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2024



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USEFUL NUMBERS

Steyning Library:
Opening Hours: Monday - Friday: 10:00 - 17:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 14:00 - T: 01903 270330
E: steyning.library@westsussex.gov.uk

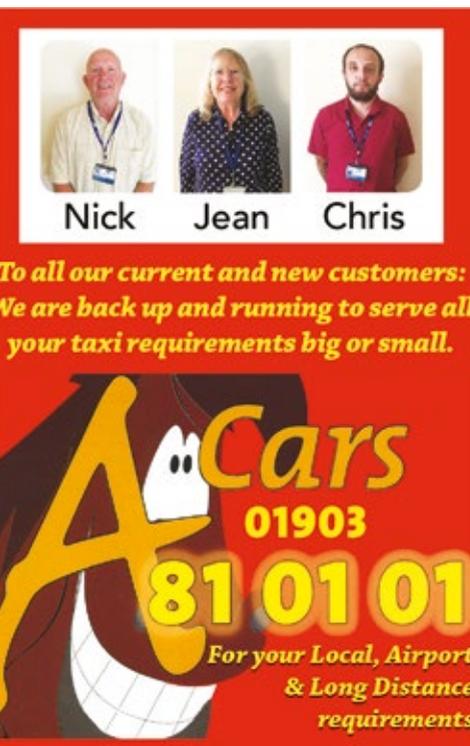
Steyning Minibus: 0300 772 7735
www.westsussexminibus.org.uk/organisation/

The Steyning Health Centre:
Tanyard Lane, Steyning, BN44 3RJ
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Steyning & District Good Neighbours Association: T: 01903 816181
steyninggoodneighbours.co.uk

Steyning Parish Council: T: 01903 812042 -
W: www.steyningpc.gov.uk
E: clerk@steyningpc.gov.uk

The Steyning Centre: T: 01903 812042
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News from Bramber Parish Council

Bollards down:

The bollards in The Street have been knocked down on three occasions, once by a passing bus and then by two different cars. BPC have managed to get the bollards mended and repositioned. However, in order to prevent more bollard damage, we have relocated the rubbish bin outside the Maharajah Indian restaurant and moved it closer to the vulnerable bollard. We hope that by making the street furniture more prominent, we can prevent further accidents from happening.

Speed watch on Clays Hill:

You may have seen councillors in fluorescent, yellow jackets collecting data on Clays Hill. The aim is to encourage drivers to drive more carefully up and down Clays Hill. It is a residential area and residents need to feel safe when walking down the pavement to their homes.

Rubbish collection in Castle Lane:

Castle Lane (the section that runs beside Clays Field) became overgrown and residents received a letter from WSCC to say that the bin lorries could no longer get down the lane.

They asked residents to wheel their bins up to Goring Road. This was not viable since rubbish bins are heavy and pushing them uphill would have been quite a work out! BPC were able to get the foliage cut on either side of the lane and bin lorries can now access the lane.

Christmas Carols:

The Salvation Army delighted us all with their rendition of Christmas carols round the Christmas Tree. It really was a community event... Bramber Parish Council paid for the tree, the Bramber society decorated the tree, the Salvation Army played their instruments and Bramber parishioners sang. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all those who helped make it such a memorable event.

Engaging with our parishioners:

Bramber Parish Council meet once a month throughout the year and members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and can speak, if they so wish, for a maximum of three minutes about an item on the agenda. Please do come along and get involved.... we would love to see you.

Banking on a greener future

Here's an idea for a little bit of *'green activism'* which you might like to take up in 2024; move your money to a greener bank account!

Many of the popular banks in the UK have an appalling record for ploughing our money into fossil fuel investment. The worst offenders are familiar high street names; Barclays, Santander, HSBC, Natwest. They are often used by generations of the same family without question, and many of us have had money flowing in and out of their current accounts for decades.

So if you are concerned about climate issues, why not consider taking control of your money, and moving it to a more ethical bank. You can also contact your current bank via

email, letter or customer services to tell them exactly why you have switched.

There isn't a huge range of ethical banks to choose from and some operate online only. However, the feel-good factor of knowing your money is going to invest in worthwhile causes as well as reducing fossil fuel emissions makes it well worth it. Have a look at these options;

- **Triodos Bank** refuses to invest in fossil fuels and offers complete transparency about all of its investments, so you can see the projects

your money supports.

- **The Charity Bank** offers savings accounts for people and businesses who want to invest ethically. It supports charities by offering loans they couldn't find anywhere else.
- **Ecology Building Society** was the UK's first dedicated green mortgage provider and is primarily focussed on the environment and building a more sustainable future.
- **The Co-operative Bank** was considered an ethical bank until it was bought out by a group of US hedge funds, which don't operate in the same way. This makes it a

partially ethical bank, but still better than those listed in the first paragraph.

- **Nationwide** doesn't invest in, or lend to, the fossil fuel industry and also has a branches as close as Lancing.

To find out more about broader green investment options for pensions, savings and investments you may be interested to read our **Beginners Guide to Green Investment** article at: <https://greeningsteining.org/green-investment/>

Steining Gardening Club.

Come and join our new group.

What a fabulous response we have had to our article in December's *'Your Steining'*, and as promised here is an update as to our progress so far. Firstly, a huge *'Thank You'* to everyone who has been in touch either in person or through our email.

On Saturday, at the Farmer's Market, you may have noticed a few of us handing out leaflets all about the new Gardening Club and again it was lovely to meet so many locals who were interested in our new venture.

As we begin a new year, we are looking forward to unveiling our new club in early spring, and to this end we are incredibly pleased and excited to announce our Launch Meeting and Fund-Raising Evening at The Steining Centre on Wednesday 13th March. The night offers a chance to meet the team, to find out about our programme for the year and to become one of the club's first members.

We look forward to welcoming you with a glass of wine and other refreshments, of giving you the opportunity to take part in our raffle and to share your suggestions to help shape our club as it moves forward.

The club will meet on the second Wednesday of the month at The Steining Centre. Meetings will run from 19:30 to 21:30 and there will be a yearly subscription, but visitors

will always be welcome at the Steining Gardening Club.

Make an evening of it, whatever your gardening ability, the club is open to everyone, whether you live in Steining or the surrounding villages, come along and join us on our journey.

In the meantime, join our mailing list for the latest news and for an invitation to our launch and to confirm your place on 13th March via one of the links below.



SCAN ME

Sign up for our mailing list at link: https://bit.ly/SGC_sign_up.

Or by contacting us on steininggardeningclub@gmail.com - or via Monique on 01903 814684

Add 13th March 2024, at The Steining Centre to your calendar. Doors open at 19:30.



Access Council services whilst on the move

Horsham District Council has launched a new app for residents which will make accessing Council services even easier from your smartphone, wherever you are, and whenever you need it.

Whether you need to check your next recycling and waste collection day, find out if an item can be recycled or not, get personalised collection day reminders or receive personal notifications of changes to collections, all this is available via the new app.



up the location of your nearest recycling centres or leisure venues. You can even check the hygiene rating of your local restaurant and café.

The app is still in development and

the Council hopes to add more services in the coming year.

To find out more and download the free app to your phone, visit:
www.horsham.gov.uk/mobileapp

'Tracing the Rails' - A Nostalgic Journey Along the Steyning Line

Few residents of Bramber, Beeding, or Steyning are unaware that a railway line that once traversed their area, evident from the old line's path alongside the river or the surviving platforms at West Grinstead. There is a certain warm nostalgia for the romantic era of steam trains, which once chugged up the Adur valley, which is a powerful force, especially in creating TV shows.

This is the inspiration behind Upper Beeding residents Chris Kirk and Lou Partridge's decision to research and create a new documentary series about our beloved 'Steyning Line'. This railway once connected Shoreham-by-Sea to Horsham, serving six main stations: Bramber, Steyning, Henfield, Partridge Green, West Grinstead, and Southwater. Sadly, it fell victim to the Beeching cuts in 1966, with only the southern part of the line surviving a little longer to serve the cement works in Upper Beeding.

