

# Care as unique as you are



## Imagine a little peace of mind...

...with the reassurance that your loved one is surrounded by caring people who value them for the unique person that they are.

Where they're supported to continue their comforting routines, enjoy their favourite food, and spend time doing the hobbies and interests that they love most.

**You can expect all this and more for your loved one at Hazel Lodge.**

Call **01424 315 460** to find out how we can help you.

63 North Trade Road, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0HW

**Residential Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks**



**Proud to be part of Barchester - celebrating 30 years of care.**

[www.barchester.com/HazelLodge](http://www.barchester.com/HazelLodge)

# Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Magazine April 2024



Mallard and Ducklings  
photo by Jay Ashworth

Please send contributions for the May edition by Friday 5th April  
We reserve the right of refusal & the right to edit any articles

**CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH at  
ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST CHURCHES**

7th April	9.15am Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst 11am Morning Prayer (CW) at Ashburnham
14th April	9.15am Morning Prayer (BCP) at Penhurst 11am Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham
21st April	9.15 am Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst 11 am Morning Prayer (CW) at Ashburnham followed by the APCM at 11.30am
28th April	9.15am Morning Prayer (BCP) at Penhurst 11am Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham

BCP stands for Book of Common Prayer and CW stands for Common Worship - these are the different orders of services used at each church.

**All these services are open to everyone. Refreshments served afterwards**

**Ashburnham Chapel**

Ashburnham Chapel meet at 6.30pm each Sunday.

The service is also on Zoom live for those that cannot attend.

Get in touch with Fay Ramsden on 07860 113413 or 01424 830078 or go to the Chapel website [www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk](http://www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk) for more information. Also see the Chapel News later in this magazine for more details.

**Prayer and Pastoral Care for our Villages**

Revd Gary Cregeen is responsible for the pastoral care of parishioners, and welcomes the opportunity to meet everyone. If you would value a visit, either for a chat, prayer, or Holy Communion at home, please contact him. Ashburnham Church regularly prays for everyone who lives and works in our villages and we are happy to receive requests for prayer at our various services and meetings. There are also "Prayer Boxes" at St Peter's Church in Ashburnham Place, and outside Ashburnham Chapel at Ponds Green where you can write a card (anonymously if you wish) for a specific issue. These will be offered for prayer on a regular basis and dealt with in the strictest confidence. Ashburnham Church is open daily for private prayer too.



**OPTIMUM**

PLUMBING, HEATING AND COOLING

**Are you looking for a  
reliable plumber?**

Your local plumbing and heating engineer,  
fully qualified and insured to undertake the  
following work;

Boiler service, repair and installation.

Air source heat pump service and  
installation.

General plumbing.

Power flushing.

Bathroom installations.


Landlord gas safety certificates.

Same day service with no call out charge.

**07791666357**

**[www.optimumhvac.co.uk](http://www.optimumhvac.co.uk)**

<p><b>Shipping Container to rent</b> suitable for all types of storage on secure site on the outskirts of Battle/Hastings 20' x 8' x 8' (1280 cu.ft) £25 p.w or larger containers 40' x 9'6" x 8' (3072 cu.ft) £48 p.w For more information ring Fay on 07860 113413</p>	<p><b>To Advertise here contact Fay for details and rates</b></p> <p>07860 113413 or email <a href="mailto:oframsdn@hotmail.co.uk">oframsdn@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Tom Gooders Tree Surgery</b></p> <p>Fully qualified tree surgeons</p> <p>All aspects of tree work professionally undertaken</p> <p>07817 572291</p>	<p><b>J. Birrell</b> Oil Fired Boilers, Aga and Rayburn Servicing and Repairs 22 Years Experience Fully Insured Home 01580 880804 Mobile 079077 95603</p>



Are you looking for a speaker for a group you run or are a member of?

Jay gives popular illustrated talks on

The History of Ashburnham Place  
The Grounds and Gardens through  
the Seasons  
Capability Brown at Ashburnham  
Place

Email [ashworthjay1@gmail.com](mailto:ashworthjay1@gmail.com)  
or phone 07876484945  
for more information



**The food bank is open -**

**Wednesday  
1 - 2.30pm**

**Come & enjoy a cuppa, a chat and get what you need.**

**Upper Church Hall, St Mary's Church,  
Upper Lake  
Battle, TN33 0AN**

**Go through the car park & take the upper path, through the gate & across the bridge.**

If you're struggling to buy food, we can help you with -

- Food
- Toiletries
- Cleaning supplies
- Baby food/ nappies
- Pre-loaded SIM cards
- Fuel voucher referrals
- Signposting/ Advice from our CAB Advisor

You can request a voucher from schools, churches, NHS/social workers, your doctor or call the CAB on 01424 869352 & leave your name, number & say you'd like a food voucher. They will prioritise you & call you back. Call at least 5 days before you want to visit.



[info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk) // 07866 570468

**'Sorry seems to be the hardest word...'**

Apologies – or lack of them – never seem to drift too far from the top of the media agenda. All too often, in the words of Elton John's song, "sorry seems to be the hardest word." Yet to re-establish broken relationships 'sorry' is one of the words that needs to be said first, but it often seems the hardest. If we cause hurt to others, either unintentionally or deliberately, we should feel deep regret for our actions and take responsibility for them. However, instead we can resort to justifying our actions or blaming someone else rather than admit our wrong. This is nothing new – it has been happening since the Garden of Eden. Defensive self-justification. Passing the buck. A total unwillingness to admit we're in the wrong. But if we want to change, we must first admit our 'wrong' and feel deep sorrow over it.

