



THE BOXGROVE BUGLE

THE MAGAZINE LINKING CHURCH AND PARISH

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December 2020



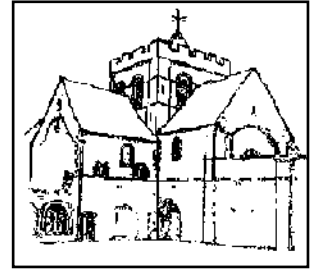
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Who's Who in Boxgrove



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BOXGROVE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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BOXGROVE VILLAGE HALL Bookings & Enquiries

Matthew Hall - 01243 788332

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



From Father Ian

There are bound to be different opinions about the loosening of the Covid regulations over the Christmas holidays.

For some, there will be a huge desire, perhaps a perceived need, to meet with family members who have, these past months, often felt far away. Our family and friends enrich our lives in very many ways, and because we humans are social beings, for whom the absence of company, embraces, kisses - even handshakes - can really diminish health and well-being, we find the absence of such physical exchanges challenging.

Some will be better-able to cope with this than others, and Facetime, Zoom, and other means of electronic communication, can often help.

But Christmas is a 'time for families', and Christians will naturally think of the Holy Family; of Jesus, Joseph and Mary, and of the bonds of love between them and God the Father.

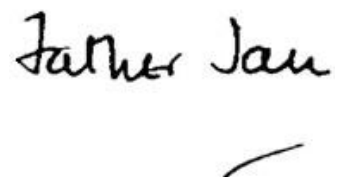
The image of the baby Jesus is the more potent, at present, as we perhaps think of grandparents, desperate to hold newborn grandchildren. But it is an enduring and thought-provoking thing anyway, for this is the Son of God whose almighty power has been laid aside, and who is constrained in what he can do. In weakness he will show that for love's sake much can be endured. Jesus sacrifices everything for the people around him, not surrendering to his own needs and temptations.

So it is in our weakness that we turn to our Lord's loving example of self-offering. Let us all endeavour to put the safety and needs of others before our own, and look towards the day when sacrifice gives way to glory.

I wish you a Blessed Christmas.

Keep safe.

Fr Ian



Mass for Thursday in the seventh week of Easter (Lanfranc)



Mass for Wednesday in the seventh week of Easter (St Augustine)



Mass for Tuesday in the seventh week of Easter (Requiem for David Lloyd)

Don't forget: you can 'join in' the Mass every day from the Priory, 'live' or at a time which may be better for you. Visit the Parish [Facebook](#) page: you will find the most recent services at the top.

CORONAVIRUS

There is a Solemn Mass on Sundays at 9.30am and at 11.00am.
The format is identical for each, and the 11.00am service is live-streamed.
On every other day, a Public Mass is said at 12 noon and is also live-streamed.

Please see our Facebook page for details, and to check in case there is any occasional change to the normal pattern.

The Priory will remain open for private prayer after Mass until about 5.00pm every day.

You are welcome to attend Mass. In order to preserve social distancing, seating has been carefully configured. From 23rd August we have been allowed to use small groups from the choir to provide live singing.

Please observe all hygiene notices, wear a face covering, and follow any further safety protocols that are published.

The Vicar may be contacted on
07758 281631

Fr Ian ~ 24/08/2020

stonepillow

Helping homeless people

St Joseph's, Hunston Road, Chichester, PO20 1NP

Tel: 01243 537934

Email: admin@stonepillow.org.uk

Website: <https://stonepillow.org.uk/>

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the demands on our frontline services grow and change daily. Due to having to cancel all fundraising events, closure of our retail outlets and reduced income, we are asking for your help now more than ever to enable us to continue responding to the challenges facing people who are homeless and rough sleeping.

We are working in partnership with other agencies across West Sussex to provide the following essential support for homeless and vulnerable people:

- ◇ *Safe, secure, high-quality accommodation*
- ◇ *Support with mental health, recovery and wellbeing*
- ◇ *Fresh food and essential provisions*
- ◇ *Keeping them safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic*

#donatealittlemeansalot ~ <https://www.justgiving.com/stonepillow>

Stonepillow is the trading name of St Richard of Chichester Christian Care Association. A company with charitable status and limited by guarantee (Registered in England, no 2504171 and registered Charity no 1000830)



Please support our advertisers where possible during the current crisis.
They help us to provide a copy of the Bugle free, in normal circumstances,
to every household in the parish.

