

ARLINGTON SCENE

March 2021

No.457



Photo: Philippa Vine

Crocuses in 'Carolyn's' Garden at Bates Green



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Brimstone Butterfly by Michael Blencowe,
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This lockdown has certainly felt harder because of the winter. Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed the bleak beauty of the season: bare trees, frosted landscapes. But now I need something to get my heart racing. I need a sign – some hope in these challenging times, a promise of those dynamic spring months ahead, a flash of colour. In March my light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming butterfly.



On sculpted, vibrant yellow wings the brimstone butterfly makes his elegant entrance into the New Year on those bright March days when you feel the warmth of the sun on your face. Its distinctive yellow wings have given birth to a legend – that this 'butter-coloured fly' was the inspiration for the word butterfly. This claim may be a myth and it's also untrue that these March brimstones are the first signs of the year's new life. By the time brimstones appear in March they are already on their last (six) legs. Fresh brimstone butterflies emerged from their chrysalises in late summer, so by now they could be seven months old – and in butterfly years that's ancient. Admittedly, almost all of that time they've been asleep in a hedge, sheltered from the storms under holly and ivy. Yet despite the worst winter weather they always emerge immaculate in the spring. They must be made of Teflon. When they awake the (bright yellow) males search for a mate, they mate, the (pale yellow) females lay eggs and then both die. Still, an adult life of over ten months earns them the title of our longest-lived butterfly. An insect OAP.

The brimstone's caterpillars feed on the leaves of buckthorn and alder buckthorn, unobtrusive shrubs which, like the butterfly, are widespread across Sussex. When I first became the proud owner of a garden it was only a matter of days before I evicted the gnomes and planted an alder buckthorn. The following spring I was excited to watch a brimstone laying her tiny skittle shaped eggs and I studied the caterpillars as they hungrily defoliated my tree, content in the knowledge that I was doing my bit to raise the following year's brimstone brigade.

My first brimstone sighting each year doesn't exactly mean that spring is starting but it's certainly a sign that winter is starting to end. And, after the tough winter that we've all just suffered, that's good enough for me. Either way, this beautiful yellow butterfly is a welcome messenger of what's to come – the first sulphurous spark to ignite the blaze of spring. Let's hope that with the spring comes hope for a brighter year for us all.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, *Wildlife* magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join or over the phone on 01273 497532.

I seem to be gazing out of the kitchen window onto the garden more these days. I notice that nobody has told Nature that we are experiencing a global pandemic as the snowdrops, primroses and daffodils make their way into our world.

I have a bird table outside the window on which I place seeds, wholemeal breadcrumbs and scraps with a water bowl. Before the freezing temperatures, there were two robins from different directions who came to feed – politely taking it in turns to perch on the food container. As robins are notoriously territorial, this was quite remarkable. On the mornings when both food and water were frozen, my, how they argued, scrapped and fought each other. After I had replaced the water and defrosted the food, all was amicable – “after you”, “no, after you”. Moral – adversity leads to stress and selfish behaviour. Food and seeds freely available – peace and contentment.

On a recent beautiful spring day, my son mended a nest box that had fallen to the ground and broke the roof last winter. We hung it back on the crab apple tree and I said to him, ‘I will let you know if it gets used.’

Within half an hour we saw a bluetit checking it out (and in) and a minute later his mate arrived. “What do you think my dear, shall we take it? I have checked it over and it is a genuine henrymccutchan bluetitbox. What do you mean ‘cheap’! I know it has had a roof repair but it is alright now. Oh sorry dear, you said ‘cheep’ meaning you like it. It will be lovely surrounded by apple blossom and you will blossom when I worm my way into your affections. Just a joke dear, a play on words on our favourite food. It will be just the job to nestle up together and then bring up our little family – what do you think dear?” “Bluetit!”, she muttered as she popped through the made-to-measure hole, into the warm dry interior that she had, already, decided was what she wanted.

“What was that dear”, he said, as he hopped in after her.

