

Lindfield Life

Local village talk,
by the village

December 2009 Issue #9

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Lindfield Life



📷 Cover image by Paula Clark.
A winter visitor to Lindfield Pond.
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THE FINAL COUNTDOWN to Christmas has begun! We love the run up to Christmas in our house. As a family we choose our tree whilst it is still growing in a field in Scaynes Hill and it has become a tradition that we share with family and friends. This year we chose a particularly muddy day to go after a night of heavy rain – the kids seemed to enjoy it more than ever and I think the mud had a lot to do with it!

We've got loads of Christmas tips for you in this bumper issue to help you plan the festive period – whether it's gifts that are available locally or food and drink ideas to enjoy with family and friends. Do check out our special Christmas Gig Guide too – from traditional Christmas Carol Concerts to family entertainment.

In Village People this month we meet Margaret Nicolle, a name well known in the village as she has served for many years on our Parish Council. She shares her love of history and introduces us to William Allen, another familiar village name. The second part in our craft series explores the world of patchwork and quilting, another craft rooted in history with many fascinating stories behind it.

A number of our local groups give us a round up of their year and what they have got in store for the New Year. The Bonfire Society report on this year's event too – wasn't it great? For me, it was probably one of the best firework displays yet, so thank you and well done to all in the Society who make it happen. It makes me proud to be a Lindfield resident.

Lindfield Life wishes all its readers a very Happy Christmas!

Emma Tingley, Editor

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Lindfield Life Brooklands Barn, Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, RH16 4RR
Telephone 01444 884115 Fax 01444 473888 www.lindfieldlife.co.uk
Editors: David & Emma Tingley <editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk>
Advertising: David Tingley <ads@lindfieldlife.co.uk>

Community Editor: Caroline Young <community.editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk>
Address: 12 The Glebe, Lindfield RH16 2JS

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WEDNESDAY

The Triangle, Olympus Burgess
Hill, Triangle Way, Burgess Hill
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WEDNESDAY

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Southway, Burgess Hill
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Father Christmas is coming to Blackthorns school!

COME AND VISIT Father Christmas at the Blackthorns School Christmas Fair, Blackthorns Close, Lindfield on Saturday 12th December, between 11am and 1.30pm.

Have a drink and snack in our Christmas cafe. Homemade cakes will be on sale. Try your luck on the tombola and lucky dip stalls. Make a Christmas gift or have your face painted. There will also be a candy store, book shop and craft stalls. All welcome!

New salon is family business

DENZILOE, THE LATEST new business on the High Street is not so new for the owner and her family. "My mother bought the property and opened it as a hairdressers in 1964. She ran a successful business for 12 years before leasing it out and it was still a hairdressers up until last year. I have refurbished the property and am now reopening as a hairdressers with my daughter. My mother is still alive and as you can imagine she is delighted that we are doing this" says owner Sonia Grover.

Tribute to a very special man

THE ACORNS NURSERY School would like to pay tribute to their colleague, Mr Geoffrey Kingdom, who died on Tuesday 13th October aged 52. Described by one of the parents as 'a very special man in a very special nursery,' he changed his career path twelve years ago, after 20 years in banking. He had worked at The Acorns for four years, widening the range of sport and bringing his own 'magic' to the children. You would often see him on Lindfield Common on Sunday mornings watching the children playing cricket, his favourite game. "He was truly inspirational with the children. He was an excellent role model and had great empathy with the age group. There will never be another Geoff," said Janet Irwin owner of the Acorns. "We feel very privileged to have had him as a member of our team and he will be sorely missed."





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Bonfire night goes with a bang

By Darren Lucas

THE 2009 BONFIRE celebrations were yet another success in the village. It was reported that 11,500 crammed onto the common for the annual event. A significant increase in numbers, possibly due to the restrictions at Lewes this year.

The procession was one of the biggest seen in the village on the 'Fifth', with visiting societies from Burgess Hill, Chailey and Fletching. There was also a good selection of people in fancy dress who also joined in the procession as it made its way round the village, with Burgess Hill Youth Marching Band providing the music.

Once on the common the traditional bonfire prayer was read out by the archbishop and his clergy before the bonfire went up in a hail of Chinese Crackers and the effigy of Guy Fawkes met his end.



The crowd were then treated to one of the best firework displays seen in Lindfield. The firework display was dedicated to the memory of former Bonfire Captains Kim Lucas & Geoff Honeysett.

Bonfire Captain Phil Lucas said he couldn't take all the credit for the firework display as much of the credit should go to his brother Darren and his Uncle Chris Gasson, who don't get the credit they deserve.

Bonfire Secretary Wendy Box reported that it was a great night and a fantastic effort was put in by the boys on a great display. Also that the police and Red Cross reported no major incidents.

The society also collected £3,959 for local children's charities on the night.



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Lindfield Arts Festival gathers pace

IF YOU'RE AN ARTIST, band, actor, poet, restaurant, forward thinking business, school or college then the Lindfield Arts Festival is fast becoming the event to showcase and promote your work. Launched at the end of October, the Festival is rapidly gaining pace and is offering the opportunity for you to be part of this fantastic event.

Claire Fuller, Festival Co-ordinator, comments "if you're a local business and not yet part of this creative networking event then contact us to learn about sponsoring and raising your profile within the community in a fantastic contemporary new way."

"Look out for our poster and click onto the website to register," says Leesa Le May "we have had an amazing response already and will probably need more venues around the village to showcase acts and accommodate all the visitors to the Festival!"

If you would like to find out more about being part of the Festival, either as an artist, venue for bands, poets, performances, a festival restaurant to feed and water visitors over the weekend, support by volunteering help and services or offer sponsorship then contact us on 07738288730 or click on www.lindfieldartsfestival.com

Village Wine Society

THE MID SUSSEX Wine Society began life as the Haywards Heath Wine and Beer Guild in the Autumn of 1967 when home wine and beer-making was all the vogue. The popularity of wine and beer-making seemed to wane in Mid Sussex so the HH Wine & Beer Guild decided to become the Mid Sussex Wine Society. We are a member of the Sussex Federation of Winemakers and several of the other branches still offer wine and beer competitions for their membership.

Village Day 2005 marked the Society's first 'Village Day Wine Raffle'. The outcome was so successful that it has continued and many new members have been welcomed to our meetings and dances, which are also supported by other branches of the Sussex Federation. In 2007 we celebrated our 40th. Anniversary with various events, including a luncheon for past and present members.

Our monthly meetings in the King Edward Hall include presentations by visiting wine experts and occasional events are held elsewhere for wine tastings and 'skittles'. The 2010 Programme includes tasting presentations by John Radford, Alan Jenkins, Southdown Wines, Carr-Taylor Vineyards, Harveys of Lewes and The Winehouse, with social events at the Stand Up Inn, Lindfield, Royal Oak, Barcombe, a talk by Ian Gledhill, and Valentine and Halloween dances to the music of Rick Bonner and 'Tyler'. Look out for details in Lindfield Life or call Angela or Peter Seward on 484447.

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Mid Sussex Ramblers

By Tony Osmond



AS 'THE RAMBLERS' group for the Mid Sussex area, we offer a varied programme of walks throughout the year to suit all ages and walking abilities.

Walks are arranged on most Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Bank Holidays, with half day walks of 3 to 6 miles and, for the more energetic, all day walks of 10 to 12 miles. During the summer months there are also Wednesday evening walks (3 to 4 miles) and weekend walking breaks and coach outings with walks.

During the winter months we hold indoor meetings in Haywards Heath, with illustrated talks on a wide range of topics, and social evenings in local pubs.

