

Lindfield *Life*

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Local village talk,
by the village

May 2012 Issue #38

Free



Arts Festival this month

page 6

Summery food to fill you up

page 16



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By David Tingley, Editor

I know it's a good month when there's loads of **news** from across the village. This month is a good one!

We've got it all: The **Dramatic Club** release news of their Spring performance, coming up this month (p.5). We congratulate **Mervyn Huggett** and Co on some great fundraising for **St Peter & St James Hospice** (p.5). Two **young swimmers** have won awards for their speedy progress (p.4). And a national movement to reduce crime (**Redeeming Our Communities** p.6) has started in Mid Sussex.

Of course **Lindfield Arts Festival** is the big thing this month - see page 6. Booking channels are now open via the website (www.lindfieldartsfestival.com) and at Heart & Soul on the High Street. I know, as a family, we have already booked up for a number of events and we're really looking forward to this year's weekend. See what you fancy doing and get it booked!

Richard Mason completes his two part series on **All Saints Church**, bringing us up to date via the 18th Century. It's quite a tale; catch it on page 14!

On the food side, we have some great news about **Oathall's Farm Shop**. It now has consistent opening hours (page 7) and there is even the offer of **10% discount for Lindfield Life readers** this month! Plus our favourite food writer **Caroline Young** tempts us with one of my personal favourite puddings; the mighty crumble. See page 16.

We're delighted to be featuring local headteacher **Eddie Rodriguez** on page 22. If you ever wanted to know what makes a senior teacher tick, check out this interview by **Alison Carter**.

Lastly we promised you the full story on Lindfield's massive barn construction, and our own Claire Cooper has made sure we've delivered on that. See what all the fuss is about down at **Fulling Mill Farm** on page 10.

Enjoy this month of May and keep your stories and cover photos coming in.

Issue #37 - May 2012 -
4,000 copies printed

Next magazine copydate:
8th May 2012

Next magazine published:
25th May 2012

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within the magazine are of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the editors. Whilst the editors welcome contributions & photographs, this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to include them and that the item may be edited & that there is no breach of copyright. Neither the editors nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement.

Lindfield Life Published by Kipper



David Tingley
Lindfield Arts Festival on
the Common last year.



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We'd love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk

Swimming Club awards



These two young swimmers have plenty to smile about!

Thalia Barnaby, 8, from Lindfield Primary School and Aron Hooper, 7, from Great Walstead School have been presented with Most Improved Swimmer of the Year awards from the Mid Sussex Marlins Swimming Club.

To win their engraved shields, the pair took part in 3 Development Galas where swimmers aim to better their times. Thalia swam 50 metres (2 lengths) of backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle and 25m of fly. Aron swam 25 metres of backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.

The year ended with an 'Invitation Championship' gala where they swam against children of their own age, achieved great 'personal best' times and won a variety of medals.

Traders take to the airwaves!

Listeners to local radio station Bright FM have been invited to sample the delights of shopping in Lindfield.

Chairman of the newly formed Traders Association, Neil Tofield, took to the airwaves to spread the word about the wonderful range of village shops and businesses.

Neil was interviewed following the launch of www.lindfieldshopping.com

The website aims to attract visitors into Lindfield and promote the businesses and services of its 22 members.

Neil, proprietor of Field and Forrest Delicatessan, said: "We were delighted that the story was featured on morning news bulletins every hour from 7am until lunchtime.

"I spoke about how we are tackling the challenges of the current economic climate by coming together as a group. We want to ensure that Lindfield High Street retains its wonderful array of shops and businesses and remains a thriving place to visit. We hope that by working together we can promote the fabulous range of goods and services Lindfield has to offer and support the local community."

Lindfield Traders has also created a Twitter account (@LindfieldShops) and Facebook page (Lindfield Shopping).

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Chuckles & Chips!

Chuckles and Chips are on the menu for audiences attending Lindfield Dramatic Club's Spring production.

The club, which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year, will be presenting two short comedies, served up with a fish and chip supper.

'Trip of a Lifetime,' by Bill Cashmore and Andy Powrie, follows hapless divorcee Barry as he takes his parents on a round-the-world trip to celebrate their Golden Wedding.

'The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley,' by David Tristram, sees a struggling amateur dramatic society resort to subterfuge and foul play to attract an audience for their production.

Performance dates are Friday 25th and Saturday 26th May at 8pm at the King Edward Hall.

Tickets, costing £12 including supper, are available from Happy Feet Boutique in Denmans Lane.



Firewalkers raise cold hard cash

Fearless Mervyn Huggett (pictured) has hot footed his way into the record books while raising more than £1,000 for charity!

Merv took part in the annual Firewalk Challenge at the Top House pub in Burgess Hill organised by St Peter & St James Hospice. After undergoing training, Merv and his team of three brave colleagues walked barefoot along a path of burning coals to raise funds for the hospice.

And not only did his team, Green Baby, raise £1,100 Merv and colleague Rhys Reed also broke the event record by completing 11 blistering laps!

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Music, comedy and poetry headline at Festival

The Lindfield Arts Festival (11th-13th May) has unveiled its performing arts line up, which includes music, comedy and poetry by local theatre groups, choirs and schools.

Highlights of the full programme include, OnO Theatre Company which presents 'The Comedy of Errors' by William Shakespeare. Long-lost twins, desert islands and remarkably similar servants all combine to play havoc in this new adaption by Elizabeth Freestone (RSC, Globe) written exclusively for OnO.

The Barefoot Players bring their sell-out performance of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' to the Festival. With a twist on Wilde's classic piece, the players portray modern culture in today's high society in a fast-paced satirical comedy of love and propriety, filled with glamour, cunning schemes and sharp wit.