THE BUGLE

Articles on any aspect of Boxgrove news - village or Priory-based - are always most welcome. In normal circumstances the Boxgrove Bugle is distributed **free of charge** to each household within the parish and published on-line, as well as being sent further afield and being available in the Priory for visitors and non-residents of the parish. Its print run exceeds 700 copies per month. Currently, however, it is possible only to publish on the [Priory website](#).

Items to be considered for publication should be sent to the [Editor](#) at her new address:: editor.boxgrovebugle@gmail.com. Submission is requested by the **15th day of each month**, please, for publication on or around the last Sunday of each month. Alternatively, items clearly marked "**Boxgrove Bugle**" may be left in the Vicarage postbox.

DATES 2020

NB: There is no Bugle in January or August

Issue Month	Copy Deadline	Publication Date
February	15 January	31 January
March	15 February	28 February

BUGLE ARTICLES AND CONTENT

Please contact Tina Thurlow - editor.boxgrovebugle@gmail.com

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**The Boxgrove Bugle
is published by
Boxgrove Priory Parochial Church Council**

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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?

BOXGROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council report - November



Yet again we held our last Meeting in November virtually using the Zoom platform attended by several members of the Public. If anyone wishes to attend a Meeting, to maybe ask a question or just simply observe, a call or email to our Clerk will give you the meeting joining details, the ID number and a passcode. It is really quite simple.

I received by hand a letter of resignation of yet another Parish Councillor. Malcolm Simpson, who we all remember as the proprietor of the Village Stores, is hoping to leave the Village upon the sale of their house and felt that it would be better to leave the Parish Council now rather than when a sale arose. Malcolm and Leslie have been a tremendous asset to our Community, particularly when there has been a crisis. They were very much involved in an Emergency Plan when we lost electric power on a couple of occasions in the past. Their knowledge of the vulnerable folk was immensely welcome. On behalf of the Parish Council, and for that matter the entire community, I wish them our very best wishes for the future wherever that may be. And a big thank you!

So, now we have two vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you feel you have the aptitude and the desire to do something for the Community in which you live and/or work, kindly contact the Clerk, Imogen Whittaker. clerk@boxgroveparishcouncil.gov.uk will reach her, or contact a Councillor.

The Boxgrove Community Highway Safety Scheme is complete now, and we have now received the necessary licence for a bench to be provided at the northern bus stop opposite the Almshouses. Also agreed is to install a handrail beside the slope down the bank on the west side of this crossing. It is deemed to be a little steep, and a handrail will be helpful. Another proposal is a bus shelter at this much improved bus stop.

The windmill and the picturesque walk up to it has become so popular since it was brought to the whole world's attention with photos in the National Press and the WSCC quarterly magazine, it has been inundated with visitors from all around the world. Some never even had a grasp of the English language. Recently it has been usual to see in excess of twenty-five vehicles parked around the access park, along the roadside, on verges and in the Anglesey Arms pub car park as well as the well advertised Village Hall car park. It is remarkable! However, moves are afoot to in some way improve this situation and make it safer. Currently it is a far from satisfactory situation.

The current Corona Virus lockdown has caused added inconvenience for many people, and I sincerely hope these latest restrictions turn things around. In the meantime, please support our local shop and businesses in Chichester. Even the Farmers Market is able to take place in the Cattle Market at present.

Whatever you do, do it safely and stay well.

Henry Potter
Chairman of the Parish Council

THE OPTIMISTIC GARDENER

High Trees - No.39

Christmas ~ *potted, pickled and pretty!*

That time has come again - the time when I shout at the radio for mentioning the C word before I have put away my summer wardrobe! I have written in the past about using the garden to decorate the house at Christmas, but why stop there? The garden is a great source of ingredients for making presents.

