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Wishing all a Happy and **Healthy New Year**

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USEFUL NUMBERS

The Steyning Health Centre:

Tanyard Lane, Steyning, BN44 3RJ Telephone Appointments: 01903 497227 When surgery closed dial new NHS 111 service

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COMMUNITY NEWS COMMUNITY NEWS

Kaleidoscope Singers

Did you know that Steyning has an award-winning Chamber Choir ... the Kaleidoscope Singers! We have a super programme planned for 2025 including four different arrangements of 'Alleluia from baroque to jazz, Monteverdi's Beatus Vir with string ensemble, and a new piece by local musician, the charismatic Steve Dummer.

Kaleidoscope do not sing large choral works (as you can see we are a small but perfectly formed choir!) but explore smaller pieces in all styles of music from the vast repertoire available to us, often using a theme

or a particular piece to inspire our programmes & sharing our concerts with other soloists, choirs and ensembles.

Our busy 2024 finished in the autumn with three events: One in the glorious concert hall at Champs Hill, next came Carols at Petworth House and finally our own Christmas music



Kaleidoscope with their conductor Zoë Peate

We are friendly bunch!

Not sure, then come along to our first rehearsal on Thursday 9th January at our home, Steyning Methodist Church in the High Street at 19:30 and try us out!!!!

You can also contact us through our website www.kaleidoscopesingers.org

and readings

Church.

programme at

Stevning Methodist

In 2025 one of our

taking a very long

holiday (lucky him)

so we are short of

section. Any one

fancy joining us?

singers in the tenor

male singers is

and wellbeing: Do you know about the Wilson Memorial Trust?

Local grants to support health

You may have heard of the Wilson Memorial Trust, or may have seen signs that mention the name, but what does the Trust actually do? What sort of projects does it support? How do you apply for a grant?

The Trust has just launched a new website that should help to make these things clear. It can be found at www.wilsonmemorialtrust.

The Wilson Memorial Trust was set up by local residents Ted and Margaret Wilson in 2001 for the 'prevention and relief of physical and mental sickness and disability, and the ... Vintage Years, the Community Fridge, the

promotion of mental and physical health and well-being'. It was set up to benefit everyone who lives in the catchment area of Steyning Health Centre.

In 2012 the Wilsons left a generous proportion of their estate to the Wilson Memorial Trust. Thanks to them, over the past 12 years the Trust has been able to provide more than £1 million in grants toward local projects that benefit us all.

There have been many small grants to support local enterprises, for example

Patient Participation Group and St Barnabas Hospice. There have also been some very substantial grants. For example, Trust funds have contributed toward the astroturf pitch at Steyning Football Club, the clubhouse at Steyning Tennis Club, recent refurbishments at Beeding and Bramber Village Hall and additional facilities at the Health Centre and all of our local schools. Future funding includes a contribution to the new White Bridge Link, so that we can walk and cycle easily between Steyning and Upper Beeding.

A photo gallery and a full list of the projects which have been supported can be found on the website together with guidance about how to apply for funds.

The trust is run by a board of 7 local volunteer trustees. We are happy to discuss potential applications in advance. If you would like to sound out an idea please



Outdoor Gym at Fletchers Croft:

contact wilsonmemorialtrust@amail.com

Grants were awarded to the following projects in 2023-24: Southdown Nursery All weather playground surface Vintage Years Running costs Community Fridge Electricity bill Patient Participation Group Costs of publications Steyning for Trees 23 trees Steyning Community Partnership White Bridge Link (delayed, awaiting bridge repair by WSCC) Beeding and Bramber Village Hall Renovations to kitchen and toilets St Barnabas Hospice Therapy couch Steyning Football Club Perimeter and safety fencing Hogs Wallow community farm Neighbourhood Wardens community building activities



Steyning Town Football Club

Steyning Country Fair and Barn Dance

We hope that you will once again join us as we turn the Steyning High Street back into an old market town.

The Steyning Country Fair will be back for its biennial event with livestock, crafts, rural fare, music and entertainment plus our ever popular dog show.

Fantastic fun for all the family throughout the day in the High Street and Fletchers Croft

field.

Save the dates: Join us for a great day for all the family on 26th May 2025

The Country Fair is brought to you by a team of dedicated local residents and business

COUNTRY FAIR

COMMUNITY NEWS COMMUNITY NEWS

owners, for the delight of visitors to our lovely Sussex market town and those who reside in the local area.

The team will be fund raising for the Country Fair with an aptly themed Country Barn Dance on 22nd February 2025 at 19:30 at

If you are interested in supporting the event, volunteering or being a stall holder please contact us via the website or enquiries@ steyningcountryfair.co.uk. We are particularly looking for people interested in supporting the dog show as well as volunteer stewards.

The team will be fund raising for the Country Fair with an aptly themed Country Barn Dance on 22nd February 2025 at 19:30 at the Steyning Centre. Tickets will be available from The Steyning Bookshop. Come along for a great night of jollity and dancing supporting our town.