When it comes to the Bible's understanding, saying sorry is part of what it means by the word repentance. To 'repent' means, basically, to turn around. It begins in the mind and leads to a change of action. Just saying the word is not enough. Doing the action is what really counts. In his letter to the Christians in Corinth St. Paul talks about the big difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. Worldly sorrow is saying sorry but not meaning it and, therefore, being left with bitterness and regret, remaining 'cut off' from others and God. Whereas with genuine godly sorrow there is forgiveness and power to change. How can that be? Well, the events of Easter provide us with a big clue! Whether we choose to admit it or not, we all do wrong, which puts us on the wrong side of God. However, God has done something about it. He came from heaven to earth, in the person of Jesus Christ, in order to get us from earth to heaven. In taking our wrongs upon Himself, on the cross, we can find forgiveness, be freed of the wrong things we have done, and start with a 'clean slate'. We can look back and say, "yes I know I did wrong and am sorry, but I am forgiven".

I made this amazing discovery several years ago and my life has never been the same since. Yet, admitting my need of forgiveness and accepting that I was forgiven wasn't easy, mainly due to pride and guilt. It's one thing to admit you're in the wrong, quite another to accept forgiveness and have the power to change.

Do you bear burdens of regret and bitterness which weigh you down? Maybe you've been deeply wronged or have deeply hurt someone else. Well, as we continue through this Easter season let us not forget that the message of triumph life over death, light over darkness, love over hatred, peace over anxiety and joy over grief remains unchanged. Saying 'sorry' is not a sign of weakness but of strength, which liberates rather than imprisons – especially when said to God who, in His love, accepts us as we are, but because He loves us, doesn't leave us as we are.

God bless, Revd Gary

Revd Gary Cregeen Priest-in-Charge of Ashburnham with Penhurst, Agmerhurst Granary, Ashburnham. TN33 9NA  
T: 01424 612324 email: [gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk](mailto:gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk)

Our next Men's Breakfast will be on  
Saturday 20th April  
(three weeks after Easter)  
when we will be meeting at Ashburnham Place  
again for a full-English, starting at 8.30am.



The speaker will be the Revd Dr Stephen Need, who will be talking about the Holy Land and offering a view on the Israel-Gaza conflict. Stephen has lived and worked in Jerusalem for a number of years (since 1996) and was Dean of St George's College, between 2005-11. As the current conflict rages Stephen will provide an informative, yet heartfelt view of this part of the world (which is close to his heart), described with insight and sensitivity.

A donation of £9 would be appreciated, but not essential. Please invite friends, relatives and colleagues if you wish. All welcome. Please book with John French via email: [j.french678@btinternet.com](mailto:j.french678@btinternet.com)  
More details from Revd. Gary Cregeen: [gary@gandjcregeen.co.uk](mailto:gary@gandjcregeen.co.uk)

**St Peter's Parish Church, Ashburnham  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)  
Sunday 21st April in the Church Hall**

Every year, churches hold an annual meeting, where they get to see the church accounts, hear reports of all the activities that have been going on over the past twelve months, and elect people to serve in various capacities in the church. The Ashburnham Annual Church Meeting will take place in the Church Hall this year on Sunday 21st April at around 11.30 am, after a short church service (also in the Hall 11am). Refreshments will be served from 10.30 am onwards. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only those on the electoral roll of the church will be entitled to take part in the various elections. For more details about the meeting, or nomination forms for Churchwardens, PCC (Parochial Church Council) and Deanery Synod members, please contact David Attwood, APCM Secretary: [davidattwood197@gmail.com](mailto:davidattwood197@gmail.com)

NB The APCM for Penhurst Church will be at 10.45 am on Sunday 12th May, after the BCP Morning Prayer Service at 9.15 am

# Corner Carpet Company

We supply and fit Carpets, Vinyls, Laminates, Real Wood, Safety Flooring for every location and budget

**10% Discount with this ad!**

- \* Free estimates and advice
- \* Fast friendly service
- \* Expert fitting by our own fitters
- \* Home selection service
- \* Domestic and commercial
- \* Competitive prices
- \* Fully insured
- \* All work guaranteed
- \* Over 500 rugs in our showroom

Our showroom is at 36 London Road,  
St Leonards on Sea  
(opposite Boots)

Alternatively you can contact us  
and we will gladly bring samples to you!  
Just call **01424 446222**

[www.cornercarpetcompany.co.uk](http://www.cornercarpetcompany.co.uk)  
[info@cornercarpetcompany.co.uk](mailto:info@cornercarpetcompany.co.uk)

*Customer satisfaction is very important to us and much of our work has come from recommendations and repeat orders since we opened in 1998*

## Manningtons

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Manningtons are a local, friendly and practical accountancy firm assisting clients through tax advice, accounts, book-keeping, audit, VAT, and consultancy services. We can also act as Power of Attorney and Executor for both private and business clients.

We have offices in Heathfield, Battle, Hastings and Hawkhurst, please pay us a visit or give us a call on the numbers below.