With the amount of time that those of us in permanent lockdown (also known as retirement) have, there is no excuse for buying gifts. And many more people this year could well find they have time on their hands - not always wanted, I grant you. So this year why not make some presents, save some money and donate it to a worthy charity? I intend to split my savings between the local homeless shelter and a food bank.

So here are my suggestions. It may well be too late for you to try some of these but there is always next year.

Something anyone can do is to **buy some bulbs and plant them up** in late September; pop them into classy pots so that they are in bud by Christmas. There are the traditional hyacinths which are fairly reliable - but a bit boring! I prefer something rather more exotic like Hippeastrum (amaryllis), which come in all shapes and sizes. The very easiest bulbs to use are Narcissus: 'Paper White' or 'Tête-à-Tête' are good. The Paper Whites are not hardy but can be left in their pots for next year; Tête-à-Tête can be planted outside after flowering and will reliably show their cheery faces year after year.



*Hippeastrum
'Christmas Star'*



Narcissus 'Tête-a-Tête'



Narcissus 'Paper White'

/continued ...



*Boomerangs are Australia's biggest export.
They are also their biggest import.*



Hampers

Those of you who spend the long winter evenings reading cookery books and watching TV chefs or The Bake Off may well have already produced the makings of a very welcome gift for friends or family this Christmas. I'm talking about all those preserves in your cupboards making the shelves groan.



Just take a few of these and pop them into a basket (shoe box decorated with wrapping paper/Amazon box with shredded paper from your office shreadings, etc, etc) and Bob's-your-uncle! A delightful gift for someone who would rather have their toenails pulled out with tweezers than stand over a hot stove stirring jam. As you may well realise, I never throw anything away so have countless old baskets in the wardrobe which act like boomerangs. I give them to someone full of goodies and the basket always returns - empty, of course.



For someone really special you can always add a bottle of sloe gin made earlier in the year or even the previous year (if it has lasted that long). Some years I have had a glut of rather small peaches on my tree in the greenhouse and have dowsed them in brandy to give added value. Another rather delicious addition to the hamper! I think it makes it that bit more special if you have some sparkly shreadings in the bottom of the basket, some cellophane to wrap it with, and top it off with a fancy ribbon.

/continued ...

If like me, you **collect seed** from your garden to re-sow next year, then you may find you have more than you really need. This is always the case with me - my second fridge is rapidly morphing from being a drinks fridge to a seed repository, currently with six plastic Tupperware containers full of seeds, some which date back to the beginning of the century!



However it is always possible to decorate a sturdy envelope with labels created on the computer and very quickly make something which looks half-way-decent. My nephew is developing his vegetable garden at the moment (the mattock-wielder for those of you who were reading last month's article very carefully!) and last year I made up several seed packets for him. My favourite was the Runner Bean packet sporting this figure.

I'm easily pleased!

Christmas table arrangements

My friend, Sue, is one of those people who can throw a few flowers at a vase and it instantly becomes something from Homes and Gardens. I, on the other hand, have to work very hard to make something which you would want to sit looking at for a couple of hours on your Christmas board. However with the right materials it is perfectly possible to create a table arrangement, and actually once they all tuck into the Turkey and are onto their second glass of the fizz who cares?

Cones and seed heads are easily available and can even look festive with a squirt of the gold spray and nestling among a long stem of ivy leaves or a few prunings from the bottom of your chosen Christmas tree. And of course a candle or two adds to the festive feel. I freely admit that you may have a bit of a problem wrapping this sort of gift, but why not give it as an Advent present?



In the past I have grown flowers which are possible to dry and use them to make small arrangements. Plants such as Statice, Helichrysum and the seed heads of Nigella will all last for months, even years, in an arrangement, though they do have a habit of gathering dust and becoming brittle after a few years of neglectful housekeeping.

Any beekeepers amongst you will know the joys of **candle making!** Those hours straining the cappings to purify the wax and the number of pans and other receptacles ruined by melting the wax in. A word of advice - always ask your partner before consigning the best Le Creuset casserole dish to the job; it will never again be able to produce the perfect Boeuf Bourguignon!

/continued ...

