

THE BOXGROVE BUGLE

THE MAGAZINE LINKING CHURCH AND PARISH

Boxgrove Priory, The Priory Vicarage, Church Lane,
Boxgrove, Chichester, PO18 0ED

Phone: 07758 281631

www.boxgrovepriory.co.uk

MARCH 2025

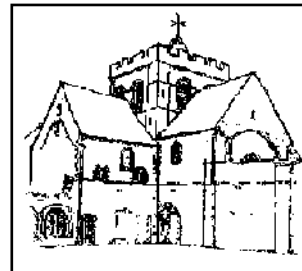


The Daily Mass is a precious thing

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Who's Who in Boxgrove



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BOXGROVE VILLAGE HALL Bookings & Enquiries

Administrator: Mrs Sally Beckers - 01243 788332 - info@boxgrovevillagehall.co.uk

BOXGROVE VILLAGE STORES & CAFE

Open: **Mon-Fri** 7.30am-5.30pm; **Sat** 8.00am-5.00pm;

Sun 8.00am-2.00pm

Tel no: 01243 773201 - Boxgroveshop@gmail.com



FOR OTHER USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

see page 5

From Father Ian



‘Change and decay in all around I see,
O thou, who changest not, abide with me.’

The world feels rather fractured at the moment, and it would be perfectly understandable if we were to feel like the disciples in the boat when the sudden storm blew-up. Are there such powers around us that will overwhelm us? Is it all beyond our control? Maybe if we keep our heads down it will all go away!

Well, alarmingly, I don’t think this is a time when we can do that. The advance of fascism is a real and present danger in various parts of the world, and no Christian can be unconcerned by the manipulation of truth, or the building-up of hatred against various groups in society, or the unhinged and excessive exercise of power.

No. We have seen where such things can lead, and the generations before us thought that they had vanquished the power of this evil, through their blood, sweat and tears.

To be loyal to God, and to our faith, and to those whom we commemorate on Remembrance Sunday, we must stay alert, and speak boldly, in defence of the common good.

It would, of course, be wrong for me not to acknowledge the enormous damage that the church has inflicted on some in society, and to say that each instance of abuse has tragically reduced the volume of our voice when speaking in the public space to challenge evil.

But we must press on, and while fully acknowledging our own fallibility, nevertheless join in condemning the distortions of Christianity that are lending weight to the advance of hatred, injustice, and greed.

May the saints of God pray for us.

May the Holy Spirit renew our vision.

And may our Lord, Jesus Christ still the storm, and bring us into safe harbour.
Amen.

Father Ian

THE BUGLE

The Boxgrove Bugle is distributed **free of charge** to each household within the parish and is published [online](#), as well as being sent further afield and being available in the Priory for visitors and non-residents of the parish. The run exceeds 625 copies. The Bugle is not published in January or August.

Articles on any aspect of Boxgrove news - Village or Priory-based - are always most welcome. Material to be considered for publication should be sent by the **15th day of the month**, please, to editor.boxgrovebugle@gmail.com for publication on or around the last Sunday of the month. Alternatively, items clearly marked '**Boxgrove Bugle**' may be left in the Vicarage postbox.

DATES 2025

NB: There is no Bugle in January or August

Issue Month	Copy Deadline	Publication Date
April 2025	14th March	30th March

BUGLE ARTICLES AND CONTENT

Please email the editor at editor.boxgrovebugle@gmail.com

BUGLE ADVERTISING

Please email the editor at editor.boxgrovebugle@gmail.com

ADVERTISING RATES 2025

Per 1/8 page (min 3 issues) £50.00 per annum £5 per month

Please make cheques payable to: '**Priory Church of St Mary & St Blaise**'

Advertisements, flyers, etc are accepted in good faith, but no liability is accepted with regard to any services or goods offered or advertised howsoever arising. Nor should material not initiated by Boxgrove Priory be taken to imply endorsement or agreement with views expressed.

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and may be read on-line in colour at

http://www.boxgrovepriory.co.uk/boxgrove_bugle.html

Why not add a link to your desktop?

PRIORY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets on the **first and third** Sunday of each month during term-time (excluding holidays) at 10.20am in the St Blaise Centre, then to go over to the Priory for the second half of the service.

Children should be aged between 4 and 11 and they must have already started school. They are asked to arrive promptly, so that the objective of the session can be explained to everyone at once.

There is no charge and parents do not need to accompany the children. They don't need to bring anything with them - just to come along!

For further information about our Sunday School, please contact Vicky Willavise by email at vickywillavise@outlook.com.

We are always looking for more volunteers to support the Sunday School. If you would like to find out more, please contact Vicky Willavise (as above.)



From the Registers

Funeral

Lady Ellinor Gordon Lennox

Interment

Charles Paterson

Useful contact details

Local Police

Emergencies 999 or 112 ~ Other matters 0845 60 70 999 or 101

Citizens Advice

Consumer helpline 0345 4040506

Action on Elder Abuse

Confidential helpline 080 8808 8141

Action Fraud

National fraud reporting centre 0300 123 2040



Please support our advertisers where possible. They help us to provide a copy of the Bugle free to every household in the parish.

