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2024



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Steyning Parish Council: T: 01903 812042 -

W: www.steyningpc.gov.uk
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BN44 Repair Café: What can we do for you?

Expected

The Repair Café which happens at Bramber and Beeding Village Hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month has been remarkably successful in obvious and unexpected ways. You have brought in over 1300 items for us to repair and we have managed to repair over 900 of them. We've also sharpened over 1300 items such as secateurs, shears, loppers, scissors and knives. Keep them coming!

Unexpected

However, it's the unexpected ways which we want to share. We have started to be a hub for other activities and a way for people to connect with new parts of the community.

- Our cakes, tea and coffee have become renowned, and people often pop in just for refreshments and a chat.
- We've met with and advised several villages who have gone on to set up their own repair café and our volunteers have helped in their early sessions.

- We have hosted other sections of the community, such as the neighbourhood wardens, local and district councillors and local crafts people who have provided demonstrations

- We have had several students doing D of E who have volunteered with us and some of them have continued after they have finished their D of E.



Where Next?

I'm sure some of you who have smart phones or tablets struggle to get them working for you efficiently. We have young people volunteering with us who are wizards with phones and tablets. Why not come and get help from them? We also have people who can help with software and hardware on your computer.

We have run a successful bike maintenance workshop at Upper Beeding Primary School and we are interested to know if there are any other young people or parents who would like to learn how to ensure their bike is safe and running efficiently. Let us know using the contact details below.

Some of our textile repairers have been discussing showing young people how to up-cycle old clothes and textiles and they would be interested to work with small numbers of 10-14 year olds on Saturday afternoons at the Repair Café. Again, let us know if you are interested using the contact details below.

Did you know that BT are switching all analogue landlines off in 2025 and replacing them with digital phones. Do you know what this means for you? You can find out more at <https://www.bt.com/about/all-ip> but we can help you understand and if there is enough interest we will put on a dedicated session to answer all your



questions. Let us know if you'd be interested in such a talk using the contact details below.

Lastly, we will have a go at repairing most things and you can see what we do by looking at <https://greeningsteyning.org/project/repair-cafe/> but if you think there is a gap or something that we could help with do let us know. We are open to new ideas and although we have plenty of volunteers we are always pleased to see more. Let us know.

Pop in, join us for a cuppa, bring your repairs and share your ideas! Your repair café needs you!

The BN44 repair gang
Contact us by emailing Robin on
repaircafe@greeningsteyning.org

Young people of the District invited to shape future leisure and outdoor spaces



Horsham District Council is inviting people to share their thoughts about outdoor space and leisure provision for teenagers in a new survey launching today. There will also be a series of focus groups with local schools and youth forums. The survey was created by a special task group of councillors, set up to understand whether outdoor spaces in the District meet the needs of teenage girls and boys equally. The results will help the Council to review current policies to try and ensure shortfalls identified are addressed in future design and planning.

Commenting on the initiative, Horsham District Council Overview and Scrutiny Chairman Paul Clarke said:

'Creating leisure spaces that work for everyone and ensuring that all voices are heard is key for us as a council. This survey forms an important part of our 'Fair Space for all' initiative.

It is focussed on developing leisure spaces which feel safe and accessible for everybody, including teenage girls. Our aim is to encourage active healthy lifestyles through all stages of life. The task group is being led by Councillor Samantha Bateman.'



Commenting on the work, Councillor Samantha Bateman said:

'The focus groups will run in participating schools, colleges and youth forums across the District. Whilst the survey hopes to capture the thoughts of teenage girls and

their parents, everyone's feedback to the survey is welcome. We are a council which wants to deliver Fair Space for all.

Our feeling is that our general understanding on outdoor sports and leisure facilities is strong, but we want to develop our understanding of different groups' needs. If proven necessary, this work and survey will

help identify improvements to provision for teenage girls.'

The Council committed in its 2024/25 Annual Plan to better understand the needs of the community to deliver services that support people in leading a healthy and active lifestyle, and as part of this, to create safe spaces for our children and young people to grow.

The survey is running until Friday 1st November, 2024.

Please complete the survey here: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/OutdoorLeisure>

For media queries please email: press@horsham.gov.uk

Steyping Gardening Club

As summer slowly comes to an end, we are all considering what worked well in our gardens this year or perhaps what needs a tweak or even a complete change and how this may all look for next year. At the same time we may be thinking about what still needs doing before winter. It is a continual cycle that many of us enjoy, despite sometimes looking at it all and wondering if we will ever get it 'just right'.

In this vein, we at SGC are doing much the same thing. We have now had several very successful and enjoyable gatherings where we have managed to meet many of our members, learnt new techniques, been inspired by our talks and demonstrations, as well having a fun quiz evening. At the same time, we are looking towards the club's future, building on it's initial success to make sure we are working with and for our members, and taking on board their suggestions for our

meetings next year.

As many of you know, we started out autumn programme with a fabulous demonstration by Lynne Broome all about '*Bulbs and Where to Plant Them*'. Lynne's presentation on September 9th included tips and ideas for planting '*bulb lasagne*' containers, as well as nuggets of information that even the most experienced of us found interesting and enlightening. Lynne's delightful creations were later raffled with great excitement. Some wonderful spring bulbs were for sale at discounted prices, straight from the growers. These will brighten our gardens in the early part of next year and for years to come.

We introduced our '*Best Bloom Competition*'. A small fun idea where our members take away three daffodil bulbs to grow at home and then to bring their best cut flower back to our AGM in March, where an independent judge will decide the '*Best Bloom*' and a prize will be awarded.

We are sure that all of us look at our gardens at times just sighing with pleasure and pride. Maybe we have grown something from seed or given new life to a fading perennial, have grown tomatoes for the first time, or it could just be that looking at a bed we see where it



has come from and where we want it to go, but at this moment, it makes us smile.

We are inviting our members to record and share these moments with our club. We are introducing a '*Member's Garden Presentation*' space at our next and ongoing meetings. A chance for you all to share a favourite scene from your garden or even just a beautiful picture of a prized flower. Bring your photos along, pin them up with pride and you never know, they may even appear in our next Your Steyping article.

On October 7th we welcome Alex Bell, a well-known, award-winning garden designer who lives in Steyping. Alex will be giving us lots of tips about how to '*Put Our Garden To Bed*' for winter, so come along with any questions you may have and we are sure Alex will be able to help, as well as giving us some general tips to prepare our gardens for the winter.

We have a few packets of spring bulbs left and these will be on sale on the night. They have proved very popular, so treat yourself before they all go.

Finally, for this year our last get together, before we break for Christmas, will be a Yuletide themed social. This demonstration, accompanied by traditional refreshments, will be an opportunity for us all to be inspired



to create seasonal decorations. So put November 11th into your diaries and come along and join us for some pre- Christmas cheer.

Enjoy the rest of the year in your gardens and we look forward to seeing you on 7th October, 19:30 at the Steyping Centre.

Sign up for our mailing list by clicking the link: https://bit.ly/SGC_sign_up.

Or become a member via the QR code or link: https://bit.ly/SCG_Membership

For general enquires please contact us at steypinggardeningclub@gmail.com or via Susan on 01903 816588



Cover: Caroline Darke: Rocky Reflections

I am a local multi-media artist whose work explores the landscape using layers, colour, collage and texture.

I am drawn to landscapes and seascapes both at home and abroad and the enormous changes to those landscapes made by the weather, the seasons and man.

I aim to create a feel or impression of the scene which can be interpreted and imagined by the viewer. Commissions undertaken.

www.carolinedarke.com
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Becky - Steyning

October: Steyning Community Orchard

The Community Orchard is run by a small group of volunteers who share various roles. But the role of treasurer is one where we rely on an individual who has the necessary skills.

