

BERWICK SELMESTON ALCISTON

VILLAGE NEWS

JUNE 2025



VILLAGE NEWS

Advertising is coordinated by Brian Calcott. Tel. 07999 788618.

Distribution is coordinated by Jeremy and Valerie Shaw. Tel: 01323 811567.

The Production Team is Liz Golden and Martin Chilvers.

Contributions, Photos, etc (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin by the 12th of the month by email: empty.sea@outlook.com

They can also be passed to one of the coordinators:

Liz Golden, 2 Cornford Crescent, Berwick Tel: 01323 870163.

Valerie Shaw at Selmeston House, Selmeston Tel: 01323 811567.

Donations

Financial donations to the Parish News are gratefully received.

Cheques payable to "Berwick, Selmeston and Alciston Village News" can be passed to:

The Treasurer, Brian Calcott at:

2 Railway Cottages, Station Road, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6TA.

Alternatively, electronic donations can be made to:

Barclays Bank - Account No. 70650625; Sort code 20-49-76.

LOCAL CONTACTS

Benefice Priests

Revd Canon Peter Blee Rector of Berwick and Vicar of Selmeston with Alciston

The Parsonage, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6SR

Tel: 01323 870512 Email: peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk

Revd Shirley Pearce Assistant Priest

The Vicarage, Wilmington, Polegate, BN26 5SL

Tel: 01323 318231 Email: revshirley@gmail.com

Shirley Pearce's 'on duty' days are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

Churchwardens

Alciston - Michèle Boys Tel: 01323 870623

Berwick - Andy Williamson Tel: 01323 870163 / Paul Lewis Tel: 01323 870927

Selmeston - Jan Matthews Tel: 01323 811380

Benefice Administrator

Jane Grutchfield Email: benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk

Parish Council Clerks

Alciston - Sandy Thomas Email: alcistonparishmeeting@gmail.com

Berwick - Lynette Kemp Tel: 07864 637274 Email: berwickparishcouncil@aol.com

Selmeston - Bryan Stevens Tel: 07799 862765 Email: selmestonparishmeeting@gmail.com

Village Hall / Field Hire

Berwick Village Hall - Carole Vine Tel: 07341 660046 Email: berwickhallhire@btinternet.com

Berwick Field - Carole Vine Tel: 07341 660 046 berwickfieldhire@btinternet.com

Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall Website: www.southdownsvillagehall.org

Emergency Defibrillators

There are defibrillators locally at Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall; Berwick Church; Berwick Village Hall; Cricketer's Arms; The Fishing Lodge Arlington Reservoir; Yew Tree Inn Arlington. - See: www.defibfinder.uk

Arlington's Village Market and Coffee Morning + Pop-Up Museum

10.00 am - Noon, Tuesday 13th May
at Arlington Village Hall [BN26 6SE].

Everyone is very welcome to visit the market and museum; we will be pleased to see you.

Some of the regular stalls are Anne's traditional fresh bread with other naughty goodies and fresh eggs; Lynne's popular home-made cakes and savouries; Jean's 'all sorts of everything' supporting local charities, a second-hand book stall with books about the local area, and other sundries, jewellery, cards, crafts and more. The May market was buzzing again, it is lovely to see so many visitors. Once again,

thank you to the many people, local and from further afield, who have continued to support our monthly community event. Please bring your friends and if you have not been before you will be very welcome. It is a very sociable morning and there is always tea and cake.

Arlington's Pop-Up Museum will also be taking place at the same time, this month's exhibit featuring 'Spitfires over Sussex'.

For further market information please contact Anne Hope:
Tel. 01323 486219 / 07760 424169,
Email anntonyhope@gmail.com.
For further museum information please contact Wendy Holmes:
Tel. 07889 689844, Email
talkingteapot@yahoo.co.uk.