CALENDAR AND INTERCESSIONS

MARCH

1	Sat	Saint David, Bishop	The Church in Wales
2	SUN THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT		Parish and people
3	Mon	Feria	Keeping a good Lent
4	Tue	Feria	Penitents and confessors
5	Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY	Sincere penitence
6	Thu	Feria	The religious
7	Fri	<i>com Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs</i>	Home carers
8	Sat	<i>com Edward King, Bishop</i>	The chronically sick
9	SUN LENT 1		Parish and people
10	Mon	Feria	Saint Wilfrid's Hospice
11	Tue	Feria	St Stephen's House
12	Wed	Feria (Ember Day)	Mirfield
13	Thu	Feria	The Departed
14	Fri	Feria (Ember Day)	Local Schools
15	Sat	Feria (Ember Day)	New Residents in the Parish
16	SUN LENT 2		Parish and people
17	Mon	Saint Patrick, Bishop	Christians in Ireland
18	Tue	<i>com Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor</i>	Increased generosity
19	Wed	SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BVM	Foster fathers
20	Thu	Feria	Those preparing confessions
21	Fri	Feria	Lent Study Groups
22	Sat	Feria	Those preparing for Baptism
23	SUN LENT 3		Parish and people
24	Mon	Feria	Politicians
25	Tue	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Obedience to God's call
*****Sung Mass at noon. Party and Benediction at 7pm*****			
26	Wed	Feria	Christian teachers
27	Thu	Feria	The unchurched
28	Fri	Feria	Those seeking faith
29	Sat	Feria	Those preparing for Confirmation
30	SUN LENT 4 (MOTHERING SUNDAY)		Parish and people
31	Mon	Feria	English Heritage



Brides
AT BOXGROVE

HISTORIC & MODERN WEDDING DRESS EXHIBITION

◆ MAY Fri 2nd - Mon 5th ◆

2025

- ▶ Dressmakers dummies (mannequins) are required
- ▶ Sponsorship would be very much appreciated

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCHWARDENS IF
YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH EITHER

Hello from the Hall!

We can't believe it's March already! Spring is upon us and we have some exciting events coming up at the hall.



If you have little ones in the family then our Teddy Bear Picnic theatre event is not to be missed! Our doors will open at 10am on Saturday 12th April, for beary crafts and face painting, with the show starting at 11am.

Hot drinks and snacks will be available throughout and we are encouraging everyone out on to the green to enjoy their picnics with us after the show- with their teddies, of course! Tickets are available online now (through our website or Facebook page) priced at £10 per child (including one adult) and £5 per additional adult.



In May, we celebrate the 80th VE Day with a wonderful traditional evening at the hall. Join us on Thursday 8th May from 7pm for an evening of live music with a fish and chip dinner, and tea/coffee and cake served afterwards.

Tickets are limited and available online now- £15pp including food. The fantastic Southsea Belles will be joining us for the night with a set of songs from the era, some for reflection and some to get you up and dancing!

Lastly, we are actively seeking sponsors for our Summer Fayre. For our largest community event of the year we very much rely on generous local businesses or individuals offering us financial contributions to be able to make the day happen, so if you or someone you know would be willing to help us out, please do get in touch at: community@boxgrovillagehall.co.uk. We have some great marketing incentives for local businesses who support us!

Until next time.....!

BOXGROVE PARISH COUNCIL

From the Parish Council, February 2025



As Henry previously stated, the Parish Council has decided to rotate the duty of writing the column in the Bugle between us. This month is my turn. At this month's meeting we started with a brief presentation from Kate Hewetson from Energies South Downs who gave us an overview of the "Future Energy Landscapes" workshop that her organisation runs for The South Downs National Park, which are workshops that help identify ideas for community health and energy generation. I am sure we will return to this matter in the future.

We heard from County Councillor Hunt that a lot of his work has been on hold due to the proposed reforms that will see our local Chichester District Council (along with the other Districts and Boroughs of West Sussex) and West Sussex County Council abolished and merged to form a new unitary authority for the whole county. As I was writing this, we heard that West Sussex is one of the authorities to be fast tracked for these reforms and the County Council elections originally slated for May of this year have been delayed by a year at the request of the County Council to facilitate this merger. We will also be electing a directly elected "Mayor" that will cover all of Sussex from Southbourne to Camber (the easternmost parish of Sussex). Whether this is a good way to allow desperately needed larger scale planning across the county, or if it will spell the end of accountable local democracy, I will leave that up to you. This restructuring will not affect our parish council directly and we'll continue to work to ensure your concerns are heard and represented.

The Temple Bar development by Heaver Commercial has finally made an appearance in the Chichester District Council planning portal. We understand from your replies at the Neighbourhood Plan Open Day that many residents (ourselves included) have deep concerns about this proposal and as such we will be strongly objecting to the development.

On the note of the Neighbourhood Plan Open Day, I would like to thank all 142 of you who attended for your valuable input, and I'd also like to thank David Leah for his able stewardship of the Neighbourhood Plan process. I'd also like to thank Jim MacDonald for his display of the good work by the Community Safety Group, without whom it would have been far more difficult to get the 20mph limit in the village. We are hopeful that it will improve the conditions on The Street and reduce the risk of accidents particularly at the Crouch Cross Lane mini roundabout.