8 High Street Heathfield TN21 8LS ~ Tel 01435 863699

39 High Street Battle TN33 0EE ~ Tel 01424774447

7 Wellington Square Hastings TN34 1PD ~ Tel 01424 721700

1A Victoria House Hawkhurst TN18 4NR ~ Tel 01580 752666

[www.manningtons.net](http://www.manningtons.net)

ICAEW Registered Chartered Accountants No: C001366129

# S. Walker

## Plumbing & Heating

### Installation, Repairs and Maintenance

Text  
Gas and oil  
fired heating  
systems



# 07708 933910

swalkerplumbing@yahoo.co.uk

### Running Space : Championing Life, Beating Suicide

Running Space uses running as a platform to champion life and beat suicide. Teaching people how to run builds hope, mental and physical health, and strong relationships, saving lives and creating suicide safer communities. In partnership with The Pelham, Ashburnham Church is now hosting a Running Space Session twice a month, usually on a Saturday morning, between 9.30 am and 11 am. The sessions are free and open to anyone, whatever your level of fitness, and include a variety of exercises, as well as running and walking. Overseen by trained coaches Running Space sessions provide a safe, fun, and friendly environment to improve fitness and build relationships. See the Village Diary Dates. Each session is followed by refreshments (coffee and cake!) in the Church Hall.

If you would like to help, or bake a cake occasionally, please let Sarah Lambourne know, either by email: [lambourne18@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lambourne18@hotmail.co.uk) or text: 07866 910917. Thank you.

‘Fuelled by faith RunningSpace creates active and aware communities that empower people to live. We run, pray and raise awareness for those affected by suicide. We believe a hopeful, healthy life is possible for all of us’ – Running Space website ([www.runningspace.org](http://www.runningspace.org))

### Rogation Service – Sunday 5th May 2024

at 10.30 am at Kitchenham Farm,  
Kitchenham Road, Ashburnham

Save the date! More details in the May Parish Magazine.

## P.A.N.T.S.

### Penhurst and Ashburnham New Theatrical Society

A big thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising evening last month.

It was a fun evening, with good food and a boost to our funds! Watch this space for details about a future production



#### Village Lunch cooked by Maggie Evans

Wednesday 17th April  
12 for 12.30 lunch  
At the Village Hall  
Two courses with tea and coffee £8.95  
Vegetarian option available if booked

*Booking essential as places are limited*  
01424 893361

#### Village Litterpick

Thanks to everyone who helped out with the Village Litterpick in March. We managed to collect litter over a large part of our villages either on the day or with villagers pledging to collect litter at other times. It's sad that we have to do this so regularly but good to see our verges full of beautiful wild flowers instead of drinks cans and food wrappers.

Well done everyone.



## C. Waterhouse & Sons

Independent Family Funeral Directors

A personal service from a family owned company for over 4 generations, offering traditional values, with a modern approach

Mabel's Cottage, High Street, Burwash, TN19 7ET

01435 882219 funerals@cwaterhouse.co.uk www.cwaterhouseandsons.co.uk

### Hydra Cleaning Services

Commercial and domestic  
Fully insured

- Windows – interior and exterior
- Gutter clearance
- Fascias and soffits
- Weatherboarding
- Pressure washing

**All cleaned with our unique pure hot water system**

Call James for a free quote,  
Tel: 07515460008

Email: [cleaninghydra@gmail.com](mailto:cleaninghydra@gmail.com)

[www.hydracleaning.co.uk](http://www.hydracleaning.co.uk)

**Barry & Co**  
SOLICITORS

#### WILL WRITING SERVICE

*Usual fee per Will*  
£225 + VAT

Free Wills brochure available on request

#### Lasting Powers of Attorney

£470 + VAT

Tel: 01323 766370/768382

Bay Terrace Pevensey Bay East Sussex  
BN24 6EE

Or contact: [info@barryandco.org](mailto:info@barryandco.org)



## Frogheath Landscapes

Award-Winning Professional Landscapers

info@frogheath.co.uk www.frogheath.co.uk



Turn your dreams to reality by calling the office for more information and to book in a FREE site visit.

**01435 883516**



stm

st michael's hospice

**Open Gardens**

**May - July 2024**

Throughout Hastings and Rother

To find out more about gardens near you, visit

stmichaelshospice.com  
or call 01424 456396



Registered charity number 288462



## East Sussex Massage

Sarahjane Prince Cert. Ed.  
MSMA.MAR.

Appointments in Dallington and  
Heathfield

Sports Massage	Zone Face Lift
Aromatherapy	Reflexology
Swedish Massage	Fertility & Delivery Reflexology

**07762 576 495**

info@eastsussexmassage.co.uk  
www.eastsussexmassage.co.uk

LENDING LIBRARY &  
COMMUNITY CAFE

# SUPPORT OUR LIBRARY CAFE

AT ASHBURNHAM  
VILLAGE HALL



**SATURDAY 13TH  
APRIL**

10AM - 12AM

**FRIDAY 19TH  
APRIL**

2PM - 4PM

**FREE LENDING LIBRARY,  
BORROW AS MANY BOOKS AS YOU WISH, RETURN THEM  
IF YOU WISH OR KEEP THEM!  
MEET UP WITH OTHERS OVER REFERSHEMENTS!**

CONTACT : PAULA JONES ON 01323 382482

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## Parish Council News

Save the date! Thursday 25th April is the date of the Annual Village Meeting. It's at the village hall and doors open at 7pm for half an hour or so of browsing the table top exhibits by village organisations before the meeting starts at 7.30pm. As usual refreshments will be served.