Whether you are new to walking or an experienced walker, you are welcome to come along and give us a try.

Why not join us on one of our walks over Christmas or New Year?

Sat 12 Dec	Tracing the Sussex Ouse	6.5 miles
Sat 26 Dec	Chailey Common Stroll	3 miles
Tues 29 Dec	Lewes Circular	4 miles
Fri 1 Jan	New Years Day Circular (Ditchling)	4 miles
Sat 2 Jan	Circular from HH Station	4 miles

To find out more, details of our group and walks are available in local libraries or view our website at: www.midsussexramblers.co.uk

Contact us via the 'Contact Form' on our website or telephone Tony (MSR Publicity) on 01444 469470. Or e-mail publicity@midsussexramblers.co.uk

Season review 2009

By Roger Green

THE SEASON IS now well over for Lindfield Bowling Club and the Green is quiet. Sadly no County titles this year but not for the want of trying. However the ladies won the Nellie Mercer League and the men won the Border League Cup and for the third time in succession, the league itself. This being of some significance as Lindfield men have remained undefeated during that three year sequence.

Lindfield hosted two Inter County matches, a Somerset touring side as well as the men's county fours quarter and semi finals plus the usual intensive programme of friendlies, leagues and competitions. We now have four qualified coaches to help new and less experienced players progress.

Social activities such as BBQ's, quizzes, skittles and wine tastings were so popular they were oversubscribed. It is true that we enjoy ourselves. We put in plenty of effort to make best use of the club for our members and visitors but that is not our sole objective. From our own tournaments and events such as captain's days and in conjunction with Lindfield Club and Mid Sussex league, we raised over £ 2,800 for the following charities: The Smile Train, Guide Dogs, Help for Heroes, St Peter and St James Hospice, The Chestnut Tree House and Neil's Club. For more information visit our website: www.lindfieldbowlsclub.co.uk

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Simply Good Food...

By Caroline Young

HAVING WORKED FOR so many years on major monthly magazines with the copy deadline five to six months in advance, I was always having to think of new angles for the Christmas issue whilst sitting in summer sunshine. So much of our festive food is traditional and most families would look on too many variations of the Christmas menu with horror. However there are lots of other meals to plan other than Christmas day and I hope some of these simple and quick ideas will become traditional favourites with your family in years to come.

Boozy Fruits

These improve with keeping so make as soon as possible

Place 125g each of the following into a screw-topped jar – diced dried pineapple, diced dried papaya, quartered glace cherries, diced angelica and dried cranberries. Add sufficient red vermouth to cover the fruit completely. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 weeks. Use to decorate the top of your trifle, spoon over scoops of ice cream or cream-filled meringues or to top the following simple dessert.



Chestnut Mousse

For me chestnuts spell Christmas, especially those horribly expensive but fabulously delicious marron glacés. Makes 6-8.

Dissolve 75g soft brown sugar in 2tbs hot water. Add 2tbs rum. Tip a 439g can unsweetened chestnut puree and a 500g tub Greek yogurt (please do not use a low-fat version) into a bowl and whisk until smooth. Gradually whisk in the rum syrup. Spoon into individual glasses and chill for several hours. Just before serving sift over a dusting of icing sugar and top each with a marron glace.

Mocha Pots erves 6

Deliciously rich, serve this decadent dessert in tiny coffee cups or stemmed glasses. Please use very good quality chocolate.

Break 175g plain chocolate into a blender or processor. Add 300ml very hot (not quite boiling) single cream and 2tsp rich-blend instant coffee granules. Buzz to melt the chocolate and coffee. Add 1 medium egg and ½tsp vanilla. Buzz until smooth. (Alternatively make in a bowl and whisk to combine). Immediately pour into the serving cups and chill for 24 hours to allow to set. Serve topped with Boozy Fruits, shaved chocolate or a layer of unwhipped double cream.

Pears And Prosciutto

A fresh take on melon and Parma ham.

Cut unpeeled ripe pears into 6 wedges. Top each with a thin slice of salty Roquefort or Stilton cheese and wrap each wedge in Prosciutto ham. Arrange three wedges on each individual serving plate and garnish with toasted walnut halves.

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Cheese Crostini

Serve two or three of these per person with a crisp garnish of rocket leaves, diced avocado and very thinly sliced red onion as a starter or a light meal.

Thinly cut a baguette at an angle to make oval slices. Brush lightly with garlic butter, arrange on a baking sheet and bake at 200° for 10 min. Meanwhile, drain a jar of sundried tomatoes in oil. Cut goats cheese (a variety with a rind) into slices. Top each freshly baked crostini with a tomato (or two), a slice of goats cheese and a sprinkling of Parmesan cheese. Return to the hot oven for 5-6 min or until the cheese begins to melt. Serve piping hot.

Apricot Truffles

Simple enough for the children to make, these delicious mouthfuls would make a very acceptable present packed in a pretty box.

Break 8 trifle sponges into fine crumbs (or buzz them in a processor) into a large bowl and stir in 100g ground almonds. Warm 4tbs apricot jam (lift out any large pieces of fruit) and add to the bowl with 2tbs rum or brandy (or orange juice). Mix together until you have a smooth mixture. Shape walnut-sized pieces into balls, arrange on a baking sheet and chill several hours to dry the surface. Roll each truffle in cocoa or icing sugar or coat with melted chocolate. Place in tiny paper cases and keep in a cool place.

Parmesan Shortcake

Something different to serve with a glass of wine or a bowl of soup. Makes 16 wedges.

Heat the oven 160°. Put 150g plain flour, 50g semolina, 50g grated Parmesan cheese and 100g butter into a processor and buzz to mix to a dough. (Or rub the butter in with the fingertips.) Divide the dough into two and, on a lightly greased baking sheet, press each into a circle about 18cm in diameter. Prick all over with a fork and sprinkle with coarsely chopped dry roasted peanuts. Bake for 30-35 min until firm. Cut each into 8 wedges while hot then leave to cool on the baking sheet. May be frozen.

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Have a happy and peaceful Christmas!

Village people



By Emma Tingley

FOR MANY THE name Margaret Nicolle will be a familiar one. You may even have seen her picture in the paper – I know I have. Margaret has played a significant and important role in village life over the last two decades and so I am pleased now to be able to share with you a little of her story and her particular interest in a man from London who helped shape the history of our village.

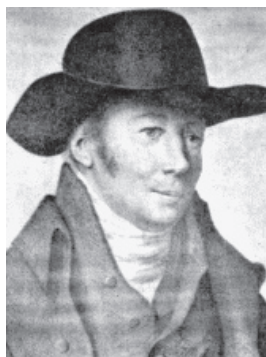
Most will know Margaret as a member of the Lindfield Parish Council, where she has diligently served for the last 22 years. She is currently Vice Chairman but was Chairman for eight years from 1999 – 2007. You don't have to spend long with Margaret before you realise that she is totally committed to the village and the role she plays within it. She sits on many of the committees, including the Planning and Traffic Committee which meets every three weeks to look at all planning applications within the village and ensures that comments are fed through to the District Council who are the decision-making body for such matters. The Councillors have the responsibility of looking after the interests of the village and its residents and protecting the character of the conservation area. The ever-growing volumes of traffic are a continuing issue for the Councillors. "Nothing is totally clear and straightforward, these issues require a lot of thought. We try to do our best in quite complex issues" says Margaret. As the former Chairman and now Vice Chairman of the Environment and Amenities Committee, she plays an active role in the general maintenance of the village, which covers everything from street furniture, to the playgrounds, to trees.

