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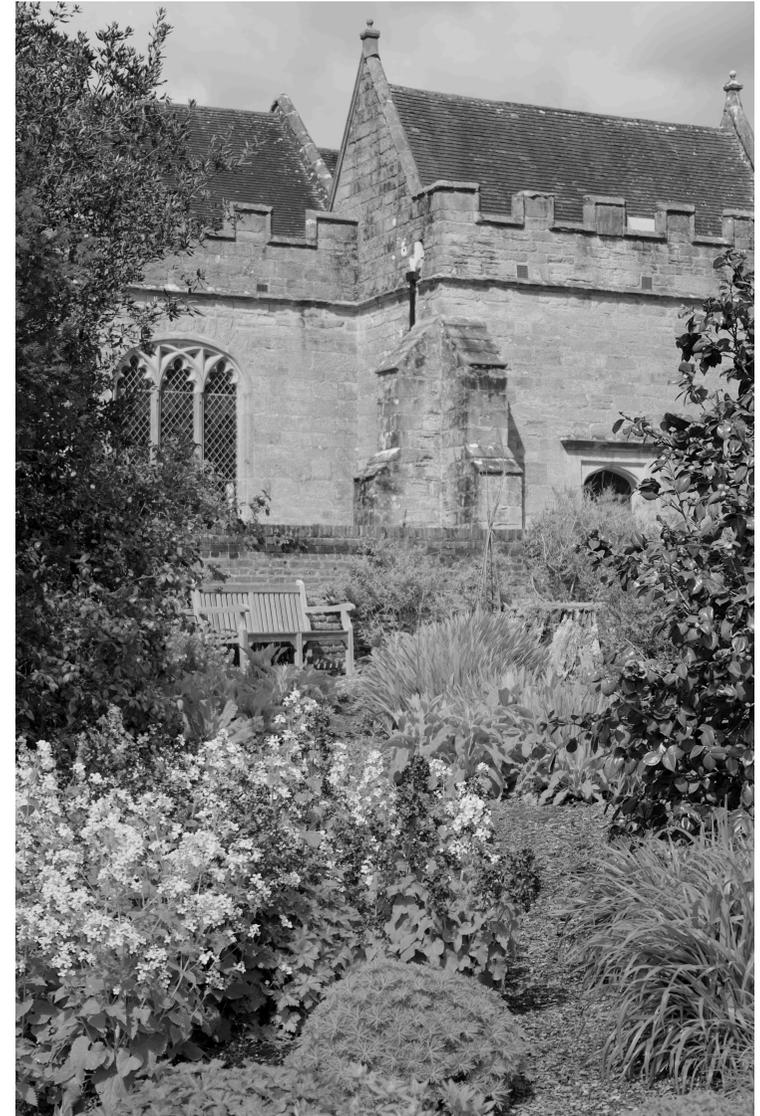
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# Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Magazine May 2024



Ashburnham Church from the gardens of Ashburnham Place

Please send contributions for the June edition by Friday 3rd May  
We reserve the right of refusal & the right to edit any articles

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

5th May	10.30am Rogation Service at Kitchenham Farm, Kitchenham Road, TN33 9NP <i>Please note, no Sunday Service at either Penhurst or Ashburnham Churches today.</i>
12th May	9.15am Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst Followed by APCM 11am Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham
19th May Pentecost	9.15 am Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst 11 am Morning Prayer (CW) at Ashburnham
26th May Trinity Sunday	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.

**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  
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*Les Miserables* is one of the most popular musicals of all time and is probably my favourite. Though originally written over 160 years ago, the story continues to capture hearts and imaginations today. The two characters at the centre of Victor Hugo's novel are the policeman Javert (played by Russell Crowe in the film version) and the convict Jean Valjean (Hugh Jackman). Javert is a man of the law, zealous in his commitment to it and enslaved by the fear of wrongdoing. Valjean, the man outside the law, is reborn into a life of compassion and love through the freedom brought by forgiveness. Having stolen some silver from a bishop who had shown him compassion, Javert tries to take him back to prison, but the bishop intervenes, claiming to have given Valjean the silver as a gift. The ex-convict is astonished: but the bishop knows what he's doing. 'Now remember this, my brother,' he sings. 'See in this some higher plan.' The bishop wants Valjean to see a divine hand in the unexpected act of mercy, and to be transformed by it.