### Village Meeting

25 April – 7.00 pm

Ashburnham Village Hall  
Ashburnham with Penhurst Parish Council

There will be updates about all areas that the Parish Council is involved with during the meeting, as well as the opportunity to hear reports from our local councillors. One of the topics raised this year will be the future of the village hall. Since last year there has been a significant increase in the usage of the village hall on a regular basis and the finances have been put on a sustainable basis. Several dozen people have signed up to the formation of a support group. A name such as Friends of the Village Hall comes to mind. The village meeting is an opportunity to discuss plans for the future development of the premises some of which have happened (the kitchen has had a makeover) and others are in the planning stage (the car park is one).

Anyone who likes to think of themselves as a friend of the Village Hall will want to come to another meeting a couple of weeks before the Village Meeting. It's the Annual General Meeting of the charity that is responsible for the management of the hall and, unlike the other meetings of the trustee body, the AGM has to be held in public. In order to attract the widest possible participation the meeting will be on the same Saturday as the W.I. Library and Cafe, 13th April. The AGM will be at 12 noon when the Library and Cafe closes. For those who want to stay on after the AGM there will be soup and rolls. It will be the first time that friends and trustees have got together to develop a common purpose. On the one hand trustees have to manage the premises keeping it safe, compliant and well maintained. On the other hand friends want to have some say in the direction of travel. You can have your say too if you come to the meetings!

Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council Email: [clerk@ashburnham-penhurst.net](mailto:clerk@ashburnham-penhurst.net)  
Land line: 01323 832082 with answering machine Mobile and Text: 07836 716723  
If leaving telephone voice messages be sure to leave your name and a call back number.

Council meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of alternate months but the next one will be on the fifth Wednesday, 29th May 2024. The Planning Committee (if required) meets on the fourth Wednesday of intervening months. A list of councillors' lead responsibilities can be seen on the village website at [www.ashburnham-penhurst.net](http://www.ashburnham-penhurst.net)

All meetings are in public and members of the public are encouraged to attend. There is an agenda slot near the start of the meeting for members of the public to address the Council. The agenda is published online at the village website three clear days before the meeting and hard copy is posted on the notice board at The Chapel. Minutes of meetings are published on the village website.

# Life-Enhancing Live-In Care

At **Hamilton George Care** we work with the very best carers to provide truly bespoke live-in care. We take the time to understand what type of care is needed, and what type of carer would suit you best.

As a small team we get to know our clients and their families, understanding their unique clinical and lifestyle needs in order to provide the highest standards of care.



## Our Care Services

- **Housekeeping** - companionship and help with tasks around the home
- **Clinical Care** - varying levels of clinical and personal care
- **Complex Care** - condition led care including nursing care, end of life and rare conditions
- **Rehabilitation Care** - short term support (four weeks or more)



**H**  
**G** Hamilton  
George  
Care

## Get In Touch

07470 930264

[www.hamiltongeorgecare.com](http://www.hamiltongeorgecare.com)



**Contemporary hospitality  
in a traditional setting combining Tudor splendour and Georgian opulence**

## STONE HOUSE



COUNTRY ESTATE  
[www.stonehousecountryestate.co.uk](http://www.stonehousecountryestate.co.uk)

Catering for up to 50 guests

Relaxed, intimate weddings  
Family celebrations  
Naming ceremonies, vow renewals,  
memorials  
Corporate hospitality

Period location for film, TV, photo shoots  
Classic car meets & special interest events  
Exclusive use of the house & estate  
Community garden project

Resident fine wine and food expert  
Pop-up dining experiences  
Themed wine & food events  
Classic English afternoon tea  
*(for pre-booked parties of 12+)*

Rushlake Green, East Sussex TN21 9QJ

**01435 830553**  
[events@stonehousecountryestate.co.uk](mailto:events@stonehousecountryestate.co.uk)



**Beauty, Massage & Spa  
treatments now available for  
weekend availability!**

**Akehurst Field, Ashburnham,  
Battle, TN339LW**

**Contact Angel for treatments &  
price list:  
[angelbelle7@outlook.com](mailto:angelbelle7@outlook.com)  
07584076163**



**07866512610**

**Professional tree surgeon with over 30  
years' experience. Fully insured and  
specialist in large or dangerous trees.**

- **Tree Surgery**
- **Hedge Cutting**
- **Stump Grinding**
- **Fencing**

Areas of Kent and East Sussex covered, based  
near Robertsbridge.

**Email: [richardwebbtreesurgeonltd@outlook.com](mailto:richardwebbtreesurgeonltd@outlook.com)**

## Pub Quiz

Tuesday 2nd April  
7.15pm for prompt  
7.30pm start

Meal available  
**Booking is essential**  
01424 892104

## MI

MI will be meeting at the Ash  
Tree Inn, on  
Tuesday 9th April  
at 8pm, do join us for a drink

contact Clive for more details  
[cliveclive@live.co.uk](mailto:cliveclive@live.co.uk)

## Table Tennis Club

Meets on Wednesdays at  
7.45pm in the Village Hall  
Call Zoe on 07788 654138  
for more information



ASHBURNHAM &  
PENHURST WI

Our next meeting on  
**Monday 15th April at 2pm**

Reconnect with your pelvic floor!