With such frequent Council meetings to attend, council business to deal with, her active involvement in local U3A groups and her love of music, art, the theatre and travel, it was no wonder that we had to book our meeting a couple of months in advance. But even more impressive is that Margaret has managed to find the time to research, write and publish a book. During her time on the Parish Council she has been one of the Councillors responsible for the village archives and it was this role that gave her the idea of putting together a leaflet on 'William Allen', another familiar name to those who live here, as a resource for residents and visitors to the village. It soon became clear that Margaret's research warranted more than a leaflet and so began work on her book 'William Allen, Quaker Friend of Lindfield'.

So who was he? He must have been of reasonable importance to have a road named after him and the hall in the primary school. We pass a plaque that bears his name on our walk to school each day at the top of Black Hill too. And it is here that William Allen and Lindfield became established links back in 1825 when he started the first industrial school in the village with classrooms, workshops and dormitories on this very site. But Allen



was not a Lindfield resident at this time, in fact he was born in Spitalfields in London in 1770, son of a silk merchant and lived much of his life in Stoke Newington. He was a Quaker, an opponent of the slave trade and a man passionate about the education of the poor to lift them out of poverty. In essence it is likely that he came to establish a school here having stopped off here to change horses at one of the then coaching inns in the village and observing first hand the poverty here. It is hard to imagine now but back in 1824 Lindfield was described by Charles Fleet, in his book 'Glimpses of our Ancestors



in Sussex', as "eaten up with pauperism". Back then Lindfield was a very rural area with little industry to provide jobs for those not working on the land. Sussex had the highest poor rates in England at the end of the eighteenth century. At first the villagers were opposed to the school, probably sceptical of this 'foreigner'. Although it is thought that much of the finances for the school

came from William Allen himself, other wealthy donors also played a significant part. The Earl of Chichester, Lord of the Manor of Lindfield, promised the land on Black Hill. Allen also established a number of allotments and cottages on land around Gravelye Lane as a rather experimental approach to getting agricultural labourers independent of parish relief.

Margaret's book is immensely detailed and yet so readable - in fact quite hard to put down! As well as teaching basic literacy and numeracy skills, the school also taught 'industry' skills, with children in the infants even being taught how to plait straw baskets and do patchwork. The girls learned spinning, weaving, knitting, needlework and domestic duties, whilst the boys were given training in gardening, farming, woodwork, metal work and shoe and cloth manufacture. I was particularly fascinated to read of the boys who were being taught the printing trade assisting in the production of 'The Lindfield Reporter' - described as 'being a repository for Hints and Suggestions calculated to promote the comfort and happiness of man'. Perhaps Lindfield Life may make it into a history book one day!

But it was Margaret's own early life and experiences of school that encouraged her love of history. She spent her early childhood in Burma, where her father taught English at the University of Rangoon. She recalls carefree days when much of her time was spent in the swimming pool. They travelled to Australia in 1941 but within a few short months they had lost their house and all their possessions in Burma as the Japanese attacked. Margaret recalls that all they had was in the six suitcases they had had when they arrived in Australia. She spent the war

years there before taking the long six-week journey back to the UK where she initially found it difficult to adjust to life in England, living with her grandparents for a year whilst her father returned to Burma to complete his military service. In Australia she had attended a Montessori Nursery until the age of seven, so was not used to attending school when she arrived back in the UK. Thanks to an inspirational primary school teacher though, she remembers learning stories of the great heroes and heroines of history each week. "I used to spend hours on my history homework each week in my teens, pouring over encyclopaedias" she recalls. The influence of her teachers has shaped her whole life. She obtained a BA Honours degree in History from Kings College, London in 1959, then went on to complete her teacher training and taught history at schools in Kent, Bristol and Sussex, no doubt inspiring others in the same way. "Wherever I go in the world, I'm drawn to the history of the area. It's a privilege to see these places" says Margaret, "but it is also right here too and you can see how our history has shaped the village we live in now".

Margaret's book is available from The Bookstop and I would highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in history or our village - a fascinating read. For more information visit www.williamallenquaker.co.uk

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~
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~
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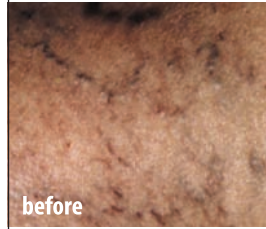
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Lady In the Van – A Review

By Emma Tingley

A NIGHT OUT with a friend is a real treat, and to spend it in the village is even better. Having never been to a Lindfield Dramatic Club production before, I was curious to see what it would be like. I'm always aware that a production is in its final stages of preparation when, in the weeks leading up to the performances, you catch the odd glimpse of scenery being painted when you walk along Lewes Road and the door to the club's storage building is propped open. I was even more interested this time though as my tickets were already purchased.

The Lady In The Van is Alan Bennett's best-known work of non-fiction and is the story of the author and Miss Shepherd, the eccentric old lady who lived in several battered old vans in his drive for 15 years until her death in 1989. It is a humorous yet moving story, with sensitively portrayed insight into Bennett's personal experience of both his mother's and Miss Shepherd's mental health issues.

Perhaps a brave choice for Lindfield Dramatic Club, but it certainly didn't disappoint and drew large audiences for the four performances. The three main characters, Miss Shepherd and two Alan Bennetts, played by Sally Cooper, Richard Knapp and Tim Bishop, were very convincing, even down to Bennett's Leeds accent. With most of the 'action' taking place on the drive of his



Camden house, the appearance of a full-size man-made van delighted the audience and added further dimension to the performance. The difficult role of Miss Shepherd was pulled-off so well by Sally, that I forgot I was watching a local amateur dramatics play. She could easily have been Miss Marple in a television production.

Thanks to the superb acting by the three lead characters and Rex Cooper's directing, my friend and I had a great evening out. Overall I was thoroughly impressed and I will definitely be watching out for their next production over the Spring Bank Holiday.

If you can't wait until then and fancy an evening out in the village before Christmas, then on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th December you can enjoy dinner and entertainment by LDC (readings, singing etc) in the Upper Room at The Bent Arms. For more information or tickets contact: Tim Bishop (LDC Secretary) on 01444 450604.

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Presents, presents and more presents

by Sara Bostel

WHERE HAS THIS year gone? I say this every year but honestly, I can't believe that Christmas will soon be with us again!

As some of you may know, I run a beauty business here in Lindfield and one of the biggest frustrations that I and many village business owners have, is the amount of village residents who are totally unaware of the beautiful quality products that are available to you. And the best part of all - they're pretty exclusive and they're available HERE! So here's an overview of, in my opinion, fabulously gorgeous gift ideas - both his and hers, from "my world" - skin care and fragrance.

Despite having been in the beauty industry for over 20 years, I'm still enthralled by these gorgeous lotions and potions - I love receiving a luxuriously decadent body cream or an



indulgent bath oil.. and yes, that is a hint! So, when you're next in the village, pop into Villandry Home and check out the beautiful range of products from Compagnie de Provence; there is everything from soaps, hand and

body lotions to creams and even Eau de Toilettes. All ingredients and fragrances are 100% natural and there are 6 wonderful scents: Olive and Lavender, Pamplemousse (grapefruit), Fig (my personal favourite), Verveine, Rose and Ylang Noir Pur - this range would probably appeal to guys too, as it's in fantastically funky black packaging, some of which has almost a "rubbery" feel.