Valjean's world is changed forever by this act of grace, he casts off his old identity, and commits himself to a life of mercy and service. Rising to become the town mayor, he encounters Fantine (Anne Hathaway), a single mother forced into prostitution, and agrees to adopt her daughter Cosette who is effectively a slave to the cruel Thénadiers, until Valjean comes along. Through a chain of events which seems set in motion by divine intervention, we see Cosette lifted out of poverty and into a new life where she is loved and cherished.

Despite the passing years Valjean realises that Javert is still intent on hunting him down and the startling contrast between these two men reveals the heart of the story. The policeman thinks that because he's upheld the law, he has God on his side. But the ex-convict begins at rock-bottom, knowing that he doesn't deserve anything from God. He is certainly imperfect, but he discovers that God loves and cares for him despite his crimes. In contrasting their journeys, the story becomes a parable about our different reactions to God's mercy and grace.

In one of His own parables, Jesus talked about two sons: a younger brother who wasted his father's money before returning destitute and humbled, and an older brother who believed he'd lived well enough to earn his father's favour. To the surprise of His original hearers, Jesus suggested that the younger son was in a far better position. *Les Misérables* echoes His message, and this, perhaps, is the key to its popularity and power. We all love a good story— but more than anything, whether we acknowledge it or not, there is in all of us an innate hunger for acceptance, forgiveness, and mercy – which lies at the heart of God's Good News for all of us.

*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)



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### ASCENSION DAY – Thursday 9th May

At Easter we celebrate Jesus' death in our place on the Cross and His victory over death – the resurrection. However, there is another significant event in the life and ministry of Jesus which often passes without much notice – His Ascension, which took place forty days after Easter.

Ascension Day is being marked locally with a Holy Communion Service at Penhurst Church at 10.30 am on Thursday 9th May. Revd Gary will be officiating. All are welcome to come along; refreshments will be served afterwards.

### St Michael the Archangel Church, Penhurst Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

**Sunday 12th May at 10.45 am at Penhurst Church**

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 Penhurst Annual Church Meeting will take place in the Church on Sunday 12th May at around 10.45 am, following Holy Communion (BCP, at 9.15 am, until 10.05 am). Refreshments will

be served after the service and before the APCM. 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 Revd Gary

NB The APCM for Ashburnham Church took place on Sunday 21st April, details from the meeting will be included in the June edition of the Parish Magazine.

### CONFIRMATION

Last September it was a delight to share in the Confirmation of Steve and Ruben Merrick, and over 20 other of all ages and backgrounds. This special service, conducted by a Bishop, marks an important point in a person's journey in the Christian faith. It provides an opportunity for those of us baptised or christened as babies or children, to make the promises made by our parents and godparents, on behalf of us, for ourselves. Equally, you may never have been baptised or christened and would like to explore what this means. This year's local Confirmation Service will be on Monday 3 June. If you are interested in finding out more about Confirmation and the preparation involved, or wish to explore the Christian faith further, then please contact Revd Gary (01424 612324 or 07749 904887) who would be glad to chat with you.

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### Rogation Service – Sunday 5th May

Our Rogation Service this year is on Sunday 5th May at Kitchenham Farm, Kitchenham Road, Ashburnham, TN33 9NP starting at 10.30 am with refreshments served afterwards.

Our thanks to Amanda and Monty Worssam for their welcome. The service, which is suitable for all ages, will be outside, where we will take a short circular walk, stopping at different places to take in the surrounding scenery and remind ourselves of all the work that goes on in our communities. Do join us – and bring suitable clothing and footwear (and a camping chair, if you need it)!