Ah



2021 Arlington Scene subscriptions are due for renewal

As this is a digital issue we cannot attach the usual payment slip to your magazine, but please still send in your subscription, unless you have already done so, in which case, thank you.

If paying by cheque, please include your name and address (£12 pa for local delivery or £20 pa by post) and send to Arlington Scene, c/o Underwood Farm, Bayleys Lane, Wilmington, Polegate, Sussex. BN26 6RT – or use the form at the end of this issue.

If you prefer to pay by BACS, the details are sort code: 40-23-01, A/c 11446576, Arlington Village Hall Account, please quote your surname followed by 'AS SUB 2021'.

Thankyou: Mr A Appleton; Mr & Mrs P Appleton; Mrs C Armitage-Hinks; S Ashfield & C Murphy; Mr & Mrs B Calder; Mrs B Carr; Mr & Mrs R Chandler; Mrs J Church; Mrs R Collicot; Mrs K Colvin; Mr & Mrs R Craig; Mr & Mrs Daintree; Mrs P English; Mr & Mrs J Ireland; Mr J McCutchan; Mr & Mrs I Osborne; Lisette Petrie; Mr & Mrs Q Poulton; Val Ramsay; Mr & Mrs M Reed; Mr & Mrs D Simpson; Mr & Mrs L Skinner; Mr & Mrs P Stenning; Mr & Mrs S Thorpe; Mr & Mrs J Tipler; Mrs K Turner; Mr & Mrs S Vickery; Mr & Mrs M Vine Bates Green; Mr P & Mrs C Vine, Mr B Wise

Please note: Anyone who has paid by the BACS method recently may not see their name on this list until next month

My Favourite Footpath in Arlington Parish

The Parish of Arlington has a network of public rights of way, displayed by zooming in on the online map (Rights of Way large map (eastsussex.gov.uk) or reading the Ordnance Survey Explorer 123 map. Unlike Scotland, we do not have a right to roam over all the countryside unless it is a National Park, but we can admire the views from the public rights of way which makes them all the more valuable.

My favourite walk can be reached by following the Weald Way from Arlington. Next to the last house at High Barn, a stile leads you on to 'Arlington 8' footpath. From the second field, you can admire an extensive view to Lullington Heath on the South Downs. The third field takes you downhill with views of green fields and hedgerows with many Oak trees. In the distance the gentle curve of Mount Caburn is visible. Later on, Firlie Beacon comes into view. At Mount Pleasant you can see the High Weald to the north and the Downs to the south.

This right of way used to be a coach road. A house with a smallholding was situated here. One of my near neighbours used to walk to Chalvington church along this path. Four fields have never been ploughed, drained or chemically fertilised and the unimproved grassland is home to several uncommon plant species. Foxes have made narrow paths and I have seen Roe Deer leaping across these meadows. In April and May, Pollards Wood produces a scented carpet of Bluebells. Beyond Pollards Wood the three fields are sheep pastures, once frequented by Skylarks.

I love the peace and tranquillity that this countryside offers me, with its wonderful views and wildlife. Walking here has helped me to maintain physical and mental health during the Lockdowns when building construction work near home made life almost intolerable.

All may be about to change. Scottish Power Renewables proposes constructing a 330 acre solar farm next to, and for ½ mile, surrounding this right of way, obscuring the **magnificent views**. The humming of inverters will accompany bird song and the sound of Woodpeckers drilling in Pollards Wood.

If the screening option becomes a planning application, I ask everyone to write to the WDC Planning Officer and our MP. Please express your views (sorry, pun intended!) if you wish to keep our countryside green and not covered by glass and high fences. More details are on Wealden District Council's Planning website at WD/2021/6501/SO.

Helen Proctor

ARLINGTON HISTORY

On The Farm (APM June 1981)

No tradesman would deliver goods to Sessingham. "It was too much out of the way", they said, and the lane was unfit for vehicles. So our bread, meat and groceries were left at Wick Street Cottages. Only the postman struggled through floods and boggy fields to deliver letters once a day. (That man should have had some sort of distinguished service medal!)

