
Shipley Parish News

December 2025 / January 2026



St. Mary the Virgin in Shipley, West Sussex,
prepared for Remembrance Sunday 2025
Read more on Pages 3, 12 and 18

Parish church directory

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Poppy Appeal 2025

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed generously to this year's Poppy Appeal. We raised just under £1500. Thank you to our local schools, Shipley and William Penn, our local pubs, the Countryman, the George and Dragon and especially the Selsey Arms, which held its own Remembrance Sunday commemoration, the Church for donating

the Remembrance Sunday collection, the Scouts, the Knepp Wilding shop, the Andrew Hall and Debbie Cannons who went door to door in the village. All the money raised will go towards offering practical help, support and guidance to veterans, serving personnel and their families. By Lucy West



St Mary the Virgin Church, Shipley

Welcome to our latest issue of the Shipley Parish News. St Mary the Virgin, Shipley is a friendly and active church community with lots going on throughout the year. We hold a **10am Holy Communion Service each Sunday**, followed by coffee, and all are welcome. There is also a **midweek service at 10.30am on Wednesdays**.

The church is open every day during daylight hours, so if you wish to enter for quiet reflection, please feel free to do so.

If you feel the need to talk to someone, Revd Chris would be happy to speak with you, please call him on 01403 432813.



For more information about what's on, please go to www.shipley.church

Polite parking request

A number of the regular members of the congregation have mobility problems and it would be appreciated if the spaces on the road, adjacent to the commemorative bench, nearest to the Church could be left free for them on Sundays.

Parking is available for the able-bodied, both in the School Lane car park, before the Windmill and also the car park adjoining the flats at the end of Church Close.

Thank you for your co operation.

Parish church email database

We continue to set up a database of email addresses for the Parish, to keep you informed about what is going on at Shipley Church, share news and let you know about fundraising and events.

If you would like to sign up, please email Chris at Vicar@Shipley.Church.

Note: In sharing your details, you will be giving us permission to use your personal data solely for the purposes of communicating about church life and events, in accordance with data protection laws.

Church calendar

Date	Celebration	Service	Time	Reader	Reading	Intercessions	Sidesperson
Sunday 30 th Nov	Advent Sunday	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Colin West	Isaiah 2: 1-5	Lucy West	Colin West
Sunday 7 th Dec	Advent 2	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Nigel Jupp	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Amanda Jupp	Nigel Jupp
Sunday 14 th Dec	Advent 3	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Janet Ruff	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Eve Kenny	Richard Killner
Sunday 21 st Dec	Advent 4	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Erica Smale	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Robert Ebdon	Richard Killner
			Carol Service	6:00 to 7:00pm	As sheet	---	
Wdsday 24 th Dec	Christmas Eve	Crib Service & Nativity Tableau	5:00 to 6:00pm	---	As sheet	---	Richard Killner
Thsday 25 th Dec	Christmas Day	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Fenella Warren	Titus 3: 4-7	Amanda Jupp	Neil Warren
Sunday 28 th Dec	Sunday after Christmas	Said Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	John Kenny	Isaiah 63: 7-9	Claire Searle	Richard Killner
Thsday 1 st Jan	The Feast of the Naming of Jesus	Eucharist	12:00 to 1:00pm				
Sunday 4 th Jan	The Epiphany	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Philip Jordan	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Gavin Kenny	Philip Jordan
Sunday 11 th Jan	The Baptism of The Lord	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Harriet Anniss	Acts 10: 34-43	Robert Ebdon	Claire Ebdon
Sunday 18 th Jan	Epiphany 2	Family Service	10:00 to 10:35am	Katie Kenny	TBA		
			Said Eucharist	11:00 to 11:30am	N/A	N/A	
Sunday 25 th Jan	Epiphany 3	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Janet Ruff	Isaiah 9: 1-4	Eve Kenny	
Sunday 1 st Feb	Epiphany 4	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Erica Smale	Micah 6: 1-8	Gavin Kenny	
Sunday 8 th Feb	2nd Sunday before Lent	Sung Eucharist	10:00 to 11:00am	Colin West	Isaiah 58: 1-12	Lucy West	Colin West

We are always looking for anyone to get involved with readings, leading Intercessions or acting as a Sidesperson. It's fun to be part of things. Please let us know, we're always here. By Richard Killner | churchwarden@shipley.church | 07970 781874

The Vicar's letter

Dear Friends.

Advent begins just as November closes, on Advent Sunday, 30th November. Advent, at the beginning of Winter, brings news of God's mercies which are new every morning. In Advent we hear how God planned to break into the seemingly endless cycle of the years with a new, once and for all event, the arrival of the Word made flesh, who would start a new era and a new way of considering time itself. All history now has a goal, a purpose, and He is making us ready every day to be part of that final realisation of his will, on earth as it is in heaven.