Local choir VOCAB (Voice of Community at Blackthorns and Lindfield) will be joining with children from the schools, while inChoir performs a medley of songs and will introduce its new junior choir – inChoon.

Combining music and comedy, Lorraine Bowen (pictured above) will bring her catwalk cabaret, 'Polyester Fiesta' to the Festival. Quirky and fun, the show includes original songs, charity shop records, Kays' catalogue-




style dancers and a geeky scientist all parading polyester fashions from over the decades.

Visitors will also be able to follow an audio poetry trail around the village. Provided by winners of the local primary schools' competition, and recorded by professional and amateur actors, the poems focus on the theme of Lindfield and its people.

The Festival weekend is packed with arts, performance, crafts and workshops, reflecting the creative talent that runs through the village. To book tickets for the events visit the Festival Box Office, now open, at Heart and Soul on Lindfield High Street or at www.lindfieldartsfestival.com

The Festival is grateful for the support of its sponsors: Barratts Southern Counties, WSCC, Masters & Son, Lindfield Shopping, Croudace Homes, Lindfield Parish Council, Lindfield Motors, Siamax Group and Kipper.

As a not-for-profit organisation, the Lindfield Arts Festival continues to seek financial and volunteer support to ensure its success as an on-going annual event. For further information on volunteering or offering other support please visit the Festival website and go to the 'Contact Us' page.



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Redeeming our Communities

By Sue Mummery

Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) is a national charity which has recently been launched in Mid Sussex. It brings together the on-going work of the churches with that of the police, in identifying and tackling local issues and re-kindling community spirit.

The project has been welcomed by all three Lindfield Churches, and All Saints member, Paul Wilson, who has recently retired from the British Transport Police, has been appointed as the Regional Co-ordinator for the South East.

Debra Green, ROC's National Director explains: "ROC is about people of goodwill working together towards a safer, kinder community. Years of experience in bringing agencies together: the church, local authorities and statutory organisations, has proven to be a great catalyst in bringing dramatic improvements in the areas of crime, drugs and other forms of anti-social behaviour."

ROC has various projects which can be created or adapted to the local needs. For example 'ROC Conversations' bring together members of the local community, police, fire and rescue services, council and others to learn from one another and share ideas on how to improve the community by working together.

The recent launch event in Burgess Hill attracted more than 600 people. Speakers included the Rt Hon Nicholas Soames MP and Deputy Chief Constable Giles York. Want more information? Go to the web site at www.roc.uk.com.



From farm to fork

OATHALL FARM SHOP OPEN

The opening of a new farm shop at Oathall Community College is providing the final link in the farming food chain.

The idea behind the shop came from teacher and Head of Farm Howard Wood who has run the school farm for more than 30 years, overseeing its development from a handful of animals to its current stock of 40 ewes, producing 73 lambs so far this year, 20 Ayrshire cattle and 30 Large White pigs.

"It has always been Howard's aim to open a farm shop and sell our produce to the local community," said Clare Christian, the farm's commercial manager.

"We started the process three years ago, and with determination and hard work from students, volunteers and staff, we've finally realised our dream!"

The project has been supported with a £15,000 grant from The Prince's Countryside Fund, along with fund-raising events run by students.

The shop is run by a team of adult volunteers, soon to be assisted by students who will formally apply for their jobs with application letters and CVs.

Butcher Simon Brown visits the farm twice a week to prepare the meat, assisted by apprentice and former Oathall pupil Bradley Woodward.

"It's good for the students working on the farm to learn about the process of rearing animals for food from start to finish, and this includes butchery" said

Clare. "Before now the animals went to be butchered off site and the students didn't have to think about what happened next."

Meat on sale ranges from burgers, chops and sausages to whole hog roasts and lamb crowns. Specials include game rabbit and venison (in season) and fiery 'Mexicana sausages', made to a team of student 'secret recipe'. "We held a 'design a sausage' competition and the Mexicana was a clear winner," said Clare.

'Street Party Specials,' (packs of sausages and burgers) are available for those planning Diamond Jubilee and Olympic celebrations.

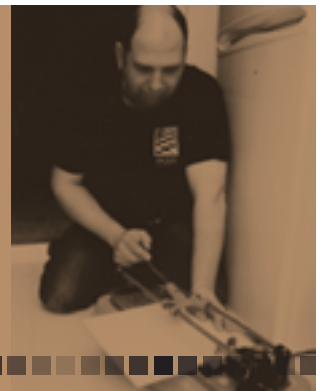
Most of the meat on sale is from animals reared by students working on the farm, but occasionally it is bought in from other local farms. "Customers will always be told if their meat has come from elsewhere," said Clare. Also on sale are free range eggs and chutneys made by local suppliers.

Plans are already in hand to extend the farm shop into a bigger building and to add seasonal, locally grown vegetables to the produce on offer.

The farm shop opens on Fridays from 1-5pm and Saturdays from 9am-2pm. Mention Lindfield Life and get 10% discount off during May too! Customers can also enjoy a tour of the farm at an Open Day on 20th May, from 11am-3pm. For more information email clare@oathallfarm.co.uk or telephone 01444 883211.

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Giant cattle barn completed

Last month we promised to unravel the mystery of Lindfield's emerging Millennium Dome. But little did we know that we were about to stumble upon our very first world exclusive....

By Claire Cooper

Giant umbrella, Millenium Dome, or UFO – it seems there are many ways local people are describing the massive circular structure that has appeared on farmland off Spring Lane.

But the building which is attracting so much attention is actually a state of the art livestock barn and is soon to become home to a herd of 240 beef cattle.

Proud owners of the giant circular barn, the first of its kind in the world, are Alison Eggert-Hobbs and her father David from Fulling Mill Farm.