Pauline Jackson



BERWICK 100 CLUB

Please register your
interest by email to Kate at
admin@berwick100club.co.uk

THE LOTTERY

**HAS DONATED £947.52 SO
FAR TO THE BERWICK
VILLAGE HALL**

*Thank you to everyone for your
generous support.*

April's total draw was: £250

**1st prize: Andy Parkinson/Nicola
Freshwater
2nd prize: Bridget Harrison
3rd prize: Simon Goacher**

**Next month's guaranteed
minimum draw total is £250**

The Berwick 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery under the Small Society Lottery Gambling Act 2005 and is registered as such with Rother District Council, Registration Number 30266. Berwick Village Hall Trust is a registered charity with the Charity Commission under number 1031341

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Firle and Beddingham Women's Institute

*7.30 pm Wednesday 11th June
at Firle Village Hall*

We are always looking for new members so please do come and join us for any of our meetings. Please give me a call if you would like further information.

*Rosemary Norris
President Tel: 07784 707016*

The Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall Hub

*Always held on a Monday and open to all between 11.00 am to 12.30 pm
- the next Hub is on Monday
16th June.*

The Hub welcomes you all to enjoy refreshments, delicious tea and coffee as well as homemade cake in a convivial, warm environment.

Pop in anytime - it's open to everyone; bring your little ones for a run around and meet up with neighbours and friends of all ages.

Please contact any of the committee below if you have any questions or need help with transport to and from the hall.

Janie 07785 940915

Thea 07772 155772

Helen 07969 732109

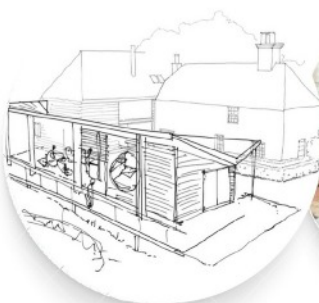
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Richard Durrant Summer Concert

*7.00 pm Saturday 21st June
at St Mary & St Peter's church,
Wilmington*

The 'Guitar Whisperer' has been training hard on his guitar, ukulele and bicycle ready for his summer gigs and he presents a brand-new show of jaw-dropping solos played barefoot, lit by the headlights of his bicycle!

Tickets: £20 and £5 for under 18s at www.richarddurrant.com or from Tim Berrett - Tel.07771 641856.

Tim Berrett

Ludlay String Quartet

*3.00 pm on Sunday 22nd June
at Berwick Church*

Beethoven Quartet Op 18 no. 6
Smetana Quartet no. 1
"From My Life"

Violin 1 Maeve Jenkinson
Violin 2: Richart Van Zyl
Viola: Robert Duncan
Cello: Andrew Fuller

Tickets: £15 from Eventbrite, or on the door. Children 16 years and under free.

Peter Blee

Renaissance Singers

*5.00 pm on Sunday 29th June
at Berwick Church*

A perfect way to spend a summer's evening and to find calm and peace. A varied programme of beautiful music suited to the setting.

Entry is free (Retiring collection for the church).

Peter Blee

The Villages Music Festival

*Saturday 28th June to Saturday
5th July in Laughton, Ripe
and Chalvington*

The opening night begins with a production of 'La Bohème' by Regents Opera in the walled garden of Limekiln Farm, Chalvington, surrounded by flowers and trees as the sun descends and Mimi meets her fate.

The week continues with an eclectic mix of English and French music by the Mistral Woodwind Quartet, and cream teas in a village garden accompanied by Los Twangueros playing a variety of guitars.

A new departure for the festival will be a compered discussion about the future of music in the UK, featuring Richard Morrison, art critic and feature writer of The Times, and Georgina Born OBE, a musical anthropologist and Will Hancox, local renowned pianist. There will be time for questions from the audience. The discussion will be followed by refreshments and a short musical entertainment by a vocal quartet.

The festival continues with a jazz evening, a special piano recital by Joanna MacGregor CBE, who performs nationally and internationally. It ends with a concert by the Laughton Community

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Choir singing the joyful Dixit Dominus by Handel, accompanied by a string quartet.

The trustees of the festival award grants to support wide-ranging activities that are happening in local villages. Full details and tickets are available at www.villagesmusicfestival.org.

Joan Royal

South Downs Summer Music Festival

*Tuesday 15th to Sunday 20th July
at St Andrew's Church Alfriston*

Now in its 18th year.

For details of individual concerts please visit the website

www.southdownssummermusic.co.uk.

The varied programme includes an evening of English music by Elgar, Arnold and Britten, a Nordic concert featuring the romanticism of Grieg, a Grammy nominated Venezuelan virtuoso violinist playing jazz improvisations and much more.