Director Chris, a seasoned filmmaker, and Producer Lou a talented local artist with production experience, have unearthed a treasure trove of information about the

old line. Railways have always captivated interest, and thankfully, numerous images of the old trains, buildings, rails, and personnel survive. 'We're both intrigued by our local history and heritage,' says Chris. 'For a long time, we've walked and cycled along parts of the old line, now part of the Downs Link.'

'Identifying surviving elements of the old railway sparked our curiosity, and we thought others might share this interest,' Louise adds.

Chris reached out to his long-term friend, radio, and TV broadcaster Stephen Cranford from nearby Worthing, to see if he'd be interested in presenting the series. Stephen's enthusiasm was immediate commenting 'I

bit his hand off! I have always adored railways, so to get a job where I'm presenting on a subject, I'm passionate about was a dream come true!

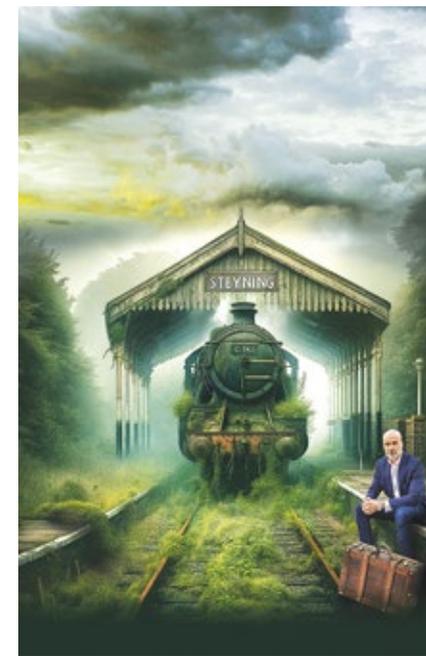
Joining him is transport historian Mike Jaimes, presenting historic segments on railway operations during the Steyning Line's heyday.

Thus, 'Tracing the Rails' was born. This documentary series will methodically follow the old line from Shoreham to Christ's Hospital, akin to 'Time Team'. Stephen and the team will traverse the paths, uncovering remnants of the line's past by looking at and examining what presently remains.

Collaboration with our very own Steyning Museum and the neighbouring Henfield Museum has helped stitch together accounts from the time. The production team connecting people from different local groups to share their knowledge. 'We are very excited to get filming on the proper episodes and releasing them this year.'

'There are quite a few surprises,' reveals Stephen. 'For instance, there's still track at West Grinstead, hidden in the undergrowth, and the original brick railway bridge at Henfield is buried under tonnes of soil! They never demolished it; they just covered it up!' Chris said 'if you cross the road at Bramber by the roundabout and walk a little way along the Downslink footpath, you can see a garden shed in the grounds to the left of you. On the shed is the word 'Bramber' which is made from the original lettering that was found buried when they bulldozed the old station. The new landowners recovered all the letters except for the A and recreated the sign!'

The pilot episode, filmed in November and December, premiered on YouTube on New Year's Day. 'It showcases our vision,' explains



Louise, 'blending and mixing current scenes with meticulously restored photos from the past, thanks to Chris's special effects expertise, really illustrating the differences between then and now'.

As well as blending archive material with current day views, drone footage gives you a unique bird's eye view of the stunning landscape we all call home.

'The special teaser episode of Tracing the Rails has soared to over twenty thousand viewings in under a week' says a delighted Chris, 'and we have thousands

of subscribers who are hungry to see more.' The numbers are going up daily, too!

Chris expresses his gratitude: 'Thank you to everyone who shared their photos, films, and memories'.

Yet, the team are still welcoming contributions. 'Tracing the Rails' is more than a documentary; it's a living history project, revitalising memories for future generations. The community's involvement has been the most pleasant surprise and continues to be a big part of the show.

If you have materials or memories of the Steyning Line to share, please contact the team at info@tracingtherails.com, or visit www.tracingtherails.com for a sneak preview.

'Tracing the Rails' is a 6-part series, set for release in 2024 on YouTube. Its growing popularity might even catch a TV channel's interest, as Louise optimistically notes, 'Who knows where this might take us. Sharing our railway heritage with a broader audience would be wonderful. There have been so many positive comments already'.



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Steyping Community Orchard. Celebrating our 10th Birthday February 2024!



Ten years ago this month, the Steyping Community Orchard (SCO) was born. A committee was gathered, leader elected and what had been a dream in a couple of people's minds started to become a reality.

It had taken two years to reach this point. Meetings with the Steyping Parish Council, specifically the Playing Fields Committee, yielded the permission and the support to re-establish the former orchard of Lewis Wood of Newham Lane. Fruit from this orchard used to be sold in the grocers' shops of Steyping, whilst a pony grazed under the branches of the trees, no doubt enjoying the fallen apples!

The Parish Council acquired the orchard from Lewis Wood, to link this area with the cricket field, and became the Recreation Ground (subsequently the Memorial Playing Field) - an amazing location boasting one of the most beautiful backdrops to a cricket pitch anywhere in the country.

The terms of reference for the SCO project were to re-establish the orchard, saving those trees that could be saved, rescuing some that survived the hurricane of October '87 and clear the area ready for replanting.

We wanted to create an orchard of trees donated by Steyping residents in memory of family and friends. These donations fund the trees and their maintenance.

The planning and planting of this area (and

all the subsequent orchards) has largely been directed by Roger Brown who has a remarkable knowledge of fruit trees, root stocks and grafting, sapling management, and choosing the right apple for the right space. In the MPF he has created a central core of 23 Sussex heritage varieties of apples which is now one of the best, if not the best, collection in Sussex.

The ongoing care is in the hands of the SCO steering group and a band of enthusiastic volunteers who prune, strim and weed on a regular basis - Saturday mornings once a month - we'd love you to join us! (email us on steypingorchard@gmail.com)

The orchard project has grown. At the far end of Nightingale Lane, in the Rifle Range at the foot of the Downs, an orchard has been created in partnership with the Steyping Downland Scheme (SDS).

The soil is good, the trees are growing fast - in addition it is a dog free area so small children can play, for families to picnic, where walkers can rest, and a venue where the Beavers and Woodcraft folk and other groups can gather. A third orchard has started to be planted in a corner of the Abbey Road Village Green.



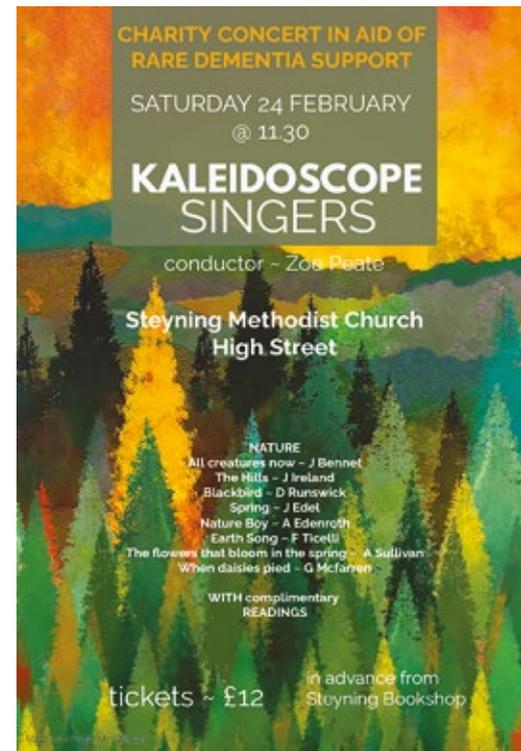
The Community Orchard in October 2014, after the first tree had been planted at our first Apple Day, and the positions for the next three trees marked out

The Community Orchard vibe is in the air! We have helped Bramber establish an orchard in the Bramber Brooks. Horsham District Council has recently bought this site and plan to develop it as a wildlife corridor and water meadow.

