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2023



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## **USEFUL NUMBERS**

**Steyning Library:**

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E: steyning.library@westsussex.gov.uk

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**The Steyning Health Centre:**

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Wed 08:00 – 20:00 Thu 08:00 – 20:00  
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**Steyning & District Good Neighbours**

**Association:** T: 01903 816181  
[steyninggoodneighbours.co.uk](http://steyninggoodneighbours.co.uk)

**Steyning Parish Council:** T: 01903 812042 –

W: [www.steyningpc.gov.uk](http://www.steyningpc.gov.uk)  
E: [clerk@steyningpc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@steyningpc.gov.uk)

**The Steyning Centre:** T: 01903 812042

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## Volunteering – the benefits

Let's have a look at the awesome benefits of volunteering. It's all about giving back and gaining so much more in return!

First off, volunteering is a fantastic way to make a positive impact on your community. Whether you're assisting at a local food bank, helping out at a shelter, or working with environmental organisations, you're actively contributing to the well-being of those around you. And let's not forget the warm fuzzy feeling you get from knowing you've made a difference!

But it doesn't stop there. Volunteering is also a brilliant opportunity to develop new skills. You can gain valuable experience in areas like communication, teamwork, organisation, and problem-solving. What's more these are the kind of skills that will come in handy in all aspects of life, from your career to your personal relationships.

Importantly there's also the chance to meet incredible people. Volunteering brings together a diverse range of individuals who share a common goal. You'll make friends from all walks of life, each with their own unique experiences and perspectives. A great opportunity to expanding your social circle!

It's also proven that volunteering can boost your mental and physical well-being. The



act of helping others is said to reduce stress levels, improve self-esteem, and increase happiness. Plus, many volunteer opportunities involve physical activity, such as gardening or supporting sporting events, which can keep you active and fit.

Last but not least, volunteering can be a gateway to discovering your passions and interests. It's a chance to explore different fields, try new things, and maybe even discover a hidden talent or skill. Who knows, that couple of hours you spend volunteering each week might just lead you down a whole new career path or spark an exciting new hobby!

Steyning is rich in opportunities to lend a hand. Greening Steyning has a variety of projects all looking for extra help. Think about the time you have available and what appeals.

The Farmers Market is just an hour or so a month, the Repair Café welcomes anyone with any repairing skills just once a month, the Community Fridge is looking for drivers to collect food from supermarkets or to give it away, up to twice a week. Or maybe your thing would be the Energy Helpdesk. Interested in nature? - the Biodiversity group need extra help.

Email us: [greeningsteyning@gmail.com](mailto:greeningsteyning@gmail.com)

You get to make a difference, gain valuable skills, meet awesome people, improve your well-being, and maybe even find your true calling.

So why not roll up your sleeves and get involved? We need your help, and you'll reap the rewards along the way.

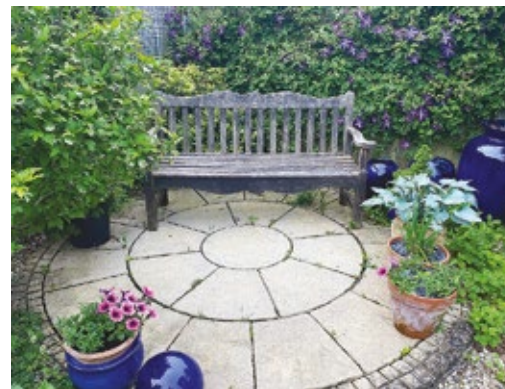
## Steyning in Bloom Open Garden Day

Sunday 25th June, - a steaming hot day and the town was buzzing! ! Here's a selection of photos showing some of the amazing gardens included in the tour.

This included a selection of tiny treasures tucked away behind the High Street; several where concern for wildlife is the top priority, gathered by Greening Steyning; a meadow full of orchids; and others full to bursting with interesting plants. There were a couple with the slopes of the Downs as a backdrop.

Each one was a showcase for gardeners with a passion for plants and wildlife and the generosity to share this with the more than 450 visitors who enjoyed the day. Thank you to these kind garden owners, to those who offered tea, including the

Methodist church, or Ploughman's lunch, and to all of you who visited and supported the efforts of Steyning in Bloom to raise the funds for our planting. ....flowers in the High Street are a great boost to the spirits!





## Vocal Fusion Acapella 2023

Your local group of male singers Vocal Fusion Acapella with their director Zoe Peate have been busy in the last year and we wanted to share our news with you.

Two new members joined us after a FREE Learn to Sing Course in 2022 and are now happily part of the VFA family and learning a whole new repertoire.

Our repertoire is now expanding from barbershop, popular song & musicals to Sea Shanties and Folksongs – there are so many wonderful arrangements to choose from and they are great source of inspiration not just

musically but also for working and crafting the voice. Our most recent songs have been The Drunken Sailor arr Parker/Shaw and a beautiful setting of the poem 'She moved through the fair' by Timothy Takach. We have also learnt The Wellerman and are beginning a setting of the well-known Shenandoah arr K Schraeder.

Over the last few months, we have added a couple of Disney songs – what's not to like? We have started with 'The Bare Necessities' and 'You're Welcome' from Moana & will add to these during 2023.

Being an acapella group the discipline to learn is high but the rewards are fantastic and we would love to see more of you men singing and enjoying the camaraderie of this wonderful hobby.....basses especially!

Come and sit in on any of our Wednesday evening rehearsals at Dial Post Village Hall RH13 8NH from 19:15 or hear us at our next concert on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at St Peter's in Henfield.

Check: [www.vocalfusionacapella.co.uk](http://www.vocalfusionacapella.co.uk)



## Front Cover: A Kind of Blue Homage to Miles Davis

Dave lived in the West Coast of the USA for most of the 1980's and was inspired by the "Hard Edge" school of painting that surfaced there in the 1960's. A selection of Dave's work in this style was on show for his exhibition at the Steyning Art Trail in 2022.

Hard Edge painting is characterized by large, simplified, usually geometric forms on an overall flat surface; precise, razor-sharp contours; and broad areas of bright, unmodulated colour that have been stained into unprimed canvas or board.

Dave is self-taught but has completed courses at Museum of Modern Art in New York, with Corey D'Augustine on Post-war Abstract Painting. He has also studied abstract acrylic painting at West Dean College with Robert Sosner and is currently being tutored at Emerson College by Richard Heys.

For over 30 years Dave has been a student of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh and finds that painting is

the perfect mindful meditation practice, where he can hopefully bring a sense of space, stillness, and emptiness to his work.

Dave's work can be viewed by appointment.

Dave Tester 07759 052287  
[davetester@me.com](mailto:davetester@me.com)



SteyningARTS  
ART TRAILS : EVENTS : INSPIRATION

## Shoreham-by-Sea's annual Wordfest

Shoreham-by-Sea's annual Wordfest attracts high profile writers and performers from around the UK along with showcasing local creativity.

