

ALCISTON BERWICK SELMESTON
VILLAGE NEWS
NOVEMBER 2022



◇ 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 Jane Anderson and Martin Chilvers.

Contributions (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin by the 15th of the month by email: empty.sea@outlook.com

They 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, 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.

◇ CHURCH CONTACTS

Benefice Priests

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

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 - Ruth Nares Tel: 01323 811186

Selmeston - Jan Matthews Tel: 01323 811380

Benefice Administrator

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

◇ VILLAGE CONTACTS

Parish Council Clerks

Alciston - Sandy Thomas Email: alcistonparishmeeting@gmail.com

Berwick - Alison Stevens Tel: 01323 460007 Email: berwickparishcouncil@aol.com

Selmeston - David Quysner Tel: 01323 811515 Email: selmestonparishmeeting@gmail.com

Village Hall / Field Hire

Berwick Village Hall - Thea Eastmead Tel: 01323 871218
Email: theaeastmead77@gmail.com

Berwick Field - Carole Vine berwickfieldhire@btinternet.com Tel: 07341 660046

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

A Message from the Village News Team

Thank you to all who responded so positively in the summer to the request for feedback about the future of the Parish News. And also a very grateful thank you for donations for the magazine this month from Anne Michael, Sandra Burns, Alciston and Selmeston Flower Show and Jonathan Chiswell Jones.

As you can see, there have been some changes - not least that the Parish News has become the Village News.

Most people don't realise that the magazine, although it contains information about church services and a piece each month from our local priests, Peter Blee and Shirley Pearce, is not a 'church magazine' *per se*. In fact, the magazine is independently produced and financed through the advertising subscriptions and the generous donations of those who read it.

Following the loss of advertisers and a decrease in income over the last year, it became necessary to review the production of the magazine.

Although there are so many ways to communicate electronically these days, it was clear from the feedback received that individuals still appreciate having a physical copy of the magazine. In order to do this, and to be able to continue to distribute a free copy to all residents* in Alciston, Berwick and Selmeston, tough decisions were needed to cut production costs.

So the obvious question as you hold this new magazine in your hands is: 'How can the magazine now be

produced in full colour and yet save money?'

For many decades the Parish News has been printed locally, alongside the Arlington Scene, by Pauline Jackson and Wendy Holmes, and we have been very grateful for their timely and conscientious efforts. Somewhat inevitably, however, and in order to allow additional flexibility in the production of the magazine's content and advertising, it is now significantly cheaper to produce the magazine using an on-line publishing company.

But this change also means that it is now possible to include more village-based news and information. And this is where your input is welcomed. If you live in the villages and have a seasonal picture for the front cover (portrait format preferred) or an interesting update, activity or article, recipe even, etc., then please feel free to submit it; the cut-off date for contributions is the 15th of the previous month.

The November cover picture is courtesy of Peter Blee. Contact details are at the front of the magazine. Obviously, we want to keep the content village/benefice-focused and, as far as possible, a-political, whilst still giving our elected representatives the opportunity to provide feedback on their activities.

Income from advertising still provides the majority of funding for the magazine, so if you know of anyone who might like to advertise, or to include your own business, etc., details of the advertising costs are given at the back of the magazine. In addition to quarter page adverts it is now possible to include full- and half-page adverts.



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We hope you like the new format and look forward to receiving your future contributions.

Jane Anderson

Brian Calcott

Martin Chilvers

Jeremy and Valerie Shaw

*Some people outside of the villages are keen to continue to receive the magazine by post and the cost for this service is £20.00 per year to cover postage, etc.

Firle and Beddingham Women's Institute

At our AGM in October the Committee was re-elected en bloc. Thanks were given to the Committee, and especially our President Rosemary Norris, for all their hard work.

The next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 9th November in Firle Village Hall when the talk will be by Peter Allen entitled "Watching the Detectives" - A history of British TV crime fighters.

All are welcome.

Valerie Shaw

Is That a Bolt in Your Neck?

Just to remind you that at 3.00 pm on Sunday 6th November in Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall the Gonzo Moose Theatre Company present 'Is That a Bolt in Your Neck?'