The word rogation comes from the Latin verb “rogare”; meaning “to ask” and involves asking God for protection, to provide and to bless, while acknowledging His goodness and our dependency on Him. Rogation provides us with the opportunity to praise the Creator God, give thanks for our food and those who produce it, and to pray a blessing on the community in which we live and share together. Therefore, let us celebrate in thankfulness for all the Lord’s amazing provision.

### REVD GARY’S RAMBLE AROUND THE BENEFICE

Over a couple of days during Holy Week Revd Gary did a ‘ramble’ around the Benefice of Ashburnham with Penhurst (as detailed in the April Parish Magazine) – a total of around 36,000 steps! The purpose of the walk was to meet people, to explore the lovely area in which we live, and to pray at different points for God’s blessing and protection on our local communities. Gary says, “It was a real pleasure to ‘get out and about’ the Benefice of Ashburnham and Penhurst. It was great to meet and chat with different people along the way, to enjoy the company of those who accompanied me at different points, as well as those who kindly offered refreshments enroute. Thank you! Of course, we live in a lovely area and decent weather, for the most part (I did get caught in a downpour at one point!), helped to appreciate the awesome scenery all the more!”

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

### Penhurst and Ashburnham New Theatrical Society

Following our successful fund-raising play in March, we are hoping to bring you a new performance in November, 21st -23rd. If you would like to join us on stage or behind the scenes - the more the merrier. We would love to hear from you! [yogahoadie@gmail.com](mailto:yogahoadie@gmail.com) or [j.french678@btinternet.com](mailto:j.french678@btinternet.com)  
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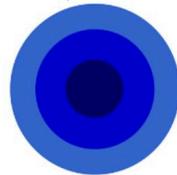
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 Two courses with tea and coffee £8.95  
 Vegetarian option available if booked  
*Booking essential as places are limited*  
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## Parish Council news –

In May 2015, on the same day as the General Election, a referendum was held in the village to test support for a new village hall. The polling station was a cattle trailer parked in the gateway of a field round the corner from the village hall. The turnout was about 85% and the support for a new hall was also about 85%. There was support for borrowing £200k on the basis that it cost the average household £3.50 per month. Soon after the result of the vote was known Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trust pledged to donate £100k if the rest of the money could be raised. At a guessed total cost of not much more than £400k the project looked doable.



The parish council got behind the project and spent about £15,000, most of it in the initial years during which a team of fund raisers also got into their stride eventually raising some £31,000. The parish council net expenditure dropped to £5,600. Battling stiff head winds the team achieved planning permission in 2017 and managed to just beat the three year deadline for making a start by getting one foundation support in the ground and signed off.

However, one head wind has proved unbeatable thus far and that is the rising costs. A guess of £400k in 2015 may not have been wide of the mark. Since then we have had the Covid pandemic and rampant inflation. By March 2023 a firm price of £515k had been established for just the construction of a water tight shell, but fitting it out could cost half as much again. In 2015 the funds of which we could be certain would have covered three quarters of the cost, but now those same funds won't even cover half of it.

The fund raising team has reluctantly advised the parish council that there is little prospect of raising the money to cover the difference and the fact that we already have a village hall makes it even harder to win grants. The team proposes putting the project on hold for a few years and investing the remaining sums raised until a firm winding up decision is made.

During the period when support for a new village hall was at its height, support for the existing village hall was neglected. Happily, that is now changing rapidly and next month we can no doubt report on what shape that is taking.

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.

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## MI

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## Table Tennis Club

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Cornish, 01424 435198.

## Village Walking Group

**May's Walk will be on Thursday 23rd May**, Meet at the Church Hall at 10am for a walk through woods and fields, returning to the hall for refreshments afterwards, approximately 11.30am.

Open to everyone.