Other local communities including Henfield, Thakeham, Findon and Singleton have tapped into our experience when developing their own orchards.

So, while there is so much pessimism around locally, nationally and globally, in this tiny corner of the planet, environmental issues are being addressed vigorously with positive results.

The Knepp Estate, the Steyping Downland Scheme, Bramber Brooks project, Steyping for Trees, the Abbey Road Conservation Project and our own Steyping Community Orchard are all things to celebrate and enjoy!!



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Steyning
and
District Flower
Club

Invites you
to an evening with

Michelle King

Demonstrating her
Floral Designs entitled

"Once Upon A Time"

Wednesday
28th February 2024
The Steyning Centre
Steyning BN44 3XZ
7pm for 7.30pm

Non-Members Tickets £6 on the door



Greetings
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Fletchers Croft, Steyning, BN44 3XZ
on Monday 26th February
9:45 - 13:45

We will be buying & valuing:

Coins, Bank Notes, Medals, Jewellery, Old
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February: Diary Events

The following nonrecurring events are also in the What's On section on the Your Steyning, Bramber & Beeding website at: www.yourmag.co.uk NOTE: Post nonrecurring events before 10th of the month prior to the print month. roger@barawood.co.uk

Friday 2nd February

10:30 – 11:00

Steyning Library

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Rhyme Time

Rhyme Time sessions at West Sussex Libraries are a free fun way for under 5s to develop a love of music and language from an early age. Sessions last around 30 minutes and include nursery rhymes, songs, action rhymes, musical instruments and puppets. No need to book, just come along and join in. Due to the popularity of these activities, there are limits on attendance numbers and sessions may become full.

Friday 2nd February

Vintage Years Club

14:00 – 16:00

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Steyning Museum - Artifacts and Talk

Our meeting commences at 14:00 but doors are open at 13:45. There will be a raffle table. After our business section, we welcome Muriel and Andrew from the Steyning Museum to give us a talk and they will also show us some of the artifacts held in the museum. Tea and biscuits will be served from 15:15. Entrance fee is £3 and Annual Membership is £10 (each April). Please contact Bev Francis-Hills 01273 493894 before attending for the first time, for other information and for transport needs.

Saturday 3rd February

Steyning Library

10:30 – 11:30

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Reading Friends

Come along to this friendly group to meet new people, chat and share your love of books and reading on the first Saturday of every month 10.30 - 11.30am.

Monday 5th February

Steyning Library

14:00 – 14:30

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Toddler Time

These relaxed sessions are a free and fun way for under 5s to develop a love of language from an early age. Sessions last around 30 minutes and include nursery rhymes, songs, action rhymes, musical instruments and puppets. No need to book, just come along and join in. Due to the popularity of these activities, there are limits on attendance numbers and sessions may become full. **NOTE: Held weekly Monday - 12th / 19th / 26th - 14:00 – 14:30**

Wednesday 7th February

Steyning Library

10:30 – 11:30

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Melody for the Mind

Melody for the Mind is an informal, relaxed, dementia-friendly singing group. Singing is known to help the memory and increase wellbeing so why not come along and give it a go! Held the first Wednesday of every month.

Wednesday 7th February

Steyning Parish Council: Community Film Night

19:30 – 22:00

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Screening: The Great Escaper

Navy veteran Bernard Jordan (Michael Caine) missed the boat when it came to applying to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-day landings. But, encouraged by his wife, Rene (the late Glenda Jackson in her final role), he decides to make the trip under his own steam, absconding from his care home in Hove with his essentials in a blue plastic bag.

Tickets are on sale at the Steyning Centre at £6.00 which include tea or coffee during the interval. Wine can be purchased at £2.50 per glass. Doors open at 19:00 for a 19:30 start.

Saturday 10th February

Sussex Pathfinders Rambling Club

Beeding and Bramber LIVE presents

An Evening with Jim Cregan

Jim Cregan trio feat. Sam Tanner and Pat Davey

Saturday 2nd March 2024

support on stage 8pm



Doors and Bar 7.30pm

Advance tickets £22 or £25 on door

Tickets and info visit;

www.beedingandbramberlive.com

beedingandbrambervillagehall.org

Beeding and Bramber Village Hall
High Street Upper Beeding West Sussex BN44 3WN

10:30 – 13:00

Outside the Windmill Inn, Littleworth Lane, Littleworth, Partridge Green.

Close to Steyning – group 5 mile walk

5 mile walk across fields and woodland via part of the Downs Link, Lancaster Farm and Mockford. No need to book, just turn up and introduce yourself to Richard, the leader. Please refer to <https://sussexpathfinders.org.uk> for full details of this and all our other weekend walks

Saturday 10th February

Greening Steyning

14:00 – 16:00

Bramber & Beeding Village Hall

Repair Cafe & Home Energy Helpdesk

Don't bin it - let us help you fix it! Bring along your items to repair, and anything you'd like sharpened. If you aren't sure whether we can help please email Robin on repaircafe@greeningsteyning.org for advice. You can also speak to one of our Helpdesk volunteers about how to save energy at home.

Saturday 10th February

Neighbourhood Wardens

14:00 – 15:30

Beeding and Bramber Village Hall, High St, Upper Beeding

Neighbourhood Warden drop-in

We will be joining the Repair Café, so if you have any questions or community safety concerns, you are welcome to come and speak with us. No need to book. Please contact the Neighbourhood Wardens if you have any questions: Mike - 07734 387888 / Alison - 07734 387889 / SBUB. wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Monday 12th February

The Arts Society Steyning

10:00 – 12:00

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

The Arts Society Steyning February Talk

A talk by Sarah Lenton - Life & Times of Puccini

Puccini only completed six major operas. However, those operas – which include Madam Butterfly, Tosca and La Bohème – are the shows

that keep most opera houses afloat. Puccini was a theatre man to his fingertips, a fine stage director, a man who practically invented the cross-fade dawn effect – and yet he left a pile of unfinished works behind him. This lecture explores why such a popular and successful composer had such a baffling career, and how his experience exemplifies the turbulent changes of the 20th century artistic world. Sarah has spent her working life in the theatre: her principal employers are the Royal Opera House, English National Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Garsington Opera. She writes programme articles, radio and play scripts, gives lectures on the operas and ballets in the rep. and broadcasts regularly for BBC Radios 3 and 4. She is also a cartoonist. Free to members; visitors £10 donation. E: steyning@theartsociety.org W: www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk

Tuesday 13th February

Neighbourhood Wardens

15:15 – 17:15

Penfold Hall, 35 Church St, Steyning

Board game cafe

We run a board game café that is free and open to everyone. It is on the 2nd Tuesday of every month between 15:15-17:15. We have lots of games available or if people want to bring their favourites they are welcome to do so. We have free hot and cold drinks. Please contact the Neighbourhood Wardens if you have any questions: Mike - 07734 387888 / Alison - 07734 387889 / SBUB. wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Wednesday 14th February

Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman

11:30 – 12:30

Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, Vicarage Lane, Steyning

Ash Wednesday Service

Mark the beginning of Lent with this Communion Service with Ashing. NOTE: THERE WILL BE TWO SERVICES, ONE IN THE MORNING, AT 11:30 - 12:30 AND AN EVENING SERVICE AT 19:00 – 20:00