For full information visit www.steyningcountryfair.co.uk

Steyning So and Sews & Steyning Grammar Boarding House

A Sense of Belonging - Home A Community Textile Project 2023-2024

The Steyning So and Sews formed in 2014 as a legacy aspect of the SGS Heritage Quilt Project. Twenty regular stitchers decided to form a group with the aim to develop existing technical and creative skills, work on collaborative community textile projects and have a good catch up with each other at meet ups. Over the years we have made some very special, colourful indoor bunting for Steyning Festival events, a large fabric panel celebrating the 70th anniversary of Wilton Park, (displayed beautifully on the staircase in Wiston House) and a continuous supply of face masks for the health centre in 2020. More recently we made a collection of large fabric panels for East Clayton Farm specifically to enhance the welcoming, cosy environment for young people who frequent the large new timber building at the farm.

In December we celebrated our most recent project 'A Sense of Belonging - Home' at Steyning Grammar Boarders Christmas Carol Service and Supper'. We were delighted to collaborate with the boarding students to devise a series of screen printed, handstitched panels that reflect their fond memories of their home countries and their other home in boarding. A group of 25 students from years 11, 12, and 13 took part in the initial screen-printing workshops and others joined into Saturday afternoon handstitching days, at their annual cultural day.

Most students represented an aspect of their family home and their home countries. All the images in the panels came with a story, showing cultural traditions and symbols that make the students think of home. Everyone in boarding has travelled to get here, students bring in their cultures, and the project has enabled some depiction of everyone's lives, making boarding home for everyone.

Over 3 terms, the Steyning So and Sews met on Saturday afternoons in the boarding house to stitch into the student designs. Our favourite 'stitch-ins' were when the students joined in with us. The boarders are such a wonderful bunch of young people who welcomed us in without hesitation. What a wonderful opportunity it was to involve boarding students with members of the community. We hope the 5 textile panels continue to bring comfort and reminders of their faraway and boarding house homes, we really enjoyed working with the students and the boarding house staff.

Thank you to everyone who supported this project and made it possible including:

The students and staff in Boarding, The Steyning So and Sews and The Arts Society Steyning

Please contact me if you would like to know more about the Steyning So and Sews amandgduke@gmail.com

















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Steyning Community Orchard: It's Wassail time again!

Saturday 18th January, 2025. 17:30. Starting at the Steyning Cricket Club. It is that time again. A new year has just slipped

STEYNING COMMUNITY ORCHARD in. January is unfolding, cold, grey and wet but Steyning Community Orchard has something rather special lined up for everyone; young, old and somewhere in between, to brighten up the short days and long dark nights.

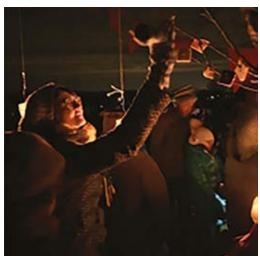
It is time for our annual Wassail. This ancient tradition has roots that go down a long way into our past. The word 'Wassail' comes from the Anglo-Saxon greeting 'Waes hael' and means 'be hale', be in 'good health'.

Our ancestors gathered together on the eve of Twelfth Night, the 5th January (or in the old Julien calendar, the 17th January) in the depth of winter, to wassail the fruit trees in their orchards. To rouse them into life; chanting and singing, beating the trees with sticks to wake them from their winter slumber, praising them for past harvests and exhorting them to 'be hale' for the coming season and harvest. Here in Sussex, it is known as Apple Howling. And here in Steyning, we follow the old Julien calendar.

So, imagine. On the evening of the 18th January, 2025, as the last light fades from the sky in the west and darkness creeps out from the hedgerows around the Memorial orchard, a little bit of magic stirs as candles are lit around the fruit trees.

In the distance, in the pool of light spilling from the windows of the cricket club across the field, a crowd is collecting. In a darkened corner, hidden in the shadows, the Mythago Morris dancers, their faces blackened and their tatter jackets ruffling faintly in the breeze, are ready to begin the evening of dancing and song. They draw the crowd together, explain the wassail, dance and lead the young, the old and the somewhere inbetweens to the orchard.

In the middle of the orchard stands an old. gnarled tree which glows softly in the light cast from the candles laid around it. The wind rustles the decorations woven through it. It is time it awoke from its winter sleep and any evil spirits within it are chased away. This is the fun part as everyone begins to dance





around the tree, chanting, stamping feet, banging pans and blowing whistles as the cry of 'Wassail' goes up into the winter sky.

The Wassail bowl sitting at the bottom of the tree is filled with mead, apples, sugar, spices and egg and everyone is invited to dip a slice of toast into it and hang it on a branch of the tree; a token of thanks for the fruit it bore the previous year and a gift to the tree spirit living within it.

More singing, more noise, more dancing until a final howl rises to the sky and hovers in the

darkness as the wassail draws to an end and people drift back to the Cricket Club, leaving the candles glowing in the peace of the orchard, and the night.

If this sounds good to you, come along and enjoy it. Saturday, 18th January, 2025. It starts at 17:30 outside the Cricket Club. Don't be late.

Donations towards this evening's Wassail and the upkeep of our orchards would be VERY welcome so please bring some CASH with you.









