## ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, WITHYHAM

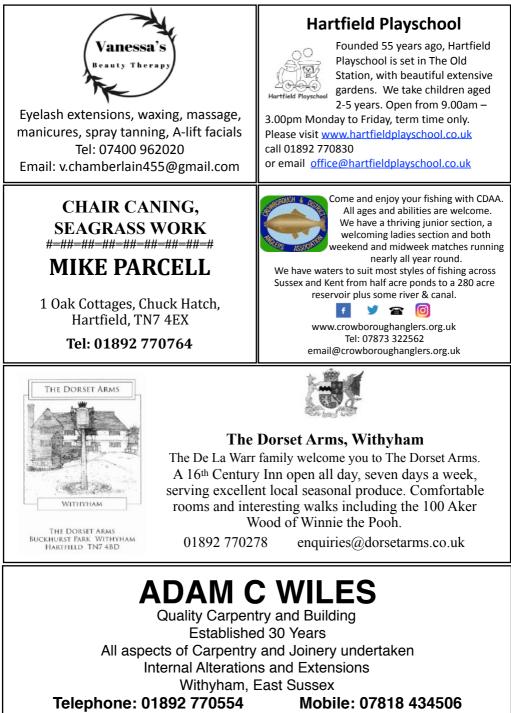


# Parish Magazine



ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM

November 2022



#### wilesbuild@sky.com

## From the Rectory

#### Dear Friends,

I was rung up the other day by a Scotsman who was researching the history of those whose names appear on a West Highland War Memorial at Lochalsh near the Isle of Syke as a great uncle of mine's name is on it. The researcher casually thought it would be interesting to know how many relatives of his were alive. So far, I've got to 81 – including one nephew – and still counting! Many of us are interested in their family histories, particularly as we get older.

One of the most emotive pieces of research is tracking down relatives killed in war, especially in Western Europe in First World War. Last year Robert Sackville-West of Knole in Sevenoaks published a book entitled, *The Searchers – The Quest for the Lost of the First World War*. He writes of those who searched for their lost loved ones: Where and how had they died? Were they perhaps taken prisoner and still alive? The searchers spoke to surviving comrades, often in hospitals and casualty clearing stations. In the early months, the author notes, one needed money and courage to cross the Channel and pursue research in a war zone.

I have the diaries of another relative of mine, a first cousin of Ken's whose name is on the Lochalsh War Memorial. A shell seriously wounded Hugh on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1915. His parents both went out to visit him in France on 30<sup>th</sup> January and remained with him until he died on 3<sup>rd</sup> February aged just 21.

Few of the searchers that Robert Sackville-West writes about had the agonising privilege of being with their loved ones during their final hours. The use of modern armaments meant that there were often no bodies to retrieve – they'd been blown to pieces by shells. The author reminds us of the unprecedented scale of the slaughter – more than a million soldiers of the British Empire were killed.

As the war in Eastern Europe continues, with no end in sight for the suffering of the people of Ukraine, the need for peace in our world has seldom been greater. We have to try and hold on to the bigger picture, of God's promise to the nation of Israel and to us through the Old Testament prophet Isaiah that, *'in the last days... God... will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore'.* 

#### **James Campbell**



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

#### www.withyhamchurch.org

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Churchwarden	Mr Richard Halcrow	01892 770607
Churchwarden	Mrs Jill Pardey	01892 661882
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LANDSCAPING & TREE SURGERY

# Churchwardens' Notes

## by Richard Halcrow & Jill Pardey

St. Michael and All Angels Church looked wonderful with all the autumnal flowers arrangements for the Harvest Festival on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you to those who bought flowers and greenery to do their arrangements.

Thank you also to those who donated so generously to the charity, Family Support Work, which is much needed and much appreciated at this time of year.

The Christmas altar frontal has been taken to the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court Palace. We are awaiting a quote to repair the existing embroidery because we would rather preserve our special altar frontal than purchase a new one.

The annual Withyham churchyard clear up will take place on Saturday November 26th from 10am, by which time we hope that all the leaves will be down. A simple lunch will be provided for those who would like some, on the Rectory veranda.

