

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

FEBRUARY 2025



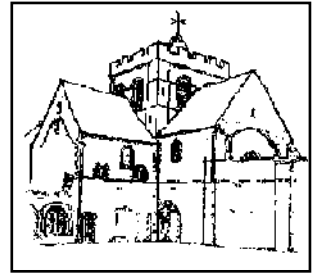
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Who's Who in Boxgrove

VICAR OF BOXGROVE

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PO18 0ED - 07758 281631 - revdianforrester@hotmail.com



HON. ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Fr Victor Cassam, 195 Oving Road, Chichester - 01243 783998
Fr Peter Bustin, 5 Chichester Drive, Tangmere, PO20 2FF - 07554 353785
Fr Norman Taylor, 22 Redford Way, Yapton BN18 0RF - 07778 713872
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CHURCHWARDENS

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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Claire Jones - 07798 851606

CATHEDRAL LINK

Mr Mike Beaman - 01903 367039 - beaman_mw@yahoo.co.uk

PRIORY AND ST BLAISE CENTRE Bookings & Enquiries

Mr Mark Peters - 07729 773277 - bookings@boxgrovepriory.co.uk

WSCC MEMBER FOR CHICHESTER NORTH

Mr Jeremy Hunt - 0330 2224536

CDC MEMBER FOR BOXGROVE WARD & CHAIRMAN, BOXGROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Henry Potter - 01243 527312

BOXGROVE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs Jacqui Dommett - 01243 773309 - head@boxgrove.w-sussex.sch.uk

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 12

From Father Ian



Within the season of Christmas, we keep the Epiphany festival, that remembrance of the way that Jesus was shown to the world. He was born, not just for the Jews, but for every nation.

The stories that recognise, proclaim, and manifest his identity are, of course, the arrival of the magi, the boy Jesus being found in the temple, his baptism, and the miracle at Cana, where water is changed into wine.

These things set the stage for the account of the way in which Jesus redeems mankind.

The many-layered story has enough to keep us learning year after year, as we follow the Church's calendar. There are few wasted words in the gospels, and in order to really understand them, I recommend using a biblical commentary, which help to prevent us getting stuck at what a former colleague of mine used to refer to as the 'Enid Blyton' level!

So why not go to St Olav's, or some other religious bookshop, and ask for a good bible commentary? It will be money and time well-spent.

Father Ian

Drawing to a close.....

On 4th March at 7.30pm, Fr Ian will talk a bit about his time at Boxgrove, and show videos and pictures from those years:

The priory before the restoration of 2009

Past worshippers etc

A gentle, mostly amusing, entertainment over a drink or two.

There will be a collection in aid of the priory.

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
March 2025	10th February	23rd February

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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(Registered Charity 1131214)**

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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.)



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



St Joseph's, Hunston Road, Chichester, PO20 1NP
Tel: 01243 537934 ~ Email: admin@stonepillow.org.uk
<https://stonepillow.org.uk/>

Please continue to leave any non-perishable food you can spare in our bin just inside the inner doors of the church. We welcome gifts, including furniture and electrical goods, at the Restore Shop in Terminus Road (Stonepillow Restore, Unit 3, Plot 27, Terminus Road, Chichester PO19 8UE; Tel: 01243 698547; restore@stonepillow.org.uk. We can collect larger items if needed.

We are also looking for volunteers who don't mind getting stuck in and sorting our donations; this will enable us to make the best use of them. So many people have so much experience which would be very welcome ...!