Tuffnells provides, amongst others, a most exquisite range of softly coloured bath and shower gels in stunning hand-blown glass decanters by designer Allelix Leahellec from London. Ranging from £19 up to £55 in a variety of shapes and sizes, they're drenched in essential oils and are available in Lotus, Gardenia, Rose, Grapefruit



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and Lavender. These truly are beautiful and would add a touch of glamour to any bathroom. Here you will also find Durrance – a well established French company that specialises in toiletries for both men and women. Within the range is a fantastic shaving cream (I'm reliably informed!) rich in Sea Horn extract which is superbly protective – so ideal for a more sensitive skin – it's also extremely conditioning and regenerating which helps to repair and nourish. There is a full range of bath/body lines starting at £3.95 for soap.

Heart and Soul doesn't disappoint either, with another wonderful selection of products from Bath House, its stunning new lines inspired by the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew with a fine range of products in Cucumber and Cypress or Gardenia and Amber – lovely. Also from Bath House is a great range of Royal Horticultural Society inspired products – fig is my absolute favourite with its soft and slightly powdery scent. Heyland & Whittle offer the most beautifully packaged natural luxury soaps, which are hand crafted in the time honoured traditional “cold processed” method where pure essential oils, flower extracts, herbs and spices combine – not only do they feel fab on the skin, they smell yummy too. There's a cute range for expectant mums too – Boo Boo Mummy Cream (I love it!) doesn't contain parabens or synthetics, it's all natural – with centella, shea butter and hibiscus flower. It says on the tin that it's “For boobs, bumps and beyond!” Hilarious! Boo Boo also has a baby range



that's so natural, you could eat it! “After the Rain” range from Arran Aromatics offers a fragrance and bath lines combining the delicately feminine blend of rose petals, musk, floral citrus and lime. And for the chaps (hoorah!) an extremely gorgeous and stylish range called Spanish Fig and Nutmeg, again from Bath House; everything from soap, shower gels, balms and fragrance, which also benefits from a base of sandalwood (aromatic), cedar (slightly “smokey” yet slightly sweet-delicious) and exotic patchouli oil (very sexy!)

Dermalogica is also available in the village and, again, they have a super selection of body and hair care products, as well as skin care products, for both men and women; gift sets are available or your gift can be tailor made to suit then gift wrapped. Now that's a bonus – hands up who hates wrapping presents! Or why not treat your dearly beloved to a treatment – gift vouchers are available from several local therapists – a great way to get your mind and body back into shape after all that partying!

Don't forget there's Bliss too – a brilliant selection of hair care products like TiGi and they also stock super gift ideas from Ghd as well. And of course, there's Selbys and Abbots for both classic and contemporary his and hers fragrances such as Paul Smith & Diesel or Floris and Crabtree & Evelyn as well as shaving accessories such as Kent shaving brushes, shaving gels/creams and aftershave balms.

There, I've just given you a taste of what you can find in Lindfield through the eyes of a skin care specialist – well fanatic really!

Before I go for a lie down (!), may I take the opportunity of thanking everyone for their continued support and I wish everyone a truly wonderful Christmas and here's to a super 2010 – now I really can't believe that it's 10 years since we saw in the new Millennium!!

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BOOK REVIEWS

If you'd like to have a go at writing a book review, or are part of a reading group and would like to review a book together – do get in touch at editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk

Saturday

by Ian McEwan

Andrew Foster



IAN MCEWAN is one of the greatest novelists of his generation. Perhaps best known for his novels 'Atonement', recently made into a film, and 'Amsterdam' for which he won the Booker Prize, McEwan has produced a superb novel in 'Saturday' which serves both as a thriller and a commentary on our current times. Set over the course of a single day, the novel examines the life of Henry Perowne, a successful neurosurgeon and contented family man living in London. However, there is a growing atmosphere of unease pervading the book which is accentuated when Perowne comes into a confrontation with Baxter, a man on the edge of violence, and culminates in Baxter's appearance at the surgeon's family home. The result is an accurate portrayal of life in London for a successful family whose happiness is threatened by an outsider, which in turn brings some scenes of vivid intensity. It provides social and moral commentary combined with the pace and intensity of a thriller. In my opinion it is his best book so far – a real classic.

George and the Dragon

by Chris Wormell

Eliza Foster, aged 6



THIS IS THE story about a dragon who lived in a cave far, far away in the high, high mountains. He could fly very high and he had fiery breath. He could destroy a castle wall and brush away an army. The dragon had a secret, a very big secret, well actually a very small secret....he was terrified of mice. A mouse called George moved in to the cave next door. He was lonely and tried to borrow some sugar for his tea but when he asked the dragon he screamed and flew away. But luckily George found a new home in the castle wall and did get his tea after all with a princess!

I liked the story because it is funny that a mighty dragon is scared of a tiny mouse and the pictures are very good.

Editor's note: Thank you to our father and daughter team for this month's book reviews. If they have inspired you to have a go as a family, please contact me at editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk. We would also love to hear from any local poets or budding young writers, so do get in touch.

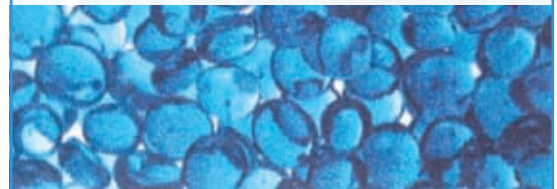
POETRY CORNER///

By Andrew Taylor

Advent in Linden

Linden trees have shed heart leaves,
And branch & twig icicles spikes freeze.
The birds have migrated to southern shine,
And hedgehogs lie safe & snug in slumber.
All life appears a blanket of winter death,
Snow carpets the common & cricket green,
And empty linden pond gleams in ice.
Yuletide mop, warm chestnuts & a fair!
Set on a December crisp clear evening air.
The Advent of druidic holly and mistletoe,
Ancient solstice signals nadir & return to light,
Mingle with the celebration of a virgin birth.
The season of withdrawal renews life spirit,
And prepare for the hope of meeting next spring.

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What star shall we follow?

How ancient and lovely this news of a star,
a baby, a mother, the kings from afar.
Come close now, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay
And show us your face in your people today.

What star shall we follow but one that leads here
to a baby born homeless and a family in fear?
What heaven shall we long for but one that starts there
for all the world's children in your tender care?

We thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to earth;
for the light in the darkness that shone at your birth,
for life in its fullness that you promise today,
and the hope in a baby asleep on the hay.

Amid all the festivities, why not take some time to ponder “the hope in a baby asleep on the hay”? Who was he? Why did he come? What difference does it make twenty centuries later? Can he make a difference to me? Come and explore some of these questions with us this Christmas – we'd love you to join us. Times of church services are listed on the following pages.

We wish everyone in Lindfield a very Happy Christmas.

James Clarke, Vicar of Lindfield

Charles Martin, Minister, United Reformed Church

Alan Jones, Deacon, Evangelical Free Church



All Saints Church

December 20th

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Christmas Family Service
- 4.30pm Carol Service
- 6.30pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve (December 24th)

- 3.30pm Christingle Service
- 5.00pm Christingle Service
- 11.15pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day (December 25th)

- 8.00am Christmas Communion
- 9.30am All-age Christmas Service
- 11.00am Christmas Communion

December 27th

- 10.30am Saints Alive at Christmas!
- 6.30pm Carol Praise United Service

January 3rd

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am All-age Worship
- 11.15am Holy Communion
- 6.30pm Evening Worship



United Reformed Church

December 20th

- 9.30am Family Worship with 'Jigsaw' for the youngsters
11.00am Morning Worship
4.30pm Praise Party for all the Family

Christmas Eve (December 24th)

- 4.30pm Crib Service
7.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day (December 25th)

- 10.00am Christmas Family Worship

December 27th

- 10.30am Family Worship
6.30pm Carol Praise United Service at All Saints

January 3rd

- 10.30am Family Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship



Evangelical Free Church

December 13th

10.30am Nativity Play
6.30pm Evening Service

December 20th

10.30am Morning Service
4.30pm Carols by Candlelight followed by tea

Christmas Day (December 25th)

10.30am Short morning service

December 27th

10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Carol Praise United Service at All Saints

December 31st

11.30pm Watchnight Service (preceded at 11.15pm by mince pies)

January 3rd

10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service



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Eat, drink and be merry

By Rosie Watson

IF YOU'RE ANYTHING like me, the dazzling array of Christmas drinks and associated paraphernalia (Santa-topped swizzle sticks anyone?) can be overwhelming, resulting in a tendency to 'panic buy' and overspend.

