

SIDLESHAM SPREAD NO 121 JANUARY 2024

INDEPENDENT - SELF SUPPORTING - DELIVERED OR ON-LINE FREE TO EVERY HOME IN SIDLESHAM

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QUIZ PREPARED BY SHARON

READ BY

CARRIE ALLEN

**AT THE SIDLESHAM
MEMORIAL HALL**

FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY

6.30/6.45 pm for 7

Bar will be open from 6.30pm

Bacon rolls and sausage in bread rolls will be available. These will need to be booked on entry for provision at the picture break round.

The tables should be for no more than 6. You can get together with others if you want to make up a 6 or if you prefer, remain in smaller groups.

Please let me know (Wendy editor - details on front cover) if you would like to book a table (to give an idea of numbers) then we can decide whether to hold it in the Villagers' bar or the main hall.

It will cost £4 per person, £3 will go to refurbishment of the hall and running costs and £1 will be used for prize money. There will also be a cake raffle as this was so popular last time. Paul Devonshire's very desirable carrot cake.



THE NEW REVISED COMMUNITY LUNCH FOR ALL AGES



Please contact us on 641 457 or by email,
dancingdevonshire@hotmail.com

**TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY - CHEF - DAVID BLACKFORD.
USING OUR NEW REFURBISHED KITCHEN.**

COTTAGE PIE, CAULIFLOWER IN WHITE SAUCE, PEAS. APPLE CRUMBLE AND CUSTARD, COFFEE/TEA WITH MINT. £5

HOW CAN YOU NOT QUEUE UP FOR THIS?! YOU NEED TO BOOK BY FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY IN ORDER TO GET A PLACE. DO COME, IT SHOULD BE GOOD.

BURNS NIGHT - FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY - £20 A TICKET

AT THE SIDLESHAM MEMORIAL HALL

18.45 DOORS OPEN



SCOTTISH REELS WITH A CALLER (NO REELING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY) BEFORE AND AFTER A TWO COURSE SUPPER

**£20 A TICKET - AVAILABLE FROM SCA TRUSTEES
(Wendy Devonshire, David Blackford, Corina Hall,
Norman Robson, Lewis Ramm, Riach Ryder, Bill Martin)**

MENU: HAGGIS, NEAPS, TATTIES, WHISKY SAUCE OR POACHED SALMON WITH MUSHROOM & DILL SAUCE, NEW POTATOES, GREEN BEANS & CARROTS. APPLE AND APRICOT OAT CRUMBLE WITH CUSTARD.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in the Sidlesham Spread are not necessarily those of the editorial team. The Editor reserves the right to edit and rearrange articles, but will endeavour to do so only where space is limited or where the information will be enhanced.

All information is published in good faith but we take no responsibility for errors or omissions. We are happy to publish letters as 'name and address supplied' but will not include anything sent anonymously that is clearly defamatory or hurtful to a named individual.

The Editorial Team

Copy should be sent by 23rd of the month to allow for printing for the first week of the following month.

**IF ANY VILLAGE GROUP IS NOT INCLUDED AND WOULD LIKE TO BE,
PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITORIAL TEAM**

