

Lindfield Life

Inc. Scaynes Hill & Walsstead

Local village talk,
by the village

August 2010 Issue #17

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Kids in the kitchen p.6

Travel to East Africa p.16

Discover Natural Horsemanship p.20

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AS THE SUMMER continues, Lindfield Life has been out with the Horticultural Society - talent-spotting local front gardens! It's great to be able to highlight just a few of these local treasures, and share them in case you've missed them.

Still out and about, Beth Barling shares how she discovered the new world of natural horsemanship - and expels any myths that there might have been, as this increasingly popular riding style picks up speed in the UK.

Heading in for shade, we go in to find out more about a name that's been in the village for over three hundred years: Durrant. Spending time with local folk for Village People is always such a treat, and this time was no different. Pianos, beer, grocers and drapers shops, and, of course, the Durrant's Coffee House are all part of the evolving story, told with the help of Joan and her son Martin Durrant.

Another story, not entirely unlinked to the Durrant name, retold this month is the third and final part in our series of articles on Lindfield Bonfire Society. Darren Lucas takes us right up to the present day, as we celebrate all this organisations work to put the "Oooh" into that famed winter night. (Have you pledged your support to LBS by completely a Standing Order yet? See our May magazine, or visit: www.lindfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk).

Elsewhere in the magazine we learn what to think about when planning an office at home from Jacqui Smith, Jeff Kirkham tries to save the Lindfield Spring and Paul Pudman takes us on a circular walk around the village with his dog Bailey.

Oh and, because it's summer, my husband takes to the stage in Wivelsfield Green. Well, slightly damp field actually in search of Shakespeare playing into the night!

Emma Tingley, Editor

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Farm Open Day a success

YOU MAY RECALL that last month I promised to tell you more about one of the most surreal experiences I have had in recent times. On a warm but cloudy Saturday in June, I found myself, along with my husband and three young girls, heading to the outskirts of Lindfield to the Cockhaise Farm Open Day.

As well as learning about dairy farming and seeing first hand the yard and milking parlour, the highlights of the afternoon had to be the 'Where will the cow pat?' and the worm charming competitions. The former involved a grid marked out in an enclosure and people crowding around, all waiting to see on which square the cow would 'pat', with



their fingers crossed that it would be the one that they had chosen!

The worm charming (pictured), however, took Saturday afternoon entertainment to a whole new level. Twenty five 3x3m plots were allocated to anyone mad enough to spend the following 30 mins trying to woo worms to the surface using only vibrations from a garden fork (known as a twanger in the business) and twiddle stick. It brought out a determination in people that I have not witnessed for some time!

So thank you to the Burdett Family and their friends, including Worm Master Merv, for a great local day out.

Thank you...

THE HELP FOR HEROES team would like to thank everyone who supported our stall on Village Day. The public response to this charity is overwhelming. As a result of their generosity we have been able to send a cheque for £680 to help rehabilitate our injured lads at Headley Court. Our sincere thanks again to everyone.



The new football season kicks off shortly and the club welcomes boys and girls of all abilities aged 5 to 16 to come and join us.

The junior club provides football for the young community of Lindfield, and neighbouring areas, with the emphasis on skill development and competition in an active, fun, safe and social environment.

We also welcome any local help with the running of the Club.

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Lindfield Football

LINDFIELD FC JUNIORS has just completed the 09/10 season with the following great successes:

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- ✓ Under 13 League Sportsmanship Award
- ✓ Under 14 League winners
- ✓ Under 15 League Cup finalists

The club continues to go from strength to strength, having achieved Football Association Charter Status. The club now has more than 20 F.A. qualified coaches, over 150 junior members playing league football every weekend throughout the season and a thriving colts section where our 5-8 year olds hone their skills ready for competitive football from age 9. At the under 16 age, the Club has forged links with both Lindfield Seniors and Haywards Heath F.C., providing a route into a high standard of senior league football.

The Club is now making plans for the 2010/11 season and has just completed a series of taster sessions for boys and girls under 11 years of age with the help of Brighton and Hove Albion. Full club training will begin in mid August and if any juniors would like to come along and join in the pre-season training with any age group they would be most welcome.

We are particularly keen to increase the numbers in our younger age groups and anyone wishing to get involved should email lindfieldfc@btinternet.com.

Best in Business

THE 2010 SUSSEX BUSINESS AWARDS is open for entries from local businesses until 27th August. Last year, Lindfield-based Sussex Uniforms took home the winning trophy for 'The Best New Business of the Year'. "Winning a Sussex Business Award has given Sussex Uniforms real recognition within Sussex schools as well as with parents and suppliers. It has had a positive affect on our ability to expand our business." commented Georgina Audas from Sussex Uniforms.

Nicholas Owen, one of Britain's best-known newsreaders, will host the award ceremony at The Grand Hotel in Brighton on 2 December. He welcomed sponsors, previous winners and finalists to Fontwell to celebrate the opening of the 2010 awards.

There are fourteen trophies up for grabs this year, including the prestigious Sussex Company of the Year and International Business Award. For more info go to www.sbawards.org.uk



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Simply Good Food...

By Caroline Young

Kids in the kitchen... ...and at the barbecue!

NOW IS THE TIME to get your children interested in cooking the food they enjoy and what better place to start than the family barbecue?

Learning how the food they eat grows and joining in with the cooking ...and then the eating of it... is one of the key lessons the pupils at the Acorns Nursery School in the village learn. Actively participating in all the steps to good food encourages the children to value and want to eat real fresh food. It also encourages them to try and then enjoy things they might otherwise have turned their noses up at. Some of these recipes have been prepared and enjoyed by the Acorn pupils.

Let your children, with a little supervision, have a go at making them!

Crunchy Dip

Spoon equal quantities of soft curd cheese (sold in a tub) and soured cream into a good-sized bowl. Using a wooden spoon, stir until well combined. Using scissors finely cut a generous handful of fresh chives and add to the bowl along with finely diced (by Mum) cucumber. Season to taste and serve with carrot and pepper sticks, fingers of raw broccoli and cauliflower and maybe just a few tortilla chips, all for dipping into the bowl.