"The interest has been huge – from local walkers to the European farming community," said Alison, "Farmers Weekly will be writing about us and we'll soon be welcoming a party of visitors from Europe."

Buying a new barn is one of the biggest investments a farmer will ever make and Alison spent months researching the latest designs to find the perfect home for her herd – a 44 ton steel structure manufactured by Round House Ltd. The company was already producing smaller circular barns but were unfazed by Alison's request to design a building twice the size of their biggest barn!

"Since I returned to the farm six years ago we have been steadily growing the herd," she said. "Handling such large numbers is not easy, particularly for someone small like me! Unlike dairy cows, beef cattle are not used to being handled – they are feistier, faster and fresher, so safety is paramount."

Alison added that the cows can vary greatly in size so it was essential find a design that made separating cattle safe and simple. "The circular shape means cattle can be easily separated into 7 housing pens and 1 integral cattle handling system. This cuts down on bullying and ensures each animal gets its share of the food!"

Ventilation was also a key factor. "Good ventilation is really important to prevent disease from spreading and to keep the animals healthy," said Alison. "The ventilation

system draws air into the centre of the barn and up through the vent in the roof. This means air is constantly circulating."

Planning permission for the barn was granted last October and work started just days later.

"Members of Lindfield Rural Parish Council were very supportive, our neighbours have been brilliant and our vet thinks the building is the 'bees knees,'" said Alison.

The first job was to dig down to create a level surface. "55,000 tons of dirt later we finally found one!" Alison recalled.

Then there was the problem of finding enough hard core to fill the hole. "With the building trade being quiet I resorted to following lorries around asking if I could have their demolition hard core."

The 45 metre diameter steel roof, which is based on the design of the Munich Stadium, was constructed on site before being raised from a central pole – rather like a giant umbrella.

"When the roof lay on the ground it looked like a giant spaceship. I was tempted to fit lights around the edge and wait for a reaction from Gatwick," laughed Alison.

With the roof in place, the interior of the barn has been taking shape although, with summer approaching, the herd won't be moving in until the Autumn.

"But at least it will stay clean and tidy for all our visitors!" said Alison.



'Antique' lamps uproar

Many will have seen news stories over the last month or so, following concerns initiated by local resident Jeff Kirkham about the destruction of "Victorian swan neck street lamps" in the North of the village.

The following is a statement by Lindfield Parish Council which clearly indicates the current state-of-play at the time of going to press:

"Lindfield Parish Council's street light contractors have been upgrading the Parish-owned street lighting equipment to comply with EU Directives, improve safety and enable savings to be made on energy consumption.

In most cases a standard modern lantern unit has been used, but, after receiving representations from residents in Spring Lane objecting to the use of this type of lantern on swan neck columns in the Conservation Area, the Environment and Amenities Committee has re-considered the lights in Spring Lane, Francis Road and Pondcroft Road (which are in fact post WW2). At the meeting on 12th April the Committee agreed on a traditional style lantern unit for these six lights – the same as the one used by WSCC in the High Street. To fit these lanterns the curved bracket will have to be replaced with the one that comes with the new lantern. It is anticipated that the upgrade will now cost around £4,800 more than it would otherwise have done."

The Bump 'n' Run

GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH #6

By Simon Iliffe

It's that time of year when fairways are drying and the greens are getting faster, and the short-game becomes even more important to better your score.

Why not arm yourself with a secure bump and run shot that's safe and can be used on many occasions.

With an 8 iron aim the clubface at the target. Narrow your stance a little more than normal and open the feet to the left (r/h golfer).

Position the ball in the centre of your stance, place the hands a little forward of the ball and down on the grip.

With a smooth putting style action sweep the ball off the grass. Make sure not to strike down on the ball, as this will impart unwanted backspin on the ball, just pick it clean.

You should see 25% of the shot in the air and 75% running along the ground.

Once you've mastered it with the 8 iron try using other clubs to vary the loft and amount of run on the shot.



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Stay at home to celebrate

LINDFIELD JUBILEE WEEKEND

With the Diamond Jubilee only a few weeks away, you may be thinking about how best to spend the long weekend with its two bank holidays.

Well, why not stay in Lindfield? There so much going on during the weekend of the Jubilee (2nd-4th June) that you are bound to find something to entertain or enthral you and your friends and family.

The weekend kicks off with Lindfield's Village Day on Saturday 2nd June.

Founded in 1977 - the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee - it is a huge fete held on the Common and has become a bit of a village institution.

Created as a fundraising event for the King Edward Hall, one of the few halls in the country to be run as a registered charity, the day has something to offer for everyone from eight months to eighty years! If you've not been before, give it a go! There are all the traditional village fete stalls and entertainments, including a funfair and mini-railway, tombolas and raffles and an amazing range of local food stalls. Village Day would not be Village Day without buying a delicious cake from the famous King Edward Hall cake stall - and some beautiful plants grown with expert care by Lindfield Horticultural Society.

This year the traditional fancy dress procession will have a Jubilee and Olympic theme and will start at Hickmans Lane at 1.15pm - why not join in? And new for Jubilee year is the Village Day Grand Competition - there

will be prizes galore in a range of categories from Flower Arrangements in a Teacup, Home Baking and Preserves - including best homemade beer, wine or liqueur - and Arts and Crafts, including best Knitted or Crocheted Teacosy, best Jubilee Cushion and best Local Photograph.

Village Day wraps up at around 5pm and then the evening celebrations kick off with a Jubilee Barn Dance and supper on Lindfield Common (7.30pm), followed by a fireworks display, courtesy of the Lindfield Bonfire Society (10.30pm). Anyone who has been to the annual November display will know what a spectacular show this will be. Let your evening partying on the Common end with a bang and take in the amazing sights and sounds.