The festival starts with a theatre trail through the ancient Marlipins museum. In **Tales of Shoreham**, a guide from the early film industry on Shoreham Beach will lead small groups to meet characters from the town's history, each having a fascinating tale to tell.

**Lemn Sissay** is one of the most high-profile writers in the UK and we are among the first festivals to hear him read and talk about his new poetry collection, **'Let the Light Pour In.'** Always entertaining and thought-provoking, this is a unique opportunity to meet Lemn.

There are a wide variety of events to attract all ages and interests: Elly Griffiths's humorous play **The Houseboat of Death**, political and international discussions with Raphael Behr and Gabriel Gatehouse,

**Footmarks** archaeology talk, drama, song, authors and poets. **Idle Women** musical theatre tells the little-known story of the women who worked on the Inland Waterways during World War Two.

We are particularly proud of our partnership with Bloomin' Arts, a charity working with young adults with disabilities, who will perform their own version of Shakespeare's **Merry Wives of Windsor**.

Tickets and information about all 20 events are available from [www.shorehamwordfest.com/whats-on](http://www.shorehamwordfest.com/whats-on)

Tickets are also available 7 days a week from Shoreham Art Gallery  
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## September Steyning Community Orchard - Apple Juicing - Sunday 10th

Come and join in with our Apple Juicing on Sunday 10th Sept. 13:00 - 16:00. In the Community Orchard on the Memorial Playing Field (Cricket Field)

The sound of voices drift across the Memorial Playing Field and children's laughter lifts into the clear blue sky above and hangs in the warm air. Swallows, skimming low over the late brown, summer grass, wheel and turn, hunting for food.

In the distance, the clock looking down from its tower above the High Street chimes one. Lunchtime, and small groups of people are weaving their way from the Cricket Club on the edge of the green, around the cricket pitch, and up towards the corner of the playing field where the Community Orchard waits for them.

Here rows of fruit trees doze in the warmth of this early September afternoon. The Community Orchard is a special place. It belongs to everyone. The fruit trees have been donated by local people, planted and looked after by local volunteers and everyone can help themselves to the fruit.

The trees themselves are special. They are a link to our past; a more rural, slower, gentle



way of life that has become a memory, but is something that we still carry inside us. They stand on the site of an older orchard planted in the late 1930's. A handful of those original trees are still here, and importantly, the present orchard now includes twenty-five Heritage trees, old Sussex varieties whose roots have gone down deep into the Sussex soil for centuries.

**The Community Orchard is special. The trees are special. And today is Special.**

Today is another link with the past. Back in the 1930's early apples; sweet, and quick to ripen would have been eaten from the tree, later ones would have been stored in cool, dry barns and cellars. But the only other way to preserve apples to enjoy all year round was to juice them and make cider.

In keeping with tradition, today is Steyning Community Orchard's annual Juicing Day. The day when everyone is invited to come along with their apples, and turn them into juice to take home with them.

More people cross the playing field, some are just curious, many carry bags of apples picked from their own fruit trees and bottles



to put the juice in. The noise increases, and a crowd gathers on the edge of the orchard around the trestle tables which have been set up for the event. There are buckets for washing the apples, chopping boards and knives to cut the apples up. A queue forms and everyone gets to work. The apples are chopped up before they are fed into a devilish looking funnel shaped machine with a set of blades at the bottom called a scratter. Children argue over who is going to turn the handle to make it work. As the apples drop through the blades, they are mashed up into a brown pulp which runs into a collecting bowl.

The orchard volunteers tip the pulp into one of the round wooden presses lined with muslin. The plates for squeezing the apple pulp are put in place and all that is left is to turn the screws that gently squeeze the juice into a metal base plate which channels it into a bucket beneath. There are squeals of delight as the juice is carefully poured into bottles ready to take home.

The afternoon drifts on, wrapped in warm autumn sunshine and the sounds of people coming together to enjoy being part of a tradition that stretches back into our past, until the shadows lengthen and the last apple is juiced.

**Whether you have apples to juice or are just curious, come and join us on the Memorial Field on Sunday 10th September from 13:00 to 16:00. Everyone is welcome.**

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## September: 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](http://www.yourmag.co.uk) NOTE: Post nonrecurring events before 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the print month. [roger@barawood.co.uk](mailto:roger@barawood.co.uk)

### Friday 1st September

Vintage Years Club

13:45 – 14:30

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

### 'Paint a Tote Bag' with Mary Sawyer

Our meeting commences at 14:00 but doors are open at 13:45. There will be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy Table. After our business section, we welcome Mary Sawyer who is going to enable us to paint a useful tote bag to take home! Tea and biscuits will be served from 15:15. Entrance fee is £3 and Annual Membership is £10 (each April). Please contact Bev Francis-Hills 01273 493894 for other information, including transport needs.

### Tuesday 5th September

Steyning Parish Council: Community Film Night

19:30 – 22:00

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

### Screening: LIVING

Overwhelmed at work and lonely at home, a council bureaucrat's life takes a heart breaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation. Starring Bill Nighy. Tickets are on now at the Steyning Centre at £6 per ticket which includes tea or coffee during the interval. Wine can be purchased at £2.50 per glass. Doors open at 19:00 for a 19:30 start.

### Tuesday 5th September

The Ronnie Smith Big Band

20:00 – 22:00

Tottington Manor Hotel, on Edburton Road

### Jazz standards from the big band era

This 17 piece big band plays with two great vocalists. After many years resident in Ferring and at Shoreham Airport the band now has a new regular spot at Tottington Manor. On second Tuesday of every month. Entry is free but a hat is passed round for a cash collection. The hotel prefers you to book a table - either to dine or just to sit and enjoy the music with a drink - they can be reached online or call 01903 815757.

### Friday 8th September

St Columba's Community Farm

10:00 – 15:30

Chanctonbury Ring Road, Wiston.

### St Columba's Community Farm Day

We are looking for volunteers to help in the market garden on our monthly community days. Fresh vegetables. available to take away. Please wear appropriate clothing, stout footwear and bring gloves. Please bring your own sandwiches and a flask of coffee/water etc. for a community lunch. Parking is in the Chanctonbury Ring public car park. We will meet at 10:00 outside the garden shed in the vegetable garden. For info phone Su on 07860638167. **NOTE:** Also on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September & Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### Friday 8th September

Atom Presents

16:00 – 22:00

Wiston House, Steyning

### Craig David's world-famous TS5 live show from Miami

It's the south east's can't-miss, don't-want-to-miss event of the summer. World-famous TS5 live show from Miami to Worthing for one night only on Friday 08 September 2023. It's been many years since the town last played host to an outdoor concert on this scale so come and join us for an incredible night of music that's been enjoyed across the globe and can now be experienced at Castle Goring as part of the new **At The Castle** open air concert series. More info at: <https://www.yourmag.co.uk/whats-on>

### Saturday 9th September

Greening Steyning

14:00 – 16:00

Beeding & Bramber Village Hall

### BN44 Repair Cafe

Don't bin it - let us help you fix it! Bring along your items to repair, and anything you'd like sharpened. You can also speak to one of our Helpdesk volunteers about how to save energy at home.

