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For up-to-date listings of local Clubs & Societies or to subscribe to our mailing list: visit our website: www.yourmag.co.uk

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steyninggoodneighbours.co.uk

Steyning Parish Council: T: 01903 812042 -

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Creating Local Wildlife Corridors: Put your garden 'On the Map'

Steyning Festival Green Day is just around the corner and it is all about '**Making Space for Wildlife**'. Once again, the conservation groups in our area have come together to celebrate the day and show everyone the work that is being done to help the wildlife on our doorstep, not just survive, but thrive alongside us.

Greening Steyning's Biodiversity Group, has become very enthusiastic about 'Wildlife Corridors' and 'Wildlife Friendly Gardening' and we have chosen these as our theme for the day. So, the event opens with a children's parade that takes them on an adventure along a wildlife corridor with obstacles to overcome on the way.

We are looking forward to having the Weald to Waves wildlife corridor team with us, talking about their project and explaining how we can all get involved.

What are Wildlife Corridors?

Think London Orbital or HighSpeed2 without the concrete, environmental devastation and the delays. Wildlife corridors are natural highways enabling wildlife to spread out across our countryside by moving easily from one area to another.

Why do we need Wildlife Corridors?

The simple answer is that they could turn around our abysmal track record of looking after the amazing wildlife we share our lives with. In the 1920's when the first Nature Reserves were designated, it was believed that creating special, protected areas, set aside for wildlife, would ensure it would be there for future generations to enjoy. Since then, we have added more protected areas and thirty-five percent of UK land area now has some kind of protected status.

But this approach has not worked. The **State of Nature Report** released in September 2023 shows how biodiversity in this country has declined sharply over the last fifty years and is still falling. One in six of more than ten

thousand species assessed (16%) are at risk of being lost from Great Britain.

One of the problems is that many protected areas are small islands surrounded by hostile environments and at risk from climate change, intensive farming, development and pollution. Recognition of this problem has led to a different vision and a shift in conservation management to landscape scale habitat protection for wildlife.

What is emerging is a new approach involving creating large rewilded areas. The nearby Knepp Estate is the perfect example.

Isolated areas of wilderness are not quite enough however. They need to be connected to each other so wildlife is no longer squeezed into a corner but can move, if necessary, between habitats to find new areas to live in. This is where Wildlife Corridors come in.

The Weald to Waves Project

Knepp is supporting an ambitious scheme called **Weald to Waves** to create three wildlife corridors running from the Ashdown Forest, through the Knepp Estate on the High Weald, along the river valleys of the Arun, Adur and Ouse, to the coast.

Vital corridors that will enable our local wildlife to move easily from one area to another, spreading out through Sussex and improving our local biodiversity.

Farmers and landowners are being urged to pledge their land to form part of this corridor. It is hoped that over 20,000 hectares of



land will be registered as contiguous natural habitat, giving our wildlife a chance to thrive again.

However, what happens when countryside and farmland meet an urban area?

How Wildlife Friendly Gardens can help

Weald to Waves need wildlife friendly gardeners who can fill in the gaps in the corridor, creating small oases which wildlife can use as stepping stones through urban areas. Not just gardens but parks, allotments, churchyards, verges, village greens; an endless list of green areas, can all be part of this network of stepping stones.



You can help create wildlife corridors for hedgehogs and other creatures

Put your garden on the map

At Green Day you can pledge your garden or greenspace to the project. You can do this online with the **Weald to Waves** team and you can physically mark your garden on a large scale map of our local area using a pin, giving us a picture of how many and where our wildlife friendly gardens are.

Then you can go over to our Wildlife Friendly Garden stall and pick up some ideas of how to garden in this way.

Come and get involved and enjoy the day.

Green Day is on Saturday 25th May at Cuthman's Field - Starting at 11:00.

Abbey Road Conservation Area Open Day. Sat 20th April 11:00 - 15:00

Tucked away behind the Church and next to Gatewick House grounds is the Abbey Rd Conservation Area. [facebook.com/ARCVsteyning/](https://www.facebook.com/ARCVsteyning/)

We are having an Open Day here on 20th April to showcase this 4-acre site and its wonderful mix of habitats, including stream, pond, woodland, orchard, scrub and meadow.

Our volunteers and other experts will be on hand to explain what we have here, and to answer any questions you may have.

We will have a display of maps and pictures showing the history of the site. Another display will show what plants and animals we've recorded in the 3 years we've been working here.

There will also be lots of nature-related activities for children.

We want to hear what you think about what we are doing here, and to collect ideas about how we can improve it even more.

Getting there: Limited car parking in Abbey Rd. But Fletcher's Croft car park is just a 3-minute walk away.

Take the road between the Church and the Vicarage. Turn right onto the footpath behind the vicarage. Then take the left path, then left at Church Mead and you are there. It will be signposted.

A May-Time Special Day

The Steyning Vintage Revival is back for 2024. As will be remembered by all those who attended last year, this is a fantastic, fun occasion held within the closed Steyning High Street and car park. It will take place on Sunday 5th May from 11:00 until 16:00.



Held for the first time last year, when it proved to be a gigantic success, it is set to be even bigger & better for 2024 with loads of superb vintage cars, vans, buses, traction engines, motor bikes and even a steam organ on



display. To add to the pzazz of the day: street entertainment, bands, vintage rides and much, much more

Alongside all of this you will find antique stalls where you can search out those very special pieces of yesteryear. And, to top it all, the superb selection of High Street eateries & pubs will be looking forward to welcoming you.

All being organised by the ever hard working Community Partnership Visitor & Tourism Committee - so thanks to them for thinking up such an entertaining and lively event. See you there!

What a day - there is definitely something for EVERYBODY!



Double Success for Steyning at the Sussex Tennis Awards

What a brilliant afternoon for Steyning Tennis Club at the Tennis Sussex Awards ceremony at the Amex Stadium, hosted by Sky News Sports presenter Rob Curling. Steyning won 'Club of the Year' and the club's coach, Julia Searle, won 'Development Coach of the Year'.



Award Ceremony at the Amex

programme.

Responding to Rob's question about what made the club special, Steyning's chairman, Mike Hobbs, said, *'We have a genuinely friendly and inclusive atmosphere with everyone made welcome, whatever their standard. And we have an amazing coach in Julia who energises both adults and juniors'*.

Julia's award recognises the fantastic coaching programme she's put together. For adults it includes Rusty Rackets and Improvers; for juniors it builds on the club being the first in Sussex to achieve LTA Youth Recognised Venue Status and includes a whole range of sessions for those aged 4 to 18.

New members are always welcome. The new season starts this month so now is the perfect time to get involved.

For more information, contact:
steyningtennisclub@gmail.com or visit our website.

The awards recognise all the work done to increase membership (up over 40% in the last 5 years), to update the floodlights, and to encourage participation with over 50% of adults and 85% of juniors now taking part in the coaching



Julia Searle



Steyning Chairman & Treasurer, Mike Hobbs and Andy Mann

Steyning Bowling Club's drive for new members

Steyning Bowling Club will be holding an Open Day and Bar-B-Q on Monday 6th May at their grounds in Mill Road when there will be opportunities for potential new members to *'have a go'* at bowling, with the added bonus of a bar-b-q and bar!

Other *'taster sessions'* will be held each other

Monday afternoon in May from 14:00 to 16:00 and on Saturday morning 11th. or 25th. May from 10:00 to 12:00.