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'Fear Free' = no 'Tear Spree'!



a taxi on the way back from a night out and I didn't realise until the next morning. Ashamed as I am to admit it, the loss of my phone was the cause of great anxiety. These days a phone is like an extension of your arm - and the thought of losing pictures, messages, bank details etc left me with a hollow feeling in my stomach and a cold sweat. To cut a long story short, we were separated for 3 days while the driver took a mini break to France and I was able to monitor his progress via the 'find my phone app'! I was very relived to be reunited with it on his return, and in terms of stress, the whole episode was up there with the time I realised I had left my passport at home on the way to the airport and the time when I put my clothes in the wrong washing basket last week - all had potentially severe repercussions! Fear, anxiety, apprehension and stress are emotions that are not just confined to humans, but are very much experienced by our pets too. There are many potential causes, and for some pets a visit to the vet is one of them. Whilst we do everything to make pets as comfortable as possible, and the majority are content coming to the practice (with some who LOVE a visit to the vet!), it's understandable that there are a selection who feel quite the opposite. Whilst we know that a visit to the vet is in the best interests of the pet, they clearly have no understanding of this. Take an independent cat for example: Cat's don't like being forced to do anything at the best of times, so being bundled into a basket once a year, put in a car and taken to a strange place off of your own turf is enough to upset the karma of many a moggie! Eliminating stress and anxiety not only improves the experience for the pet, but also makes examination, assessment and treatment easier for a better overall outcome. It is for these reasons that at Hawthorn Vets our vets and nurses undergo additional training to become 'Fear Free' practitioners. Fear Free is a relatively new American

movement that promotes education of veterinary staff in methods, techniques and awareness to enable them to provide care for patients in the

best possible way. Put simply, we don't believe that any pet should be afraid of an experience at Hawthorn and certainly nothing we do should exacerbate any anxiousness or fear they already

For example, we use Fear Free techniques such as lickimats (a small rubber matt with delicious pastes smeared on it) to distract the patient from the job in hand. We use ultra quiet clippers when we need to clip for a blood sample and we apply cold spray to numb the area too. Our wards have calming music to distract and calm nerves. However, even with all these techniques in place, the patient can still be anxious. In these circumstances our team is taught to always advocate for the pet- we won't keep trying a method 'to get the job done' if the method is causing emotional distress. In these circumstances simply giving the pet a break can help, but in some cases the veterinary surgeon will opt to prescribe anti anxiety medications and the procedure is re-booked for another time. Whilst we aim to ensure all our newer, younger, patients never develop a fear of coming into the vets, sadly, some pets just find the whole experience extremely worrying. For these pets, our discount home visit service on a Wednesday has become a life line. Having the examination, where they feel safe and comforted can make a real difference. Our team, where practical and safe, will happily perform an examination and consult in the car park or even the back of the car, although I can testify that this doesn't work so well in a SMART

If your pet is anxious please don't hesitate to speak to any member of our team who can help devise a plan to treat your pet in the best way that works



Hawthorn Veterinary Surgeries Hawthorn House, High Street, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9DA. Call 01273 495227 or email: reception@hawthornvets.co.uk

January 2025: 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 1st January

Steyning Parish Church 10:30 – 11:30 Steyning Parish Church, Vicarage Lane, Steyning

Start the Year Service

A relaxed, short service combining reflection and joy

It provides just the opportunity to begin the new year in a way that is spiritual and sustaining, and at the same time draws us together in worship in the Celtic tradition. Followed by a glass of sherry!

Friday 3rd January

Vintage Years Club 14:00 – 16:00 Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Ben Applin: a presentation of Fire Safety Advice

Our meeting commenced at 14:00 but doors open at 13:45. There will be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy table. After our business section, we welcome Ben Applin who is the Rural Engagement Officer at West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. He will give us a Presentation of Fire Safety Advice. Refreshments will be served from 15:15. We will celebrate January birthdays and draw our raffle. Entrance fee is £3 (£5 for visitors) and Annual Membership is £10 (each April). Always contact Bev Francis- Hills 01273 494894 or 07801 442891 before attending for the first time/returning after a long break, for transport needs or any other information.

Wednesday 8th January

Steyning History Society 19:30 – 21:00 The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Downland Villages

A talk by Alan Barwick on the history of Downland Villages.

Thursday 9th January

Henfield Theatre Company 19:30 – 20:30 The Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9FQ

Presents "Scrooge!"

This January, join us at The Henfield Hall for an unforgettable journey through the timeless tale of "Scrooge". Adapted from the beloved story by Charles Dickens and written by Leslie Bricusse, this musical captures the true spirit of Christmas, complete with joyful songs and a little holiday magic.

The story opens on Christmas Eve of 1860, in the heart of London, where the chilly air is alive with the sound of carols. Ebenezer Scrooge (played by Paul Crowe), is the surviving partner of Scrooge and Marley, private merchant bankers and moneylenders. His overworked and underpaid clerk, Bob Cratchit (Dave Purchase), struggles to care for his family. Ebenezer dismisses invitations to a family gathering from his nephew, Harry (Ven Malyon), and continues to treat local folk with disdain.

Can Scrooge be made to rediscover the warmth of Christmas? Maybe the visits of the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet-to-Come will help, alongside his deceased business partner Marley (Pete Ingledew). In actual fact, once you see Scrooge's past life, you may even feel sorry for him. In her directorial debut, Mandy Ainsworth, also known for running our Theatre School, states, 'following our recent successes of bringing our Youth and Adult Theatre together in productions, for the first time, we also bring some of our Theatre School children onto the stage. I am thoroughly enjoying seeing them develop and helping to bring this much-loved story to life alongside our talented cast.' Performances are at the Henfield Hall on 9th and 10th January 2025 at 19:30, and with two



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performances on 11th January 2025 at 13:00 and 18:00. Tickets are priced at £15 for floor seating and £17.50 for raised seating, and are on sale via www.henfieldtheatrecompany.com and at Stevens Estate Agents in Henfield High Street. This production is kindly sponsored by Coles Automotive.