Come and enjoy a sociable afternoon.

For more information call Katie on 07920 092072

## SHORT MAT BOWLS

Afternoon meeting starting at 2 p.m.  
every 2nd & 4th Friday of the month  
in the village hall.

Call John on 01424 892618 or  
Martin on 01323 832482  
for more details

*No experience or equipment needed,  
just soft soled flat shoes*

## The Art Group

The Art Group are happy to be able to  
invite any fellow artists to join us on  
Thursdays, from 10a.m to 1p.m at  
Ashburnham cricket pavilion.

We are a friendly group of mixed  
ability and expertise. We support each  
other and have the occasional  
professional mentor to keep us on the  
right track.

For more information ring Barbara  
Cornish, 01424 435198.

## Village Walking Group

The next village ramble will be on  
**Wednesday 24th April led by Jay Ashworth.**  
**Meet at 10am at the Village Hall.**

Jay will lead a walk around the village lanes, looking out for and identifying the beautiful wild flowers that will be lining the verges. If you have a bright or high vis jacket please wear it so we can stay safe on the lanes! We will return to the Village Hall for refreshments at the end.



**May's Walk will be on Thursday 23rd May,** starting and finishing at the church hall, walking to the south of Ashburnham. More details next month.

## The Filling Station

Monday 8th April we have Paul Wenham, Director of Ashburnham Christian Trust as our guest speaker. We meet for coffee at 7pm in the Conservatory at Ashburnham Place and then enjoy a time of worship, teaching and prayer ministry in the Great Hall. For more details please contact Catherine on 07801 634034 or [catherine@duggleby.com](mailto:catherine@duggleby.com)



## The Coffee Stop

Next Coffee Stop is

**Friday 5th April**

Drop in anytime between  
10.30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
for a cup of coffee and chat.  
held in the Pavilion  
All ages and interests welcome.

**Looking forward to seeing everyone!**

For further details please call Paula on 01323



We are a small family run business based in East Sussex with 18 plus years of experience. We are passionate about providing a personal service where you are always in control.

For a free quotation and friendly advice please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below:

Mobile: 07912215199

Telephone: 01323 833979

Email: [gildridgefencing@gmail.com](mailto:gildridgefencing@gmail.com)

Website: [www.gildridgefencing.com](http://www.gildridgefencing.com)



## ABOUT US

We offer a range of services cross Sussex and Kent including Agricultural and Domestic Fencing, Decking, Gates, Digger 360 works (ground clearance, levelling and ditching etc) Tree Felling, Tree reductions and Hard Landscaping.

We can also re-design your garden to bring your ideas to reality with precision decking, pergolas, sheds, outhouses and more.





Tuesday – Sunday: 10.30am-4.00pm. Monday: Closed  
(Kitchen closes at 3.30pm for Soup, Sandwiches and Paninis)

**Afternoon Teas (£14.50 per person - Wednesday – Sunday)**

We take bookings of 2 to 20 for afternoon teas (subject to availability).

To reserve a table or to get a copy of the menu please contact us.  
(currently taking bookings to end of June - £5 per person deposit required to confirm. Balance payable on the day).

**If you are planning to visit we will be closed during 2024:**  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> – Sun 5<sup>th</sup> May, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November

We may be closed for other dates. Please contact us before visiting.  
Enquiries & afternoon tea bookings  
- call 01424 894201 / [bookings@ashburnham.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ashburnham.org.uk)

[www.penhurst.org.uk](http://www.penhurst.org.uk)  
01424 892088  
[info@penhurst.org.uk](mailto:info@penhurst.org.uk)



We have a full programme of led retreats and quiet days which you can find by looking on our website or picking up one of the paper copies which from the retreat centre or one of our local churches.

This year we are delighted to be hosting three Wellbeing Weekends being led by Jason and Vicki Cottingham. The first one is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April (with subsequent ones in June and August). The weekends will be safe and supportive spaces for people who feel or have felt overwhelmed, providing tools for self-management in a facilitated peer mentoring style setting. This weekend will cover subjects of anxiety, depression and disappointment and loss, using material from Kintsugi Hope. The sessions include group and individual activities designed to help participants accept themselves, understand their value and worth, and grow towards a more resilient and hopeful future.

If this sounds like something you would benefit from you can find more information on our website or by giving us a ring in the office.

**Parish Magazine Contact Details**

To advertise phone Fay on 07860 113413  
or email [oframdsen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oframdsen@hotmail.co.uk)

If you have a question about delivery or  
to submit articles or village notices

contact Jay Ashworth on  
01424 532972 / 07876 484945 or  
email [ashworthjay1@gmail.com](mailto:ashworthjay1@gmail.com)

**Battle Area Community Transport**

Route B79 Ashburnham to Battle  
The weekly bus is running again.  
Depart Battle (Abbey Green) 9.50am  
The Pound 10am  
Ash Tree Inn 10.05am  
Arrive in Battle 10.25am  
Return at 12.05pm

**For information about Church Services**

**Ashburnham and Penhurst Churches**

Rev'd Gary Cregeen 01424 612324

[gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk](mailto:gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk)

**Ashburnham Chapel**

Fay Ramsden 07860 113413  
01424 830078

**Flexibus**

FlexiBus runs 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday (not Sundays or Bank holidays). It is a flexible, on-demand rideshare service, for areas with limited or no bus service. Journeys can be booked by calling 01273 078203 or find more information <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roads-transport/public/flexibus>

**"105" IS THE NUMBER TO CALL IF YOU GET A POWER CUT**

105 is a single helpline service for householders to report power failures or safety concerns, or to get information during a blackout. Calls to 105 are **free of charge** and will put you through to your local electricity network operator. You can call 105 from landlines and most mobile phones.