We are very lucky to be able to present this entertaining production that has been successfully touring the UK.

Suitable for all ages from 8 to 80+ this is a very funny and ingenious spoof horror; perfect for Halloween (or just after).

The bar is open from 2.30 p.m. and during the interval.

Please buy your tickets in advance so that we can arrange seating.

Tickets cost £12 adults; £5 children and students from Michael Weller

Tel. 01323 811396

E-mail mwellerselmeston@gmail.com or

Phil Morgan

Tel. 07538187552

E-mail thephilmmorgan@icloud.com.

Michael Weller

Selmeston Parish Meeting

A Parish Meeting will be held at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 9th November in Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall.

Agenda items will include:

- ◆ An update on the Parish Plan
- ◆ A "20's Plenty" traffic speed campaign
- ◆ The A27

A full agenda will be posted on the website www.selmeston.info and on the Village Notice Board in advance of the meeting.

If you have any items for the agenda, please send them to:

selmestonparishmeeting@gmail.com.

David Quysner

Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall - Autumn Events

*Remembrance Sunday,
13th November*

A warm invitation to all to join us at the hall, following the short, 10.50 am, commemoration service at the War Memorial, for hot refreshments and cake.

All are welcome.

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*Village Hall Party -
Saturday, 10th December*

It's Christmas and our Village Hall Party returns! Join in this fun evening with a delicious sharing buffet and our own "Home Grown" entertainment.

This is a ticketed event; the cost is £5 per head. Please bring a dish to share. The bar will be open for refreshments.

Tickets are available from

Thea 07772 155772

Mairi 07582 938185

Helen 07969732109

Janie 07785 940915 or

Phil 07538 187552

Rachel Lewis

*Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall
Committee Coordinator*

**The Giving Tree -
Help us spread the love!**

*11.00 am till 3.00 pm
on Saturday 3rd December
at St Pancras Church, Arlington.*

Preparations for The Giving Tree, our "Advent Event" at St Pancras Church are well under way. We have gifts to keep you warm (lap quilts, thank you Lynne), sweet gifts (Sue's jam, Shirley's fudge, Jill's cakes), cards to send to friends and family (thank you Patsy), lovely handmade jewellery (thank you Julie), decorations for your tree and stuffing for your stockings, and indeed special Christmas stockings to stuff!

We have refreshments (there are definitely mince pies and a rumour of mulled wine) and live music to entertain you. And that's only the beginning... all around the country (well, as far away as Chippenham, anyway, where my friend Marcia is

crocheting toys for us) kind friends are preparing gifts for all and sundry.

The Giving Tree takes place from 11.00 am till 3.00 pm on Saturday 3rd December at the church. Come any time - as always at the church, wrap up warm!

Remember, the gifts are priceless; that is, they are all given by the congregation, friends and family, and can be had for nothing, to be given away as gifts or enjoyed by you. Donations will be welcome, but not expected - this is our way of spreading the message about the greatest Gift of all, received at Christmas, and, we hope, a practical way of helping to soothe some of the stress that we all feel when preparing for the more prosaic side of the celebrations.

Donations of handmade or homemade gifts would be received with pleasure: anything suitable to be given as a present, upcycled or recycled items welcome.

We will be setting up on Friday 2nd December, so would appreciate having the items then, and it would also be helpful to know in advance what's likely to arrive.

If you would like to donate something, please contact me by email or text (see below).

In the meantime, spread the word - we'd love to be run off our feet!

Nicola Bloom

Tel: 07787 928029,

Email: bloomnicola@yahoo.co.uk

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Christmas Cheer

4.30 - 7.00 pm

on Sunday 11th December

at St Pancras Church, Arlington
and Arlington Village Hall

A concert of Christmas music and readings by the Seaford Silver Band and Special Guest Star Roman Stefanski.

What better way to help us all get in the festive mood (we may all need a little extra help with that this year!) than a wonderful traditional Christmas concert by the Seaford Silver Band in St Pancras Church, Arlington, followed by some warming indulgence in seasonal treats and mulled wine (or mulled apple juice if you prefer) in Arlington Village Hall.