Tomato Salsa

A cross between a salad and a sauce, this combination of cherry tomatoes, onion and peppers goes well with grilled sausages. Or try it with fingers of freshly grilled chicken rolled inside a tortilla wrap or piled into a taco shell.

Combine quartered cherry tomatoes, finely sliced red onions (or spring onions) and diced red or yellow peppers in a bowl. Add a generous splash of red wine vinegar and olive oil, a small splash of tomato ketchup and seasoning. Stir well then cover and leave for an hour or two (in fridge) to allow the flavours to blend.

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Rosy Pink Hummous (or Bright Green Hummous)

Drain and rinse a 410g can chickpeas and tip into a processor. Add a generous spoonful of tahini (sesame paste sold in jars) and the juice of 1 lemon. Buzz to a smooth puree, adding a little oil to make a creamy consistency. Then add either a generous spoonful of sun-dried tomato paste (richer then ketchup but ketchup will do almost the same job) OR a bottled roasted red pepper OR for Green Hummous add a spoonful of pesto sauce. Buzz just to combine then tip into a bowl. Serve with wedges of pitta bread which have been warmed on the grill.

Magic Malted Ice Cream Sauce

Bring 300ml double cream just to the boil. Remove from the heat and briskly stir in a thinly sliced large Mars bar until completely melted. Serve warm with icecream and bananas baked in their skins on the grill. Yummy! You can also melt Maltesers into cream the same way.

Rocky Road Cupcakes

Put 250g digestive (or shortcake) biscuits into a plastic bag and, using a rolling pin, crush to small crumbs. Put 125g each of butter and golden caster sugar into a saucepan with 3tbs cocoa powder and 2tbs milk. Gently heat, stirring, until melted and combined. Stir in the crushed biscuits and a bag of miniature marshmallows. Spoon into paper cupcake cases and chill until set.

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Lindfield Railways

By Rev Michael Davies

WHEN THE LONDON, Brighton & South Coast Railway built its line through mid-Sussex in the 1840s it was routed to the west of Lindfield and a station was built in the hamlet of Haywards Heath. That was the main trigger for the town we now know by that name and Lindfield, which had been a dominant community in the area, declined in status to that of a large village.

Even the attempt to put Lindfield onto the railway map by building the Ouse Valley Railway in the 1860s, with a proposed station beside Town Hill, came to nought.

However, that does not mean that Lindfield never had a railway station. There was a miniature railway at the Deans' Mill from 1935 to circa 1957. Even now it has lots! Lofts, garages and sheds round the village contain a whole array of railways of different shapes and sizes. I know, for example, of one edifice containing Horsted Keynes, on the Bluebell Line and another with a depiction of Brunel's Broad Gauge railway.

The model railway hobby is alive and well in Lindfield, as indeed it is all round the country. There is a vast variety of rolling stock available off the shelf in different scales and eras and liveries, not to mention the exquisite scratch-built models displayed in show cases and on mantelpieces. Very



small children push wooden locomotives round the floor and, at the other end of the spectrum, old gaffers puff their pipes (don't see many of them nowadays!) as they operate the Flying Scotsman round their loft.

One particular station called 'Uxbridge Junction', a mythical interface between London Underground and a proposed but never built M25 line intended to bypass north London, will be coming out of seclusion and will be on display at a coffee morning/afternoon tea and mini-exhibition of models in the hall at Lindfield United Reformed Church in the High Street on Saturday, August 14 from 10am to 4pm.

And, if you miss that, it will appear again at the Haywards Heath URC Exhibition in South Road on Saturday, 4th September.

Do come along and enjoy the station Lindfield never had!






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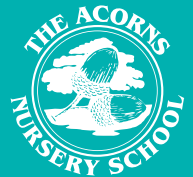
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At work in the village

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Michael Bradley

LIKE ANY OTHER village, Lindfield is full of busy parents juggling family life and the demands of children and work; but in our case, two mums wanted to make life easier for parents by opening a school uniform business – bang in the middle of the recession.

Co-owner Georgina Audas, whilst running an event at Oathall Community College for new parents/pupils, explains how the company got started:

“As a full-time working mum I found myself in the all too familiar situation when my son lost his Lindfield school jumper on Monday and I couldn’t replace it until Saturday when the only shop that sold the school jumpers was open and I wasn’t at work. I wished I could buy it online and have it delivered the next day. It was only when my good friend, and now business partner, Chrissie sold her previous business that we decided to throw caution to the wind and set up a uniform company that understands and caters for the needs of today’s parents.”

Chrissie Wilkie and Georgina originally started the internet based company from home in the village but these business-minded mums have expanded so quickly that they now trade from a larger outlet in neighbouring Haywards Heath - whilst collecting the ‘Best New Business Award’ at the Sussex Business Awards along the way.

Sensibly they started small and having been given official approval to start supplying Lindfield Primary School and Oathall Community College in 2008, Sussex Uniforms now supplies 12 schools in the area with many more coming on board in 2010/2011. But that’s not all, they also provide sportswear and workwear uniform for clients including Lindfield Badminton Club, Lindfield Football Club and even Crawley Probation Officers.

“We provide top quality uniform at affordable prices with a service that’s second to none”, explained Chrissie Wilkie. “We are very proud of what we have achieved but the best feeling is when parents tell us how much they love our service – and they do, a lot!”

Sussex Uniforms is also passionate about ethics and supporting the UK economy. Wherever possible they source their uniform from the UK. In fact, all their secondary school jumpers are made in Scotland. Georgina commented “It’s hard to balance the demand from consumers for cheap uniform prices with ethical trading but we go out of our way to make sure we never sell uniform that’s made by underpaid labour in the Far East. Something many multi-national companies fail to do”.

As a parent myself, what is so very different about this uniform company is that you can order uniform online



24 hours a day with next day delivery. If you don’t know your child’s size you can either visit their outlet or buy online and use their free returns service if you make a mistake. And if you have a child who needs a bespoke size, they will order it in especially for you.