Friday 16th February

The Steyning Society

19:00 – 21:00

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning



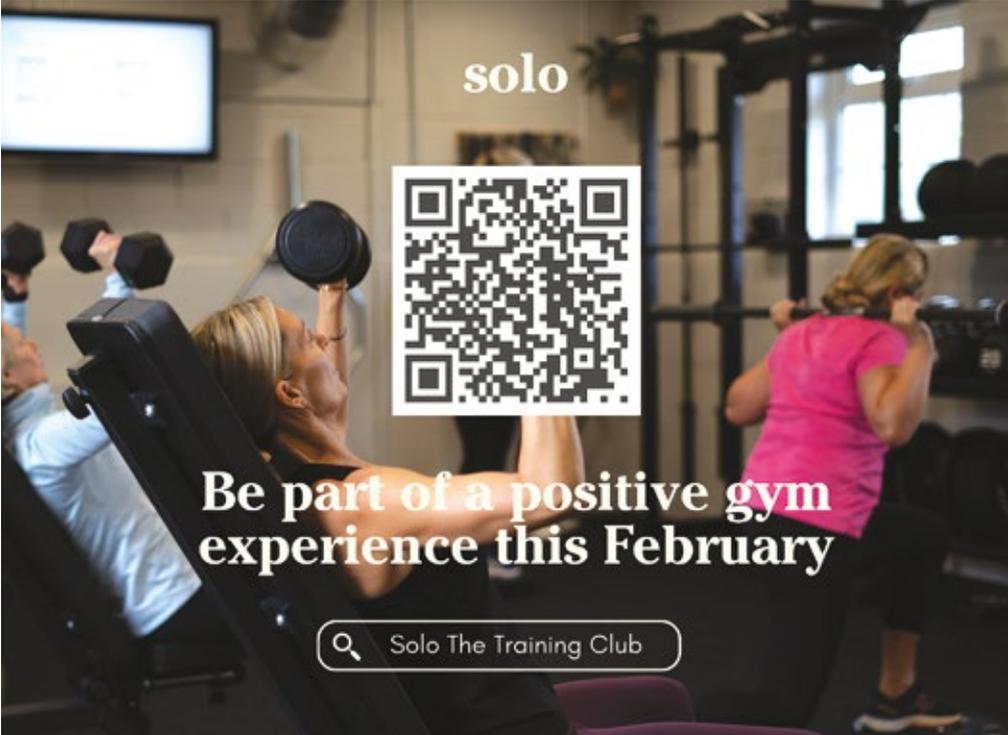
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Clock Towers of Sussex by Kevin Newman

Kevin has published several books, such as Pond Puddings and Sussex Smokies, and his next book, A-Z of Worthing, will be published in 2024. The doors are open at 19:00 and there will be wine or sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival. Talk will begin at 19:30. Free to members and £5 guests. All very welcome to attend.

Saturday 17th February

Greening Steyning

10:30 – 12:00

The Castle Inn, Bramber

Climate Café

A regular event on the 3rd Saturday of most months, the Climate Cafe at the Castle offers a warm and inclusive space, to share friendship and mutual support for those holding questions and worries about the climate crisis and how it will affect us all. Whether you are feeling helpless and fearful about the future, or feeling positive and motivated to bring about change – you are not alone. So why not drop in for a chat.

Saturday 24th February

Kaleidoscope Singers

11:30 – 12:30

Steyning Methodist Church, High St

Charity Concert for Rare Dementia

With a theme of 'Nature' this excellent chamber choir includes in their programme the madrigal 'All creatures now' the Beatles song 'Blackbird', the famous 'Nature Boy' and 'The Hills' by John Ireland - all complimented by readings. The Rare Dementia Charity is close to the heart of this choir so please support us and buy tickets from Steyning Bookshop £12

Wednesday 28th February

Steyning and District Flower Club

19:30 – 21:30

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

'Once Upon a Time'

The Steyning and District Flower Club has a flower filled year of inspirational demonstrations and workshops planned for 2024. You are warmly invited to come along to the first demonstration of the year with the popular local NAFAS

demonstrator, Michelle King. There will be an opportunity to win one of her creations in the evening raffle. In addition refreshments will be available. Doors open at 17.00. Members free and non-members £6 on the door.

Thursday 29th February

Greening Steyning

19:30 – 21:00

Beeding and Bramber Village Hall

Green Drinks - Bird Ringing, Migration and Conservation with Sue Walsh

Bird ringing gives us a huge amount of information about birds and their migration patterns. There are 3 sites in and near Steyning providing valuable information. Come and hear about them! Discover how we ring birds, what it tells us about their lives and how we use that information for the benefit of both birds and humans. This is an engaging and visual talk suitable for all, including secondary age children. Tickets can be booked via the Events page on the Greening Steyning website; www.greeningsteyning.org/events

Friday 1st March

Steyning Library

10:30 – 11:00

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Rhyme Time

Rhyme Time sessions at West Sussex Libraries are a free a fun way for under 5s to develop a love of music and language from an early age. Sessions last around 30 minutes and include nursery rhymes, songs, action rhymes, musical instruments and puppets. No need to book, just come along and join in. Due to the popularity of these activities, there are limits on attendance numbers and sessions may become full.

Friday 1st March

Vintage Years Club

14:00 – 16:00

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Tuck Shop Boys (after our AGM)

Our meeting commences at 14:00 but doors are open at 13:45. There will be a Raffle table and a Bring and Buy table. After our business section, including a short AGM, we welcome the return of The Tuck Shop Boys to entertain us.

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Tea and biscuits will then be served from 15:15. Entrance fee is £3 (£5 for visitors) and Annual Membership is £10 (each April). Please always contact Bev Francis-Hills 01273 493894 or 07801 442891 before attending for the first time/ returning after a long break, for transport needs and any other information.

Saturday 2nd March
 Steyning Grammar School
 10:00 – 13:00

Chatfields, Church Street, Steyning

1968-1980. Reunion

Exhibition and reunion. Any contributions, memories photos for the exhibition will be gratefully received. Contacts. Ruth Brown: E: rmbrown42@btinternet.com T:01798 874149, or John Burstow E: john@burstow.org.uk T: 07958 489365.

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rewarding to see the eventual outcome from 'small acorns' sown at our meetings!

Please email: steyningsouthdowns@gmail.com if you are willing to become Secretary or

get involved with this work to promote and bring fun to our area – so vital for our business community together with bringing enjoyment to our residents.

Steyning in Bloom

Greetings for the New Year from the Steyning in Bloom team. And a big Thank You for your support in 2023. The Open Garden Day in June was a huge success, over 450 visitors toured the 17 gardens open for the event, and enjoyed both the more traditional and the wild ones. We enjoyed the event as much as you did and are starting to make plans for the coming June. The date is Sunday 30th, the time 12 - 5. Put it in your diaries and we look forward to sharing some wonderful spaces with you.



We'll have some wildlife friendly gardens again. The move to make Steyning, and the countryside around, a more environmentally aware space is really taking off, and finding out how to make that work in our gardens is becoming very important.



plots... whatever. We're not looking for manicured perfection, just places of interest and character.

In these troubled times, nature - gardens and the wonderful countryside that surrounds us here are a great boost to the spirits.

Contrary to what you might think it takes a lot of effort!! But help and advice may soon be available. The new **Steyning Gardening Club** is starting to take shape, and plans for activities look very exciting.

We've been busy planting the High Street with bulbs, primulas and daisies for the Spring and in Summer will do colourful displays in the tubs and hanging baskets.

We are lucky to have support from the Business Chamber and the Parish Council, but our funding depends very much on you.

Each year we've added to our funds by selling plants grown by our team and friends but would love any home grown offerings you care to give.

The Steyning in Bloom Open Garden Day will feature 16 or so gardens - we have several lovely new ones and you will be able to see some of those shown last year, and others that have been open in the past. But we would like more gardens, so if you would be happy to share yours, please let us know.

We try to offer a variety, cottage gardens or rolling lawns, pot filled courtyards, vegetable

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Minded – then join us!

For many years now, the Steyning & District Community Partnership have been lucky enough to include the Visitor & Tourism Committee within its auspices. This Committee has spearheaded numerous successful projects & events within our area, all brought about by this small band of local volunteers. A tiny insight into the sort of work they do is as follows:

- Putting in place various finger posts, footpath signs and a major brown roadside sign advertising the attributes of the area.
- Information boards in car parks, outside the library and outside the Steyning Centre.
- The print of a series of 4 walking leaflets; a Steyning & district map; a town history trail; district heritage trails; Explore Steyning leaflets, etc.
- Steyning Archway within Newmans Gardens Car Park.
- A Normans Tale event in Bramber.
- Vintage Revival Day.
- Food & Drink Festival.
- The Big Walking Weekender.
- Lobbying against the Sand Pit.
- Production of The Lost Railway boards (4 History boards).
- High Street Safari Trails.
- Visit Steyning Website.