So as we face another winter, be lifted in spirit by the thought that not only is Christmas coming, but that this world is moving ever closer to its goal, the final consummation when God will be all in all. That's why Advent begins with powerful images of the last days and the end of the world to help us consider God's active role in history. In other words, Advent brings hope, hope in the birth of Jesus Christ which it foretells, but also hope that time is not an everlasting, meaningless repetition of seasons and years, but is moving towards the goal intend by its Creator. Therefore, when we come to celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ we have some awareness of what his birth means for us and for the world.

We are hoping that parking will be eased for the Advent and Christmas period for well attended services, by means of the field we use for parking. Because of work done earlier in the year there is a hard core spine along the middle of the field, with



netting either side to provide parking for a large number of cars. This means that the field can now be used throughout the year. So, if it is open, please consider the field as an option for parking when coming to the Church for any event or service.

One of the great joys of the Advent and Christmas season is the strengthening of our links with the wider community. The Scouts are holding their Christingle on Friday 5th December, and the School is having theirs on Thursday 18th December. And then, on Christmas Eve, the Crib Service, at 5pm, sees a huge attendance from many families in the parish and beyond. These events, involving the younger generation, are very important moments for our outward-looking mission and are ways in which the Gospel can be presented in a lively and enjoyable manner. Again, the Carol Service, which was very well attended last year, attracts a wide cross section of local people and we hope the same will be true this year. It will be on Sunday 21st December at 6pm. Our thanks are due to all those who year by year are involved with the organisation and

The Vicar's letter cont...

presentation of these special events. On 25th December we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ at 10am. It's a Christmas Eucharist on Christmas morning for the whole parish at which all are welcome. 25th December is actually the beginning of the Christmas season, during which the mystery of the birth and revealing of the Son of God is unfolded. New Year's Day, 1st January, is actually the Feast of the Naming of Jesus on the eighth day after his birth, when he was given the name Jesus, meaning God saves. There will be a Eucharist at 12 noon on that day. Sunday 4th January will be kept as the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, celebrating

the visit of the Wise Men. Finally, Sunday 11th January is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord when the story reaches its culmination with the baptism of Jesus and his anointing with the Holy Spirit for his saving mission to the world.

We pray that the parish of Shipley may play an ever deepening part in this mission which has been bequeathed to the Church by Jesus himself

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Your friend and parish priest

Chris

Learner Bell Ringers Wanted!

The Bell ringers at Shipley have two spaces for new ringers.

Bell ringing is an unusual skill that helps with your memory, concentration and social skills. For younger ringers, it can also be used as a skill for your DofE!

There is also the opportunity to join the active Sussex Young Ringers Band if you wish. Shipley have two Young Ringers Members and there are monthly practices around the county at different towers for all under 18s. And it's free – nothing to pay!

Older learners are also welcome, of course.

It is a friendly and supportive community where all are welcome.

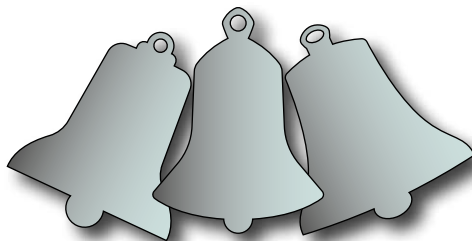
Practice is Wednesday at 19:30 to 21:00 at Shipley Church.

Earlier times for additional handling sessions can be arranged.

For more information, please call Bell Captain Simon Meyer on 01403 741131 or 07494 511533

Or Young Ringers Member Zach on 07949 712025

By Gina French Larcombe



Christmas Services 2025

Sunday 21 Dec

10am | Sung Eucharist

6pm | Carol Service

Wednesday 24 Dec

Christmas Eve

**5pm | Crib Service
and Nativity Tableau**

Thursday 25 Dec

Christmas Day

**10am | Sung Eucharist
of Christmas Day**

Sunday 28 Dec

10am | Said Eucharist

Thursday 1 Jan

New Years Day

**12noon | The Eucharist
of the Feast of the
Naming of Jesus**

Sunday 4 Jan

**10am | Sung Eucharist
of The Epiphany**

Contact Rev Chris Allen, Vicar For Further details



Church cleaning rota

Saturday 22 nd November	Claire S and Sarah
Saturday 6 th December	Liz and Claire E
Saturday 20 th December	Lucy and Ros
Saturday 3 rd January	Ginny, Annabel and Amanda
Saturday 17 th January	Claire S and Sarah
Saturday 31 st January	Liz and Claire E
Saturday 14 th February	Lucy and Ros

