

PARISH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

From the Parsonage: Holy Ground - Art, Faith and the Natural Environment

It has been a stunning summer in terms of the abundance of wildflowers and richness of green growth. This month there will be a conference at Berwick church (Friday 17th to Sunday 19th September) called 'Holy Ground – Art, Faith and the Natural Environment'.

A range of speakers and artists will talk about the natural world, spirituality, and creativity. Amongst the speakers will be the writer Nick Mayhew-Smith whose first major book 'Britain's Pilgrim Places' (2011) was made into a BBC television series. Dr Louise Hampson has written about heritage and spirituality and will speak on 'Movement and Stillness: Destinations and Journeys in Pilgrimage'.

We also have two artists, Julian Bell and David Hansel who will talk about their commissions for Berwick church and the creative journey of making contemporary works of art for a specific sacred place. The well-known art scholar Frances Spalding, who has written biographies of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, will consider the recently restored Bloomsbury paintings in Berwick church. Stephanie Fuller, who is CEO of Ditchling museum, will talk about craft and its unique link with place.

The conference will include a walk of the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path on Sunday 19th September with James Aldridge, a visual artist who is passionate about the environment. He engages people in creative activities. His aim is to develop new ways of seeing and being in the world at a time of ecological crisis.

The conference is open to all and its possible to attend just parts of the conference. You can find more information about it and how to book on Eventbrite – search for 'Holy Ground'. It's a great opportunity to come and hear stimulating speakers from across the county in a local context and we hope that many people will take up this opportunity. It's also a chance to come and see and enjoy the restored Berwick church.

Peter Blee

Church Services and Morning Prayer

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| Sunday 5 th September | 08:00 | Alciston BCP | Sunday Zoom Morning Prayer will be held at 9.00 am. You can be sent a link to join these services – please contact the Benefice Administrator at benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk to be added to the mailing list to receive this link. Wednesday Zoom Morning Prayer will be held at 9.30 am each Wednesday. Please request a link as above. If you would like to receive weekly notification about services (the Sunday Link) please email: benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk and the Administrator will add your email to the mailing list. |
| | 10:00 | Wilmington Holy Communion | |
| | 11:00 | Berwick Holy Communion | |
| Sunday 12 th September | 09:30 | Alciston Holy Communion | |
| | 10:00 | Arlington Holy Communion | |
| | 11:00 | Berwick Holy Communion | |
| Sunday 19 th September | 09:30 | Selmeston Morning Prayer | |
| | 10:00 | Wilmington Morning Prayer | |
| | 11:00 | Berwick Holy Communion | |
| Sunday 26 th September | 11:00 | Berwick Patronal Festival | |
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Project Gigabit

People across the Lewes constituency are set to benefit from a lightning-fast broadband boost, as 50,300 rural homes and businesses in East Sussex are set to get access to the fastest broadband speeds on the market thanks to the Government's £5 billion plan to level up internet access across the UK.

The Project Gigabit fund is upgrading digital infrastructure for millions of people in hard-to-reach areas to accelerate the country's recovery from covid, fire up high-growth sectors such as tech and the creative industries, put an end to families battling for bandwidth and bring the speed and reliability people need to start and run businesses.

Homes and businesses in the Lewes constituency are amongst the 1,850,000 additional premises across 26 English counties that will get access to gigabit speed internet of 1,000 megabits per second according to new details published this week. That's enough to download an HD movie in less than 30 seconds and lay the foundations for next-generation tech such as 8K-quality video streaming.

The Government has already brought scope for this high-speed coverage to 2.2 million premises, with more to come across the country in coming months, as well as the tens of millions of premises that broadband firms are rapidly connecting through their commercial rollout.

This means the UK is on track for the fastest rollout in Europe this year, and for 60 per cent of all households to have access to gigabit speeds by the end of this year. The Government is also on track to hit its target of gigabit-coverage of at least 85 per cent by 2025, the fastest rollout in Europe.

For too long, homes and businesses in the Lewes constituency have suffered from poor internet connectivity, leaving families battling for bandwidth and businesses unable to take advantage of emerging online markets across the world. The broadband revolution will not only bring reliability and connectivity to rural homes, but it will fire up high-growth sectors, create jobs, allow everyone to access the lightning-fast speeds they deserve.

Maria Caulfield, MP

Overhanging Hedges

Berwick Parish Council has received complaints from residents who are having to walk in the road to avoid overhanging hedges, and it would therefore like to ask any residents who have hedges which overhang public footpaths to keep them cut back to their borders. Thank you.