Tickets are on sale through the website. Do consider becoming a friend of this cultural gem in the Cuckmere valley. Come and enjoy a

relaxed gin and tonic courtesy of Folkington's on the Tye prior to the concert.

Ros Ford

The A&S Flower Show 2025 - Save the date!

*Sunday 10th August
at A&S Village Hall*

June in the garden is a time for lush growth and abundant blooms, with many tastes and opportunities to enjoy the fruits of your labour. It is a suitable time for planting out tender plants and bedding flowers, continuing to sow seeds for the future (always with an eye on those flower show entries!) whilst starting to harvest some fruits and vegetables.

Plant out tomatoes, courgettes, squashes (remember that prize exhibit!), runner beans and French beans, and remember to keep weeding, deadheading, and watering for your prize exhibits in August.

Last month we all celebrated VE Day with a fantastic party in the village hall. We have two classes in

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the flower show where you can show off your creativity and continue the celebrations. Firstly there is a flower arranging exhibit to celebrate VE Day. Use your wonderful creativity to produce some fabulous celebratory displays. If you feel a little daunted by that please enter the freestyle class where it's all about the fun of having a go!

Secondly, there is the class to decorate a cake celebrating VE Day 80th anniversary. Whatever cake you like - just produce something fun and tasty.

With this and the photograph, home produce and handicraft classes, there are plenty of ways to get creative.

But even if you don't enter any of the classes please come along - it's a fun packed afternoon catching up with old friends and new. There's a bar, barbeque and excellent tea and cakes. Please put the A&S flower show date in your diary and start thinking about your entries.

Neil Creaton

VE Celebration Afternoon

The villages enjoyed a splendid commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May. Many generous donations of food were brought by dozens of villagers, friends and families. We enjoyed an exhibition of memorabilia, singing, dancing, delicious food and a poignant presentation detailing

some of the local war efforts. A fabulous afternoon to celebrate and remember. Thank you all who made it possible and to everyone for joining us.

Rachel Lewis

Poem by Antony Mair: Rev. and Mrs. Boys Ellman, 1860

They sit in their usual chairs,
The hearth between them. A log settles:
a flurry of sparks. Their spaniel
stretches out on his side, asleep.
By the oil-lamp's light she stitches
a torn shirt, her needle deft.
Her husband is lost in a book
about the early church.
Drawn curtains shut them in.
Outside, the trees he planted raise
tall shadows. In the darkness a rustle
of hedgehogs in the fallen leaves.
Today she taught the parish children
while he visited the sick. No need now
to talk: their thoughts are in harmony
like notes in a familiar chord.

Revd. Boys Ellman was Curate and then Rector of Berwick from 1840 to 1906 and is buried in the churchyard. He wrote the fascinating "Recollections of a Sussex Parson" which is also available in the church, and gives insights into life in Sussex in the nineteenth century, as well as the history of the parish at that time.

Antony Mair was the second poet in residence for the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path from 2023-2024, and he has published a small volume of poems

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about the path, and the churches and villages on the route. His book "Behind the Seen" is available to purchase in Berwick Church.

Pilgrim's Rest Camping and Retreat

There's a new fundraising project this summer for the upkeep of St Mary & St Peter Church, Wilmington.

A fully equipped caravan with room for 4 or 5 people is available at a standard rate £50 per night and also as a picnic site for day visitors at the vicarage in Wilmington. Breakfasts can be ordered and there's wood for a fire pit and hire of pizza oven available at a reasonable surcharge.

Parking is off-street. So if you know anyone who might be interested in spending an (inexpensive) few days in our beautiful South Downs National Park, please let them know.

Call, text or WhatsApp 07880 554750 for queries and bookings.

Revd Shirley

Family Support Work (FSW)

Dear Friends,

The weekend at Dalesdown for families from across Sussex was greatly appreciated by the families who went. The theme this year was "Festival" creating the sense of being at a music festival with activities including making

instruments, hair decorating, face painting, singing round the campfire, toasting marshmallows. As one of our mums said *"It was our first family holiday, and it was lovely to go somewhere together. My daughter enjoyed playing with other children, making new friends. The access was good, the activities excellent, everyone was lovely"*. We are back at the Dalesdown centre in September; if you would like to support this activity as a volunteer or sponsor do get in touch.