<p>Brent Lodge Bird & Wildlife Trust Hospital - Cow Lane, Sidlesham. 01243 641672</p> <p>Church Hall Bookings Vivien Baron 641583</p> <p>Infinity Football Club Jody Hoare 07944755050 Jody_soton@yahoo.co.um</p> <p>Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group Jane Reeve jane@jssj.co.uk 01243 641 527</p> <p>RSPB Pagham Harbour, Nature Reserve Manager Adam Taylor Pagham.harbour@rspb.org.uk 01243 641508</p> <p>Sidlesham Parish Council <i>Clerk to the Council –</i> Alison Colban parishclerk@sidlesham.org www.sidlesham.org</p> <p>Sidlesham Community Association (SCA) See Box 3rd column</p> <p>Sidlesham County Primary School Head Teacher Mr Bird – 01243 641238</p> <p>Sidlesham Walk and Lunch Klub (SWALK) Bill Martin 01243 641154 billm89@hotmail.com</p> <p>Sidlesham Womens' Institute Hon. Sec. Ann Holloway 01243 641299 annholloway42aol.com</p> <p>STAG Sidlesham Traffic Action Group Vacancy for a contact person</p> <p>St Mary's Parish Church Fr. Chris Brading 01243 641775 father.brading@gmail.com www.stmary-sidlesham.org.uk</p> <p>The Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre 01243 967111 info@crrc.co.uk www.crrc.co.uk</p>	Monday	The Open Door Choir belindagannon.musicforall@gmail.com	Sidlesham Memorial Hall	7 - 9 pm
	Tuesdays	Pilates with Jackie Warton Contact: precispilates@gmail.com	Memorial Hall	9.30 am - 10.30
	2nd Tues	Quiz with George Torrance as quizmaster.	The Anchor	7.30 pm
	Thursday	Tea and cake at Mary's Place. For details Contact Carolyn on 07983 701015 or carolyn@brading.net	Church rooms	From 2.00 - 4.00 pm
	Thursday	Sidlesham Short Mat Bowls £3.00 per session Contact Marilyn Sharp on 641437	School Sports Hall	4.30 - 6.30 pm
	2nd Wed	Women's Institute	Church rooms	2.15pm
	Fridays 3rd Friday	Villagers' bar open Open Mike Night	Memorial Hall	7 - 10.30
	Saturdays Term time	Lizzie's Craft Club. for children aged 4—11 years. £5 session per child. Contact lizzie@lizziebaily.com	Applefield	2.30 - 4.00 pm

**ADVERTS TO BE FOUND ON PAGES 10 - 12
PLEASE USE THEM, THEY ENABLE THIS MAGAZINE TO BE FREE TO YOU ALL**

**SIDLESHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
THE TRUSTEES**

ACTING CHAIR: RIACH RYDER
07798774729
riach.ryder@gmail.com

TREASURER: NORMAN ROBSON
SECRETARY: CORINA HALL

DAVID BLACKFORD
LEWIS RAMM
PAUL DEVONSHIRE
WENDY DEVONSHIRE
BILL MARTIN

www.sidleshammemorialhall.co.uk

**SELSEY MOBILE REFUSE SITE
EAST BEACH CAR PARK -**

OPEN BETWEEN 8.15 and 3.00
ON ALTERNATE THURSDAYS:
4TH AND 18TH JANUARY. 1ST FEBRUARY

**THESE SITES ACCEPT
GREEN GARDEN WASTE, WOOD, METAL ITEMS
SUCH AS POTS AND PANS, CARDBOARD, PAPER
AND SHREDDED PAPER, SMALL ELECTRICAL
ITEMS SUCH AS IRONS, TOASTERS, AND HAIR
DRYERS.
NON HAZARDOUS WASTE.
NO TVS OR WHITE GOODS CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

**WITTERINGS MOBILE REFUSE SITE -
MARINE DRIVE CAR PARK—
OTHER ALTERNATE THURSDAYS.**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
2nd WEDNESDAYS**

**No meeting August and December
Annual Parish Meeting
4th Wednesday in May
in the Church Hall at 7 pm**

Planning included in above meetings.
Details of Planning to be discussed can be
obtained from Alison Colban, parish clerk,
details on this page.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

MARTIN MELLODEY - CHAIR
01243 649075
martinmellodey@hotmail.co.uk

NICK WADE - VICE CHAIR
CORINA HALL MARY MONNINGTON
ADRIAN HARLAND TRACEY PARSONS
LEWIS RAMM TRICIA TULL
DAVID GUEST

For information about the Parish, the Parish Council, agenda's minutes, notices of events, information from CDC and WSCC, SCA, Neighbourhood plan etc
www.sidlesham.org

**Chichester Farmers' Market Location: Town Centre
Time: 9.00 - 14.00 1st and 3rd Friday of each month**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



THE ANCHOR IS OPEN EVERY DAY

TELEPHONE 641 373 FOR DETAILS OR TO MAKE A BOOKING

PUT FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9TH IN YOUR DIARIES FOR OUR BURNS NIGHT IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

SIDLESHAM MEMORIAL HALL WEBSITE

This website is now up and running and the address is:
www.sidleshammemorialhall.co.uk