So, a great idea and by their expansion a successful business model, but not only is the economic situation proving difficult but it’s common knowledge that 50% of new businesses fail in the first year. What is the difference between success and another great idea joining the scrap heap? Chrissie and Georgina have shown that understanding your target market and then marketing to them effectively is key. I am a parent and over the past week I have heard their Grange Hill ad on the radio sponsoring ‘The School Run’ on Bright FM, I have had their flyer put through my door, I received an email offering 3 for 2 on polo-shirts and a quick perusal of the pin-up board in the local supermarket resulted in – yep you guessed it, Sussex Uniforms leaflets. Not only does this show particular skill in their approach to marketing but shows they know their market inside out, simply parents who know parents. To coin a phrase from a perhaps slightly overdone online insurance company – simples.

More info at www.sussexuniforms.co.uk

By Christian Bates, Osteopath



I HAVE BEEN ASKED a lot recently about raw food diets, probably sparked by some recent publicity of celebs doing this. However, if you do give it a go, I want to mention a couple of reasons why it might not suit you.

Firstly, raw food is harder to digest, I'm thinking fruit and veg mainly here. This should be quite easy to understand, lightly steamed or cooked vegetables are just easier to digest as they are softer than raw food. Some patients really struggle with raw food, it gives them indigestion and an upset stomach. This may also indicate you are lower in stomach acid than is optimal. Using digestive enzymes with each meal can help this.

Secondly, you may just not be suited to the high amounts of carbohydrates you are getting from the raw foods. Here I am assuming that any one who goes raw has increased the amounts of fruit and vegetables they are eating rather than changing to a raw steak! If this is the case you may feel lethargic, lightheaded or even dizzy between meals. This indicates a blood sugar low, the carbohydrates you have eaten from the fruit and vegetables have been processed and metabolised by your body so quickly you have nothing else to fuel you once they are used. Typically you may feel hungry very quickly after your meal. In this case you need to add protein and fats to the meal, these are slower released energy and will take you longer into the day without hunger and will also not cause blood sugar highs and lows. Remember the answer to a blood sugar low is not to eat sugar! The answer is to eat a meal with the correct ratio of proteins, fats and carbohydrates for you so you don't get the blood sugar low in the first place.

To find out what ratios you should be eating protein, fats and carbohydrates in you need to do a Metabolic Typing test or a Body Biotyping assessment. More information on these can be found on our website: www.theperrymount.com. I hope this helps. The moral of this is, don't always copy the celebs' diets no matter how good they look, especially if your body shape and size is different from the celeb. If you are different it will be highly likely that eating like them will just not suit you, we are all individuals after all.



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Village people



By Emma Tingley

WHEN DOING ANY sort of reading or research about the history of Lindfield, it doesn't take long before you come across the name 'Durrant'. So when enjoying afternoon tea in the village recently I bumped into mother and son, Joan and Martin Durrant, I was thrilled that they agreed to become this month's 'Village People'. The Durrant family have lived and worked on the High Street and have made a significant contribution to village life over the centuries. Joan still lives in the family home on the High Street which has been in the family since 1687.

Back in the early days, the Durrant family made their living from agriculture but over the years they have been involved in a variety of commercial ventures in the village, including grocery, china importing, hotels, piano makers and photography to name just a few. Perhaps the best-known venture was the Lindfield Brewery. Built in the 1800s by Edward Durrant, the youngest of the five children of William and Elizabeth Durrant, he also built an Ale House for his workers. As he thought that men who sat down to drink tended to linger for longer, no seats were provided and it was given the name 'The Stand Up'. Fanny Sara Durrant, Martin's great-grandmother, was the last head brewer before it closed in 1906. The remains of the old building can still be seen at the back of the High Street pub today, along with the horse gin that was used to raise water from the well (now renovated and re-located behind The Red Lion pub on the other side of the High Street). The old brewery was then used by another branch of the Durrants to display their imported china and glassware.

In 1840 William Durrant, along with his brother Thomas, set up and ran a piano factory in the village on the site which is now the medical centre and Toll Gate car park. The Sussex Pianoforte Factory was a thriving industry and provided employment for a large number of people and it became necessary for the Durrant family to build a row of cottages in Lewes Road to house some of the workforce and their families. The factory closed in 1886 and was re-located to Rugby. William Durrant Jnr, Edward's brother, ran a photographic business in the village, based at the then family home 'Pear Tree House'. Many of the early photographs of Lindfield, dating from the mid-1860s, are thought to have been taken by William. In 1861 the population of Lindfield was 1,917 and although a relatively large village, it was unlikely to have provided enough trade for a photographer and so he moved his business to the busy seaside resort of Torquay in 1868. Kelly's Post Office Directory of Essex, Herts, Middlesex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex published in 1867 listed four businesses in Lindfield run by members of the Durrant family.

Joan became part of the Durrant family when she married Brian Durrant. She moved to Lindfield on VE Day in

1945 and met Brian in The White Horse pub, opposite the pond. Originally from Macclesfield, Cheshire she describes herself as 'the only foreigner in the village back then!' She recalls the fun that they had after the war. "We still had petrol tokens but we all used

to pile into McCreedy's van. We had no money but we had some fun. We used to hang out with a group of friends and called ourselves the Lindfield Singers and I remember a great night when we all sang at The Red Lion in Chelwood Gate. Lindfield was very different back then, although the High Street hasn't changed much. It's probably about four times the size it was when I first arrived. It was a lot quieter too. I remember Brian used to get a horse and cart to the station in his school days."

Reginald Durrant ran a grocers shop and drapers on the High Street in the same building where Joan continues to live now. A new frontage was added to the building in Georgian times, allowing part of the High Street frontage to become the shop front, with the remaining part the family home. When this store eventually closed, the rest of the ground floor was separated into shop units with the family continuing to live over the premises.