## Church Calendar – November 2022

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

(all services at Withyham unless stated)

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> before Advent	9.45am 11.00am 6.30pm	Zoom Holy Communion Evensong
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> before Advent	10.55am 12.30pm	Remembrance Sunday Service at Withyham Act of Remembrance at <b>Blackham Lychgate</b>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> before Advent	9.45am 11.00am 6.30pm	Zoom Matins Evensong
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> in Advent	9.45am 11.00am	The Half Hour Service Matins
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Ac	lvent 9.45am 11.00am 6.30pm	Zoom Holy Communion Evensong

## Parish Registers – October 2022

#### **Baptisms**

On 24<sup>th</sup> September the christening took place at St. Michael & All Angels Church, Withyham of Bo Hugo John ASSARSSON, son of Ross and Pauline.

## Withyham Parish Charity

This charity is for the benefit of those living in Withyham Civil Parish – which includes New Groombridge and St. John's, Crowborough – who are under 25 years old, as well as those suffering hardship or distress. Grants are available to assist younger people train for a profession, trade or business, or to further their education in other ways.

The Trustees would welcome applications. Further details from Richard Halcrow: 01892 770607 richardhalcrow@outlook.com



## Family Support Work October 2022 update

by Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

THE SUSSEX CHARITY FOR CHILDREN SINCE 1890

Dear Friends,

With autumn well and truly upon us our thoughts are moving away from Harvest and forwards to Christmas and winter. We are so grateful to all the churches that supported us so generously with Harvest gifts – these have helped us restock our foodbank to full levels in anticipation of the winter months.

We had a wonderful AGM and celebration service at Chichester Cathedral at the start of October. This was a great opportunity to thank all of our supporter community for everything they have helped us to achieve over the last few years, and to talk about our plans for the future.

Our practitioners are busy planning activities for half term and Christmas to bring some fun during these difficult times. We are very pleased that we will be able to hold Christmas parties in all areas this year for the first time since 2019 – these are always so much fun for our families and really memorable occasions.

We are currently in the running for support from the Asda Foundation and would be very grateful for your help. Unlike the Tesco vote, which requires people to visit a store in person to vote for their favourite charity, Asda can be done online. To vote for us please visit **https://www.asda.com/green-tokens** select 'Eastbourne' from the drop down list and then FSW from the available charities. You can vote once every 7 days between now and the end of the year, so we would really appreciate as much support as we can get.

If you're planning to hold a toy service or Christmas food collection for FSW, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Spencer in the office with any dates – if you would like a speaker then we will do our best to come.

Thank you for all your continued support of FSW's work through prayer and with practical and financial support.

#### September's work in numbers

- 232 visits and 781 calls with families supporting 339 adults & 262 children
- 55 supported meetings with other agencies
- 28 group sessions held supporting 246 parents and 164 children
- 147 food deliveries made

#### **Prayer points**

- Give thanks for all the support we have received through Harvest donations from schools and churches
- Pray for all the families we support who are anxious about the increased energy bills, and the impact this will have on their household budgets
- Pray for all the adults we support who are experiencing serious mental health issues but cannot access specialist treatment this is a growing number and has a real impact on family relationships. Give them strength and peace as we help them.



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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. **The Council met on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October.** 

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

Minutes can also be obtained from the Clerks via the Parish Office.

**Prospective Councillors** – We were delighted to be joined at this meeting by one of the three people who are interested in becoming councillors following our recent vacancies. She took the opportunity to observe the meeting and learn more about how councils work. We will be co-opting at our November Council meeting.

**Groombridge Post Office and Shop** – At the end of this October the new Community Interest Company (CIC) operated post office and shop will have completed its first year.

The Parish Council provides a subsidy to the venture, as commission from Post Office Ltd is not sufficient. Following its first year of trading the CIC asked Council for an additional one off subsidy. The Parish Council recognises how important this resource is to so many residents, and agreed to the subsidy. The CIC is applying for other grants and will work on a business plan to mitigate future requirements.



**Grass Cutting in the Parish** – The Parish Council leases and owns several green spaces across the parish, for which it is responsible for cutting the grass. Following a quotes process a new three-year contract was agreed and will be in place for spring 2023. East Sussex Highways (ESH) is responsible for many of the rural and urban verges across the parish and they provide 2 cuts of those verges every year. Parish Councils have the option to pay ESH for an additional 4 urban cuts (in our case this is mainly in Groombridge and some in St John's, Crowborough) and the Council agreed to do this.