But stick to the staples (and that means leaving the bottle of Advocaat on the shelf!) and you can still serve an impressive selection of drinks this Christmas, without spending a small fortune.

The essential Christmas drinks check list:

- A selection of wines (red, white and sparkling), beer (include an alcohol-free option for non drinkers), and spirits (a good quality vodka or gin, a rum and a whisky are all versatile bases for cocktails and punches).
- Water and soft drinks – choose two or three exotic fruit juice drinks (such as mango, cranberry, and pomegranate) to make the choice more exciting for designated drivers. These juices can also be used for cocktails (think of a fruity daiquiri or a chic cosmopolitan).
- Ice – lots of it, plus a cool-box or two (remember the fridge will be crammed with food).
- Straws – just because they make drinking more fun!
- Garnishes for drinks (lemon, lime, orange, mint, olives, cucumber) – slice fruit, wrap in foil and keep in the freezer. Use as required to add a zesty twist and to help keep drinks chilled.
- Coffee/tea/milk – for the morning after (or see recipe below).

Festive Fizz

It just wouldn't be Christmas or New Year without a bottle of bubbly to mark the occasion. Look out for some of the award-winning supermarket fizzes, which have beaten the well-known brands in independent taste panels and can be considerably cheaper. Blessed by a temperate climate (at least some of the time anyway), several of the local Sussex vineyards produce excellent sparkling wines to rival some of the top name Champagnes.

Serve this sparkler as an aperitif before the main meal:

Ingredients:

Sugar cubes (1 per glass)
Angostura bitters
Your choice of Champagne or sparkling wine
Edible gold leaf (optional)

Method:

If using, place a flake of edible gold leaf in the bottom of a Champagne flute. Add a sugar cube soaked in angostura bitters. Fill with Champagne or sparkling wine.

Packs a Punch

Punch is enjoying a retro moment, so now's the time to get your punch bowl down from the attic and dust it off. A spicy rum punch is the perfect winter-warmer to offer carol singers if they come a-calling. A steaming cup will warm cold hands and throats. This recipe makes approximately 10 servings and my favourite thing about it is that it fills the house with the scent of Christmas while it's simmering. I like to serve a glass of this topped with a slice of orange and a shard of cinnamon stick.

Ingredients:

6 apples, cored and diced	3 star anise
Pint cider	Pint water
250ml dark rum	100g sugar
3 cinnamon sticks	

Method:

Place all the ingredients in a pan (except the rum). Simmer gently for about an hour then add the rum. Best served warm.

Mix it Up

Cocktails make a glamorous welcome drink for guests and will help get any Christmas celebration started. Try these fuss-free recipes:

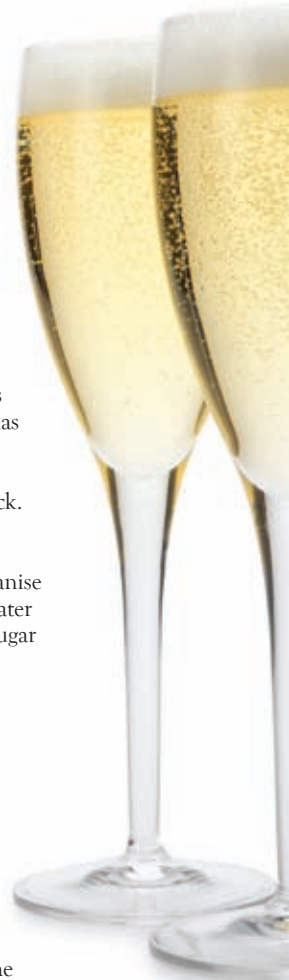
Classic Collins

Ingredients:

Shot of gin (or vodka, rum or whisky)	1 tsp sugar
Squeeze of lemon juice	Soda water

Method:

Mix the gin (or vodka, rum or whisky), lemon juice and sugar in a cocktail shaker (I use an empty fizzy drinks bottle instead) with some crushed ice. Strain into a tall glass over more ice. Top with soda water.



Sea Breeze

Ingredients:

Shot of vodka Cranberry juice
Grapefruit juice

Method:

Pour the vodka into a tall glass filled with ice. Fill with a third grapefruit juice, and two thirds cranberry juice, pouring slowly to 'layer' the cranberry on top of the grapefruit juice for an eye-catching flourish. You can also adapt this recipe using your favourite fruit juice flavour combinations. Mix without the vodka and non drinkers can enjoy a fruity 'mocktail'.

Manhattan

Ingredients:

Ice cubes
Large shot of whisky or bourbon
Small shot of dry vermouth
4 dashes of agostura bitters

Method:

Stir all the ingredients and strain into a tumbler over ice.

The Morning After

We've all done it - had one (or more) too many and then woken up the next morning with the headache to prove it. This Alcohol-Free Hangover "Cure" (no hair of the dog recommended on these pages!) is known as a "Prairie Oyster". The faint-hearted may feel inclined to omit the raw egg yolk but that's what contains a particular amino acid that helps to drive out the toxins acquired from booze (and cigarette smoke), so if you can stomach it then leave it in!

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon of olive oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1-2 tablespoons of tomato ketchup (or tomato juice)
Dash of Tabasco and Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon of lemon juice
1 raw egg yolk (unbroken)

Method:

Mix all of the ingredients (apart from the raw egg yolk) together. Top with the raw egg yolk and drink it in one!



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At work in the village

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Gabrielle Hall

AS LINDFIELD VILLAGE night approaches, a time when the High Street becomes busy with Christmas shoppers and I have more stock than I know what to do with (!), I find myself wondering where the last year has gone. I have been trading on the High Street in Lindfield for nearly eight years and it has gone by in a flash.

I have been writing these articles for nearly eight months and during that time I have noticed a number of changes to life on the High Street. For my business, Heart & Soul, Saturdays have become busy once again and we seem to be attracting visitors from further afield, keen to experience the unique charm that Lindfield has to offer.

During the summer I was approached by members of the Lindfield Preservation Society who, like me, felt that High Street traders needed a boost. They offered to contribute a generous sum towards a 'shop local' campaign. After some discussion with Jeremy and Lisa at Tufnells, we decided to put these funds towards a leaflet that would promote our local businesses and provide offers and incentives to shop locally this Christmas. By mid November this leaflet will have been distributed to over 18,000 homes within a six mile radius of the village with the Leader Newspaper. Extra copies are available from participating shops and tourist attractions within the local area.

Here's a brief summary of what the leaflet contains. In general most offers are valid until 31/12/09 but there are some that continue well into the New Year.

Please pick up your copy today and support your local businesses!

Tufnells

10% off gorgeous Pia Rossini leather and suede gloves until 31/12/09

Heart & Soul Gifts

20% off chocolates at 66 High Street and 10% off children's clothes at 99 High Street (the children's store) until 31/01/10

The Kitchen People

A free Siemens dishwasher with any kitchen ordered before 31/12/09

Courtyard Beauty Room

Complimentary mini facial (worth £30) when you purchase a Dermalogica moisturiser valid until 31/12/09

Artyfect

15% off Decopatch on purchases over £10 made in store.