All sessions are free of charge, and you can attend as many as you want to. All you need to bring is a pair of flat soled shoes to avoid damaging the green.

For any further details please ring Vernon on 07506 948732.



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Steining Community Orchard. March 2024



News from our orchards.

February and early March saw us planting 7 more fruit trees in our orchards in Steining.

Firstly, we planted 3 more trees in our newest Orchard at Abbey Road, adding to the 6 we've added in recent years.

Steining Scarlet:

This apple was grown by grafting from a tree growing on the side of the Steining A283 by pass, probably from an apple core thrown from a train window in the 1960's. Crisp and juicy. Registered by us as a new cultivar in 2019
Donated by David Felton in memory of Edith and Will Felton.

Sussex Mother:

This Sussex apple was first recorded in 1884 in Heathfield. It has conical and angular fruit, becomes yellow as it ripens with, and has as a sweet, spicy taste.
Donated by Sandra and Paula in memory of Alex and Lucette Hemmings.

Blackjack:

Exhibited at the RHS in 1934 as a Sussex apple. 'Lost' until a tree was found in 2010 at Dunsfold, Surrey. Dark red apples, not fully ripe until December. Also used for cider.
Donated by Brenda Watts in memory of Dorothy and Sydney Hole.

Then later in February and early March, we planted 3 more fruit trees in our main Community Orchard on the Memorial Playing Field. Both days were pretty wet as you can see from the photos. But we are used to a bit of cold rain and wind when we plant trees in February!

Two of these were Sussex apples, making a total of 27 Sussex apple varieties in this orchard collection.

Washington Scarlet:

This is an apple variety that we registered as a new cultivar last year. The original tree is growing in Washington Village. It is a very attractive apple with red skin with netted russeting and has a rich strong flavour.

Donated by Clair and Colin Davies.

Wax Apple:

Possibly an old Sussex heritage variety apple known in 1826 but then 'lost'. The apples have a flat shape and are a golden colour. It is a late dessert apple, sweet and full of flavour.
Donated for the Zoutewelle family.

James Grieve:

This apple was first recorded in 1893. It ripens in October as a sharp juicy eating apple. Excellent for juicing. Produces heavy crops, and is a good reliable garden apple.
Donated In memory of Norman Zec.

Other Orchard News

Bramber Brooks Orchard:

You have probably heard that Horsham District Council has finalised the purchase of Bramber Brooks. This includes the Orchard that we planted there for the previous owner. We have met with the Manager of HDC Parks and Recreation who now has responsibility for Bramber Brooks, and are pleased that they have agreed to us taking this 18-tree orchard under our wing and to continue to manage it as one of our own.

Bramber Castle Orchard:

We were approached by the National Trust (NT) and English Heritage (who manage Bramber Castle for the NT) about the possibility of establishing an Orchard on the field to the west of the castle, and asking if we would be interested in helping to make this happen. This field has previously been a small nursery, then a camping field, and more recently used for horse grazing. We've had a promising site meeting and if all goes well, will hope to begin planting there next year.

**If you have any comments or questions,
we can be contacted on email:
steiningorchard@gmail.com**

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April: Diary Events

The following nonrecurring events are also in the What's On section on the Your Steyning, Bramber & Beeding website at: www.yourmag.co.uk NOTE: Post nonrecurring events before 10th of the month prior to the print month. roger@barawood.co.uk

Wednesday 3rd April

Steyning Library

10:30 – 11:30

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Melody for the Mind

Drop into this free, informal, dementia-friendly singing group, open to all and designed to boost mood and wellbeing on the first Wednesday of every month 10:30 – 11:30.

Wednesday 3rd April

Steyning Parish Council: Community Film Night

19:30 – 22:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Screening: The Miracle Club

Ballygar, Ireland, 1967. A hard-knocks community in outer Dublin marches to its own beat, rooted in traditions of loyalty, faith and togetherness. There's just one tantalising dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom and escape the gauntlet of domestic life: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. And with a little benevolent interference from their cheeky and rebellious priest, close friends Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Sheila are the 'lucky' few to win this ticket of a lifetime at their riotous local raffle night. The film stars Laura Linney, Kathy Bates, Maggie Smith, and Stephen Rea. Tickets are on sale at The Steyning Centre at £6 each, which includes tea or coffee during the interval. Wine can be purchased at £2.50 per glass. The doors open at 19:00 for a 19:30 start.

Friday 5th April

Vintage Years Club

13:45 – 16:30

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Quiz by Paul Maidment

Our meeting commences at 14:00 but doors are open at 13:45. Entrance fee is £3 (£5 for visitors). There will be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy table. After our business section we are very pleased to welcome the return of Paul Maidment, who has kindly set us one of his popular Quiz's! Tea and biscuits will be served at 15:15. The Annual payment of £10 is due from all Members today.

We will come round to each table, after the refreshments have been cleared away, to collect this fee. Our afternoon has been extended to allow for a smooth operation. Please always contact Bev Francis-Hills 01273 493894 or 07801 442891 before attending for the first time/returning after a long break, for transport needs and any other information.

Saturday 6th April

Steyning Library

10:30 – 11:30

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Reading Friends

Come along to this friendly group to meet new people, chat and share your love of books and reading on the first Saturday of every month 10.30 – 11.30am.

Saturday 6th April

Steyning Tennis

14:00 – 17:00

Steyning Tennis Club, Memorial Playing Field, Entrance on the corner of Charlton Street and Mill Road.

Tennis Club New Season Open Day.

Come and talk to members and coaches and find out what a friendly club we are. Group and Individual coaching is available for children and adults. We welcome all standards, including beginners. Annual memberships are £175 for adults, and £67/£36 for Juniors (11-18)/Minis (under 11). Join on the day and get 10% off your membership.

Sunday 7th April

Greening Steyning

13:00 – 16:00

Upper Beeding, Bramber and Steyning

Give Your Stuff Away Day

Your junk could be someone else's treasure! Give Your Stuff Away Day is a great way of passing on those items that you no longer need but which someone else would love. Just leave unwanted items in a neat pile outside your home from 13:00 – 16:00 so others can wander round and pick them up. If you've not done it before, find



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out all the details on our GYSAD webpage; <https://greeningsteining.org/project/gysad/>

Monday 8th April

The Arts Society Steyning

10:00 – 12:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

A talk by Raymond Warburton: Modern British Sculpture: Moore, Hepworth, Caro, Frink and Others

This lecture explores the work of prominent sculptors in the 20th century, including Epstein, Moore, Hepworth, Caro, Frink, and Gormley. They embraced modernism in diverse ways, drawing inspiration from different cultures and techniques. While some pursued social and humanitarian themes, others preferred an abstract approach. Despite their differences – and some clashes and quarrels – these sculptors have an enduring influence. The talk also discusses the distinction between sculpture and installation. Free to members, £10 donation for visitors steining@theartsociety.org www.theartsocietysteining.org.uk

Tuesday 9th April

Neighbourhood Wardens

15:15 – 17:15

Penfold Hall, 35 Church St, Steyning

Board game cafe

We run a board game café that is free and open to everyone. It is on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Penfold Hall in Steyning between 3:15-5:15. We have lots of games available or if people want to bring their favourites they are welcome to. We have free hot and cold drinks. Please contact the Neighbourhood Wardens if you have any questions: Mike - 07734 387888, Alison - 07734 387889, SBUB.wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Friday 12th April

Henfield Theatre Company

19:30 – 22:00

The Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield

Henfield Theatre Company looks at Antarctica

A one man show - Devised and Performed by Trevor Hodgson - Staged for one night only. A theatre experience using the famed Edwardian explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott to tell the story of 120 years of exploration and discovery. Captain Scott's tragic expedition and subsequent legacy has helped to establish this vast continent

as a constant light in the life of our planet. Trevor Hodgson highlights Antarctica in all its glory with spectacular images and with an emphasis on the environmental impact of climate change. This is an original piece of theatre which had its premiere at The Brighton Fringe Festival in 2022. This production is fully supported by Henfield Theatre Company. Any profits from the performance will be donated to The Scott Polar Institute.