We are lucky to have such a person in Richard. He described his role here. *'I have been the treasurer of Steyning Community Orchard since February 2017. I discovered, after retiring from my day job as an accountant and finding more time to spend in Steyning that I quickly became more popular than I had ever been in that day job. Of course this was not only due to my accounting skills, attractive personality and general bonhomie but also to an urgent need for community organisations like Steyning Community Orchard to find anyone vaguely numerate to take on the not-very-sought-after role of treasurer.'*

My predecessor was relocating to a different part of the country (from Steyning!?) but fortunately not because of the overburdensome demands of the treasurer's job. I already knew Alec Harden who was leader of the SCO at the time and so I guess there was an inevitability that I would be approached, given the absence of a queue forming at Alec's door. To his great credit Alec gave a very fair and accurate description of the work involved and put me under no pressure at all, explaining that the role was undemanding and required no great commitment. He knew me better than I thought, understanding that this reversal of the usual psychological pressure would be the best approach to take. It was inevitable that I would accept.'

However, 7 years on, I can genuinely say that the role has been exactly as Alec described and it has been a privilege to make a very small contribution to a wonderful community project, one of many in Steyning, designed to protect and enhance the beautiful environment in which we live.

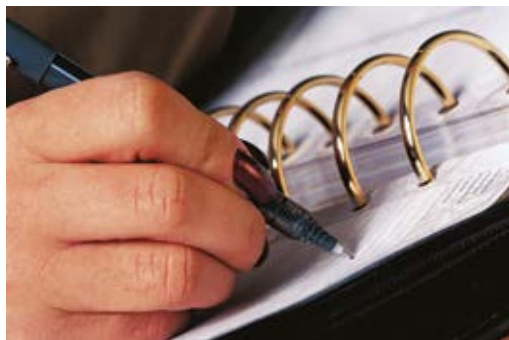
And, of course, the truth is that the



accounting input is blissfully minimal. The constitution of SCO is written on one page of A4 paper and is easy to understand. There are no lengthy sections on the necessary procedures for calling meetings, raising funds, resolving disagreements or on gender equality and racial bias, which is based on an underlying assumption that people will behave reasonably. So far, there has been no reason to revisit this assumption!

Quite rightly, in my opinion, it concentrates on the objectives of developing local orchards for the benefit of the community, starting and developing local orchards for the benefit of the community, enabling donors to establish living tributes in memory of their loved ones. In addition, it seeks to encourage Friends to join in and enjoy themselves at the annual wassail and Apple Juicing Day.

Finally, one number - I am an accountant after all - seven. This is the number of Steyning orchards in various stages of development - do go and visit them. There are the well-established ones at the Memorial Playing Field, Abbey Road, the Downland Orchard, Primrose Court and Bramber Brooks and the two new projects on the field to the west of Bramber Castle and at Steyning Primary School.' Richard Hopkins.





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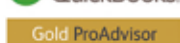
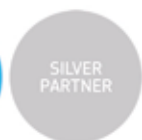
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Steyping District Food & Drink Festival serves up a treat

The 6th of September kicked off another exciting year of food and drink events taking place throughout the Festival. Saturday saw a busy Farmers Market showcasing the usual excellent local produce from the stallholders together with their special offers, as well as live music, spirit tasting and cocktail making.

An additional highlight this year was the appearance of celebrity cook and author, Valentina Harris, who hosted a great cooking demonstration, entertaining the crowd with delicious recipes using produce from the Market. The High Street was also buzzing with other foodie events including tastings of local artisan products in The Sussex Grocer and samples of delicious chocolate from local chocolatiers, Cocoa Loco at Vintage & Home. Meanwhile, over at Knepp Wilding a Sussex Countryside Day was in full swing and Saturday evening saw a busy Sparkling Wine Cocktail Class at Twenty Seven Wines and a Pintxos Party at Chanctonbury Wines, both in Steyping High Street.

Sunday saw the main event and a first for the Festival - the Street Food Piazza. Despite an unsettled weather forecast the crowds came out in their numbers. Luckily, there were only a couple of deluges of rain, which certainly didn't dampen spirits or detract from what was a sensational event. Bringing together some of the region's best food and drink, the air was filled with intoxicating aromas as each of the stalls cooked up a storm. The crowd enjoyed an array of delicious food, accompanied by glasses of the region's best English sparkling and fine wines plus local beers.



From opening, people came from near and far to eat, drink, dance and be merry, creating a fantastic atmosphere with the DJ's spinning tunes as the sun came out into the early evening. What a day! As people made their way home, the feedback was that a great time had been had by all - young and old. Definitely a great success and something that will be the centrepiece of future Festivals and not to be missed next year.

There were other fabulous events and special offers from local businesses throughout the week with venues busy as people came out to enjoy themselves, showcasing Steyping and district as a great place to visit for great food, wine, hospitality and shopping. The appeal of the Food and Drink Festival has again been shown, so follow us on social media and via the website www.steypingdistrictfooddrinkfestival.co.uk for updates on what's to come in 2025.



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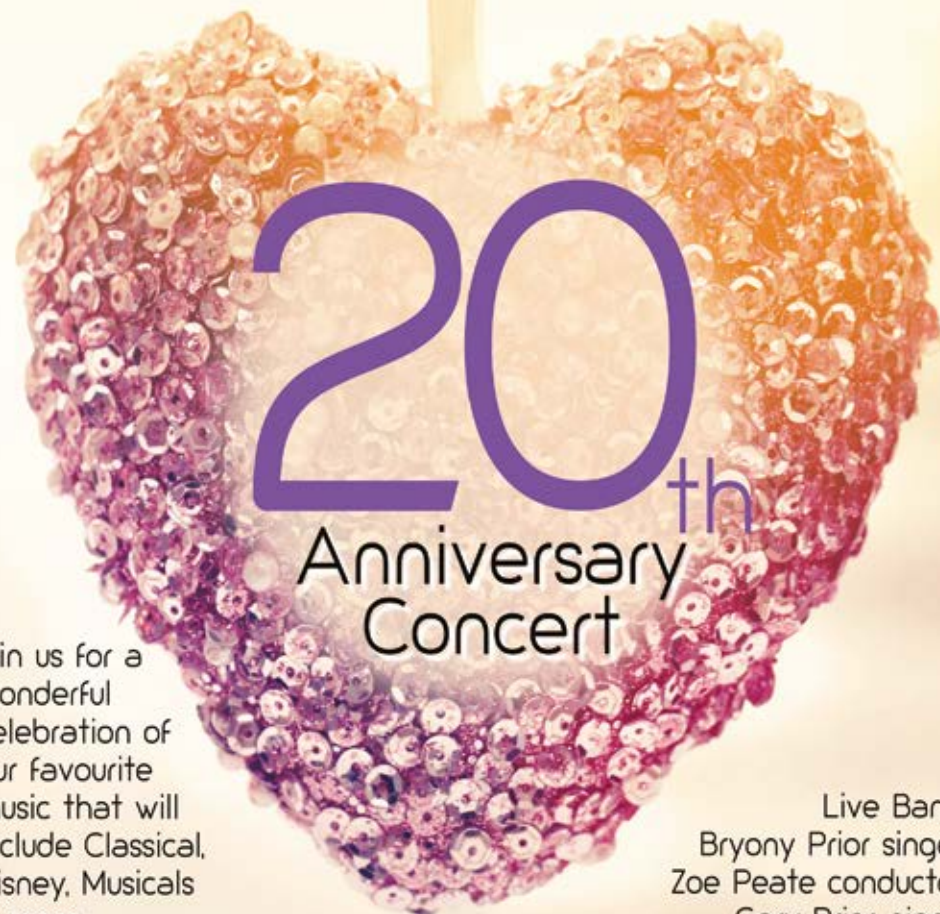
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October: Diary Events