The Sunday celebrations start at 9.45am with a peal of bells from All Saints Church, followed by a procession with a town crier and piper down the High Street at 10.30am, an open air church service on the Common from all the Lindfield Churches at 11.15am and The Big Lunch (picnic), again on the Common, as part of the national Jubilee celebrations.

And it doesn't end there! There will be fun for all the family with sporting events - including children's races and a tug of war for the grown ups - and a range of free musical and magical entertainment throughout the afternoon.

Find out how you can volunteer to help out, and more about the weekend itself at: www.lindfieldjubilee.org

Photo by Matthew Scott-Davies

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A social history of All Saints Church

PART TWO: FROM THE 18TH CENTURY TO DATE

By Richard Mason

In our last look at the social history of All Saints we left the church in a desperate state of repair. The combination of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, animosity amongst the population at large and the crippling levy on the local populace to provide funds for restoration and repair seemed to signal the church demise. It is fortunate that by a combination of good luck, prudent planning and Lindfield emerging to some sort of real prosperity that circumstance were to collude to All Saints' advantage.

The church restorations, started in the 17th Century, were to continue at an unhurried pace until the early part of the 19th Century with some setbacks. At one stage in the refurbishment of All Saints, the church became abandoned of clergy with no services being held for weeks on end. Almost catastrophically bodies of the dead were even left unattended for the wont of a funeral service.

Lindfield had gained notoriety as a smugglers town due to its proximity to the River Ouse, made navigable at this time as bricks for Balcombe Viaduct were transported to the site by barges. Some believe that tunnels connect properties in the village, certainly many of the old houses within the village contain priest holes, an almost de rigour requirement to any property of a certain age. What is almost certain is that the altar tomb just outside of the South Door of All Saints was a receptacle for smuggled spirits; there is no inscription or date to suggest that it was ever used for its proper purpose. Almost certainly a "present" was left for the Church Clergy by the smugglers of the day.

At the beginning of the 19th Century many churches had started to embrace music as an addendum to their services. All Saints was no exception encouraging a small orchestra made up of a flutist, two clarinet players, a bassoon player and a cellist to provide musical accompaniment to hymns and other events within the services.

In 1841 the Reverend Francis Sewell was appointed as Curate to All Saints. He was to serve the village community until his death in 1862. His social work within the village included the establishment of St John's Parish School and a Mission Room. Despite his zeal in these projects, almost all of his energy and most of his fortune was to be spent on the refurbishment of the church. Although criticised by some for his cavalier approach to the preservation of some of the artefacts and the destruction of three fresco wall paintings, his leadership skills were to ensure that by 1848 All Saints had been restored to its 14th Century glory. The cost of repairs was £2000 of which Sewell donated £650.

His initiatives gained further momentum with many artistes of the day giving performances at the Assembly Rooms, the precursor to King Edward Hall, to the benefit of church restoration. A further £2000 was to be raised. Included in those offering entertainment was Captain Evatt Ecklom, the celebrated elocutionist and Charles Dickens who read extracts of his various books to the delight of his audience. Oscar Wilde also visited the Assembly Rooms. It is thought that the darling of the Music Hall, Marie Lloyd also entertained.

Charles Dickens was a regular visitor to Lindfield and a frequent member of All Saints' congregation. Individually he was to give £100 to the Reverend Sewell to aid in the restoration of the church despite his opinion that his sermons were too long and too boring. It seems that mostly he slept through them.

Within the fabric of All Saints the oldest church bell strikes the hours; it was cast during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The resident Tower Clock has a history in that it was made by Gillette and Brand of Croydon for a building in Cawpore India and was shipped there for that purpose. After the Indian Mutiny of 1857 the British Army built a tower on the site to honour those who had perished which included 134 women and children. The

clock was returned to England and later purchased by a Mr Featherstone, a noted horologist at that time. In 1859 he presented it to All Saints. Its dial faced south down the High Street; its north face was installed later.

Humphries Bakery, one of the village's oldest businesses and still providing excellent bread to this date, had the franchise as supplier of sacramental loaves to All Saints. Payment for bread rendered was invoiced annually. By 1895 Richard Humphrey was the Proprietor and the collector of dues for which event he always bought a new suit. Possibly as a token of philanthropy the bakery also supplied penny loaves to the church on a Saturday morning for the Verger to distribute to the village poor.

Another benefactor to All Saints was Charles Kempe, a resident of Old Place and by worldwide acclaim a producer of stained glass windows. A window designed and made by his cousin and successor, Walter Tower is an integral to the east wall of the church's north transept.

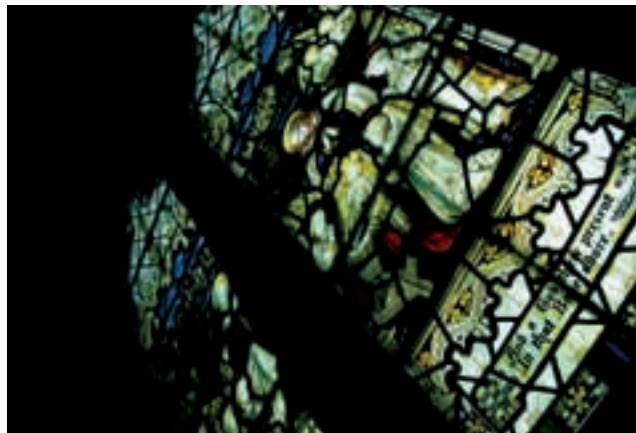
Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1887. Two acts of generosity were to impact on the fabric of All Saints. Firstly the village collected £400 to assist the church in the purchase of an organ. Secondly Charles Kempe was to donate three bells if the village would cover the necessary ancillary cost of installing them in the Church Tower. One presumes that there must have been some animosity between Mr Kempe and a Mr Sturdy as on hearing the news William Sturdy offered another bell "larger than Charles Kempe offered three". From a peal of five bells All Saints now had eight plus a spare, this unused one now residing at the Walstead Burial Ground, a suitable resting place as All Saints Churchyard had been closed in 1854.