Alison Stevens

Clerk to Berwick Parish Council

Talk: The Ecology and Preservation Barn Owls

7.00 pm Wednesday 15th September at Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall

The Barn Owl is a bewilderingly, beautiful bird. Once a familiar inhabitant of farmyards and hunter of hedgerows, it is now much rarer in the UK. Terry Hallahan of the Sussex Barn Owl Study Group will be giving a presentation followed by a discussion on the ecology and preservation of owls locally and across Sussex, including what we can do to encourage their presence and survival.

In his presentation, Terry will describe all aspects of Barn Owl ecology and efforts being made to safeguard the future of Barn Owls in Sussex, including local efforts. This will include information on how Barn Owls are distributed across our parish and how and where we can site Barn Owl / Owl species boxes and encourage these iconic birds to flourish. He has requested you come armed with questions; the more the merrier!

Terry Hallahan is a licensed Barn Owl surveyor, ringer, trainer and conservationist. He is also Chairman of the Sussex Barn Owl Study Group. Terry began studying and monitoring Barn Owls in 1991. Participating in other 'non-Barn Owl' activities he is also a member of Cuckmere Ringing Group, where in excess of 5,000 migrant and resident birds are ringed each year.

The work of the Sussex Barn Owl Study Group is sponsored by the Sussex Ornithological Society (www.sos.org.uk). Entry is free and refreshments will be on-hand but donations to further the work of the Study Group will be gratefully received.

Please contact Andrew Thomas at andrewgthomas@hotmail.com if you have questions and to give an idea of numbers

Andrew Thomas

Improve Your Photography

A series of 6 classes with Mairi Thomas on Thursdays from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm commencing on 23rd September, with a second series of 6 classes from 11th November at Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall.

Improve your creative, aesthetic and practical photography skills and get the most out of your camera. These workshops are suitable for all levels with any digital camera, from a mobile device to high-end SLRs.

To book, or for more details, please call 07582 938185 or email mairidesigns@yahoo.co.uk.

Website: www.mairithomasphotography.com

Mairi Thomas

Pottery Classes

Eight Monday morning classes from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm running from 4th October to 22nd November at Sarah Walton's workshop at Keepers, Bo-Peep lane, Alciston, BN26 6UH.

Beginners are welcome. Sarah's tuition concentrates on the basics of this craft, and in what is known as 'hand building' rather than 'throwing'. Classes are limited to 4 students allowing plenty of both individual and group teaching. Enquiries are welcome to 01323 811517 or by email smwalton45@gmail.com

The fee of £400 covers tuition, all materials and firing costs and is paid upfront.

Sarah Walton

Recipe of the Month – Breakfast Blobs

Ingredients

1 cup self-raising flour
2 cups grated cheese
1 egg
3 rashers of bacon (part cooked and chopped)
½ cup milk
1 onion (chopped or grated)
Paprika or mustard if desired

Method

Whisk the milk and egg in a bowl.
Add the other ingredients and stir to mix.
Use a tablespoon to dollop the mixture into portions on a greased baking tray.
Bake for 20 minutes at 200°C.

Valerie Shaw

September Gardener's Diary

This is the month we can harvest the potatoes. Spread them out on the ground for a couple of hours to dry out and then put them in hessian sacks for storage in a cool, dark place.

Keep picking runner beans and French beans to stop them going to seed. Check the Sweetcorn by pinching the top to see if it's ripe.

Clear off all weeds and rubbish so it's nice and clean for winter crops like Garlic, which can be planted at the end of the month, as well as broad beans.

Last thing is to check the brassicas for butterfly eggs and caterpillars. Treat if you see any and cover with fine netting to protect against more bugs.

Keith Winter

Family Support Work (FSW) – Update

The summer holidays have been in full swing, and we are so pleased that we have been able to organise some activities for our families, who have been desperate for a change of scenery after all these months in lockdown. We have had a day at Arundel Castle Cricket club, which included forest school and meditation and was greatly enjoyed by both parents and children. There have also been trips to the beach, circus visits as well as individual family outings for those who cannot cope with large groups.

Our foodbank is in greater need during these holiday weeks as we try to provide food which is normally given through free school meals, and we would like to thank all those who have been collecting for us. Although our stores have improved a little, we are still in need of most items to keep the shelves adequately stocked – particularly tinned fruit and vegetables, jams and spreads.

We held our first staff day in the middle of July, which was the first time for 2 years that the whole staff team were able to see each other in person and catch up on each other's news. It was wonderful to share stories, and we were delighted to have been joined by the outgoing Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Sir Peter Field. You can see photos from the day on our Facebook page.