Full Spectrum Homoeopathic Centre

20% off your first appointment

World Coffees

20% off your next purchase of coffee

Cloughs

One half price sandwich per customer until 31/12/09

Green, Elliott and Crowe Opticians

15% discount on new frames

Lindfield Barbers

10% off any cut

Watson's Brasserie

10% off the lunchtime specials menu until 31/1/10

The Witch Inn

25% discount Tues-Sun during November 2009 and January 2010

The Pilstyles B&B

4 nights for the price of 3 during Jan/Feb/Mar 2010.

My special thanks go to all the above for taking part, The White Horse Pub, Mark Revill & Co, Villandry Home, Calico Print in Hurstpierpoint, Mansell McTaggart, Matmos Computer Systems and Glyn Thomas and Sons and to members of the Lindfield Preservation Society.

PS Don't forget that Lindfield Village Night is on Wednesday 2nd December. It's a great evening out for all the family. We look forward to seeing you there.

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By Christian Bates

Christmas excess!



HOW WILL YOU cope with the Christmas excesses of food and drink? I think it is a good question to ask yourself before Christmas comes along. Perhaps you are on a diet and will be faced with lovely food, cakes and sweets. What are you going to do? Resist, eat in moderation or completely throw the diet out the window? I certainly wouldn't recommend the latter as it is good to keep in the habit of your current diet plan but I don't think you should completely resist either. What could be worse than being miserable over Christmas just because you are avoiding food? So make up your mind beforehand and then stick to that plan and don't feel guilty if it involves some moderate indulgence, after Christmas you can get right back on track. The same goes for exercise plans. It will be a time when your classes will be closed so you should get out for at least a walk each day, do some stretching or a few Pilates exercises that you remember, again just keep in the habit of doing something so it feels easier when you get back to it after the break. Here is my best tip when facing Christmas lunch. Try and eat according to your "Metabolic Type", are you a carbohydrate or protein type? If you are a protein type you will feel great after meat meals, like a cooked breakfast, it will give you energy, you will feel satisfied and alert. The carb type is the opposite and will feel great after a carbohydrate meal, like porridge. However, a carbohydrate type eating a cooked breakfast could feel sluggish, bloated, lethargic and maybe even still hungry. Apply this thinking to your Christmas lunch, adjust your portion ratios of turkey, potatoes and vegetables to suit you so you still feel good throughout the whole day. If you are a protein type, eat more turkey but reduce the potatoes, a carbohydrate type would reduce the meat and increase the veggies. As nice as a Christmas Day afternoon nap is, this year maybe you will still be awake to watch the Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special!

For more information on these concepts contact us on good4you@lindfieldlife.co.uk.

December 2009

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Craft work: Patchwork & Quilting

By Emma Tingley

IN THE SECOND of our craft series we explore the world of patchwork and quilting – and believe me, it is a big world! This craft, deeply rooted in history, is increasing in popularity, in part thanks to some imaginative contemporary designers and the huge range of fabrics available these days.

Quilting is a craft that dates back many centuries, with quilts being common trade goods in wealthy circles in Europe and Asia from the 15th Century. From the 17th Century there are records of quilted bed covers in household inventories. Quilting is essentially the process of stitching together layers of fabric and wadding to form a quilt. This is often done by hand and may consist of intricate patterns. Patchwork refers to the top cover of the quilt and is pieces of fabric sewn together – Joseph's coat of many colours was probably made from patchwork. Traditionally patchwork and quilting were not only cheap methods of producing bedcovers but also served a social purpose with women gathering to piece together to sew and exchange tales and share lives. Their lives were also sewn into the fabric of the quilt with the use of materials that held memories, such as part of a father's shirt or a mother's dress. The designs themselves often told

the story of woman's life through the patterns and colours used.

Not much has changed over the centuries and the popularity of meeting in small groups to sew continues. Rumour has it that there are possibly several groups meeting in the village but Lindfield Life has been to meet one such group and find out a bit about their current project.

Jenny, Heather, Jo, Penny and Marion met at a beginners patchwork course at the Patchwork Dog & Basket in The Needlemakers in Lewes a couple of years ago. Their common interest and love of fabrics, colour and sewing brought them together and now they share their lives as they meet together in their homes each week. As I walk in, the room is awash with fabric. They've got several projects on the go, each working on their own quilt, but also working together to complete a project. Between them, they've lost count of how many quilts they've made in the last year, many now treasured possessions of their family members. Their current project is described to me as a 'Harriet Tubman' quilt. "It's a design by Mandy Shaw, a well known local teacher & quilter based in Hailsham. It tells the story of a remarkable woman" explains Heather.

So what is the story? The thinking behind the quilt design is described in detail by Mandy on her website (www.dandeliondesigns.co.uk). Back in 2007, a time when the 200th anniversary of the abolition of Britain's part in the slave trade was being commemorated, she was intrigued when she heard the story of a 'coded' quilt that was used to help slaves escape to freedom. Her research led her to the conclusion that the story was fabricated but on the way she discovered the remarkable life of a young slave girl in Maryland, USA, Harriet Tubman. Fascinated by the story of the 'Underground Railroad', an organisation of people dedicated to help free slaves and provide safe passage for them, Harriet as a young slave girl had heard many of their stories. Whilst working in the fields she refused to block the escape of a slave boy and sustained a severe head injury which meant that she was returned to her parents. Following her recovery she continued to have health problems so was sent to work with her father, who was also a slave. He taught her all he knew about the land and she learned from him skills such as hunting and tracking. Rumours that she was to be sold fuelled Harriet's plans of escape. Travelling at night and using only the stars to direct her, she eventually reached Pennsylvania. Not satisfied with just her own freedom, she returned 19 times and freed a



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further 300 slaves, including her elderly parents.

“The traditional patchwork blocks of the quilt each represent different parts of Harriet Tubman’s story. For example, a North Star block is used to represent her escape to freedom.” says Penny, “It’s a big project but we’re all really enjoying it. We’re doing the course and then working together on our quilts between times.” You don’t have to spend long with them to realise that it is not just about the sewing. Deep friendships have been formed

within the group and they now support each other, not only in their patchwork projects, but in other ways too. Plans are already afoot for a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London next March as the first major exhibition of English quilts opens. And there is a definite buzz of excitement as their tutor Mandy Shaw is due to appear on ‘Kirstie’s Homemade Christmas’ on Channel 4 on 1st December – I think they’ve already set their TVs to record it!



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE From Lucy Locksmith

Santa comes but once a year
It’s down the chimney, have no fear
But chimneys aren’t the only way
To get inside and spoil your day.

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Don’t just cross your fingers, you’d be tempting fate.
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The Slatch : Hickmans Lane

By Nickola & John Smith

IN MAY 2007 we moved from *Seckhams* in the High Street to our present house in Hickmans Lane and are still occasionally asked the meaning of its name, *The Slatch*, and, by those who knew it before as *Cedar Cottage*, why we changed it. The latter is easy ; the house is not a cottage and its big conifer is a yew not a cedar.

Among papers supplied during the purchase of the house was a pre-war map* showing a structure on the site called *The Slatch* which must have been demolished to make way for the building of the present house in 1961. First efforts to establish a relevant meaning for the word 'slatch' were not very fruitful. The Shorter Oxford Dictionary gives this :-

Slatch. 1625. (Related to Old English *slaec* Slack.)
a. The slack of a rope - 1627 b. A brief respite or interval ; a short period or spell (of some kind of weather, etc) -1769.

and among New England sailors an interval of fair weather is still known as a slatch. With a twinkle in his eye, one old Lindfield resident suggested that *The Slatch* had been the village's house of ill-repute; if that were so, said another, once the house reverted to that name we could expect nostalgic letters from men of a certain age !