As can be seen from this very small selection of past successes, the spread is wide and does not just feature any one sort of subject



matter. Russell Barnes is Chair of the Committee and does a fantastic job, putting in hours of his time together with pursuing his own highly successful career as an architect. All volunteer members of the team are just as valued, tirelessly committing their time, energy and enthusiasm to creating 'good news' projects/ events for our district. At this moment the group are short of a Secretary to take notes at the regular meetings, which usually take place once a month – sometimes missing a month here and there - starting at around 9:00/19:30. Can you spare around 1.5 hours to look after this very important task? At the moment, following the retirement of our previous superb Secretary because of ill health, Russell is trying to do this job as well as chairing and that is just not viable – help is urgently needed.

It would also be good news if some 'new faces' could step forward to swell numbers and help the V & T Committee with new ideas and energies. Can you come on board? It is so

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Organic cotton is better for your and your little one's skin, better for the environment and better for the workers who grow and produce it. Brands which use organic cotton usually have GOTS and/or Soil Association certification, meaning you can be sure that the cotton used has been sustainably sourced and the workers are treated and paid fairly.

What are the benefits of organic cotton?

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- Organic cotton uses less water than conventional cotton, during both growing and during manufacturing.
- No harmful chemicals are used whilst growing organic cotton. It's grown without the use of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides or genetically modified seeds.
- Better conditions for the workers. The GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) award ensures that the entire chain of supply meets strict criteria and looks after



the individuals who grow and create the items. This includes not using child labour, no discrimination within the workplace, comprehensive health and safety measures, and every part of the supply chain being paid fairly.

Whilst GOTS certified organic cotton clothing can come at a higher price, it is made with care and designed to last. This means your items will last longer and can be handed down or sold on. By buying organic, we create less waste and distance ourselves from the fast fashion industry!

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While the topic of one's own mortality may not be the most pleasant of conversations, it is a crucial one. The creation of a legal Will is an essential task that far too many of us procrastinate or overlook altogether.

The impact of not having a Will in place can be both frustrating and detrimental, especially to the loved ones left behind. First and foremost, without a Will, the distribution of one's assets becomes a complicated and often contentious affair. In the absence of clear instructions, intestacy laws take over, and this can sometimes result in assets being distributed in ways that may not align with the deceased's wishes. Without a Will, there can be significant delays in the probate process too, this can tie up the deceased's assets for months or even years depending on the complexity of the estate being left.

For those with children it is really important to have conversations with those people you would choose to take care of them in the event that anything happens to you. Without a Will, you have no say in who or how your children will be raised in your absence. In today's world of blended families, ensuring that you have officially documented who you want to inherit and when is even more important.

Making your Will is a simple process in most cases, you can use your Solicitor, a dedicated Estate Planning service like us or even go online. I tend to find that due to the nature of the subject, most people feel more comfortable talking through their options with a real person and we can do this either in our office or in your home- wherever you feel most comfortable.



Emma Cohen **FIPW**

In 2020, Emma became the youngest ever fellow of the Institute of Professional Willwriters, showing her dedication to the profession.



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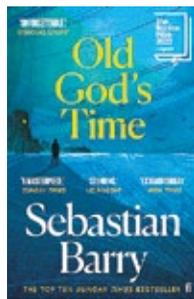
Adults Books



Mongrel by Hanako Footman
 Footnotes Press hardback £16.99

A compelling debut novel about love, loss, and identity from a fresh new voice in British-Asian fiction. I was utterly gripped from the very first sentence of this heart-rending story

which weaves together 3 voices: Mei has grown up grieving the loss of her Japanese mother at the age of 6, and her yearning to fit in with her affluent suburban Surrey friends means that she suppresses both her Japanese heritage and her growing desire for her best friend Fran. We meet Yuki when she arrives in London to study violin, before she falls violently in love with her much older teacher and finds herself pregnant. After losing her mother in her early teens, Haruka goes off the rails and leaves her grandparent's farm for the bright lights of Tokyo, always mourning the loss of her secretive mother, who left so many unanswered questions... Gradually the stories intersect, and we unravel the tangled web of deception that connects them. Vivid and visceral writing.



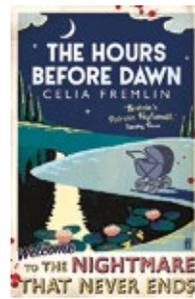
Old God's Time by Sebastian Barry
 Faber paperback £9.99

Now into paperback, this is an intense, haunting novel by one of our favourite Irish writers.

Tom Kettle is a retired policeman, widowed and living alone, spending his days staring out to sea. His solitude is interrupted

when two former colleagues turn up at his door to ask about a traumatic, decades-old case, and stir up long-buried memories. Tom is an unreliable narrator, slipping into dementia, and his narrative meanders

between past and present, gradually revealing his harrowing story. Sublime writing - poetic, poignant and powerful.



The Hours Before Dawn by Celia Fremlin
 Faber £9.99

We've been enjoying these Faber re-releases of Celia Fremlin's 1960's psychological thrillers, she certainly lives up to her moniker as Britain's answer to Patricia Highsmith. Louise would give anything - anything - for a good

night's sleep. If the baby would just stop crying, everything would be fine. Or would it? What if Louise's growing fears about the family's new lodger, who seems to share all her husband's interests, are real? What could she do, and would anyone even believe her? Maybe, if she could get just get some rest, she'd be able to think straight...

Witty, suspenseful, and deliciously sinister, it is a joy to discover these forgotten classics!

Children's Books



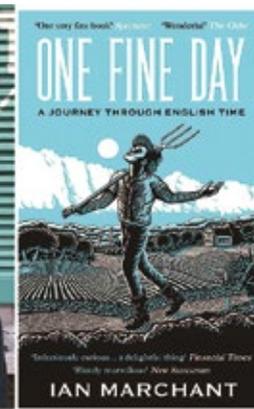
Saving Neverland by Abi Elphinstone
 Puffin books £7.99

Martha Pennydrop is ten years old, and in a real hurry to grow up. But when she and her little brother Scruff discover a drawer full of mysterious gold dust in the bedroom of their new house, they open the door to an incredible

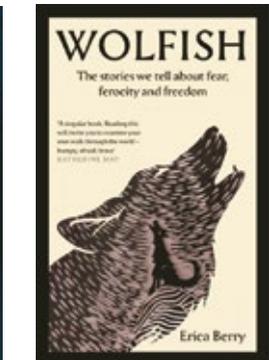
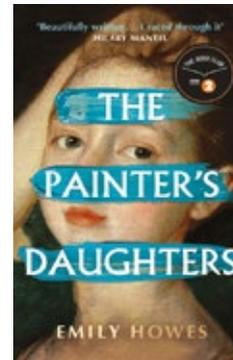
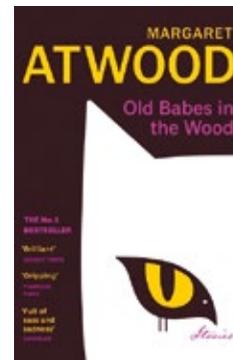
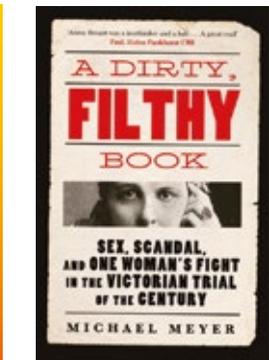
adventure in a magical world - Neverland! As it turns out, they are living in the Darling Family house, over 100 years on from Wendy's adventures with Peter Pan. But Neverland is in the grip of a terrible curse, and when Scruff is kidnapped, Martha must rediscover the magic and imagination deep inside herself to help Peter Pan save Neverland and rescue her brother. A marvellous modern reimagining of the Peter Pan story.