### Saturday 9th September

Atom Presents

16:00 – 22:00

Wiston Estate, Steyning

Soft Cell

Summer isn't over until you've seen legendary electronic pop group Soft Cell at this year's ultimate 1980's open air live concert in the southeast.

## Is now the time to go solar?

Have you been thinking of installing solar panels but have been unsure when to make the move? The best time to install solar panels was 12 years ago. The second best is probably now.

Back in 2010 the government introduced a generous incentive scheme to kick-start the uptake of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. At the time this was a relatively new technology, at least for domestic use, and systems cost £10,000 or more to install. To encourage homeowners to take the plunge they offered a generous '**Feed in Tariff**' payment of **41.3p** for every unit of electricity generated, index linked for 25 years. It was almost too good to be true, and over the next two years over 120 people in the BN44 area had panels fitted.

Perhaps your neighbour was one of those early solar pioneers. They will have paid off the capital cost by now. And with the Feed in Tariff having increased to **68.3p per kWh** they'll be receiving a payment of **£2000** or more each year from their energy supplier, guaranteed for the next 12+ years. No wonder they're smiling!

A lot has changed since then. The Feed in Tariff scheme has ended. Now you get paid a more modest '**Smart Export Guarantee**' or SEG payment for every unit you feed back to the grid. This varies between **2p and 15p per kWh** depending on your electricity supplier.

But prices of PV panels have also dropped steadily. So the up front costs are less than half what they were. The technology has also improved. Panels are more efficient these days and there are lots of smart options that reduce the impact of shading and allow you



to use solar energy to heat your hot water, or charge your electric car. Plus there have been big advances in battery technology. So you can now get affordable batteries that allow you to store excess energy during the day to make use of in the evening – all controlled from an easy-to-use phone app.

The environmental case for going solar has been strong from the outset. Clean, silent, and long lasting, a typical PV system will typically save over **800kg of CO2 emissions** each year – about the same as driving a car 2000 miles.

But with the recent hikes in electricity prices the economics have taken a significant turn for the better. Every unit of power you save is worth two to three times what it was a few years ago. With all these factors added in, the payback time for a new solar installation has shrunk considerably and is now back to well under **10 years** for many systems.

That's why now is great time to consider whether solar is a good solution for you. There's quite a few issues to think about. Is my roof suitable? Should I be thinking of a getting a battery too? How can I find a reliable installer?

If you'd like to learn more, come along to the **Solar Evening that Greening Steyning** is running later this month. You'll be able to quiz our '**panel**' of experts about the options, the issues and the costs involved. The panel will include Michael Yeoman, from local installers Savent Solar, several homeowners who've had systems put in recently, and some members of the Home Energy Helpdesk team.

It's on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at Penfold Hall, starting at 19:30.

Tickets cost £3. You can find out more and book a space at: <https://bit.ly/solarevening>





'Dave and I will get together when we have something new to say, or something to celebrate,' says vocalist Marc Almond. *It's always an adventure.* Share the adventure by booking your ticket

### ABC

ABC has enjoyed a glittering career to date. Very definitely one of a number of groups who came along and kick-started the Eighties with their own brand of pop for a 'new decade'. On its release in May 1982, their debut album *'The Lexicon of Love'* crashed straight into the UK album charts at number one. For the inevitable encore of *'The Look of Love'* he returns dipped in sparkly gold lame, a self-ironising pop genius on top form. - Stephen Dalton NME

### HEAVEN 17

Heaven 17, please remember, were not even intended to be a group. In the beginning was the British Electric Foundation, or B.E.F., for short. *'B.E.F., and Heaven 17 made it all into a straight-faced spoof of oppressive and unimaginative corporate industry, by creating one based on fun and intelligence'*, says John Foxx. More info at: <https://www.yourmag.co.uk/whats-on>

### Saturday 9th September

Steyning County Secondary School 1952/68  
19:00 – 19:00

Brotherhood Hall, Church Street, Steyning

### Steyning Schools archives

An Exhibition. at Steyning County Secondary School. Display of archive material. Memories and photographs. A brief history of the school.

### Saturday 9th September

Upper Beeding FC  
19:30 – 22:00

Upper Beeding and Bramber Village Hall

### Comedy Night

Join us for a hilarious night of comedy, all for a good cause! Upper Beeding Football Club (UBFC) presents a side-splitting comedy extravaganza in partnership with Joke Comedy Clubs, two talented comedians and a fantastic host, accompanied by tasty food, refreshing drinks, and a raffle.

### Sunday 10th September

Steyning Downland Scheme  
11:00 – 15:00

The Targets, Steyning Rifle Range, Steyning

### Rifles at the Ready!

\* Part of The Heritage Open Days 2023\*: A rare chance to visit the Steyning Rifle Range and see how it was used for target practice by the Sussex

Rifle Volunteers from 1860 onwards. There will be vintage equipment and deactivated rifles on display, repaired targets will be in operation and the history and use of the site will be explained. WW II rationing refreshments will also be available to sample and we may even have a firing demon! To book: <https://steyningdownland.org/events/>

### Sunday 10th September

Steyning Community Orchard  
13:00 – 16:00

Steyning Community Orchard on the Memorial Playing Field (Cricket Field)

### Apple Juicing in the Community Orchard

Bring your washed apples and we will help you press them into delicious apple juice. Bring plastic bottles to put the juice in, or we have plenty of 500ml PET ones suitable for the freezer. (50p each) If you don't have any apples, bring the family along anyway and help us press ours. It's great fun Children who help, get rewarded with a free bottle of apple juice.

### Sunday 10th September

Atom Presents  
16:00 – 22:00

Wiston Estate, Steyning

### Katherine Jenkins

In 2020 Welsh Superstar Mezzo Soprano Katherine Jenkins OBE officially became the world's most successful Classical singer after she was crowned 'The Biggest Selling Classical Artist of the Century' by Classic FM. Also known as the 'Forces Sweetheart', charity work has always played an important role for Jenkins. After singing 'We'll Meet Again' with Dame Vera Lynn at the 60th Anniversary of VE Day, she became a trustee of the British Forces Foundation 2005 travelling to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Cyprus and Northern Ireland to entertain the troops. She is also an ambassador for cancer charity Macmillan raising over £30,000 by running the London Marathon. More info at: <https://www.yourmag.co.uk/whats-on>

### Monday 11th September

The Arts Society Steyning  
10:00 – 12:00

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

### Leslie Primo Talk: The Cult of Celebrity - Omai, The Exotic and Joshua Reynolds

In this lecture Leslie will look at the events that led up to Joshua Reynolds's iconic portrait representing Britain at the very height of its imperial powers. As two worlds collided, Leslie's exploration will include the key players in Omai's story, his time in

## West Sussex Minibus: Calling for Volunteers

West Sussex Minibus is a community transport charity that helps individuals to thrive. Their mission is to enable residents to stay active and foster a strong sense of belonging to prevent isolation and loneliness.