For **Ashburnham Church** events and information go to  
[www.ashburnhamandpenhurstchurches.org.uk](http://www.ashburnhamandpenhurstchurches.org.uk)

**Ashburnham Chapel Website**

[www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk](http://www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk)

For **Village** events and information go to

[www.ashburnham-penhurst.net](http://www.ashburnham-penhurst.net)



**BOOK THE VILLAGE HALL**

Redecorated throughout.

Fully equipped kitchen.

Perfect for meetings, recreation  
and weddings.

Hall 16mx7m, Small Room  
8mx6m

Ring Gill on 01424 892674

**Ashburnham Sports Pavilion**

Available for hire for all  
recreational activities.

Fully equipped kitchen, tables, chairs.  
Amazing location, great for parties.

Lots of outside space to use.

50% reduction in fees for residents  
See parish website (Venues) to book  
or email

[clerk@ashburnham-penhurst.net](mailto:clerk@ashburnham-penhurst.net)

## Murmurations

April. A sense of springtime is evolving, the mud is finally evaporating. I wake in the mornings to the comforting coo of wood pigeons and the twanging ruler noise of woodpeckers drumming – their method of communication, not only to forge territories but also to attract a mate. I hear several woodpeckers over in the woodland, simultaneously hammering trees of different sizes, creating a mesmerising, xylophonic composition. All this feathered flirtation makes for hungry work and so, with their regenerative beak-ends, the woodpeckers tap tap tap and listen for the sound of insects in the bark, then drilling into the tree or reaching into a crevice with their extra-long tongues they probe for insects and larvae. They are also, as we know, using their beaks to excavate their nesting holes. I'm now wondering what a collection of woodpeckers is called. A vibrato? A peckery? A drummary? I check... it's a descension of woodpeckers, and it reminds me - we have a little toy, a woodpecker that judders down a metal pole. Most of these birds have zygodactyl feet that are highly adapted for climbing: two toes in the front and two at the back allow the woodpeckers to grip the tree, to move up and down at high speed and to have good leverage for pecking.

April, and there are blossoms, blossoms everywhere... apple, cherry, hawthorn, damson. Little clusters of ballet-slipper pinks and sprays of dove and milky whites. And there's a certain shade of white – I call it 'pudding white', that I can taste when I see it – sweet, white and gloopy: my favourite school dessert! I'm back in the hubbub of the school canteen now (1983), finding a place to sit. But I trip, flip my tray over and catapult the bowl of sweet, snowy slop against the window where it sticks and slides, down, down, down to the floor...

April 1st, 1984 - Sunday. Bath and bed. But What?! The sheet stops halfway down, I can only get in up to my hips! And there are 'things', random things inside... hairbrush, plimsoll, yoyo, marmite, colour pencils, Rubik's Cube, frisbee, cassettes, action man, slinky, kaleidoscope, marbles, and a yellow plasticine snake! (Apple-Pye Bed – or 'short sheeting' is first referred to in a 1781 diary entry by James Woodforde, diarist and clergyman; it was my little brother who added 'things' and a new version of apple pie was born.) Some things we just can't plan for; if you're reading this as we approach April Fool's Day, don't lose sleep worrying about jests and jokes because, "What we anticipate seldom occurs, but what we least expect generally happens." (Benjamin Disraeli). To be more concise - according to a 2005 Study: 85% of what we worry about never happens...

Donna Christman

**STRUTT  
& PARKER**

### Ashburnham Estate Properties to rent

From time to time properties become available to rent on the Ashburnham Estate. If you would like to be contacted when something becomes available, without any obligation, please do let us know.

Contact the Land Agent, Florence Wolfe on 01273 407012, Mobile 07458 117431 or email: Florence.Wolfe@struttandparker.com for this and any other Ashburnham Estate matters.

## JF Stoneworks

*Specialists in stone*

- NEW MEMORIALS
- CLEANING & RENOVATION
- ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS
- GRANITE & MARBLE WORKTOPS
- STONE BUILDING RESTORATION
- DOMESTIC STONE WORK

No. 2 Kingswell Estate, Beech Farm, Netherfield Hill, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0LL Showroom: 01424 774497  
www.jfstoneworks.co.uk Email: enquiries@jfstoneworks.co.uk

**Please note that the inclusion of advertisements for local services in this magazine does not constitute a recommendation.**  
**Readers are advised to make their own enquiries to ensure good service.**

## HOME MAINTENANCE ROB DEDMAN & SON

*All work undertaken within and around the home*

**Painting & Decorating  
Kitchen/Bathroom Alterations  
Tiling  
Repair Shop**

Telephone 01424 774764  
Mobile 07976 741950

Email

[robdedman1066@gmail.com](mailto:robdedman1066@gmail.com)