It is my intention this year to spend many happy hours in the bee shed ruining a few old pans. Having swapped the old gas cooker for an induction hob relatively recently I have plenty of old pans going spare! I have a small portable electric ring on which to place my Bain Marie and some moulds bought in the past. You can also use interesting plastic containers as moulds, or buy night-light containers to fill. So ask me again in January as to whether my 2020 Christmas gifts were appreciated!

Well I am sure Uncle Bob will be happy!

Janet Reeves



<p>BOXGROVE</p>  <p>VILLAGE STORES & CAFE</p>	<p>We know that some of you are not able to leave home at the moment to shop for essential items, so we are offering a home delivery service to residents of Boxgrove and local villages.</p> <p>Minimum order is just £5 to qualify for free delivery. Please call for full details of our delivery areas.</p>
<p>Call 01243 773201 during our opening hours (Monday-Friday 7.30-5.30; Saturday 8.00-5.00; Sunday 8.00-2.00) to order fresh fruit and vegetables, groceries, deli goods, bakery and dairy items, cakes and home baked goods and cleaning products.</p> <p>We have daily deliveries of fresh produce and groceries so we will do our very best to fulfil your order, but some items may be subject to availability.</p> <p>Payment will be taken by card over the phone and we'll advise you of an approximate time for delivery by one of our team or a friendly local volunteer.</p> <p>Please call us if we can help - we look forward to being of service.</p>	



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

with many thanks to Pippa Nott

Priory Carols Mulled Wine

Makes about 1.4 litres (2½ pts)

- 1 litre (2pts) Claret (dry red wine)
- Rind of 1 orange and 1 lemon
- 12-16 lumps of sugar
- 5ml (1 level tsp) ground cinnamon and ground nutmeg mixed
- 2 bay leaves
- 300ml (½ pt) brandy

Heat all together, then enjoy!



BOXGROVE & HALNAKER TRAFFIC CALMING GROUP UPDATE

Boxgrove Parish Council - <https://www.boxgrovepc.org/>

After more than six weeks of hard work by the team from Landbuild, the Boxgrove Community Highway Scheme is complete. The scheme is targeted at improving accessibility and safety for all villagers and visitors. It also provides stimuli to motorists to moderate their speeds through the village. Below are some photos of the key parts of the works.



A new, wider cycle and pedestrian pathway with dropped kerb at the southern end of The Street to access the A27 flyover

An all new pedestrian crossing point and path to the bus stop at Priory Close



New, defined parking bays outside the village shop



An all new roundabout at the intersection of Crouch Cross Lane and The Street



TRAFFIC CALMING GROUP UPDATE continued



A much improved pedestrian crossing point and bus stop standing area at the Alms Houses



A redesigned northern crossing point to Halnaker, the Clinic and the Windmill Trail, with new easy access into the public car park at the village hall.



Other news: The installation of the **Halnaker village gates** on the A285 have again been delayed by COVID with Balfour Beatty taking the decision to delay installation until after the second lockdown period.

The Traffic Calming Group and Parish Council met recently with WSCC Highways to further progress the **Halnaker Community Highway Scheme** with particular focus on the Halnaker Windmill parking area. Subject to WSCC budget availability, the approved scheme is scheduled for delivery in 2021/22, however budgets are under enormous pressure at this difficult time. We should hear our fate soon.

POST SCRIPT

Men of valour in our churchyard

In an article in the October Bugle, I mentioned four graves which are clustered together at the eastern edge of the churchyard, all of which are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). However the CWGC website reveals that there are **five** such graves, the fifth being that of **Driver Albert George Blunden**, who died during the First World War. His service number was T4/262554 and he was the son of JW and EJ Blunden of Halnaker.



This omission was noticed by reader Ivan Blunden of Bognor Regis, who wrote as follows:

"I was interested in the article about the young men who lost their lives serving this country of ours ... and I am wondering if you are aware of another CWG in Boxgrove Churchyard, that of Albert George Blunden, a Driver with the Army Service Corps, who died on 10th June 1917 aged 20 in the Military Hospital, Kings Heath, Birmingham. He was my Uncle Bert, the brother of my Father. As far as I am aware he died of T.B. contracted whilst in the trenches in France/Belgium. His grave is up towards the ruins on the right and now is easily recognised as the cross on the grave has recently been repaired and stands quite white against the greenery. Alongside his grave is the grave of his two young brothers who both died at birth. His grave is about two or three yards from both of his Grandparents, William & Jane Collins and Charles & Elizabeth Blunden."