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

FEBRUARY

1	Sat	Saint Brigid, Virgin	The Sick & Suffering
2	SUN THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST		Parish and people
3	Mon	SAINT BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR, PATRON	Better learning from the saints
4	Tue	Feria	World peace
5	Wed	Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr	Those in hospital or hospice
6	Thu	Saint Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs	Boldness in Faith
7	Fri	Feria (Monthly Requiem)	The Departed
8	Sat	Saint Cuthman of Steyning, Hermit	Faith even in adversity
9	SUN ext sol of SAINT BLAISE		Parish and people
10	Mon	Saint Scholastica, Virgin	Religious communities
11	Tue	Feria	The sick
12	Wed	Feria	Those preparing for Confirmation
13	Thu	Feria	An end to racism
14	Fri	SS Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop	Christians in Eastern Europe
15	Sat	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
16	SUN THE 3RD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT		Parish and people
17	Mon	Janani Luwum, Bishop and Martyr	Greater courage in our faith
18	Tue	Feria	
19	Wed	Feria	The Catholic Societies
20	Thu	Feria	Penitents
21	Fri	Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor	Service to others
22	Sat	The Chair of Saint Peter	Christian unity
23	SUN THE 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT		Parish and People
24	Mon	Feria	Oncologists
25	Tue	Feria	The terminally ill
26	Wed	Feria	Atheists
27	Thu	Feria	Those who hear confessions
28	Fri	Feria	Counsellors

Please note:

ST BLAISE MASS is on SUNDAY 9th February at 10.30 a.m. (with the Blessing of Throats)

Boxgrove Priory



ST BLAISE FAIR

Hot refreshments
Fishbourne Mill Morris

Stalls include a raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac, homemade produce, jewellery, local honey and more!

**FREE
ENTRY**



8th Feb 2025
12:00-2:00pm



Boxgrove Priory,
Boxgrove
PO18 0EE

Registered Charity No. 1131214



BOXGROVE PARISH COUNCIL

From the Parish Council, January 2025



The Council met for its first meeting of the new year on January 6th and it was pleasing to see several fresh faces attending. We encourage and welcome members of the Parish to attend and there is always the opportunity to ask questions of the Council.

Cllr. Raikes introduced some slightly more encouraging news regarding the Crockerhill situation. I met with Paul Thompson, from our CDC Environmental Health department, to review the issues there along with Mr Olley the owner of the currently closed Winterton Arms PH. We were told that the BER (beyond economical repair) coaches which have been parked there for some months now are to be moved and different management arrangements are being put in place. Hopefully this should improve matters for the residents of this little hamlet within the Parish.

A request for funding towards the addition of an extra hall at the Village School, essentially for dining purposes, was discussed but the remaining CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Funds which the Council hold are allocated for other purposes. However, £16,000+ is earmarked towards the cost of finishing off the extension to the Sports Pavilion, remember the foundations and all drainage work is done and under the cover of the decking, so it awaits some serious fund raising by the users, the Cricket and Football associates, to complete the extension. In the meantime we shall reconsider if this held, ring fenced money could be used elsewhere. Other money, about £6,000 is sitting waiting for the Sports Clubs to match it and purchase a new gang mower. The existing mower needs too much doing to it making repairs unviable. Our Clerk is investigating alternative use of these funds, they have been sitting in the Councils coffers for some time now.

I was very disappointed to learn that all of the edges of the fields to the rear of the Priory and the ruins have been severely 'topped' presumably to recover additional useable arable land. Sadly three trees which had been planted in the corner immediately to the east of the graveyard, are no longer. I always thought this triangle of land was impossible to cultivate and had been left to grow wild but no, it suffered, and the saplings are chopped up. I wonder if this was entirely necessary.

It was decided to instruct an arboriculturist to carry out a risk assessment of the trees surrounding the Playing field. These trees are the responsibility of the Council and a regular check is necessary to ensure safety.

At a recent CDC Development and Infrastructure Plan Panel Meeting, Sussex Police have applied for funding, from CDC held CIL monies, for £117,000 to install 13 Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras at several locations throughout the District. And one of these is scheduled to be on the A285 in Halnaker. These cameras are proven to be a big help in tackling the movement of criminals and, of course, speeding vehicles, so I see this as a positive request. The DIPP recommended the release of this CIL money, and I'm sure the Full Council will support this recommendation at its next meeting later in January; so when the precise sites are chosen, presumably they can be installed forthwith.

Final preparations for the Open Day to be held in the Community Hall on January 18th were highlighted by Mr. David Leah; full details of our revised Neighbourhood Plan will be showcased with a last chance to comment on its content. The hedge along the eastern side of the VH Car Park has once again been cut back and a very neat, tidy finish as a result.