Thank you everyone for your help.
If anyone would like to join the rota, please get in touch.
By Lucy West T: 01403 741912

Flower rota

	Altar Vases	Memorials
Saturday 29 th Nov to 20 th Dec	ADVENT – No Flowers	
Saturday 20 th December	Team to decorate Church for Christmas	
Saturday 3 rd and 10 th January	Liz	Lucy
Saturday 17 th and 24 th January	Colette	Hariot
Saturday 31 st Jan and 7 th Feb	Katie	Kathy

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Michael and Flic for the many times they have decorated the Church with their poppies for Remembrance Sunday. Sadly, they were unable to do so this year and they have kindly donated the poppies to the Church for further use in years to come. Thank you!

If you need help or wish to change the above dates, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are looking for more volunteers to help with flower arranging so if you would like to join the team, please contact me.

Hariot Annis T: 01403 741227 | M: 07402 916801 | E: hariotanniss@hotmail.co.uk
Jane Grinling T: 01403 741768

By Hariot Annis and Jane Grinling

Bell Tower News

Two quarter peals to report. The first was conducted by 17 year old Zach who is now getting to grips with the responsibility of conducting. The second quarter was rung by Sussex Young Ringers in Burgess Hill. The band were all under 18 years old and Zach was participating.

Sussex County Association

Shipley, West Sussex, St Mary the Virgin Sunday, 7 September 2025 in 41m (9–1–4 in A), 1260 Plain Doubles (4m) 300: St Simon's 240: St Martin's, Eynesbury 480: St Osmund's

- 1 Susan P Meyer
- 2 Gina French-Larcombe
- 3 Claire Searle
- 4 Jocelyn Mountain
- 5 Zach J A Johnston (C)
- 6 Simon S Meyer

Sussex County Association

Burgess Hill, West Sussex, St John the Evangelist, Tuesday, 28 October 2025 in 42m (14–2–26 in F#), 1260 Doubles (4m) 300 Grandsire, 240 St Simon's, 240 St Martin's & 480 Plain Bob

- 1 Christopher Lomas
- 2 Isla R Beckingham
- 3 Archie D P Morley
- 4 Zach J A Johnston
- 5 Luca G Greenslade (C)
- 6 Abigail E Hayes

First Quarter Peal - 6 (Well done Abi! Most Methods to a QP - 3 Rung by Sussex Young Ringers, band aged fully under 18. On the Back Six).

This performance included a first quarter-peal ringer on bell 6.

Shipley visits Tewkesbury

On Friday 24th October we set off for Tewkesbury and settled in to our hotel.

Saturday morning we climbed the steps to the ringing room in Pershore Abbey – not for the faint-hearted! The ringing room was a metal cage suspended from the tower ceiling and accessed by spiral wrought iron steps! After that it was lunch (and a stiff drink!) followed by St. Andrew's in Pershore and St. Nicholas in Earls Croome.



Sunday began with a beautiful walk along the banks of the Severn to St. Mary in Deerhurst and in the fields along the way, we were so fortunate to see a calf moments old struggling to its feet as the mother licked and nudged it. Wonderful! Then back to Tewkesbury for a tapas lunch before a tour of the Hidden Spaces in Tewkesbury Abbey and ringing in the large 12 bell chamber.

Bell Tower News cont...

Monday was spent at St Nicholas in Ashchurch followed by churches in Tirley and Ashleworth. Both of the latter churches have been regularly affected by severe flooding and we were treated to a talk in both churches explaining the extent of the damage and the measures being taken to minimise to future damage.



A wonderful opportunity to ring in a variety of towers and visit some of the most beautiful places in England. Our thanks to Rebecca Meyer for organising the tour so thoroughly and thoughtfully.



Tewkesbury Abbey



By Gina French Larcombe

Remembrance Sunday 2025

You know the feeling when someone says *"I've got an idea."* People hide or just leave because they realise that they are late to go and wash the goldfish...

Anyway, about a year or more ago, an annoying person uttered that scary phrase! Wouldn't it be great if we had a cascading swathe of poppies pouring down over the pulpit...

Anyway, it was too late for last year but this year, it was said again.. This time with more conviction!

So, the material mesh was purchased and a group of willing ladies agreed to make said poppies.... Knitting needles and crochet hooks were flailing through multiple balls of wool... and a plethora of poppies were suddenly produced!

On the morning of November 4th, mesh, clips and poppies were joined in harmony, and hopefully you are all impressed with the result.

Of course, this would be accompanied by the wonderful displays on the two War Memorials and the Altar..