The Parish Council has also agreed to create and distribute a newsletter separate to The Bugle. This biannual occurrence is not meant to be a replacement to the Bugle,

instead it is complementary and is meant to be a short spotlight on what we are doing as a council, as well as a community calendar, a village directory and highlighted events from groups in the village. The Bugle on the other hand is more for longform communications like this. At present the newsletter is intended to be double sided A4 folded to DL size.

Further at this meeting we got closer to finally installing a water fountain to the outside of the village hall (a saga that has gone on for over a year now) so that people attending events on the green, or just walking their dogs, can refill their water bottles or have a drink. The (hopefully) final meeting on the matter will be at the next meeting in March.

On a minor note, if anyone happens to know the name of that gravel lane opposite the Almshouses that leads to the Priory, please don't hesitate to let one of us know, it seems no-one can remember and we'd like to get a sign for it to help delivery drivers locate addresses.

As always, we would love to hear from you about what you'd like the council to do with our admittedly limited means and powers.

Jack Lovejoy
Councillor on Boxgrove Parish Council
j.lovejoy@boxgroveparishcouncil.gov.uk



CHICHESTER LIBRARY

**Tower Street, Chichester
Telephone 01243 777351
(Renewals 01243 642110)**

OPENING HOURS

Monday-Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday - closed

Please check [opening hours](#) before visiting

A PLEA FROM THE EDITOR:

If you care about Boxgrove and its surroundings, PLEASE take time to fill in the survey mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan Update (page 13) —it's really important that everyone's views are taken into account and that we can prove the Plan is representative of the majority of Boxgrove's residents. Make your views known now!!

Poppies at the Priory

**September 3rd 2025 will mark the
80th Anniversary of the final
end to World War II**

**Help us create a
Poppy Cascade**

to trail from as high up the Church as we can get
and as far as our **Poppies** will take us!

**We not only desperately need Poppy makers
but also donations and sponsorships**

to provide wool, felt, needles, hooks etc...

There will also be regular informal
lessons and get togethers ☕🍰🥰

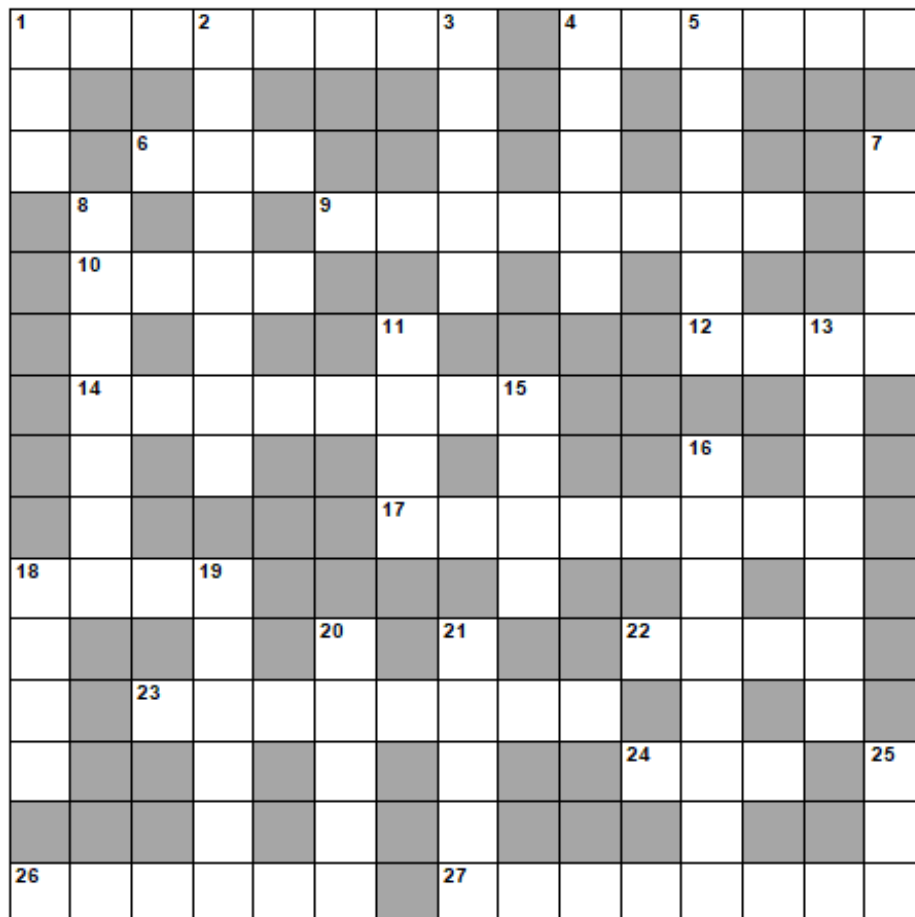


Please register your interest with us now and
come and collect your supplies or bring your
donation to Boxies at Boxgrove Village Store

13th February onwards 🙏

Boxgroveunited@gmail.co.uk

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Fall down (eg building) (8)
4. Black and white animal which likes honey! (6)
6. Snake - possibly bit Cleopatra (3)
9. Weapon which uses a bolt (8)
10. Part of wind instrument, eg clarinet (4)
12. ... which when blown produces this (4)
14. Screwed up (eg paper) (8)
17. This negates the effect of poison (8)
18. Method of transport using overhead cables (4)
22. Not false (4)
23. Example, occasion (8)
24. Like a full stop (printing) (3)
26. Very unusual (6)
27. How much it costs for a bag of bird-feed (Mary Poppins) (8)