Monday 13th January

The Arts Society Steyning 10:00 - 12:00 The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

January talk: 18th Century English Porcelain

A talk by Jane Gardiner about 18th Century English Porcelain - Chelsea, Worcester, Bow and Derby. This lecture delves into England's early porcelain-making experiments, focusing on the Chelsea, Bow, Derby, and Worcester factories. We explore the development of pastes aimed at achieving whiteness and strength, the influence of silver and continental porcelain on shape and decoration, and the inspiration drawn from Chinese and Japanese export wares. Additionally, we examine how porcelain was displayed and used besides discussing the fashion for porcelain figures. Free to members, £10 donation for visitors. steyning@theartssociety.org www.theartssocietysteyning.org.uk

Monday 13th January

Steyning Gardening Club 19:30 - 21:30The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

No Dig Gardening

Join us for a presentation by Martin Jarvis from Angmering Nurseries as he shares his expertise on No Dig Gardening and its benefits for your garden.

Tuesday 14th January

Neighbourhood Wardens and Steyning Parish Church 15:15 - 17:15 Penfold Hall, Steyning

Boardgame Cafe

16

Please note, there may be a slight venue

change from February due to renovation works. The Neighbourhood Wardens have teamed up with Steyning Parish Church to run the Board game cafe. We have lots of games that we can teach you or if you have a favourite one bring it along! We have games for all ages, classics like Scrabble and Boggle, newer games like Qwirkle and Herd Mentality, and co-operative games such as Forbidden Desert and What Next? Or just come along for free hot drinks and biscuits! This free event runs on the second Tuesday of every month (including school holidays where applicable). The Childrens and Families Worker and Neighbourhood Wardens will be there so if you have any questions, or if you want to find out more about their roles they will be available to speak to. All ages are welcome. Contact the Neighbourhood Wardens for more details: Mike - 07734 387888 / Alison - 07734 387889 SBUB.wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Friday 17th January

The Steyning Society 19:00 - 21:00 The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Roman Sussex 43 A.D. to 410 A.D.

Talk by Dr David Rudling. David is the academic director of the Sussex School of Archaeology and is an honorary research fellow and visiting lecturer at the University of Roehampton. The sites he has excavated include the Roman Villa at Bignor and the Romano-Celtic temples at Chanctonbury Ring. Doors are open at 19:00 and there will be wine and sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival. Talk will begin at 19:30. Free to members and £5 quests. All very welcome to attend.

Saturday 18th January

Steyning Community Orchard 17:30 - 19:00 Steyning Cricket Club. Memorial Playing Field.

Wassail

Our popular Wassail event returns with Mythago Morris again leading our celebrations. Free event with bucket collection - (so please bring some coins with you!) We meet outside



the Steyning Cricket Club, when the Mythago Morris Side will perform their traditional Wassail Dances whilst explaining the tradition of Wassailing. We then process to the Orchard with songs and dance around our specially decorated Wassail tree. Bring some things to make a noise! And torches.

Tuesday 28th January

Greening Steyning 19:30 – 21:30 Steyning Athletics Club, Charlton Street, Steyning

Green Drinks: Volunteer Night + AGM

Our annual celebration of the sterling efforts of our wonderful team of volunteers. A chance to look back at some of the high spots of 2024, and look forward to plans afoot for 2025. We'll also be holding a short AGM to review our accounts and reappoint some key positions. If you're thinking of volunteering with Greening Steyning, this is the perfect opportunity to find out what we do and meet the gang! Tickets are free, but please book a spot so we can estimate numbers. Go to: https://greeningsteyning.org/events/

Wednesday 5th February

Steyning Parish Council: Community Film Night entomologist. He will provide valuable insights 19:30 – 21:30 entomologist. He will provide valuable insights on effectively managing garden pests and

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Screening: WILDING (PG)

You'll never look at a green and pleasant pasture in the same way again after watching this documentary about the rewilding project at the Knepp estate in West Sussex. Isabella Tree and her husband, Charlie Burrell, strive to breathe new life into the ailing Knepp estate. They reintroduce native ponies, deer, pigs and other wildlife, allowing nature to thrive. Tickets: £6.00 to include tea or coffee during the interval.

Please purchase tickets advancer from the office at the Steyning Centre (or by Bank Transfer - Please call office for details 01903 812042).

Saturday 8th February

Steyning Strummers & Singers

14:00 – 16:00 Steyning Methodist Church,18 High Street, Steyning

A Fun Midwinter Musical Concert

Steyning Strummers & Singers - a group with the u3a are putting on another lively musical concert at the Steyning Methodist church on Saturday 8th February 2025 - 14:00 - 16:00 (doors open 13:30). We are a group of 20 musicians and singers and will be performing songs from the Beatles, Drifters, Buddy Holly, Creedence Clearwater Revival and many more. Tickets are £8 each online at ticket source or contact Diana Couling 07990 532030 and includes soft drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle and proceeds will be in aid of Steyning First Responders and towards renovating Steyning Methodist Church building.

Monday 10th February

Steyning Gardening Club 19:30 – 21:30 The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Garden Bugs: Cohabit, Control or Conserve?

