amora Care logo, which includes a heart icon. The main headline is 'Regain independence and peace of mind with our premium home care.' with 'peace of mind' underlined. To the right of the photo is a list of services: Personal Care, Companionship, Dementia Care, Live-in and Nights, Post-Hospital Care, and Therapy dog visits. At the bottom right, it says 'Book a Free Assessment Today' followed by the phone number '01892 336 842' and the website 'www.amoracare.co.uk'. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code.

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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.

Full action from this meeting is available at www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk and www.facebook.com/WithyhamParishCouncil

Minutes can also be obtained from the Clerk via the Parish Office on 01892 864557 or clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk

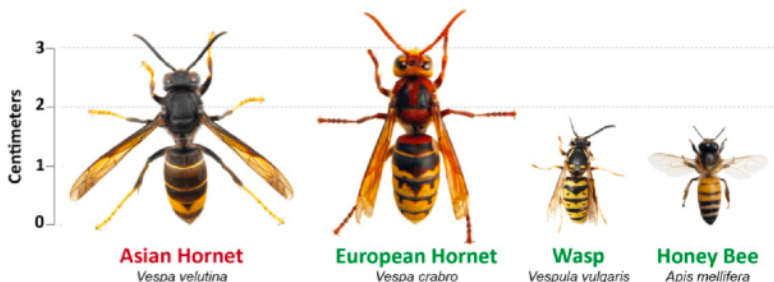
Find Your Nearest Defibrillator – In an emergency, every second counts and having quick access to a defibrillator could save a life. Defibrillators are easy to use, require no training, and give clear spoken instructions to guide you through every step. Find your nearest one now at www.defibfinder.uk because it could make all the difference.

Congratulations to both Blackham and Groombridge Men's Shed for installing new community defibrillators. And a big thank you to Crowborough First Responders, who maintain all the Parish Council's devices. Know of a defibrillator not listed? Register it with *The Circuit* and help save lives.

Identifying And Reporting Asian Hornets – The Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) is a dangerous invasive species threatening local bee populations across the UK. If you spot one, do not approach or attempt to destroy the nest. Instead, photograph it from a safe distance and report it immediately. Photos and videos can be emailed to: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Please ensure that you include full location and contact details. Quick reporting of hornets helps stop the spread and also helps protect our native wildlife.

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



VE Day 80: Spotlight On Blackham – This year marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and communities across the parish paid tribute to this historic moment. In Blackham, residents commemorated the occasion with a series of quiet, thoughtful displays and gatherings. The village bus shelter featured a moving exhibition showcasing life in Blackham during WWII, complete with memories, photographs, and stories from the time. Each evening, the D-Day Lamp of Peace was lit at Tommy Corner, while the Churchyard was adorned with flowers and the poignant Tommy Silhouettes were displayed inside the Church. On 10th May at 4pm, villagers gathered at the Church lychgate and walked to Tommy Corner for a moment of reflection – a chance to give thanks for the peace we enjoy today.



Join Our Speed Watch To Make Our Roads Safer – Readers can make a real difference by joining our Community Speed Watch group. Volunteers use radar equipment to monitor speeds and raise awareness of safe driving. Just a few hours a month can help deter speeding and improve safety for everyone. Training is provided, and it's a great way to support your local community.



Let's slow down – together.

To get involved, please email judi.tuke@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Help Us Keep Our Community Hub – Our parish office at the historic Groombridge Old Station isn't just our base, it's a vital, accessible hub for meetings, services and support across the parish. As we reported last month, we've leased it since 2013, but that ends in 2028, and unless we can buy the building now, we risk losing it forever.

In the last issue we appealed for support our campaign for a Public Works Loan, to secure our home, and now we would like to thank all of you who responded.



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AND THE WINNERS For

May 2025 are:

£20 - June Marchant

£15 - Ralph Millington

£10 - Sue Skinner

The Kings' Hall Withyham

We are very grateful for everyone's support but are happy to encourage more local people to become members and help our fundraising for further maintenance and improvements to our hall. Our numbers have risen back to 100 so a big THANK YOU to our new and continuing subscribers!!

Each number costs £12 per year, if you would like to join, please contact Rick Hunnam 07851 638634 or email chair@withyhamvillagehall.co.uk.

What's on?

