



Under the Downs

3 Country Churches Nestling Under the Downs

View From the Rectory

May 2019

May is the time of year when, after Easter, everything seems really to get started for summer. The holiday season proper begins, because we have reasonable confidence that the weather will be good, wherever we are planning to go - not too cold, not too hot, the Goldilocks solution of 'just right'. We start work on gardens in earnest, although hopefully a lot of the preparation has been done before and we can concentrate on the more interesting activities. Of course it's also the start of the examination period at various levels, and for some, deciding what the future may hold. So it can be a really positive time, if we make the most of it.

I did say 'after Easter'. Yes May comes after Easter Day, whichever year we are in, even if that is really late, as it was this year. The Easter season though, runs for 40 days, taking us all the way to Ascension Day when the risen Jesus was taken up into heaven. So the whole of May is Easter season, a time to give thanks for that one great sacrifice which opened the gates of heaven to all believers, for all time.

Someone once said that it was a really good idea to treat each new day as if it was the first day of the rest of your life. That sounds pretty good to me, and if we try it through the Easter season, by the time the end of May comes, it should have become a new habit!

Linda

Garden Event at Casters Brook, Cocking

Saturday 11 May 11 am - 3.30 pm

Once again, the Murray Downland Trust is inviting you to its annual Garden Event. As usual there will be a sale of garden plants and produce, cakes, preserves and honey. The Midhurst Band will be performing, around mid-day, there will be a demonstration of bee-keeping and a parade of Sussex Spaniels. John Humphreys, a horticultural expert, will be on hand to answer your gardening queries and Philip Jackson will be giving guided tours of his sculptures situated in the garden. Light lunches, teas cakes, savoury scones and hot dogs will be available.

There will also be a sale of good quality secondhand books. If you have any to donate, please take them to the Sculpture Studio, opposite Casters Brook.

The Murray Downland Trust preserves local downland sites by controlling scrub and saplings, thus enabling wild flowers, birds and insects to flourish. It relies on volunteer work, fundraising and grants to provide fencing, machinery and land-clearing.

We look forward to seeing you.

More Tea Vicar?

A monthly local get together at the Chicken Shed Cafe. Open to all, not just those who are Lunch Club regulars, we will be having tea and cake, and the chance to chat, between 2.30 and 4.00 pm

Next dates are:

10 May

14 June

No need to book, just drop in, and why not bring a friend? Tea and cake for £4 per person. Hope to see you there.

Events at Chichester Cathedral 2019

Tour: A Cathedral Celebration in Poetry and Prose, Monday 13 May 10.30am – 12noon, led by Chichester Cathedral guides. The tour will start with coffee in the Alexandra Room. The Alexandra Room is accessed through the Cloisters Café. Advance booking essential. Tickets £7.50, available from www.chichestercathedral.org.uk or from Chichester Box Office, The Novium Museum, Tower Street, Chichester on 01243 775888. Includes coffee and biscuits.

Another Garden Event

15-16 June

A number of gardens will be open in Cocking over the weekend of 15 and 16 June.

On 15 June in the afternoon there will also be a church event at Casters Brook, with tea, cakes, some music and a chance to sing a favourite hymn if you like.

We look forward to seeing you

Summer Concert at Bepton

On Saturday 8 June at 3pm do come to St Mary's to hear Tina Gelnere prize-winning mezzo- soprano from Latvia who is currently studying opera at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She will be accompanied by Chris Coote, local recitalist and Chairman of the Bognor Regis Music Club. Tickets (including refreshments) cost £12 (children 7-16 free) obtainable from Sheila Ryan, Bayleaves, Bepton GU29 9RB tel: 01730 813971 or e-mail bayleaves@macace.net

Midhurst Garden Club

Monday 13 May 2019

Martin Jarvis from Culberry Nursery, Angmering will be speaking about "Growing Herbs". The Nursery which is family owned supplies herbs, both culinary and medicinal direct to the public via Farmers Markets and Manor Nursery and is also open to the public. The plants can be grown on your allotment, in your borders, patio pots or even on the window sill. Martin will bring plants with him to demonstrate his talk.

Talks take place at The South Downs Memorial Hall North Street Midhurst at 7.30pm. Refreshments available from 7.00pm and visitors are most welcome.

For more information about the Club please contact Denise Skinner 01730 814194, askinner3@sky.com or check our website - midhurstgardenclub.co.uk

Church Service Times

This is the usual pattern, but occasionally there are changes - please check the church noticeboards. This is especially important at festival times such as Christmas and Easter

St Mary Bepton

11.15am 1st Sunday of the month Matins BCP
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays Matins with Holy Communion BCP

St Catherine of Siena Cocking

9.30am Every Sunday
1st Sunday of the month Family Communion CW
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion CW

Rose chafer

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Back garden beetlemania

On 17th May 2011 Peter Hodge was stood waiting at Lewes bus station when he noticed an intriguing little black beetle crawling on the brickwork. Peter, being one of Britain's top coleopterists (beetle experts), delicately picked up the little insect between his thumb and forefinger and took it with him. And so both passengers rode the 143 bus back to Ringmer and into the pages of Sussex wildlife history. Because when Peter examined the little beast under his microscope, he realised it was the click beetle *Melanotus punctolineatus* – the first one recorded in Sussex - making it the 3,000th species of beetle recorded in our county.

That little beetle may have been historic but it wasn't much to look at. To be honest, most of the other 2,999 Sussex beetles aren't going to win any Miss Beetle beauty contests either. But if it's good-looking beetles you want my friend then you need to take a trip to Arundel or Lewes this month because those towns are both famed for being a hotspot for the most glamorous beetle in Britain - the rose chafer.

The rose chafer is one seriously gorgeous insect. Each one looks like it's been designed, carefully crafted, coated in the most dazzling metallic green and hand polished. How can I put it? The rose chafer looks expensive. Their resemblance to Egyptian scarabs brings the romance of The Nile to your compost heap – a great place for their C-shaped larvae to develop. The adult beetles live for just a few weeks.

They're powerful flyers too. Dark, smoky wings extend from under their emerald elytra (wing cases) and with a buzz our Faberge bugs take to the air. Admittedly they do tend to crash into fences quite a bit. I said it was beautiful, I didn't say it was graceful. Recently these beetles seem to have been crashing around in other areas of Sussex.

So this summer I'm starting a campaign to make Sussex the official rose chafer capital of England. I'd like you to look in your gardens and nearby parks for this stunning, shiny green beetle. If you see one, please try to take a picture and email it to my colleague Lois at the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre with details of when and where you saw it (loismayhew@sussexwt.org.uk). Let's put Sussex on the beetle map!



St James Heyshott

11.15am 1st Sunday of the month Family Communion CW
9.30am 2nd Sunday of the month Holy Communion BCP
9.30am 3rd Sunday of the month Matins BCP
11.15am 4th Sunday of the month Holy Communion CW
6.00pm 1st 2nd and 4th Sundays Evensong BCP
3rd Sunday Compline

On a 5th Sunday of the month, there is a joint service at 10.00 am at one of our churches - please check the notice boards or our magazine.
CW - Common Worship is the modern language service BCP - Book of Common Prayer is the traditional service