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Skiing Survival Hints and Tips

Every year thousands of people hit the slopes to enjoy the fresh air, beautiful scenery and an active holiday. Although lots of fun, skiing can be tough on the body. We see quite a few skiing related injuries in our clinic each year. So, to help you stay safe this ski season and get the most amount of time on the slopes, here are some simple hints and tips to follow:

Preparation is key!

Many people will spend the early winter months in hibernation or glued to their desk at work and then head off on a skiing holiday expecting their bodies to cope with the stresses and strains of the activity. Whilst we aren't suggesting you need to be in the gym, a light training programme before you go will be really helpful.

- **Go walking** – get your body moving on long walks to improve cardiovascular fitness and reduce stiffness.
- **Squats** – a few squats every evening will waken up and build strength in the muscles used for skiing.
- **Balance** – apparently in skiing, balance is quite important(!!) Improve your balance by practicing standing on one leg, aim for a minute on each side. Make it harder by standing on a cushion or closing your eyes.

On the slopes:

- **Warm up** – start slowly to allow your body to warm up to the activity, even if you are a pro the likelihood is you haven't skied for a while so build up the intensity gently.
- **Stretching** – end every session on the slopes with some gentle stretches to ease the tension in the muscles you have been working (target the thighs, hamstrings, buttocks and lower back). This will reduce stiffness in the muscles allowing you to start fresh every day.
- **Take a break** – overexertion will most likely lead to injury. Listen to your body, if it feels tired or pain, stop!
- **Stay hydrated** – skiing is a very physical activity, your body will need to be kept well hydrated so drink plenty of water and steer clear of alcoholic drinks.
- **Stay warm** – make sure you are wearing appropriate clothing; your muscles work better when they are warm.
- **Get the right boots** – having a correctly



fitted ski boots will affect the comfort and performance of your skiing dramatically.

- **ICE** – for acute injuries use ice rather than heat as soon as possible to reduce the swelling.

Apres Ski:

You may be surprised to hear that quite a few issues that present to us in the clinic occur off the slopes, here are a few things to look out for....

- **Carrying equipment** – skis and boots can be heavy and cumbersome, carrying them awkwardly can cause sprains and strains. Ensure that the weight is evenly distributed side to side and get help if it is too much.
- **Tread carefully** – slips and falls often happen on ice in the resort, wear good lace up shoes with deep tread to give you more grip when out and about.
- **Sleep** – sleep is essential for good recovery after a long day skiing so if the bed doesn't suit you it can often aggravate your back or neck. Some simple stretches last thing at night and first thing in the morning can help to reduce the tension that will build in the body from an uncomfortable bed.

Mark adds: *'Prevention is still better than cure and these tips can help you avoid injuries because just one joint or muscle out of line can be a disaster when you are travelling at 40 miles per hour'.*

A New Year MOT and getting aches and pains checked out before you head to the slopes is always advisable.

Please call us if you would like to come in for a FREE 15 minute no obligation consultation. We are always happy to offer advice.

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Toad-in-the-hole

Once upon a time, the British people were divided. Impassioned debates raged throughout the land, truth and common sense became distorted, and the public rose up and demanded an answer. How did that toad get inside that rock?

In 1898, two burly workmen in a chalk quarry near Lewes cracked open a hollow chunk of flint. The solid rock, formed 85 million years ago, split open to reveal an airtight cavity at its core. To the quarrymen's amazement, entombed within the ancient flint was a dead toad.

'Toad-in-the-hole' hysteria soon hit the headlines. It seemed like every month the newspapers reported how someone had split open a rock and found a toad inside. Some of these toads had already croaked but others would inexplicably still be alive and hopping. The Victorian world was thrown into theological and philosophical panic. Clergymen preached that the Creator had placed the eternal amphibians in rocks at the dawn of time. Subscribers to Darwin's new theory of evolution were perplexed. Charles Dickens wrote of his bewilderment, while others believed it was simply sorcery. Scientists began burying living toads in sealed boxes to investigate the unfortunate animal's longevity.

The Lewes toad of 1898 is the world's only surviving artefact of the entombed toad craze. It now resides in Brighton's incredible Booth Museum of Natural History – one of my favourite places in the whole world. Amongst the many awe-inspiring exhibits at The Booth, you'll find a special cabinet dedicated

to curiosities. In it, lying reverentially on a bed of maroon felt, there is *'Probably the most famous toad in the world'*. Admittedly when it comes to world-famous toads it's not a particularly crowded field, with only Toad of Toad Hall to contest the title. Alongside the original oval of cleft flint sits the shrivelled body of the infamous amphibian. The whole surreal exhibit is like a Kinder Surprise designed by Hieronymus Bosch.

But this cracked up flint isn't all it's cracked up to be. The Lewes toad was originally presented to the Brighton and Hove Natural History and Philosophical Society by Charles Dawson. That's the same Charles Dawson who would soon be sticking some Orangutan teeth on a human skull and declaring he had discovered the *'missing link'* at Piltdown, near Uckfield.

In 1953, Dawson would be unmasked as a fraudster and the whole 'toad-in-the-hole' phenomenon would come crashing down, dismissed as poppycock.

By Michael Blencowe: Learning & Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust.
Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent registered charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. It's easy to join online at: www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join or T: 01273 497532
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Green Day 2024: Calling all EV and e-Bike Owners

Mark your diaries! This year's Steyning Festival will be bursting into life on Saturday 25th May with a fun-packed 'Green Day' focusing on all things 'eco'.

This time there will be a particular focus on nature. There will be a wildlife corridor adventure for children dressed up as animals and birds, and storytellers with tales of how we can all help protect the endangered creatures in our midst.

And there will be a chance to put your garden on a Sussex-wide nature map being created by the Weald to Waves Project, led by the pioneering Knepp Estate.

Sustainable transport is a big part of the green story. So to kick **Green Day** off, once again there's going to be a parade and showcase for electric vehicles (EVs) and e-Bikes.

Are you an enthusiastic EV or e-Bike owner? If so, would you like to take part in parade? It starts at Fletchers Croft, loops around



Tanyard Lane, and comes back via the High Street. And perhaps you would be up for sticking around to chat to members of the public and answer their questions about what it's like owning one?

You can find out more and sign up at: <https://bit.ly/EVParade>

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'The volunteers' have still been at it planting trees

A hedge for William Somerset, the Steyning Blacksmiths (Sussex Ironworks) at Patching in the National Park. Our longest hedge yet 140m, 800 whips. All planted by SFT volunteers in just two and a half sessions. Mostly in beautiful sunny weather.



Gapping up the new hedge on SDS with whips bought and provided by SFT.



We are so pleased that some of you are supporting us when planting your own hedges now and taking the advice from our website about suitable mixes of hedging to plant to help our endangered species, not a mono-culture.

All these hedges are so vital at this time of year to provide food for our poor birds trying to survive the wet and cold weather that we are experiencing. A winter buffet of berries, Hawthorn, Elder, Blackthorn, Dog Rose , Crab Apple, Holly, Hazel, and Ivy plus any fallen apples you still have, the blackbirds so enjoy them, all helps to keep them going when food



is so scarce. Do remember to crack the ice when it freezes, they need access to water.



We want to help our birds and mammals to make it through to spring and the breeding season in good health, if we are going to stop the terrible decline in biodiversity - so many endangered species that need our help.

Do remember the help that trees also give to humans, reducing stress. There is an article in Good Housekeeping - not our usual source, about Forest bathing - walking among trees We are all so lucky here in lovely Steyning to have access to Woodland. Not so for many who live in built up areas with no trees. This is all about connecting with nature via your senses.

Research has revealed this stress-easing activity can boost immunity, lower blood pressure and reduce stress, thanks to phytoncides compounds released by trees that reduce our stress hormone levels.