Well done and a HUGE Thank you to all involved.

By Richard Killner



Hello from your editor

Welcome to our December & January edition!

Greetings All. As always, I hope that our latest issue finds you all well, happy and looking forward to some festive fun and time spent with loved ones.

In this issue we've got details of the last Shipley Community Hub of 2025 on page 30, on Tuesday 2nd December, one not to be missed. Details of all the Christmas church services are on page 8. And welcome to Alex Jeffery from Horsham District Council with updates on page 22.

And as always, I'd love to hear from anybody who like to submit an article, story, anecdote, memoir, recipe, puzzle, news or details of an event. And any organisations,

services or groups which offer help, support or companionship who are looking to promote themselves, please let me know. All I need is your words, and any pictures, and I'll do the rest. Please email me at: magazine@shipley.church.

As I write my final welcome for 2025, I want to send a massive THANK YOU to everybody who has contributed to the Parish News this year, for the articles, the updates, the photographs, and of course, to our printers, past and present.

And please remember... Stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected and look after one another. Teresa

Publication	Submission deadline
February / March	14 th January 2026
April / May	14 th March 2026
June / July	14 th May 2026

Defibrillators - Where's your nearest?

We have seven defibrillators around the parish and it's good to know where they are sited. As Shipley is widely dispersed, the nearest may be found at the following locations:

- Andrew Hall, Shipley (located outside so available 24/7) **Please note: This defibrillator is now back in action**
- Foxfield Cottages phone box on the Shipley Road
- Shipley Football Club
- Coolham Village Hall
- Dial Post Village Hall
- Shipley Primary School (during school hours only)
- William Penn School (during school hours only)



Holy Innocents

I cannot be alone in my dismay and despair at the military and political situation in the Middle East. Israel's stated policy of annihilation of Hamas at the expense of the Palestinian people, irrespective of the collateral devastation to their territory and cruel loss of civilian lives is abhorrent. How has the western world allowed a so-called civilised nation and western ally to act with such disproportionate vengeance, despite the evil attacks against it on 7 October?

A moving reflection on the loss of young children's lives has recently been written by joint contributors to the RSCM periodical magazine, which I would like to share with you. In a world of such cruelty and pain, we can sometimes feel overwhelmed but, God promises he is near to the broken-hearted, and every single human life young or old is of unique value in his sight. The Feast of the Holy Innocents is observed on 28th December, in remembrance of the infants slaughtered by King Herod following the birth of Jesus.

The death of a child is devastating. The murder of a child is even more harrowing. The destruction of helpless innocent lives – cut short before they have truly begun – leaves parents paralysed by grief. Herod's order to murder all the little children in Bethlehem, in a bid to kill the child Jesus and eliminate any threat to his power, is remembered as the Slaughter of the Innocents. These children are known as "Holy Innocents;" we might also say they are wholly innocent in every sense.

In our own time, the slaughter of innocent lives continues. Millions of children around the world suffer from malnutrition. Countless others are killed in war. Some conflicts, such as those in Ukraine and Gaza, are very familiar to us; others, such as the conflicts in Sudan and Myanmar, are almost forgotten.

We sanitize our complicity by using language such as "collateral damage", whereas, in reality, each dead child represents a life-changing loss. That loss ripples outwards from the unique and irreplaceable life that has been taken, affecting their family, their community, and our common humanity. We, too, must refuse to be consoled or to accept easy platitudes. In the face of such loss, we must bring before God our outrage and our heartfelt desire for change.

In all these conflicts, it is the children who suffer most. They are deprived of their homes, their schools, and often their parents and siblings. They lose opportunities for play and, in short, are deprived of their childhood and the security that enables them to grow up in a loving secure environment. As we remember the infants slaughtered by King Herod, we lift before God all those children who suffer at the hands of today's tyrants.

The Victorian church (1848) of our neighbouring parish of Southwater happens to be dedicated to the Holy Innocents.

By Peter Sanderson

Shipley History Society

Our October speaker Sheryl Green opened our new programme for 2025-26. The topic was Women Agents of the S.O.E. (Special Operations Executive). Sheryl has researched the lives of several women and their part in the resistance with the stories of how they got British soldiers back to Britain. She has documented the dangers they faced, in some cases their

capture, torture and their execution. It was a spell-binding talk fully illustrated with slides. Seeing the photographs of the women Sheryl featured brought home the human side to the stories. These were real people risking everything for others and we owe them a great deal.