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

Wednesday 2nd October

Steyning Parish Council: Community Film Night
19:30 – 22:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Screening: The Fall Guy

Stuntman Colt Seaver (Ryan Gosling) and his new girlfriend Jody (Emily Blunt) are working on a film starring Tom Ryder (Aaron Taylor-Johnson). They have plans for a vacation once the film wraps, but when Colt has a serious accident on set, he shuts himself away from everyone. Over a year later, when his back has finally healed, Tom's agent Gail Meyer (Hannah Waddingham) persuades Colt to join her in Australia, where she's producing Jody's first film, saying Jody specifically asked for him. Once there, he discovers that's not exactly the case, and that Gail has another reason for wanting him there. She begs him to find Tom, who has been missing from the set for several days, because if the superstar can't be found, it may ruin Jody's film

Wednesday 2nd October

3Bs Church
14:00 – 15:30

The Bevan Hall, Church Lane, Upper Beeding

3Cs at the 3Bs

Craft, Conversation & Cafe! This October we are launching the 3C's at the 3B's a craft session open to everyone running every Wednesday during term time 14:00 – 15:30. Simple turn up, grab a coffee or tea, some cake or a toastie from Churchside Cafe and then come into the Bevan hall to sit, chat, knit, craft and so on. A warm space to spend time with warm people who are filled with the love of Jesus!

Friday 4th October

Vintage Years Club
14:00 – 16:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

'Sussex Underwater' an Illustrated talk

Our meeting commences at 14:00 but the doors are open at 13:45. There will be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy table. After our business section, we welcome representatives from 'Sussex

Underwater' to talk about their vital work with marine life. Refreshments will 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 or any other information.

Saturday 5th October

Steyning For Trees
10:00 – 12:00

Steyning Market

Free starter trees/shrubs!

We are giving away FREE starter trees/shrubs to "CREATE A NATURE CAFE IN YOUR GARDEN" for butterflies and bees

Saturday 5th October

Cantilena - Director Jenny Hansell
17:00 – 18:00

Steyning Parish Church, Vicarage Lane, Steyning

To Santiago!

A Concert by Cantilena - makes a welcome return to Steyning Parish Church for another one-hour programme of music following on from last year's outstanding concert. Based on the theme of following the paths of pilgrims to Santiago, the repertoire includes music from across ten centuries with David Hansell (organ), and Mike Trumble and Stephen Pegler (sackbuts). Tickets are £12 with a free programme. Under 18s £5. Please contact cantilena.info@gmail.com or buy tickets at the door.

Sunday 6th October

Steyning Parish Church
09:30 – 10:30

Steyning Parish Church, Vicarage Lane, Steyning

Harvest Festival

Join us for this service of Holy Communion with traditional Harvest hymns and beautiful seasonal floral decorations. Donations of nonperishable food items will go to Sussex



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01273 492629
hello@sussexhomechecks.co.uk
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8am - 7pm

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- Holiday Cover
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charity Family Support Work.

Sunday 6th October

Greening Steyning

13:00 – 16:00

Upper Beeding, Bramber and Steyning

Give Your Stuff Away Day

Your junk could be someone else's treasure!

Give Your Stuff Away Day is a great way of passing on those items that you no longer need but which someone else would love. Just leave unwanted items in a neat pile outside your home from 13:00-16:00 so others can wander round and pick them up. If you've not done it before, find out all the details on our GYSAD webpage; <https://greeningsteyning.org/project/gysad/>

Sunday 6th October

Steyning Parish Church

16:00 – 17:00

Steyning Parish Church, Vicarage Lane, Steyning

Harvest Fun for Families

Up beat children's service for Harvest.

Donations of nonperishable food will go to the Sussex charity Family Support Work.

Monday 7th October

Steyning Gardening Club

19:30 – 21:30

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Put Your Garden To Bed

We are pleased to welcome Alex Bell, a well-known, award-winning garden designer who lives in Steyning to our meeting. Alex will be giving us lots of tips about how to 'Put Our Garden To Bed' for winter, so come along with any questions you may have and we are sure Alex will be able to help, as well as giving us some general tips to prepare our gardens for the winter.

Tuesday 8th October

Neighbourhood Wardens

15:15 – 17:15

Penfold Hall, Steyning

Board game cafe

Like playing board games? Come along to the Board Game Cafe, we have lots of games that we can teach you or if you have a favourite one bring it along! This free event runs on the

second Tuesday of every month (including school holidays where applicable). There are free hot and cold drinks. All ages are welcome. Contact Neighbourhood Wardens for details: Mike - 07734 387888 - Alison - 07734 387889 - SBUB.wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Saturday 12th October

Steyning & District Churches Together

08:30 – 10:00

The Gladys Bevan Hall, Church Lane (opposite St.Peter's Church), Upper Beeding

Breakfast and hear about the Work of the Beachyhead Chaplaincy Team

Breakfast will be served at 08:30. This will be followed by a talk from our guest speaker, Gerry Howett, CEO of the Beachyhead Chaplaincy Team talking about their work Tickets: £6.00. Available from events@sdct.org.uk, or the churches in Bramber, Upper Beeding and Steyning. This Event is organised by Steyning & District Churches Together. If you have any questions please contact events@sdct.org.uk

Saturday 12th October

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 at repaircafe@greeningsteyning.org for advice. You can also speak to one of our Helpdesk volunteers about how to save energy at home.

Saturday 12th October

Steyning Parish Church and Steyning Primary School

16:00 – 17:30

Steyning Parish Church, Vicarage Lane, Steyning

A Musical Extravaganza! - in aid of Family Support Work

Please join us for a Musical Extravaganza, featuring St Andrew's Parish Church Choir and Church Music Group - as you have never heard them before! - with special guest stars, the newly formed Steyning Primary School Choir. This is a first fundraising concert in aid of Family Support Work, a charity founded in 1890, which supports needy families across Sussex. Entry payable on the door: adults £5 and children

LOCAL BUSINESS FOCUS

Under Pressure or Over Pressure?!?



My Blood Pressure (BP) certainly experienced some alarming fluctuations earlier this summer, when I was returning home at dusk after playing the opening cricket match of the season. As I approached my driveway, I was astonished to see two ponies standing unattended in the road. If I hadn't been driving, I would have attributed this apparition to a couple of pints of strong cider, but given my sobriety, there was no denying that these equines were quite literally present *'in the flesh'*.

My immediate concern was obviously the possibility of an accident on the road – and this was shared by another driver who pulled over coming from the opposite direction. The ponies were understandably a little skittish, with no headcollars or evidence of their origin – I suspect that their blood pressure – as well as mine – was probably well above normal, fuelled by some fight or flight adrenaline. Together, we managed to herd them off the road and into my driveway, after which I went across to a neighbour who had some stables to see if they were down a couple of occupants. Unfortunately they were unable to help and on return, there was no sign of the ponies or their temporary warden. Assuming that maybe their rightful owner had turned up, I headed to my house only to find that the ponies had progressed from driveway into my garden where they had found more bountiful fare in the form of our flower bed – cue another spike in BP! I suspect that my erstwhile helper had understandably seen the opportunity to relinquish his responsibility in favour of the home-owner and taken a quick exit!