Add to this the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree, to a musical accompaniment by the band, and you have a perfect way to ramp up the Christmas Cheer with friends and family.

The Seaford Silver Band have been a popular attraction at our Christmas Fairs in the past, and the Friends of St Pancras Arlington, the village and the church are all delighted that we can welcome them at this busy season to give us a concert full of carols and traditional favourites (tip: it helps if you know the tuba player rather well!)

To add to the pleasure, Roman Stefanski, actor and Director of the Polka Theatre in London, will be giving some Christmas readings.

Tickets are £15, and the price includes refreshments. All the proceeds from the concert are going to FoSPA to support the much-needed repair of the spire.

Tickets available from

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/BXRO>

or Trybooking Christmas Cheer

We look forward to welcoming you.

*The Friends of St Pancras Arlington
(FoSPA)*

Berwick Currently has Vacancies for Parish Councillors.

What is a Parish Councillor?

A Parish Councillor is someone who is interested in the area they live and wants to look after the interests of the people who live in that area.

What is a Parish Council?

A Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government and is consulted on any issues in their area. Berwick Parish Council is a small but friendly Parish Council and represents the residents of Berwick.

What does it involve?

Meetings are every other month and regular attendance is recommended.

Is the role paid?

The role is purely voluntary although agreed expenses are reimbursed.

Why not come to a meeting and see for yourself or contact the Clerk Alison Stevens on 07501676569 and find out more?

Alison Stevens

Clerk to Berwick Parish Council

November's Gardener's Diary

What we can do this month in the vegetable garden, is clearing any rubbish off the soil to prepare for manure or compost.

The best way is to cover the ground with compost and leaves, leaving it

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until next year to dig in, allowing the worms to work it into the soil.

Don't forget you can plant Garlic and Broad Beans this month, so they will have a great start in the spring.

Rake up all the leaves you can for the compost heap, if you have a rotary mower try running over them to break them up and you will find they will compost down quicker.

Check the onions to see if any are rotten. If they are, throw them away, the same with potatoes.

Don't forget to raise your mower up for the last cut of the year!

Lisa Collington

Recipe of the Month - Chocolate Chip Fudge Brownies

Ingredients

225g butter

100-120g cooking chocolate

400g caster sugar

4 eggs, separated

200-250g flour

1 tsp vanilla extract

100g chocolate chips

Method

Preheat oven to 160°C/ gas mark 3.

Melt butter and cooking chocolate over medium heat and stir until smooth. Remove from the heat, combine the sugar.

Add egg yolks and vanilla and mix well.

Add flour until the mixture is very thick. Add chocolate chips and mix well.

Beat egg whites until stiff and peaked and then fold in gently.

Spread in a greased 10 x 15 inch baking tin and bake for 25-30 minutes.

Allow to cool, cut into required slices and then place in the fridge for at least 2 hours, or ideally overnight as this makes them more fudgy.

Beware! They are extraordinarily rich.

Valerie Shaw

Family Support Work (FSW)

With autumn well and truly upon us our thoughts are moving away from Harvest and forward towards Christmas and winter. We are so grateful to all the churches that supported us so generously with Harvest gifts - these have helped us restock our foodbank to full levels in anticipation of the winter months.

We had a wonderful AGM and celebration service at Chichester Cathedral at the start of October. This was a wonderful opportunity to thank all of our supporter community for everything they have helped us to achieve over the last few years, and to talk about our plans for the future.

Our practitioners are busy planning activities for half term and Christmas to bring some fun during these challenging times. We are very pleased that we will be able to hold Christmas parties in all areas this year for the first time since 2019 - these are always so enjoyable for our families and really memorable occasions.

We are currently in the running for support from the Asda Foundation and would be very grateful for your help. Unlike the Tesco vote, which requires people to visit a store in person to vote for their favourite charity, Asda can be done online.

Chloe Burrell

BSc (Hons), MCSP,
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To vote for us please visit www.asda.com/green-tokens, select "Eastbourne" from the drop down list and then FSW from the available charities. You can vote once every 7 days between now and the end of the year, so we would really appreciate as much support as we can get.