More details from: 07970 624966 or j.french @btinternet.com



## The Filling Station

The Filling Station meets on Monday 13th May in the Fernery at Ashburnham Place at 7pm. Our Speaker this month is Ben Virgo, Director of Christian Heritage in London and planting the Victoria Park Community Church in East London. All are welcome for Worship, Teaching and Prayer Ministry. For more information please contact Catherine on 07801 634034 or [catherine@duggleby.com](mailto:catherine@duggleby.com)



## The Coffee Stop

Next Coffee Stop is

**Friday 3rd May 2024**

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**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

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[info@penhurst.org.uk](mailto:info@penhurst.org.uk)



We have two retreat days coming up this summer that are specifically aimed at certain groups, both are led by experienced group leader Shirley Skrentny. The first, on Friday 21 June is entitled 'Daring to Talk About Grief' and offers a space to connect with your grief in a supportive environment. The second entitled 'Disordered Eating - Exploring Over-eating', an opportunity to explore the subject of over-eating, which is often an area of shame. If you're interested in more information about either of these days or any of our other retreats then go to our website where you will find all the details you need.

The gardens and grounds of the retreat centre look particularly lovely in spring, you can come and enjoy the orchard, summerhouses, art room and all our other facilities if you book in for an individual quiet day. You can either have a delicious home cooked lunch and use of the centre for the day for £35 or bring your own lunch, help yourself to refreshments and use the facilities for £15. Why not come and take some time out to reflect and recharge? Get in touch to enquire about availability.

**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)



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## Murmurations

I climb the steps between two tall, fluted ionic columns framing a giant portal set in a sand-stone building. Its celestial-blue painted doors are huge and flung open. Inside... books, books, books... lining walls of oak shelves which rise high above my head and accessed by those lovely sliding wooden library ladders.

Novels are scattered and stacked on carved oak tables; cairn-like towers of tomes grow from wood floors; deep Chesterfield sofas invite perusal before purchase. Not musty or fusty or dusty. As the sunlight pours in through the circular lantern in the high ceiling, peacock-bright paperbacks and high-brow hardbacks jostle for space in a kaleidoscope of colour. The city of Bath's Topping & Company's bookshop and café is thriving!

Books put themselves in my way and, as I pass reinterpreted phone boxes, doorsteps, church nooks and swap boxes the right ones appear just at the right time. I currently have about 15 books making up my bedside 'book cairn' – they're challenging, fascinating, thought-provoking, eye-opening, intriguing, revealing, questioning, and entertaining. Reference books – I like them to be intelligent and well sourced, fiction must be inspiring and deeply researched, memoirs – honest and grounded.

Books are indispensable: many years ago, living in Hove as a newly qualified teacher, I accidentally nudged a little white car early one morning as I pulled out of my parking space. Alone, the little white car trundled slowly and backwards down the road. A friend who left his flat for work found me draped over the boot and chrome bumper of Little Car to stop it being crushed in the busy bus lane. Together, we pushed it back to its space and left it secure with his two Brighton and Hove telephone directories wedged under its little back wheels. And a note – the handbrake was off.

The right books at the right time - like sliding doors - can draw people together, sparking connections, discussions, laughter; they can even lead to love – and they can literally be life savers. Books can be both cerebrally illuminating and holistically healing - bringing light into our minds and spirits and lightness into our physical body. And books can empower us. Ninety-five percent of our health is really in our own hands. On the top of my pile right now is A Pukka Life by Sebastian Pole (of Pukka teas), it's beautiful and informative, a holistic approach that addresses the needs of all the systems of the body. I don't remember where I acquired it but I know this... it's a gift.

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](mailto:Florence.Wolfe@struttandparker.com) for this and any other Ashburnham Estate matters.

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**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.**

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## Chapel News for May

We have The Very Revd. Lee Duckett the Dean of Battle leading our next Healing Service which is on the 19th May at 6-30 pm. Revd. Lee has been involved in Healing Ministry for many years and has some incredible experiences to relate to us. Don't forget Our Lord always hears our prayers and we can pray for anything that is troubling us. So come along and ask for healing of all your concerns whether they are physical or anything else that is worrying you. Remember Jesus said "Take my yoke"

Don't forget that even if you cannot actually get to the Chapel you can join us on Zoom on your phone or iPad from wherever you are, just click on the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4107830582pwd=NkdoUlpWaDBjOE1DZmdhRThOU2RLdzog>

Meeting ID: 410 783 0582 Passcode: Fay or

One tap mobile Meeting ID: 410 783 0582 Passcode: 726912

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kd4uj3qkaj>

Don't forget to put the 2nd June in your diaries which is our Chapel Anniversary.