DOWN

1. Snip (3)
2. Food-borne bacteria (8)
3. Grant; bestow (5)
4. Explosion (5)
5. Deny; renounce (6)
7. Part song; delight (4)
8. Often on the Christmas table containing small gift and joke (7)
11. Jumping insect which bites (4)
13. Prepared for printing (7)
15. Responsibility, obligation (4)
16. Quartet (8)
18. Sharp (food) (4)
19. Way (behaviour) (6)
20. Warm wrap for shoulders (5)
21. Useless; clumsy (5)
25. Frozen water (3)

Solution on page 16

Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan Update

There is a lot of work going on in the Parish to try to make sure that despite new developments, the things you love are protected. These include the many historical assets, paths, trees, hedges and views that make our Parish special. The revisions currently being made to the Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan are intended to make the protection of these important assets part of planning policy at Chichester District Council.

The key to making this happen is providing evidence that we are doing what you, the residents, actually want. The Open Event held on the 18th January was the start of a statutory period of consultation when external agencies have their say about our proposals. It was also the start of a consultation with the residents. 55 people took the trouble on the day to respond to a survey, which is wonderful, but hardly representative of the Parish.

Please can you get involved? Help shape your community by completing the online survey.

Go to <https://boxgroveparishcouncil.gov.uk/> and take the time to review what is trying to be achieved and let us have your comments. It really does matter. Without significant evidence of local involvement the Government Examiner is likely to conclude that these issues are not sufficiently important to become policy.

There is still time to complete the online survey by clicking on the above link.

The results of the survey so far show that a majority of you are in support of the two proposed housing developments, The Folly in Halnaker with 86% in favour and The Old Granary in Boxgrove with 89% in favour.

On the other hand, the results for the two proposed commercial developments at Temple Bar and the BESS (Battery Energy Storage System on Boxgrove Quarry) were the opposite with 78% against Temple Bar and 63% against the BESS. Boxgrove Parish Council has lodged strong objections to the Temple Bar and the BESS applications.

To help you make an informed decision on each development we shall be summarising the arguments for/against which will be posted on the village website under "Neighbourhood Plan".

If you would like to inform CDC Planning Office of your comments/views on these two commercial proposals, please use the following links:

Temple Bar application: Reference 24/02918/OUTEIA

<https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

BESS application: Reference 24/02040/FUL

<https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE BOXGROVE BELLES

As I write this, in time for the submission date, the Boxgrove Belles have not yet had our February meeting.

Belles had an information stand at the recent Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan Day at the Village Hall where there were details of the Belles' activities and the Belles' additional special interest groups: the Craft Group; the Book Group; the Lunch Club; and the Gardening Group. There were a number of colourful items on display to illustrate some of the things that these groups' members have been involved in recently.

At the end of January, a number of Belles' members visited The Chichester Festival Theatre for a matinee performance of *A Man for All Seasons*; Robert Bolt's award winning play around the Court events before and after Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic Church in order to be able to divorce Catharine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. Sir Thomas More, Henry VIII's friend and Lord Chancellor was played by Martin Shaw who gave an exemplary performance throughout, particularly impressive as his character was on stage (and in dialogue) throughout the majority of the play. The Daily Telegraph wrote "Martin Shaw is superb, playing More with both gravitas and a lightness of touch." The play had a wonderful mixture of historical detail; humour; and pathos. We all had a wonderful time.

On Saturday 8th February, the Boxgrove Belles supported the St Blaise Fair, in aid of the Kwa Mkono Children's Hospital. We had a tombola with a wide and interesting variety of prizes on offer.

The next meeting of Boxgrove Belles' will be on Wednesday 12th February when we are looking forward to a speaker from the Air Ambulance. For our March meeting, the author Graham Minett will be talking to us about 'How a writing career develops'. The April meeting will be the second birthday of Boxgrove Belles and we will celebrate with a visit (and entertainment) from Dawn Gracie.

New members are always welcome. We meet at the St Blaise Hall on the second Wednesday of the month - meetings start at 2pm (although arriving earlier to get settled and be ready for our speaker) and last approximately 1½ hours. Visitors are also very welcome - why not come along and see what we do - we're a very friendly group with a variety of interests. If you would prefer to speak to someone before you venture along, please either email boxgrovebelles@gmail.com or ring Wendy on 07947946538.

Petworth House & Park News for February



Petworth House and Park, Church Street, Petworth, GU28 0AE

Details at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth>

March News

Little Antlers

Hands-on fun for pre-schoolers with Wild Wednesdays, and Story Time sessions

Wild Wednesdays:

Roll up your sleeves for our crafts and activities, specially designed to offer a closer look at Petworth House and Park for our littlest visitors. These activities include make and take crafts, and occasionally take place outdoors, so come prepared!

10.30 – 11.30 on the following dates:

5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June

Story Time:

A special story time at Petworth Park, specifically for toddlers aged 2 to 4 and their caregivers. Learn new stories or enjoy some classics, and afterwards take part in a 'make and take' crafting activity based on the book.