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Diligent research by an archivist friend in Somerset produced an extraordinary variety of meanings but in Joseph Wright's English Dialect Dictionary (19th C) she found a more promising line. She wrote telling us that as well as various uses associated with Scotland and Cumbria, "Wright also notes the use of *slatch* or *sletch* in the Isle of Wight or Dorset, meaning 'to slake lime'. It is associated with the dialect word *slait* in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Devon, also meaning 'to slake lime'. Presumably pronunciation refined it into 'slake' at some stage. This seems to me a lot more likely a meaning, referring to a highly necessary and messy -not to say rather dangerous - business, especially where you have timber frame and plaster construction needing lots of lime wash as well as lime mortar for stonework. While there are no references to the word in Sussex, it is at least in Southern England; perhaps you have a first". (She suggested further research with an emphasis on the building trade. Adrian Holman had not heard of it in his business but he did give us another term, peculiar to these parts apparently; the wooden base and surround on which lime was slaked was known as a *hummock board*.)

So our house may stand on the site where lime was slaked for the building of many of Lindfield's old houses.

*Also among the same papers was a copy of a **Minute of a Meeting of Cuckfield UDC on 29th July, 1937** which reads:-

CUCKFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 HICKMANS LANE,
LINDFIELD

ORDER: Whereas it appears to the Council of the Urban District of Cuckfield (being the Local Authority for the purpose of the Public Health Acts) that the portion of Hickmans Lane in the Parish of Lindfield hereinafter defined (being an existing highway within the meaning of Section 30 of the Public Health Act, 1925) will be converted into a new street as a consequence of building operations which have been, or are likely to be, undertaken in the vicinity of the said highway :

NOW THEREFORE the Council hereby declare the portion of such highway lying between the junction with High Street and the junction with Sunte Avenue to be a new street for the purpose of the application thereto of their Byelaws with respect to New Streets."

An accompanying map shows the land westwards of *The Barn* in Hickmans Lane taken by the Council to widen the road and form a pavement - that is how the external stopcock to *The Slatch* came to be outside its boundary wall.

Changing rooms

Jacqui Smith, Interior Designer

A CLIENT DROPPED in last week and commented with some glee on the fact that our house resembled a building site too, so she felt in good company. We are converting our double garage into our new office cum show room and in doing so are enjoying a dose of our own medicine. The kettle is in regular use, the teabags are being run down and the cake tin is being raided. From Steve and his team who dug the trenches for the new walls and built the new walls, to our plumber and electrician, they have all done a great job. The plasterer starts next and then we have a decorator bringing the whole space to life for us before the flooring is laid. An almost childlike excitement will then take over as we move in and I get down to some serious office nesting. Our house is much like one of those plastic puzzles at the moment where one room is emptied into another space and everything shifts round, piece at a time. The dining room is the office, the breakfast bar is our dining table and the guest room is home to crockery and our sideboard. Chaotic living is not my ideal state but I do love seeing the progress each day as our design takes shape.

The boys love it – Piers' eyes were out on stalks last night when he clocked the newly installed windows and Cameron thinks that the door we now have from the hall into the soon to be office looks as if it always should have been there. He's right though, since the garage is integral its conversion has restored the balance of the ground floor. As our builder emerged from a haze of brick dust muttering something about needing a vacuum cleaner, I felt that charge of excitement as I had my first glimpse of how it's all going to look and how "right" it looked.

There are of course pros and cons about converting garage space. It's not so much the loss of car space, more the fact that most of us use our garages for hard core storage, playing home to bikes, chest freezers and camping kit. In moving house we recycled a lot of unwanted items and re-boxed things sensibly for longer term attic storage. Our recently boarded attic space and newly erected shed have provided us with a new home for any potential garage junk. We are also converting the garage with flexibility in mind – the room will have plenty of storage, be superbly lit with three different circuits so that we can show clients how fabrics and paint colours behave under LED, halogen and compact fluorescent lighting. Lose the desks and office paraphernalia and you have a light and spacious reception room. It's always worth building in more storage space than you think you will need since, despite regular archiving to the attic and ruthless culling of unnecessary paperwork and samples, experience has taught me that filing and cupboard space will be rapidly outgrown. So, countdown now to completed showroom; now, where was that duster?

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By James Parsons, Ashdown Property

“OH PURLEEASE!”, we hear you cry, “Not another agent talking up the market and insulting my intelligence with one-directional nonsense?” We sincerely hope not. In fact we believe in objectivity at all costs (including to ourselves). These updates will also be available on our blogsite at www.ashdownproperty.com/blog where you can comment or share your views on the market or moving process. Alternatively, email us at enquiries@ashdownproperty.com to be put on our research distribution list. We'd love to hear from you in any event, so tell us what you find useful and anything specific you'd like us to cover.

Asking prices

Postcode	# listings for sale Nov 09 (3mth ch.)	Ave. asking prices Nov 09 (3mth ch.)
RH10	537 (+4%)	£331,206 (+1.2%)
RH16	566 (+5%)	£291,603 (-2.1%)
RH17	294 (+1%)	£550,809 (+5.2%)
RH18	124 (+23%)	£485,116 (-8.9%)
RH19	659 (+9%)	£397,474 (-5.4%)
TN7	79 (+18%)	£623,521 (-4.2%)
TN22	537 (-3%)	£442,379 (+0.7%)
BN8	319 (+2%)	£468,000 (+2.4%)

Ave. time on market

Nov 09 (days)	May-Oct (days)	% ch.
216	199	+8%
202	193	+4%
238	217	+9%
325	393	-3%
292	265	+9%
305	290	+5%
257	221	+14%
239	201	+16%

(Source: Prime Location, Findaproperly)

Comment:

1. Despite pundits pointing towards a recovery, locally we see a 2-speed market opening up: asking prices are firmer in predominantly rural areas (RH17, TN7, BN8) whereas postcodes taking in towns, including Lindfield/Haywards Heath, Uckfield, East Grinstead and Forest Row, appear to show more pressure on sellers to adjust prices downwards to sell. Be realistic in your expectations and price sensibly - buyers still find it easy to walk away and even if they don't, the mortgage valuation may not accord with your view preventing a sale proceeding at an overly inflated-price.
2. Average time properties are listed on the internet portals are a good proxy for time it takes to sell, which has increased by around a fifth across the board since the summer.
3. We calculate, using Land Registry data on sold prices, that semis across all postcodes have risen by about 12% over the past year and detached houses by about 6%. We have clearly fared better than the 15-20% peak-trough correction nationally, in fact sold prices for detached houses in RH17 and TN7 are actually higher now than at the peak in 2007.
4. The big question is whether Brown, Darling & Co. have pulled off the great escape. The City believes a record public deficit, rising oil prices and lots of money being pumped into the economy heightens the likelihood of rate rises in the medium term. Therefore buyers must ensure they can afford mortgage commitments if repayments rise and not expect rising values to fund other expenditure as it might have in the past. Nonetheless, we would hope people feel reassured that property in this part of Sussex tends to outperform regionally as well as nationally, so the mantra must be: buy a house as a home first, investment second!

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In 1881 the sauce was being manufactured by Mary Mills, who gave her occupation for the census of that year as 'Sauce Proprietor'. She occupied a property in the High Street near the Post Office and was the widow of Charles Mills, late of the Red Lion Inn. Therefore it is likely the sauce was made at the Red Lion, while in the ownership of the Mills family. The maker in 1821 is currently unknown.