We have been in our present home now for 60 years! So much has happened in those 60 years. The Chapel has been in existence since the mid 1880's.

I must congratulate you villagers who do so much to make Ashburnham and Penhurst such a wonderful place to live. There are so many clubs and fellowships, nobody need ever feel lonely. Congratulations are also in order for all of you that help to pick up litter around the village. This should not be necessary but of course because we live in such a beautiful area we attract many visitors from far and wide and unfortunately they just throw their litter out of car windows as they pass through and some even bring garden rubbish etc., and leave it on the roadside or in gateways for you faithful 'litter pickers' to deal with. You all deserve a medal!

It is also so encouraging to see members of St. Peter's, St. Michael's and the Chapel Congregations joining together to worship our Wonderful, Faithful, Loving Lord. If you are not already amongst these Congregations, you are very welcome any time. Any one of our three places of worship would love to welcome you. Fay

**ASHBURNHAM CHAPEL, TN33 9PD  
HAVE THEIR NEXT HEALING SERVICE ON**

**THE**

**19<sup>th</sup> MAY at 6-30 pm**

**THE VERY REVD. LEE DUCKETT**

**WILL BE LEADING**

**PLEASE DO COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

## Ron's Ramblings.

Much to my surprise I managed to celebrate a significant birthday recently. A surprise because the average age of deaths in my family was in the sixties and also I haven't exactly led a cosseted working life. Today the family are round the dining table with the detritus of the meal and the cards and gifts are being opened. Lots of whacky gifts including a pack of 'Oldgitamins', a bicycle for someone in Africa and an ode, framed and written by the three grandsons. I was commanded to read it out but I knew that I'd get as far as the first verse and then I'd start to blub. At this point everyone else joined in. Except the five year old who stared at me, with tears rolling down my face, and thought "What the hell is going on? They've all gone loopy."

I'm notoriously emotional at times. Talking about my late father, the final notes of the Last Post on Remembrance Day, funerals of close friends and relatives, the death of Bambi's mother. Can't stop myself. Strange how tears can express both joy and sorrow.

I was amused over the past couple of weeks reading on the village Facebook page, about the various animals that have been seen or rounded up locally. In the past two weeks we've had two horses, a sheep, a dog, a cat and lately a ferret. Before that it was pigs and cattle. It's almost as if George Orwell's "Animal Farm" is coming to life. I'm sure I saw a couple of Gerbils eying up the house the other day.

It's deadline day and I'm wracking my brains for a subject to finish off this ramblings and "bingo". There it is in the hedge outside the house. A Coop bag which looked as though it had been dumped out of a car window. After picking it up and thinking to put it in my rubbish bin, I looked inside and found it was running with fresh blood! This gives me an excuse to ring 101 and within 20 minutes two gentlemen of the law turn up, take a statement and cart off what could be a piece of vital evidence in a gruesome murder. Or it could be someone's freezer has packed up. Ironically the bag was a Co-op bag for life. Watch this space for the next exciting episode.

Ron.

*Editor's Comment... it sounds like that could be the start of a Richard Osman Thursday Murder Club novel... perhaps we should write an Ashburnham themed one!*

## Retreat!

We are fortunate to have a wonderful retreat here in Ashburnham just a short walk or car-ride away, but I have been fortunate to have a week away in another retreat in Portugal. OK, a bit further away and involves a plane-ride but what an amazing experience! The retreat is called Monte Sahaja and is in the mountains of southern Portugal. No, not those kind of mountains with snow; they are like big hills with vegetation consisting of cork, olive and eucalyptus trees. In just a few years they have amassed a haven of every conceivable plant you might think of including 2,000-year-old olive, massive-girth trees, trucked in from the Algarve. Yes, even though they have several meters circumference, they can be uprooted and replanted using heavy machinery and continue to grow.