Lacking any pony paraphernalia, I then spent the next 10 minutes trying to catch the ponies with DIY headcollars made from dog leads. The first was quite easy to catch with an outstretched hand containing a dandelion leaf. The second was more

wily and made a bolt back towards the road causing an alarming spike in my BP which certainly took it well above 120/80. Luckily my own fight or flight kicked in and I was able loop my dog lead around its neck and with the reassurance of something around its neck the pony was happy to be restrained. We were able to find a stable for the night (nativity style!) and the ponies were repatriated from where they had escaped the next day – crisis averted!

While my BP fluctuations were situational, persistently high blood pressure (hypertension) can cause insidious disease in pets as well as their human counterparts. Hypertension is more common in cats than dogs, with a recent study estimating 23% of cats over the age of 9 to be affected. Hypertension is often secondary to other conditions such as kidney disease, heart or thyroid disease, but can also be primary. The concern is that it is often not apparent until the condition has significantly progressed – often with serious consequences such as blindness caused by bleeding behind the eye, neurological signs if the brain is affected, or fainting, collapse and breathing issues if the heart is affected.

The good news is that there are lots of treatment options for hypertension and the best way to tackle it is to treat before any of the serious signs above occur. This means checking blood pressure in older / high risk cats routinely – as is the case in many doctors surgeries. This October we're focusing on hypertension in cats and offering blood pressure checks with our nurses on any cat over 9 years for only £20. If your cat is on the Practice Health Plan, then the checks are FREE! If you have any further questions, or would like to book an appointment, then please contact us.



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Call 01273 495227 or email:
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free. Delicious refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle too. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sunday 13th October

DP Vintage Toyfairs

10:00 – 13:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Vintage Toy and Train Collectors Fair

A traditional, friendly, British toy fair organised by collectors and hosted in the heart of rural Sussex. Ideal for families, collectors and the trade.

Buy, sell and swap from a large range of toys old and new. Including Triang and Hornby trains of all gauges plus continental makes. Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox diecasts. Other toys including Meccano, Lego, action figures, comics, action figures and TV & film related merchandise plus lots more. Extensive advertising campaign, hot food and drink available, well signposted & lots of FREE parking. FOR TABLE BOOKINGS / INFORMATION CALL: DAVID 07742 609865 or PETE 01424 846676. HAVE YOU GOT TOYS TO SELL? BRING THEM ALONG! Email: modelcarmart@gmail.com

Sunday 13th October

The Friends of Steyning Parish Church

17:30 – 19:45

Steyning Parish Church, Vicarage Lane, Steyning

NOTE: EVENT POSTPONED - Steyning's 'Lost' and 'Found' Vicars

Discover the intriguing stories and historical context that led to a revision of local history. 17:30 to 19:45 including half hour interval with drinks and nibbles. A dedicated team of researchers, including Sarah Leigh, Brian Hanson, Chris Tod and Christopher Whittick, together with the Revd Mark Heather, will present the surprising results of their extensive work into local history. A board in Steyning Parish Church has, for approximately the last century, displayed the names of Steyning's vicars. But a few years ago, doubt about the accuracy of this board crept in. And so began the idea of a local history project grew into a painstaking analysis of many hundreds of local records going back to the thirteenth century. *'We found that eight of the previously listed vicars had never actually been vicars of Steyning and will explain why we 'expelled' them - (we hope people will not be too shocked by what we tell them!). We also identified five*

new names and substantiated our findings with robust historical evidence,' says Sarah. *'As part of the presentation, we will outline our path of discovery and fact-checking so it should be of interest to history students, all those who enjoy local history and anyone intrigued by the research process.'* So come along to discover the fascinating stories and historical context behind this re-evaluation of Steyning's Vicars' Board. The presentation will be preceded by a brief AGM of the Friends of Steyning Parish Church which will start at 17:00 with a short break before the presentation begins at 17:30. Drinks and nibbles will be available during a half hour interval. The evening should finish around 19:45 including Q&As. No charge and no tickets for this event, although donations to the upkeep of the church will be welcome. Everyone from the community is welcome to hear about Steyning's local history

Thursday 17th October

Henfield Theatre Company

19:45 – 19:45

Henfield Theatre Company, Coopers Way, Henfield

"Goodnight Mister Tom"

One of the most uplifting stories ever written, Michelle Magorian's stunning *'Goodnight Mister Tom'* is brought gloriously to life in this stage adaptation by David Wood – the UK's 'National Children's Dramatist' (The Times). Set during the dark and dangerous early days of the Second World War, *'Goodnight Mister Tom'* follows sad young William Beech (played by Finn Donegan), who is evacuated to the idyllic English countryside with other children and builds a remarkable and moving friendship with the elderly recluse Tom Oakley (played by Ian Henham). All seems perfect until Will is devastatingly summoned back to London by his mother. The story takes some alarming twists and tragic turns during the Blitz, culminating in a daring kidnap. Director, Rosemary Nice, says *'Nobody who has read the book or seen the film of the same name could fail to be moved by it and long for a happy ending as William's story progresses. David Wood has turned it into a wonderful stage play, first performed at the Chichester Festival Theatre as part of the initiative to bring the town onto the stage. We are privileged to bring it to Henfield.'* Performances are at the Henfield Hall, on 17th and 18th October at 19:45, and 19th October at 13:30 and 17:30. Tickets, priced at £13 for floor seating and £15 for raised seating per person, are on sale via www.henfieldtheatrecompany.com.

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com and at Stevens Estate Agents in Henfield High Street. This production is kindly sponsored by Coles Automotive.

Saturday 19th October
Greening Steyning
10:30 – 12:00
The Castle Inn, Bramber

Climate Café

A regular event on the 3rd Saturday of most months, the Climate Café 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.

Sunday 20th October
Dr Janet Pennington
10:00 – 12:30

Meet at the Steyning Centre car park, free on Sundays, opposite the church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, Church Street, Steyning

The Steyning Scandals Walk

Discover who did what, where and with whom! Steyning's attractive timber-framed buildings and flint cottages hide many secrets from the past – come and discover some of them if you dare. We will be exploring the streets and twittens of Steyning with many scandalous stories, all researched through local documentary sources. Dogs on leads are welcome. No need to book, just turn up in good time for prompt 10:00 start. Fee payable on the day (cash only please) £5.00
If you are easily shocked, this is not the walk for you. **This walk is NOT suitable for children.**
www.sussexhistorytalks.co.uk
Email: jpsussex@icloud.com Mob: 07703 133952

Wednesday 23rd October
Steyning & District u3a
10:00 – 12:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

'Plants & Coffee' Morning

October is a good time of year to swop any divided perennial plants that are surplus to your needs. Steyning & District u3a is holding a 'Plants & Coffee' morning which is free for u3a members and nonmembers alike. Not only is

this a plant swop, but a good way of finding out what the u3a has to offer those who are retired from full time work. Joining the u3a is a great way to share your interests with other like-minded people, learn new things and make new friends. Why not come along and see what the u3a has to offer. <https://steyninganddistrictu3a.org.uk/>

Sunday 27th October
Steyning Parish Church
18:00 – 19:00
Vicarage Lane, Steyning

Healing Eucharist

Please join us for this quiet service, accompanied by gentle music. There will be opportunities for quiet prayer with laying-on of hands and anointing for those who wish.

Sunday 27th October
Horsham Borough Band
15:00 – 17:30

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Horsham Borough Band

The band is currently the highest ranked band in Sussex and in March qualified for the National finals by winning the 1st section of the London and Southern counties area championships. Make no mistake this is a very good quality band. Formed in 1900, the band has been giving concerts around our area for 124 years, but this is a first venture to Steyning. Expect plenty of musical fireworks as the band performs a wide range of musical styles from classical to jazz, big band and much more. The band has some fine soloists who will be happy to display their prowess. This is a great chance to hear some top-quality brass playing. Tickets are £10 and will be available on the door with half-time refreshments included in the price.