Join us for a fascinating opportunity to learn from lan Bedford, a renowned research entomologist. He will provide valuable insights on effectively managing garden pests and promoting a natural equilibrium in your garden. lan will offer advice on the development and utilization of non-chemical plant protection products, as well as ways to create a wildlife-friendly environment in your own home garden. Don't miss out on this chance to enhance your gardening skills and support the biodiversity around you.







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SJP Approved 05/03/2024

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19

Steyning Loves Christmas!

The High Street looked magical in the run-up to Christmas: beautiful street light decorations; numerous Christmas trees and outstanding shop window displays. To add to it all on Sunday 8th December, there was an outpouring of Christmas cheer. With his reindeer 'resting up' before their big night, Father Christmas took to mechanical power and - to the enjoyment of both young and old

- arrived in a splendid red vintage open top bus.

In the festive adorned bus shelter, a variety of bands played (including quite a young rock group - stars in the making) and several local choirs sang their hearts out. A superb musical occasion. To add to the fun and wonderful atmosphere, an extensive and colourful fun fair was set up in the High Street car park.

This year an extra event took place on this special Sunday, which was The Magic of Dickens in Cobblestone Walk. This cobblestoned area lent itself beautifully to setting the scene of days-gone-by and along with shop owners dressed up in Victorian costumes, there were festive food stalls, a singer and a Dickens inspired menu within the Tea House.

All this, plus - of course - the Christmas Elf, who was in residence there for most of December to look after the North Pole Post Box and help children to write their letters to Santa. The Elf was over the moon to welcome Father Christmas to his 'workshop' for a cup of tea and a chat with some lucky - and very amazed - children, before he headed off home after a busy day in Steyning.





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January 2025 - A case of the January News

Happy New Year! I hope you all celebrated the festive period with cheer and are still basking in the twinkly afterglow, hoovering up remaining treats and reminiscing over time spent with loved ones.

As that sparkle fades to a glimmer, don't give in to that looming January chasm of grey-blue doom. Instead, focus on the new. Think of Month 01 as a springboard for all the things that await you this 2025; new wildlife, new experiences, new Parish magazine article authors... and with that shameful segue let me introduce myself.

I'm Kerry, 'Communications Officer – Conservation' for Sussex Wildlife Trust. My role consists of running the Trust's wildlife information advice service, WildCall, and also writing content for blogs, our website, and social media.

In December, Michael Blencowe signed off with his last Parish Magazine article about footprints, fittingly leaving me mighty big shoes to fill. Flicking back through the past library has been a wonderful read, and considering Michael's term of seven years (!), it's a challenge to find a fresh new topic not already covered. Seeing as it's a new year, how about newness itself?

So, to January newness. I'm looking forward to fieldfares and redwings delicately tweezing berries from treetops. Huddling on Brighton Pier, amid ghost train squeals and the smell of sweet doughnuts, to watch Starlings sky-dance. Drops of snow and Snowdrops. Chilly stomps up the Downs on roaring fire



Sundays.

From now on, the days ever so slowly get longer again, giving more precious minutes to get out there and explore. Last year I visited Ebernoe for the first time, searching for Fungi in early autumn. I look forward to heading back to experience its Old-England-comefairy-whimsy in the crunching frost. I'll head back to Rye Harbour to hole up in hides, be-gloved and binoculared, to spot winter waders and hovering Marsh Harriers.

I will search for paw and hoof prints in the snow or the mud. I'll be vigilant for too-witting and wooing Tawny Owls and scan darkened woodlands to see one; I never seem to succeed, but maybe this is my year.

Whatever you choose to do with this oftencondemned-as-miserable month, I hope it instead brings you joy. Let your only January blues be that of the sea and sky. Here's to 2025!

By Kerry Williams:
Communications Officer - Conservation
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
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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.



30

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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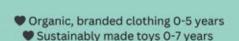
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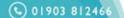


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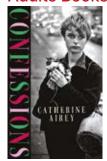


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January 2025 Book Reviews

Adults Books



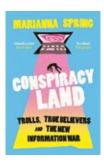
Confessions by Catherine Airey

Penguin hardback £16.99 Our bookseller Alice really enjoyed this compelling, complex debut novel about 3 generations of women, linked by a house full of secrets....

It is late September in 2001, and the walls of New

York are papered over with photos of the missing, amongst them Cora Brady's father, the poster she made taped to columns and bridges. Her mother died long ago and now, orphaned on the cusp of adulthood, Cora is adrift and alone. When a letter arrives from an estranged aunt, offering a home and fulfilling a long-forgotten promise, Cora jumps at the chance to seize a new life, out on the ragged edge of Ireland, in the town where her parents spent their youth. There the story of Cora's family is hidden, and in her presence will begin to unravel.

Full of intricate twists and revelations, this is an elegantly written novel with a pageturning mystery at its heart.



Conspiracyland: Trolls. True Believers and the **New Information War by Marianna Spring**

Atlantic Books, paperback £10.99

Marianna Spring is the BBC disinformation and social media correspondent, and BBC Radio 4 podcasts

Marianna in Conspiracyland and Why Do You Hate Me?