Over 25 years experience, references available, fully insured

## Southern Cesspool Services

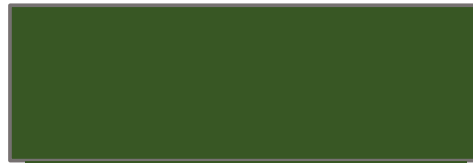


*Tank Emptying  
Treatment Plant Servicing & Jet washing  
Reminder Booking System  
Clean Quick & Efficient  
British Water Accredited  
Friendly – Family Run*

01233 732407  
07773 491356

[www.info@southerncesspoolservices.com](mailto:www.info@southerncesspoolservices.com)

*We Pride Ourselves On First Class Service*



UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, DINING FURNITURE, BEDS AND BEDROOM FURNITURE.

OPEN: MON TO SAT 9AM TO 5PM

SUNDAY 10AM TO 4PM & BANK HOLIDAYS 10AM TO 4PM



## Chapel News for April

Do you, like me, find Easter both a very sad time and a very exciting time? Sad because Our Lord was crucified and suffered so much pain but exciting because he rose from the grave and now those who acknowledge this have eternal life. In a new world with no pain and suffering, no wars, famines, earthquakes, floods, fires and all the evil that we see in this world today. Such a fantastic promise to us all who believe.

Lighter evenings are here at last! I hope, like me, you have had a lovely Easter break and are now keen to get into your garden and start tending your flowers and vegetables. I wonder if you ever stop to think how wonderful nature is. We take a tiny seed, plant it in the soil and wait in anticipation for it to grow into a beautiful flower or a wonderful vegetable for us to cook and put on our dinner table. You may also have experienced the disaster of having a rabbit get into your garden and nip off all the lovely juicy shoots as they appear out of the soil. Last year Michael planted all sorts of things in his 'rabbit proofed garden', and was amazed to see the shoots keep disappearing as they appeared. He thought a squirrel was nipping everything off but we have never before had a problem with squirrels so he went out and bought broad bean plants, and various other plants that were available, sowed more carrot seeds, beetroot, etc. but the following morning when he went out all his bean plants had been nipped off, then out of the corner of his eye he saw a baby rabbit cowering in a corner. How did it get in, he asked himself. As he gave chase it just disappeared and he assumed it had found a hole in the netting somewhere. He searched everywhere but couldn't find the hole, or the rabbit.

More beans and peas were bought and planted out and again they were all nipped off and eaten. Then we discovered that the rabbit was trapped in the garden and must have sneaked in when Michael was in there and had left his rabbit proof gate open. He was furious and vowed he wasn't going to plant anything else so he left the garden gate wide open and hoped the rabbit would find its way back out into the field which it eventually did. Sadly I didn't get any broad beans for my dinner last year, but am looking forward in anticipation of many cooks this year.

We still Zoom our Chapel Service live on a Sunday evening and do hope that you will join us sometimes, just follow this link:- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4107830582?pwd=NkdoUlpWaDBjOE1DZmdhRThOU2RLdz09&omn=84915467908>

Meeting ID: 410 783 0582 Passcode: Fay

Fay Ramsden

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT FURNITURE RETAILER 37 YEARS IN THE  
MAKING AND STILL GROWING STRONGER IN THIS CHANGING CLIMATE.  
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

THORNDALE FURNISHERS, UNIT 1, BURFIELD PARK, SOUTH ROAD,  
HAILSHAM BN27 3JL

T: 01323 847759 [www.thorndalefurnishers.co.uk](http://www.thorndalefurnishers.co.uk)

# Ashburnham Village Hall Annual Meeting

SATURDAY APRIL 13TH

SOUP AND ROLL LUNCH TO BE SERVED  
FOLLOWING THE LIBRARY CAFE

MEETING WILL START AT  
APPROX. 12 NOON



THIS IS YOUR CHANCE  
TO ASK YOUR QUESTIONS  
AND FIND OUT THE PLAN  
MOVING FORWARD

## Fruit Crumble Cake

This delicious dessert/cake always proves popular and is easy to make.  
Recipe from the Penhurst Cookery Book.

Makes 16 portions

Preheat oven to 180°C, 350°F or gas mark 4

### For the cake

300g butter - softened

300g caster sugar

6 large eggs

250g self raising flour

100g almonds

2tsp ground cinnamon

1tsp baking powder

### For the crumble

500g fruit - eg apples, mixed summer fruits,

100g plain flour

3 tbsp demerara sugar

25g flaked almonds

Grease and line a 20cm x 30cm tray bake

Put all of the cake ingredients into a large bowl, beat with an electric hand whisk until combined

Set aside 100g of the batter and spread the rest evenly into the tin

Spread the fruit in a layer evenly over the batter

Roughly mix the plain flour into the reserved batter until lumpy crumbs are formed

Stir in the sugar and flaked almonds and scatter over the fruit

Bake for 1 hour or until a skewer inserted comes out clean

Cut into squares, serve immediately as a dessert with cream or custard or allow to cool and use a cake, store in an airtight tin.