**TALKS AT 6 - THURSDAYS - BETWEEN 6 AND 7PM
BASSIL SHIPPAM CENTRE - TOZER WAY, PO19 7LG**

Book on line bookings@talksatsix.co.uk
Retiring collection for Speaker's choice of charity
Organised by Marilyn Humphrey

Thursday 25th January 2024 - FOOD WASTE

Donna Martin will talk about food waste and how to reduce it. The chosen charity will be UK Harvest - who protect the environment by rescuing good food destined for landfill, to educate on nutrition, cookery skills and fight food waste in the home

**Thursday 1st February – A CRIME IN RHYME
by Simon Brett.** This is a humorous one-man show, written and performed by Simon. It affectionately sends up all the clichés of so-called Golden Age of whodunnits. Lovers of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers will find a lot they recognize in the show. Chosen Charity: NSPCC

We do hope you can come to all or any of the above at **Bassil Shippam Centre, Tozer Way, PO19 7LG at 6-7pm**, please book on line bookings@talksatsix.co.uk or see the full programme on www.talksatsix.co.uk

Football fixtures at the Sidlesham Recreation Ground



SMRG Football (30th December onwards)

Sa 30 Dec: Infinity vs Fleet Spurs - 14:00 main pitch

Tu 02 Jan: Infinity U23 vs Hedge End Rangers U23 - 19:45 ko

(Sa 06 Jan: No matches)

Su 07 Jan: CC U13 girls vs Cuckfield Cosmos U13 Girls - 10:00 junior pitch

Su 07 Jan: Selsey u16's boys - 10:30 main pitch

Su 07 Jan: BRTW Res vs Hawks Women - 14:00 main pitch

Tu 09 Jan: Clanfield U23 vs Romsey Town U23 - 19:45 ko

(Sa 13 Jan: No matches)

Su 14 Jan: Selsey u16's boys (cup semi-final) - 10:30 main pitch

Tu 16 Jan: Clanfield U23 vs Infinity U23 - 19:45 ko

(Sa 20 Jan: No matches)

Su 21 Jan: BRTW Res vs Worthing Town Women - 14:00 main pitch

Tu 23 Jan: Clanfield U23 vs Lymington Town U23 - 19:45 ko

(Sa 27 Jan: No matches)

Su 28 Jan: CC U13 girls vs Hurstpierpoint Colts U13 Girls - 10:00 jun pitch

Su 25 Feb: BRTW Res vs East Preston Women - 14:00 main pitch

Su 10 Mar: BRTW Res vs Eastbourne Town Women DS - 14:00 main pitch

Su 17 Mar: CC U13 girls vs Hassocks Juniors U13 WSG - 10:00 junior pitch

Su 17 Mar: BRTW Res vs Mile Oak Women's - 14:00 main pitch

Su 24 Mar: CC U13 girls vs BRT Youth U13 Girls White - 10:00 junior pitch



THE MONDAY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PARTY.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC EVENING WITH THE SCHOOL, THE MONDAY CHOIR AND THE SINGALONGERS.

If you would like to help with ideas and/or organising events at the Sidlesham Memorial Centre and Grounds you would be very welcome, the more the merrier.

RNIB

In January I will be very pleased to collect them from you.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS FOR US

Many thanks

Dorothy email:

dorothyroberts50@gmail.com

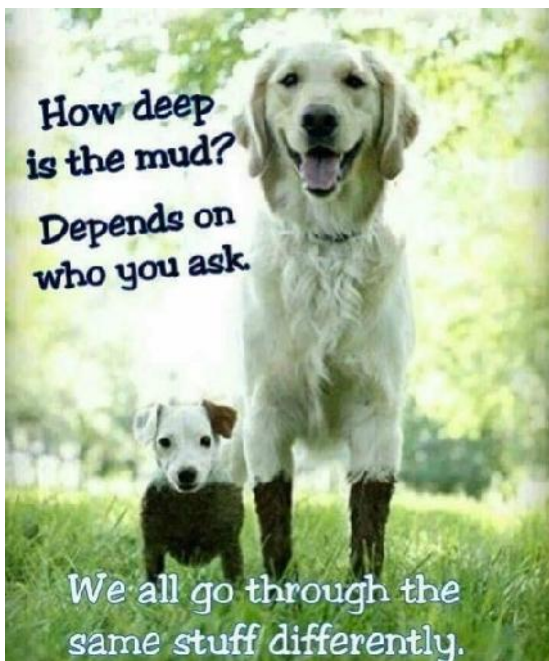
You can always pass them to Wendy Devonshire if that is easier.