Lindfield has been blessed with many Vicars over the years some indisputably good and in times gone by some of more limited ability. The most "different" is Sydney Swann, Vicar of Lindfield between 1929 and 1937. A supreme sportsman, he was an excellent rower and the first person to cycle round Syria. Almost beyond belief he cycled between Lands End and John O'Groats in a day! At the age of 55, in 1917, he cycled, walked, ran, paddled, rowed and swam six consecutive half miles in twenty-six minutes twenty seconds.

A larger than life figure, especially in the dress sense, he travelled through Lindfield on a tricycle and supervised events on the pond from a dinghy. In 1937 he became quite eccentric! Only slightly less so was his wife who sped through the village on a donkey to remind all of the purpose of Palm Sunday.

Certainly with none of the above qualifications is the current Vicar of All Saints, the Canon James Clarke. Charismatic by personality and sincere in his wish to make a positive difference to the people of Lindfield he combines natural charm with natural empathy. His primary objective seems to be to assist almost all to enjoy a richer life; one free from frustration when things are not going too well either by health, family or financial duress.

If you are unfamiliar with All Saints give him a try, you really have nothing to lose and potentially everything to gain!



Early summer fruits

SIMPLY GOOD FOOD

PLUM AND GINGER CRUMBLE with GINGERED CREAM Serves 4

Heat the oven to 180°C.

Halve and stone 500g ripe plums (or greengages or damsons) and tip into a shallow buttered baking dish. Finely chop two knobs of preserved ginger (from a jar) and toss with the fruit.

Buzz 150g soft white bread (or brioche) in a processor to very coarse crumbs. Tip into a bowl and add 75g demerara sugar. Melt 75g butter and very gently combine with the crumbs. Spoon over the fruit and bake for about 30 min or until plums are soft and topping golden brown.

Lightly whisk 150ml double cream with 1-2 tbs of the syrup from the jar of ginger and serve with the warm pudding.

In warmer weather we want to spend time less time in the kitchen. Try this very fast recipe using new seasons home-grown baby spinach and any shape of fresh pasta.

BABY SPINACH, PECORINO AND BACON PASTA Serves 2

Coarsely chop 100g Pecorino or Parmesan cheese into small pieces (easiest in the processor). Cook 225g fresh pasta to packet directions. Drain and keep hot. Using a large frying pan, gently fry 100g diced pancetta (Italian bacon sold ready cubed) in 1tbs olive oil until lightly golden brown. Add some crushed garlic and 250g ready-to-eat baby spinach leaves, cook, stirring for a couple of minutes to wilt the spinach then add the hot pasta and the cheese. Toss to combine, season to taste and serve immediately.

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By Caroline Young

On 29th May 1660 Charles II was restored to the throne and, to celebrate his return, Parliament decreed a day of national celebration known as Oak Apple or Royal Oak Day. In the previous September Charles had hidden in an oak tree while fleeing from the pursuing Roundheads after the Battle of Worcester. A sprig of oak leaves became the Royalist badge. Oak leaves were used to decorate churches, homes and even, in Victorian times, railway trains. On this day now at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea the retired soldiers are served beer and plum pudding – Plum Duff – for dessert. If the sun is shining perhaps a plum crumble with cream might be more appropriate ?

If you have to contribute cakes for the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations these two recipes can be made ahead and frozen.

APRICOT AND CHOCOLATE BARS

Preheat oven 180°C. Sieve 150g plain flour and ½tsp bicarbonate of soda into a bowl and stir in 75g porridge oats. Beat together 140g soft brown sugar and 75g soft butter until creamy then stir in the flour mixture until crumbly. Spoon one-quarter of the mixture into a small bowl and stir in 75g chocolate chips.

Press the remaining flour mixture into a 20cm square baking tin and spread generously with apricot (or any other flavour) jam. Sprinkle the chocolate chip mixture over the top. Bake for about 30 min or until crisp and golden brown. Cool completely before cutting into squares.

CHEWY WALNUT FINGERS

Preheat oven 180°C. Sieve 75g plain flour and ½tsp bicarbonate of soda together.

Put 140g soft brown sugar, 1tsp vanilla extract and 2 large egg whites into a large bowl. Beat (using an electric mixer) for about 2 min or until a pale coffee colour. Add the flour mixture and beat until just combined. Stir in 75g broken walnuts and 50g chocolate chips. Spread evenly in a lightly buttered 20cm square baking tin.

Bake for 15-20 min or until golden brown and crusty. Cool for 10 min before cutting into bars.

Leave a little longer before removing from pan.

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Not always a blank canvas...

HOME FRONT

By Jacqui Smith

As I write this piece I am putting the finishing touches to a show home design. Now this show home is different, or more accurately the brief is different.

I am used to working from a blank canvas but the client has on this occasion asked us to re-use furniture, art, bedding and accessories from an existing installation on the same site. This is itself is not an uncommon request; developers are understandably keen to get the most from the furniture they have invested in for a show home and in some cases as the original show home's properties are sold they may find themselves needing to move the scheme on to another plot.

Working with pre-determined elements in a scheme is not uncommon within the scope of our residential work - sofas that need to be incorporated into a new sitting room scheme; the inclusion of a treasured painting in a hallway re-design or most commonly working around an existing carpet shade. It is fair to say however that more often than not the show home design canvas for me is blank.