By Gina French-Larcombe

Programme for 2026

Thursday 22nd January | We're delighted to welcome original members of our society, **Pippa and Gordon Reay**, with a repeat of their talk on **The Old Parish Workhouse**, now their home. We first heard Pippa and Gordon give this talk to great acclaim 11 years ago, so thought it time to give newer members the opportunity of hearing how the Poor Laws affected the less fortunate members of rural life. **7.30pm, Andrew Hall**

Thursday 19th March | Another welcome return speaker is **Jeremy Hodgkinson** who visited us 15 years ago. His talk is on **The Wealden Iron Industry** and its importance to the development of early modern Britain. It's hard to think of this industry today without huge furnaces and machinery, but it all started in a small way in rural areas where the right kind of ore and charcoal came together. Hammer Pond on the Knepp Estate is a relic of the local industry. **7.30 Andrew Hall**

Thursday 19th June | Our annual summer social will be held at **Green Gates**, Broomers Corner, the home of **Derek & Gina Larcombe**. SHS member **Ian Miles** is currently working on the lives of **Bob & Jose Phillips**, our much loved and missed Shipley locals. Ian will give insights into the many ways that Bob & Jose contributed, and became synonymous with service, to their community. As always, we'll be serving delicious finger food and drinks in what we anticipate will be a glorious midsummer evening.

Thursday 10th Sept: Knepp Safari looking at ancient trees and the walled garden. **5pm**

And our new programme to look forward to, so put the dates in diaries:

- Thursday 15th October Alan Barwick - the Horsham to Steyning branch line
- Thursday 26th November AGM Kevin Newman - Spooky Sussex

Secretary Jean Wright

Email: shipley.history.secretary@gmail.com

Our new website is

<https://shipleyhistory.wordpress.com/>

You can still find Shipley History Society on the Shipley Parish Council website www.shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk and then follow the Sports & Recreation link.

By Gina French Larcombe

Shipley Arts Festival 2025

Shipley Arts Festival 25th Year in 2025

Thank you all for making our twenty fifth Shipley Arts Festival exceptional. International level music making, wildly curated creativity at Knepp Castle and all our fabulous venues, and a series of communities connected through our performances from the very roots of our district and region.

We were very grateful to such an overwhelming support which saw many of the founding musicians and members of our parish from 1999 at the NFU Nyetimber 25th Year Review in the fabulous Medieval Barn.

We are delighted to ask you to ‘Save the Date’ Sunday 18th January 6 to 8pm at Tooveys for the 2026 Shipley Arts Festival Preview.

We are continuing in the ascendancy in 2026 and would like to invite you to continue or become a Shipley Arts Festival Friend at one of the south east's leading music festivals. You can join by donating at one of four levels :

- Festival Friend with an annual subscription of £30
- A Silver Friend at £200
- A Gold Friend at £500
- And lifetime friendship with a commitment of £1000 per year.

Donations are gratefully received at <https://localgiving.org/charity/shipleyartsfestival> and a more detailed schedule of benefits of our offer are here at andrew@bernardimusicgroup.com

We are committing to finish our commissioned recordings from Abbey Road and this is the specific project we would like to ask you to support through Festival Friendship in 2026. This is in order that we complete a much requested ‘album’ of music to celebrate our 25 years as a leading UK Festival.



Shipley Arts Festival 2025 cont...

We have the opportunity for sponsor to join our very special network which reaches across the County and as far as Hong Kong Macua and in 2026 to Delhi. Do call for an informal conversation or a copy of our pitch book of exclusive and generous offers to your company.

We look forwards to our January Preview and please ‘keep your eyes’ on our emails and website for your invitations.



In the meantime we would like you to enjoy a few photographs from the 25th Shipley Arts Festival Preview with many familiar faces, and thanks to our very special sponsors in Kreston Reeves, Nyetimber, NFU Mutual Horsham and Chichester, Tooveys and the Festival Friends.

Thank you all and wishing a very happy and healthy Christmas.

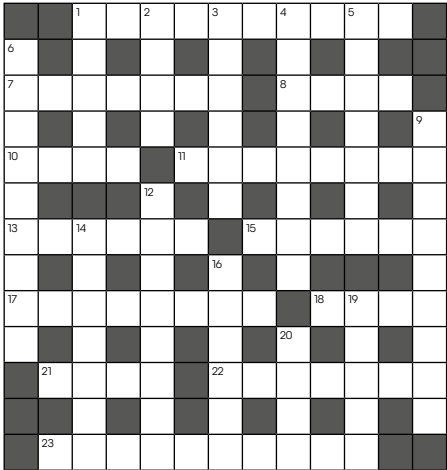
Andrew Bernardi
Artistic Director,
Shipley Arts Festival
www.bmgllive.com