In 1973 the family lounge was converted to become the popular 'Durrant's Coffee House' run by Joan. "It took about 13 people to run the coffee shop" recalls Joan, "It was a popular place to work and many ladies in the village fitted the short shifts around school times". Although Joan





herself did most of the cooking, other ladies in the village baked cakes, including our very own food writer, Caroline Young. The coffee shop was well known for its rock cakes, scones and range of sponge cakes and many of the mums in the Primary School playground now, first met at 'Durrant's' when they worked as 'Saturday girls' (that includes me!).

Martin grew up here in the village and has made a significant contribution to village life. As a child here in the 1960s Martin remembers playing in the road in Denmans Lane when there were fewer cars around. When he was just 5 or 6 years old he recalls collecting the 'fuel' for the 5th November celebrations on the common and now nearly 50 years later he is still an active member of the Bonfire Society and Chairman of its Directors. His late father Brian was chairman of the Society for many years and Joan is an Honorary Life Member. Martin has been the man behind the Guy for many years, spending many weeks leading up to the 5th building the Guy behind the old brewery in days gone by.

As well as the Bonfire Society, Martin is also a life member of Lindfield Horticultural Society. He has won 39 medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows as part of his work at the orchid specialists McBeans, near Lewes, something that mum Joan is very proud of. "I liked the thought of horticulture but could never see myself growing vegetables. I studied at Plumpton College and then went on to do a botany-based course in Brighton" says Martin. Now an expert in his field, he lectures at Kew Gardens and at the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Wisley and answers questions on behalf of Kew. "I really enjoy the research and development at McBeans. We have our own laboratories and there is a lot of microscope work, experimenting with chromosomes and breeding new plants".

Over the centuries the Durrant family have been involved in shaping Lindfield and today is no exception. Martin and his wife, Jeni, have designed their new home, Wattle Barn Cottage in Denmans Lane, on the site where his great great uncle Henry Durrant (known as 'Lord Wattle') stored hurdles for the sheep fairs on the Common at Wattle Barn. History continues to be written ...

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The last Spring in Lindfield

By Jeff Kirkham

MANY OF YOU will know Spring Lane at the top of the High Street on the way out of Lindfield but how many of you are aware of the ancient spring just down the lane from where Spring Lane gets its name? Sometime ago school children and their parents and teachers used to visit the Spring but apart from my own son not very many children do now which is a shame as it is truly a historic feature - children find it hard to believe people didn't have taps in their homes!

I am told was the Spring, until recent years, was completely covered up, forgotten and in a sorry state. As newcomers to Spring Lane in the last year, my son (11 years old) and I decided to give the Spring a good tidy up a few weeks ago before it once again ends up looking sorry for itself and neglected. But here is where we are asking for your help. One wall (the wall nearest the road) of the spring has disappeared... as the walls are lumps of sandstone it is quite probably looking pretty in a few rockeries around Lindfield as I type this!

In order that we may save this Spring for future generations we need two forms of help from you...

Have a look around your garden and see if you have any blocks of sandstone hiding anywhere, then please come and take a look at the Spring itself and see if they would possibly match; or could be used to rebuild the wall before it's too late and the earth once again fills the void.

Heaving buckets of silt is too much for one man and his boy, although we did try. I would like to arrange perhaps one weekend day during the summer when we give the Spring its spring clean.

If you can help us with reclaiming some sandstone or lending a pair of hands (and a bucket), even just a little, please get in contact... it would be such a shame for this once forgotten gem and important part of Lindfield's history to be forgotten again.

If you are interested, contact Jeff on 01444 482923.

Lindfield's hidden gem

WE COULDN'T

RESIST this opportunity to find out something of the history of this spring. It is thought to date from the 15th century, which ties in with the early part of the neighbouring Clock House which would have got its water from the spring, although it didn't appear on the Ordnance Survey map until 1874. It is common knowledge that the pond in Lindfield was once fed by a spring but many of the High Street houses also had their own springs and had wells to bring the water up. There is still evidence of the well that supplied water for Durrant's Brewery.

For the cottages surrounding the spring, this was their only water supply until piped mains water was added in the 1930s. The spring was then not needed and fell into disrepair, eventually becoming covered and forgotten for the next forty years or so. It was with the help of a former gardener, who as a boy ran a daily errand to fetch a jug of water for his mother, that the location of the spring was pin-pointed in the early 1990s and the site was excavated and the spring uncovered once again.

Records show no ownership of this land and it has been down to local residents and willing volunteers to keep this historic gem accessible for all.



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Safaris and Lions and lakes oh my...

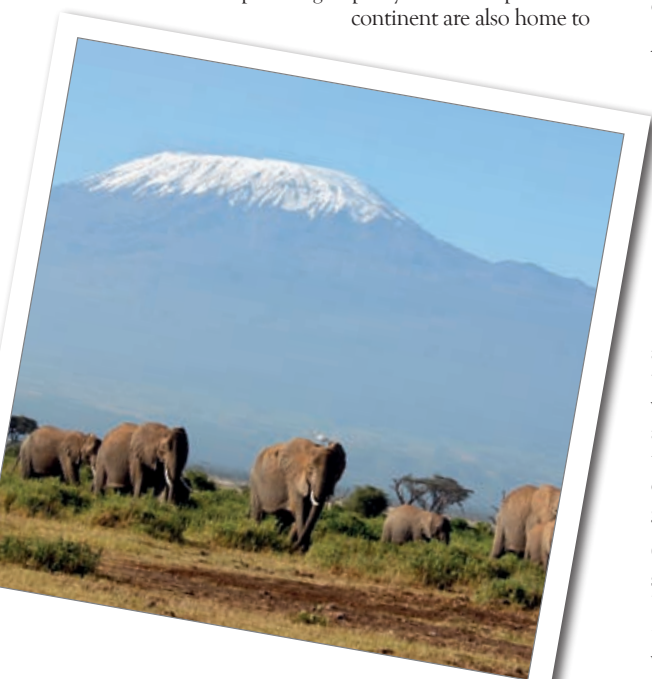
Travel Journal by Lindfield resident Harry Hacker

By Jamie Stratton

FROM THE FOOTHILLS of Mt Kilimanjaro to the vast fresh waters of Lake Victoria and the tropical coasts of Kenya and Tanzania to headwaters of the Nile, the world's longest river, beyond this to the Rwenzori Mountains – the mountains of the moon – and home to the mountain gorillas, East Africa has a climate and a lifestyle so diverse it is hard to comprehend. Luckily on this East African journey, I have the knowledge of a local gentleman to act as my personal tour guide. Together, we hope to take you on a journey through the life of an East African adventurer...