My starting point for a new brief is to consider the target market, think about how I am going to stage the property to appeal to this market and give thought to an appropriate colour scheme. On this current project the show home furniture I am giving a new lease of life to is the choice of another designer so whilst I am still mindful of target market, I am embarking on the design process from a different point. I guess that there is also an element of getting inside her creative headspace and building on her good work as I take her scheme into another property.

Another important aspect of the scheme which is usually a variable that I have control over are the finishes, ie carpet, wall colour, tile choice etc. In this case the plot we have been asked to transform has already been fitted with kitchen and bathrooms, has carpets and flooring laid throughout and the paint colour on all walls is magnolia. Now I am not a magnolia snob at all but as a pinky cream it can fight with some other neutral tones. On the basis that you can find paint to match any fabric I always urge clients to choose fabric before committing the walls to colour but here, it has to be this way.

So the brief is condensed to curtain and blind fabrics and fixed lighting that work with an existing style, colour, appeal to a certain buyer, sit happily with magnolia and do not argue with the carpet. A tight brief yes but I truly love the design challenges it brings. The newly specified fabrics have brought a new lease of life to the furniture and the much maligned magnolia now looks like the shade of choice!

Take some 'me time'

Parents exploring taking the 'next step' in their lives and owners of small local businesses are being invited to a unique networking event.

'A different sort of me time' and 'networking of a different sort' aims to bring people together to share ideas and experiences in an informal event at the Toll House in Lindfield on 31st May from 7.30 to 10pm.

To find out more, contact Vivian on 07725 034837 or email vmtbrennan@yahoo.com.au

School helps Sport Relief

Fun runners from Lindfield Primary School have raised £752.53 for national charity Sport Relief last month.

The school would like to thank the children for running miles and dressing up, parents for donating money, members of the PTA who helped on the day and the staff for making the event a great experience!

Get snappy

Keen local photographers take note: We need your photos of Lindfield! At Lindfield Life we are building up a great stock of village images, but we always need more. We have a few guidelines to help you get the right compositions for the front cover of the magazine. Check out www.lindfieldlife.co.uk/cover-photos for more information.

To Infinity and beyond!



Super-fast fibre broadband is whizzing its way into homes and businesses in Lindfield!

Residents and traders are already signing up to BT Infinity and more than 2,200 premises will be able to join them over the coming months as BT's local network business Openreach completes the local upgrade.

This will make Lindfield one of the top areas in the UK for fibre broadband coverage with those homes and businesses attached to the exchange enjoying significantly faster broadband speeds.

The 'switch on' has been welcomed by Lindfield councillor Alan Gomme, who led the 'Race to Infinity' campaign for super-fast broadband. "The whole campaign has really galvanised the community and we are all now keen to take full advantage of this new technology."



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Blackthorns celebration bunting

Children and staff at local primary school, Blackthorns, are not only celebrating national events this year. 2012 brings the 40th anniversary of the school and to mark the occasion, ex-pupil Josie Hillage, along with her mum Jill, spent a day with the children at the school making celebration bunting.

Each year group had a different theme for their bunting flags, with the youngest children using their handprints to personalise each flag. Other themes included musical notes, animals, the garden, space and of course the letters that make up 'Blackthorns Primary School'. 210 children each made their flag with many sewing their chosen design onto the bunting that was made in the school colours. The finished bunting will be used during the school's celebrations, including during the events that they are planning to celebrate the

Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. It had its first outing when it was paraded down the High Street following the school's Easter service at All Saints Church at the end of term.

For Josie and Jill the day was not just an opportunity to help the school celebrate their 40th anniversary, but also a trip down memory lane as they had not returned to the school since Josie left nearly 15 years ago. The mother and daughter team own The Patchwork Dog and Basket, a haberdashery shop in The Needlemakers in Lewes and the new craft workshop 'Made in Lewes' which runs a range of workshops for both children and adults - many Lindfield residents have already enjoyed the workshops, including the recent 'Mummy Makes' day to celebrate Mothering Sunday and Easter workshops where adults and children had a go at felt making!

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Mr (Eddie) Rodriguez

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Eddie Rodriguez, Head Teacher of Oathall Community College since the start of 2012, talks to Lindfield Life

By Alison Carter

So, Mr Rodriguez, that surname of yours: what are your Hispanic roots? Do you speak the language?

I was born in Madrid – my father’s Spanish and my mother is from London. We moved to the UK when I was 13 months old, and South East London is really where I’m from. People used to ask me so often if I spoke Spanish that when I was 25 I went to Madrid and learned! I taught English to fund two years of study.

Any previous Sussex connections?

I went to the University of Sussex for my degrees and later my PGCE. Like a lot of people who come to Sussex I just sort of stayed on and have lived here ever since.

What did you study?

Physics and Philosophy. Yes, it is an unusual combination. I veered towards physics because of an inspirational teacher at my sixth form, who enthused me about science in the real world.

You’ve taught for ...?

Twenty two years, in management for eleven. Goodness ... I trained in Brighton but my first teaching school was in Crawley and I’ve worked in Horsham, the south coast, across Sussex.

What’s your worst fashion mistake? N.B. thirteen hundred students may read this.

I was a child of the 80s, so pretty much anything I wore could be classed as a fashion crime.

Full English or Muesli with fruit?

Muesli. Definitely.

What’s the worst thing that’s ever happened to you in a classroom?

I think I’ve been lucky, as a science teacher, not to have had many accidents. I did once melt the ceiling of my laboratory, though.

I’m sorry?

I was demonstrating a combustion process – igniting gas bubbles – and I noticed the ceiling dripping onto the desk.

I see.

Oh, and there was time I held a container of water out of a third floor window. We were investigating pressure. I removed the bung as the Head Teacher walked underneath with a group of prospective parents ...

What attracted you about Oathall when you saw the job ad?