Forthcoming Events in the Withyham Village

FRIDAY CAFÉ Friday 13th June - 10:30 - 12:00

HALL LUNCH Thursday 19th June - 12:15 for 12:30

FRIDAY CAFE

A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY CAFE

WHERE?

Kings' Hall, Withyham

WHAT TIME?

Between 10:30 - 12:00

TEA
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QUIZ
TALKS
CHAT
FUN



WHO'S IT FOR?

For anyone, any age who would like to meet new people or catch up with old friends

WHAT HAPPENS?

Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes are served in the first half an hour with plenty of time to chat, followed by a fun memory provoking or craft activity for the next hour

2025 Dates

13th June
11th July
8th August
12th September
10th October
14th November
12th December

INFORMATION

Please contact Anne Radford for more information on 07885 486733 or just come along on the day

This is a free service, funded by donations and volunteers. If you are a carer, please stay with the person you are bringing, we do hope that you will also enjoy your time with us. Open to anyone in the surrounding villages
PLEASE HELP US TO SPREAD THE WORD



Thanks to the following institutions for supporting our cafe.



Meeting Liz Hunt

by James Campbell

Liz was brought up in wartime North London. One day her parents' house in Ossian Road near Finsbury Park was badly damaged after a bomb landed in the road outside and they had to move to a flat in Muswell Hill. Her father was in the Home Guard and Liz was an only child. After the war they moved near to Redhill, and she attended a girls school in Reigate. She remembers the extended period of rationing; just one ounce of butter per week and her father's complaint that a restaurant only had rabbit on the menu. Liz then went to art colleges in Redhill and Wimbledon before going to London University Institute of Education to train as a teacher. Her first job as an art teacher was in a village near Cambridge.

Liz married Tony in 1961 and they soon bought two cottages at auction that later became Lyewood House and it has remained Liz's home for every one of those 63 years since.

The cottages had formed part of Hale Court Farm and were in poor condition. Interestingly, Dirk Bogarde purchased the main farmhouse but he never came to live there (although he did live on a farm on the Crowborough outskirts), and later sold it.

The renovation of the property was a major undertaking. Each cottage had just one cold tap and only one window at the back. However, Tony was an architect. The winter of 1962-63 was particularly severe with deep, drifting snow and blizzards from Boxing Day until March. For a time, they lived in a caravan in the garden.

Lacking a fridge, on one occasion Liz put a chicken outside in a tin with a brick on it – thus providing a passing fox with unexpected but much needed sustenance. They were eventually forced to live with Liz's in-laws at Hurst Green.



Tony continued work as an architect, first in London and then Edenbridge; sadly, he died some 20 years ago. Liz continued teaching art, first in Edenbridge and then Tunbridge Wells. Some years ago, she taught on two Swan Hellenic cruises and much enjoyed the free holidays!



Liz's other great passion is her garden. She says that she is entirely self-taught from books: "It's a question of trial and error." Initially, she and Tony had no idea that there was a magnificent view from their garden looking east over the valley towards Ashurst, Groombridge and Tunbridge Wells. The garden contains some fine old apples trees, as well as oaks. In the early days at Lyewood, Liz planted a small willow sapling – 60 years on it has grown a bit!

In due course the girls, Clare and Philippa were born and eventually married. Liz now has four granddaughters, two of whom are studying at Oxford University and

two are taking their A levels. Happily, both families live nearby at Tidebrook and Penshurst.

Although the years march on, Liz continues to lead a busy life, still teaching art at Frant, working in her beloved garden (from where she can watch the trains travel between Eridge and Ashurst stations), visiting exhibitions in London and travelling with friends. Liz sums up living in this part of Withyham for so many years: "Living here is like living in paradise!"





WITHYHAM CHURCH & VILLAGE FETE



SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2025
12:30PM TO 4PM

A TRADITIONAL FETE ON THE BUCKHURST CRICKET GROUND
(courtesy of Earl and Countess De La Warr)

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DOG SHOW - BOTTLE TOMBOLA - BRIC-A-BRAC
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PLANTS - SOFT TOY TOMBOLA - VILLAGE CRAFT STALLS
LIVE JAZZ - CHILDREN'S RACES
COCONUT SHY - MAYPOLE DANCING - BIRDS OF PREY SHOW
AFTERNOON TEA TENT - LOCALLY SOURCED BBQ
PIMM'S & HARVEY'S - ICE CREAM



NEW to 2025

BASKET MAKING DEMONSTRATION



Withyham Church and Village Fete

by Julie Ruse

A fete has been held on The Buckhurst Estate cricket ground for countless years, courtesy of several Earls De La Warr through the ages. It is recorded in the De La Warr archive that an area of the Estate was historically known as Fair Field because agricultural fairs were held there. At the nearby Dorset Arms public house local farmers would congregate, before and after deals were done. The fete is organised by volunteers to raise funds for St Michael and All Angels Church, and Withyham Village.