10.30 – 11.30 on the following dates:

7 March, 4 April, 9 May, 6 June

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. These sessions are free but normal admission applies.

Spring Festival

Saturday 5th – Sunday 27th April

Join us for our annual Spring Festival to celebrate the arrival of a new season with spectacular bulb displays, talks, demonstrations, a community art installation, art and craft workshops, and family activities.

On Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April there will be a two-day Makers Market, held in partnership with Petworth Pop-Up.

Join a variety of horticultural experts for free talks in the Garden Theatre Marquee. Speakers will include Gardeners' World presenter Adam Frost, authors Vanessa Berridge and Rebecca Bevan, daffodil judge and exhibitor Richard Hilson, and local National Trust gardeners.

Normal admission applies.

GOODWOOF 2025—Preview

Goodwoof 2025 will take place at the Goodwood Estate over the weekend of Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May. Set against the spectacular backdrop of The Kennels, Goodwood Members' Clubhouse, the event is set to offer something for everyone – whether they're on two legs, or four.

On offer are: canine tales read by well known authors and celebrities in Literary Corner, dog disco with Ministry of Hound, and architecturally designed kennels in the Barkitecture competition, wellness workshops including dog yoga and reiki, talks from behavioural and veterinary experts, world class competitions from top canine athletes and plenty of 'have-a-go activities' all of which are included in the entry price. You can meander down the quiet Woodland Walk, stopping off to see the tarot reader or tattoo artist along the way, have a dip in the refreshing Fido's Lido, sip a glass of Taittinger champagne or pre-book a Fortnum & Mason hamper to enjoy in the sunshine. There are plenty of other catering outlets and shaded places to picnic. An off-lead paddock allows dogs to let off steam. The Fastest Dog competition is always a popular spot as dogs speed along the 50m track against the clock. New for 2025 is a crafting area where visitors can take a break from exploring to create canine-influenced souvenirs of the day.

Each year, Goodwoof celebrates a particular breed. This year, dachshunds of all shapes, sizes, and colours are welcome to take part in the parade which opens the event each morning. Dogs and their families will lead the way from Goodwood House, on to the event site after pausing for a photograph with the Duke of Richmond and his own dachshund, Winston.

There is plenty of free parking with a beautiful woodland walk to enjoy from the carpark to the main site. If the walk's too much, there's also a free Bark and Ride shuttle service running throughout the day. Pet behaviourists and vets are on hand at all times and there are poo bags and bins, as well as water stations across the showground.

Tickets can be purchased at the Early Bird price of £30 for adults, £15 for young people aged 13-21, children aged 12 and under and dogs go free. To buy tickets, or for more information, visit www.goodwood.com/goodwoof

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD ON PAGE 12

Across: 1. Collapse, 4. Badger, 6. Asp, 9. Crossbow, 10. Reed, 12. Note, 14. Crinkled, 17. Antidote, 18. Tram, 22. True, 23. Instance, 24. Dot, 26. Scarce, 27. Tuppence

Down: 1. Cut, 2. Lysteria, 3. Endow, 4. Blast, 5. Disown, 7. Glee, 8. Cracker, 11. Flea, 13. Typeset, 15. Duty, 16. Foursome, 18. Tart, 19. Manner, 20. Stole, 21. Inept, 25. Ice



GOODWOOD

a dog event like no other



at Goodwood

17 | 18 May 2025

goodwood.com



Bognor Regis Vision Support Centre
36 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, PO21 2TE
Registered Charity No. 1075447



Supporting the Campaign for Accessible Banking

4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is getting behind a campaign for the provision of more accessible banking for blind and partially sighted people (BPS). The campaign is being led by the Thomas Pocklington Trust, a charity which works to improve opportunities for blind and partially sighted people, and everyone is invited to sign a petition requiring banks to make relevant improvements to their services.

Statistics show 70% of people in the UK bank online or by using apps. In comparison, RNIB research shows more than half of BPS people are dissatisfied with their provider and 22% cannot bank without help from another person. The replacement of bank branches with new banking hubs has limited the opportunities for face to face help which BPS people especially require. In addition, many digital services are inaccessible, as all too often, registration with apps, or for online accounts demands vision, with tight security cited as the reason for making processes unusable.

The TPT is asking banking providers to design apps and websites inclusively to make them more accessible and to retain services like phone lines which are easy to use. The Trust is also seeking collaboration on a UK accessible banking standard, covering all the above and for every provider to abide by, and for the Financial Conduct Authority to endorse.

4Sight Vision Support CEO Kirstie Thomas commented, "We encourage everyone to take a look at the TPT website which includes a link to their online petition. By signing, you will be supporting this important campaign to ensure that BPS people do not get left behind with changes to personal banking and finances."

Full details can be found on the TPT website www.pocklington.org.uk under News and Events. 4SVS can be contacted on 01243 828555, or at www.4sight.org.uk

The Bugle's better online -
it's in colour and has all the hyperlinks.
http://www.boxgrovepriory.co.uk/boxgrove_bugle.html



Latest News from St Wilfrid's Hospice

March 2025

Marathon Month

Time to take on a challenge!