They provide a range of practical shopping trips and social outings throughout the year. It is a membership-based service that welcomes all age groups. Eight divisions service the county, each operating buses seating up to 8 passengers to keep the service personal and friendly.

For many of its members, the service is a lifeline, providing the chance to stay in touch with friends, visit new places and gain companionship.

As an all-volunteer organisation, West Sussex Minibus owe their continued success to those individuals who generously offer their skills and time. People volunteer for many reasons. A change in personal circumstances is where it often begins. If you are active, enjoy meeting people and have spare time, that's all that is needed. One of the following roles may be a perfect start to your volunteering experience.

- Minibus Drivers pick members up from their homes, drive them safely to the planned destination and return them home after every trip. Drivers need to be confident and hold a D1 category licence.
- Passenger Escorts work alongside the driver as a team. They welcome members to each trip, collect fares and assist passengers throughout the journey.
- Communication Co-ordinator to help promote awareness of the service through local publications and social media channels.

Everyone who joins understands what an essential role they play plus, they will help to ensure the retention of vital services for the local community.

To learn more about volunteering with West Sussex Minibus, Steyning, please call 0300 772 7735.

## Your Help Is Needed

We keep the community active by providing vital shopping & social excursions. As an all-volunteer organisation, everyone who joins us plays an essential role in enabling our services to operate.



**Volunteer Today**  
**0300 772 7735**  
[westsussexminibus.org.uk](https://westsussexminibus.org.uk)





England and English society and his interaction therein. How did Joshua Reynolds' ideas regarding his self image relate to his image of Omai and what can this portrait tell us about 18th century English society, its perception or preconception of the Other or non-white European? What was the impact of Omai's return to the South Seas, and what has been the legacy of the image we call Omai, an enigma in its own right. Leslie Primo holds a BA in Art History and an MA in Renaissance Studies from the University of London. He has lectured at the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery, the National Maritime Museum and the Courtauld Institute. He currently lectures at the City Literary Institute, Imperial College, London. Free to members; visitors £10 donation. [steining@theartsociety.org](mailto:steining@theartsociety.org) [www.theartsocietysteining.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietysteining.org.uk)

### Wednesday 13th September

#### Chanctonbury Chorus

19:00 – 21:00

The Towers Campus of Steyning Grammar School, Upper Beeding

### Open Rehearsal: Handel's Messiah

Come and try out the Chorus as we begin rehearsing this great work. No auditions - open to singers of all abilities and experience. Join us for drinks afterwards. Contact: [shirleycook@gmail.com](mailto:shirleycook@gmail.com) or 07592 810829

### Friday 15th September

#### The Steyning Society

19:00 – 22:00

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

### Talk by Justin Russell: On the Range with the Rifle Volunteers by Justin Russell

Justin works for Historic Buildings Archaeology and Conservation Ltd., and has a particular interest in military archaeology. The doors open at 19:00 and there will be wine or sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival. Talk will begin at 19:30. Free to members and £5 for guests. In addition to our talk, on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> Justin will be giving a talk at the Targets with a selection of artefacts.

### Saturday 16th September

#### 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.

### Sunday 17th September

#### This is my Theatre

15:00 – 17:00

The Paddock at Upper Beeding Pharmacy

### Much Ado About Nothing

Following This Is My Theatre's previous touring productions, we are delighted to be back with an adaptation of William Shakespeare's much-loved story. Packed with music, merriment and plenty of mischief - will be sure to warm hearts and spread joy. In Shakespeare's raucous romantic comedy, deception is rife as wedding bells sound in the air, testing not only the young lovers Hero and Claudio, but also the steadfastly single Beatrice and Benedick! With plots, pranks and live music throughout, you will fall in love all over again. Tickets [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com) £15 general admission, £7.50 under 16's. A portion of tickets will go to support St Botolph's Church in Annington.

### Monday 25th September

#### Green Drinks

19:30 – 21:00

Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning

#### Solar Evening

Are you thinking of installing solar panels, or maybe a battery storage system? Come along to hear about the latest options and quiz our 'panel' of experts on what's involved. Tickets are just £3 and can be purchased from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/greening-steyning/t-gazldmj>

### Wednesday 27th September

#### Greening Steyning

10:00 – 12:00

The Hub, Church Lane, Upper Beeding

### The Home Energy Helpdesk

The Helpdesk is designed to help you cut your domestic energy bills by offering practical advice. We have a team of volunteers ready to talk over your own situation, and what energy saving steps might work for you. Come along for: A friendly chat about how you can save energy at home. Tips on how to cut your fuel bills. Suggestions on where to start with draught-proofing, insulation, solar energy, heat pumps and what grants are available.

### Wednesday 27th September

#### Steyning and District Flower Club

19:30 – 21:30

Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning



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## "Twists & Twines"

Come and join the Steyning and District Flower Club who are welcoming Julie Taylor for an evening of floral entertainment. Refreshments will be available along with a raffle of Julie's creations. Non-members £6. Doors open at 19:00

**Friday 29th September**  
Steyning Methodist Church  
10:00 – 12:00

Steyning Methodist Church, 18 High Street,  
Steyning, BN44 3GG

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Everyone is welcome at the Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee morning. There will be a cake stall and a bring and buy stall.

**Saturday 30th September**  
St Andrew's and St Cuthman's Church,  
17:00 – 18:00

St Andrew's and St Cuthman's Church, Vicarage Lane, Steyning, West Sussex

## Concert by Cantilena: A Pilgrimage

Travel on a choral Pilgrimage with the beautiful voices of Cantilena and the music of Byrd, Dufay, Gombert, Grandi, Hildegard, Taverner and Victoria with readings from the diary of a 15th century pilgrim monk. 1 hour, no interval. Tickets £12 (£5 for school children) from [cantilena.info@gmail.com](mailto:cantilena.info@gmail.com) or at the door.