Monday 28th October
Friends of Steyning Parish Church
11:00 – 15:00
Vicarage Lane, Steyning

Half Term Children's Extravaganza!

Join us for a fun-filled and educational children's event! This year, we are excited to explore the rich history of our church through a variety of activities designed to spark young imaginations, such as craft work, exciting storytelling, and an interactive quiz. In addition, following the success of our Tudor Day, we'll be hosting

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another dance session. This time, we're considering a different period in our history. There will be opportunities for dressing up in period costume. All children to be in the care of a responsible adult. Keep a watch out for further details to be published soon. See: friendsofpc.org/events. Indoor Family Picnic: Families are invited to bring their own picnic to be eaten in the church. We'll provide a selection of hot and cold drinks to complement your meal. Note: All activities are designed to be inclusive and family-friendly. Whether your child is a history enthusiast or simply loves to create and play, there will be something for everyone. Admission: Free. Time: Drop in any time 11:00 to 15:00.

Wednesday 30th October **Greening Steyning** 19:30 – 21:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Green Drinks – The State of the Adur

There's plenty of good news to report on the state of the River Adur, thanks to the efforts at Bramber Brooks, the Adur Nature Recovery Project, and initiatives like Weald to Waves. But there's also worrying data on continued pollution problems in the river thanks to sewage releases and agricultural run off. To guide us through this we are delighted to welcome Pete King, Director of the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust. Tickets cost £3 and can be booked at greeningsteyning.org/events

Thursday 31st October **Steyning Parish Church** 17:00 – 19:00

Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning

Trick or Treat Pit Stop

Stop by while you are out trick-or-treating for games, crafts and refreshments. Not trick-or-treating? Come along and join the fun instead.

Friday 1st November **Vintage Years Club** 14:00 – 16:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Decorating baubles for our Christmas Tree

Our meeting commences at 14:00 but doors are open at 13:45. There will be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy table. After our business section, we are going to have a relaxing afternoon by using our creative skills to decorate baubles for our fir tree in Coombe Court (for the festive

season). These can then be admired by all users in the Centre! There will be plenty of time to chat with our friends and enjoy refreshments afterwards. We will celebrate all November birthdays and draw our Raffle. 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 or any other information.

Saturday 2nd November **Steyning Art Group** 10:00 – 15:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Annual Exhibition

Annual Art Exhibition with Paintings and Cards for sale in all Mediums, reflecting our work over the last twelve months. Refreshments also on-hand.

Friday 8th November **Vocal Fusion Acapella** 19:00 – 21:00

Champs Hill, Waltham Park Road, Coldwaltham, Pulborough, West Sussex

Champs Hill Charity Concert

Vocal Fusion Acapella team up with the Kaleidoscope Singers with their conductor Zoe and tenor Charles Wood for a concert at this wonderful concert hall. Tickets, priced at £20 (including complimentary drink) can be purchased at www.vfaconcert.co.uk/ticket. Proceeds of the concert to be shared between the charities The Malawi Schools Project and Rare Dementia Support. Doors open/wine at 18:30.

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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.



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Emma Cohen **FIPW**

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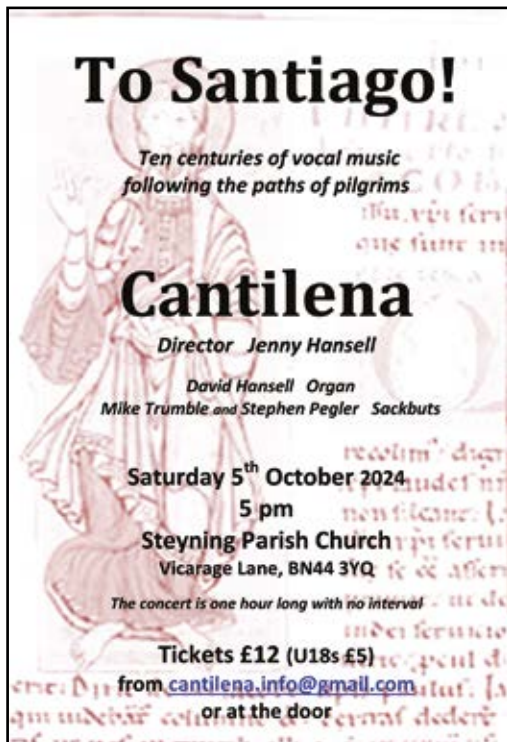
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To Santiago!
Ten centuries of vocal music following the paths of pilgrims

Cantilena
 Director Jenny Hansell
 David Hansell Organ
 Mike Trumble and Stephen Pegler Sackbuts

Saturday 5th October 2024
 5 pm
Steyning Parish Church
 Vicarage Lane, BN44 3YQ

The concert is one hour long with no interval

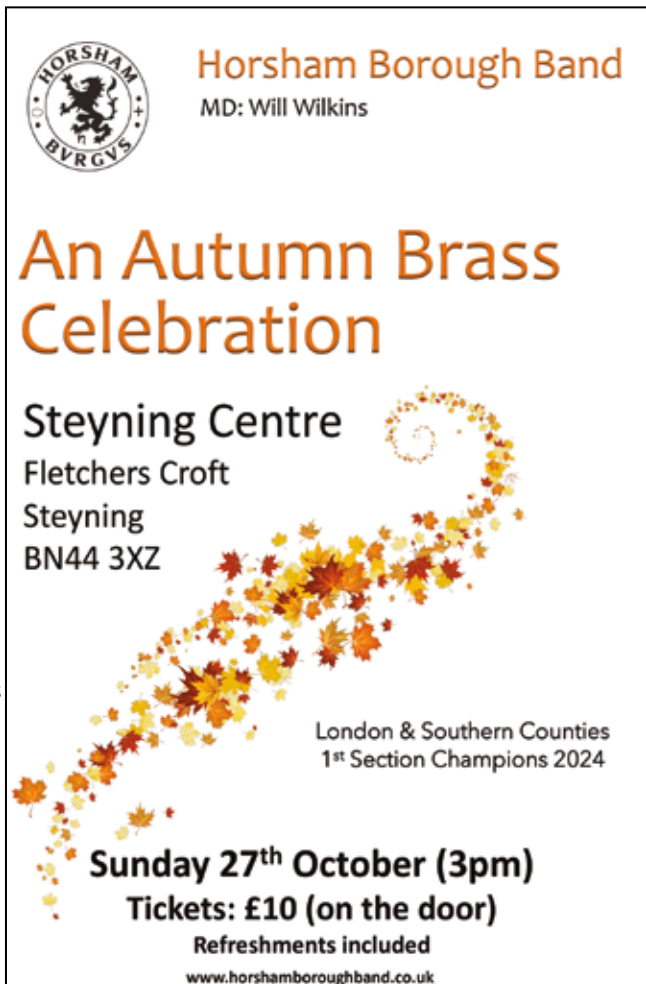
Tickets £12 (U18s £5)
 from cantilena.info@gmail.com
 or at the door

Horsham Borough Band is coming to Steyning!

The band is currently the highest ranked band in Sussex and in March qualified for the National finals by winning the 1st section of the London and Southern counties area championships. Make no mistake this is a very good quality band.

Formed in 1900, the band has been giving concerts around our area for 124 years, but this is a first venture to Steyning. Expect plenty of musical fireworks as the band performs a wide range of musical styles from classical to jazz, big band and much more.