We children collected the bread three times a week and I fear it suffered badly on the way home. The big white bag of loaves was often dumped on wet ground while we jumped over gorse bushes or searched ponds for moorhen's eggs or tadpoles. Often too, the coburg loaves had lost all their crusty points on the way, they were irresistible to always hungry boys.

My mother came from a large village which had shops and she was always 'out' of something when she first came to live at the farm. With her butter making, gardening, poultry rearing etc. she was normally too busy to feel lonely, but we had no neighbours and there must have been times when the isolation hit her, especially at night or on the rare occasions when my father was away.

On one such winter night we heard voices and strange noises outside. Through a crack in the window blind we could see moving light and men with sticks and long-handled nets beating the ivy on the house wall. We were petrified with fear. "It's alright Mam", called a gruff voice, "it's only the sparrer catchers".

Fortunately, the old-time custom of 'sparrer catching' has died out.

(by the Late Amy Wooller of Sessingham and Underwood Farms)

THE GYPSY LAD (AS Oct 1999)

*The boy from the gypsy camp
picked mushrooms in our field
and sold them to us at the farmhouse door.
There was no shame in his sunburned face
as he proffered his wares,
nor glint of guile in his sloe-black eyes.
Mushrooms to him, were nature's gift
and so are free to all who are first in the field.
He strode back up the lane, whistling merrily
and jingling the coins in his pocket.
Not a care had he, save tomorrow's meal
Which, doubtless, nature would provide.
I envied the gypsy lad.*

*He brought fresh mushrooms each day
and pale primroses too,
and his blithe spirit helped him to disperse
our autumnal gloom.
"Next year will be better", he said,
"Beautiful weather, bumper harvest,
I know", he said,
"all travellers' know the weather signs".
The gypsies have gone now
but the boy's hopeful spirit remains
and the joy of living he taught us.
I love that gypsy lad.*

This is Nanny (Amy) Wooller's last poem, written in her 98th year whilst residing at Polegate Nursing Home. Claire, one of her grand-daughters, read this at Amy's Memorial Service.



Fly Agaric *Amanita Muscaria*

Tony and I spotted this fungus in Abbot's Wood last year as it was such a striking colour. Apparently, according to some good friends of ours who looked it up in a Huge fungi book, it's a member of the Amanita genus: Fly Agaric, *Amanita muscaria*. Bright scarlet and covered in distinctive white warts, this common fungi is poisonous. The common name Fly Agaric comes from the ancient practice of breaking the cap into platefuls of milk, used since medieval times to stupefy flies. Now, however, this is NOT recommended! It is a strong hallucinogen and intoxicant and is used as such by the Sami of northern Scandinavia.

LG.

A reminder of the icy temperatures during February! (photo L.G.)



The Daffodil symbolizes rebirth and new beginnings. It became associated with new beginnings (and the coming of spring) because it is one of the first perennials to bloom after the winter frost.



Soph The Sloth Gets a New Room Mate at Drusillas Park!

Zookeepers at Drusillas Park are excited to announce the arrival of their new sloth, Halina. The beautiful Halina arrived at Drusillas a few weeks ago and has been hitting it off with her new roommate, Sophocles ever since.

Zoo Animal Manager, Mark Kenward, said: *"As many of our regular visitors know, we have been looking for a mate for our male sloth Sophocles, or Soph as we often call him for short!"*

"We were so excited when Tierpark Zoo in Berlin told us that their female sloth Halina was also looking to find a mate; we knew she would be the perfect match for Soph! Halina is three years old and ready to start a family so we're very hopeful to hear the slow patter of baby sloth feet in the future! Halina is just the most beautiful sloth and we are so happy to have her as part of our zoo family."

Sophocles has fallen head over heels in love with Halina, but before they met face to face the two began bonding in a very unusual way...Bizarrely, sloths exchange poo to make friends! Keepers spent the first few weeks of the sloth's introduction, swapping their poo between their enclosures.