Used stamps are a great way to raise funds for our charity. Hopefully you will be receiving Christmas cards in the post in the next month. Please, if they have stamps on the envelopes, trim off any excess paper leaving a border of about 1cm around the stamp.



Seen in National Trust property in Durham



Just wait a second - so what you're telling me is that my chance of surviving all this, is directly linked to the Common Sense of others?

A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

ENGLISH IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU DRIVE IN PARKWAYS AND PARK IN DRIVEWAYS.

IT'S ALSO THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU RECITE IN A PLAY AND PLAY IN A RECITAL.

YOUR FINGERS HAVE FINGERTIPS BUT YOUR TOES DON'T HAVE TOETIPS.

YET, YOU CAN TIPTOE BUT NOT TIFINGER.

THE WORD **QUEUE** IS JUST A **Q** FOLLOWED BY FOUR SILENT LETTERS.

JAIL AND **PRISON** ARE SYNONYMS. BUT **JAILER** AND **PRISONER** ARE ANTONYMS.

WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY CAR, IT'S CALLED A **SHIPMENT**. BUT WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY SHIP, IT'S CALLED **CARGO**.

HOUSES WITH A STORY TO TELL (13)

Pondtail Cottage Story told by Colin Field – **Thanks Colin**

Junction of Rookery Lane (leading to The Crab and Lobster) and the B2145, Selsey Road

It was August in the long hot drought summer of 1976 when a heavily pregnant Chris together with myself, arrived at Kosy Nook, aka Pondtail Cottage, having moved from Amersham in Buckinghamshire, both still in our 20s.

Chris had seen a primitive homemade 'For Sale' sign when she did a local reccy looking for somewhere for us to live while I visited the Boys High School in Chichester prior to taking up my post in September.

Walt and Dolly Spies seemed very elderly to us then! They were emigrating to Australia to join their children. They felt it written in the stars that we should succeed them at the cottage as their son and daughter were also names Colin and Christine. What a coincidence! Dolly and Waly had previously been the landlords of The Crab and Lobster. When Dolly's parents passed away, she and Walt had taken possession of the cottage. As Dolly told us, the member of the family who got on their bike first and got to the house first, got the house! No-one could afford solicitors who were, in any case, held in awe and suspicion. Dolly and Walt were very worried when we appointed a solicitor and started talking about mortgages and, when we had a survey done, they decided that we must definitely be trying to trick them! We're pleased to say that they came to trust us and we parted very good friends.

Dolly's parent's Mrs Yetman, had gained possession of the cottage in 1919 through Mrs Yetman's mother, Mrs Mant and partially rebuilt it. We have found out quite recently that a Mr Edward Mant was living here in the 1860s - so through either the male or female line, the same family had been in possession for at least 90 years. We have now lived here 47 years and so in roughly 140 years our cottage appears to have been home to only two families.

The name of Pondtail Cottage may not be self-explanatory to some. Edward Mant is recorded as being at 'Millpond Tail. In other words, the cottage sat at the tail end of the old tidal mill pond. The end of our garden still disappears under water most winters and we continue to refer to it as 'the withy bed', just as did the Spiers. When we bought the cottage we were given a copy of a sworn affidavit stating how the 'withy bed' came to be with the property. Dolly stated that she witnessed that at sometime prior to 1932 the owner of Mill Farm Sidlesham, a Mr Kelly, said to her father, "I don't want it, Mr Yetman, and you can have it. I will alter my plans accordingly."

Older maps show us as 'Mill Pond Cottage' but Dolly's parents renamed it the toe-curling 'Kosy Nook', while we were immediately keen to change it back. Naively, we approached the Post Office for permission which they refused. In their opinion there were already too many 'Mill' prefixes to house names in Sidlesham and so we must choose something else. We settled for the compromise of Pondtail Cottage, a name of which we have grown very fond. We thought we would be tactful and not change the name until we were sure that Dolly and Walt had

left the country as we didn't want to upset them. However, Dolly's cousin who knew other folk in Sidlesham soon found out and wrote and told Dolly we had changed the name of the cottage. One morning a letter bearing an Australian postmark dropped on the mat. Dolly had heard and had written. 'I hear you have changed the name of the cottage. I always meant to but never got round to it. I hated 'Kosy Nook'. Well done!'