We were sorry in April to say goodbye to Nikki Kerr our Director of Fundraising for the last 7 years. We wish Nikki well in the future. Gemma and Harry joined us in May. Gemma as Co-ordinator Officer for East Sussex and Harry Clark as Receptionist and Administration Assistant at Garton House,

We continue to see the demand for our work grow and the waiting lists that we hold are getting longer. At this time, with many children being supported having educational needs, we are extremely aware of the anxiety that is created around exams. We are helping some of our families deal with the additional pressures this brings to their lives.

April's work in numbers:

- ◆ 151 individual visits and 577 calls with families supporting 203 adults and 149 children.
- ◆ 43 supported meetings with other agencies

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- ◆ 49 group sessions held supporting 579 parents and 343 children.
- ◆ 65 food deliveries made.

Prayer points

- ◆ Pray for our new staff members Gemma and Harry, that they settle in quickly.
- ◆ Pray for all the children and young people we support as the exam season starts.
- ◆ Pray for our Board as they meet this month and for all of the Practitioners as they support families.

Martin Auton-Lloyd CEO

www.familysupportwork.org

martin@familysupportwork.org.uk

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June's Gardener's Diary

This month is the last chance to sow main crop Carrots for them to be ready for harvesting in September or October. Also, Peas sown early in the month should still be ready in September.

Sow Swedes if they've not already been done and French Beans can go in for a second crop. Continue to sow Beetroot, Spring Onions, Turnips, Lettuces, and Radishes with some at the beginning of the month and some near the end.

This is also the last chance to sow Runner Beans and with a bit of luck will give you a crop as late as October.

Watering is especially important in dry weather. Keep the roots of all

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plant moist but not soaking wet. Hopefully, this month we will be harvesting some of the early sowings – i.e. Potatoes, Radishes, Turnips, Carrots, Peas and a few more.

Lisa Collington

Recipe of the Month: Lemon and Lime Cheesecake

(Serves 8)

Ingredients

100 g digestive biscuits

50 g butter

1 tbspcaster sugar

Filling

250 g mascarpone

375 g full-fat condensed milk

Juice of a small lemon

3 tbsps. lemon curd

Finely grated zest and juice of two limes

Method

Line a 20 cm shallow spring-form tin with cling film.

Crush the biscuits with a rolling pin until they are fine crumbs. Melt the butter in a pan, add crumbs and sugar, and stir until combined. Press the biscuit crumbs into the base of the tin and place it in the fridge while making the filling.

Measure the mascarpone and condensed milk into a bowl and whisk until smooth. Add the lemon juice and curd and nearly all the lime zest (reserving some for

garnish) and juice and whisk again until thick and creamy. Spoon on top of the biscuit base, level the top, cover with cling film and chill for a minimum of two hours. Decorate with the reserved lime zest.

Valerie Shaw

Sward Wardens: The Incredible Role of Dung Beetles

There's a subject we're not great at talking about in the UK: poo. However, there's a group of creatures that are far more celebratory of the topic, with their diet testament to their appreciation. Aptly named, dung beetles eat poo. And they are amazing.

You are likely to conjure the image of Heliocopris, giant dung beetle species which reside in Africa and Asia, manoeuvring huge droppings kindly deposited by some of the Earth's spectacular megafauna. Although these beetles don't match the size of the one that rolled a football into the 2010 World Cup opening ceremony, they are hefty for a beetle, reaching lengths of up to 7cm.

Our dung beetles are more diminutive, but no less vital. The UK is home to around 60 species, which are split into three groups: Aphodiines, or the 'dwellers', sized 3-13 mm who live directly in dung, Onthophagus, at 4-11 mm; 'tunnellers' who tunnel up to a metre below the dung, pulling down

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small amounts to lay their eggs in, and the largest 'tunnellers' at 8-26 mm, the *Geotrupes*.



Mostly, they consume dung of herbivores and omnivores. The ultimate recyclers, dung beetles are ecosystem engineers, meaning they modify their environment to provide services to other species with whom they share the ecosystem. In the case of dung beetles, this is a poop removal service.