## RABI and FCN

I spotted a few familiar faces at Kaleb Cooper's tour date in Eastbourne last month, many will know him as the young farmer who tells Jeremy Clarkson what's what in the series 'Clarkson's Farm'. He's clearly a very enterprising young man with his own farm contracting business as well as TV fame! He is very proud of his industry and has set up a bursary to help young people like himself get started in farming. He has also made a charity single, spreading the word about the work of RABI and I thought it might be good to have a reminder about their work and that of FCN, two charities that we support regularly through village events such as Plough Sunday which exist to help members of the farming community when they are in particular need.

Jay Ashworth

### RABI

stands for Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and was established in 1860 with the original aim "To secure a home for, or pension to, the bona fide farmer or widow of a farmer and to maintain and educate the orphan children of farmers"

It has evolved over the years to offer 'guidance, financial support and practical care to farming people of all ages'.

They provide grants, advice, a freephone helpline, access to counsellors and training in mental health for communities and support for individuals and families when they most need it.

You can find more here <https://rabi.org.uk>

Their helpline number is 0800 188 4444

### FCN

stands for Farming Community Network and was set up in 1995 to help farmers in crisis and as an organisation was straight in at the deep end supporting farmers faced with losing everything during the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak. As well as offering response in crisis the FCN also provides proactive support to farmers to help them avoid worsening situations. They provide online resources, local volunteers to help, a national helpline and help and advice with financial issues.

You can find more information here

<https://fcn.org.uk/>

Their helpline number is 03000 111 999

email [help@fcn.org.uk](mailto:help@fcn.org.uk)

## Gardening and Nature Notes

I am sure that I am not alone in finding this winter one of the wettest I can remember. According to government statistics, February was the fourth wettest on record since 1871! I know many gardeners and farmers who are really struggling with the wet conditions which combined with the mild weather also means everything is growing - including weeds and grass. It's frustrating for all of us but particularly challenging for those making a living from the land. We are used to constantly adapting to different conditions but the relentless nature of this winter's wet weather has really challenged people professionally and personally.

As we come into spring, we can only hope that the weather improves and that we get some more dry days so that we can not only get on with tasks outside but also enjoy walks in the woodland and fields around us as the anemones, bluebells and wild garlic carpet the ground with such beauty. It's lovely to hear the birds singing at dawn, dusk and all the hours in between again now that spring is here. Chiff Chaffs are back and singing out in the woods and the Yellow Hammers along the track near me are chanting their 'a little bit of bread and no cheese' refrain regularly. They are a red-listed bird meaning their population is in decline, they nest in shrubby hedges along field margins - just the habitat they enjoy here.

In the garden the amount of work that can be done depends a lot on the soil condition, the wet weather has left our heavy clay unworkable in some areas. In the Ornamental Gardens at Ashburnham Place the beds have been worked and mulched over so many generations that they are better drained and workable in many places. The Camellias have been putting on a fantastic early show this year, untroubled by frost and the Azaleas and Rhododendrons are coming out now too. At home, our pond plants are beginning to re-emerge - the beautiful, deep yellow flowers of Marsh Marigold providing a particularly spectacular show and brightening up a dull day. It's a great plant for wildlife ponds as it provides shelter for frogs and toads and early nectar for pollinating insects. I have a new area for growing veg this year after some re-arrangement at home and I'm looking forward to getting my usual beans, courgettes, squash and lettuce seeds growing soon. I love to grow Sweet Peas too and we sowed those at work in February and the seedlings are coming up strongly. They are such a great plant to grow, they look pretty, smell divine and you have to keep picking them in order to keep them flowering so you always have something for a vase indoors!

Jay Ashworth

## April Diary

Mon 1			
Tue 2	7.15pm	Pub Quiz	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 3	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 4	10am-1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 5	10.30-12	Coffee Stop	Sports Pavilion
Sat 6	9am-1pm 10am-12pm	The Market Library Cafe	Ashburnham Place Village Hall
Sun 7	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Communion Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 8	7pm	Filling Station	Ashburnham Place Great Hall
Tue 9	8pm	MI	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 10	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 11	10am-1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 12	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 13	9.30-11am 10am-12pm 12pm	Running Space Library Cafe Village Hall AGM	Church Hall Village Hall Village Hall
Sun 14	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel

Mon 15	2pm	WI	Sports Pavilion
Tue 16	7.30pm	Ashburnham Church Prayer Hour	Church Hall
Wed 17	12pm 7.45pm	Village Lunch Table Tennis	Village Hall Village Hall
Thu 18	10am-1pm 10.45am	Art Club Church Service led by Revd Gary	Sports Pavilion Hazel Lodge
Fri 19	2pm-4pm	Library Cafe	Village Hall
Sat 20	8.30-10am	Men's Breakfast	Ashburnham Place
Sun 21	9.15am 11am 11.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Ashburnham Church APCM Communion Service	Penhurst Church Church Hall Church Hall Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 22			
Tue 23			
Wed 24	10am 7.45pm	Village Walk Table Tennis	Village Hall Village Hall
Thu 25	10am - 1pm 7pm	Art Club Annual Village Meeting	Sports Pavilion Village Hall
Fri 26	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 27			
Sun 28	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 29			
Tue 30			

For up to date information, news items and details of village clubs, groups and events go to our Village Website  
[www.ashburnham-penhurst.net](http://www.ashburnham-penhurst.net)