Find a forest or wood - Silence your phone - take a deep breath and walk slowly into the trees opening all your senses to sounds, smells and touching new textures. Sit with your back against a tree and be still for 15 minutes. Notice your breathing, everything around you and the leafy canopy above.

Walk out of the trees and check in with yourself to see how you feel. Hopefully calmer, more relaxed, less anxious. Repeat as often as you can - it's step by step medicine for the soul.

Trees are amazing in what they do for us!

STOP PRESS.

After talks with Richard Goring he has asked SFT to help with the Estate's plan to plant 1 km of hedge on higher ground to help reduce flooding at the west end of Steyning as it matures. This will also greatly increase biodiversity. Richard has also commissioned a consultant on additional methods to control flooding.

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Local Clubs and Societies

To add a club or society or change the details kindly email roger@barawood.co.uk

CHARITIES:

Cancer Research Steyning.
www.cancerresearchuk.org

Steyning & Ashurst Friends of St. Barnabas House.
01903 814337

The Friends of Steyning Parish Church. 01903 813232

The Steyning Society.
E: cmantsteyningsoc@gmail.com / W: www.steyningsociety.org.uk

The Steyning Friends of Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.
01903 813901 / 01903 815601

The Royal British Legion Steyning & District Branch.
01903 815176.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES:
Chanctonbury Quilters.
01903 812171.

Steyning Art Group.
peacefulorchard@iCloud.com
Oakleylucy@hotmail.com

Steyning Bellringers.
01903 813653.

Steyning Bridge Club.
01903 814726.

Steyning Camera Club.
info@steyningcc.org.uk

Steyning & District Flower Club. 01903 895939

Steyning History Society
Secretary: Mrs. P. Blackie,
01903 812283

Steyning Museum.
01903 813333.

Steyning National Women's Register
01903 815577 nwr.org.uk

Steyning So and Sews
01903 813467

Sugar and Spice Sugar Craft Club. 01903 695700.

The Arts Society Steyning.
steyning@theartssociety.org
<http://www.theartssocietysteyning.org.uk/>

The Steyning Society.
E: cmantsteyningsoc@gmail.com / W: www.steyningsociety.org.uk

Vintage Years Club.
01273 493884

West Chiltington Bridge Club.
01903 742674 / 01798 813626.

West Sussex Decorative & Fine Arts Society.
01903 411086.

GENERAL:

1140 Steyning Squadron Air Training Corps 01903 815511 - 1140@rafac.mod.gov.uk

Cadet Centre. 01903 813113.

Cadet Centre - Steyning Army Cadets. 07737931010.

Steyning, Beeding and Bramber Trefoil Guild.
01903- 812622.

Steyning Litter Pickers.
susanjglover@outlook.com

Steyning Parish Church.
steyningparishchurch@gmail.com

Steyning WEA Day School.
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SOCIAL:

Cheqoutz Cribbage Team.
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Ladies Thursday Club.
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paulinemhadhebi6@hotmail.com

Singability. 07845 546365.

Steyning & District Good Neighbours Association.
01903 816181.
steyninggoodneighbours.co.uk

Steyning Downland Scheme Group. 01903 812404.

Friends of Steyning Downland Scheme. www.steyningdownland.org/support-us/friends-scheme/

Special Task Force.
01903 765340.

Steyning & District U3A.
www.steyninganddistrictu3a.org.uk

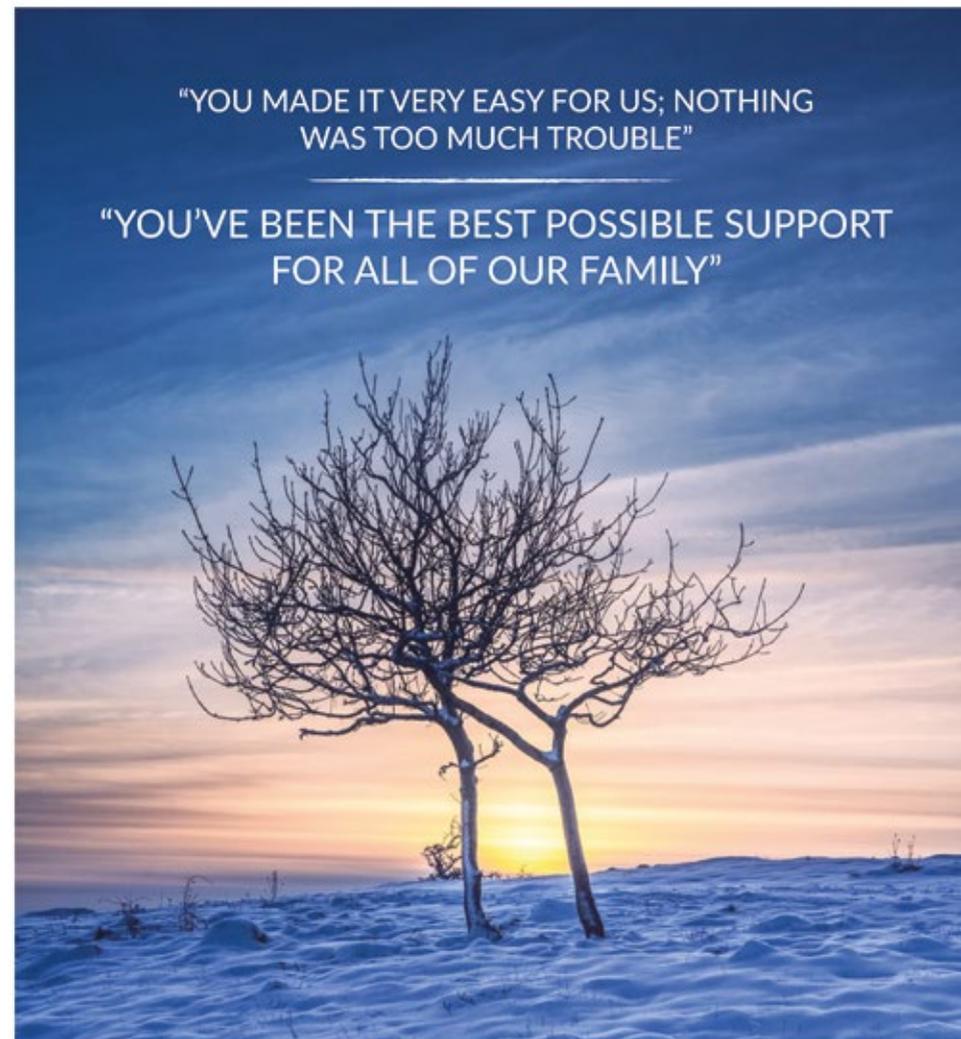
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Steyning Town Community Football Club. 07713 628053.
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HEALTH:
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Know Dementia - Green Moments. 01273 494300.

Parkinson Support Group.
01273 969603.

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Steyning Healthy Walks.
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Steyning Jazz Club.
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We will be holding drop-in sessions for residents to come and ask any questions they may have about community safety.

No need to book.

Saturday 18 November
Steyning Library, 12pm - 1.30pm

Saturday 16 December
Steyning Library, 12pm - 1.30pm

Saturday 13 January
Beeding and Bramber Village Hall at the repair Cafe, 2pm-3.30pm

Saturday 10 February
Beeding and Bramber Village Hall at the repair Cafe, 2pm-3.30pm

Saturday 9 March
Beeding and Bramber Village Hall at the repair Cafe, 2pm-3.30pm

Alison Page
07734 387889

Mike Pearce
07734 387888

sbusub.wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Horsham District Community Safety Partnership, REPAIR CAFE, West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council



NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

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Starting January 9 2024
3.15pm to 5.15pm

Penfold Hall, Steyning
Meet new people, have a cuppa and play some board games!

Try playing a new game, or why not bring your favourite one along?