**Grants** – Withyham Parish Council has a pot of £10,000 to award to local clubs and organisations that benefit the people of the parish. At its September meeting, the Finance Committee was pleased to award a further 4 grants which mean that the funds have been distributed in full for this financial year. Details of those who benefitted are:

- St Michael's Primary School £700 to connect electrics to the pod being used for nurture sessions
- Blackham Church £500 towards maintenance of the churchyard
- Groombridge preschool £866 towards ipads for use by staff and children
- Wealden Citizens Advice £850 towards employing an energy adviser
- St Thomas' Church £1,150 towards maintenance of the churchyard
- Groombridge Scouts £1,000 towards informal uniform to be worn at events
- Clued Up £1,800 towards the youth support work delivered by Clued Up
- Groombridge Bowling Club £1,784 towards the purchase of a mower
- Withyham Kings' Hall £450 towards weekly dementia friendly sessions
- St John Evangelist, Crowborough £1,000 towards maintenance of churchyard & drive

**Teasley Mead Play Equipment** – A questionnaire has gone out to Blackham residents to see if they would support a piece of equipment, such as some swings, being installed on Teasley Mead Recreation Area. Questionnaires have been distributed on social media and also delivered by hand to the properties surrounding the recreation ground. The results will go to the November Council meeting for consideration.

**Footpath Maintenance Volunteers** – Our Rights of Way Committee is keen to set up a team of volunteers to help keep our rights of way footpath network open for walkers. They will undertake tasks like vegetation clearance where paths become overgrown. If you enjoy being outdoors and would like to help please contact us.

A Date for your Diary – The next Amblers will be on 26th November, further details are available from the parish office. At the same time the Community Café will be at Groombridge Village Hall, hosted by Groombridge Horticultural Society. There will be delicious refreshments available so do head over after the walk or just come for the cake!

**The Next Council Meeting** – This will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Details of meetings and agendas for all our Council and Committee meetings can be found on our website or by contacting the Parish Office.

#### Di Kelly : Chair Contact the Parish Office at 01892 864557 / clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk



## All Saints Blackham Harvest Service

#### by Janet Funnell

As we walked into Church for the service we were met with the most wonderful smell of apples. All Saints was beautifully decorated by team Blackham, who had done a wonderful job. Thank you to all who helped.

It was so nice to be able to welcome Blackham villagers to this annual Harvest service. James Campbell, our Rector, offered a sermon on the theme of contentment. How good it is to feel that way about life in the times we live in. After the service we gathered in the Village Hall to natter over a glass of wine. Thank you to everyone that helped.



## **BLACKHAM VILLAGE CAFÉ AND MARKET**



Saturday 5th November 10am – 12:30pm Blackham Village Hall



Lots of lovely produce for sale: homemade pasties, cakes, scones, free range eggs, bread, bird food, flowers, artisan cheeses, preserves, handmade pottery, pre-loved clothing and lots more...

Enjoy enjoy a delicious tea or coffee with a slice of our homemade cake

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



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#### RBL Standard Bearer at the funeral of The Queen by James Castle

James Castle, the Standard Bearer of Cowden, Hartfield and District Branch Royal British Legion was one of 72 who were handpicked by the RBL National Parade Marshal to attend the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

"Out of over 1,200 Standards nationally, to be chosen as one of the 72 who would represent the Royal British Legion at this historic event was an incredible honour and somewhat overwhelming," said James.

"This was something that I will remember for the rest of my life, and I am so grateful to be given the opportunity. I hope that my community whose name is on our Standard is proud that they too were also represented on such an incredibly humbling day."

#### Blackham Village Remembrance by Sheila Wellstead

The *There but Not There* Tommy silhouettes installation will be on display again in Blackham Church from 5<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> November. The Church will be open from approximately 11am - 3pm on these days.

A wreath will be placed at 11am on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November at the village Tommy, who resides on the corner of Willetts Lane and Ironchurch Lane. Sixteen large poppies will be placed along Ironchurch Lane for the first two weeks of November, representing the 16 villagers who paid the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives whilst serving during WWI and WWII.

Please come along for a short commemoration and a two-minute silence at the Blackham village war memorial, the Church Lychgate on Remembrance Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at 12.30pm. The names of the 16 villagers on our war memorial will be read out and two poppy wreathes will be placed at the Lychgate. For anyone not able to join us on Remembrance Sunday a video made at the Lychgate in 2020 will be shared on the village Facebook page.