Saturday 13th April

Steyning Museum Trust

10:30 – 12:00

Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning

Spring Coffee Morning

Steyning Museum - Raffle, Homemade Cake Stall. Entrance £2 includes fresh coffee and biscuits. Everyone very welcome

Saturday 13th April

Greening Steyning

14:00 – 16:00

Bramber & Beeding Village Hall

Repair Cafe & Home Energy Helpdesk

Don't bin it - let us help you fix it! Bring along your items to repair, and anything you'd like sharpened. If you aren't sure whether we can help please email Robin at repaircafe@greeningsteining.org for advice. You can also speak to one of our Helpdesk volunteers about how to save energy at home.

Saturday 13th April

Shoreham Chamber Choir

19:30 – 21:30

Steyning Parish Church of St Andrew and St Cuthman

A Concert of Spring Music and Byrd Song

Shoreham Chamber Choir will be singing a programme of sacred and secular music by Stanford, Pärt, Rachmaninov, Gjeilo, Duruflé Morley, Holst, Elgar and Byrd (including sections from his three, four and five part masses). The Choir sing mainly 'a capella' sacred and secular music from 16th to 21st century. They were formed over 40 years ago by a group of local singers who had a mutual love of choral music. Their present conductor is James Elias, who has a particular interest in conducting small choirs and has directed the choir since 2021. They have sung at many venues locally, and toured Germany, France and Norway. Tickets will be available at the door (£13) and refreshments will be available during the

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Spring Fair

Sat 13th April 2pm to 5pm

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interval. Do join us if you can!

Saturday 20th April
Silverdragon Wellbeing
 10:00 – 16:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

The Steyning Holistic Fair April 2024

Spring welcomes the return of the Steyning Holistic Fair. An uplifting event with lots of exciting stalls in the main hall, therapies in the tranquil healing space and inspirational talks in the talks room. Exhibitors include: Local Natural Beauty Products, Health & Wellness Products, Spiritual Readings, Rune Readings, Crystals, Handmade Jewellery, Wooden Gifts, Handmade Gifts, Books, Candles, Ceramics, Art Mandalas, Astrology, Energy Healing, Shamanism, Reflexology, Colour Therapy, Massage, Nutrition, Raw Chocolate, Organic Juices and much more. Meet like-minded souls while enjoying home made cakes, plant-based food and refreshments, all at the Steyning Holistic Fair. £3 Entry (Includes all talks). Children Free.

Saturday 20th April
Greening Steyning
 10:30 – 12:00
 The Castle Inn, Bramber

Climate Cafe

A regular event on the 3rd Saturday of most months, the Climate Cafe at the Castle offers a warm and inclusive space, to share friendship and mutual support for those holding questions and worries about the climate crisis and how it will affect us all. Whether you are feeling helpless and fearful about the future, or feeling positive and motivated to bring about change – you are not alone. So why not drop in for a chat.

Saturday 20th April
Abbey Rd Conservation Volunteers & Steyning Parish Council
 11:00 – 15:00
 Abbey Road Conservation Area. Abbey Rd, Steyning

Abbey Road Conservation Area: Open Day

Everyone is invited to our first Open Day at Abbey Road, to showcase this 4 acre site and its wonderful mix of habitats, including stream, pond, woodland, orchard, scrub and meadow. Our volunteers and other experts will be on hand to explain what we have here, and to answer any questions you may have. We will have a display of

maps and pictures showing the history of the site. Another display will show what plants and animals we've recorded in the 3 years we've been working here. There will also be lots of nature-related activities for children.

Sunday 21st April
National Garden Scheme:
 14:00 – 17:30

Newtimber Place Newtimber, Hassocks BN6 9BU

Open Garden: Newtimber Place Newtimber, Hassocks

The garden at is open for the National Garden Scheme Sun 21 April, 14:00 – 17:30. Admission £7, children free. Book online at <https://ngs.org.uk> or pay on the day. Home-made teas. Refreshments in aid of Mid Downland Parish (local churches). The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, and raises impressive amounts of money for some of the UK's best-loved nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake. To learn more about the National Garden Scheme, discover your perfect garden or find out how to open your own garden visit ngs.org.uk, download the National Garden Scheme app or pick up the National Garden Scheme Sussex 2024 Booklet.

Wednesday 24th April
 14:00 – 17:00
 National Garden Scheme
 Fittleworth House Bedham Lane Fittleworth
 Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1JH

National Garden Scheme: Open Garden: Fittleworth House

Visit the stunning gardens at Fittleworth House, Pulborough and support National Garden Scheme charities.

Saturday 27th April
The Sussex Guild
 10:00 – 17:00
 The Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield, West Sussex

The Sussex Guild Contemporary Craft Show at Henfield Hall

NOTE: Saturday 27 April – Sunday 28 April 10.00 – 17.00
 The Sussex Guild is delighted to be exhibiting once again in Henfield Hall on 27th & 28th April. The Contemporary Craft Show will take place

Steyning C of E Primary School appointment

Steyning C of E Primary School are delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. Simon Phipps as their permanent headteacher, having been the acting headteacher since Sue Harrison retired earlier this academic year.



Simon hails from West Bromwich in the West Midlands. He studied American History at The University of Kent which included a year living and working in San Diego. Football (particularly West Bromwich Albion) is his main passion and he spent 15 years working in football media, travelling to football stadiums 4-5 days a week. However, after so long in the job, it was no longer fulfilling so when the opportunity arose, Simon took voluntary redundancy and travelled the world for three years to consider his next move. He decided that the world of education beckoned and he completed his PGCE at The University of East London in 2008.

After gaining his teaching qualification, Simon spent the next 12 years progressing in schools in Barking, Brighton and Lancing before joining Steyning C of E Primary as deputy head in January 2020. Simon has brought so much to the school since his arrival including a total refresh of the foundation subjects, helping the school improve in accordance with the school development plan and most recently leading the team to achieve a secure 'Good' grading from Ofsted in October 2023 which the entire

staff were delighted with. He now looks forward to a long, happy and successful career as the permanent head of the school. Simon said what he loves most about Steyning Primary is the family feeling and the Christian community vibe. He has enjoyed connecting with Father Mark and the church family at St. Andrew's and St. Cuthman's Church and is excited about generating even stronger links in the future. Staff, governors, children and parents were ecstatic to hear news of his appointment as he is such a kind, approachable and cheerful figurehead for the school who knows and values each and every member of the school community; we know you will all welcome and embrace him as the leader of our village primary school.