Quick crossword | Answers in the next edition

Across

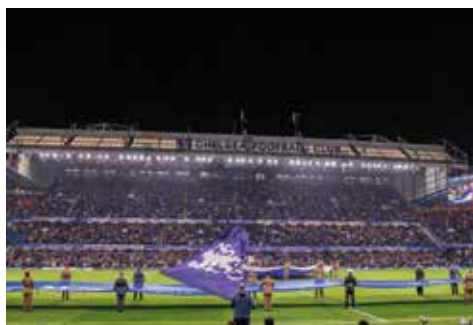
- 1 Exultant (10)
- 7 Finally (2,3,3)
- 8 Clothed (4)
- 9 Precious stone (4)
- 10 Daydream (7)
- 12 Star-gazers (11)
- 14 Edicts (7)
- 16 Potato (4)
- 19 Wharf (4)
- 20 Flying (8)
- 21 Teacher (10)



Down

- 1 Male singing voice (5)
- 2 Dwell in (7)
- 3 Submissive (4)
- 4 Spiny creature (8)
- 5 Mother-of-pearl (5)
- 6 Half the diameter of a circle (6)
- 11 Forbearing (8)
- 12 Tree-lined road (6)
- 13 Heroic feat (7)
- 15 Artificial silk (5)
- 17 Giver (5)
- 18 Language of Pakistan (4)

The front cover photograph shows Shipley Church adorned with a beautiful display of crocheted poppies to commemorate Remembrance Day. There were ceremonies all over the country and across the Commonwealth to mark this important day in our national calendar. The feeling of respect and gratitude is tangible. Ceremonies in church services, open-air events, in High Streets, at memorials, and at the Cenotaph in London all met for one purpose, to remember. Many sporting events marked the occasion too. It felt like the nation was united as it stood still and remembered. I attended a football match in London and acting service men and women from all the Services and the Chelsea Pensioners were all in attendance. The stadium fell silent and the playing of the Last Post and Reveille was haunting, beautiful and moving.



Remembrance Day observed at
Stamford Bridge, London
8th November 2025

I recently went to lunch in Parsons Green in London and was amazed to see a “*field of pumpkins*.” We seem to have adopted quite a few things from the United States, and Halloween is just another example.



Parsons Green, London getting ready
for Halloween, October 2025

Pumpkin patches are common in Sussex, where pumpkins grow easily, many farmers have a pumpkin patch as a small side business or clever diversity. I must admit I have never seen a pumpkin patch in London so when I happened upon one in West London, I was impressed that someone with an entrepreneurial mindset created their own pumpkin patch. The pumpkins were shipped in and placed on to a straw in the park. Entry was by ticket only. I did not have a ticket but I asked if I could go in to take a few photographs. It was full of families and children who roamed freely among the pumpkins until they chose one. Mummy or Daddy would then have to pay for the pumpkin and I can only hope that in that part of London everyone was enjoying carving out their pumpkins, putting candles inside and making pumpkin soup. It was lovely to see children light up with excitement over something so simple.

The growing season in 2025 was very successful. The Shipley Community Orchard cropped well and the efforts of the volunteers certainly paid off.

Countryman cont...

At Countryman HQ we enjoyed great abundance of plums, apples, and pears. It may have just been one of those perfect growing years.

The colour of the sloes was amazing this year and the size of the crop was very encouraging for wildlife and foragers alike.



The blackthorn bushes were full of sloe berries, Autumn 2025

A visit to Royal Horticulture Society at Wisley is always special and can give such inspiration and joy at the same time. As the garden continues to develop, it seems as if there is always something new to see. It does not matter what time of year you go; each season provides inspiration, education, spectacular backdrops, and

places of interest. A friend of mine goes to Wisley every six weeks and I can understand why because gardens change with the seasons and always have so much to offer. As Christmas is just around the corner it may be an opportunity to give someone a gift of membership. For details check out: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley>

I asked the question to the White Stork project team about why some White Storks do not migrate. Funnily, I thought we could name and shame them; asking are they being lazy or are the conditions a bit too cozy with daily free meals that supplement their diet. Well thanks to camera traps and Kevin (one of the Stork volunteers) the project has lots of data and of the 20 (ish) flyers that remain at Knepp over winter have something in common. They are all original birds from the project in Poland, all of which had sustained some kind of injury before being sent to project in Knepp. An example was a rehabilitated bird had sustained a broken ankle but had recovered the ability to fly. A built-in instinct is probably telling the birds that they are not fit to migrate; this



RHS Wisley bursting with Autumn colours October 2025

Countryman cont...

explains why the number of “flyers” stay and over winter here in Sussex. <https://whitestorkproject.org/>