**Wednesday 4th October**  
Steyning Parish Council: Community Film Night  
19:30 – 22:00

The Steyning Centre

## Screening: What Love Got to do with it.

Zoe is a documentary filmmaker who uses a dating app that only delivers an endless stream of Mr. Wrongs. For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbour, Kaz, the answer is to follow his parents' example and opt for an arranged marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan. As Zoe films his hopeful journey to marry a stranger, she begins to wonder if she might have something to learn from a profoundly different approach to finding love. Tickets £6.00 to include tea or coffee during the interval. Please purchase tickets in advance from the office at The Steyning Centre (or by bank transfer - call the office for details 01903 812042)

**Saturday 7th October**  
Vocal Fusion Acapella  
16:00 – 17:30

St Peters Church, Church Lane, Henfield, BN5 9NY

## Concert : Vocal Fusion Acapella with Saints & Sinners

This local chorus of men bring you and lovely mix of music to include Sea Shanties, Musicals,

Pop and popular song. They are delighted to be joined by the talented group 'Saints & Sinners'. Also featured are the quartets 'The Blitz Boys' & 'Foursure' who sing their personal favourite songs. Tickets £10 from Stephens Estate Agents, High St, Henfield or [www.vocalfusionacapella.co.uk/p/tickets/](http://www.vocalfusionacapella.co.uk/p/tickets/)

**Sunday 8th October**  
Greening Steyning  
13:00 – 16:00  
Steyning, Bramber and Beeding

## 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. Photographing your stash and putting it on social media with the hashtag #GYSAD will help people find you. A few tips – make sure you don't block the pavement, and don't forget to take stuff back in at the end of the day. If you've not done it before, find out all the details.

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## News from your local Council

### Fresh new face for SPC:



Following the local Council elections in May, SPC has a fresh new face with a total of seven new Councillors joining the fold.

New and continuing Councillors were welcomed to the start of their four-year term at May's Full Council meeting, and each member allocated Committee, working party and local 'body' representation seats according to their interests and personal expertise and experience.

*'I joined the Community Committee because I'd like to work with our whole community so that together we can enjoy a happy, safe, vibrant town for residents and visitors,' comments new Councillor (Cllr) Vicci Johnson. 'I have a passion for nature and green spaces, their positive impact on physical and mental health and future of the planet, and I see an opportunity to improve our open spaces within the town and access to surrounding open spaces.'*

Cllr Robin Ballance says, *'I joined the Planning and Premises Committee in order to use the expertise I have gained in my many years as an architectural designer*



*handling the complexities of planning applications across boroughs in London and throughout the UK'.*

Taking up his seat on the Finance and General Purposes Committee Cllr Andrew Sharp, says, *'I hope that this is where my career experience in Economic Consultancy can make the most immediate and useful contribution to SPC. And more importantly, because we are all inevitably constrained in what we can do by the money available, it is careful financial management, and even more careful allocation, that underpins the best we can do on behalf of Steyning citizens'.*

And Cllr Karon Foxwell, who sits on two committee's and has volunteered for a number of project specific working parties, says, in short, *'I hope to help Steyning move forward with fresh ideas, and I look forward to contributing to the community via my role as a Councillor'.*

### Council plans a term of action:

Looking ahead to the next four years, SPC Councillors have drawn up an ambitious plan of action, including the prioritisation of over 70 proposed projects, so that, one hopes, the majority of them could be completed during the forthcoming term.

High on the list are a number of renovation and renewal projects including new equipment for several of the Council's playgrounds. The High Street Bus Shelter is in line for a number of improvements with already some work completed including doors and windows painted, flower filled hanging troughs and framed posters positioned, and a recycling bin installed close by. Also planned is improved lighting, more decorative works, upgraded accessibility and a locally sourced art installation.



Tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) remains a primary objective of SPC for the next term. Planning is already in place for an improved state-of-the-art CCTV (closed circuit TV) system to give round-the-clock surveillance for some areas of the town, notably the High Street, but this will be subject to public consultation before any installation is approved. And the Council will continue to work closely with Sussex Police and its own Wardens to ensure regular town patrols, and effective reporting and action against ASB continue.

Recognising the need to provide for both the current and future Housing and Infrastructural needs of its residents, SPC will also be re-assessing its Neighbourhood Plan with a view to including a key housing component. And as skateboarding becomes an established Olympic sport, SPC plans to assess the practicality once again of installing a skateboard park for aspiring local skaters.

Looking forward to the next four years, SPC Chair Joanna Norcross comments, *'We have a number of exciting projects that we are discussing and hope to be able to progress and complete over the term of this Council. I am excited to be working with such an enthusiastic and energetic group of people,*

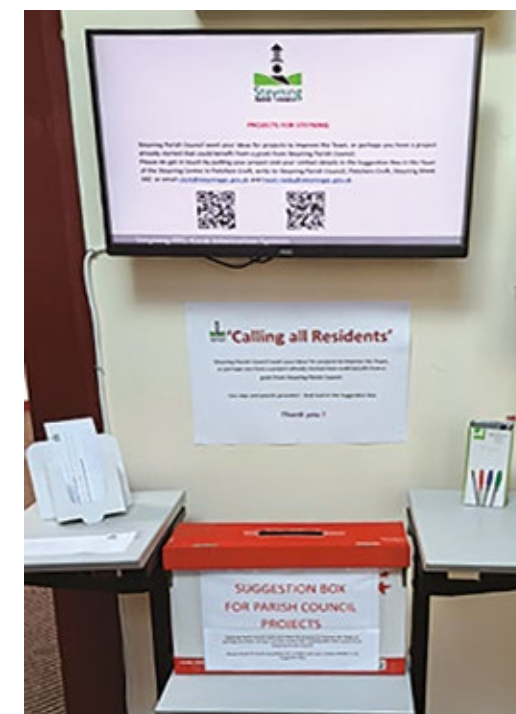
*many of whom are new to the Council, and I am confident that we will move forward in a positive and collaborative manner'.*

### Suggestions please!

This newsletter includes just a few of the key projects SPC has planned for its future term in office. But there is always room for more!

Its aim is to meet the needs of its community and truly reflect its wishes and requirements, and with this in mind your Council is asking you for your thoughts and ideas for new projects to improve the town and make it an even better place to live.

*Please send your thoughts to the Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning, BN44 3XL, or via email to the [clerk@steyningpc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@steyningpc.gov.uk) or pop your suggestions into our 'traditional' suggestion box located in the Steyning Centre foyer: pictured here.*





Writing a Will is one of those tasks that often goes overlooked. However, the benefits of creating a Will extend far beyond just financial considerations.

A Will acts as a powerful document that can provide peace of mind to loved ones and ensures the smooth transfer of assets after you have gone. Crafting your Will enables you to have full control over the distribution of your assets after you die. By explicitly stating your wishes, you can ensure that any property, investments and personal belongings are distributed how you want.

You will often hear me coin the phrase "Your Will, Your Way!" This can prevent confusion, reduce the likelihood of disputes and it can eliminate the need for expensive legal processes.

A Will is not just about assets though, it allows you to protect your loved ones in various ways. Guardianship provisions can be included to designate who will care for children, additionally, a Will can provide some security for elderly or dependent family members who require ongoing support. There are also many options to leave financial help to the Charities closest to your heart.

The absence of a Will can leave loved ones in a difficult and emotionally challenging position. Having a roadmap in place can sometimes relieve them of the burden of making complex decisions during an already distressing time. It provides a clear set of instructions, making the estate settlement process smoother, faster, and less stressful. By avoiding intestacy laws, a Will also minimises unnecessary costs and preserves the value of the estate for your beneficiaries.