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throughout the main hall, foyer and garden suite. Delicious homemade refreshments will be available in the café throughout the day, with seating inside as well as in the garden. Be inspired by an array of exciting ceramics, furniture, glass, jewellery, leatherwork, metalwork, silversmithing, textiles and woodwork. Our skilled designer makers look forward to meeting you to discuss their individual work and to explain their craft techniques and inspirations. Take the opportunity to buy beautifully crafted, handmade items, or to commission an extra special one-of-a-kind piece. Admission is £3 and your ticket allows you to return throughout the last weekend in April. Further information: Please ring 01273 479565

Wednesday 1st May

Steyning Library
10:30 – 11:30

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Melody for the Mind

Drop into this free, informal, dementia-friendly singing group, open to all and designed to boost mood and wellbeing on the first Wednesday of every month 10:30 – 11:30.

Wednesday 1st May

Steyning Parish Council: Community Film Night
19:30 – 22:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Screening: WONKA

In the enchanting world of "Wonka," audiences will be transported to the vivid, mythical beginnings of Willy Wonka, the ingenious inventor destined to become the scrumdiddlyumptious Mozart of chocolate. This origin story delves into Wonka's early life, exploring his magical journey from a young, imaginative inventor to the renowned chocolate-making maestro we adore. Tickets are on sale at the Steyning Centre at £6 each and include tea or coffee during the interval. Wine can be purchased at £2.50 per glass. Doors open at 19:00

Friday 3rd May

Vintage Years Club
13:45 – 16:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

Sing Out Sisters Choir

Our meeting commences at 14:00 but the doors are open at 13:45. There will be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy table. After our business section, we

welcome the return of Christabel and her fabulous ladies choir to entertain us. Tea and biscuits will be served from 15:15. Entrance fee is £3 (£5 for visitors) and Annual Membership is £10 (each April). Please always contact Bev Francis-Hills 01273 493894 or 07801 442891 before attending for the first time/returning after a long break, for transport needs or any other information.

Saturday 4th May

Steyning Methodist Church
10:00 – 16:00

Flower Festival - 'Seasons of the Year'

Floral displays and patchworks on the theme of 'Seasons of the Year'. **NOTE:** Open on Saturday 4th May and Monday 6th May from 10:00 – 16:00 when light lunches, refreshments and a cake stall will be available. On Sunday 5th May we will open at 15:00 for a Songs of Praise service. People attending the Songs of Praise service will be able to enjoy the displays during the service and browse them afterwards when refreshments will be available. All welcome.

Saturday 4th May

Steyning Library
10:30 – 11:30

Steyning Library, Church Street, Steyning

Reading Friends

Come along to this friendly group to meet new people, chat and share your love of books and reading on the first Saturday of every month 10.30 – 11.30am.

Sunday 5th May

Steyning and District Community Partnership
11:00 – 16:00

Steyning High Street

Vintage Revival Day

Join us for a Vintage Revival Day! Vintage van and cars, motor bikes, busses, traction engines, steam organs, miniature railway, vintage rides. Food and drink, antique stalls, street entertainment and more!





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The All Things Must Pass Orchestra

The All Things Must Pass Orchestra, a mighty 10-piece band dedicated to the music of George Harrison, has been performing successfully since 2014. Each year, as part of their annual tour, the band performs at the Kenton Theatre in Henley-on-Thames, from where Friar Park, George Harrison's estate, is only a short walk away. And just down the road, in a small village called Stoke Row, there is a pub and music venue called The Crooked Billet, where George used to dine frequently with his family.



The pub's landlord, who knew about the All Things Must Pass Orchestra's concerts in Henley, got in touch with bandleader Alex Eberhard to ask if he could perform a solo concert of George Harrison's music at his venue.

Alex offered to do the show as a duo, together with his friend and colleague Bernd Rest on guitar. A date was arranged for May 2020, but then Covid threw a spanner in the works. After a few attempts to reschedule, the concert was set to take place in May 2021, in a huge marquee that made social distancing possible.

A few weeks before the shows (because of great demand for tickets the duo were booked to play two consecutive nights) the landlord dropped another email, informing Alex and Bernd that George's son, Dhani Harrison, had booked a table for the second evening.

The big day arrived and Dhani was indeed in the audience. During most of the concert he listened intently with his eyes closed, and for the past couple of songs he got up and danced in the aisles with his partner. After the show, the landlord came backstage with Dhani and introduced him to Alex and Bernd.

Dhani was full of praise for the duo's musicianship and thanked Alex for paying his dad so much respect. To get Dhani Harrison's approval was an incredible boost for the two musicians and showed that all their hard work and dedication had paid off, and that it is indeed possible to present George Harrison's incredible music as a duo, stripped back to two guitars and two vocals.

Alex and Bernd will be performing their programme at The Steyning Centre on 11th May. Tickets available at www.allthingsmustpass.co.uk



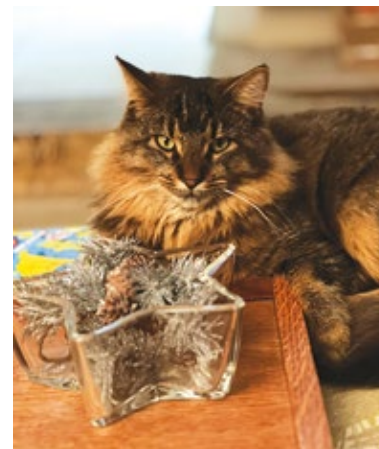
All cats need a chip on their shoulder!

Last year we took on 3 rescue kittens from the CPL. Two of them are obviously sisters from the same litter, and are fairly small and shy. The third is male and as he has grown up, I have found myself drawing parallels with both the story of the ugly duckling and the natural progression of a cuckoo chick as it gradually takes control of the nest. "Rebel", as he was aptly named by my eldest son, has become a big, fluffy, marauding, bruiser who seems to have no fear of anything two or four legged – as all of our dogs and his supposed litter mates can testify to!

This fearlessness and the natural curiosity of the cat was nearly his undoing recently when he took it upon himself to jump into a delivery van. He then ended up going on a short tour of the locale before he was spotted lounging behind an HP printer box like an escaped convict. Luckily, the driver retraced his steps and returned Rebel to sender. However, Rebel could well have continued in the trait of an escapee and done a runner into territories unknown. Had this been the case, he would have joined the ranks of many a stray cat – roaming until hopefully picked up, and bought into a vet or rescue centre for process and packaging. In this eventuality, at least we would have had the comfort of knowing that Rebel is microchipped, because the first thing that we do on being presented with a stray cat at the surgery is to scan for a chip. If one is present, as long as the owner's details are current, then it is a fairly straightforward process to reunite the errant Moggy with their relieved cat servant.

It is for reasons like this that the government is implementing legislation which will make it compulsory to have all cats microchipped from 10th June 2024. Owners found not to have microchipped their cat after this date will have 21 days to have one implanted, or may face a fine of up to £500. Similar legislation has been in place for dogs since April 2016.