Born in 1923, Harry Hacker, after playing a vital role in WWII flying the famous Wellington Bombers, made his move to the East African community of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. He has experienced first hand the transition of these areas from colonial territories to independent states and met some remarkable people and creatures along the way.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are, today, the countries commonly distinguished as being East Africa. Rwanda and Burundi, you could say, are members of the East African Community but they are regarded as being part of Central Africa. East Africa has become famous for its high concentration of wildlife, in particular the 'big five' – elephant, lion, buffalo, black rhinoceros and leopard though their populations have all but diminished due to hunting and poaching in past years. These parts of the continent are also home to



Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest freestanding mountain in the world. Its snow-capped peak has, through the centuries, acted as a major navigational beacon standing at 19,340 ft, a bearing point that can be observed up to 100 miles away.

Hacker started working in East Africa in Tanganyika (Tanzania) as ferry captain, ferrying a war surplus landing craft across the mouth of the Mara River that opens up into Lake Victoria. The landing craft, a marine ply construction, was still in its packing cases at Mombasa a thousand miles away when it was purchased for the sum of £250. This 24

“One may have a traditional sword on the left hand side of his belt with a mobile phone on the other!”

ton Canadian built craft now gave him the headache of transporting all those packing cases, plus two Canadian marine engines to where they were needed. Then, on the shores of Lake Victoria, with no lifting equipment or launching facilities available, the whole operation was ridiculed by the small European community as lunatic. ‘We proved them wrong, however with the help of an ex R.E.M.E. Warrant Officer and the muscles of 300 African convicts from the local prison’.

After a year or so Hacker reverted to his profession as a communications engineer, where he would trek the diverse African terrain sometimes up to 20 miles a day, once having to shimmy up a telegraph pole to avoid the attention of a pride of lions.

Hacker married into a family of professional hunters/ guides. His grandfather-in-law was Charles Cottar who had set up Cottars Safari Services in 1919, the longest running safari company. Though he never met Cottar, Hacker recalls that he was known as a ‘tough no nonsense safari man who cut his teeth as a young adventurer in Oklahoma and Texas in the dying days of the old Wild West’. Brought up with a rifle in his hand, a good shot and used to the wilds, he brought his skills to Kenya as a young man. He died as he lived and at the age of 65 he was killed by a rhino while filming wildlife for American magazines. The company is still operating today, run by Calvin Cottar a fourth generation great grandson.

Cottars Camps have been a feature of East African safaris since the early 1900s, attracting the rich and famous from European royalty, oil tycoons and films stars. Hacker was involved in some of these camps, in particular ‘Tsavo Safaris’ where he was manager/guide. Set in a wilderness area of

some 5,000 sq miles, the camp had the sole concession to conduct and guide photographic safaris. Set on the banks of a river, the camp could be accessed only by crossing the river in a small dinghy or landing small aircraft at the camp's airstrip. Luxury tented accommodation then awaited with cuisine to match, anything from Dom Perignon champagne to fresh water prawns caught in the river.

In those days around 120,000 elephants and 8,000 black rhinos marched the terrains. Even with the enforced hunting ban in 1978, these numbers are now in their hundreds. The Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya is now the best place to spot lions. Within the reserve live the Masai – a group of nomadic cattle-rearing people with a history fascinatingly rich in both colour and conflict. They are divided into a number of sub tribes, some of which share the Mara culture and tradition. Cattle are essential to their lives and are used as a means of trading, though an increasing number are succumbing to the lure of the dollar. Hacker describes how the ancient warrior tribes have changed tremendously since he first encountered them. 'One may have a traditional sword on the left hand side of his belt with a mobile phone on the other!' They may have adopted many Western ways of life but they are constantly trying to maintain their traditions and values.

Since moving back to England, Hacker has enjoyed regular holidays to East Africa and tries to visit the Cottars Safari

Camps every couple of years for reunions.

In our ever changing world and with the influence of commercial tour companies, it is hard to experience the same culture and lifestyle that would have been so apparent only 70 years ago.

Despite ongoing conservation projects and increasing environmental education for the indigenous people, the landscapes and traditions of these areas are always changing but Eastern Africa still has so much to offer. So go, embark on an African adventure.



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The great outdoors

By David Tingley

IT HAD BEEN a long time since I had had the pleasure of an outdoor theatre production. Bodiam castle, Bramber castle and Wakehurst Place have all been amazing backdrops to evening performances in my past. But now, thanks to Players in the Park, I can add Wivelsden Farm, Wivelsfield Green to my list, with their production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

With at least two generations of involvement in local 'am-dram' groups I was brought up on a healthy diet of stage antics - both in front and behind the curtain. But nothing seems to beat the atmosphere of stripped back theatre in the open air. Every time I am transported back in time to simpler days, oil-burning lanterns, cold stone corridors and the group of players called upon to entertain; the medieval movies on-demand service, if you will!

But back to my evening in a field in June. It was a great (if not a little chilly!) night, and a thoroughly enjoyable show. The Players (a collaboration of folk from various local drama groups) did a superb job of telling the well known Shakespearean love story.

Personal favourites of mine included the perhaps obvious comedic roles in the tale. Jonathan Cann played Snug as he



desperately tried to 'man-up' to act the terrifying Lion in the play within a play by the group of lowly craftsmen. The role of 'Bottom' was passionately made alive by David Burton, his character treading all over the toes of the poor writer/director Peter Quince, whose manner and display of his downtrodden existence was humourously played by Eddie Redfern, of the Archway Theatre Company based in Horley.

However, perhaps the best player of the night was one who represented the greater good that we were all happy to support. Gill Cronin, fundraising manager for St Peter & St James' Hospice, managed to skilfully complete the evening with a short Shakespeare-esque verse to remind us of the importance of Hospice care within our community. Now that is worth a round of applause! Well done all.