Well, no one thing. Its reputation preceded it, for being a caring environment, and focussing on the development of the young person. I was also drawn by the school’s joint specialisms – Science and Art (my wife’s an Art teacher). And in languages – that’s another interest of mine – the school’s very strong. Then there’s the farm. I’m still learning about it, the way it enriches all aspects of the school, not just the students who take courses based there. A BBC film crew, for instance, recently followed a Gifted and Talented maths group on the farm as they investigated the cost of producing a kilo of protein. Look out for Ecomaths on the BBC2 website.

What else should we know about the school?

I’m extraordinarily impressed, time and again, by the commitment of the staff. They love the school; they are dedicated to the students, and to high standards. I was able to have a personal interview with every member of staff during my first months, and that’s what struck me.

Anything new going on?

Oathall’s been awarded the prestigious Olympic Mark. That’s in recognition of commitment to the Olympic values of friendship, excellence and respect. We can use the Olympic Education logo. New uniform – that’s on the way – details to come. Our maths whizz-kids again got through to the UKMT Mathematical Olympiad, putting them in the top few hundred in the country.



We're looking forward to great GCSE results in 2012, building on 2011's, when grades in Art and Science were particularly impressive. I'm delighted that so many of our students who excel in Science go on to study it post-16. But I've found that achievement spreads right across the board – traditional and practical subjects, and extra-curricular. Our senior public speaking team just won the regional finals of the 'Youth Speaks' competition. They're off later in the spring to the national final in Wales.

One term in, on what do you see yourself focussing?

Celebrating the excellence that already goes on here. And continually raising standards.

What do you think parents most want from a great school?

I think I have to respond as a parent of two children, one about to enter the secondary sector and one already there. I wanted my children to be safe, known, and happy. I wanted them to be offered plenty of opportunities, and challenged to do their very best. At Oathall we work to make sure we get all that right, from the start.

The other thing that parents and students want is communication, and there's always work going on there.

I've instigated, for instance, a Friday meeting with the Head Boy and Girl and their Deputies. I find out what's going on, what's being talked about from their perspectives.




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New venture for Gabrielle

By Claire Cooper

If you're wondering where Lindfield's Gabrielle Hall, former owner of Forget Me Not and Heart and Soul has gone, the good news is that you don't have to look far to find her!

Gabrielle is the founder of the Koorana centre for creative and spiritual development based in the newly refurbished Sayso Hall in Ardingly.

This unique centre is home to a wide variety of creative and spiritual courses, workshops and events delivered by a team of specialist teachers.

The emphasis is on wellbeing and Gabrielle and her team will be holding regular classes for both adults and children incorporating a variety of holistic and creative activities. These will include yoga, dance, Pilates, meditation and Tai Chi.

There will also be opportunities to learn holistic therapies such as massage, reflexology and Reiki, and creative skills such as sewing, art and crafts. Local community events will be catered for too and the hall will be available for hire.

"It's my intention to create a special place for people to come together, where they can learn about all aspects

of wellbeing and enjoy the creative and uplifting energy the centre will provide. I hope that Koorana will also become a platform for talented individuals to share their ideas and skills," says Gabrielle.

"The main hall with its vaulted ceiling looks stunning and great care has been taken to ensure the original architectural features remain. I am certain that visitors will be impressed with the transformation that's been carried out by Tim French and his team," she continues. "The oak floor with under floor heating is perfect for our yoga and relaxation classes, and I'm certain that participants will find it so comforting at the end of a busy day, that they may not feel inclined to leave!"

Local designers Jackie Smith, Michael Kopinski, Rozynna Fielding and Katie Phillips have helped Gabrielle to put the finishing touches to the interior. "I am so grateful to all members of the team who have brought this project together.

"I am also excited about the potential for the centre, which I believe may be the very first of its kind in the South East", says Gabrielle.



Birds fly high over school

Birds of prey from Sussex Falconry made a flying visit to meet children from Tavistock and Summerhill School in Lindfield.

Joined by pupils from Blackthorns and Newick Primary Schools they were treated to a magnificent display as part of the School's involvement in National Science Week. Steven Charlton of Sussex Falconry from Mayfield explained how the birds catch their prey with their remarkable senses of sight and hearing.

The children met Pee Wee, a tawny owl and Google, a snowy owl, and learnt how the owls' face is a perfect radar dish enabling some owls to hear a lemming's heart beat 6 feet under snow. Steven is keen to educate children about wildlife, research and conservation and birds of prey in particular. Sadly there are only 1,500 pairs of breeding barn owls left in the country.

The display was part of the Tavistock and Summerhill's programme of curriculum enrichment and super learning days.

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NATURAL THERAPY

By Wendy McCallum

With National Baby Massage Week happening this month (14th – 19th May) you may be interested to know more about baby massage, its benefits and how to actually do it.

One of the key things with baby massage is to be as relaxed as possible when you do it – no mean feat when you've got a young baby! This can just mean taking a few deep breaths before you start and giving your shoulders a roll to let some of the tension out of them. It's important to be in a warm, comfortable place, ideally with you sitting on the floor with your baby in front of you. It's wise to have a change mat/towel/blanket to lie your baby on so that they are comfortable, and have a spare towel or blanket to hand in case you need to give them a cuddle or a feed midway through as this will keep them nice and warm.

You can use either oil or lotion to massage your baby. If you're using oil aim to use an extra virgin vegetable oil such as Sweet Almond (if neither parent has a nut allergy), Grapeseed or Sunflower. How you perform the massage will depend on what you are trying to achieve. If you want to relax your baby, then perform the massage strokes slowly. If you want to stimulate your baby, then massage more quickly.