Zoo Animal Manager, Mark Kenward, said: *"Exchanging poo with a prospective room mate or partner might seem like an odd idea to a human, but not to a sloth! Swapping stools actually helps the sloths get to know each other and get used to each other. Smell is an incredibly important sense for animals. Poo in particular provides a little parcel of information about the animal who left it. It's a bit like a postage stamp as to who has been around."*

"This sort of olfactory enrichment gives the impression of another sloth being in the area, and prepares each of them for an encounter. We call this a soft introduction. They learn enough about the other to be comfortable meeting face to face."

Once the poo swap had run its course, the two sloths were placed next to each other with a mesh divider separating them. Able not just to smell but to see, hear and nearly touch their new neighbour, Sophocles and Halina started to get used to each other.

Zoo Animal Manager, Mark Kenward, commented: *"The faeces exchange has been a huge success, it worked really well with our other mating pair of sloths, Flash and Gordon and we are pleased to report the same levels of success with Soph and Halina. The pair seem to be getting on very well indeed."*

Now they are fully settled and happily falling in love, they are living together in a shared enclosure with Drusillas Rodriguez fruit bats and golden lion tamarins.

Zoo Animal Manager, Mark Kenward, said: *"We know the public can't wait to meet Halina, the news of her introduction went crazy on social media, so we are really looking forward to being able to see everyone again and to let you all meet Halina!"*

Located just off the A27 in Alfriston, Drusillas Park will be open from 10.00am daily once lockdown is over. For more information, please telephone 01323 874100 or visit the website at www.drusillas.co.uk



Temperature's Rising - Friday 5th Match

Finally! The long awaited first full album by your very own Milton Hide (Jim and Josie Tipler) comes out on 5th March. You can pre-order your copy of the album, Temperature's Rising, on www.miltonhide.com.

Our planned live launch event at The Grove Theatre in Eastbourne had to be postponed and we still don't have a date, but we hope to be able to get something organised for later this Summer, possibly outdoors. In the meantime, we will be doing an online gig at **7.30 pm on Friday 5th March** performing some of the tracks and we hope to be joined by some of those who helped to create the album and the other musicians featured on the album.

Please do join us - details on www.miltonhide.com

Bluebell Roots - Sunday 28th March

Join us online again for the March Bluebell Roots on **Sunday 28th at 7.30pm**. Details will be on www.bluebellroots.co.uk - you can watch either on Facebook or Youtube.

We were really pleased with how the experiment worked with bringing different people into the studio and having Jade host the event with us, so we'll do a similar thing this month.

We are asking for donations of whatever you can afford to help us cover the costs of the live-streaming and to start to build up a little kitty to pay guest musicians.

Philippa is doing some wonderful take away food to heat at home, which you can enjoy whilst you watch the open mic performers, making it as close as possible to the real Bluebell Roots experience! Get in touch with Philippa directly to order your food in advance.

Summer Trifle - August

It is obviously too early to know exactly what we will be able to do in August, but we plan to open the gardens at Pickhams (Wilmington) on **5th to 8th August** for the Summer Trifle mini arts festival.

We've been hard at work planting, opening up new paths and repairing walls so the garden should look quite different.

The festival will be a Summer Trifle 'lite', with some art and sculpture in the gardens, a little outdoor live music and tea and cake. And trifle, in one form or another.

Keep the date/s free and we'll confirm details nearer the time. There is still music and art available to watch on the ELSTOAF page of pickhams.com, and you can watch the edited version of the ELSTOAF online arts festival.

Talk About the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path

A talk about this local walking route was given by Revd Peter Blee via Zoom in February and a recording made. It was hosted by an organisation called 'Art and Christianity'. If you would like to listen to the talk please click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/w3q7ElhEzCc> *Peter Blee*



If you, your friends or neighbours are having a difficult time and need our help, please know that you can call our coronavirus support line.

It's open 10 am to 6 pm, seven days a week – 0808 196 3651.

GUEST COOKERY PAGE

This month's favourite recipe comes from Jim & Josie Tipler.