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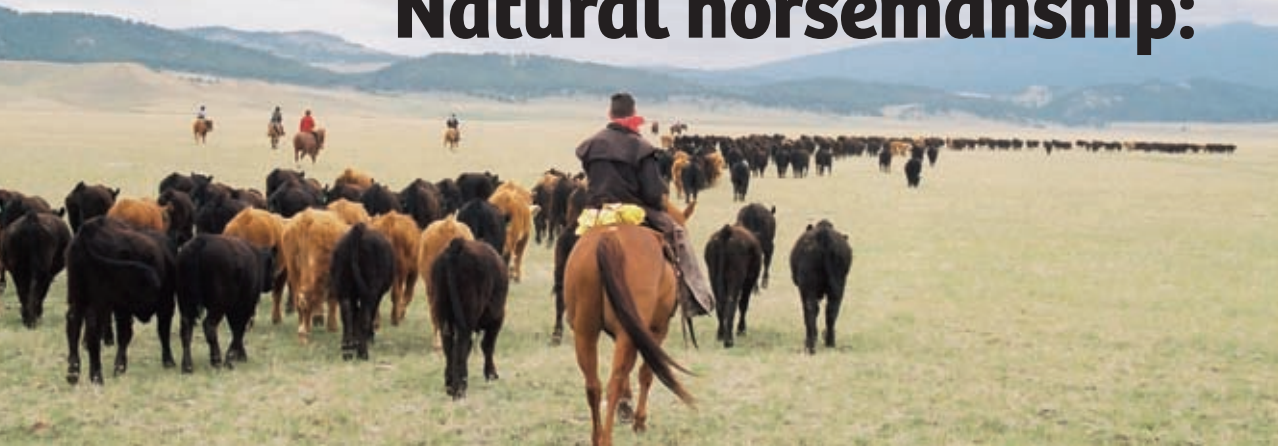
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Natural horsemanship:



By Beth Barling

PART 1: I have loved horses ever since I was a little girl. There is just something about their beauty, power and grace that has always fascinated me and drawn me to them. Perhaps it was growing up watching Mr Ed and The High Chaparral on TV, or reading Black Beauty and as many other horse-related stories as I could lay my hands on. Or perhaps it is a special gene that many girls have, as I know I'm not the only one out there who seems to be born with this passion!

As a young girl I would go for long bike rides hoping to catch a glimpse of horses in fields – I even attached string to my handle bars as reins. Instead of pop posters, my bedroom wall was covered with images of horses and pictures of famous showjumpers like Nick Skelton, Harvey Smith and the Whitakers. As a teenager in the 1980s I would deliver newspapers after school, and my Saturday mornings were spent working in Durrant's coffee shop on Lindfield High Street; then on Saturday afternoons I would spend my earnings riding over the Ashdown Forest on a beautiful palomino horse called Whisky from East View Riding Centre and Fruit Farm in Chelwood Gate (which is still operating today), delighting in exploring the forest and the thrill of galloping along the sandy tracks (in any and all types of weather).

As life continued its course, I went away to university and then lived in London for several years doing a job that took me to many places around the world. As a result, horses occupied a much smaller space in my life but the thought of them never went away and my fascination with them continued. Then a chance discovery on Dartmoor in 2006 altered my perspective on horses more than I could ever have dreamed of.

It began with a leap into the unknown. In 2005 I fulfilled a dream and went on my own to Montana in the USA to take part in a cattle drive. We rode for five days, moving 700 head of cattle from their winter home on the prairie to their summer home in the mountains. The experience contained every stereotype you can imagine... handsome and rugged cowboys, camping out overnight, singing to guitars around the campfire, friendly lasso competitions, loading up the chuck wagon in the mornings, herding up the cattle and riding across miles and miles of open countryside, occasionally crossing a dirt track road that was the only sign of civilisation and, of course, horses... lots of horses... I loved every single minute it, even the day it rained so much that we didn't get out of our saddles for seven hours so our seats wouldn't get wet! We learned to tip our wide-brimmed hats every so often so the water could cascade off.

Coming back to the UK I wondered how on earth I could re-create that experience – difficult in such a densely

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populated landscape, where organised rides are often “nose to tail” treks, following a leader along well-worn routes. But Google came to the rescue and I found a place on Dartmoor that advertised “Western” riding holidays. So I packed my bags and off I went to White Tor, the welcoming home of David and Sue Turner located right on the moor close to the hamlet of Peter Tavy near Tavistock.

As we headed out to meet our horses that first morning I discovered that, although the horses wore western saddles, the horses had all been trained to be ridden using the principles and techniques of Parelli Natural Horsemanship. I had never heard of this before and little did I know that in a split second my whole world was about to change.

What it effectively meant right there and then was that I would be riding my horse in a rope halter (with no bit) and that everything I had learned about “kicking to go, pulling to stop and using the reins to turn” had to be thrown out of the window. Instead my horse responded to the lightest change in my energy as to whether I wanted to walk, trot, canter or stop, and that to turn, all I needed to do was look where I wanted to go and turn my body and my horse would follow my “feel”. This wasn’t “Western riding” (no neck reining) and this wasn’t “English riding” (no contact with a bit) ... this was something totally different. It blew my mind. And so I spent several happy days exploring Dartmoor and learning just the beginning of something that has since totally changed my life.

As soon as I got back home I had to head out on a work trip to Boston, USA. I took the first opportunity I could to go to a book shop and bought a book called Natural Horse-man-ship by Pat Parelli. The book totally absorbed me and I stayed up late in my hotel room and read the entire book in one sitting. It began like this:

This is not a horse-training book; it’s a people-training book. Don’t think you have to only train your horse. What you’ve probably got to do is train yourself to be more principled and, therefore, more effective.


What I plan to offer you in the pages of this book is a philosophy I call ‘Natural Horse-Man-Ship’. Natural horsemanship has been around a long time. It is not something I invented, but it is something I’m excited about. As a matter of fact, it’s so old, it’s new again.