It was suggested by the Chairman, and agreed by Members, that each month a different Council Member will produce a contribution from the PC for the Bugle. We have Members from all corners of the Parish so a more 'localised' input may be better appreciated.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Monday 3rd February and there will be a presentation on Future Energy Landscape by 'Energise Southdowns'.

Henry Potter
Chairman of the Council.

	<p><u>CHICHESTER LIBRARY</u> Tower Street, Chichester Telephone 01243 777351 (Renewals 01243 642110)</p> <p>OPENING HOURS Monday-Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday - closed</p> <p>Please check opening hours before visiting</p>
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Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan team would like to thank everyone who attended the Open Meeting last Saturday for attending and engaging with the consultation process.

We would also like to thank all the contributors, without whom the event could not have happened.

A total of 142 residents from across the Parish attended the meeting.

Everyone attending was asked to complete a questionnaire about the policies included in the plan and especially about the housing sites proposed. We will collate these over the coming weeks and give feedback about the answers.

This meeting was part of the official consultation that the plan needs. Additionally, the views of the statutory consultees are also being sought over the next six weeks. Once these are received, we will have to modify the plan accordingly and resubmit it later in the year.

For anyone who did not attend the meeting all the documents and the questionnaire are now online, and we encourage anyone who wishes to, to participate by doing so. The following link and QR code can be found below.

David Leah
Chair of Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan Team

20 January 2025

<https://boxgroveparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/our-neighbourhood-plan/>





MAY 28- JUNE 1ST

Brides AT BOXGROVE

WEDDING EXHIBITION EVENT

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

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

Amici Concerts

Classical music series at Boxgrove Priory

12th February - Cellophonics with Ben Rogerson

5th March - String Dimensions trio with Bogdan Vacarescu

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 facebook.com/amiciconcerts @amiciconcerts



Hello from the Hall!

Happy new year!

Even though the festive season feels like a distant memory now.. we hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy start to the New Year.

Here at the hall we're ready for a new year of community activity and have already welcomed some new regular users to the hall, alongside our existing ones.

If you're looking to join a group or new activity then do visit our website: www.boxgrovevillagehall.co.uk or Facebook page to find out more!

Some dates for your diary, at the Village Hall, this year:

Summer Fayre - Saturday 7th June.

MacMillan coffee morning - Friday 26th September.

Christmas in Boxgrove - Sunday 23rd November.

We are always looking for volunteers at our events, so if you'd like to be involved, please get in touch at:

community@boxgrovevillagehall.co.uk.

Until next time....!

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

Can you spare a couple of hours?

Since moving to Chichester I have been volunteering for breakfast duties at St. Pancras Hall where a hot breakfast is provided every morning for some of the most vulnerable in the City. This is a service provided by local churches.

At least 3 volunteers are required every morning,: one to cook, one to take food orders and one to serve hot drinks. If a fourth person is available they chat to the guests. I really enjoy my sessions at St.Pancras as there is time to get to know the guests by name and learn a little about their lives.

Volunteers are always needed with some doing an occasional morning, while others take a regular morning as I do. During winter mornings, volunteers arrive at 8.15 and normally finish by 10.30. Summer is a bit later.

No special training is required and a trial session is available for anyone interested in helping.

If you would like further information then please chat with me or contact the Administrator, Becky Hadow at Chichester HEART for Homeless whose e-mail address is :- becky@heartchichester.church

Sue Jones



A further update from Mark Peters about Ride & Stride results

As mentioned in my previous post about the 2024 Ride & Stride event, unfortunately I was unable to recover from my elbow injury quickly enough to commit to any form of noteworthy ride last year.

*Despite this, we still managed to raise a significant **£180**, (£90 of which will come back directly to the Priory) for this good cause, raising much needed funds for church repairs via the Sussex Historic Churches Trust.*

I would like to thank all those that still supported me, despite this being a non-event. We will however be bouncing back for 2025!