At Nsure we believe writing a Will is a responsibility that we should all embrace. Beyond the financial considerations, it allows you to take control of your legacy, protect the people who matter the most to you and alleviate difficult decisions after you have gone.



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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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## Why does sustainability matter?

August 2nd marked Earth Overshoot Day for 2023. This means that we have used more natural resources than can be regenerated in a year.

We should consider the world we are leaving for our children and their children - ideally one of plentiful resources and reduced climate catastrophes. When we talk about sustainability it can often seem like there is little we can do as individuals but every action counts!

generations to come.

At imogen ruby, we are passionate about looking after the world around us and all of our brands are carefully selected to ensure they have good working practices, pay fair wages and use sustainable materials.

**It is crucial that we protect our planet, sustainability really does matter.**

- Using reusable cups, bottles and bags when out and about.
- Avoiding fast fashion. Opt for clothing that is sustainably made and made to last. Consider how the clothing is manufactured and the impact of this process on the environment.
- Using washable cloth nappies and wipes.
- Selecting toys made from sustainable, natural materials rather than plastic ones which will end up in landfill for

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Our grateful thanks go to our sponsors:





## Steyning Good Neighbours: Volunteers Needed

Steyning Good Neighbours: Looking for new volunteer drivers to join our friendly organisation

We are a long established local organisation run entirely by volunteers. We transport our clients from their homes to medical appointments or to attend activities which are beneficial to their wellbeing. The area that we serve is around Steyning, picking up clients from Steyning, Bramber, Beeding, Ashurst, Botolphs, Annington and Wiston.

Our drivers use their own cars. To offset the cost of driving, clients make a voluntary contribution based on fifty pence per mile, which is usually paid to the driver at the time of the journey. There is no minimum amount of time that anyone is expected to volunteer. The role is entirely flexible and can fit around the driver's other commitments and availability.

We rely on having a large number of drivers in our team. What we do is immensely rewarding and our clients are always extremely grateful for our service. Without our help many clients would simply be hard pressed to attend their appointments. The ongoing recruitment of new drivers ensures that our valuable service can continue to offer all of our clients the assistance that they need.

If you are considering volunteering and enjoy meeting people, please have a look at our website where we have a short film on the home page showcasing what we do.

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As kids, we loved it. As parents or siblings or aunts and uncles, we've all done it. But there's a better way to swing your kids.

Mark Jones, at Well Adjusted Health explains:

*'The message is simple: If you feel the need to swing your kids around by the arms, make sure that they are holding onto you – not the other way around. Your kid's grip strength or lack thereof is a protective feedback mechanism that keeps the tissues at the wrist, elbow and shoulders safe. If you circumvent this circuit breaker, you potentially risk some unpleasant repercussions.'*

By allowing your kids to set the level of 'swingness', you'll never overload their arms and shoulders.

You'd be amazed how many accidents are caused by this and what starts off as a bit of fun can lead to a lot of pain for your little one and a weakness if not corrected properly.

Children's bones and joints are still developing, and their ligaments and tendons are more flexible than those of adults.

Sudden or forceful movements like swinging by the arms can lead to dislocations, fractures, ligament sprains, and other injuries.



You guard your precious shoulder capacities, and it is essential that we do the same for kids. You can still swing your kids around by the armpits and the tissues of their upper limbs will thank you!

Kids are often taking knocks and falls and at Well Adjusted Health we are very passionate about treating children and babies. If you're considering chiropractic care for your child, seek out a qualified paediatric chiropractor who has experience working with children. They will be knowledgeable about safe and appropriate techniques for young patients.

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## September 2023 Book Reviews

### Adult Books:



**The Seventh Son by Sebastian Faulks.**  
£22 Hardback, Cornerstone.

A change of direction for master-storyteller Faulks, who casts a speculative eye on the near-future in this prescient novel which thrums with unease. Britain, 2030. Talissa, a young American PHD student looking to fund her studies, arrives at the Parn Institute in London, to be a paid surrogate for hopeful parents Mary and Alaric. But behind the curtains at Parn, a tech billionaire is playing God with a series of secretive IVF experiments. After baby Seth is born and handed over to his adoring parents, Talissa returns to the US but remains in contact with the family, and over the years, a bond develops. When Seth begins to attract media attention for certain unusual qualities, Talissa realises that his embryo has been the subject of genetic experiments.....A thoughtful, heart-breaking novel, with engaging main characters, set against a chilling vision of a shabby, post-Brexit Britain, and which asks big questions about science, ethics and humanity.



**So Late in the Day by Claire Keegan.**  
£8.99, hardback novella, Faber.

An exquisite gem of a novella from Irish writer Claire Keegan, highly recommended by our bookseller Gill.

Cathal takes the bus home towards a long weekend, after an uneventful Friday at the office. All evening, with only the television and a bottle of champagne for company, he finds his thoughts drawn back to Sabine, the woman he almost spent his life with – had he acted differently. As he reflects on his relationship with Sabine, and failed relationships with other women in his past, he comes to a realisation about himself, and the true significance of this particular date is revealed. Keegan's succinct yet lyrical prose and subtle symbolism veil a powerful emotional punch,

dealing with themes of misogyny, later-life love, generosity, and marriage.

### Children's Books



**Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell.**  
£14.99, hardback, Bloomsbury.

Marking a new direction for Katherine Rundell, Impossible Creatures is a magical fantasy, which imagines a hidden archipelago where all the world's mythological creatures reside, from

unicorns, sphinxes and griffins, to centaurs, nereids, kappa, and ratatoskas. Humans live amongst the beasts and the entire archipelago is sustained by 'Glimourie' – magic – which also masks the islands from the view of the 'real' world.

Christopher has been sent to stay with his grandfather in Scotland, where he meets Mal, a girl from the Archipelago who has stumbled into this world, while searching for her lost griffin. Mal is being pursued by a ruthless murderer and Christopher is propelled into her epic quest to escape her pursuer and discover the reason behind the Glimourie's waning power.

What follows is a wild adventure, peopled with a cast of unforgettable characters and some truly terrifying creatures! A nail-biting sweep of a story full of peril, heart-break, and humour.

*Rundell writes with precision and clarity, never wasting a word, making this an accessible read for children of 9+*



**The Oak Tree by Julia Donaldson.**  
£12.99 hardback, Scholastic books.

A beautiful new picture book in rich, dramatic rhyme by Steyning's own Julia Donaldson, with enchanting illustrations by Victoria Sandoy.

A thousand years ago, a tiny acorn fell to the ground. As the years pass, it grows and GROWS into an enormous oak tree! As the centuries sweep by, children play games around the tree. Families dance about it. A fleeing king even

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Wednesday 20th September  
7.30pm at the Steyning Centre  
'Faulks is a prodigiously talented writer'  
**NEW YORK TIMES**  
£20 single ticket + book/ £30 2 tickets, 1 book

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hides inside its hollow trunk! The tree gives food and shelter to a host of animals, from squirrels and badgers to birds and beetles. After a thousand years, the ancient tree finally falls in a storm – but, a new acorn sprouts, and the cycle of life begins all over again. Plus –extra fascinating facts about oak trees and the animals that depend on them!