Often people are curious as to why we occupy both sides of Rookery Lane. We understand that much of the land was already with the cottage back as far as the 1830s when it was shown on records as an orchard. We are very proud that the occupier of the cottage in the 1831 census was listed as a 'castrator'!! How many people can claim that in the history of their house? Walt Spiers added the 'top plot' in a purchase in 1946. Walt was a part-time pig farmer and thus we have some of the old 'jerry built' pig buildings etc which we still use for various purposes. The feeding troughs can still be seen at the edge of our carparking area but are now used to grow some flowers.

In our early years at Pondtail we had long chats with the retired and elderly farmer from Redgate Farm. Arthur Earwicker had restricted mobility due to rampant arthritis but he regularly travelled up from Shotford Manor in Mill Lane to our corner in an early mobility scooter. He remembered the Mant's of the 1890s being thatchers and that a thatched flint barn then stood roughly where our 'Games Room' now stands. What a sad loss! We still have a thatcher's knife and wimbrel found around the place soon after we moved in. He remembered the original cottage being as being in a very poor state prior to the partial rebuild undertaken by Dolly's parents soon after WW 1.

We also have a connection to the Manhood and Selsey Tramway, 'The Selsey Tram'. Our tip of Rookery Lane was the site of Mill Pond Halt. We think the tramway may have passed through our boundary as we have dug up old fish plates used to bolt together the track and the walls of the animal stalls in the old cart shed are lined with timber from the old coal stores.

As newcomers in 1976, we were enthralled with all the land and space that we had. Walt and Dolly had sold flowers and vegetables 'at the gate'. We also threw ourselves into the 'Good Life', growing vegetables & tomatoes, keeping goats, chickens, ducks and geese. All have gradually faded away over the years. The cottage itself was a challenge when we first moved in to be very soon joined by a new born baby and no running hot water, no heating, rotten floors, pictures hung at very unusual levels to cover areas where the plaster had fallen off to contend with. We have raised our 3 daughters here and all have very fond memories of their childhood here in Sidlesham. The B2145 was quite quiet 47 years ago but, despite the traffic on it now, we remain very attached to our little corner of Sidlesham.

Story told by Colin Field – **Thanks Colin**

Does your House have a Story to Tell?

Billm89@hotmail.com

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

THE BIG GARDEN

BIRDWATCH:

26TH – 28TH JANUARY



For some, January can seem like a long, uneventful month. For others this is a time full of winter's charm: the low sun and subtle colours, the bare skeletal trees, those magical frosty mornings - and maybe even some snow. For birds, this is the time of year when food is scarce and they are more likely to venture into our gardens to feed; and this is why January is the month the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch is held – an annual event in which we ask people to spend an hour in their garden, balcony or local park and count the birds they see.

So why should you get involved? As it is always at the same time of year, it gives us a snapshot of bird numbers which can be compared from year to year, providing valuable data on the success and decline of different species. The Big Garden Birdwatch raises awareness of the environmental issues which impact our birdlife. If you have children or grandchildren, it's the perfect opportunity to spark their curiosity in wildlife, learn about birds and hopefully foster an interest in protecting our environment.

How can you help local bird populations? Firstly, you

can put up bird feeders in different areas of your garden or balcony, preferably away any predators such as cats. Peanuts, mealworms, niger seeds, sunflower seeds and suet balls are favourites, and what you offer will determine the kind of birds you encourage. A key point to remember with bird feeders is to clean them on a regular basis; this will discourage the spread of disease. Clean, fresh water to drink and bathe in will also help birds, especially in the winter. To find out more about how you can attract birds to your garden, take a look at the RSPB website.

Alice McDougall

The Big Garden Birdwatch is an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the RSPB's work – and everyone can get involved. For further details and how to register visit:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>



[caption: 2154991.jpg]The humble house sparrow was the number one bird in our gardens in last year's RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch but even this common bird is much less common than it was – its population has declined by a staggering 60% in the last fifty years.