Having a microchip is a way of unequivocally identifying your cat. This has implications for the pet travel scheme (for which a microchip is already mandatory) and in the rare, but stressful situation where there is a dispute over a cat's ownership. As I have already referenced, some cats do



experience wanderlust and stray cats are all too common. If one does turn up in your garden and you're unsure where it came from then it's always worth getting it checked for a microchip – don't just feed it! I should also mention the much sadder, but just as practical application of a microchip, which is when an unknown cat which has died is presented to us. If a microchip is present, we are able to inform owners who may have

otherwise never known the outcome of their cat. One thing a microchip can't do is act as a tracking device. Unfortunately the technology is currently too small to fit in a microchip which is the size of a grain of rice. If you happen to be some kind of techno guru and think you can make this possible now, then you could make a lot of money! It's the kind of thing that would allow you to saunter in to the dragon's den with a justified sense of superiority and watch as Peter Jones et al try to woo you with their business connections... So, hopefully you can see both the reasons and the benefits behind getting your cat microchipped. If you need to get your cat microchipped before the law change, then good news! We're offering a discounted price of only £15.00 for all kitty microchip implantations until 10th June 2024. Additionally, if your pet joins our Practice Health Plan, then a microchip is completely FREE! Implanting a microchip is quick and simple and can be done in a normal consultation. Please contact us for more information or to book your pet in.



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Shiatsu Physical Therapist

Hello my name is Tanya Price. I have lived and worked in Steyning for 20 years qualifying from the London College of Shiatsu in 1993. Being a physical therapist is my passion as the positive difference it makes is very rewarding.

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Wednesday	9 - 4:30
Thursday	9 - 5
Friday	9 - 5
Saturday	9 - 5
Sunday	11 - 3

While the topic of one's own mortality may not be the most pleasant of conversations, it is a crucial one. The creation of a legal Will is an essential task that far too many of us procrastinate or overlook altogether.

The impact of not having a Will in place can be both frustrating and detrimental, especially to the loved ones left behind. First and foremost, without a Will, the distribution of one's assets becomes a complicated and often contentious affair. In the absence of clear instructions, intestacy laws take over, and this can sometimes result in assets being distributed in ways that may not align with the deceased's wishes. Without a Will, there can be significant delays in the probate process too, this can tie up the deceased's assets for months or even years depending on the complexity of the estate being left.

For those with children it is really important to have conversations with those people you would choose to take care of them in the event that anything happens to you. Without a Will, you have no say in who or how your children will be raised in your absence. In today's world of blended families, ensuring that you have officially documented who you want to inherit and when is even more important.

Making your Will is a simple process in most cases, you can use your Solicitor, a dedicated Estate Planning service like us or even go online. I tend to find that due to the nature of the subject, most people feel more comfortable talking through their options with a real person and we can do this either in our office or in your home- wherever you feel most comfortable.



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Emma Cohen **FIPW**

In 2020, Emma became the youngest ever fellow of the Institute of Professional Willwriters, showing her dedication to the profession.



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May 24th to June 2nd 2024

Some of our Festival events - more to follow!!



Tickets on sale from April 19th, from our website - www.steyningfestival.co.uk - and the Steyning Bookshop

Culture and Community the **South Downs Way!**



Steyning Festival event: Building a Sustainable Future

Virgin Money Head of Agriculture, Brian Richardson, has been invited to give a keynote presentation at the Steyning Festival (running between 24th May and 2nd June), addressing the critical need for farmers, rural communities and the country as a whole to build an environmentally and economically sustainable future for farming.

Founded in 2006, the Steyning Festival has grown into a biennial ten-day celebration of a thriving local community's culture, heritage, arts and crafts, and a platform for the passionate championship of the surrounding rural environment.

'Steyning is surrounded by some of the UK's most beautiful but agriculturally challenging farmland and is close to the now world-famous Knepp Reserve where approaches to 'rewilding' unproductive farmland are being pioneered,' says Nick Linfield, one of the festival organisers. 'Our farmers are the most important stewards of our environment. Without their commitment, the UK cannot meet its natural and climate targets, but farmers also need to be able to produce food profitably; this is a critical time both for the future of the agricultural industry and the health of our environment.'

'We're delighted that Brian Richardson will bring all his experience and expertise in farming and agricultural banking to the Steyning Festival and help explain how our farmers can produce healthy and affordable food, look after the environment and make a decent living all at the same time.'

A Nuffield Scholar from a farming background, Brian has spent the majority of his career running agri-businesses and farm cooperatives across the UK, latterly as CEO of the H&H Group in the North West before joining Virgin Money in 2018 as Head of Agriculture for the UK. He is passionate about supporting farmers through the essential transition to a Zero Carbon economy.

'This is a real privilege for me to speak at the Steyning Festival. Farming is currently going

through a period of completely unprecedented change. Farmers are facing very steep challenges to meet fast-approaching Net Zero Carbon targets and to produce the extraordinarily high quality of food that we expect in this country at a viable profit.'

'Virgin Money has always been deeply involved in the agriculture sector, and we are helping hundreds of farming clients all over the UK to invest in new farming strategies, in technology, diversification and carbon reduction to secure a sustainable future for themselves, their families and their farming businesses.'

'I have complete confidence that our farmers will achieve the changes we need to make for the sake of the industry and our food supply, and for the regeneration of our environment. It will be a pleasure to give our farmers the praise they deserve at this wonderful festival and talk about some of the remarkable successes we have been able to support locally and nationally.'

The Future of Farming. Driving productivity and profitability in a sustainable way

Chaired by Jeremy Kerswell,
Principal of Plumpton Agricultural College.
Speakers: Brian Richardson, UK head of Agriculture Virgin Money and Martin Lines,
Chair of Nature Friendly Farming Network.

Steyning Festival: Thursday May 30th at 18:00, Steyning Methodist Church.

The High Sheriff of West Sussex Visit.

The High Sheriff of West Sussex, Andy Bliss represented the Crown when he visited Steyning Museum recently.

He arrived with a warm smile for his guided tour of this small but fascinating museum talking with volunteers, watching exhibition work in progress and admiring one of the Museum's star attractions "Steyning Man" – archaeology being his main interest.

He also met the Museum research team and delved into the Museum's extensive archives. Andy much appreciated his look around and expressed his *'thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who make this museum such a brilliant place to visit'*.



Andy with some of the Museum's volunteers.



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www.thesussexguild.co.uk



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The Sussex Guild Contemporary Craft Show

The Sussex Guild is delighted to be exhibiting once again in The Henfield Hall on 27th & 28th April. The Contemporary Craft Show will take place throughout the main hall, foyer and garden suite.

Delicious homemade refreshments will be available in the café throughout the day, with seating inside as well as in the garden. Kate Hackett has been working hard as the lead



Jewellery: Anna Clark - Silver&Glass Brooch

show co-ordinator working with a small team of members to create our Henfield Show. Be inspired by an array of exciting ceramics, furniture, glass, jewellery, leatherwork, metalwork, silversmithing, textiles and woodwork.

Our skilled designer makers look forward to meeting you to discuss their individual work and to explain their craft techniques and inspirations.

Take the opportunity to buy beautifully crafted, handmade items, or to commission an extra special one-of-a-kind piece.

Admission is £3 and your ticket allows you to return throughout the last weekend in April.



Ceramics: Kate Hackett - Posy Pots

Front Cover: Peter Clarkson

I've been an amateur painter for thirty years.

I began with adult education classes. At the end of the first term, they wanted to throw me out as I was so inept. However I persevered and went on residential courses in the U K and abroad.