For the month of April, St Wilfrid's Hospice are inviting the local community to take on their own marathon, with a spin. You can do a "Marathon" of anything! Whether you want to bake 26 cupcakes, read 26 books, dance for 26 hours, or get involved in any other way, why not do your 'marathon' while supporting a local independent charity.

Read all about how you can get involved, or get some more ideas here:

www.stwh.co.uk/marathon-month

Fill a Bag



Grab some incredible bargains!

St Wilfrid's are holding a Fill a Bag sale this March 29th and March 30th, giving the local community the whole weekend to purchase a bag of pre-loved clothes at an incredibly affordable price. Shoppers can purchase one bag for £10 or two bags for £15! Find out more and get your ticket here:

www.stwh.co.uk/fill-a-bag

Moonlight Walk

Get walking this Summer!

St Wilfrid's Hospice are inviting the local community to join together for a night to remember this Saturday June 14th.

Hundreds of walkers, will explore the wonderful city of Chichester, including special stops at familiar places, which are exclusively decorated for the Moonlight Walk.

You can get your tickets on our website, and begin your fundraising to help support the incredible expert care that St Wilfrid's provides, free-of-charge to local lives.

www.stwh.co.uk/moonlight

Cont'd.....

Gifts in Wills

Did you know that one in four of St Wilfrid's patients are cared for thanks to gifts left in Wills?

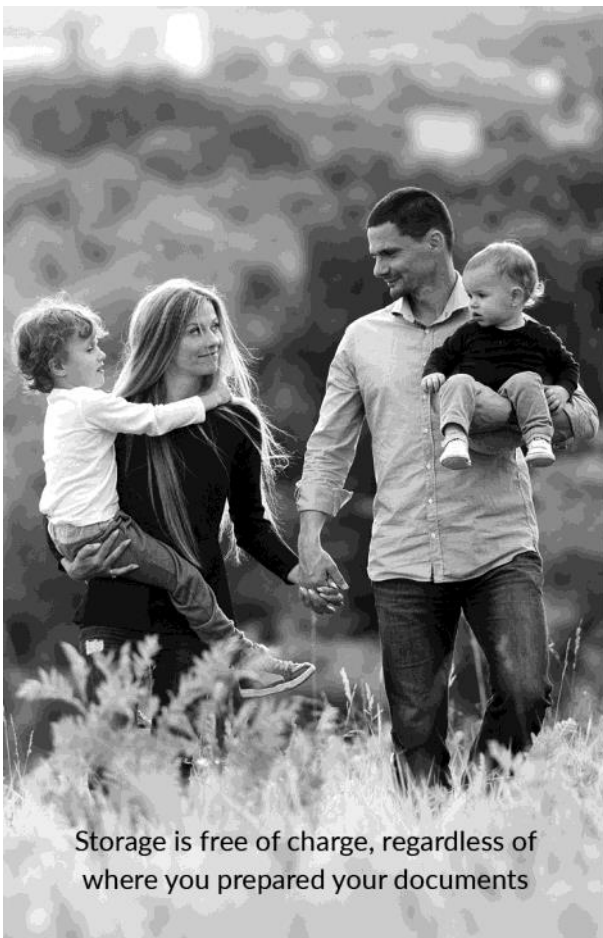


With costs rising across the sector, hospices across the country are facing a funding crisis, and need your help to protect their future. When you have your Will written, please consider leaving a gift to St Wilfrid's Hospice, as this will help to fund their vital care services. If 38% of the people in our community were to leave a gift of just £300 in their Will, St Wilfrid's would be able to fully fund their

Ward for at least seven years.

You can find out more about the importance of gifts in Wills and how it can help local charities like St Wilfrid's here:

www.stwh.co.uk/gifts-in-wills



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The Optimistic Gardener

Beautiful Bantams - part I

What do you see when you hear the word 'bantam'? Does the image of a light-weight boxer spring to mind? Or a single-cylinder two-stroke motor bike - the BSA Bantam? They are both derived from the word for a miniature type of hen. The word itself comes from the town of Bantam in Java, Indonesia, where (it is mooted that) European sailors would restock live fowl for sea journeys with the small native breeds of chicken.

Over the course of the 21st century here at High Trees we have bred or been given a variety of bantam hens. And then, last year we found ourselves down to two venerable old ladies who had long since forgotten what an egg was and who must have been at least 12 years old. So the time had come to think about re-stocking. Don't worry! The two old dears will stay on the staff until they turn up their claws!

According to a website on the internet - the average lifespan of a bantam chicken is 4 - 8 years. But when they live in a palace and have a nutritious banquet each day both in commercial hen-food, kitchen scraps and the titbits they scratch up as they free range they can live up to 15 years! Yes, bantam hens lay eggs. Depending on the breed, bantam hens can lay between 50-200 eggs each year.



Above: The Bantam Palace

So last year we decided to buy ourselves an incubator so we could raise some replacements. I love watching the bantams moving around the garden like little mobile blooms. Unlike the large fowl the bantams don't devastate great swathes of the garden when they are free ranging - so we decided to buy a dozen fertile eggs.