Now out in paperback, Conspiracyland is a fascinating guided tour into the dystopian underworld of conspiracy theorists. Collecting all her investigations into the world of online trolls and disinformation, Marianna delves into the murky depths of QAnon, The

Steyning Bookshop - 01903 812062 Monday - Saturday: 9:30 - 17:30 info@steyningbookshop.co.uk

Light 'news'paper, anti-vaxxers and more, as she asks 'Where DOES all this vitriol come from?' and investigates what drives otherwise reasonable people to believe that almost everything - from wars to global health crises and climate change - is a hoax designed to kill or control millions of us.

Dotted with plenty of first-hand accounts from both trolls and the trolled, this is an enjoyable, brisk read that packs a powerful punch!



Children's Books **Hunt for the Golden**

Scarab by M.G. Leonard Macmillan Children's books, £7.99 paperback This book marks the start of a spell-binding new series, which blends the adventure of Indiana Jones with the time-travel of Dr Who, by the mega-

talented, Brighton-based children's author M.G Leonard.

Sim and his mum, Callidora, are currently living above a museum in London, but they never stay in one place for long, and when menacing strangers appear in the museum one night, Sim discovers why.... Callidora is a 'Key' - a gifted musician who has the power to open doors in time by striking a particular resonant note on her flute. But the sinister 'Council of Keys' are closing in, seeking to control all the Time Doors, and soon Sim and his mum are on a perilous quest through Ancient Egypt, racing to find the sacred was behind the engrossing Scarab of Nefertiti before the Council can get their hands on it.

I loved this fast-paced story which is bursting with original ideas, and MG Leonard's breathless enthusiasm for all things Ancient Egyptian is joyfully infectious! Strap in for a thrilling ride, perfect for 8-12 vear old readers.





The Whisperwicks: The Labyrinth of Lost and Found by Jordan Lees Puffin books, £7.99

paperback

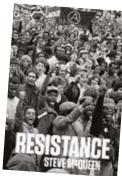
I adored this outstanding debut fantasy novel, which weaves an enchanting spell from the very first sentence - now out in paperback. Eleven year-

old Benjamiah loves facts, science, and logic, and does NOT believe in magic! But when he receives a peculiar gift – a poppet doll that can transform into a bird, it leads him into the impossible, magical Wreathenworld, a labyrinthine city of shifting streets where maps are forbidden. Benjamiah soon meets the fierce and feisty Elizabella and is swept into a deadly quest in search of her missing brother. But in this shifting land where nothing is as it seems, how can he ever find his way home? I was mesmerised by this beautifully written novel, which envelops the reader in a spider web of rich prose and inventive details. For readers of 9+.

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2025 Climate Action Tracker Survey: How far have we got?



This is a crucial decade for stepping up action on climate and nature before it's too late. That applies at the national and global level. But it is equally important at the individual level. We are all part of the problem, and we all need to be part of the potential solution.

As we enter 2025 we are reaching the halfway point in the decade. So how much progress have we made in changing our behaviours and actions to reduce our impact on the planet?

Greening Steyning is carrying out an online survey to help find this out. It's called the Climate Action Tracker Survey and it's the third time we've run it.

We want to find what you and your household minds now? Are there barriers that are have been doing over the past two years to reduce your energy consumption, trim your carbon footprint, and be kinder to wildlife and nature. And we want to look ahead and learn what further steps you may be thinking of taking in the next two years – think of it as your New Year's resolution for the planet!

The results from the previous survey in 2023 provide a baseline to compare with. At that time two thirds of respondents said they wanted to encourage wildlife in their garden. Half were intending to cut down on meat and diary. And a fifth were thinking of installing solar panels or getting an electric vehicle.

So what happened in practice? Has the pace of change picked up, and what is in people's preventing action? And do you suggestions for how Greening Steyning can help you go further and faster? The Climate Action Tracker Survey is designed to find this out.

It should only take 5 minutes to fill out. Just go to: www.greeningsteyning.org/tracker

> The Survey closes on Sunday 16th February, and is limited to one person per household.

Volunteer Night 28th January If you'd like to learn more about what Greening Stevning does, and are thinking of joining our wonderful team of volunteers, come along to our Volunteer Night & AGM on Tuesday 28th January.

It's at Steyning Athletics Club starting at 19:30. Find out more and book a space at: www.greeningsteyning/ events



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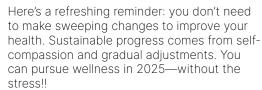


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New Year, New Habits: How to Build a Healthier You Without the Pressure

As the New Year begins, the world buzzes with resolutions and promises of transformation. Social media is filled with "new year, new me" mantras, and ads for fitness challenges and meal plans become unavoidable. While setting goals can be motivating, the pressure to overhaul your life overnight can feel overwhelming.



Rethinking Resolutions:

Traditional resolutions often fail because they're too big, vague, or extreme. Promises like "I'll go to the gym five days a week" can lead to burnout or frustration. Instead, focus on small, manageable goals. For example:

- ° Intention: 'I want to move more.'
- ° Goal: 'I'll take a 10-minute walk three times a week.'

Starting small builds consistency, which leads to lasting success. Over time, these little changes can add up to significant transformations-without the stress of trying to do it all at once.

Recognising and Managing Social Pressure:

External influences, especially on social media, can amplify feelings of inadequacy. Remember, social media is a highlight reelnot reality. Unfollow accounts that make you feel pressured and seek content that inspires you to grow at your own pace. Your health journey is uniquely yours; there's no right timeline or approach.