The band has some fine soloists who will be happy to display their prowess. This is a great chance to hear some top-quality brass playing.

Horsham Borough Band
 MD: Will Wilkins

An Autumn Brass Celebration

Steyning Centre
 Fletchers Croft
 Steyning
 BN44 3XZ

London & Southern Counties
 1st Section Champions 2024

Sunday 27th October (3pm)
Tickets: £10 (on the door)
 Refreshments included
www.horshamboroughband.co.uk

Tickets are £10 and will be available on the door with half-time refreshments included in the price.

Where: Steyning Centre
When: Sunday 27th October at 15:00

Tickets: £10 on the door

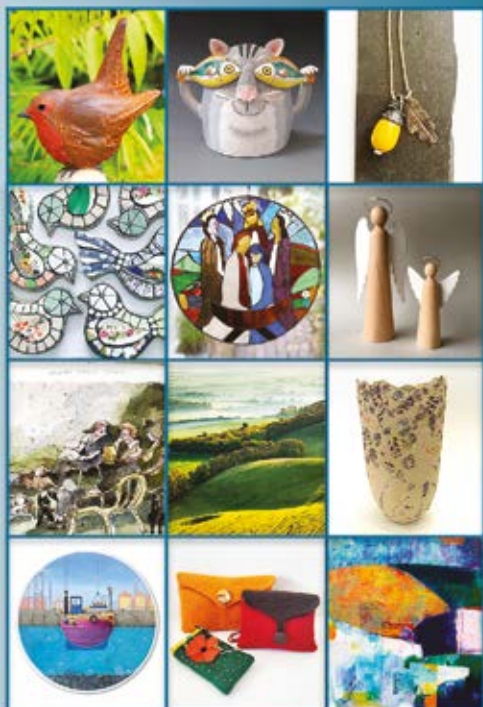
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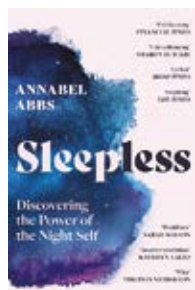


October 2024 Book Reviews



Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton
Canongate £18.99
When Chloe Dalton finds a leveret (young hare) in a field near her house, she doesn't expect it to live. Against the odds, the tiny creature survives and thrives in Chloe's care, and in the long days of lockdown, they become accustomed to one another. She leaves the hare free to roam the house and garden, and eventually the day comes when she can jump the garden wall and meet the wilder hares beyond... And Chloe has to return to work in London. This could have been the end of a beautiful episode, but the hare has a surprise in store. Beautifully and thoughtfully written, this is the story of an extraordinary relationship of trust. Gradually Chloe comes to see the countryside around her in a completely different way – instead of simply a view, the fields become home to many creatures, with their accustomed routes and habits, and the perils of their existence become apparent.

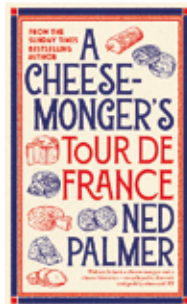
I gave this to my 13-year-old son and 74-year-old father to read and both absolutely loved it. A beautiful book.



Sleepless by Annabel Abbs
John Murray Press, paperback £10.99
This thoughtful memoir follows writer Annabel Abbs on a voyage into the dark, as she discovers her 'Night Self' after experiencing severe insomnia during a period of bereavement. Annabel weaves her own experiences with the latest scientific research, which suggests that we are more imaginative,

open-minded and reflective at night, and digging deeper, she discovers a coven of women through history, who used the peace of the night to create, write, draw, and contemplate. From early Christian mystics to Italian Renaissance philosophers, from female shamans to artists like Louise Bourgeois and writers including Virginia Woolf, women have used the hours of darkness to find liberation from their daytime domestic constraints. As a frequent insomniac, I found this beautifully written book truly inspiring and comforting, it offers a thoughtful, imaginative riposte to the 'healthy sleep zealots' who strike fear into the heart of the sleepless!

Annabel is also the author of Windswept; Why Women Walk and will be discussing SLEEPLESS at our event on 16th October.





A Cheese-Monger's Tour de France by Ned Palmer
Profile Books hardback £18.99
A mouth-watering tour of French cheeses, as cheesemonger and writer Ned Palmer wends his way around France, meeting the unique cheesemakers who

maintain the ancient traditions of some of France's most cherished cheeses. Ned sketches the history behind Brie, Comte, Munster, Salers, Roquefort and more, and dips into the mysteries of terroir, AOC designation, and the bacterial and microbial science that creates the flavours, textures and aromas that we love so well. A chatty, funny and fact-packed travelogue which had me yearning for a trip to a French market, a perfect gift for turophiles (cheese lovers!) and Francophiles alike! Our event with Ned is sold out but give us a shout

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AN EVENING WITH
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Author of *Windswept: Why Women Walk*
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Sleepless
On Discovering the Power of the Night Self
Wednesday 16th October 7.30pm
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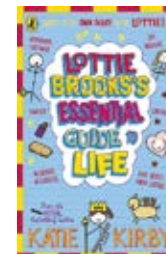
Whispering Hollow by Rachel Burge
Welbeck Children's Books, pb £7.99
A deliciously creepy tale of dark faerie magic, brimming with ancient folklore and perfect for scaring yourself silly on these darkening Autumn

nights.

Pippa is a nature geek who is looking forward to using her new night-vision camera when she and her teenage brother go to stay with their grandpa at his cottage in the Cornish woods. But something is off at Whispering Hollow....Grandpa seems haunted, even terrified, the house is filthy, and creepy twig figures keep appearing around the house. Pippa soon realises that malevolent forces are gathering, and that the standing stone in the hollow harbours an ancient evil, risen again.

This is an eerie, evocative story which

builds to a nail-biting climax, but the fear factor stays at levels that a 9+ reader will cope with, and it all resolves happily. It is beautifully written, with rich, vivid language and it reminded me of classic children's writers such as Susan Cooper.



Do come in and browse our shelves





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Steypning Parish Council invites members of the public to
propose nominations for the

Chairman's Community Awards

Criteria for Chairman's Community Awards nominations:

The Chairman's Community Awards (Formerly 'Millennium Awards') are given annually by the Steypning Parish Council to individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to the town of Steypning. They will be presented at the Chairman's Christmas function on the 6th December 2024.

Nominations will be invited from the people of Steypning for individuals or groups who in their opinion have made a significant contribution to the town of Steypning during the last year.

The individuals or groups nominated will either:

- Live in the town and the surrounding area
- Be an organisation or a member of an organisation that represents the town
- Or work in the town or surrounding parishes.

It is the contribution to the town or Steypning residents that is significant in deciding whether an award will be made.

The Steypning Parish Council will consider the nominations at their Full Council Meeting on the 18th November 2024 under the leadership of the Chairman. Their verdict will be final.

Please contact the Parish Clerk or Deputy if you wish to nominate a member of your community for an award.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 15th November 2024.

We look forward to your helping us celebrate people, who can't help helping others.



Parish Clerk: John Fullbrook
Deputy Clerk: Leanne Poole

Email: clerk@steypningpc.gov.uk
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MARK JONES MCHIRO, DC

House Martins feeding before migrating South

It's well worth the short trip up to Steypning Rifle Range right now.

Early yesterday morning up to 1,000 House Martins and other herundines (that's Swallows, House and Sand Martins to you and me) were feeding there, ready for their incredible 3,500 mile trip south.

Most will have already travelled over a hundred miles from East England, where the numbers tend to be higher than they are in Sussex.