We are keen to keep our recipe page and tastebuds going, so if you would like to share a recipe of yours please e-mail to pjackson.ascene@outlook.com

Spaghetti with Garlic and Cockles

A very, very simple family favourite of ours (we don't know what it's called in Italian) is spaghetti with garlic and cockles. If you want a veggie or vegan version, just use pine nuts and/or pumpkin / sunflower seeds. It was shown to us by Alex, a delightful language student from Rome who lodged with my sister many years ago, but with whom the whole Tipler family fell in love.

What you need:

Spaghetti
Garlic clove (large)
Olive oil
Tomato purée
Pine nuts/sunflower seeds/pumpkin seeds or jar of cockles

Method:

Cook the spaghetti al dente.

As it finishes, in a large saucepan, fry the clove of garlic whole, in a generous glut of olive oil. **DON'T BURN IT!!!!**

When it's golden brown, take the garlic out (save it to use again) and add your seeds or cockles.

Fry for a minute, max, then add about a tablespoon of tomato purée.

Leave it to warm while you strain the spaghetti.

Add the spaghetti to the pan, turning well in the delicious mixture.

Add black pepper and salt to taste.

Serve with a garnish of fresh basil if you have it.

Enjoy the Countryside — But Enjoy It Safely Maria Caulfield M P

As we are facing Covid restrictions in the short term, many of us will continue to take the opportunity to stay local and go for walks in our beautiful rural spots. We are spoilt in Sussex with some of the most picturesque countryside in England. While, of course, we should enjoy our local spaces by taking the dog for a walk or going for a walk or a run, we need to remember our countryside walks, in many cases, are in working farmland.

With a huge rise in the number of people in our fields and green spaces, our farmers are finding that a significant amount of damage is being done to crops, animals and the local environment because of people not taking care when they are out and about.

Sheep worrying is probably the most significant issue, with walkers not putting their dogs on leads, which then chase sheep and sometimes even attack them. Since lockdown we have seen an 80% increase in reports of dog attacks on sheep that often result in the farmer having to shoot their injured animal, which is hugely distressing. Even if a sheep is not attacked, being chased by a dog can still result in death and aborted lambs. Within the law a farmer has a right to shoot a dog that is attacking their flock and there have sadly been a small number of cases where this has happened. Walking through crops is also an issue. It is important that those out walking don't walk across fields that are planted with crops. The untold damage of people just wandering through fields has left many farmers having to re-plough and drill. It costs a huge amount of money to farmers but also does untold damage to the local environment.

Finally, **if you do have rubbish with you, please take it home.** With lockdown, volunteers who are normally out doing litter picks in our villages are not able to do so, and any plastic bags, bottles or other rubbish will just accumulate in our beauty spots. This not only looks unsightly but causes huge damage to local wildlife.

Our farmers do a wonderful job keeping our countryside looking so well, but we all have a part to play in looking after the animals and environment that we are lucky enough to share in Sussex.

Pencilwise – Equation Analysis Test (answers appear on a later page)

This test does not measure your intelligence, your fluency with words, and certainly not your mathematical ability. It will, however, give you some gauge of your mental flexibility and creativity. Since this test was developed, it has been found few people could solve more than half of the 24 questions on the first try. Many, however, reported getting answers long after the test had been set aside . . . particularly at unexpected moments when their minds were relaxed; and some reported solving all the questions over a period of several days. Take this test as your personal challenge.

Each question below contains the initials of the words that will make it correct.
Find the missing words, for example: $26 = L$ of the A , would be, 26 Letters of the Alphabet

- a) $26 = L$ of the A
- b) $7 = W$ of the $A W$
- c) $1001 = A N$
- d) $12 = S$ of the Z
- e) $54 = C$ in a D (with the J)
- f) $9 = P$ in the $S S$
- g) $88 = P K$
- h) $13 = S$ on the $A F$
- i) $18 = H$ on a $G C$
- j) $32 = D F$ at which $W F$
- k) $90 = D$ in a $R A$
- l) $200 = D$ for $P G$ in M
- m) $8 = S$ on a $S S$
- n) $3 = B M (S H T R)$
- o) $4 = Q$ in a G
- p) $24 = H$ in a D
- q) $1 = W$ on a U
- r) $5 = D$ in a $Z C$
- s) $57 = H V$
- t) $11 = P$ on a $F T$
- u) $1000 = W$ that a P is W
- v) $29 = D$ in F in a $L Y$
- w) $64 = S$ on a $C B$
- x) $40 = D$ and N of the $G F$



Nus Ghani ~ Your Local MP for Wealden

Every year, we remember victims of the Holocaust and honour the 6 million men, women and children who were murdered simply for who they were.