Entertainment – There's so much to do... For many years St Michael's Primary School have performed Maypole dances whilst the brass band plays along. There are running races for the children to take part in, and The Owl and Raptor Centre will be showing their birds of prey. The Dog Show is a huge hit with many people and their four-legged friends – there are several classes to enter and something for everyone, even the waggiest tail! There's a coconut shy too, because it's not a proper fete unless someone in your family walks out with a coconut tucked under their arm. This year John Waller will be demonstrating how to make a basket, and this particular basket will be sold at the end of the fete.

Stalls – There are many stalls to buy from... Including local crafts, bottle tombola, books, toy tombola, bric-a-brac, children's stall, and the garden stall selling lovely high quality garden ready plants. The cake stall offers homemade donated cakes, jams and chutneys. Don't forget to save your pennies for the renowned boutique stall, selling only good quality ladies' and men's clothes, bags, ties, belts and much more. And of course, the grand draw has some brilliant prizes. Please bring plenty of cash or you might regret it...

Food and Drink – The afternoon tea tent serves tea and coffee and a delicious assortment of homemade cakes. Visit the marquee, housing tables adorned with beautiful flowers, sit back and watch the world go by. If you fancy something more savoury, we have the locally sourced Speldhurst Sausages, their recipe originating from Mr Lovett's butchers' shop in 1958. Nick the Butcher in Hartfield will be supplying his very popular burgers served in perfectly baked rolls from the Groombridge Bakery – with fillings including cheese, onions, tomatoes, gherkins and sauces of your choice – there are options for vegetarian and gluten free requirements. There's always an ice cream for those who need cooling down and a Pimm's and Harvey's stall for the thirsty ones.

Can you help with donations for the Withyham Church & Village Fete?

We really need your help please. Can you help with any of the following donations?

BOOKS*

Please contact Mike Stone - 07769 645569.

BOTTLES*

Please contact Anne Radford - 01892 770021 by Tuesday 1st July.

BRIC - A - BRAC*

Please contact Honey Wilson - 07399 408597

CAKES, CHUTNEYS* AND JAMS*

Please contact Sue Davies 01892 664162 or bring on the day. Please label cakes to indicate if they contain nuts or are GF.

CLOTHES, BAGS ETC

Please contact Meg Stafford - 07972 161243 or leave good condition items outside Dorset House (opposite the Dorset Arms) by Tuesday 1st July.

TOYS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS*

Please contact Mike Stone - 07769 645569 or bring on the day

PLANTS*

Please contact Ali Hunnam - 07929 835969

TEAS

Please contact Anne Crouch-Bakerl 01892 861448 or bring cake donations on the day and label to indicate if they contain nuts or are GF.

*Donations can be left at the Kings' Hall on Wednesdays between 9:30 and 12:00 or outside the Rectory from Saturday 28th June.

The Fete is very popular but we do need more help on the day.
If you would like to help us in any capacity at the Fete or if you have any queries, please contact Mike Stone - 07769 645569

THANK YOU

Fete Tea Tent **by Janet Funnell**

As in previous years we rely on the generosity of cake bakers to supply the tea tent. There are some truly wonderful bakers out there and their creations help provide the delicious cakes and tray bakes enjoyed at the fete. If you can bake something for us, we will look forward to receiving your offering in the cricket pavilion kitchen from 10am. Please label your cake or tray bake to indicate if it contains nuts, or is gluten free. Please ensure your cake or tray bake is left uncut, so we can portion it to the correct size. Thank you and see you on 5th July.



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Saturday 21st June

10am -12pm Groombridge Village Hall

Withyham Parish Amblers

Saturday 21st June



Meeting at: Hollies Car Park, Ashdown Forest - TN22 3JA

9am Meet to walk at 9.15am

Approx. 1hr 20. Suitable footwear recommended. Well behaved dogs welcome.