Amazingly, despite all our modern tech., still nobody knows where House Martins spend the winter.

It's believed to be somewhere high above the jungles of the Congo!



House Martin collecting mud for nest building
©Derek Middleton Sussex Wildlife Trust



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With a Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Counselling and many years' experience working in Human Resources, I bring a blend of professional expertise, personal understanding and empathy to my counselling practice.

I can provide counselling face to face (depending on your location - I am based in Steyning, West Sussex), via Zoom or telephone.

My rates are £50 per session or £55 if counselling is provided after 7pm or on a Saturday morning.

Shakespeare's Starlings: Three Act Tragedy

Hey y'all, I'm mailing in this month's article from my vacation at Bodega Bay on the foggy Pacific coast of California. It may be all organic coffee, art galleries, surfer dudes and flip-flops but this quaint coastal community is notorious for being the location for a most sinister film: 'The Birds' (1963)

Alfred Hitchcock has long gone but flocks of the film's stars still sit ominously perched on telegraph wires as if unaware that the portly director yelled 'cut' 56 years ago. But unlike the local hummingbirds, phoebes and chickadees these particular birds look reassuringly familiar to me.

They are *Sturnus vulgaris*, the European Starling, the same species we see wheeling around Brighton's West Pier in their dramatic amoeboid murmurations. And, like me, they don't really belong here. The Starlings are here thanks to Henry IV. Well, 'Henry IV Part 1' to be precise.

Act I: London, 1597. William Shakespeare scribbles the word 'Starling' in his epic tale of power and treachery. With that feathered flourish of his quill, Shakespeare would unknowingly be the author of an ecological catastrophe that would play out until the present day.

Act II: New York, 1877. Enter stage right Eugene Schieffelin, a socialite who would later be remembered as 'an eccentric at best, a lunatic at worst'. He chaired the American Acclimatization Society, a group which, despite their nationalistic sounding

name, were very keen to welcome foreigners. In fact, their aim was to import animals of economic or cultural interest from the Old World to the New. Schieffelin, a big fan of Shakespeare, had a dream: to populate America with every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's writings.

And so the bard's birds were boxed up in England and brought to New York where Skylarks, Pied Wagtails, Bullfinches, Nightingales, Chaffinches and many more were 'liberated' into Central Park. The majority of them died. But on March 6, 1890, 60 Starlings (a bird mentioned only once by Shakespeare) were released in Central Park and they fared better. Much better. Today there are around 200 million of them across the United States.

Act III: United States, present day. The story of Schieffelin's Shakespearian motivation may just be an urban legend but the legacy of his misguided American Acclimatization Society is very real.

Today European Starlings are widely vilified by Americans as aggressive pests that have destroyed precious ecosystems and turfed out native species. Which is pretty rich



Starling Dave Kilbey Sussex Wildlife Trust



Starling Peter Brooks Sussex Wildlife Trust

coming from a bunch of invasive Europeans who have been doing just that for the past few centuries! And since then there have been many who have appeared hellbent on dismantling this country's environmental regulations which protect wildlife, the landscape and our planet.

But sure, let's blame the birds. As Mr Shakespeare (almost) once wrote, 'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our Starlings, / But in ourselves'.



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October: Steyning for Trees

Come to our stall at the Market on 5th October we will be giving away free trees (paid for by SFT) for you to plant in your garden.

Butterfly numbers are badly down this year, we have decided to boost their food plants in Steyning asking you to **'Create a NectarCafe in Your Garden'**. We are giving away a selection of Butterfly Bushes (Buddleia Davidii). This is totally non allergenic (source Arizona Uni.) this is why it is a top nectar source for bees and butterflies and a valuable addition to gardens. 5 different colours for you to choose. Buddleias can be pruned hard once they are established, so can be grown as a shrub or fully grown tree.



Buddleia Flower

We will give some hollies to encourage the Holly Blue butterfly to your garden, plus marjoram (origanum), a great perennial pollinator and useful herb.

I hope some managed to get across to Gravetye on a Thursday 09:00 - 11:00 for a free visit to the home of the victorian gardener William Robinson, father of wildlife gardening. We did, it was stunning, a fabulously curated selection of flowering plants, perennials, and annuals, exotic trees and shrubs creating an amazing spectacle, as well as its walled circular vegetable and cutting garden for the Hotel. They are starting to cut back their extensive areas of wild flower meadows and long grass such a boon for nature. We are doing the same in our re wilded garden as seeds are now set. We leave the cut grass a few days for seeds to drop so they can germinate for next year.



Then rake it up to keep fertility low as needed by wild plants. We are sad to see these go, such a joy to see most of our grass areas covered in wild flowers, with a consequential increase in slo-worms, bees and butterflies. These have increased here, but smaller, even though it has been a bad year nationwide. We now have established butterfly bushes and lots of marjoram, wild flowers everywhere. So not much work to do as nature does it for us, what a joy to live amongst it. The butterfly charities have asked us all to leave any plants still flowering, to feed up our overwintering butterflies before they go into hibernation.

In the latest SWT Newsletter (15th Aug) Lydia Baxter's article **'Bless this Mess'** says that untidy natural processes are good for wildlife and shares tips on making our gardens more messy.

We are asking the P.C. for permission to layer the hedge we have planted at Abbey Road. The hedge has to be grown tall, not cut, just this once, so it can be bent over to weave into the hedge. After laying, the hedge will



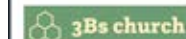
Abbey Road hedge (to be reduced to 3ft by laying)

only be 2-3 FEET HIGH WITH GAPS, and can be kept cut to 3ft or whatever height residents want. This is a traditional craft used for centuries to thicken hedges. This will be highly beneficial for wildlife, particularly providing sites for nesting birds, and giving increased cover at the bottom of the hedge. It will enhance the look of this lovely area to have a traditionally laid hedge. SFT is happy to pay for this work which will considerably benefit nature and the community.

In the latest Weald to Waves Newsletter they say how wildlife corridor hedges provide benefits locally, but are integral to the larger Weald to Waves corridor, creating essential links between habitats and allowing species to move and disperse across a fragmented landscape, therefore bolstering resilience and continuity of local ecosystems.

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Steyning District Churches Together



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The State of the Adur: the good news and the bad

The River Adur is a precious natural resource and one of the defining features of our local landscape. But what sort of shape is it in?

The picture is decidedly mixed. We hear worrying reports about pollution in the river. In the longer term, there's rising sea levels to think about, as the effects of climate change kick in. But at the same time there's been encouraging news of a number of ambitious initiatives along the river designed to protect nature and enhance the Adur's role as a wildlife corridor.

To help put this all in perspective, Greening Steyning has invited local rivers expert, Pete King, to give a talk on *'the State of the Adur'*.

Pete is Director of the **Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust**, an organisation set up in 2011 to protect and enhance the quality of these two rivers. He knows the Adur from top to bottom and is uniquely placed to provide us with an overview of both the good news and the bad. He'll also be able to suggest ideas on what we in the local community can do to put pressure on tackling pollution and to get behind initiatives that will improve the health of our local river ecosystem.

As part of his talk he'll be updating us on what's happening at **Bramber Brooks**, with the new wildlife ponds, or *'scrapes'*, that have



Photograph: Frank Bull



Photograph: Nick Mills

been dug this summer by the Environment Agency. He's also be able to brief us on latest developments with the **Adur River Recovery Project**, and the **Weald to Waves** initiative, two of the most ambitious landscape-level nature recovery projects in the country.

On the less pleasant side, he'll be sharing latest data on sewage and farm run-off in the river and talking about why it's happening and what it's going to take to deal with these.