Genocide is the most heinous of crimes. Over 50 years ago, the UK signed the UN Genocide Convention, designed to ensure that atrocities seen during WWII would “never again” occur. But heartbreakingly, the Holocaust was not the last genocide. Millions of lives have since perished during genocides in Rwanda,

Bosnia and the Middle East, and millions of lives are currently being destroyed in Xinjiang, China.

Two million Uyghurs are being enslaved and subjected to state-orchestrated abuse. New evidence reveals horrifying testimonies of Uyghur women and proof of their systematic rape, sexual abuse, forced sterilisation and torture. These horrors have led the President of Board of Deputies of British Jews to compare the plight of the Uyghur to the Holocaust.

I know from your correspondence how deeply you care about this issue and I agree that we cannot be bystanders to the deliberate attempt to exterminate a group of people. Not again.

Currently, genocide can only be determined by the International Criminal Court. However, due to China and Russia’s power of veto at the UN, the world is paralysed and unable to hold genocidal states to account. The fate of many depends on Britain playing a leading global role in breaking this logjam.

I continue to lead a political coalition in support of a small, but significant change to the Trade Bill, to ensure that Britain is not complicit in trading with genocidal states. The Government’s policy on genocide is that it is a ‘judicial matter’. The New Genocide Amendment allows our respected UK courts to make a preliminary determination on genocide. Courts would not be able to strike down deals or laws – that would be unconstitutional. The power to determine a bilateral trade agreement would remain with the Government.

I know that Wealden residents would not want to buy products that they knew were produced on the back of slave labour and genocide. We have taken back control of our laws and trade policy and we now have an opportunity to add meaning to the words ‘Never Again’. We can act and we must act. I truly hope that at the next opportunity, the House will overwhelmingly vote in support of this amendment. It’s time for Britain to be on the right side of history.

Nusrat Ghani MP for Wealden

nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

BEWARE OF ANY DOORSTEP SELLERS

A group of young lads known as ‘duster sellers’ (the Nottingham Knockers) have been turning up on doorsteps locally selling cleaning products. It is a known fact that people who have purchased from Nottingham Knockers and paid in cash have become victims of household burglary shortly afterwards.

Be aware of Nottingham Knockers visiting your neighbourhood and report any such activity immediately to the police. Local Police dial 101 (in an emergency always call 999)

Remember: DO NOT DEAL WITH NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS

NEVER ALLOW NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS INTO YOUR HOME

DO NOT PAY CASH ON THE DOORSTEP

THE
FRIENDS
— OF —
ST PANCRAS
ARLINGTON



St. Pancras in early Spring

Snow has fallen only briefly on the churchyard this winter. However, hundreds of Snowdrops now adorn the churchyard with their white splendour! Huge patches reveal their vigour and ability to extend their range. They are an important nectar source for early emerging queen bees when few other flowers have appeared (www.plantlife.org.uk).

Ants are attracted to the seeds that are coated with a substance containing fats and proteins. The seeds are transported through tunnels in the soil to feed the ants' larvae (www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan25/species). The recent dry, mild weather has encouraged bees to emerge, so pollination and seed set will be good.

Much of the wildlife in the churchyard remains unseen by us. The narrow paths through the meadows may be the regular routes of foxes. The soil contains millions of worms, the food source of moles. Their tunnelling has raised 50 more mole hills and revealed the fine soil from worm activity. Two Fieldfares and the local Barn owl have been seen in a nearby garden.