Some of you may remember my son, Reuben? Yes, he went to Dallington Primary and Claverham. Well, Rumi, as he is now called, has lived in Sahaja for nearly eight years; the first couple of years in a tent, very cold at night in winter, but now living in a small cabin about 8 foot square with just a bed and a hand-made wardrobe for his clothes. There are about a hundred helpers in the retreat all allotted to teams to make the whole thing tick. There are about 8 in each team and Rumi oversees and coordinates the teams as well as being involved with security for the approximate 50-acre hilly site. These days we rarely hear of a "wise man" but that is what I would describe the leader of this vast family. He is Mooji, an artist who taught art in Brixham many years ago. With just 5 followers he developed the retreat, constructed flat areas, built many structures including cafes, prayer centres, bore holes for water, many toilet blocks, resident cabins and all without planning permission! Well, you can get away with it there as it is remote, but beautiful. The planning officer was invited to see the complex and had nothing but praise for the beauty of the place. It even has its own fire engine and team that help out when there are local wild fires and Rumi is one of the fireman. There is an Indian theme but all faiths are welcome; indeed visitors and helpers come from all over the world bring their willingness to help even though they may have special talents. Such people are often orchestral standard musicians so Sahaja has made its own music including singers and choirs. They have purchased a large building in the local village where another team have set up a large café/restaurant; Mooji and Sahara are highly respected by the local community and on Sundays they have visitors numbering in the hundreds. I could go on, there is so much to tell and the only way to appreciate this amazing sanctuary is to stay there for a while; a treat at the retreat!

Tony Smith



## THE ASHBURNHAM ENGLISH SONG AWARDS

President: Dame Felicity Lott Founder & Artistic Director: Louise Winter  
[www.ashburnhamenglishsongawards.co.uk](http://www.ashburnhamenglishsongawards.co.uk)

### The Ashburnham English Song Awards 2024

**Concerned that the beauty of English Song be lost forever and not enjoy the prominence it deserves, Netherfield resident Louise Winter, a professional mezzo-soprano, together with friend and colleague Dame Felicity Lott, decided to set up an annual competition, the Ashburnham English Song Awards. The aim is to promote the study, performance and appreciation — in schools, conservatoires and in the professional concert hall — of the vast and precious repertoire of English Song, from the seventeenth century to present day.**

The inaugural awards took place to a packed recital hall at Ashburnham Place on a beautiful May evening, and a repeat is anticipated on Thursday 16th May 2024. Tickets to the event are now on sale at Eventbrite. You can get a direct link from our website <https://ashburnhamenglishsongawards.co.uk/2024-competition/>

In addition a Junior Award has been instigated and the first competition took place in November 2023 at Battle Abbey School. The 2024 awards will be on Thursday 21st November - once more in the Abbots Hall at Battle Abbey.

If you would like to support the Ashburnham English Song Awards please take a look at our website <https://ashburnhamenglishsongawards.co.uk/> or email our secretary Debbie Katis at [secretary@ashburnhamenglishsongawards.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ashburnhamenglishsongawards.co.uk)



*"I am so delighted to learn about The Ashburnham English Song Awards. For too long, English song has been the 'Cinderella' of song repertoires, though there is such a wealth of superb music to explore, discover and perform. My hope is that The Ashburnham English Song Awards will make a lasting contribution to redressing this situation and I shall support it wholeheartedly."* JULIUS DRAKE

## Sunday 2nd June, 3pm St Giles Church, Dallington

LIZZIE KNATT: Recorders DECLAN HICKEY: Guitar

3pm concert Followed by afternoon tea

Tickets £15 (afternoon tea included)

Tickets and information in advance from Jane

07766 434847 [janepalma2015@gmail.com](mailto:janepalma2015@gmail.com)

**In aid of repairs to the church roof**

## Gardening and Nature Notes

Our familiar and welcome migrating birds are gradually returning from their epic journeys, Chiff Chaffs, Swallows and Reed Warblers have been seen and heard as they settle back in to life in Sussex. I was able to see a slightly more exotic visitor, one of the two Hoopoes that were spotted in Hankham, near

Pevensy. They are glamorous looking birds and it was great to see one feeding in the field. Nesting is already well under way for our native birds too, we have Starlings and Blackbirds clearly feeding young as they go to and from their nests with beak-fulls of worms and other insects.