A wonderful story for families to treasure.

*Julia Donaldson also has a new Acorn Wood book, Dormouse Has A Cold, and the paperback of her riotous The Baddies coming out in September. To celebrate the release of all 3 books, we will have a book-signing with Julia and the Oak Tree illustrator, Victoria Sandoy, on SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER from 14:30.*



**Dogs of the Deadlands by Anthony McGowan.**  
£7.99 paperback, Oneworld.

Move over, Watership Down! A new contender for the most heartbreaking and vivid 'animal's eye' novel has arrived!

Chernobyl, 1986: The nuclear power plant is in meltdown, all humans must

evacuate, and Natasha is heartbroken that she must leave behind her Samoyed pup, Zoya. But Zoya survives, mates with a wolf, and produces two pups: Misha and Bratan. This is their story. In the deserted wilderness around Chernobyl, nature is left untamed. Abandoned dogs form packs and must learn to survive the bitter winters and compete for food with other, wilder, fiercer creatures.

We follow Misha and Bratan as they learn from their mother, escape brutal predators, and eventually venture into the forest alone, in search of the safety of a pack.

It's a perilous, brutal, dog-eat-dog world and Anthony McGowan doesn't steer away from the trauma and transience of life in wild nature – but there is plenty of joy, humour and courage here too.

The 'dog's eye view' is impeccably researched and described, the action is non-stop, and it's a compulsive read from start to finish, which ties up to a satisfying, if heart-rending, conclusion. *Recommended for animal loving readers aged 10-100! Sensitivity warning: Animal deaths.*



## Rose-ringed Parakeet

One of my favourite quotes from The Simpsons comes from Springfield's vet: 'I love animals. I spend my life saving them and they can't thank me. Well, the parrots can.' No animals are more famed for their ability to talk than parrots. Sure, their 'talking' is more mimicry than witty after-dinner conversation – a feathered echo chamber – but whether they're chanting 'pieces of eight' on a pirate's shoulder or swearing in front of Auntie Ethel, we humans have been entertained by their backchat for centuries.

There are around 400 species of parrot on our planet. Their native range encompasses pretty much everywhere south of the Tropic of Cancer. For us Brits their beautiful plumage embodies the exotic; the mystery and excitement of faraway lands. So imagine my surprise when I first saw a big green parrot flying around in Sussex.

The Rose-ringed (or Ring-necked) Parakeet looks ridiculously out of place amongst our comparatively drab Starlings, Wood Pigeons and Crows. With its garish green plumage and red beak, it stands out like a clown who has gate-crashed a funeral. And with that squawk – that incessant, demented squawk – there's no ignoring it.

South-east England's Parakeets are among the world's most northerly parrot populations but how did they get here? Some believe they made their great escape from an East London film studio in 1951, after starring



alongside Bogart and Hepburn in 'The African Queen'. Others claim that the Parakeets were set 'Stone Free' by Jimi Hendrix, who liberated them from their plastic cage in his girlfriend's London flat. I rather like the idea of American sixties icons being responsible for the spread of non-native species across the UK. Perhaps Sonny and Cher smuggled Grey Squirrels in through customs under their furry waistcoats, or a tousle-haired Bob Dylan secretly released some American Mink out of the stage door of the Albert Hall in '66.

The truth is, with tens of thousands of Parakeets being imported into the UK it was no surprise that a few slipped their chains and flew the coop.

Since the end of the sixties these free spirits have been recreating the Summer of Love across the capital. Forming feral colonies, the Parakeets have filled the air with their joyous, intolerable screeching and squawking; sounds that would make Hendrix and Dylan proud. And as for free love, their blatant fornicating in London's parks has led to a Parakeet population explosion. They were once established in the (sub)urban jungle of Brighton and lived in the trees of Hollingbury from 1977 until the mid-nineties. Surely it's only a matter of time before the Rose-ringed Parakeet moves into suburban Sussex.

By Michael Blencowe:

Learning & Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust  
Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent registered charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our guide book: Discovering Wildlife in

Sussex. It's easy to join online at:  
[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)  
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Rose-ringed Parakeet 2 Hugh Clark FRPS 2



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**The Friends of Steyning Parish Church.** 01903 813232

**The Steyning Society.**  
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**The Steyning Friends of Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.**  
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**Steyning Litter Pickers.**  
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Greetings  
ISLAND



## September: Steyning for Trees

We are so pleased that MICHAEL BLENOWE the well-known Sussex naturalist is coming to do a talk for SFT entitled 'The Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs.'

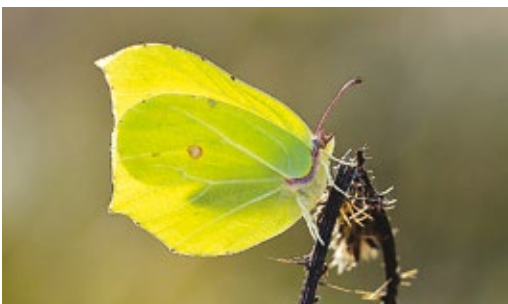
As you know Michael is a knowledgeable and highly entertaining speaker.



He says '*The Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs is a new project which aims to restore and create woodland and reconnect fragmented woods.*

*Steyning sits within the project's boundary which runs from Storrington to Lewes. The Lost Woods Project will also support local conservation groups and communities to help them connect with and conserve local woodlands.'*

He is from Action in Rural Sussex and will tell us more about the project and focus on some of the amazing wildlife that can be found here from birds to butterflies and bats to beetles. Lost Woods information <https://www.ruralsussex.org.uk/lost-woods-project>. And



here are his pictures of the Silver-washed Fritillary and Brimstone (credits to Bob Eade).

This will be on 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Steyning Centre, at 19:30 in the Saxon Room. There will be wine to purchase, a raffle Tickets £5 from the bookshop.

This will be a wonderful evening and SFT is delighted to be able to hold this event to promote the preservation of these important woodlands of mature and in many cases, ancient trees. They are such reservoirs for carbon and provide so many benefits to wildlife and humans alike.

This will be a memorial talk for Jim Mellor, our committee member, our WSCC arboriculturalist and resident of Steyning.

The CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE found that the UK will need to reduce emissions by around 4.7% each year to hit its 2030 target. Between 2014 and 2022 the rate had been 1.2%. Their Chief Executive said that taking action to meet the goals was urgent.

For all boffins '*Planting trees in urban areas is a popular strategy for reducing temperatures in streets under global warming.*

Anyone prepared to measure TCE (tree cooling efficiency) of the trees already planted by SFT? See Science for Environment Policy, European Commission.