Finding the source of hatching eggs for bantams was not as easy as it should have been. With the internet it is simple enough to find suppliers in Inverness, Birmingham or Penzance - but we wanted some nearby so that we could go and collect. Eventually we alighted on a supplier of bantam eggs in Lewes - not so far away - and we spoke to the owner who agreed we could buy a dozen of mixed breeds.

We collected a dozen tiny eggs - beautifully labelled and wrapped against any hard braking we may have needed on our return journey. We kept hold of them like this

for about a week since we wanted to time the hatching date to a period when we would be around.



Above: Eggs safely wrapped for transit

The eggs went into the incubator on the 9th May and could have hatched out as early as 27th May - 19 days after starting. Bantams can hatch anywhere between 19 and 21 days. We had one small hiccup during this time when, most out of character, Gerry was doing some Hoovering in his study where the incubator was purring away. Later in the day I popped in there to check the Ocado order on his computer and realised that there was no comfortable purring sound coming from the corner



of the room and the dome of the machine was quite cold. The plug was partially out of the socket and for 4 hours the incubator had been turned off.

The job of the incubator (see left) is to keep the eggs at 37.5°C and slowly to turn the eggs to prevent the embryo sticking to the membrane of the shell and prevent the chick from hatching. Luckily a gap in this procedure is not unknown; after all the mother hen,

when incubating her eggs, needs to go off and have a bit of 'me time' - feeding and powdering her nose!

So I was delighted that after this chilling when I came to candle the eggs I found there were still 10 out of the dozen which had developing embryos inside.

Candling, as the name suggests, involves shining a light through the translucent shell to check what is happening inside. (See opposite).

So when day 19 arrived I was anxious to see the tell-tale chip on the outside of the shells through the convenient Perspex dome of the incubator. No such luck! There were various

musicians around that day as we had a playing day and one of them, Rachel, was very keen to see a chick hatching so when she wasn't puffing on her curtal she was popping in and out of the incubator room and she swore she could see one of the eggs wobbling; I think it was wishful thinking and indeed we had to wait a further two days before anything significant happened.

Then over the course of 24 hours we had the joy and anticipation that comes with using an artificial incubator. In all we had 8 chicks hatch. Two had been removed



from the machine on day 7 after setting the eggs as the candling process had shown them to be 'clears' but a success rate of 8 out of 10 is not bad.



The first sign of life

Once we were sure that they had all hatched we moved them from the incubator to their new home - the brooder. This was sited in the utility room away from the hungry rodents which we are certain are in and around the hens' shed at the bottom of the garden. We were lent a very useful piece of equipment - a roll of corrugated plastic which could be unfurled to make it larger as the flock grew. They also need heat in their

first few weeks so we set up a very Heath Robinson support for the heat lamp which I have had since those distant days of incubating eggs with my classes at the Primary school where I once taught.

Right: The brooder with heat lamp



The chicks turned from gorgeous fluff-balls into obnoxious teenagers quite quickly - about 4 weeks. During that period we had one little adventure when there was a power cut at 1am and luckily we noticed. So for the remainder of the

night I was making hourly trips to the utility room to replace the 2 hot water bottles which provided a replacement to the infra red heat lamp.



Left: The flock warming themselves on hot water bottles



So now we have 8 new bantams to move into the bantam palace and the real adventures start here.

Janet Reeves



Please continue to support the Chichester District Foodbank.

Urgently needed items include tinned carrots, peas and green beans, sponge puddings, tinned fruit, tinned meat, rice, tinned potatoes/instant mash, tinned rice pudding/custard.

Website link for details of food donation points, opening hours, etc: <https://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>; **tel:** 01243 773687

Quality over quantity: Smaller country homes are growing in popularity



Smaller country homes are in high demand from buyers in 2025. Whether you are upsizing, downsizing or buying as a family, there is a demand for quality rather than quantity for buyers of all ages. Avoiding homes that come with endless expense is now a number one priority at every level and at every stage of life.

As people are starting to feel more confident about the market, we are receiving more enquiries from buyers searching for smaller country houses in prime locations. There are many benefits in doing so... for example less maintenance, releasing equity to provide additional funds for education with the added VAT on school fees, and lower energy bills to name a few.

Here are some top tips for finding the perfect compact country home ...

Start your search early

When you decide to sell, start considering your property search at the same time. It's a buyer's market, but in the most desirable villages there are still far more buyers than good quality homes for sale. The best country houses are often sold [off-market](#), so speak with local estate agents about what is coming up, or use a buying agent as they tend to have access to them before the general public does. Plus, there will probably be less buyer competition.

Downsize your belongings

Downsizing and organising belongings is always a good move, whether you are moving to a smaller or larger home. In order to avoid taking unwanted items to your next house, you will probably have to sell, donate or throw away quite a few things. Have a good look at the floor plan of your new property. Will it fit your belongings without feeling too cluttered, or will you need to reduce them?

Consider long-term flexibility

There may come a time where it would be very convenient to have flexible

accommodation, for example a master bedroom downstairs so you have easy access to the kitchen, living room and garden if you are downsizing. An annexe outside is another option to consider, which can be helpful for families with teenage children, a nanny, or just for accommodating family friends to stay or a carer later in life.