Many of the bird-sown Elder saplings that were growing next to the tombs have been removed, thanks to the sterling efforts of Trevor and Cathy. Ivy has also been removed from many of the tombs, leaving a tidier appearance.

The two compost heaps that were created for grass cuttings and dead leaves are occasionally turned to aerate the compost. Conifers and other evergreen leaves are much slower to rot down so need to be placed on the adjoining wood pile please. We would greatly appreciate some help in taking this material to the waste recycling site. We ask too that the Christmas wreaths be removed.

Until we know when Covid restrictions will be eased, we cannot publicise any work parties. However, if you would like to help with small tasks in the churchyard, please do contact us.

Helen Proctor

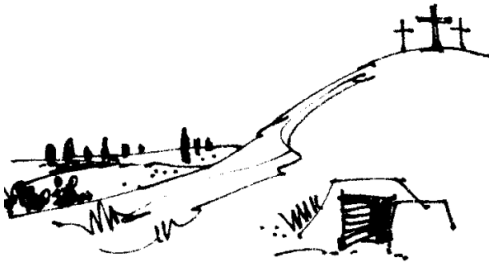
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### **'What's On' Pages in Arlington Scene**

With the long awaited easing of Covid 19 restrictions we are hoping to be able to revert to our usual paper magazine next month.

If you have any upcoming event(s) etc. you would like to mention on our What's On centre page please e-mail the details to [pjackson.ascene@outlook.com](mailto:pjackson.ascene@outlook.com) before 25<sup>th</sup> March for entry into the April issue.





## HOW DO YOU FIND THE DATE OF EASTER?

The Editor has kindly asked me to explain why the date of the Easter Festival changes each year, when Christmas, for example, is always on the same day in December.

It's all to do with the moon and the ancient Jewish Festival of Passover. Jesus died on Good Friday – the day before the Passover – and rose again (Easter) on the Sunday, known then as the first day of the week.

Each year the date of the Passover (and therefore of Easter) is determined by the Paschal Full Moon – always somewhere between 21<sup>st</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> April – it is celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month 'Nisan'. In practice this means that the date for Easter Sunday is 'the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox'.

So now you can calculate Easter for any year – but it's much easier to look it up on a calendar.

By the way, there are several other festivals which dance in time with Easter each year: Ash Wednesday 6½ weeks before; the Sundays in Lent including Mothering Sunday (4) and Palm Sunday (6); Holy Week with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; and Whitsunday 7½ weeks later.

*Frank F-W*

### Answers to Pencilwise . . . Equation Analysis Test

- a) 26 Letters of the Alphabet
- b) 7 Wonders of the Ancient World
- c) 1001 Arabian Nights
- d) 12 Signs of the Zodiac
- e) 54 Cards in a Deck (with the Joker)
- f) 9 Planets in the Solar System
- g) 88 Piano Keys
- h) 13 Stripes on the American Flag
- i) 18 Holes on a Golf Course
- j) 32 degrees Fahrenheit at which Water Freezes
- k) 90 degrees in a Right Angle
- l) 200 Dollars for passing 'Go' in Monopoly
- m) 8 Sails on a Sailing Ship
- n) 3 Blind Mice (See How They Run)
- o) 4 Quarts in a Gallon
- p) 24 Hours in a Day
- q) 1 Wheel on a Unicycle
- r) 5 Digits in a Zip Code
- s) 57 Heinz Varieties
- t) 11 Players on a Football Team
- u) 1000 Words that a Picture is Worth
- v) 29 Days in February in a Leap Year
- w) 64 Squares on a Chequer Board
- x) 40 Days and Nights of the Great Flood



## **February 2021 Update**

Dear Friends,

The last month has been very difficult for our families, who are finding this lockdown much harder than last year as the pressure from schools is higher and the weather not conducive to lots of outdoor activities. Our practitioners have been working incredibly hard to give families as much support as they can, and the real-life contact (as opposed to anything which is delivered remotely) is really helping them. With the vaccine rollout achieving such great success, we are able to give parents a sense of hope that this situation may come to an end before the summer.