Not only do they improve grazing pasture by clearing grasslands of waste, but they also recycle vital nutrients, keeping soil healthy. Tunnelling aerates the soil and prevents compaction, which in turn mitigates against flooding. Whilst this waste processing keeps down the population of flies, the beetles also remove parasites living in the

dung. The beetles are, in turn, prey to others, such as birds, bats and hedgehogs. It's all rather harmonious and, as nature does best, it's a perfectly 'symbiotic' relationship.

Yet, like most of our native wildlife, dung beetles are in trouble. Largely this is due to modifications in agricultural practices; changes in land-use and an increase of pesticides, whether this be directly onto fields or via livestock ingested worming medicines. These chemicals disrupt the brilliantly balanced natural process, especially when used large scale and preventatively. Landowners can support dung beetle populations by reducing pesticides; more dung beetles mean fewer parasites, so by protecting these species a free service is being retained.

We owe a lot to our dung beetles and must protect them. They're a critical part of our ecosystem, yet many of us don't know they exist here or appreciate their unglamorous and thankless work. To be frank, without them we would be up to our knees in poo. Metaphorically (and literally).

*Kerry Williams:
Communications Officer -
Conservation*

*Photo Common Dor dung beetle
(Geotrupes spiniger)
© Vaughn Matthews
Sussex Wildlife Trust*



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From the Parsonage

It has been said that we were each made with a built-in 'search engine'. It's one that works in a unique way to those available on our computer screens which find, with unbelievable speed, information that has been posted on 'the web', and by which we can inform and educate ourselves.

Our built-in search engine is more abstract, more fluid; a search for meaning, for truth, for what is not known, for what operates in a different dimension to our reason – a search for satisfaction, for peace, for happiness, for love, for healing, for forgiveness. So much seems to be within human, rational understanding and we anticipate that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will accelerate scientific progress. We begin to think that all that remains outside of our rational understanding will one day fall within it and, at that point, 'everything will come right'. But as society moves in that direction some people are beginning to feel alienated and dissatisfied. They are losing themselves and want a depth, a density of experience that speaks not just to their understanding. Something that is deeper and broader, that re-establishes their connections with the world and with others through a sense of belonging and the mystery of life.

At Jesus' trial Pilate, the Roman Governor, famously asks Jesus 'What is truth?'. The Bible doesn't relate what he meant. It leaves open the reality of ambiguity. On one level Pilate has like all people this inner search engine which seeks 'truth' – on another, sitting on a seat of power, he dismisses the relevance and the point of 'truth' when really all the world understands is power. This is a poignant moment, an opportunity; only Pilate can answer his own question by drawing on what is within him – if he can find it.

The intellects behind the development of AI have warned of its potentially negative impact on humanity. Faith and spirituality are concerned with our inner capacity to connect with something beyond ourselves – with 'Truth'. Within the Christian tradition this is also called 'Love'. It teaches that this is why we all have this 'inner search engine'. Faith encourages us to nurture this inner engine which searches for 'Truth', teaches that the freedom to do this spiritually, creatively, and intellectually is what matter most. Jesus instructed his followers to 'seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven...' and not to stop doing that. It is only in our continual searching that we remain open to a Truth that provides what we are really looking for. But many things try to substitute for it and divert us from it.

Peter Blee



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CHURCH SERVICES AND MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 1st June

09:30 Selmeston Holy Communion
09:30 Arlington Holy Communion
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion
11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 8th June

09:30 Alciston Holy Communion
09:30 Arlington Holy Communion
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion
11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 15th June

09:30 Selmeston Holy Communion
09:30 Arlington Holy Communion
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion
11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd June

09:30 Alciston Holy Communion
09:30 Arlington Holy Communion
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion
11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 29th June

10.00 United Benefice Service at Arlington

Prayer

9.30 am each Wednesday at Berwick church.
(On the first Wednesday of the month there is Holy Communion (BCP) instead.)

5.00 pm each Thursday online Zoom meeting - please contact Shirley Pearce for login code (revshirley@gmail.com).

To receive a weekly notification about services (the Sunday Link) please email the Benefice Administrator at benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk

Pastoral Prayer or Talk

Peter Blee and Shirley Pearce are available to speak to people on the phone and are also able to pray with people on request in church at Morning Prayer and to offer help in any way possible.
Telephone: 01323 870512, 01323 318231 or Email peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk, or revshirley@gmail.com

Please visit the benefice websites to check on services and times:
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