I often use BirdNet, an app on my phone to help id birdsong and am gradually learning more songs with its assistance. There are other apps too, Merlin is also well thought of. They are a great way to help you id in the field or you can save observations and check them out later if you haven't got reception.

The weather continues to be a challenge to gardeners and farmers alike with lots of wet weather and some colder nights as well but the Bluebells, Wild Garlic and Early Purple Orchids seem to be happy with the conditions and are putting on wonderful shows around the lanes and woodlands. The wide verge on Forge Lane has well over a hundred Early Purple Orchids flowering this year, looking absolutely stunning.

I am starting with a new vegetable bed this year at home due to some changes in the garden so I am trying to add plenty of leaf mould, compost and well rotted manure to get things off to a good start and give the plants the nutrition they need to crop well throughout the season. Not everyone has room for a separate vegetable plot and at Ashburnham Place we're slotting a few fruit and veg plants into the ornamental gardens to show how they can blend in well with other flowers in the borders. We have planted some rhubarb already and are planning to add some Rainbow Chard plants with their colourful stems.

I hope you have a copy of the Flower Show Schedule with this magazine. You can download a copy from the Parish Website if not [www.ashburnham-penhurst.net](http://www.ashburnham-penhurst.net). Do check out the classes, there are lots of ways to show off your vegetable, fruit and flower growing abilities. Please do have a think about entering, it's great fun and you might even win a cup for your carefully tended produce! Watch out in next month's magazine for some show entering tips to help you succeed!

Jay Ashworth

## May Diary

Wed 1	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 2	10am-1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 3	10.30-12	Coffee Stop	Sports Pavilion
Sat 4			
Sun 5	10.30am 6.30pm	Rogation Service Communion Service	Kitchenham Farm Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 6			
Tue 7	7.30pm	Pub Quiz	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 8	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 9	10am-1pm 10.30am	Art Club Ascension Day Service	Sports Pavilion Ashburnham Church
Fri 10	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 11	9am -1pm 10am-12pm	The Market Library Cafe	Ashburnham Place Village Hall
Sun 12	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion followed by APCM Holy Communion Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel

### Ashburnham and Penhurst Flower Show and Country Fair

**Saturday 27th July 1.30pm - 5pm**  
Sports Field, Ashburnham TN33 9NU

Funds raised - 50% towards the New Village Hall Fund  
and 50% towards St Michael's Hospice

Come and browse the stalls, enjoy a slice of cake, have a  
go at lawn mower racing, marvel at the interesting vehicles  
and see what new attractions we have!

Mon 13	7pm	Filling Station - in the Fernery	Ashburnham Place
Tue 14	7.45pm	MI	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 15	12pm 7.45pm	Village Lunch Table Tennis	Village Hall Village Hall
Thu 16	10am-1pm 10.45am	Art Club Church Service led by Revd Gary	Sports Pavilion Hazel Lodge
Fri 17	2pm-4pm	Library Cafe	Village Hall
Sat 18	9.30am 10am-12pm	Running Space Out of the Blue Coffee Morning	Church Hall Sports Pavilion
Sun 19 Pentecost	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Healing Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 20	2pm	WI AGM	Sports Pavilion
Tue 21			
Wed 22	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 23	10am 10am - 1pm	Village Walk Art Club	Church Hall Sports Pavilion
Fri 24	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 25	9.30am	Running Space	Church Hall
Sun 26 Trinity Sunday	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 27			
Tue 28			
Wed 29	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 30	10am-1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 31			