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June 21st and 22nd**

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BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL

SUMMER BBQ

Saturday 26th July

2pm - 6pm

(food served 3pm - 5pm)

Licenced Bar (cash/card)



All Welcome

TICKETS FOR BBQ

ADULTS £8

CHILDREN (UNDER 16) £5

CONTACT: RUTH 07890 303791

OR EMAIL

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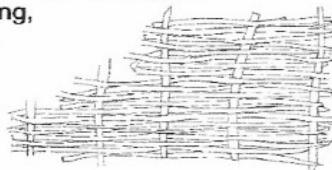
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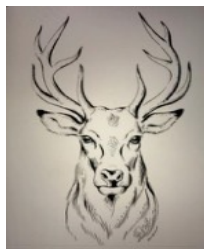
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Groombridge Horticultural Society by Sue Obbard



April feels so long ago now, but on the 25th about 50 of us enjoyed the coach trip to Hole Park Gardens. It is a beautifully manicured garden, set around a private house, which seamlessly extends into parkland and eventually into bluebell woodland. We were very ably, and entertainingly, shown around by the owner, who then rushed off to help in the kitchen.



There are a few remaining places on our trip to Doddington Place Gardens at Faversham, on Wednesday 9th July, and includes a garden tour. If you are interested please contact Gwyneth Davies on 01892 862430 or via our website.

groombridgehorticulturalsociety@gmail.com
www.groombridgehorticulturalsociety.co.uk



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The poster has a light blue background with stylized white clouds. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting (yellow, red, green, and blue) hangs across the frame. In the center, a large orange banner with a white border contains the text 'SUMMER FETE'. Below this, a white cloud contains the text 'AND FUN DOG SHOW!' in red, followed by 'SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2025' and '12 NOON' in dark blue. A red banner below the cloud says 'FREE ENTRY'. To the right of the cloud are three white daisies. To the left are two more white daisies. At the bottom left is a Ferris wheel with a blue wheel and red spokes. At the bottom right is a carousel with a yellow and orange canopy and red stars, featuring three horses (yellow, dark blue, and light blue).

SUMMER FETE

AND FUN DOG SHOW!

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2025
12 NOON

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Meet the Menders at Forest Row Repair Café

by Fleur Britten

Tucked away in our drawers, cupboards and got-to-sort-out piles is a nationwide hoard of broken devices – including phones that won't charge, laptops with sticking keyboards and cracked tablet screens. According to businesswaste.co.uk around 20% of all electronic devices in UK homes are unused, slowly slipping into obsolescence because we just don't know what to do with them.

What's more, a new survey by Una Watch found that 47% of us would rather buy a new device than try to fix a broken one. This means that huge amounts are being discarded – UK households produce over 400,000 tonnes of e-waste each year (in fact, e-waste is the world's fastest-growing solid waste stream), with only 31.2% being recycled. As well as the loss of recyclable rare-earth materials, e-waste is also an eco hazard, with toxic elements such as lead, mercury and cadmium, potentially leaching into the soil and water.

Enter the Forest Row Repair Café, or more specifically, our wonderful IT volunteers. Keith Weir, a retired computer specialist, has worked on operating system and distributed systems development, network communications and standards; Nic Gibson is a technical account manager specialising in server and database technologies and other matters too complex for us to grasp. His very capable son, Peter, also often helps out. Together, they've saved countless devices from landfill.

Computers are their speciality, whether it's installing necessary software, fixing bugs, resolving password problems and printer jams, diagnosing why computers keep crashing or run so slowly, or advising on new parts needed, where to buy them, and even helping customers fit them, too. They'll also help with tablets and phones, advising on software fixes or settings problems, though – Keith warned, “these repairs often require micro-soldering, which is best done by specialist repairers – but we may be able to point you in the right direction.” Printers he pointed out, have a lower success rate, due to their “complexity.”

As with all our Repair Café volunteers, the IT team fosters a can-do spirit: “It's worth trying us on anything,” said Keith, “We'll say if it's beyond us.” The next café is Saturday 21st June at the Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ, from 10am-1pm with last orders at 12.30pm.

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Groombridge and Hartfield Surgery Patients Participation Group **by Tony Howell**

Just a reminder that on Saturday 7th June you can **‘Meet Members of Your Medical Practice Team’** at Hartfield Village Hall at 10am with tea and coffee served from 9.30am.