Celebrating Small Wins:

Big goals can overshadow the small steps that lead to real change. Celebrate microhabits like choosing water over soda or adding a serving of vegetables to your meals. Acknowledging these wins builds motivation

llenges and meal plans can be motivating, the an feel overwhelming.

and confidence. Small, consistent efforts can

Listening to Your Body:

Pay attention to how your body feels. If a workout leaves you drained, take a rest day. If a diet feels unsustainable, adjust it. Progress isn't linear, and setbacks are normal. Flexibility and self-awareness are key to long-term health. Remember, rest and recovery are just as important as action. Allowing yourself grace can lead to better results-and a happier you.

lead to significant improvements over time.

Don't Ignore Pain -Your Body Might Be Speaking to You:

While pushing yourself toward health goals is admirable, it's crucial to listen when your body signals something might be wrong. Pain, persistent discomfort, or unusual symptoms are your body's way of communicating that something needs attention.

Common signals to watch for:

- ° Chronic aches or pains during or after exercise.
- ° Fatigue that doesn't improve with rest.
- Sudden changes in energy levels, appetite, or mood.

If you experience these or other concerns, don't ignore them. Seeking guidance from a healthcare professional can help identify issues early and prevent them from worsening. Whether it's an injury, nutritional deficiency, or something else, addressing the root cause allows you to move forward safely and confidently.

Remember, prioritising your health includes caring for your body when it's in distress-not just when it feels strong.

Remember to remind yourself:

Health is a journey, not a race. The pressure to become your 'best self' overnight can be daunting, but lasting wellness is built on kindness, patience, and small steps. Choose one manageable change to start todaywhether it's drinking more water, taking a daily walk, or simply being kinder to yourself. Trust your body, honour its needs, and seek support when needed. Your health and happiness will follow, one step at a time.

If you are experiencing aches and pains, or would like to chat to Mark at Well Adjusted Health about this and how we may help, you are welcome to come in for a FREE 15 minute assessment.







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 $MARK\ JONES\ {\rm MCHIRO,\ DC}$

January 2025: Steyning for Trees

'What a WONDERFUL way to start 2025 knowing that we have another 7,000 more whips planted as hedges/wildlife corridors /shelter belts, here and around Steyning. SFT have been promoting tree and hedge planting for 6 years now and have already placed 8,000.'

15,000 equates to almost 2km. As we said 118,000 miles of hedgerows have been lost in the UK so this is an amazing effort by all concerned. Turning the tide, hopefully on the loss of biodiversity here which correlates with the loss of hedgerows. No 'SILENT SPRING' here. So many gardens being re-natured with butterfly friendly plants, also having mixed species hedges put in as advised on our website, now also containing advice on dead hedges, so helpful to nature.

Here is a selection of what we have initiated and helped with this autumn.



Collecting the whips - Angela and Liam with Kevin from Greenwood. Always so happy to help. 1,000 planted here.



Tom Bower arranged the guest volunteers. Collecting the 1,400 whips from Winchester. A good day had by all.



TREES COMBAT AIR

Wiston Estate. 1km hedge for the Weald to Waves. So good to relieve flooding. Great nature plans for the Estate.



Gatwick. Hedges going in right in the centre of Steyning. Looking after his tall mature trees sequestering so much carbon and planting more. Article on Dead Hedges for SFT website.

We were so sorry the weather was too cold and wet to plant with the Growing Wellbeing Group. We so enjoyed it last year. Hopefully we will again next year.



Catholic Church: completing the third side of hedging - well positioned in the centre of Steyning.

ENORMOUS thanks to all concerned, SFT Committee, Volunteers, Landowners, Farmers, gardeners, our funders, including SDNPA. All the numerous private donations we now have, too many to mention but so much appreciated.



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

January 2025 Gardening Journal

January is a time for retreat and viewing the garden from indoors. It can also be a time for bright winter sunshine and crisp frosty mornings – often my favourite times of the year in the garden. I love seeing the bare 'bones' of a gardens structure highlighted by that low Winter light. Frosty mornings can be quite pleasant, it gives us a chance, between the rainy days, to appreciate what winter can offer us.

The Winter Flowering Honeysuckle is a tough old shrub that could be considered to be a little unwieldy with a ranging branching habit that can be difficult to control. It has a degree expedition to China. This trip is of importance of ugliness as it can be difficult to decide on how best to manage or prune the shrub. It is either over trimmed, which results in a blobby, solid shaped shrub or left to its own devices, becoming airy and unimpressive. To top it off its also a little indecisive of whether its deciduous or evergreen too.

However, there is one redeeming feature that would make you want to include it in your garden - it's truly heavenly-scented small white flowers which last throughout the winter. If you want to lift your spirits on a cold, grey, winter's day, then this is the plant for you!

Winter honeysuckle is a member of the honeysuckle family. About 180 species are described, with a third of them native in

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North America and the remainder scattered across Asia and Europe. It was introduced by Robert Fortune (1812 – 1880) on his first to the gardening world as it contained, in addition to the winter honeysuckle, the first forsythia, the first weigela, spirea and 3 viburnums too.

Winter honeysuckle is a fast-growing shrub that, if given the space it needs, needs no attention once established. It is well suited to sunny or medium shade locations in about any soil. In January Lonicera Frangrantissima begins to produce inch-wide pairs of white, translucent blooms with exerted stamens along the branches. The flowers are delightfully fragrant with a hint of lemon but are not showy, with the sweet fragrance dispersing widely across the garden on warm winter days.