I was especially pleased to be given directions to his grave as I had looked for it unsuccessfully, whilst finding several other Blundens. [Its design, which differs from the standard Commonwealth War Grave, indicates that it was paid for by his family.](#) This is the only CWG of a parishioner, part of a well-known local family who ran the coal yard at Halnaker, recently redeveloped for housing.

The CWG website also answered some of the questions posed in the October article.

Sapper J A Paterson was Joseph Andrew, of the 30th Surrey anti-aircraft Battalion, the Royal Engineers.

Corporal Edward Thomas Roberts was in the Second Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment, not the first as I supposed. The Second Battalion was in India at the outbreak of war, returning to the UK in 1940 when Thomas died. He was the son of John Edward and Annie Elizabeth Roberts of Becontree, Essex.

/continued ...

~ ~ o o ~ ~



*If a man opens the car door for his wife,
it's either a new wife or a new car*

Francis Rentoul

Private Jack Ralph Tunks was the son of William and Eva Tunks of Chichester; that is why he's here.

Ivan Blunden continued:

"It is good to see that the name of Billy Fiske will live on with the naming of the Billy Fiske Close. I wrote to The Parish Council asking if it was possible to name the road up to the old coal yard at Halnaker as Blundens Way after my Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather who ran the Coal business on that site. I think I have been successful there. Perhaps the names from the other CWGs could be adopted onto new roads/Closes in the future."

If there is further development of Boxgrove or Halnaker, I think that is an excellent idea.

My thanks to Ivan Blunden and Richard Chevis for their interest and help.

Sue Organ



THE COVID CROSSWORD

Solution to last month's puzzle

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A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel. They were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories and after about an hour the manager came out of the office and asked them to move through to the lounge.

"But why?", they asked, as they moved off. "Because", he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

LATEST NEWS FROM ST WILFRID'S DECEMBER 2020

Walton Lane, Bosham, PO18 8QB
Tel 01243 775302 www.stwh.co.uk



This Christmas will be, for many, very different from all others. For St Wilfrid's, it is a time when our compassionate care and companionship is a gift gratefully received by patients and their loved ones as they face an uncertain festive season.

This Christmas we will be supporting over 330 patients and their families, and by the New Year we will have handed over 900 referrals in 2020 alone. Our staff strive to combat these anxious times with humour, humility and humanity. The PPE might cover our smiles, but we are all keen to show patients and each other, our smiling, empathetic and compassionate best selves as ever.

This time of year is still a special one for making memories and St Wilfrid's will continue to serve throughout the festive season, ensuring local people facing life limiting illness can share more precious moments with loved ones.

From the St Wilfrid's Hospice family to yours, Merry Christmas.

For our full range of festive fundraisers you can take part in, visit stwh.co.uk/Christmas.

Brilliant Night In

Sip, savour and support us this Christmas with a gintastic night in with Brilliant Gin. Supporters purchasing gin from www.brilliantgin.co.uk can select 'DONATE' at the till which will gift St Wilfrid's a 15% donation from the gin company from every bottle sold. Then download our FREE activity pack - includes tasting notes, canapes recipes and a quiz for those who wish to host a virtual fundraiser at stwh.co.uk/brilliantgin.



Recycling Christmas Trees

The simplest, greenest and most charitable way to recycle your Christmas tree this year is to get involved in St Wilfrid's Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme. Let St Wilfrid's wonderful team of volunteers collect your tree and ethically dispose of it for you from 6th January 2021 in return for a donation to the Hospice.

Breathe Well, Live Well

The full series of podcasts is now available, with each offering tips and techniques to enable you to learn from home how to better cope with breathlessness and other respiratory issues. stwh.co.uk/breathewell.



Light up a Life 2020

Our traditional annual remembrance event held on Sunday 6th December at 6pm. Join us for an evening with readings on Facebook @stwilfridschichester and via our YouTube Channel.