If you are planning to hold a toy service or Christmas food collection for FSW, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Spencer in the office with any dates - if you would like a speaker then we will do our best to come.

Thank you for all your continued support of FSW's work through prayer and with practical and financial support.

September's work in numbers

- ◆ 232 individual visits and 781 calls with families supporting 339 adults and 262 children
- ◆ 55 supported meetings with other agencies
- ◆ 28 group sessions held supporting 246 parents and 164 children
- ◆ 147 food deliveries made

Prayer points

- ◆ Give thanks for all the support we have received through Harvest donations from schools and churches.
- ◆ Pray for all the families we support who are anxious about the increased energy bills, and the impact this will have on their household budgets.
- ◆ Pray for all the adults we support who are experiencing serious mental health issues but cannot access specialist treatment - this is a growing number and has a

real impact on family relationships. Give them strength and peace as we help them.

*Nikki Kerr,
FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing*

Local Planning

Planning once again is dominating the local news in our parishes and towns. While we have had success in seeing our greenfield sites protected because planning committees have refused to allow development on sites not in neighbourhood plans, we are now seeing these decisions being overturned by planning inspectors.

Both in Wealden and Lewes we have seen sites such as South Road in Wivelsfield and Mornings Mill in Polegate have their refusals overruled by planning inspectors and overturning the decisions of democratically elected local planning committees. The concern is with appeals on sites such as Noland's in Plumpton and a number in Ringmer, coming up, that these will suffer the same fate and I have raised this in Parliament as this is not acceptable.

The planning inspectors give reasons for their decisions and the crux of the matter is that neither Wealden or Lewes District councils have Local Plans that are in date and so the protection of the neighbourhood plans on greenfield sites falls. I have been urging both district councils to get their plans in date for a long time now so that we have the legal protection they offer.

While the debate about housing numbers rages on, without any local plan there is no protection at all and whether the housing numbers are 2 or 2002 currently there is open season



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on our green spaces as the Planning Inspector makes clear that without a five-year land supply that a Local Plan brings, no site is off limits.

Our councillors for both councils need to urgently get this rectified as it is not fair on local people, parish, or town councils. I will fight in Parliament to end the overturning of local decisions, but local councils need to play their part too.

Maria Caulfield, MP

Energy Support Scams

Beware of scam texts offering you fake government energy bill support. As energy bills rise, scammers are seeking to take advantage of unsuspecting consumers. Their latest trick involves sending a malicious text message link that asks you to sign up for the government's energy grant.

In the past fraudsters have called up households pretending to be from their council before asking for card details to make a £150 energy rebate payment.

Sometimes scammers impersonate Ofgem through emails, texts and websites, which ask people to enter their banking details to qualify for fake energy refunds.

The latest energy scam capitalises on the fact that the government's £400 energy grant is now being rolled out. If you get one of these texts, don't click on the link. Your grant will be applied to your energy account automatically.

Polecat



For most of us, our only encounters with British mammals are spotting them on the roadside as we hurtle past at 55 mph. I'm sure many people these days believe that lying motionless on a road verge with its feet in the air is natural behaviour for a Badger.

Our road trips may be macabre safaris, but roadkill can tell us a lot about the state of our island's mammalian fauna. Hedgehogs, a squashed staple on the roadkill menu a few decades ago, are now hard to find flattened on the highway, reflecting their dramatic fall in numbers in the wider countryside. And recently an unfamiliar corpse has appeared on the tarmac: the Polecat.



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Before being killed by cars, Polecats already had a long history of persecution in England - mainly for eating poultry and notoriously stinking to high heaven. To Shakespeare, and many others since, 'Polecat' was an insult. The species was exterminated from Sussex around 1890. Indeed, the entire English population was banished to the wilderness of Wales. Yet we were happy to welcome their watered-down, domesticated form - the Ferret - as cuddly pets and ruthless Rabbit hunters.