Babies have a fairly short attention span, so don't be surprised if you can only manage to massage one area of their body per session. It may be wise to start with the area that's most important to you (e.g. tummy massage if your baby suffers with wind, colic or constipation) to ensure you get that done and then anything else is a bonus.

It's difficult to "teach" you how to perform baby massage in the confines of this column so you may want to attend a class, watch a DVD or read a book for more guidance. When massaging use firm, even strokes, normally working up the body towards the heart e.g. up the legs and arms. On the tummy use clock-wise strokes (as if your baby's tummy is a clock face) to ensure you are following the digestive tract and helping with any tummy problems.

Try to maintain eye contact with your baby and explain to them what you're doing. It may feel strange at first, particularly when they don't talk back, but it will become like second nature with practise.

Baby massage has many benefits including supporting the interaction between the baby and parent/carer and aiding bonding, aiding relaxation, relieving discomfort, stimulating the bodily systems, helping co-ordination, balance and flexibility and increasing parental confidence. All that said it is a lovely way to spend time with your baby doing something with them that will benefit you both, so give it a try and see how you get on!

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Flush away poverty!

Every day 2.6 billion people don't have somewhere safe, private or hygienic to go to the toilet. That's 40% of the world's population who have to use fields, streams, rivers, railway lines, canal banks, roadsides, plastic bags or squalid disease breeding buckets.

In rural Burundi, less than half the population has access to a toilet and in Cambodia you are more likely to own a mobile phone than a loo!

In 2009, TEAR Fund launched a Toilet Twinning Scheme. Since then more than 1,600 latrines have been built in Burundi – providing safe loos for nearly 10,000 people. That's more than a thousand households who can now go to the loo in a safe, private and hygienic way.

Former All Saints Church member Dave Taylor, who works for Tear Fund, said: "This is a marvellous opportunity to stop the spread of disease and help people stay healthy – and at very little cost." He added that each latrine costs £60.

To highlight the work of Toilet Twinning Scheme, and to help raise funds, the Churches of Lindfield will have a display board at their Tea Tent on Village Day.

For more information, visit the Lindfield Churches Tea Tent at Village Day on 2nd June or go online at www.toilettwinning.org

Walk of Witness



Dozens of worshippers from the three Lindfield Churches took part in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

The walkers followed a large wooden cross which was carried through the village. The walk was led by Canon James Clarke, vicar of All Saints, who welcomed the group with a reading from St Matthew's Gospel.

The procession, which began at Hickmans Lane car park, stopped at Lindfield United Reformed Church for reading, praying and singing, before moving on to All Saints for a united service.



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What's on in May

AT KING EDWARD HALL

AND ELSEWHERE

- 1st Mid Sussex Wine Society wine tasting evening presented by Grape and Grain 8pm.
- 3rd Country Market – 10.00am to 11.15am (Sheila Hobbs 01444 483396)
- 6th Ruwach Christian Church – Morning and Evening Service (Ruth Hollis 01444 459025)
- 9th Lindfield Horticultural Society – Evening with Guest Speaker (Alison Elliott 01444 483039)
- 10th Country Market – 10.00am to 11.15am
- 11th/13th Lindfield Arts Festival
- 17th Country Market – 10.00am to 11.15am
- 20th Ruwach Christian Church – Morning and Evening Services
- 23rd An evening of Salsa Dancing (Julia Cooper 01444 417781)
- 24th Country Market – 10.00am to 11.15am
- 24th King Edward Hall – Film Show Evening “Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” (Jennie Powell 01444 483431)



- 25th /26th Lindfield Dramatic Club – Chuckles and Chips Tickets £12 per head (Tim Bishop 01444 450604)
- 31st Country Market – 10.00 to 11.15am

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 Honorary Bookings Secretary for further information on telephone number 01444 483266 or by e-mail on bookings@kingedwardhall.org.uk

- 2nd Mid Sussex Ramblers Haywards Heath Fox Hill Circular Walk. 3.5 miles. Meet at Fox & Hounds pub at 7pm. Contact John – 01444 483860
- 5th Plant sale and coffee morning at Newick Village Community Centre, 9am to 11.30am. Further details from Alex Pioli (apioli@btinternet.com)
- 5th RHOS Welsh Male Voice Choir performing at ALL Saints Church. Tickets available from All Saints Church Office 01444 482405 or by email allsaints@lindfield.info. More details can be found on the website www.allsaintslindfield.org.
- 6th Open Day at Birchanger Gardens, Handcross, 2pm to 6pm. Derek & Rae Worrall, the owners of this beautiful 7 acre garden with its magnificent displays of azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias, are opening their garden in aid of St Catherine's Hospice. Entrance £4, children free. Further details from Lesley Jones on 01444 412018
- 8th Mid Sussex Ramblers Bluebell Circular Walk from Cuckfield. 9 miles. Meet at Broad Street car park at 10.30am. Contact Peter on 01444 415367
- 15th Coffee morning at Ockenden Manor Spa in aid of the local branch of The Motor Neurone Disease Association. 10.30am to 12 noon. Come and support the charity and have a tour of the Spa. Cost £5
- 21st Village Networking at The Toll House, 5.45pm for 6pm. An opportunity to network with local business people in a relaxed environment. £2 meeting charge. Further details from Natalie Stafferton 07957 184275 or see www.villagenetworking.biz
- 23rd Mid Sussex Ramblers Ditchling Evening Circular Walk. 3.5 miles. Meet at Village Hall car park at 7.30pm. Contact Les on 01273 846995
- 26th Sussex Chorus Brighton Festival Concert to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, St Bartholomew's Church, Brighton, 7.30pm. Tickets £15. (£12 concessions), children free from Sussex Chorus Ticket Manager 01444 412579 / 01273 273333, The Dome Box Office 01273 709709 or www.WeGotTickets.com

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