As I read the book and started doing more research on the internet to learn more about this man Pat Parelli and what he had to say about horsemanship, I discovered that not only was there a whole other way of being with horses and that there was a program out there to help me learn it but also that there were several thousands of people in the UK and around the world who had already made this discovery that I had been totally oblivious to up till then. I clearly had some catching up to do!

In 2007 I fulfilled another dream and bought my first horse, a 14.2h quarter horse mare called Solero, from the Turners at White Tor who have now retired. I have since spent six weeks at Pat’s ranch in Colorado and two weeks at his centre at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. I continue to be an avid student of the horse and of Parelli Natural Horsemanship with goals of one day being a licensed instructor. In part two of my story I’ll share with you what natural horsemanship is all about and how Parelli has become one of the fastest growing and popular approaches to horsemanship in the UK.




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By Jacqui Smith, interior designer

Home work

IN A QUEST to keep cars off the road and ease congestion, the government are now urging employers to allow staff to work from home for a day every fortnight. Video conferencing is to be encouraged, something which transport minister Norman Baker plans to set an example with and become the first "virtual transport minister". So for some of us working from home may be, if not already, more of a reality. Whilst it seems to be widely acknowledged that a clutter free, well thought out workspace (says she typing at a desk full of fabric swatches, paint charts and tile samples!) aids clear thought and efficiency, how many of us feel that we have the storage we need, that we have the right colour scheme in the room and feel that it's ready perhaps for the visual demands of video conferencing?!

It seems that we all dedicate time and thought into the planning and design of a kitchen or living room, yet many of us are spending large proportions of our time in, and in some cases running our livelihoods from, less than inspiring spaces. A visually appealing, well-organised working environment will pay dividends. Not only will it promote efficiency but it will increase your motivation and confidence and enhance the enjoyment of what you do, leaving you more time to focus on the matter in hand, whether it be carrying out household admin, pursuing a hobby or running a business.

When it comes to choosing furniture for a home office there are a wide range of options on the market from self-assembly desks and cabinets to the tailor made solution. Whilst more costly, taking the bespoke route does offer you the most flexibility, allowing you to dictate precisely how the space is used and ensuring that the design exactly meets the requirements of the user or in some cases users. For a study with multiple functions - business, school work and hobbies - careful thought will need to be given to the storage, ensuring that everyone has ample room in which to work and more importantly to store their work when not using the room. Adequate power points and appropriate lighting are key and something to consider once you have positioned the furniture. Roman or Venetian blinds may also be a practical as well as an aesthetic consideration.

Whilst storage plays a key role in creating the perfect home office environment, the décor can dramatically change the look of a room. Yellow tones promote creativity yet at the same time provide a tranquil backdrop to a workspace. The contents of an office will almost always make a room feel 'busy', so placing them in a plain setting brings a sense of calm and order to the room and enable one to think more clearly.



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Through the garden gate

By Emma Tingley & Rosemary Humphreys




Lindfield Life has been out and about this month with Rosemary Humphreys from the Horticultural Society in search of some fabulous front gardens that we can all enjoy. Back gardens are our private havens but front gardens are there for all to see - strangers and neighbours alike. You can take a walk around the village on a balmy evening and find some gorgeous ones, full of colour, interesting planting and floral aromas. We did just that and have come up with a small selection for you to enjoy - all are visible from the footpaths. We are grateful to one of our readers for suggesting this feature and for all those who have no doubt spent many hours tending their gardens and agreed to share them with us.



Gardens 1 & 2

These two Victorian homes perfectly complement each other. They could easily be in a country lane, rather than in busy Compton Road. Neighbours Kate Stratton and Wally Jex & Jenny Francis have both created stunning gardens. They really do have 'roses round the door', while the blue of the delphiniums and lobelia gives contrast to the display.





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Garden 3

Red hot pokers give a real 'punch' to Wendy and John's garden in William Allen Lane.



Garden 4

Lavender-coloured clematis Mrs N Thompson gives height and focus to this small garden in West View. The owner has combined this with the pink and purple shades of foxgloves and lychnis coronaria to great effect.



Garden 5

The lavender which lines the drive of Caroline Young's house, tucked away in The Glebe, is about to flower. The hebe works well with it and the red roses and deep pink penstemons give contrast.



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Lindfield Bonfire Society history ^{PART 3}

By Darren Lucas

WELCOME TO THE third and final part of the history of the Bonfire Society. In this part I will look at our recent history and the problems we face now.

The society since the 1980s has faced many challenges as we brought ourselves forward and out of the dark ages. Many changes were made with the way we did things, some forced upon us, others by choice. Much of the thanks for this must go to two of our former Late Bonfire Captains Geoff Honeysett and Kim Lucas, along with Ian Newman who served as Bonfire Captain between these two infamous names, and our former long standing secretary Wendy Box.

First thing to change was the way we made our torches. Saving time and money, we made them smaller and cut down on the amount we made, as under health & safety it no longer became viable to sell them to the public.

Then we worked on making our firework display more professional looking by carefully studying other displays and sending some of our members away to become qualified pyrotechnicians. So now the display is carefully planned months beforehand instead of turning up on the day and letting off a load of fireworks.

We even had to cut back on the size of the bonfire, again due to health and safety. So the big bonfires of the past will no longer be seen. Who can remember the big bonfire we

had in 1987, built from the materials gathered from the great storm that year?

The weather can be unpredictable, as in 2000, we had to postpone our celebrations until the 30th December due to the amount of rain we had in the lead up to the 'Fifth' making the common unsafe to use. Though when we did finally have our celebrations that year it was in the snow!

Then there were the three funerals that we've had in the last 10 years, when the society escorted the coffins to the church along the High Street. The funeral of Kim Lucas being the most memorable as it brought the whole village to a standstill as the police shut the roads and bonfire societies from around Sussex gathered to pay their respects as they processed through the village.

Also, in 2007, the Bonfire Society made its television debut on the Meridian programme 'Village Voices', as they followed us around as we prepared for the night and on the night.