A White Stork that did not migrate to Africa this year

As winter arrives and we will prepare to celebrate the festive season. It will be a time for families, friends, and neighbours to get together. The importance of community

and family is such a positive force. Whatever, or wherever you are spending your Christmas, I hope you are surrounded by love and friendship and can feel the positive influence of our community. Enjoy the change of season.
Your Countryman



A wintery scene: Shipley Churchyard and Windmill

Wordsearch | January

BELOW ZERO

BOOTS

COAT

FREEZING

HAT

HOT CHOCOLATE

ICE

MITTENS

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SKIING

SLEDDING

SNOWBOARDING

SNOWMEN

SNOWSHOES

TOBOGGAN

WINTER

News from Shipley CE Primary

New members of our school community

At the start of term, we welcomed our new Reception class and their families to our school community. They settled into Willows class really quickly and made a great start to their school journey.

We have also welcomed some new staff. Miss Wade is the new teacher in Ash class, and she is joined a couple of days a week by a new TA Miss Carson. Oaks class have also welcomed a new TA, Mrs Stacey.

I, personally, have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all the children, staff, parents and wider community and am very grateful for the warm welcome I have received.

The Victorians

Across the school we have been learning about the Victorians. At the start of November all of our classes took part in workshops exploring different aspects of Victorian life. Willows and Oaks explored a Victorian wash day, whilst Ash class looked at Victorian schools and Sycamores focused on workhouses.



Harvest Celebration at St Mary the Virgin Church, Shipley

At the beginning of October, it was lovely to see the whole school community at St Mary the Virgin Church, for a Harvest Festival service. The children contributed to the service through readings, songs and poems, with families donating food for Chestnut Tree House, Children's Hospice Care.



By Catherine Brooks,
Head of Shipley School

News from Horsham District Council

Dear all,

I am delighted to have been granted the opportunity to write in this edition of the Shipley Parish Magazine.

Local Plan News

It has been a busy time at Horsham District Council (HDC) with some major developments beginning with the status of Horsham District's Local Plan. Many residents will have noticed the uptick in speculative planning applications within the parish and beyond as of late. This has predominantly been down to the fact that the council is not currently able to demonstrate an up-to-date Local Plan after the Planning Inspector prematurely halted our Local Plan hearings back in December last year.

Local Plans might sound like dry paperwork, but they are the single most important tool a community has to shape how its area grows. Every council must prepare a Local Plan, setting out where new homes should go and where development should be restricted.

When a Local Plan is up to date, it gives residents and councils control. Planning applications are judged against its policies, ensuring that new housing comes with the right infrastructure and that valued green spaces are protected. Without one, decision-making shifts to national policy, which includes a *"presumption in favour of sustainable development."* In simple terms, that means developers often find it easier to get approval, even for sites local people and the council oppose.

Understandably, many residents have voiced concerns that local infrastructure is already under strain, that further development will overwhelm local services.

However, HDC must also show that it can meet government housing targets. Identifying suitable sites in the Local Plan allows the council to manage where growth goes, rather than having speculative applications forced through by developers on appeal, with costs awarded and the council unable to mandate higher building standards or obtain larger CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) contributions to enable delivery of much-needed local infrastructure.

Without a Local Plan in place, the housing still comes but without the infrastructure, with bodies such as WSCC Education and NHS Sussex unable to commit to supporting new infrastructure if they are uncertain of where development is going to take place.

Once adopted, a Local Plan will earmark development over the next 15 years. It is essential that residents respond to consultations to ensure local voices shape the future of Southwater.

In short, a Local Plan is not just a planning document, it's a blueprint for how our community will grow, and how much say we'll have in shaping it. That's why it is essential that we continue to fight for our plan, put a lid on speculative development and provide the best possible chance for the delivery of the critical infrastructure the village is crying out for.

However, the landscape has now changed with the Secretary of State for Housing recently writing to The Planning Inspectorate to request that they be more flexible when it comes to the Local Plan examination process in terms of the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities, something that was being hampered in terms of numbers due to Water Neutrality legislation – of which Natural England have recently announced is being withdrawn. With this in mind and along with the example of Mid-Sussex District Council who had their Local Plan halted in it's tracks under similar circumstances but now have their hearings scheduled to be reopened in January, the council is hopeful we can get the Local Plan process back on track and ensure that we are able to regain control of development across the parish and wider district.

Prestige Distribution Update

In other news, many residents will be aware of the continuing difficulties with Prestige Distribution at Bridge Farm. Despite having their application for regularisation of movements through the Parish from 5am onwards during the week refused, this was overturned on appeal. However as part of the appeal, conditions mean that Prestige are unable to operate their 44t lorries through the village during night-time hours (before 7am and not after 6pm).