*Many thanks,
Mark Peters*

NEWS FROM THE BOXGROVE BELLES

“To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, “To lose one speaker may be regarded as a misfortune, to lose two looks like carelessness.” The first had double-booked and the second lost her voice the morning of our meeting. We were not daunted and soon had an entertainment programme planned - a short Christmas Quiz followed by “The Nativity Play”, a monologue written by the inimitable Joyce Grenfell and performed by one of our members, followed by some Christmassy poems. Then, in true Pantomime tradition, a rendition of “Nobody Loves a Fairy When She’s Forty” was enjoyed by all. A wonderful tea followed and we all went home in a happy, Christmas mood.

Our January Meeting was “An Introduction to Petworth House”. It was fascinating to hear about the Percy family’s troubled history and the way Petworth House grew from a small medieval Manor House, built in 1150 AD to the Baroque Palace we see today. In 1067 the de Percy’s were given Petworth along with huge tracts of Northumberland and the Borders. Our speaker, Jill Westlake, skipped over Earls 1 to 7, saying they were warlike barons most of whom died in battle. However, when we get to the 8th Earl of Northumberland things start to get interesting. He was a staunch Catholic in the reign of Elizabeth 1st who involved himself in many plots to get Mary Queen of Scots installed on the English throne. Needless to say he spent a lot of time in the Tower of London! A mystery surrounds his death as he was found dead of gunshot wounds in a locked room in the Tower. Was he murdered or did he die by his own hand?

The 9th Earl loved spending money, and he had lots of it to spend. So, Queen Elizabeth ordered him to settle down and get married. His chosen spouse was a Devereaux. This Earl, too, was accused of plotting against the monarchy. On 4th November 1605 he had dinner with one Thomas Percy, a relative, at Syon House (another in the Northumberland Portfolio). The next day, while the 9th Earl went to the Houses of Parliament, down in the underground tunnels, Thomas Percy was arrested along with Guy Fawkes. Lord Cecil, the King’s Spymaster, accused the 9th Earl of being implicated in the plot. It’s unlikely he was as he, too, would have been blown sky-high had the plot succeeded. Nevertheless, he was incarcerated in the Tower of London for 16 years. Being of the aristocracy he didn’t exactly slum it. He had a suite of rooms including a library and a room where he could carry out scientific experiments. He had an array of servants and a tutor for his son, who was educated in the Tower. He was finally released and put under house arrest at Petworth. He was now able to indulge his passion for horses and built a huge range of stables at Petworth. The Earl enjoyed racing horses and had a lodge built at a little place called Goodwood.

Percy’s son, Algernon, the 10th Earl managed to emerge from the Civil War with his head intact along with his fortune. In spite of being a Catholic he became a Parliamentarian as he was opposed to Charles 1st’s political views. He was thus able to bequeath his huge fortune and lands to his son, another Algernon, and 11th Earl. Sadly the Earl and his wife died young, leaving their only child, a girl of 3 years old, an orphan. She was married at the age of 12 and was widowed twice before the age of 16!! She finally married into the Seymour family at 16. He brought the aristocratic title, she the wealth. It was this pair who rebuilt the Manor House into the Baroque Palace you see today and commissioned master craftsmen, like Grinling Gibbons to embellish the house.

We then moved on to the next family who married into Percy dynasty, the Egremonts, the Third Earl in particular. He was a notable supporter of British Art and especially the work of JMW Turner. There are a number of Turner's paintings in Petworth House, some specially commissioned by the Earl. An exhibition of Turner's work will start on 21st June this year at Petworth House, entitled 'Turner's Vision'.

The house is now in the hands of the National Trust, although the Egremont family still live at Petworth House.

We had a lively discussion about where we should go on our Fifth Wednesday Outings. If there's a Fifth Wednesday in the month we like to go somewhere interesting. At the end of January a group of us will be going to see Martin Shaw in 'A Man for All Seasons' at the Chichester Festival Theatre and in April it was decided we would have a tour of the Coffee Roasters at Westhampnett in the morning followed by a visit to Petworth House, of course, in the afternoon.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the St Blaise Centre beside the Church. Our meetings start at 2pm and last approx. 1 1/2 hours. If you would prefer to make contact beforehand, please either email boxgrovelles@gmail.com or ring Wendy on 07947946538.