[Credit: Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)]

THE CAT AND RABBIT RESCUE CENTRE



Hello, it's me Tails, the out-and-about reporter for The Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre.

In my article this month, I am excited to tell you about the journey of our newest arrivals. In December we were contacted by a rescue who works with stray cats in Oman to see if we could help to take some in. Being at a quieter time of year my staff happily agreed to save some of these lovely cats. Working with the rescue my staff agreed we could take twelve cats at The Centre.

It was such a long journey for these cats but it was so worth it for them to finally have the chance of a real loving home. They travelled nearly 8 hours on a plane to get to the UK, then from the rescues base in Plymouth they

came to us in Sidlesham. Thankfully, they all arrived safe and sound and are now settling in with us. As they came from another rescue they are already neutered, vaccinated and microchipped, all they will need from us is a health check and a couple will need dentals. Some of the cats are really friendly but for some it is taking a bit more time for them to settle in and they are still a bit nervous. Quite often the rescue is full with cats from our local area but I am pleased that being a little quieter in the winter meant they we were able to help these gorgeous cats. I can't wait to see them find their forever homes soon.

See you next time.

Love

Tails x

P.S Please keep an eye on our website www.crrc.co.uk and our Facebook page for all the latest news and info regarding Rehoming and Centre Life.

INSIDE THE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

IN JANUARY



Happy New Year from the team and animals at Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital, we hope you all had a very merry Christmas! It was a busy time for the hospital team. Our patients must be cared for 365 days a year - our work cannot stop even during the holiday seasons. We have had a range of animals admitted to Brent Lodge over the winter already, but our most common patients at this time of year are still hundreds of hedgehogs of all shapes, sizes and varying levels of health. These poor little hogs are often found struggling to successfully hibernate due to climate change, habitat loss and natural food sources dwindling, but we hope with the help of our amazing team, that they will soon be strong enough to be released back to their local habitats in the spring.

PATIENT STORY

One little hedgehog came into us over the Christmas period weighing just 71 grams. He initially received treatment from Grove Lodge Veterinary Clinic but was then transferred to us for ongoing care and treatment to aid his recovery and growth. As he is so small and unable to survive this bitterly cold winter alone, he will stay with us inside the hospital. Once he is at a healthy weight, stronger, and the days become warmer we can prepare him for release. A healthy adult hedgehog should



weigh over 500g, so he has a little 'weigh' to go yet!

HELPING BRENT LODGE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

If you are looking for a fun way to support our vital work, we would be incredibly grateful if you would please consider organising a fundraising event in aid of Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital. The rising cost of patient foods, medicines and animal care means we are in need of your support to keep these patients cared for and well fed. Ideas could include wildlife-themed fancy-dress days, cake or lemonade stands, raffles, sponsored walks, etc. As well as being a fun and rewarding day you also make a real difference knowing you've helped a small charity and lots of beautiful animals. If you would be interested in supporting us, please email alex.foster@brentlodge.org with your ideas and I would be delighted to help! If you would like us to visit or attend your school or community fundraiser, please email me (Alex, above) too, and I would love to come and meet you all to discuss the brilliant work we do and make your fundraiser a great success.

Please always feel free to call us if you need any advice/assistance with wildlife enquiries or how to support us.

By Alex Foster, Education Outreach Coordinator

For more information and tips, please visit our website or contact us on the details below.

Web: www.brentlodge.org **Tel:** 01243 641672 **Email:** enquiries@brentlodge.org

FRIENDS OF SELSEY MEDICAL CENTRE NEED YOU!



The Surgery is extremely fortunate to have the valuable support of such a dedicated group of volunteers as the Friends of Selsey Medical Centre.

The Friends raise money from membership fees and donations to provide additional and improved facilities at the Centre over and above those provided by the NHS, for the benefit of all patients in Selsey and the wider community.

On 2 December members of the Committee took a stall at the Selsey Community Forum Christmas Fayre in the Town Hall. We held a raffle with five substantial prizes and welcomed 11 new Friends willing to support the Medical Centre. The raffle was well received and made a valuable contribution to our funds.