As mentioned above this can be a tricky



Plant of the Month: Lonicera Frangrantissima

shrub to include in your garden, but that's not to say its not worth the effort. It is too ugly for a prominent location but can be tucked into a mixed shrub border or planted at the edge of the woods where the sweet fragrance can still be enjoyed. Its branches can be cut and brought indoors for forcing into bloom too. If planted in a mixed border, then plant something like Geranium psilostemon at its feet. The ranging branching . habit of the Geranium will snake its way into the lower branches of the lonicera providing a • little more colour and interest in the summer months too.

Jobs to be done in January: **Ornamental Garden:**

- If the ground is waterlogged then keep off the soil to avoid compaction and worsening the conditions.
- If snow falls Do not let the snow sit on the shrubs, gently shake off to prevent damage.
- Prune bush or standard apples and pears. aiming to create an open framework of

- about 5 main branches.
- Sweet Peas can be sown this month and those sown in the autumn can be potted on. Place them in a sunny greenhouse, coldframe or windowsill
- · Plan annual cut flowers for the borders.
- Mulch borders if not already done in autumn.
- Plant deciduous hedges.
- Move deciduous trees and shrubs if necessary.
- Ensure protective coverings such as fleece / mulch have remained in place over frost tender plants.
- · Avoid walking on turf when the grass is covered with frost or is waterlogged.

Vegetable Garden:

- Protect brassicas from pigeons with cloches, netting or fleece.
- Harvest Winter Vegetables such as parsnip, swede, sprouts, leeks and turnip.
- · Remove one third of the oldest stems of blackcurrants at ground level to encourage new basal shoots.



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Roly-Poly and other Pub Events

January 1939. It had been tipping it down with rain. Water was coursing down Mouse Lane as springs bubbled up through the road surface. The drains, such as they were at the time, could not cope with the run-off and water levels began to rise at the north end of the High Street. The publican at The Star Inn optimistically opened both the front and back doors in the hopes that the water would rush through and drain into the stream.

Meanwhile the regulars at the George Inn - opposite the foot of Mouse Lane - were taking no notice of the deluge. Barrels of beer in the cellar were floating in four or five feet of water. But it was only when the water began to lap round their feet in the bar that they eventually abandoned their game of 'Roly-Poly'.

'Roly-Poly' was a form of skittles which the landlord, George Adams, rescued from oblivion. It had dropped out of use when a number of the pins became rotten and unstable but George found a set stowed away in an outhouse and, having replaced the wonky pins, it was back in use. There were thirteen pins in all – the usual nine plus a 'King' pin and three 'tailors'. George explained that 'For twenty years the game had been out of use but when I brought it out and had some replacement pins made for those that were worm-eaten it soon became the rage again. The game is played with a wooden 'cheese' rather than balls and some of the older men are past masters of the game which calls for a great deal of skill.' The nine pins would seem to have encircled the larger 'King' with the three tailors possibly serving as a sort of protective to watch the Chanctonbury Ring Morris

advance guard. The 'cheese' was so-called because it was rather like a slim cheese wheel with a built-in 'bias'. 'When bowled with a deft spinning action,' said George 'it could even attack the 'king' from behind.'

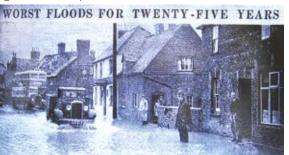
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The George Inn closed in 1955 so we will never discover the secret of that 'deft spinning action' needed to send the 'cheese' on its way to demolish the 'Roly-Poly' pins, but we can be reasonably sure that those regulars who were endeavouring to do just that were enjoying themselves, despite the rising flood waters.

It is also fair to assume that more enjoyment was to be found at Steyning's other pubs over the years. During the 1960's, for instance, the Steyning Boys Club organised a Boxing Day pram race with a route which ensured that those pushing their charges in the prams all in fancy dress - did not have to travel far without liquid refreshment. They began at The Star, went from there to The Norfolk, then on to The Railway Hotel before doubling back along Jarvis Lane to The Three Tuns and, not forgetting to pause at The White Horse and The Chequer, ended back at The Star.

Both 'Father' and 'Baby' had to consume half a pint of beer at each pub but, at The White Horse, could have encountered delays. It was there that, each Boxing Day, crowds gathered

> Men dancing and, for some years, performing the 'Steyning Mummers Play' as well. The words of the Steyning play were first noted down by a Stevning doctor in the early 1880's who learned



Floods by Star 1939

them from William Turrell, the Captain of Steyning's Tipteerers (the old Sussex name for mummers).

The play is still performed today, being introduced with the words 'In comes I, old Father Christmas. Am I welcome or am I not' - with the other characters, St. George, the Turkish Knight and several more, all announcing themselves with the same 'In comes I..'. The play is essentially a confrontation between Christendom and the Turk but, after the Turkish Knight is killed, a doctor appears who can "Cure the hipsey, pipsey, palsy, and gout, All raging pains both in and out," and, with magic, brings him back to life

Steyning's pubs do, of course, continue to offer us enjoyment and maybe a touch of magic, even if 'Roly-Poly' is no longer played.

Article by: Chris Tod - Steyning Museum.

Richard Bates, local solicitor

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