Caroline Cooper



Please remember - if you have any unwanted sewing machines, carpentry, garden or engineering tools, Tim Pullan and Malcolm Knight collect such items for 'Tools with a Mission' and 'Tools for Self-Reliance' respectively to be despatched to Africa to help families and individuals to start or expand their business.

Tim Pullan 01243 532065

Malcolm Knight 07722 115212

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Mob: 07388 045326

Petworth House & Park News for February



Petworth House and Park, Church Street, Petworth, GU28 0AE Details at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth>

Free Laser Light Show & Community Day Saturday 15th February

Two colourful laser light shows will be coming to Petworth House for the first time thanks to a collaboration between Chichester District Council and The National Trust designed to bring a new and free experience to the local community.

The free shows - each lasting approximately 20 minutes - will kick off February half term, taking place on Saturday 15 February at 5.30pm and 6.45pm. The beautiful Petworth House will be lit up with lasers, with music synchronised to the lights.

During the day, Petworth House will be open for free from 10.30am until 3.30pm. From 12noon until 4.30pm there will be a special workshop in The Battery House where children will be able to make a paper lantern to take to the shows. In addition, there will also be live music in The Courtyard from local musicians, with performances running 3.30pm – 5.15pm and 6pm – 6.30pm plus local vendors providing food and drink.

The music and lasers are being provided by Showmen Events based in Chichester and are being funded using grants from the UK Government secured by Chichester District Council.

Little Antlers

Join us for hands-on fun with Wild Wednesdays, and Story Time sessions for pre-schoolers at Petworth.

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 February, 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 February, 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.



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



World Glaucoma Week Highlights the Importance of Eye Health Checks

The recent success of Chris McCausland in 2024's *Strictly Come Dancing* has raised awareness of the challenges faced by those living with sight loss, and should remind us all of the importance of attending regular eye health checks. From 9th to 15th March 2025, World Glaucoma Week focuses once again on reminding us, our family and friends to pop a date in the diary for an eye health check-up: this vital check can detect a number of conditions and prevent avoidable sight loss.

4Sight Vision Support is supporting World Glaucoma Week, a global initiative organized by the World Glaucoma Association with the aim of alerting everyone to have regular eye and optic nerve checks to detect glaucoma as early as possible. It is a chronic, progressive, degenerative disorder of the optic nerve that produces characteristic visual field damage and the second cause of blindness, and importantly, it is irreversible. In its early stages, it is asymptomatic and if untreated, it may progress to blindness. 4Sight Vision Support provides support and specialist information to blind and sight impaired residents throughout West Sussex, including many people living with glaucoma. In the case of glaucoma, with early treatment, the damage may be limited and sight may be saved.

4Sight Vision Support CEO Kirstie Thomas added, "We hope by raising awareness of glaucoma, it will encourage all of us to have a regular eye health check. Even those living with vision loss should continue to do so as checking for further changes in the eyes can help make the best use of remaining vision and prevent any unnecessary further sight loss."

To find out more about glaucoma and the importance of taking care of our sight call 01243 828555 or visit www.4sight.org.uk For more details about World Glaucoma Week visit <https://www.worldglaucomaweek.org/> In addition, please contact 4SVS if you'd like to find out more about our social and walking groups in your local area.

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 February 2025

Make a Will Fortnight

Getting your Will written is an incredibly important task as it protects your loved ones and the causes and possessions dearest to you. This March, local solicitors are kindly supporting St Wilfrid's to help the local community have their Will written, while supporting a great local cause. From March 10th to 21st, select solicitors are offering the local community to get their Wills written in support of St Wilfrid's. The participating solicitors ask that you redirect their usual Will writing fee as a donation to the Hospice, supporting the vital end-of-life care they provide across your community.

Book an appointment and have your Will written this March:

www.stwh.co.uk/mawf



Wedding Fair

The perfect wedding dress isn't always behind a large price tag!