Some of them were very bad. A participant on one course died between the morning and afternoon sessions. At another there was a dead dog in the swimming pool. In Tuscany, pictures were stolen during the lunch break [including mine so I must have improved].

In spite of this, painting in groups is great, not just sharing of ideas, but the [usually] cheerful socialising.

Eventually, I found a teacher who taught me how to really see, how to interpret, how to

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imagine and above all about the magic of colour, and this is what my picture on the cover is about. Shapes and gorgeous colours.

Painting is exciting. Try it. Do it now.
Peter Clarkson

April 2024 Book Reviews

Some excellent new non-fiction titles with local relevance coming your way this month!

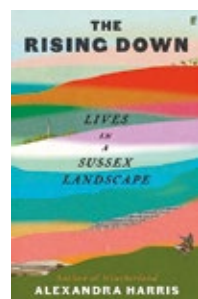


Hagstone by Sinead Gleeson

HarperCollins £16.99
hardback

Highly recommended by bookshop staffer Gill, this debut novel by Irish writer, essayist and artist Sinead Gleeson is an startlingly original literary page-turner.

Artist Nell lives on a rugged, remote island alongside the Inions, a mysterious and reclusive community of women who consider the island a place of refuge. When Nell is commissioned to create an artwork to celebrate the Inion's history, she gains entry to the commune and discovers things about the community and about herself that will challenge everything she thought she knew. A brooding, eerie and beautifully-written tale, which delves into the darker side of human nature, faith and the natural world.



The Rising Down, Lives in a Sussex Landscape by Alexandra Harris

Faber Books £25
hardback 21st March

Celebrated critic and cultural historian Alexandra Harris is the author of Romantic Moderns and Weatherland, and in her new book The Rising

Down, Alexandra returns to her birth county of Sussex to consider its artistic inheritance. Surprisingly, despite our proximity to London, Sussex does not feature prominently in pre-19th century art and literature, perhaps because the Downs and the Wealden mud made the county inaccessible. Undeterred by the paucity of records, Harris immerses herself in the County Archaeological records

and treats us to a deep dive into Sussex history.

Harris takes the reader on a captivating ramble, unearthing all manner of unexpected stories, from the medieval anchorite who walled themselves into the little church at Hardham, to the moose belonging to the Duke of Richmond's menagerie at Goodwood and immortalised by George Stubbs. She looks at the Sussex-set work of poets such as William Cowper, artists including John Constable and writers including Ford Madox Ford but also uncovers the hidden voices of the stonemasons, weavers and folk artists who contributed to the county's rich architectural and artistic heritage.

Alexandra will discuss The Rising Down at our event on Tuesday 17th April



Another England, How to Reclaim our National Story by Caroline Lucas

Cornerstone, £22
hardback 18th April

A new book by Green Party MP and environmental campaigner Caroline Lucas is always cause for celebration and Another England does not

disappoint!

Another England looks at patriotism and national identity and asks how right-wingers have hijacked 'Englishness' and whether it can be reclaimed. The dominant stories about 'Englishness' are now trumpeted by the cheerleaders for Brexit, exceptionalism, and imperial nostalgia, but Lucas argues that there are other more compelling stories about who we are: our radical inclusivity, our deep-rooted commitment to the natural world, our history of struggle to win rights for all. These stories put the Chartists, the Diggers and the Suffragettes alongside Nelson and Churchill in the national canon.

This inspiring book draws from England's literary heritage - medieval writers and

Steyning Bookshop - 01903 812062
Monday - Saturday: 9:30 - 17:30
info@steyningbookshop.co.uk



Steyning Bookshop April Event

THE RISING DOWN:
Lives in a Sussex Landscape
An Evening with Alexandra Harris
Author of *Weatherland* & *Romantic Moderns*

Tuesday 16th April
7.30pm
Steyning Methodist Church

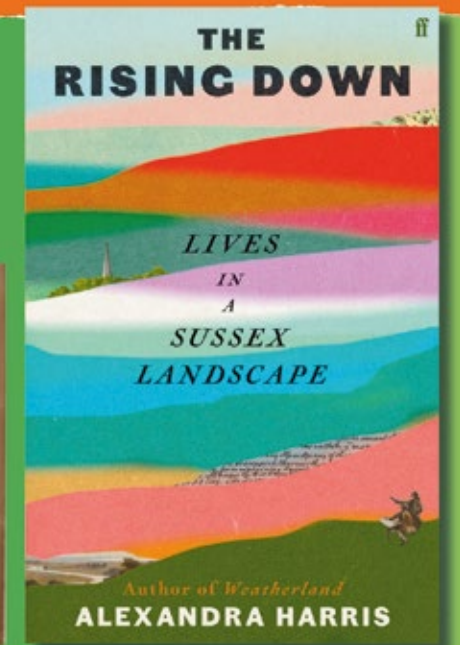
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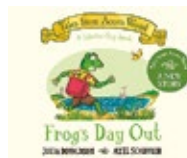
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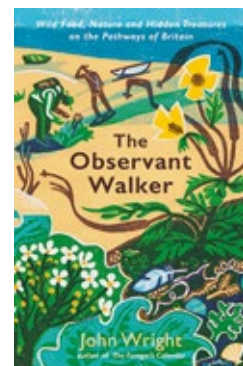
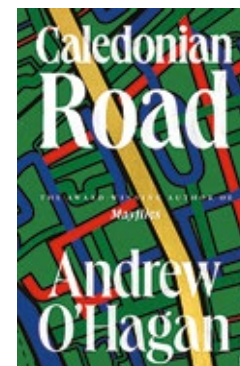
Romantic poets, as well as looking at more modern diverse artistic voices, to find solutions to the most pressing issues of our time, from the toxic legacy of Empire, to the struggle for constitutional reform and the accelerating climate emergency. *An optimistic and refreshing take on English identity which stirred new feelings of national pride in me!*



Frog's Day Out by Julia Donaldson

Macmillan £7.99 board book

Hurrah, all aboard for a new Acorn Wood story, illustrated by Axel Scheffler in his usual charming style! The Acorn Wood stories are 'entry level' Julia Donaldson, featuring short rhyming stories with flaps to peep under on every page. Frog and his friends are packing for a day at the beach, can you help them find their sunhats, buckets and spades before they board the steam train to the seaside? Delightful fun for toddler cross section



Patient rehabilitation.

The British Chiropractic Association is supporting a new major campaign, calling for universal access to patient rehabilitation.

A major new campaign launched on 19th February, calling for an end to the postcode lottery for NHS rehabilitation services that help people recover from the likes of car crashes, cancer or strokes.

The UK's largest and longest-standing membership body for chiropractors joins forces with over 30 healthcare organisations and former **Top Gear** presenter and rehab patient, Richard Hammond, calling for universal access to patient rehabilitation.

There is currently no guaranteed access to this vital care and the campaign is calling for life-changing NHS rehab services to be made available to everyone in the UK, no matter where they live.

The BCA prides itself on raising awareness about the rigour, relevance and evidence of chiropractic, and showing how it can be integral to the UK healthcare system. By supporting this campaign, the BCA is showcasing how chiropractic care can support both rehab patients on their healthcare journey and wider healthcare organisations and peers when treating patients with musculoskeletal conditions.

Alongside the BCA, the campaign is also supported by more than 30 healthcare charities, royal colleges and professional bodies such as, the **Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)**, the **British Geriatric Society**, **Asthma+Lung UK** and the **Stroke Association** who are all members of the **Community Rehabilitation Alliance**.