After a century in exile, purebred Polecats are making a comeback. This re-colonisation was the basis for a recent investigation by the Vincent Wildlife Trust who requested roadkill Polecat corpses for DNA testing to verify their pure Polecat lineage (as opposed to Polecat/Ferret hybrids). I was soon dodging traffic on the Steyning by-pass and excitedly picking up a dead Polecat. Being mustelids, Polecats naturally smell but, take my word for it, they smell a lot worse when they've been dead for a few days. Despite discharging a whole can of Glade, my wife smelt that something was up seconds after I set foot in the house.

Putting a dead Polecat in your freezer will test even the strongest of marriages.

Thankfully, after some smooth talking, my marriage is still intact but there are still some fish fingers that neither of us are brave enough to eat. Next morning a package arrived from the Vincent Wildlife Trust containing heavy duty bags, some cool BIOHAZARD stickers and printed instructions for posting Polecats.

After an interesting exchange at the post office counter, my roadkill

casualty was posted. A few days later, it was declared 100% Polecat; further evidence that Polecats have returned to Sussex. It's great to have them back and many farmers are welcoming them too, as they do an excellent job of dispatching Rats and Rabbits. Look out for them in your headlights.

Michael Blencowe
(Pictures © Darin Smith)
Sussex Wildlife Trust

From the Vicarage

Hurricanes and storms, (Ian, Julia, etc.), come and go, but we are daily confronted by continual tempests boiling up and raging in Westminster. There is, it seems, no respite, and the media appear to hunger for the next announcement, presented to us with potential (but not always accurate) heinous consequences to our health, our well-being and our futures.

'The media would not do this', I am told, 'if people read, watch, hear, and then react in a way that discourages such reporting'. No doubt there is something in that, but in this society of ours, people are very quick to take offence, very ready to believe what they want to hear without checking the facts, very quick to respond angrily.

Social media is a prime example. I usually avoid posting anything on Facebook, but one day I did respond: 'post a picture of flowers, lets share some beauty', was the simple plea. I did that, and received an angry comment, that this was 'not the time to be trivial.' I took advice from Proverbs, written about 800 BC. Chapter 12:16 says: 'fools show their anger at once, but the prudent ignore an insult.' I did ignore that comment, although I really, really, wanted to have the last word.

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There are ways we can deal with these turbulent times, as we must. Sometimes we need to switch off the television, radio, and the news feed on our devices. Not only is this continual diet of conflict bad for our mental health, but it also affects the flourishing of our communities. We are all (thank God), at liberty to criticise those leaders and politicians making decisions on our behalf; there are times when we are obliged to listen to criticism and actions, we think unjust and to react. Who, after all is perfect, who never makes mistakes?

Conflict resolution and forgiveness remain a demanding, incremental process that cannot be short-circuited in this life. As Christians, we need to focus on Christ and not the pain of the day or the emotional attributes of the angry. As the church community, we are responsible for one another, but more than that, we are answerable to God. Because Jesus shares his own spirit with us, the connection between the community of believers and Jesus is very close: what we bind or loose here is bound or loosed in heaven, and whatever we ask in union will be given to us by the Father. (Matthew 18: 18,19)

When people believe and trust fully in each other and in God, the reign of God is brought into being. That is a joyous place to be.

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’ (Romans 15:13)

God bless you.

Reverend Shirley

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◇ CHURCH SERVICES AND MORNING PRAYER

Please visit the benefice websites to check on services and times:
www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk or www.berwickchurch.org.uk

Sunday 6th November

09.30 Arlington Holy Communion
09.30 Selmeston Holy Communion
11.00 Berwick Holy Communion
11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 13th November - Remembrance Sunday

08.00 Alciston Holy Communion (BCP)
09:30 Selmeston Holy Communion
10:45 Wilmington Remembrance service (Joint service with Arlington)
10.50 Remembrance services at Berwick and Selmeston War Memorials
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

Sunday 20th November

09:30 Selmeston Holy Communion
10:00 Arlington Holy Communion (Joint service with Wilmington)
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

Sunday 27th November

09:30 Alciston Holy Communion (BCP)
09:30 Arlington Holy Communion
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion
11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Morning Prayer is at 9.30 am each Wednesday at Berwick church.

Evening Prayer is at 5.00 pm each Wednesday at Wilmington church.

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

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