This March 9th, St Wilfrid's Hospice are excited to be holding a wedding fair at Oakwood School, inviting the local community to discover beautiful wedding and bridesmaid dresses, suits and other accessories at affordable prices. You can pop into the fair anytime from 11am to 3pm, completely free, but we do ask that you make a suggested donation to St Wilfrid's, supporting the expert end-of-life care that we provide across the community.

www.stwh.co.uk/wedding-fair

Moonlight Walk

Join the Chichester event that makes a difference to local lives! On Saturday 14th June, St Wilfrid's is inviting the local community to gather together for an in-memory walk, raising vital funds for our Hospice services.

This event takes hundreds of walkers around Chichester, exploring familiar areas under the Moonlight and some special stops at the Guildhall in Priory Park and an exclusively lit Bishop Palace Gardens.

www.stwh.co.uk/moonlight



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

Here we come a-wassailing

Yesterday, as I was taking my not-quite-daily constitutional (well to be honest not-quite-weekly in the current rain-lashed weather), I cycled past Slindon's community orchard and noticed a large, rambling apple tree which was charmingly bedecked with colourful ribbons. I remembered that three days ago had been 17th January which is the date in the calendar to go a-wassailing!



The tradition of wassailing in orchards developed, in the cider-producing areas of England where various rites take place to bring about a good harvest for the coming year. It goes back to the pre-Gregorian calendar when "Old Twelvey Night" (as we yokels call it) was on 17th January. The idea is to wake up the cider apple trees and scare away evil spirits. What happens in different parts of the country may vary but they usually all have the same core elements. A wassail King and Queen lead the singing

wassailers from one orchard to the next, the wassail Queen is lifted up into the branches of an ancient tree where she will place toast soaked in cider as a gift to the tree spirits. An incantation is recited such as:

*Here'd to thee, old apple tree,
That blooms well, bears well.
Hats full, caps full,
Three bushel bags full,
An' all under one tree.
Hurrah! Hurrah!*

Then the wassailers bang drums and shout loudly making a terrible racket until one shoots a volley through the branches to complete the work.

Apparently 'wassail' comes from 'Waes hael!', the Anglo-Saxon greeting and toast which means 'Good Health!' So several years ago we decided that it would be propitious to have a go at wassailing our apple trees. I occasionally sing and play folk music with a group of musicians who particularly enjoy the music from Sussex and used to meet monthly at the Murrell Arms in Barnham. I invited them to join us after a session in the pub; session of singing of course - what else did you think? We

strolled through the streets of Barnham crooning suitable music - it's a wonder we weren't all arrested - and into our garden.

I crowned our wassail King and Queen (King Mike and Queen Emma - ring any bells?) with crowns constructed from lengths of ivy and decorated with various berries from the garden. We sang a wassail song and lifted Queen Emma to sit in the branches of the tree where she placed pieces of cider-soaked toast amongst the branches. King Mike poured a ring of cider around the tree then recited an incantation to the spirits of the place and the gathered throng echoed his words. Then, in want of anyone with a twelve bore, we set off a volley of party poppers amongst the boughs and the tree was beaten about the trunk with the sticks we were all carrying. This is possibly where we went wrong!



After the ceremony we celebrated by lots of quaffing of apple related goodies. There was mulled cider with mulled apple juice for careful drivers. I had baked some Handwarmer Pies - chestnut and apple pasties - and made some apple and mushroom soup. And of course the food in its unprocessed state could be munched. More singing finished the evening and as the wassailers disappeared over the horizon I was left with a warm glow, safe in the

knowledge that this year would be the best apple crop yet!

Despite all this attention, that was the year that my elderly Laxton's Advance tree - the one into which we had lifted our wassail queen - died! Well being the optimist I saw the demise of our oldest apple tree as an opportunity not a tragedy and we now have a wild flower area with wild daffodils, snowdrops and bluebells in the early part of the year and later on we will have wild flowers to attract the insects and the opportunity to carry out some scything practice.



Waes hael!

Janet Reeves



Top tips for buying a country home in 2025

As we kick off 2025, there is more stock to choose from compared to six months ago, but good quality village houses in West Sussex, Hampshire and the Surrey borders are still incredibly scarce.