Lindfield Sauce was similar in nature and ingredients

to Worcestershire Sauce with the mixture having to be matured in casks before being bottled. It is possible that Lindfield Sauce could have predated its famous contemporary.

Enquiries at the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle have proved inconclusive. So was Lindfield Sauce fit for a king as proclaimed or was the label a piece of Victorian marketing? We may never know.



Should you have any information about Lindfield Sauce, please contact Richard Bryant on 01444 482136 or via the Parish Office. The Village Archive owned by Lindfield Parish Council welcomes enquiries, information or documents relating to the history of Lindfield.

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Lindfield Rural Parish Council Newsletter

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Budget Proposals 2010/11

AT OUR RECENT Council meeting a list was compiled by Councillors of project proposals for the following financial year. It is our intention to finalise this list by our next Council meeting in December. In the meantime Councillors are considering further projects but we would also like residents to suggest projects they would wish included for the next financial year or for future periods.

This list would be by no means definitive or for that matter taken as approved by Council as an investment appraisal would need to be submitted and assessed at the time.

The list so far is as follows: -

Land Purchase to extend Burial Ground

The Parish Council and our Registrar have recently reviewed the amount of land available for the burial spaces at Walstead and we believe that there is sufficient space for burials for the next five years. We are actively attempting to find appropriate land in order to accommodate for burial after that period.

Land Purchase for Allotments

The Parish Council believes that there would be a demand for allotment space in the Scaynes Hill area. This facility would not only service a demand for residents to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers but it would relieve the pressure on the allotments in Gravelye Lane where several residents outside the Lindfield area have a plot.

Remembrance Garden in Walstead Cemetery

We have overseen many improvements within the remembrance garden, especially the raising and refurbishment of the memorial stones, but there are still elements that need attention. To replace less successful specimens, we have recently planted three very attractive trees financed by Mr Soames (our local MP) but the Parish Council would like to be made aware of other areas within the remembrance garden that would benefit from enhancement (we know about the moles!).

Finger Posts

Residents may be aware of the publicity over the past weeks concerning the maintenance of the traditional directional signs (fingerposts). West Sussex County Council (WSSCC), who are responsible for highways, have always indicated that they are committed to maintaining these fingerposts but the Parishes have seen little effort over the years in carrying out their promise. Although we still have that assurance from WSSCC there is little chance that they will be able to fund the maintenance costs in the future.

There are nine fingerposts in various parts of the parish of which eight are in need of varying degrees of attention. We have identified a priority list and with WSSCC's assistance we hope to establish a maintenance programme over time. The Parish Council is committed to saving our traditional form of sign posting.

Playground Equipment

During the last financial year we expended monies on new equipment at the children's playground on the Scaynes Hill playing fields. Some residents, however, bemoaned the fact that only minimal equipment was installed for 3-7 year olds and we agreed to consider a proposal in the next financial year. We do, however, have a counter claim on our limited resources in the form of a request that the equipment should be geared to the age group 18 and over, a group that would certainly benefit from the use of such equipment and is rarely considered in this regard when planning such exercise equipment!

Wall at the Burial Ground

As part of a programme of enhancement in the burial ground we have just completed the construction of a wall, with wrought iron inserts, on the perimeter adjacent to the road on the east side of the cemetery. The wall is a vast improvement over the dilapidated chain link fence it replaces.

Costells Wood

There is a very well worn footpath that leads from the Millennium Village Centre in Scaynes Hill along the back of the houses in Costells Edge and gives access to the Woodland Trust Woods to the North. We are anxious to establish how long this path has been in general use by the residents of Scaynes Hill. If you have walked the path for a long time or have any interesting stories about the woods we would be very interested to hear from you. Please contact either Councillor Steve Minter (831786) or Councillor Brian Bunt (831636).

Christmas Wreaths

Last year there was a problem with a spate of thefts and wreaths being taken at Walstead Burial Ground. These were wreaths which had been displayed in early December. We would like to suggest that wreaths be placed nearer to Christmas Day to avoid any distress.

Anti-social Behaviour :

Mid Sussex Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

The key contact at the Mid Sussex District Council for members of the public when they have concerns or have been a victim of anti-social behaviour is Lucie Venables, tel. 01444 477489 or email luciev@midsussex.gov.uk

*Lindfield Rural Parish
Councillors, Clerk &
Assistant Clerk would
like to wish everyone
a very happy and
prosperous New Year !*

Your Parish Councillors:

John Dumbleton (Chair)	Tel: 482633	Ray Jones (Newsletter Editor)	Tel: 453868
Sheila Hobbs (Vice Chair)	Tel: 483396	Steve Minter	Tel: 831786
Brian Bunt	Tel: 831636	Christopher Snowling	Tel: 482172
Chris Hersey	Tel: 482270	Stephen Windsor	Tel: 484796
Margaret Hersey	Tel: 482270	Parish Clerk: Karin Milne	Tel: 831499
		Assistant: Irene Nicholas	Tel: 831499

Lindfield Rural Parish Council Office is open to the Public on Tuesdays 12.30 to 13.30 and Thursdays 10.00 to 11.00

What's on at King Edward Hall

- 2nd Lindfield Crafts and Market – Christmas Shopping Evening (Beverley Smith 440274)
- 3rd Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 3rd Sussex Oakleaf Charity Fashion Show (Jannine McAuliffe 07909 522843 or 01444 459517)
- 6th Ruwach Christian Church – Morning and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 8th Hickory & Lindfield Montessori Nursery School Nativity Play (Jackie Pickett 473311)
- 10th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 11th Lindfield Crafts and Market (Beverley Smith 440274)
- 13th Ruwach Christian Church – Morning and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 17th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 18th Lindfield Nursery School Nativity Play (Emma Russell 487872)
- 20th Ruwach Christian Church – Morning and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 22nd Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 25th Ruwach Christian Church – Morning Service Only (Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 27th Ruwach Christian Church – Morning Service Only (Ruth Hollis 459025)

If you would like to hire the King Edward Hall please contact the Bookings Secretary for further information on telephone number 01444 483266 or by e-mail on bookings@kingedwardhall.org.uk. Or check the website www.kingedwardhall.org.uk for more details.

**“Have a great
Christmas”**

Best wishes to our readers
from the Lindfield Life team

LIVE Music Guide

EMAIL US at editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk before 8th Dec to add your event to the listings.

Tues 1st December, 7.30pm
Handel's Messiah by The Fletching Singers
All Saints' Church, Danehill

Sat 5th December, 7.30pm
Handel's Messiah by The Fletching Singers
St Philip's Catholic Church, Uckfield

Sat 12th December
Rockin' on Heaven's Door
Olympos, Burgess Hill

Sun 13 December, 7.30pm
Magical Christmas Concert
Olympos, Burgess Hill

Sat 19th December, 7.30pm
Mid Sussex Choir Christmas Concert
St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath

Sat 19th December, 7.30pm
Sussex Chorus
Lancing College Chapel

Book a box as an 'enhanced contact listing' for your music venue. Only £20+VAT a month. Details from [<ads@lindfieldlife.co.uk>](mailto:ads@lindfieldlife.co.uk)

LINDFIELD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL NIGHT



**WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER
2009**

6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**LINDFIELD HIGH STREET
AND**

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Father Christmas arrives at 6.15 p.m.

*Programmes available From Parish Council office, Post Office
And Martins News Agents*

**** HIGH STREET CLOSED 5.30 to 9.30 p.m. ****

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Book before
8th Dec
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