Dr. Matt James will provide a Practice overview and there will also be presentations from other members of the team, which will include Dr. Victoria Rittner and Dr. John Mifsud, plus Assistant Practice Manager – Helen Wilson, Pharmacist – Ali Evans, and Care Co-ordinator – Emily Cogger. Geraldine Ormonde, who is a member of the PPG committee, will speak about the **‘Walk to Talk’** group activity. We look forward to seeing you.

The Covid virus is still around and if you are within the qualifying groups and haven’t as yet had the booster vaccination, you have until 17th June to do so. The qualifying groups are; Adults 75 and over, residents in care homes, and for older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems. More than 500,000 people in the southeast have already received the booster.

Email us at gandhppg@outlook.com



Meet your local medical practice team on Saturday 7th June

Doctors – Matt James, Victoria Rittner and John Mifsud
Sharon Monger – Practice Manager
Helen Wilson – Assistant Practice Manager
Ali Evans – Pharmacy
Emily Cogger – Care Co-ordinator
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PLUS
Geraldine Ormonde on ‘Walk to Talk’

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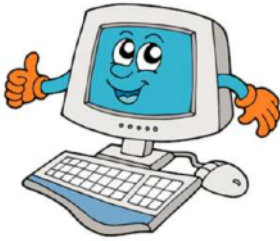
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Computer Corner

Goodbye Windows 10 by Roger Lyon



Windows 10, famously the “last version of Windows”, is ten years old and on the brink of retirement. Microsoft’s support will stop on 14th October 2025. If you are using a Windows 10 machine at home or for work, this is a good time to plan what happens next.

When Microsoft ends support, it simply means that they will release no more updates. That includes security updates, performance fixes, and new features. New version of software will continue to work with Windows 10 for quite some time. While no updates sounds rather blissful, it does matter. Unpatched security holes in Windows 10 will remain unpatched and available to attack. This has the potential of bypassing even the great security package that you may have installed on your machine. Many computers can be upgraded to Windows 11. However, Microsoft has been strangely demanding in its hardware requirements.

To check whether your system can be upgraded, you can download Microsoft’s free *PC Health Check* tool. It will give you a clear confirmation. If it is yes, you will be offered the upgrade in due course – or you can get a friendly techie to make the transition sooner.

If your PC doesn’t meet the requirements, here are your options:

- **Buy a new computer** – All new Windows laptops and desktops now come with Windows 11 pre-installed. If your current device is getting sluggish, the money may be better spent on a new machine rather than upgrading
- **Keep using Windows 10** – You can continue using it after 2025, particularly for offline tasks, but it may become gradually less secure. This is not ideal for banking, email, or storing personal information
- **Explore alternatives** – Technically-savvy users might consider Linux as a secure alternative to Windows

Before you get started, backup your data. There, I said it. Whether you’re planning an upgrade or replacing your computer entirely, remember to back up your data first. That means documents, photos, music, and emails. An external hard drive or a trusted cloud service will do the job. This could save a lot of heartache later. If you care about your files and photos then you really should be backing up anyway, just in case...



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The Forest Row Repair Café

**Saturday 21st June
from 10am – 1pm**

Forest Row Community Centre,
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Last orders at 12:30pm

If you have garden tools laying idle and broken in the shed since last year, bring them to us to make them ready for action again

REPAIR
CAFÉ Forest
Row

The Final Word... on Coconuts by Robert Veitch

Enthusiastic readers of this issue, those of you who study every word on every page – *Surely there is one of you out there?* – will have seen the mention of a coconut shy on page 19.

The first coconut shys appeared at fairs and fetes towards the end of the Victorian era. They were an evolution of Aunt Sally, a game usually played in pub gardens and fairgrounds, in which players throw sticks or battens at a ball, known as a 'dolly' balanced on top of a stick; traditionally, a model of an old woman's head was sometimes used for this.

The etymology of shy is to throw, and to hopefully knock the coconut from the cup, and claim it as a prize.

Participants are usually given three wooden balls, but sometimes more are required for a competitive dad, or particularly persistent child.

Coconuts were exotic prizes for the Victorians, coming from far away places of Empire in India and South East Asia, though found in most subtropical regions today.

It's likely they were no easier to break open back then, as they are now. If you do win one, be sure to let us know!

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