Owners who might consider downsizing are doing the sums and with stamp duty so high, many are making the decision to stay put, so when one does come up for sale – on or off market – buyer competition is strong and professional representation is essential.

These are the key considerations for buyers making their move this year:

Prioritise location

The area you choose will have a lasting impact on the quality of life and the resale value of your home. Consider factors like traffic patterns, proximity to schools, shops, and public transport, and potential nuisances like farms or busy roads. Living next to a pig farm could lead to unpleasant odours during summer, while a property on a busy main road may disrupt your peace with constant commuter traffic.

Panic buying in the wrong location often leads to costly mistakes, with buyers needing to sell again within a few years – not something anyone wants to do with buying costs currently so high. Take the time to evaluate the area thoroughly, as hasty decisions can lead to overpaying or settling for a home that doesn't meet your needs.

Do multiple viewings

It is so important to view your prospective house more than once. A single viewing is not enough to make an informed decision. Visit the property at different times of day to assess traffic noise, lighting, and overall suitability. A house that seems perfect during the day might reveal issues like commuter traffic or insufficient natural light in the evenings. If you enjoy spending time outdoors, ensure the garden receives adequate sunlight during the hours you'd typically use it.

Multiple viewings help minimise the risk of buyer's remorse.

Research the property thoroughly

Whether working with a buying agent or going it alone, thorough research is vital. Frequent ownership changes could indicate underlying problems, such as noise issues, unpleasant neighbours, or structural concerns. Assess running costs, such as utilities and maintenance, and verify the availability of essential amenities like schools and shops.

Commuters should check the distance to the nearest station, and families should consider school catchment areas. Knowledge is power when making a significant investment.

Rent if needed in the interim

When you are ready to find your dream house, it may be necessary to consider renting for a short period. This allows time to wait for better opportunities, as spring often brings more properties to market when gardens are in full bloom. Renting can help you avoid overpaying or settling for a less-than-ideal home. Many desirable properties are sold off-market, so a buying agent can be instrumental in accessing these hidden gems.

Offer a delayed completion

Buyers and sellers alike often face challenges finding their next home, so offering a delayed completion can make your bid to purchase more appealing. This approach gives sellers the assurance of a secure exchange while allowing them time to find a new property. For buyers, it provides time to plan renovations, finalise financing or put planning permissions in place. A flexible timeline is especially beneficial for overseas buyers or those awaiting the sale of their current home.

Manage emotions

Falling in love with a home only to discover it's over budget can be disheartening, but staying level-headed will serve you well. Remember, property is a long-term investment. Focus on finding a home that meets your current and future needs rather than letting emotions drive your decisions.

By following these strategies and seeking professional advice, you can navigate the complexities of the 2025 housing market with confidence. The right approach will help you secure a home that's not only a sound investment but also a place you'll love for years to come.

Jennie Hancock

Director

Property Acquisitions Limited

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A scenic view of a coastal town, likely in West Sussex or Hampshire, featuring a prominent church spire and a boat on the water. The scene is reflected in the calm water, and a flock of birds is flying in the sky above the town.

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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.

February

Saturday 8 February **St Blaise Fair, 12 noon-2pm**
In aid of the Kwa Mkono Children's Hospital

12 February Cellophonics concert in the Priory; 7.30pm
Tickets £20 in advance or £25 on the door
<https://chichesterboxoffice.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873651146>
See ad on page 11

14 February-15 November Exhibition celebrating Chichester Cathedral as
part of Chichester 950 More info on other
events celebrating the 950 at
www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

17-21 February "Live like a Roman" half term event at Fishbourne
Roman Palace <https://www.sussexpast.co.uk/whats-on>

Advance Notice

4th March Boxgrove Priory, 7.30 p.m.
An illustrated talk by Fr Ian about his time at
Boxgrove

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).

4 February — Kaspars Mikuzis (piano)
11 February — Kyan Quartet (string quartet)
18 February— Reigate Winds
25 February— Charles Harrison (Organ recital)

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 10.30am 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.

***ST BLAISE MASS is on SUNDAY 9th February at 10.30 a.m.
(with the Blessing of Throats)***

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)

From the Registers

Funeral

Charles Paterson



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