The campaign, created by intensive care rehabilitation nurse, Kate Tantom, and her multi-professional team, alongside independent creative agency, Pablo, celebrates patients' **'firsts'** since hospitalisation – the first tentative footsteps or first halting words – monumental

milestones for those lucky enough to receive specialist rehabilitation care.

The patients' first steps are now on billboards around the UK and the re-learned voice is a radio ad with a voiceover from Richard Hammond who himself needed many months of specialist rehabilitation after suffering a traumatic brain injury in a high-speed crash whilst filming **Top Gear** in 2006.

Rehabilitation, including **Chiropractic, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Specialist Nutritional Support**, plays a vital role in helping people recover after an accident or illness, such as a stroke, cancer or car crash. But shockingly, millions of people don't have access to NHS rehab services in their area.

When patients don't have access to rehab, it can slow or halt their recovery, damaging their quality of life and mental health, and causing lasting disability, distress and deterioration of health. Quality rehab takes a multidisciplinary team effort, from chiropractors, physiotherapists, nurses, speech and language therapists, support workers, occupational therapists and psychologists, all playing a major role in a patient's recovery.

The statistics are shocking:

- For stroke victims, rehabilitation can reduce the risk of a further stroke by 35% and enable people to regain their independence, but fewer than 1 in 3 get the help they need.
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) exacerbations are the 2nd largest cause of emergency hospital admissions. Rehabilitation reduces admissions by 14% and hospital bed days by 50% but less than 40% of eligible people are offered it.



- Cardiovascular disease accounts for 1 million hospital admissions per year, 100,000 of these are due to heart attacks. Rehabilitation prevents the progression of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and heart attacks. Yet only 50% of eligible patients receive it. There would be 50,000 fewer hospital admissions if access was 85%.

The campaign directs people to **PetitionForRehab.com**, where they can sign a petition calling for rehab to be made available everywhere and for a named rehab lead to be appointed on every hospital trust and board in the UK.

Speaking about how chiropractors can help tackle this major issue, BCA President, Tim Button, said: *'Chiropractors can often be the first port of call for patients experiencing painful musculoskeletal conditions which require a rehabilitative approach to care. By integrating rehabilitation into primary care, chiropractors can positively impact healthcare systems by providing a ready*

assembled workforce, well educated in the field of rehabilitation. This can reduce the number of hospitalisations and re-admissions required by increasing coverage and access to services.

Chiropractors also benefit from being able to provide continuity of care over a long period of time, allowing for the development of a long-term relationship between a patient and a provider. This helps foster an environment of trust, understanding and respect. Chiropractors need to develop and maintain positive communication channels with other healthcare providers in their local communities to enable building awareness of service provision and openness to collaboration.'

The billboards are live in seven cities throughout the UK and the radio ads are being played nationwide.



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The South Downs

I love heading out at the weekends for a hike over the Downs - but 90 million years ago, this part of the planet wouldn't have been a safe place to be. I'd have been busy avoiding the teeth of hungry aquatic predators like the 10-metre-long Mosasaurs as I cruised through a shallow sea.

But it would be much smaller, less fearsome prehistoric organisms that would shape Sussex. The calcium shells from microscopic marine algae slumped to the sea floor and millions of years of pressure and erosion moulded them into the curvaceous chalk hills that form the familiar foundations of the South Downs.

It only feels like yesterday (well, about 6,500 years ago) that we humans showed up and got to work. The wild Sussex woods were chopped down and eventually sheep grazing became the dominant activity, on the cleared hills, for many centuries. The sheep-nibbled short downland turf is an internationally rare habitat, rich in flowers and the creatures that depend on them.

And, as chalk downland is such a rare habitat, the species that live here are also uncommon. Our butterflies are a prime example. Species like the Grayling, Silver-spotted Skipper, Small Blue, Adonis Blue and Chalk Hill Blue are restricted to this special habitat.

But it's not just wildlife that benefits. Those porous chalk hills filter, store, and provide us with most of our water. They also offer loads



of other free services from flood prevention to pollination and food production. The open countryside around Sussex also offers us immeasurable physical, mental and spiritual benefits. The South Downs were designated a National Park in 2011.

While writing this article, I discovered a letter penned in 1915 by the Lewes naturalist, W. E. Nicholson, expressing concern for the future of the South Downs around Lewes, and especially the rare Adonis Blue butterfly and scarce Forester Moth that live there. I'd like to think that Mr. Nicholson would be re-assured to know that, more than a century later, his beloved Lewes Downs, butterflies and moths are still just where he left them and all flourishing under the care of Sussex Wildlife Trust on their reserves at Malling Down and Southerham.

By Michael Blencowe: Learning & Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust.
Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent registered charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. It's easy to join online at:
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Steyning For Trees: Events at the Festival

We are so happy to be supporting this great community event. Please book up.

A stall at the Greening Day on Saturday, 25th May showing Steyning's very own Wildlife Corridor hedges. Over 20 now sustaining and increasing biodiversity.

Thanks to those who have taken them on their land. Over 100 trees on verges with the help of residents.

We will be having a variety of Games for children and adults.

Wednesday, 29th May 11:00: Shooting Field Green BUG HUNT Survey for children and their parents. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Lots to learn and fun to be had.

Friday 31st May 11:00: WALK AND TALK from Steyning Centre. Hear the real story of what Steyning For Trees are doing to help this lovely town. Flood resistance, Carbon and pollution capture, beautifying our streets, saving our birds mammals and invertebrates. Providing the very air we breathe and a better future for the next generation.

Saturday 1st June: Wilton Park (Wiston House) 18:30 for 19:00 £12.50 inc. We are so pleased to welcome back to Steyning Dame Eleanor Jane Milner-Gulland, Professor of Biodiversity at Oxford University. She was a pupil at SGS and our Co-chair David Buckett taught her biology, this is why she is coming.

We will get an insight into what is really happening in the world 'environmentally' and reasons to be optimistic.

Talking about saving the Saiga antelope from extinction. The people of the Steppes so love this animal because, to them, it is a symbol of the wild steppes, of independence and freedom.



BUY YOUR TICKET quickly - this could be a sell-out.

We are so grateful to solicitors **MAYO, WYNNE, BAXTER** for their generous donation of £500 to the festival to support this talk arranged by SFT.

Rebecca Louis, a partner, a keen environmentalist, is letting her lawn grow to support the RHS message '*No mow May, Let it Bloom June*'. She has extended this period and been rewarded by wild orchids in the grass.

SFT have been working with Rebecca and her family to plant a small hedge of mixed native species to protect them. This adds another stepping stone to our ever growing hedge/wildlife corridors throughout Steyning.



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www.cancerresearchuk.org

Steyning & Ashurst Friends of St. Barnabas House.
01903 814337

The Friends of Steyning Parish Church. 01903 813232

The Steyning Society.
E: cmantsteyningsoc@gmail.com / W: www.steyningsociety.org.uk

The Steyning Friends of Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.
01903 813901 / 01903 815601

The Royal British Legion Steyning & District Branch.
01903 815176.

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SteyningArtGroup99@gmail.com

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Steyning Camera Club.
info@steyningcc.org.uk

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Steyning & District Flower Club. 01903 895939

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Steyning National Women's Register
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Steyning So and Sews
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Sugar and Spice Sugar Craft Club. 01903 695700.