Sustainable shopping/ Secret Santa

Our retail shops and ebay store have a grotto-full of pre-loved treasure for socially responsible secret Santas to shop sustainably. Festive ranges are being added weekly, with a dozen Xmas card designs available now. Search 'St Wilfrid's' on Ebay to find us!



Celebration Tree

Celebrate a loved one or a special anniversary by selecting a leaf to be specially inscribed on the Hospice Celebration Tree.

Visit the [Hospice website](https://stwh.co.uk/) for other ideas to help at this special season: <https://stwh.co.uk/>



BOXGROVE & TANGMERE JULIAN GROUP

The Group meets on the second Monday of each month at 3.15pm at The Priory Church of St Mary & St Blaise, Boxgrove. Notices confirming details of venues are placed on the church notice board (pending Government guidance re easing of Lockdown, Social Distancing and possible meeting venues).

If, due to uncertainty, we are unable to meet, perhaps you could use the time to read the Psalm. The theme for each monthly meeting is as follows:

14 Dec	Psalm 8, v 1 'O Lord our governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world' (BCP)	Location to be advised - Boxgrove
11 Jan	Psalm 121, v 1-3 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills ...' (BCP)	Location to be advised - Boxgrove
8 Feb	Psalm 103, v 1-4 'Praise the Lord, O my soul' (BCP)	Location to be advised - Boxgrove
8 Mar	Psalm 40, v 1-4 'I waited patiently for the Lord' (BCP)	Location to be advised - Boxgrove
12 Apr	Psalm 95, v 1-7 'Come let us sing unto the Lord ...' (BCP)	Location to be advised - Boxgrove
10 May	Isaiah 40, v 31 (8 th century BCE) 'But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength'	Location to be advised - Boxgrove
14 June	Psalm 150, v 1-6 'O praise the Lord in his Holiness' (BCP)	Location to be advised - Boxgrove

Trust, the Highest Prayer

Julian of Norwich ~ 'Enfolded in Love' series edited by Robert Llewelyn

Why you should consider broadband speeds when moving to West Sussex

By Jennifer Hancock, Director at Property Acquisitions



The need for fast broadband has never been more important than it is now, with Covid-19 not only forcing many of us to work from home, but also fuelling many Londoners to leave urban life for a rural one in their quest for more space, privacy and a better quality of life. Villages in and around Petersfield, Midhurst, Chichester and Arundel, as well as the towns themselves, have undoubtedly been one of their sought after locations.

However, with infrastructure not quite so up to date in the countryside compared to the city, broadband speeds can seem a little

slower in some locations, so it's good to be prepared before you move.

According to a recent article in *Sunday Times Home*, fast broadband is now the 'fourth' utility, on par with water, gas and electricity in terms of importance to property buyers, with 64% of people saying they would be put off buying a home with slow wifi.

Ofcom defines anything at or above 30 Mbps as superfast, whilst speeds above 300 Mbps as ultrafast. West Sussex has varying speeds dependent on various factors, but a report released last year by Ofcom revealed that the average download speed for this pretty county is around 43.2Mbps - just shy of England's total average speed of 43.6Mbps. This means it's pretty good. Whilst [broadbandchoices.co.uk](https://www.broadbandchoices.co.uk) - an online company who can show you the best broadband deals from all the top providers - claim that West Sussex can actually optimum download speeds of 362Mbps. Although bear in mind, not everybody will be able to access those sorts of speeds.

I was heavily reliant on fast broadband during lockdown in order to keep in touch with my property buyers, and living in West Lavant our internet speeds are pretty good. However, it's not just businesses that the internet is used for. Everybody of all ages rely on it now. Listening to songs on Spotify, using smart devices to turn lights on and off, completing the latest console game online with friends, streaming programmes and films on Netflix, hosting Zoom meetings with clients or even revising for GCSE's or A-levels online are just a few examples ... That's mobile phones, tablets, computers, Alexas,, PlayStation and so on all using the internet in some way. Therefore, it's of no surprise how quickly these sorts of activities can absorb all of your broadband in a household, cutting speeds down substantially. Luckily, our house is adequately set up, but many of our friends and family aren't so lucky ...