Friends Committee members running the raffle and talking to prospective new Friends

This autumn the Friends have undertaken to cover the costs of Building Alterations to the surgery to accommodate two new staff and make better use of space for existing staff. This involves creation of a stock room, changing an office into a clinic room and the conversion of a small room into an office. It is hoped this work can all be completed by Christmas, helping further improve our patients' experience.

Furthermore we are contributing for another year towards the Community Advisor who is available every Thursday at the Surgery and otherwise at the Care Shop. She assists **any local**

individual with non-medical issues, such as finance, form-filling, employment and general advice. This service ensures that as many local people as possible receive free, professional assistance with their personal administration and problem-solving.

All funds raised are used to benefit the patients at the surgery, whilst committee members give their time freely. The Friends are always keen to attract new members to support the surgery.

If you would like to support the Friends from as little as £5 per year, you will find membership forms at the surgery. Otherwise please phone 01243 606328 and talk to our Membership Secretary, who will welcome your call!

TLH 2/24





Latest News from St Wilfrid's Hospice December 2023

Pay for a Day

It costs £26,000 per day to provide specialist end of life care for people in our community and to support their families and loved ones. With an additional day next February, St Wilfrid's would love for you to be a Leap Year Legend and help pay for an extra day of vital care for those in your community.

Whether you take on a fundraising challenge, host a coffee morning or simply help spread the word, your support will help to provide an entire day's worth of the Hospice services. Also, every pound raised up to the £26,000 will be doubled, thanks to our generous match funders so you can make double the impact.

Help Pay for a Day this February:

www.stwh.co.uk/payforaday

Get Active

With 2024 upon us, you may have set some New Year's resolutions to be more active.

A good way to make sure you stick to your goal is by getting active in support of a charity. Having people sponsor you and raising money that will help provide care to a patient is the perfect motivator to make sure you don't give up this year's resolutions.

Whether it's taking on a marathon, jumping out of a plane or simply joining our Moonlight Walk, St Wilfrid's has lots of events you can get involved in. We would also love for you to set your own challenges and raise money this year.

Get inspiration on how to raise money this year:

www.stwh.co.uk/getactive

Volunteer this New Year

Why not #GiveALittle time this New Year to help make a difference to local lives.

Volunteering with St Wilfrid's is a great way to give back to the community, as it is a place close to many

people's hearts and has supported so many. Whether you join our shops, help on the Ward or keep our gardens beautiful, volunteering with us is a great way to support an important cause.

Your time, no matter what area you volunteer in, will help the Hospice continue to provide high-quality care and compassion to people suffering from life-limiting illnesses.

See how you can help us here:

www.stwh.co.uk/volunteer-vacancies

Moonlight Walk 2024

Looking to get out more this New Year? Maybe aiming for 10,000 steps a day?

St Wilfrid's Moonlight Walk returns this June 15th, inviting the local community to take on an in-memory walk to support local hospice care. This is a great way to get active, and hit your new goal while raising vital funds, to support the end-of-life care St Wilfrid's provides.

Get your early bird ticket here:

www.stwh.co.uk/moonlight

Make a Will Fortnight

Did you know only 4 in 10 people have written their Wills? If you're not one of them, why not think about making your Will in 2024.

This March 11th – 22nd, local solicitors are helping to support St Wilfrid's Hospice and the local community.

During this fortnight you are invited to get your Will written with one of the participating solicitors. Instead of their usual Will writing fee, the solicitors ask that you instead donate to the Hospice. This donation will help support St Wilfrid's Hospice to continue to provide expert care and compassion to local lives.

There is no expectation for you to remember St Wilfrid's Hospice in your Will, however, we would be incredibly grateful if you did consider leaving us a gift. One in four of our patients' care is funded through gifts left in Wills by our kind supporters.

Keep an eye on our website and socials for more!



An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!". The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered

why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat. A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed. The moral of the story? If you're going to have a senior moment... make it memorable.

MUTTERINGS of the Motortrade

Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope it's a good one. If we survive the threat of a global escalation of conflicts that are constantly erupting and continuing around the world, we may have a chance. Has there ever been a more volatile time than is the current situation? China/Taiwan, Russia/Ukraine, Israel/Palestine. Not to mention many other tension led situations around the world. The Middle East in particular is a pot that is close to boiling.