Since we're focusing on the river, we'll also be giving an update on the **White Bridge Link** project to connect up **Steyning and Upper Beeding** with an all-weather foot and cycle path. This was stopped in its tracks when the bridge was closed last summer when structural defects were discovered. But there's better news on the horizon, with a new bridge due to be installed in 2025.

Everyone with an interest in the river is invited to join us. The talk is at the **Steyning Centre** on Wednesday 30th October, with doors and bar opening at 19:30.

Tickets cost £3 and can be booked online from:
www.greeningsteyning.org/events

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October Gardening Journal

With the changing light and cooler weather our gardens start to fade. It's a slow process through October as there is still colour in our borders as well as the changing colours of our trees and shrubs. It can be a busy time for the gardener as there is often lots to think about for next Spring, Bulb planting and making changes to the parts of gardens we still feel needs more work are just two of the jobs that are good to do now. We are not always presented with the best of the weather but sometimes I think that's one of the parts of gardening I enjoy most – being outside in all elements experiencing some of what Mother Nature throws at us.

The genus Pennisetum comprises about 80 species, mostly perennial, from sub-tropical and warm temperate regions of the world. They are highly ornamental grasses and generally most are clump forming, however there are some that are rhizomatous and have a habit of spreading quickly through your borders. The neat tussocks and mini fountains of fox tail like flowers have earned them their name "Fountain Grass".

Pennisetum Black Beauty has to be one of my favourites from the Pennisetum family. It is a clump-forming grass which grows to around 1m tall with narrow, arching green leaves. From summer into autumn, tall stems bear dark purple to black flowers on bottlebrush-like heads. These flowers are dramatic in both shape and colour and when the flowers have gone over the seedheads persist throughout the winter and with the dried foliage can be an asset during the colder months when brown becomes a more valuable asset in the garden.

In the right position, Pennisetums are pretty much trouble-free. The best time of year for planting grasses is the Spring, they can sulk a bit if planted in the autumn. When planting, consider how to bring out the best of the plant. Pennisetum Black Beauty is strong enough to stand alone as a specimen but can also be mix well with others too. Young plants should be given space to breathe, and surrounding planting should be controlled until the plants have established.

Most Pennisetums can be easily propagated by seed and fresh seed will often germinate quickly. They should also be potted on during

the warmer months when they are actively growing as they generally don't like their roots sitting in cold, soggy soil. You can also propagate through division, but the same rule applies – do this during the growing season and ensure to water well after to ensure they recover well from the shock of the brutal treatment of being cut in half.

The popularity of ornamental grasses has never been more popular, and it is no surprise why, they add impact, colour and texture and are an important addition to any low maintenance planting scheme. Pennisetum Black Beauty is one of the best and combined with late summer perennials like Aster, Helenium and Sedums will provide colour well into autumn and early winter.

Jobs to do this month include:

Ornamental Garden:

- Mulch borders with compost if not done in the spring.
- Continue deadheading if weather is mild.
- Remove fallen leaves from Roses to prevent blackspot.
- Continue to tidy borders of weeds and leaves.
- Transplant any plants that need to be moved.
- Plant spring bulbs such as Daffodils etc. But NOT tulips – wait until November to avoid tulip blight.
- Lift and divide perennials.
- Plant up containers etc for winter bedding displays.
- Apply autumn lawn feed etc.
- Now is a good time to plant trees and shrubs – the soil is moist and warm.
- Sow sweet peas under glass.

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

- Can lift summer flowering bulbs / tubers and overwinter in greenhouse or can heavily mulch plants and leave in the ground. Eg gladioli, dahlia, canna.
- Cut back herbaceous perennials as they die back.
- Prune climbing roses to avoid wind rock.
- Refill bird feeders regularly.
- Install insect hotels/log piles.

Vegetable Garden:

- Begin planting garlic

- Apply fleece to late season crops when frost is forecast.
- Lift and divide rhubarb.
- Clear away old foliage of strawberries to prevent pest and diseases.
- Pot up herbs and take into frost free greenhouse or windowsill to continue cropping through the winter.
- Complete planting onion setts and plant out spring cabbage.
- Harvest squash and pumpkin if not already done so.



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Rewarding Customs of the Medieval Manor

There was a certain amount of give and take in a medieval manor

The same man who we met in an earlier article, the one who was required, in the fourteenth century, to seek the permission of the lord of the manor to give his daughter in marriage, could expect various benefits when he worked extra hours on the lord's demesne farm at harvest time.

The document called the 'custumal' sets out that *'He shall come with two men to one harvest boonwork to reap the lord's corn, and have his food of the lord; at breakfast wheaten bread and ale, at dinner wheaten bread, ale, soup, beef and mutton or other meat, so that it be of two kinds, and cheese, at supper each of them shall have a wastell price ½ d., and one drink price ¼ d, with two herrings, or cheese to the value of 4d.'* The 'Boonwork' was the extra work done at harvest time and 'wastells', sometimes also referred to as 'brokbred', were a form of cake made of fine flour.

The 'custumal' was very precise about everyone's roles and dues. The swineherd (or pig-keeper), for example, *'If the lord has the pigs killed at his house for the larder, he (the swineherd) shall help drive them to the lord's house, and shall have the issues of the third best pig. If the pigs are fat and are to be sold he shall help drive them to market, and shall have 12d. if they are sold. All the year he shall have three of his own pigs with the lord's, both in pannage and elsewhere, save that*



Farming in the middle ages

they shall not be at the barn with the lord's pigs, and that he shall not have corn for fattening them.'

At Steyning, in 1338, the swineherd was the man with the tricky job of herding 23 pigs to Warminghurst and 38 piglets the twenty miles to Warnham each year: no easy task I imagine. Moreover, in the autumn, Steyning's pigs were taken to a place which we haven't yet been able to identify, called 'La Mermesse', for pannage – that is to say, for feeding from the woodland floor. One of the more curious provisos in the 'custumal' was that for Ralph atte Mulle. Ralph rented a watermill and 13 acres, and could, in exchange for *'scouring the watercourse from the mill as far as the path which goes towards Bramber Castle, have the grass on each side of the said watercourse as far as an ox standing in the middle of the water can reach with his mouth.'*

One can imagine Ralph selecting his largest ox to reach out to the furthest and juiciest piece of grass on the side of the watercourse, as justification for some free grazing or haymaking.

The summer chores of cutting the hay and reaping the corn were particularly regarded as important tasks on the manor. William Cosyn, for instance, *'ought to find 1 scythe for mowing the meadow.'* For that he was rewarded, along with the other 'customers' (the workers who, by

custom, were liable for work on the manor farm) with *'1 wether [a male sheep] worth 12d. and 1 cheese worth 4d., and he ought to have bread for two sufficient repasts, viz., at breakfast bread and cheese.'* Then there was William Calewe who, when he was picking apples for cider making in the autumn, was allowed to have *'daily 10 apples at home while collecting the said apples.'* And yet another tenant, who had the job of cutting down a tree, could *'have the bark by custom,'* and *'shall have a quarter of 1 loaf as is customary while he is drawing the manure.'*

Although all these checks and balances provided a few benefits for the tenants, everything was weighted in the favour of the lord of the manor – except that, rather surprisingly perhaps, at least some of the tenants had a week's break from working on the lord's demesne farm *'at the Nativity of the Lord, at Easter and at Pentecost.'*

Article by: Chris Tod - Steyning Museum.

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Copy Deadline for the
NOVEMBER issue is
12th OCTOBER, 2024
E&OE

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SJP Approved 05/03/2024

SJP14956 01 (02/22)

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