We are looking forward to our sponsored walk from Amberley to Arundel later this week, our first mass participation event for such a long time. We have also recommenced our speaking engagements at churches and have been delighted to update congregations on our activities over the last 18 months. If you would like to invite us to speak at a service, then please get in touch with the office on admin@familysupportwork.org.uk

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers as we look ahead to September and the recommencement of a more 'normal' working pattern.

July's work in numbers:

- ◆ 236 individual visits and 243 support calls with families supporting 33 grandparents, 295 parents and 341 children
- ◆ 60 supported meetings with other agencies carried out remotely
- ◆ 28 face-to-face group sessions held
- ◆ 358 food deliveries made

Prayer points:

- ◆ Give thanks for the opportunity to spend time together as a staff team and support each other.
- ◆ Pray for those children who will be receiving exam results in the coming weeks and the important choices they will be making.
- ◆ Pray for the work of our Family Contact Centre in Eastbourne, run jointly with Mothers' Union, as many more families are needing this important service.

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

The Death's-head Hawkmoth

In August I was sent a photo of a giant caterpillar seen in an Iford garden. The colourful caterpillar, garish yellow with flamboyant blue chevrons and spots, was shuffling along on its stumpy legs like a miniature conga-line in search of a party. The caterpillar would have buried itself in some soft Sussex soil and, within its cocoon, would have undertaken an amazing transformation. Around November, a completely different beast will be emerging from the Iford earth and into the night skies: a moth. But, with a 12cm wingspan and ornate patterned wings, this is no ordinary moth. Its beauty should be admired and respected if it wasn't for one small thing. Stamped on its thorax is the spectral image of an eyeless human skull, an eerie façade that has given it its name: the Death's-head Hawkmoth.

The moth's baleful birthmark has, for centuries, struck fear into the hearts of superstitious humans who have seen it as a messenger of the Devil. And, according to legend, this rare moth seems to have put in regular appearances throughout history. Even learned naturalists once claimed that the moth was a "foretelling of war, pestilence, hunger, and death to man and beast." Legend has it that the appearance of a number of Death's-head Hawkmoths signalled the start of the French Revolution in 1789. The moth appeared in the bedchamber of King George III; a visitation that allegedly tormented the crazed monarch and sped him to his demise in 1820.

The Death's-head's notoriety has continued to seep through the centuries in art and literature. It appeared prophesying doom in Thomas Hardy's 'Return of the Native' (1878) and was an instrument of evil in Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' (1897). In the surrealist film 'Un Chien Andalou' (1929) it gave life to Salvador Dali's nightmares. In 1968's English horror 'The Blood Beast Terror' Peter Cushing was on the trail of a monster that was half-woman and half-hawkmoth. In 1991 the moth was seen perching on the lips of Jody Foster on posters advertising 'The Silence of the Lambs'. In the film its cocoons were placed inside serial killer Buffalo Bill's victims as a grizzly calling card (the hawkmoths that actually appeared in the movie were a different species to the ones that appeared in the original story; only a minor point but it did ruin the movie for me somewhat).

Like all moths the Death's-head hawkmoth is harmless. It is a largely African species which some years undertakes an amazing migration north, arriving on extremely rare occasions in Sussex. Of course, its links to death and destruction are just superstitious claptrap. But with a Death's-head on the loose in Sussex this Autumn I'd keep your windows closed, just in case.

Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Benefice Priest

Revd 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

Peter's day off is Saturday.

Churchwardens

Alciston - Michèle Boys Tel: 01323 870623

Berwick – Ruth Nares Tel: 01323 811186

Selmeston - Jan Matthews Tel: 01323 811380

Benefice Administrator

Stephanie Lewis-Grey Tel: 01323 811136 Email:

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Parish News Advertising and Distribution

This is coordinated by Jeremy and Valerie Shaw.

Tel: 01323 811567.

Parish News

The production team is Jane Anderson and Martin Chilvers. Contributions (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin Chilvers by the 12th of the month.

Email: empty.sea@outlook.com; Post: 66 Parkfield Avenue, Eastbourne, BN22 9SF.

You should receive confirmation of receipt by the 15th of the month, but if not, please call him on 01323 507655.

Contributions can also be passed on to one of the coordinators:

Jane Anderson at Old Postman's Cottage, Alciston Tel: 01323 870075.

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

Laurie Tinsley, Wynsford, Berwick Tel: 01323 870895.

Donations

Financial donations to the Parish News are gratefully received. Cheques payable to "Parish News" can be passed to the Treasurer, Valerie Shaw, Selmeston House, Selmeston, Polegate, BN26 6UD.

Alternatively, electronic donations can be made to Barclays Bank - Account No. 70650625; Sort code 20-49-76.

We are grateful to receive donations this month from Mrs Hobden, Mr & Mrs Hughes, Miss M. Irving and Miss S. Walton.