The Arts Society Steyning.
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Cadet Centre - Steyning Army Cadets. 07737931010.

Steyning, Beeding and Bramber Trefoil Guild.
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steyninggoodneighbours.co.uk

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Friends of Steyning Downland Scheme. www.steyningdownland.org/support-us/friends-scheme/

Special Task Force.
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UK Group. www.facebook.com/
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April Gardening Journal

As the weather warms up our gardens respond with fresh new growth, and everything starts to feel alive again. It's a welcome relief after what seems like a long and particularly wet winter. As seeds are sown and lawns are mown, we start to plan what the garden is going to look like for the Summer ahead. There is plenty to do to but don't forget there is lots to enjoy in the garden too. Above all, it's a time where we can look forward to the longer summer evenings and enjoy the outdoors properly again.

Hyacinthoides non-scripta or simply 'Bluebells' really signify the beginning of Spring for many of us. Traditionally we see these most in our roadside verges and native woodlands, however, they are now frequently used as a garden plants, especially for those wilder parts of the garden.

Known in England as the common bluebell and in Scotland as the harebell they produce a nodding head of 5-12 tubular sweet-scented violet-blue flowers and linear, basal leaves. Bluebells are unmistakable bell-shaped and they actually spend the majority of their time underground as bulbs, emerging, often in droves, to flower from April onwards. These sweet-smelling flowers nod or droop to one side of the flowering stem (known as an inflorescence) and have creamy white-coloured pollen inside. Some bluebell flowers can also be white or pink and grow up to 20 flowers on one inflorescence.

Bluebells are particularly associated with ancient woodland where they may dominate

Article by Alex Bell
T: 01903 815065 M: 07866 747849

the understorey to produce carpets of violet-blue flowers in "bluebell woods", but also occurs in more open habitats in western regions. They are protected under UK law and are not to be confused with: Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), which is very similar in appearance to the British bluebell.

However, Spanish bluebells grow upright, with the flowers all around the stem, not drooping to one side like the British bluebell. Hybrid bluebell (*Hyacinthoides x massartiana*) is a mix of the British and Spanish bluebell. It is often very similar in appearance to our native bluebell but might threaten its existence by out-competing it and diluting the gene pool.

Bluebells in the garden can be tricky. If they are happy, they can dominate and out compete other spring flowers or even summer flowering perennials. For this reason, they are best planted in shrub borders, under trees or in the wilder parts of the garden.



Plant of The Month – *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*

They do best under deciduous trees and if you have the space to replicate a mini woodland you could create that carpet of blue that we all love to see coming back year on year.

Jobs to be doing this month include:

- Continue to remove faded flowers on spring bulbs but not the foliage until it has withered.
- Keep borders weed free.
- Mulch borders if not completed last month.
- If the weather is mild, then trim weak or straggly growth of sage and rosemary.
- Penstemons – Cutback last year's stems down to the new growth – if the weather is very cold and frosty delay until end of the month.
- Check evergreens for any frost damage – lightly prune if necessary.
- If not already done so start sowing and start mowing.

In the vegetable garden:

- Plant second-early and maincrop potatoes.

- Pinch out the tips of broad beans if they're covered in aphids, or spray shoots with soap-based solution.
- Sow outdoor varieties of tomatoes, chillies and courgettes in pots, so they're ready to plant out in late May or June.
- Divide clumps of hardy herbs, such as lemon balm and chives, then replant in pots, borders or a dedicated herb bed.
- Sow small batches of rocket and other easy salad leaves.
- Sow flowering companions in the veg plot, such as pot marigolds and borage.
- Continue planting batches of garlic, shallots and onions every few weeks to extend the cropping period.
- Sow herbs such as parsley, coriander, dill and chamomile in a sunny bed or container.
- Protect emerging seedlings from slugs and snails.
- Sow fast-growing crops, such as radishes, to make the most of any temporary gaps.

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Tudor Justice

When John Launder was burnt at the stake on Chantry Green it was because of sharp differences of belief. The state was intent on crushing what they perceived as heresy. The local courts, however, took care of more humdrum business.

Coroners inquests, as they do now, dealt with deaths and these were quite often associated with animals or rural pursuits. For instance, when a ten year old boy fell from his perch *'on a redde mare* (worth 5s 4d)', which was pulling his father's cart, *'the mare then feloniously murdered him, giving him 3 mortal wounds on the head 3 inches long'*.

Some of the intricacies of Tudor justice are also exemplified by an event which occurred in November 1547. James Farnfold, a gentleman of Steyning, and Edward Smythe of Wickham together with four of their friends from Henfield went out to John Leedes' farm at Wappingthorne, on the Ashurst road, to do some rabbiting. They *'came armed and riotously assembled there, killed 2 of his rabbits worth 4d. with nets and pursenettes and assaulted William Horley and other of Leedes servants'* who had come out to confront them. There *'James a Barowe, shoemaker, holding a bow and arrow in both hands, shot and murdered Horley, giving him a wound with the arrow in the left side to the heart of which he immediately died.'* Barowe fled but not long afterwards he was caught and taken into custody from which, *'later on the same day, he feloniously escaped and (again) fled'*. In the spring of 1548 all six of them were indicted for riot and homicide. Eventually Barowe appeared before the King's Bench *'where he was acquitted of the murder, but his goods and chattels, worth £3, were forfeit because he had fled.'*

This is not quite the end of this story. In 1555 John a Barowe (a relative of James

– or misnamed by the clerk?) *'murdered William Suthcott with a staff worth 1d. which he held in both hands, giving him a wound on the back of the head of which he immediately died'*. His punishment was to be outlawed but a clerk noted on the court document that *'he had already been hanged at Steyning'* – this, we think, being the only recorded instance of a hanging in the town.

One winter's night in 1540 a group of young men were *'amusing and busying themselves'* out at Wiston *'by batfowlyng'* [catching roosting birds by night with lights and poles, bats or nets]. A neighbour, coming into an adjoining croft armed with *'a pyked staff and seeing the men fowling said: 'What make you here, you knaves? I wold you durst come over the hedge.'* One did just that and in the ensuing melee called out *'Why, knave, wilt thoue kyll me?'*. But that, sadly, is what happened. The coroner's inquest, on this occasion, took no action having concluded that William Philipson had been inadvertently *'feloniously killed by chance medley'*.

Generally speaking, judgements appear to have been measured and exactly examined. So, in 1551, 'the pigs of Christian Kayne, widow, of Bramber, 'inkeper', went onto the

land of William Battner of Bramber, 'inkeper', and were grazing and doing damage there. Battner's son John entered the land with his father's dog to drive the pigs off. Joan Davyd, Christian's servant, seeing him driving her mistress's pigs, entered the land, fought with John and beat the dog away from the



pigs. Then William, seeing Joan on his land assaulting his son, went towards her, met her on 'a fote bridge' 4 feet wide and struck her on the right ear with his right hand. That blow was not the cause of her death, for long before she had been ill with 'le blake jawndes' [black jaundice] and it was of that that she died a natural death in Christian's house.'

These judgements allow us little insights into the rough and tumble of the Tudor world: it is just a shame that the same clerk was not on hand to describe the scene when John Launder was brought to his death.

Article by: Chris Tod - Steyning Museum.

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