We are also very pleased to announce that we are currently recruiting for 4 new roles at FSW. We are currently looking for family support practitioners for Midhurst & Petworth; Storrington, and Rye deaneries, as we are now able to expand our work into new parts of Sussex and support even more families. We are also looking for a Co-ordinator for the Family Contact Centre in Eastbourne, which is a joint project between FSW and Mothers' Union. All the details of these vacancies are on our website so please do share with anybody you feel may be interested.

Whilst we are still unable to carry out any face-to-face events, and have no indication of when these might resume, we remain incredibly grateful to all those who are supporting us in other ways. The generosity of our supporters continues to hearten and motivate us all, and we are very grateful for your ongoing support both financially, practically and in prayer.

### **January's work in numbers**

- 203 individual visits and 220 support calls with families supporting 39 grandparents, 271 parents and 339 children
- 17 supported meetings with other agencies carried out remotely
- 20 online group sessions held
- 199 food deliveries made

### **Prayer points**

- Thanks that our practitioner who was ill with Covid last month has made a full recovery, and that all of our practitioners are currently being vaccinated as front-line keyworkers
- Pray that we will receive quality applicants for our new job vacancies so that we can appoint excellent candidates to our new roles
- Strength for the families who are struggling with homeschooling, particularly those who do not have adequate technology to keep up with online learning

**Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing**

## From the Parsonage

Revd W.D. Parish was vicar of Selmeston. He published 'Dictionary of The Sussex Dialect' in which he collected sayings that he heard locally. One of these was 'Quiddy?'. Often used in the context of 'Quiddy? I didn't hear what you said.' A useful word if you're living with someone who mumbles and tiring of 'pardon?' or 'what?'. Parish reasonably believed that it was one of those expressions that reflected the proximity of this part of East Sussex to the continent and that it derived from the French 'Que dis-tu?' (What did you say?)

Julian of Norwich was suggested as a topic for three Lent online Zoom sessions this month in the run up to Easter. Perhaps the choice reflects the re-evaluation and appreciation of what is local that is part of the consequence of travel restrictions. But she also lived during the Black Death and Peasants Revolt and opted at the age of 30 years to be 'locked down' in a room as an anchoress. Her writings — 'Revelations of Divine Love' — have been read through the centuries and still hold great appeal.

Her teachings on prayer include an instruction to 'await'. In other words, prayer for her didn't consist of what we had to say to God but the other way around. That funny little Sussex dialect word 'Quiddy?' could be used as a reminder that Julian expected prayer to lead to that question being put to the Divine and similar to an approach that is central to Quaker worship today.

To join these evening sessions click on the links below which will also be sent out each week if you ask for them — please contact [benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

**7.00 pm Wednesday 3rd March** — <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85377358585?pwd=emtaNFhEV2ExVFZ0S3JrZnc3TWVGZz09> 7.00 pm

**Wednesday 10th March** — <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89411689052?pwd=QmIBNTNUM2Q5RIBwc0tYcEd6VVBXdz09> 7.00 pm

**Wednesday 17th March** — <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82958768777?pwd=dXFUeXB3ZUI1bVIFMyt0M21oQTAzZz09>

Peter Blee

## CHURCH SERVICES and MORNING PRAYER

Please visit the church website to check on service times: [www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk](http://www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk) or [www.berwickchurch.org.uk](http://www.berwickchurch.org.uk) or subscribe to the benefice's 'Sunday Link' by emailing [benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk) / telephone 01323 811136.

At present the following services are being held:

**9.00 am Sunday Morning Prayer** (Zoom meeting\*)

**10.00 am Sunday Holy Communion** Because of the availability of Wi-Fi this is streamed live from Berwick Church on YouTube and a link is sent out\*. It is also recorded and can be watched when convenient. (You can search online for 'Peter Blee YouTube').

**9.30 am Wednesday Morning Prayer** (Zoom meeting\*)

**5.30 pm Monday to Thursday - Evening Prayer** (Zoom meeting\*)

\* Please request a link from the Benefice Administrator  
[benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

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**April Copy Date ~ Thursday 25 March**

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