All ages and board games experience welcome. If under 18's are attending, please be aware that this is not a club where child supervision will be provided.

For more information, please email sbusub.wardens@horsham.gov.uk or call
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Horsham District Community Safety Partnership, REPAIR CAFE, West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council

Front Cover: The Heron and The Kingfisher - John Wakefield

SteyningARTS
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John's work takes inspiration from Nature, Wildlife, Flora and Fauna.

His paintings are illustrative in style and they evoke a feeling of connection, warmth, enchantment and mystery.

Or in person at his studio, Unit P, Cobblestone Walk, Steyning.

Working from home and his studio space in cobblestone walk Steyning. John reproduces his own canvas and paper prints while taking on illustration and commissioned work.

Media: John uses Acrylics, Pen and Ink, watercolour, pencil and charcoal.

He would often be seen at Folk festivals and Holistic fairs selling his original paintings and reproductions.

You can see more of work via his website at <http://www.jwakefield.co.uk>



February Gardening Journal

Article by Alex Bell
T: 01903 815065 M: 07866 747849

February is a time for new beginnings and a time to reflect on the past year with the best place to view the garden from the comfort of an armchair with a cup of tea to hand. But when it's mild, it's a great time to sharpen up the structure of the garden, as the soil is easily workable. The winter sunshine and crisp frosty mornings also bring an added dimension too. Many perennials and ornamental grasses look really good when covered with the silvery hand of Jack Frost, the seed heads given a new and interesting lease of life.

There are a few plants that help us through the winter gloom with both Sarcococcas and Daphne being the most well known among them. With their decorative evergreen foliage, vibrant perfume and beautiful little flowers Daphnes, in particular, provide fantastic structure in the winter garden. They also compliment the early flowers of the spring bulbs really well too - especially the pure white of snowdrops. They provide great structure and often the foliage of Daphne's look great on their own, without any flower, all through the seasons.

Originating from the eastern Himalayas, Daphne bholua forms an upright growing evergreen shrub adorned with leathery mid-green oval leaves. Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postill' produces clusters of incredibly pretty, intensely fragrant flowers that are pink on the outside and white within. This makes it an ideal shrub for any garden because of its slow growing habit and flowers that are present in the late winter, when most other plants are dormant.



The clusters of these wonderfully scented flowers open from late February and are followed by small purplish-black berries. It's best to keep pruning to a minimum, and plant where its roots will be shaded. They also don't like being moved when established so best to choose its home carefully so you don't have to disturb it again when its happily growing in your garden.

Grow Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postill' in fertile, moist but well-drained soil in partial shade. They are fabulous little shrubs and can be used in so many different types of schemes, its versatility making it very popular in both domestic and commercial planting schemes. They look best planted in repetition throughout a large garden and can also be used as single specimens in smaller schemes too.

Daphnes are a must have for the winter border and can look great planted with a groundcover of cyclamen, or near a gate or doorway where the scent can be appreciated. However, be aware that all parts of the plant are toxic if eaten, and the sap



Plants of the Month – Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postill'

is an irritant too. Daphne Jacqueline Postill holds the RHS Award of Garden Merit despite parts of the plant that are poisonous to humans and a range of animals. While this could be seen as problematic it makes it a great plant to include if you have deer and rabbits roaming through your garden. Overall, one of my top 10 Evergreen Shrubs!

Jobs to be done in February: Ornamental Garden

- In late February cut back hard (coppice) all the Cornus (Dogwood) to low buds.
- If snow falls – do not let the snow sit on the shrubs, gently shake off to prevent damage.
- Prune Roses creating an open outward facing framework.
- Prune Clematis (late/summer flowering).
- Shape borders to neaten edges.
- In late February – cutback deciduous grasses.
- Remove weeds from borders.
- Prune out dead; diseased or damaged wood from trees and shrubs.
- Complete pruning of Apple/fruit trees if not already done.
- Mulch borders if not already done in Autumn – taking care of emerging bulbs.
- Cut back Hydrangea Preziosa to first healthy buds on stems.

- Cut back Hydrangea Annabelle to a half/third to retain compact shape.
- Cut back side shoots of wisteria, pruning to two to three buds.
- Plant new climbers such as clematis/honeysuckle
- Prune summer flowering deciduous shrubs that flower on the current years growth – e.g. Buddleja, lavatera etc.
- Sow hardy annuals for summer colour.

Vegetable Garden:

- Buy seed potatoes and chit tubers placing them eye end up in trays or egg boxes in a light, cool, frost free place.
- Sow crops like broad beans, lettuce etc and place in greenhouses or coldframes for an earlier harvest.
- Now's the time if you want to think about planting asparagus – keep weed free and mulch with a thick layer of organic matter.
- Apply general fertiliser like growmore/blood fish and bone to beds.
- Mulch tree and cane fruit after pruning.
- Plant garlic.
- Spray dormant fruit bushes with plant oil based winter wash to kill overwintering eggs or aphid pests.



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Some Steyning Streets

If we want to find our way around Steyning we know, or could look up on our phones, where to find particular streets. If, however, we were thrown back in time we would have some difficulties. Where, for instance, were the rather ordinary sounding Middyllane or Lyttyllane? Middle Lane which ran from the vill (the centre of the town) to the Church is straightforward; it was Church Street. But there must have been several little lanes five hundred or more years ago and this specific Lyttyllane we cannot place

Some name changes are actually documented so we know that the field where Steyning men and boys practiced their archery, which we now call Shooting Field, used to be known as 'The Howe'.

Others are lent a level of confusion either because of a relaxed approach to how they were spelt or because of difficulties in reading the medieval script. So Cobstrete, Coprestret and Cokstrete were quite likely to have all been the same lane but the variation in the spelling opened the door for speculation about its modern equivalent. Because all the names began with the letters 'Co', Coxham Lane became the favoured equivalent. But that would seem to be wrong.

In a court hearing in 1478 Cobstrete was reported to be *'in a very bad state and a day is given for it to be repaired'*. The Court then became very specific as to who was responsible for its repair. On the one hand there was John Arnold, a burgess of Steyning, who at one time or another was the ale taster and the bailiff for the Borough. On the other was *'the Tithing of Charleton'* with instructions being given for the street to be repaired *'in accordance*

with the custom of the Borough from which it runs (namely, Steyning) through the Tithing of Charleton, of which a day is given as much to the Tithing of Charleton for its part as to John Arnold for his part to repair it before the next View (the court of the 'View of Frankpledge)'. So Cobstrete was a road needing repair and maintenance by both Steyning and Charlton – and there is really only one road which could, at that time, have been identified as a *'street'* and which ran between the two. That was what we now call Mouse Lane – then the route into Steyning from the west. There is no sign on early maps or records of any road or lane anywhere near Coxham Lane.

It is also telling that William Pellett, who lived at Charlton Court, was arraigned by the court on nine different occasions for failing to undertake repairs to Cobstrete. Moreover, twenty five years later, the same road seems to have been in need of repair again when William Pellett left money in his will, in 1503,

for *'the mending of the way between the forge and Charlton and Oxonbroke and between the forge and the great Barn 60 cartloads of stone.'*

The exact interpretation of this is uncertain



Mouse Lane

but *'the forge'* may be that which lay not far from the present day Star Inn and *'the great barn'* was probably the large barn at Charlton Court.

By 1597 the name Cobstrete had disappeared from Steyning's topography and the lane had become known as Mowze Lane. If the name Cobstrete was descriptive of a road along which cobnut trees or hazels grew, then Mouse Lane could have acquired its name descriptively as well. John Goring told Janet Pennington that you only had to look up the lane with its overarching trees to think of a large mousehole or rathole, though others have pointed out that waggons loaded with grain on their way to Court Mill probably shed enough of their loads to allow rats and mice to thrive.

However that might be, those who make regular use of this lane will not be in the least surprised to discover that the water racing down the lane after heavy rain lead to the need for its frequent repair in past centuries.

Article by: Chris Tod - Steyning Museum.

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