I could go on but I won't. All it leaves me to say is that the Bonfire Society still faces many challenges, as advertised recently, if we are to survive for another 100 years or more. If you feel you are able to help in any way, please email me at lindfieldbonfiresociety@yahoo.co.uk

Many people have said it will be a sad day for the village if the bonfire celebrations vanish from the Lindfield calendar but sadly, unless people come forward to help, it will!



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The house was originally built in 1852, as a gentleman's country residence with a subsequent sympathetic conversion and extension.

Walstead Place has recently undergone extensive refurbishment providing residents with comfortable, stately surroundings and a relaxing atmosphere.

Dining represents an important part of daily life at Walstead Place with our resident Chef creating extensive menus offering a wide choice of dishes designed to meet individual nutritional requirements. The elegant dining room and restaurant standard cuisine ensures each culinary experience is a real occasion.

Located near to the picturesque village of Lindfield with its post office, shops and pubs, Walstead Place offers its residents the perfect combination of a tranquil living environment and ease of access to local amenities.

Features:

- Recent Extensive Refurbishment
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man and his dog

Circular walk around Lindfield - 1 hr 30 mins

footpath to the right and follow the lane down. As you continue you will be following the footpath alongside Kenwards Farm. Bear to the left and while walking up to meet 'High Beeches Lane', listen out for the 'Swish and Plock'



and the distant murmur of voices - applauding a good shot, coming from the fairways of Haywards Heath Golf Club.

Now is the time to take care. Turn to the right and follow High Beeches Lane into College Road towards Ardingly. There are no footpaths along this stretch but the grass verges are wide enough to allow passage. Cross over the River Ouse



and meander up towards the 50 mph & Ardingly signs and pick up the footpath again at Avins Farm. Note the verge in this area is a West Sussex County Council Notable Verge for Wildlife!

Follow the footpath down towards Avins Farm, to the left over the stile (note to dog walkers - dogs may have to be lifted over due to the wire

By Paul & Bailey (the Labrador) Dudman

ARE YOU A DOG WALKER or do you just enjoy a stroll through the countryside? Then perhaps you would like to try this circular walk, taking in some of the most beautiful scenery around our wonderful village - a path frequently trodden by man and his best friend (in this case Bailey the Labrador, my faithful companion).

Starting at Lindfield Common head north up the High Street towards the parish church. Take a left and follow the footpath sign up the gravel drive by 'Little Blacklands', bearing to the right and continue along the footpath, through the gate by the garage on the left. You are now walking behind the 'Welkin' and if you look to your right you will have a splendid view over the fields.

Follow this footpath to the end and you will come to a gate, where you have a choice to go left (towards Finches Gardens & Hickmans Lane Recreation ground) or right. Take the

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fencing as there is livestock in the field). The footpath takes you behind Avins Farm, over another stile and with the farm to your right, it descends the field and takes you over a stream, up the field to another stile, and the footpath divides.

Take the footpath to the right. You are now heading back towards Lindfield. Look across the fields to the right and you will see the spire of Lindfield Church.

The footpath brings you to Burstye Farm & Hill House Farm. Follow the farm lane bearing right and go down the dip and by the 10mph sign (behind what used to be Buxshalls Nursing home) the footpath divides. Take the path on the right by the stacked tree trunks and wood, descending down into the field and into the wooded area.

A foot bridge takes you over the River Ouse and towards Fulling Mill Farm at the end of Spring Lane. Take care as you follow the footpath through a field of livestock. Keep dogs on a lead and under control.

Continue along Spring Lane until you reach the main road. Take the footpath to the right back towards Lindfield and walk back down the picturesque High Street.

As by now you are in need of refreshment, why not try the public houses or one of the tea or coffee shops, or browse the variety of shops in the High Street?

Walk down the High Street towards the pond with its ducks, ducklings and fish basking in the sun. Find yourself back on the common, which only a few weeks ago was full of the delights, colours and stalls of Village Day, thronged with people supporting the day. Today it has been taken over by youngsters playing cricket, the 'thwack' of balls on bats, sounds of enjoyment from the play area, and the tennis courts full of players competing in their own 'Wimbledon tournament'.

I pause and wonder "Can village life be any better than this?"

Time check - 1 hour 30 mins - One completed walk, with superb scenery, a picturesque High Street, one tired but satisfied dog. What better way to start a day?



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What's on at King Edward Hall

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- 12th Country Market
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- 15th Ruwach Christian Church
Morning and Evening Services
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- 22nd Ruwach Christian Church
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(Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 26th Country Market
(Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 29th Ruwach Christian Church
Morning and Evening Services
(Ruth Hollis 459025)

Please refer to the King Edward Hall notice board for additional information regarding the above events.

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

St Catherine's Hospice 20th Annual Balcombe Fundraising Walk

WALKERS FROM ALL over Mid Sussex will be able to celebrate the 20 years anniversary of the St Catherine's Hospice Fundraising Walk on Sunday 12th September.

Nearly £¼million has been raised over the years for the Hospice and organisers are hoping for a record £25k this year..

The 12 ¼ mile walk is set mostly on footpaths and quiet country lanes. During the walk participants will be able to enjoy stunning Sussex Wealden countryside, stroll under the 11 million bricks making up the Victorian Balcombe railway viaduct and follow trails alongside Ardingly Reservoir within the steep sided Loder Valley.

Walkers should assemble at Victory Hall, Balcombe between 0900 and 1030 on Sunday 12th September.

What's on elsewhere in Lindfield

Wednesday 11th August

Tiger Arts Lunchtime concert
1pm, All Saint's Church
Andrew King (Classical Guitar)
Light lunches served from 12.15pm

Monday 16th August

Wildlife for All
7:00pm, Watson's Brasserie
Iain Scott, nature photographer & director of The Wildlife For All Trust, will be talking about his wildlife photography.
Tickets £12.50 (includes wine & snacks)

Saturday 21st August

Village Vintage Fair
12 noon - 6:00pm, King Edward Hall
Over 25 stalls and a tea room serving cakes & sandwiches

www.village-vintage.co.uk

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