Poppies and a small range of Royal British Legion merchandise will available at the November Blackham Village Hall Café and Market on 5<sup>th</sup> November.





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

Have you heard about the Integrated Care System? Probably not and it doesn't sound in the least exciting to make you want to find out, but read on a bit more because it will most likely affect you at some point in time.

Integrated care is about giving people the support they need, joined up across local councils, the NHS and other partners. Health and care organisations have been working together in different ways for several years and while there has been a lot of collaboration already, previous laws have prevented services becoming properly joined up. Getting bored? Stay with it a bit longer.

The *Health and Care Act 2022* aims to change this and make it easier for NHS and social care organisations to work together. So Sussex has an Integrated Care Board to look after our interests, that's the theory anyway. Will it be better, one can only hope.

NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board is asking us as residents, to help them prioritise their tasks. Remember if we are not prepared to make an input, then we really can't complain if we don't like the outcome. So if you have bothered to come this far, please give your views by completing their short survey at https:/bit.ly/HUHYsurvey

If you are entitled to a flu jab and haven't as yet received it or an appointment to for one, then please contact the surgery. Remember the PPG is here to represent you so if you have any concerns or questions you would like to raise, please contact us at gandhppg@outlook.com

NHS High Weald, Lewes and Havens CCG

Groombridge & Hartfield Medical Group

## The Forest Row Repair Café Saturday 19th November from 10am – 1pm

Join us on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November for the last Forest Row Repair Café of 2022. Bring along those Christmas lights that didn't twinkle last year, have your carving knife sharpened in readiness for your Christmas roast or get that hole darned in your favourite jumper.

The Forest Row Repair Café is held in the Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, except December, from 10am to 1pm. Last orders taken at 12.30 to allow time to repair.





## **GROOMBRIDGE FILM SOCIETY**

Sunday 13th November in Groombridge Village Hall

## Where The Crawdads Sing (15 – 126 minutes)

From the best-selling novel comes a captivating mystery. Where the Crawdads Sing tells the story of Kya, an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumours of the 'Marsh Girl' haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from town, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world; but when one of them is found dead, she is immediately cast by the community as the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what actually happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal the many secrets that lay within the marsh.

Doors and bar open at 6:30pm, the film start at 7:15pm £2 for members and £6 for non-members For more into contact Janet Sharples GFS Secretary at **horshar11gmail.com** 

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## Hospice in the Weald Christmas Market

#### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November –10am - 4pm

Get into the festive spirit at our traditional Christmas Market held in the Hospice gardens at Pembury. Browse 40 stalls offering the very best seasonal gifts, food and drink and enjoy Christmas carols, all for a donation of £5.

Children can meet Father Christmas in his magical grotto (£5 per child). Be sure to book in advance via our website to avoid disappointment. If you want to beat the rush, enjoy some bubbles and canapés, and get your shopping done in one place, then book tickets for our exclusive VIP event on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 6pm-8.30pm. Tickets cost £20.

These seasonal events help to raise vital funds for Hospice in the Weald, which provides care and support completely free of charge to patients with a terminal illness – and those important to them – in West Kent and northern East Sussex.

For full details and to book tickets, please visit our website at **www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk** 

## THE ARTS SOCIETY – ASHDOWN FOREST

#### 10th November at 2pm – Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove TN6 1FE

#### Lecturer: Georgina Bexon Title: Arts of the Mughal World

The 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in India witnessed the golden artistic period of Mughal rule, marked by a unique flowering of art and architecture and unrivalled in luxury and opulence. These mighty Emperors were dedicated patrons of skilled artists, sculptors, jewellers, engravers, architects, poets and calligraphers whose creativity produced breathtakingly beautiful artworks and monuments, but importantly, Mughal art and architecture served as a highly successful form of propaganda, which provides a further fascinating topic for exploration. Georgina is an art historian specialising in South Asian art that has lived and worked in the UK, USA and Singapore. Her practice includes lecturing, writing, consulting and collecting and she has developed a network of gallery and artist connections in Europe, the USA and India. She holds a BA in Art History from Southampton University, an MA in Arts Management and Policy from City, University of London and an MA in Art History from SOAS, University of London. Georgina is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Asiatic Society.

Refreshments follow the lecture. Members free, Guests and Visitors £6. To join, please contact our Membership Secretary on 01892 861015 For any further information, contact our Secretary on 07919 895113

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## Can you write?