On a more frivolous note, we may have an election year ahead of us and can we really stand another round of politicians slating each other using the media of TV to perpetrate this gesturing. I sincerely hope it's not like the last election. Nigel Farage fresh from the Jungle is likely to appear once more as a candidate and in the face of such weak and unelected leadership could once again rock the establishment. The whole world is experiencing the mass migration, and illegal migrants are not just a cross channel issue, and how any country can financially cope with hundreds of thousands of migrants is a challenge the whole of Europe is having to contend with. America is being swamped by a Biden open door policy so much so that tourist migrants from South America and even the Chinese are flying in so they can then legally cross the border from Mexico to the USA. South Africa is sinking in migrants. I suppose somewhere down the line we are all migrants but this was normally a transition that takes 50 years or more, the sudden need for housing and schools etc and all the other infrastructure required is putting many nations to the test. Glad it's them instead of me, as it says in the song.

You can't keep taxing those of us that are still working. We

need better, cheaper housing not only for migrants but our own children and grandchildren too.

The housing situation is a constant issue. Build too many, too fast and we have flooding and sewage overload issues. Who can get a doctors appointment? When all the answer phone messages start with 'we don't tolerate abuse', you know we have a big problem with local services. A lot of things we have always expected and been used to don't exist anymore. What we need is more information on how to source this information and treatment. But everyone being forced into private medical schemes is not the answer. Dentists are a major issue, as is education. Who can solve all these problems? Children start school and are not potty trained. No wonder there's a shortage of teachers. Who wants to deal with that? Most new teachers don't even have children of their own, so they can't cope with it. What with all the other issues with education, how come many can't read and write properly after 10 or more years at school. Never mind worrying about METS. Sort out the ABC.

I would run for election myself if it wasn't for the Witness Protection Programme I'm on. Need to keep a low profile.

Hope it's not too political. More on the actual Motortrade next month.

Stay on the Blackstuff
Graham Porrett
Sidlesham Garage Ltd
01243 641391

"My goodness Graham, are you a close relative of Richard Wilson in One Foot in the Grave? Definitely a rant not a mutter this month.

Mind you, when you concentrate on all that's wrong with the world, it is extremely depressing. I limit my news watching/listening to midday so I don't wake up depressed and don't go to bed feeling hopeless. Thank goodness there are so many nice people in the world as well. Pity they aren't in power, but I think that 'in power' and 'nice' don't very often go together.

Anyway, you stay on the blackstuff (but not in your mind) and we look forward to some more of your more gentle mutterings in February.

Ed.

SOME LOCAL POLITICS

You may be aware that there are plans afoot to expand Medmerry Park into more of a developed 'play area' which will change its present unspoilt and natural state.

The Planning application is 23/01967/FULEIA

One of our readers has an eye for detail and can pick out discrepancies particularly when the details are carefully written in a rather opaque way. I shall try and precis some of his comments for you to consider if you wish to.

Number of lodges will be the same but larger with provision for more occupants, and expand into the adjacent green fields which are used by birds who frequent the RSPB reserve. Environmental Report para 3.1.5. The height of the new buildings will be 9 metres AOD (above ordnance datum) because of the flood risk issues the land is to be raised to 4.41 metres AOD.

/cont'd next page

The roofs have skylights and large areas of glass in the ceiling end elevations and with lights on the fountains in the lakes will create light pollution. This will impact on open views from the new footpath which only opened in October 2023 and has been named King Charles III coastal path. The views northward, from the shingle bank coastal path and looking westward from the path on the Medmerry earth bund will be impacted by these new tall buildings in the green field.

There is a Legal agreement which prohibits people entering those fields during four months of the year when birds use it. How then can it be possible to allow building on these fields. 00368/FUL.

This, as well as planned increase of 70 full time employees making 100 in all will increase the number of cars on our very busy B roads. The number of parking spaces for visitors alone is set to increase from 282 to 616.

Access to the site is down a very narrow lane which is also a public footpath. During construction, the extra traffic, particularly the HGVs going up and down will represent a real danger.




What do you call a monkey in a mine field?
A babooooom!

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