/continued ...

So what are your options if you find your dream house in West Sussex, but find the broadband isn't so dreamy?



Don't panic. The good news is that West Sussex County Council announced earlier this year that they have approved a £20million fund to support their new 'Full Fibre Programme', which aims to increase 'full fibre' and maximise coverage of gigabit-capable broadband services across the county. The £4 billion national scheme aims to target up to eight million business premises too across the UK, as part of efforts to get the whole country onto full-fibre broadband by 2025. As part of the initial stages of the scheme, areas such as Chichester, Littlehampton and Horsham are amongst the latest areas set to benefit as part of the project.

There are also a few things you can do to improve the situation. Mark Pocock, a home comms expert at broadbandchoices.co.uk, provides further guidance:

Know your speed

The first thing you need to do is test your internet speed with a speed checker. This will tell you how fast your internet connection really is. You can then use it again to test your speed when you've made your changes and see if there's any impact.

Secure your Wi-Fi

Make sure you put a password on your wifi and make sure it isn't easy to guess to avoid your neighbours taking advantage of your wifi and slowing you down. Your router may already have a password set, most providers will now automatically supply one, but there will be an option to switch it to something easier to remember and share with those you don't want to access it by going into your router settings.

Move your router

Contrary to what you might think, it is actually possible to Feng Shui a better signal. Whilst odds are we have all lifted our phones over our head in pursuit of better receptions, you are less likely to see people waving their router around. The rules are, it's better to have it higher up and away from anything that might interfere with the signal - think things like baby monitors and microwaves. Try not to surround it by metal objects, and - bizarre as it may sound - wifi can reflect, so keep them clear of mirrors and reflective surfaces. Thick walls are also a potential obstacle, with the denseness of the concrete itself and any steel joists having a potential signal sapping effect.

At [Property Acquisitions](#), we can include broadband analysis in our search reports if clients ask us to. A lot of the estate agents I work with actually have a telecoms team who can provide solutions for homes in broadband cold spots too, so most clients who do come across broadband issues can solve them pretty easily.

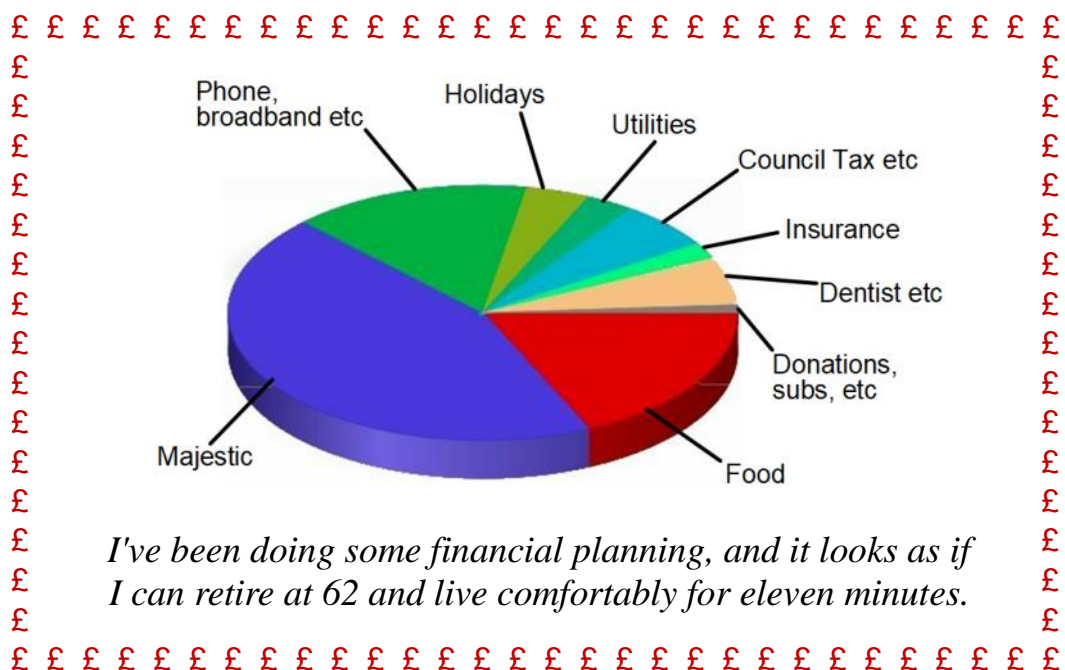
Meanwhile, if you're thinking about buying a brand new home, developers have already clocked onto this concept, especially for their more prestigious properties such as large detached mansions. You will probably find that most of these already have fibre optic