Lots of activity in the Autumn with 24 trees being planted by WSCC contractors bringing us to a total of 104 on the verges, well done Saxon Road and all others. Also 6 or 7 hedges being planted adding to our wildlife corridors bringing our total to over 20. These are planted by our great bunch of volunteers, do come and join us in this worthwhile community activity! Contact details below. [steyningfortrees@gmail.com](mailto:steyningfortrees@gmail.com)



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## September Gardening Journal

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

Gardeners may despair as September approaches, as it can often mean the decline of their borders as autumn approaches. But it doesn't have to be like that, September can be the culmination of the summer season with our gardens bulging with colour and texture. Including some late flowering herbaceous perennials, mixed with a few ornamental grasses enables you to create that crescendo to summer that everyone will be envious of. September is not a bad time to tweak your planting schemes either so it can be easy to add that splash of late season colour too.

Anemone x hybrida 'Honorine Jobert' is one of the most famous Anemone cultivars that was discovered in Verdun, France in 1858. It has large white flowers with a green centre and yellow stamens to top it off. It's quite a large plant that sometimes grows up to 4 ft tall and has a habit of creeping through your borders but don't let this put you off as this Anemone can provide you with a bright splash of white to brighten up those duller Autumn days.

Anemone is a herbaceous perennial genus that contains over 100 species that are native to temperate habitats all over the world.

Anemone means "daughter of the wind" in ancient Greek—hence its sometimes called 'Windflower'. The Metamorphoses of Ovid tells us that the plant was created by the goddess Venus when she sprinkled nectar on the blood of her dead lover Adonis.

Anemone Honorine Jobert thrives in almost any soil and flowers throughout August, September & October. Its fully hardy with a Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit, clump forming and deciduous, it will

grow to a height of around: 90 - 1.20 cm (3 - 4 ft) and a spread of: 45 - 75 cm (1.5 - 2.5 ft) within 2 to 5 years.

Planting Anemone on their own in larger-than-average clumps, yields a dramatic effect at this time of year when so many other perennials have gone over. It's a fabulous plant for brightening up those darker spots in the garden as it can be quite happy in some shade, however it will also grow happily in full sun too. These single flowered Japanese anemones are one of the plants traditionally associated with Japanese gardens, where they're grown against dark rocks or in the shade of trees.



Anemone 'Honorine Jobert'

While Anemone can be a bit of a spreader it can be easily kept in check if you dig out anything that comes out of the area you want it to grow. It looks great in association with ornamental grasses like Calamagrostis, Miscanthus and Panicum and can also work well with other late flowering herbaceous plants like Sedum, Dahlia & Aster. Its best to plant it with other plants that are vigorous otherwise you may find the Anemone will

invade its neighbours and eventually evict them too.

I prefer to use it for those shady spots as the bright white flowers really show up well against a darker background, I find that its spreading nature is also not quite so prolific in the shade either. It's a versatile and elegant plant that is worth considering if you want to add a splash of colour into your garden in the autumn.

### Jobs to do this month include:

#### Ornamental Garden:

- Continue to deadhead.
- Trim Lavenders to woody growth to keep them compact.
- Begin to clear leaves as necessary.
- Keep borders clear of weeds.
- Take cuttings of tender perennials.
- Continue to deadhead bedding plants.
- Plan for next year's garden displays.
- Collect seed from perennials / hardy annuals.

- Start planting spring bulbs.
- Lift and divide herbaceous perennials.
- Start planting trees and shrubs towards the end of the month and move evergreen shrubs etc while the soil is still warm.
- Collect and get rid of any infected roses leaves.

#### Vegetable Garden:

- Once the tassels on sweet corn have turned brown check whether the cobs are ready to harvest. When ripe the kernels contain a milky liquid.
- Leave marrows, squashes, pumpkins etc., to ripen on the plant. Place fruit on a wooden board to prevent soiling.
- Plant onions/shallots suitable for over wintering (on heavy wet soils spring planting may be preferable).
- Continue harvesting fruit.
- Harvest main crop potatoes.
- Sow winter greens such as land cress, mustard spinach, corn salad and hardy lettuce cultivars.



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## A Peculiar Phenomenon – the Laki Haze

It was June 1783 when the air thickened and turned into a yellow haze, obscuring the strangely blood-red sun. As workers left their homes the first morning, they must have wondered at this strange sight. However, before long their wonderment turned into fear as they began to rasp and splutter in the acrid atmosphere, coughing as if their lungs were on fire.

Those who worked on the land found their livestock similarly affected and some of their crops beginning to wither.

Diarist Gilbert White wrote graphic descriptions of what he saw : *'The summer of the year 1783 was an amazing and portentous one, full of horrible phenomena, for besides the alarming meteors and the tremendous thunder-storms that affrighted and distressed the different counties of this kingdom, the peculiar haze or smoky fog that prevailed for many weeks in this island. . . was a most extraordinary appearance, unlike anything known within the memory of man.'*

Indeed, this 1783 summer was both the hottest and the coldest on record: *'the heat was so intense that the butcher's meat could hardly be eaten the day after it was killed, and the flies swarmed so in the lanes and hedges that they rendered the horses frantic.'*

Yet by dawn on some summer mornings, thick frost blanketed the ground. Steyning Museum's researchers discovered this episode in our history when searching the Steyning parish registers for a particular burial, only to find more deaths than expected in the mid 1780's.



Laki, Icelandic volcano affecting northern hemisphere

### Were these two findings connected?

Further research revealed a contemporary newspaper report that **Laki**, an Icelandic volcano had begun erupting on 6th June 1783 and continued without pause until February 1784, spewing out poisonous clouds of Sulphuric acids and gases which quickly covered the whole of the northern hemisphere. It was this toxic mixture that attacked the lungs of people and animals alike, causing their internal tissues to swell, hence their choking coughs.

Most harvests failed that year, though our wheat was apparently unaffected, thus helping to prevent starvation, but many local families had meagre rations to see them through the freezing winter of 1783-1784.

Turning back to the burials listed in the parish registers of Steyning and adjoining communities, we wondered whether our findings would be the same for all five parishes and how would they compare with national death rates? Our analysis below focuses on the deaths recorded in the six months following mid-June 1783, compared with deaths in the same period the previous year.

All five parishes recorded dramatic

increases in numbers of deaths as follows:

Steyning	X 3	Upper Beeding	X 2
Bramber	X 4	Wiston	X 6
Ashurst	X 6		

The equivalent figure for deaths in this period across Britain was 3 times the previous average.

Similar variations in the national figures also confirm our suspicion that the higher numbers of deaths in Ashhurst and Wiston must be due to their being our most rural parishes, with greater numbers of outdoors workers.

Many of the deaths may have been of key tradesmen, craftsmen, farmers and other essential workers, whose loss must have impacted badly, not only on their families but also on the economies services and provisions in their communities ... but that will be a study for another time.

Article by: Jacque Buttriss - Steyning Museum.

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