This magazine may be looking for an extra Withyham and Blackham Parish contributor in the New Year

Enthusiasm, willingness to follow a brief and be a team player are key criteria. Previous writing experience is a bonus but not essential.

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## **Groombridge Horticultural Society**







Our Autumn Plant Sale took place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October and raised in the region of £300, so thanks to all who helped and all who came along on the day.

Our next event is Floral Art For Christmas – A Winter Walk On The Wildside with Trudie Easton on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Doors open at 7:30pm for an 8pm start in Groombridge Village Hall. All the flower arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening. Tickets are £5 per person (including non-members) and include mulled wine and mince pies to help get the festive season started.

On November 26<sup>th</sup> it will be our turn to do the Community Café from 10am-12pm

Our AGM will be taking place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, from 7:15pm, in the club room at Groombridge Village Hall. Following the AGM there will be a talk in the main hall by Len Bernamont, head gardener at Bateman's, to get everyone in the mood for our coach trip to Bateman's in April 2023.



If you have any queries, please see the website or telephone Gwyneth Davies on 01892 862430 or email **groombridgehorticulturalsociety@gmail.com** 

www.groombridgehorticulturalsociety.co.uk



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# COMPUTER CORNER

## Windows 11: A Worthy Successor? by Roger Lyon



As windows 11's painful early months fade into the painful present, are its shiny new features sufficient to offset Microsoft's all-too-evident efforts to stamp their preferences on your digital life?

Windows 11 has been bland enough that many people did not realise that they had been upgraded. New goodies include

enhanced dictation with automatic punctuation; desktop layouts that remember where you like to see your apps; the opportunity to use some Android apps and other cute touches. Yet balancing this, Microsoft has emasculated the built-in File History backup, hidden or eliminated useful features, and pushed their choices as 'The Way'.

A couple of trivial examples... Suppose you want to change the default web browser from Microsoft Edge to, say, Firefox. This now involves several minutes of ferreting out and clicking numerous choices. By contrast, returning Edge to its default-browser throne is a single swift click. A similar enthusiasm to have things Microsoft's way strong-arms every home user into using a Microsoft account with its enhanced tendency to share information with Microsoft.

If Windows 11 is about software sparkles, these are already available in Windows 10 in a neat Microsoft program called PowerToys. This name neatly summarises Windows 11's cage d'or. Its direction of travel is defined by an enthusiasm for 'getting to know you' better and promoting Microsoft's control of your data and your computer.

Windows 10 support expires in October 2025. It will work beyond this but without the security software patches that Microsoft regularly issues. There is no hurry: the Windows 11 upgrade is enduringly available but be warned... Microsoft have decided to prevent it from working with many older computers and even a number of recent computers due to their strangely restrictive hardware requirements. As a result, perfectly capable computers with plenty of life left will be consigned to the rubbish tip... a rampant obsolescence that undermines Mr Gates' climate-change pan beating.

Windows 11 is here to stay. You may prefer to dawdle your way towards it. This maximises the life of your current computer, allows Windows 11 to mature and gives you time to explore your options.

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#### The Final Word... on short stays by Robert Veitch

By the time you read these words we all will know the new incumbent of the Downing Street Airbnb.

The preceding tenant lasted only 50 days, but when it comes to short stays she's in good company. Previously, the shortest serving prime minister was Seaford MP, George Canning, who lasted 119 days. On the other hand, current chief mouser, Larry the cat, has been in situ since 2011.

In sport, football manager Brian Clough OBE (Old Big 'Ed) endured a mere 44 days at Leeds United in 1974, after falling out with most of the players before he accepted the job. Things only got worse once he took charge.

But spare a thought for arguably the briefest reign in sport... after crossing the line to win the 2008 Brazilian Grand Prix, Felipe Massa was world champion for all of 39 seconds. Fast finishing Lewis Hamilton made the final corner overtake he needed to claim fifth place in the race, and win the first of his seven drivers titles by a single point.

With about 150 days on the clock so far, such small numbers make this editor feel warm, snugly, and part of the local furniture, though wary of rumours for redecoration plans, or grand designs from above! DAVID NEWCOMBE TREESERVICES

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Advertising	Anne Ba	rker	annebarker194	1@gmail.com	01892 661393		
Distribution	Janet Fu	nnell	janet.funnell@l	otinternet.com	01892 663512		
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