Find a manageable garden for your time of life

If you have a growing family then time may be tight, so make sure you don't buy more land than you need. Smaller plots mean less upkeep. If you plan on hiring a gardener then size matters less, but if you are going to be responsible for looking after outside space then opt for something that is low maintenance.

Local communities are key

One of the most common questions I'm asked is, "does this area have a good local community?". Community is the beating heart of many locations in West Sussex, and pitching in is a great way to integrate and get to know the locals. Some [villages](#) even have croquet lawns or tennis clubs. Close knit communities also come together to provide huge support for both young and old.

Don't be too remote

Although it can be a luxury not to have a neighbour directly next door, you don't want them so far away that there isn't anybody around to help you. Think about the benefits of sharing lifts for children or having support from neighbours if you're elderly. Access to public transport will be very useful. In towns and cities there's usually quite a good set up, but if you're seeking a rural or village location be sure to check how far it is to the local shops, pub or café.

Do you want a 'lock up and leave'?

Many of our clients want to travel more, so choose a home that allows you the freedom to do just that. Whether a weekend break or a global adventure, smaller houses mean you don't need to worry about what might happen to the property or garden whilst you're away. You want to literally be able to pack your luggage, close the front door and relax.

How many bedrooms do you really need?

While it can be tempting to have lots of space to accommodate visiting children and grandchildren, or big family Christmases, think about how much space you really need in your day-to-day life. Visits may be infrequent, so often having just one or possibly two spare rooms for visitors is plenty and will help keep running costs low.

For more information about the benefits of purchasing a smaller country house in West Sussex, contact Jennie Hancock on [+44 \(0\)7776452128](tel:+44207776452128).

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March 05th & 19th

April 02nd & 16th & 30th

May 14th & 28th

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April 29th

May 27th

June 17th



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21st May - Bibi Heal (Soprano) & Milos Milivojevic (accordion)

18th June - Bogdan Vacarescu (violin) & Mikhail Lezdkan (cello)

27th June - Harriet Mackenzie (violin) & Morgan Szymanski (guitar)

All concerts: 7.30pm - 9.30pm (doors & bar from 7pm)

Tickets: www.thenovium.org.uk/boxoffice Tel: 01243 816525

www.amiciconcerts.com [@amiciconcerts](https://www.facebook.com/amiciconcerts)



Special services on Tuesday 25th March

Fr Ian is retiring this month, and will celebrate his last mass as Vicar of Boxgrove on Tuesday 25th March at 12 noon, with a Solemn Mass to mark the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Later that day, at 7p.m. there will be a Farewell Party in the Priory, ending with Benediction at approximately 8.15p.m.

Dates for your diary.....

A brief round-up of local events based on information available at the time of compiling "The Bugle". Apologies, but no responsibility can be accepted for any errors.

March

- 1st March Village Hall—Children's Good as New Sale
10.30—12 noon
- 4th March Boxgrove Priory, 7.30 p.m.
An illustrated talk by Fr Ian about his time at Boxgrove
- 5th March Concert in the Priory—7.30pm —
String Dimensions Trio with Bogdan Vacarescu
See www.amiciconcerts.com
- 25th March **Party & Benediction at 7p.m. in the Priory to mark Fr Ian's retirement**
- 29th March Chantry Quire—Monteverdi Vespers—
See www.chantryquire.org.uk

******Details of special services at The Priory this month on back cover******

APRIL

- 12th April Teddy Bear Picnic Theatre Event at Village Hall

MAY

- 8th May VE Day Celebration at Village Hall, 7-9p.m.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Please see the cathedral website for details of the many events being held there: www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

The popular lunchtime concerts held at 1.10pm on Tuesdays during term time continue in February—there

is no charge for admission but a minimum donation of £3 per person is invited (Gift Aided as appropriate).

- 4th March— Jean-Samuel Bez, violin & Gina Kruger, piano
11th March— Duo Dorado (violin & harpsichord)
18th March— Chichester Cathedral Choir & the Rose Concert of Viols
25th March— Max Pemberton, piano

PRIORY SERVICES AND MASS TIMES

Sundays at 8.30am and 10.30am [Solemn]

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and **Saturday** at 10am

(Coffee after Mass on Tuesday)

Wednesday and **Friday** at noon

On, usually, the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 am Mass, the setting of the Ordinary (Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei) will normally be congregational, with anthems and motets sung by the choir.

Please see page 5 for Sunday School arrangements.

Readers are advised to check service times on the Priory website (<http://www.boxgrovepriory.co.uk/worship.html>), as it is necessary from time to time to amend them.

You are encouraged to attend the services in person; however, if you prefer you can still 'join in' the Mass from the Priory, 'live' or at a time which may be more convenient for you, via the Parish [Facebook](#) page.

Youngsters: Come and join in at Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sundays)

And our new Mass@5 (Usually 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

Please note:

Wednesday 5th March—Ash Wednesday— Mass at 10.00 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Tuesday 25th March—The Annunciation of the BVM—12 noon Solemn Mass (Fr Ian's last mass as Vicar) and at 7pm Farewell Party for Fr Ian in the Priory, ending with Benediction at approx. 8.15 p.m.

Sunday 30th March—Mothering Sunday—10.30 a.m. Community Mass with the blessing & distribution of posies for mothers



*The Church is open daily
and all are welcome!*