/continued ...

cables running directly into the house, and if not, they will be going into a cabinet somewhere on site.

Either way, the West Sussex government website has a pretty handy page [here](#) for inputting the postcode of a property to see whether fast broadband is available. Many villages have now improved their broadband speeds.

However, should your dream home's postcode not give you the answer you'd hoped for, there are many solutions, as explained in the article by Sunday Times Home - so don't let it put you off your house purchase. Options include Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), 4g Router, Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) and Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC), but if you're feeling rather flush then you can install a 4g mast! If you have a busy household, Sunday Times also recommend installing a second broadband line into the house, or try plugging your laptop or computer into the router with an Ethernet cable ...



A WARNING TO ALL DRIVERS IN BOXGROVE AND TANGMERE

Please be vigilant about drink driving over the Christmas period, as the police are out there checking. Last night I was out for a few drinks with friends and one drink led to another and I had a few too many. Not a good idea, and I knew I would be over the limit, so I decided to leave the car and took a bus. Sure enough, I passed a checkpoint the other side of Newgate Lane, where the police were randomly pulling over cars and breathalysing the drivers.

I definitely made the right decision, as the police waved the bus through the checkpoint and I arrived home safely and without incident - which was quite a surprise as I'd never driven a bus before and I'm not even sure where I got it from. Now it's parked outside Lidl and I don't know what to do with it ...

Merry Christmas - make it a safe one.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT

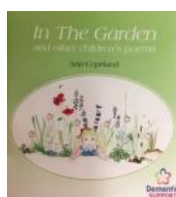


Vulnerable and older people living with dementia face real challenges this winter as the coronavirus pandemic continues. In response, local charity Dementia Support is now offering its services three different ways – by phone, online and, when possible, face to face at its dementia hub, Sage House in Tangmere near Chichester.



The charity's fundraising has been hard hit during the pandemic, whilst the number of people needing support has increased. To donate to Dementia Support's Christmas Appeal, please go to <https://www.dementia-support.org.uk/donate>. Donations received online between 12pm on 1 December and 12pm on 8 December will be doubled to fund desperately needed dementia services this winter.

Visit the [Dementia Support shop](#) for:



"In the Garden and other Children's Poems", by Ann Copeland: 32 pages of children's poems and illustrations, £10. All monies raised from the book comes to Dementia Support



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To find out more about dementia services, 'phone Dementia Support at Sage House on 01243 888691 or email info@dementia-support.org.uk.



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Join the national effort and sign up for the [NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry](https://nhs.uk/researchcontact). Be part of the fightback against the virus by volunteering to be contacted by researchers to take part in COVID-19 vaccine research.

There are a number of vaccines being identified, but only large-scale studies can give researchers the information needed about how effective they are.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is working with the NHS and aims to recruit as many people as possible onto the registry, which will allow people to be put in touch with the vaccine studies in the coming months.

Researchers are looking for people from all backgrounds, ages and parts of the UK - including both people with or without existing health conditions - to take part in vaccine studies, to make sure that any vaccines developed will work for everyone.

The service is available to anyone aged 18 or over, living in the UK. There is no obligation to join in any study, if you are contacted. But by taking part, you could help researchers find vaccines to protect us all more quickly - which in turn could help the NHS and save lives. [Sign up today!](https://nhs.uk/researchcontact)

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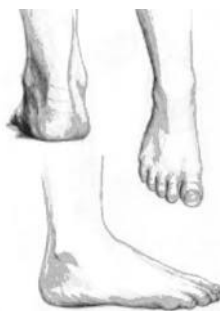
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