I continue to liaise with residents on this matter and encourage anyone who continues to witness violation of these conditions to log this and report this to me and the Planning Compliance team at HDC so we can ensure appropriate action is taken.

Best wishes,
Alex Jeffery
alex.jeffery@horsham.gov.uk

Codeword

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News from Current Planning Applications

Permitted

Existing Telecommunications Site on land to north of A2772 West Chiltington Lane (Renches Wood) Dragons Green | Prior Approval for 10m extension of the existing tower from 17.6m AGL to 27.6m AGL. Removal of the existing 6no antennas and replacement of 3no Antennas. Relocation of the existing 3no Airwave antennas and existing 1no 0.3m dish to a higher level. Installation of 1no 0.6m dish, associated ancillary equipment and works thereto

Knepp Castle, West Grinstead | General repair and conservation works and structural works, including removal of water tanks, replacement of roofs and extension of spiral staircase (Listed Building Consent)

2 Kinsbrook, Brooks Green | Erection of a single storey front and rear extension. Window and door alterations. Installation of rear first floor cladding

Bacon Cottage, Bakers Lane, Shipley | Erection of a two-storey side extension and front porch. Alterations to and insertion of windows and doors

St Johns Farm, Trout Lane, Brooks Green | Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building for the storage of hay, silage, agricultural machinery & equipment

The Plat, Thakeham Road, Coolham | Erection of a lean-to structure to provide music storage and a break out space from the main practice area of the open timber-framed barn. (Full Application and listed)

Land Parcel At 511450 123227, Billingshurst Road, Coolham | Change of use of land from agriculture to a B2 Use (general industry) comprising the importation and processing of timber to produce wood chippings for re-sale.

Refused

Greenacres, Saucelands Lane, Shipley | Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of four barn style detached dwellings with associated garages utilising existing access together with landscaping

Pending

Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater | Deed of variation to legal agreement for approved application DC/21/2180 to allow alternative water neutrality solution

Land at Campsfield, Linfield Close, Southwater | Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for up to 82 dwellings with vehicular and pedestrian accesses, public open space, noise mitigation measures, landscaping, foul and surface water drainage and associated works

Bentons Place, Hooklands Lane, Shipley | Proposed installation of cladding and doors to existing barn

Land North of Cowfold Road, Coolham | Erection of 9no. 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom dwellings, mix of houses and bungalows, together with access from Cowfold Road, vehicle and cycle parking, landscaping and open space, and sustainable drainage

News from Current Planning Applications

Buck Barn Services, Worthing Road, West Grinstead | Removal of drive-through element to existing restaurant and petrol filling station and development of the site to provide a drive-through restaurant, petrol filling station shop, drive-through coffee pod and car wash together with the reconfiguration of car parking and circulation routes, including a revised access slip road from the A24 (northbound) and associated landscaping and ancillary works.

Land at Sincox Lane, Horsham | Install substation, 2 poles, 4 stays, LV overhead line, HV underground cable and LV underground cable

The Bungalow, Smithers Hill, Lane Shipley | Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a replacement dwelling with detached car port/store building. Alterations to existing vehicle access.

Palaceland Farm, Hooklands Lane, Shipley | Demolition of existing agricultural barn and construction of a holiday let accommodation (Class C1). Following previous extant approval DC/23/0589.

The Chapel Holiday Let, Old House Manor Estate, Cowfold Road, Coolham | Conversion of a chapel to be used as a self-contained holiday let (Retrospective)

Bridge Farm, Coolham Road, Coolham | Installation of lights on existing building

Perrets, Smithers Hill Lane, Shipley | Removal of mobile home and erection of replacement dwelling for a rural worker

Birchwood Lodge, Shaws Lane, Southwater | Variation of condition 1 of previously approved application reference DC/25/0070 to amend the location of the dwelling together with internal changes to the ground floor plan.

McDonalds Restaurant, Worthing Road, West Grinstead | Installation of 3x internally illuminated Fascia signs, 3x internally illuminated booth lettering signs, 1x internally illuminated booth screen and 4x yellow soffit lights.

Sweepers, Saucelands Lane, Shipley | Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a double storey dwelling

Lower Perryland Farm, Basing Hill Access Road, Dial Post | Demolition of existing agricultural barns and erection of 3no. residential dwellings, with associated car ports, landscaping and parking

Bentons Place, Hooklands Lane, Shipley | Prior Notification for Change of Use from an agricultural building to 8 dwellings (Class C3 Use)

Dunnocks Emms Lane, Brooks Green, Horsham | Permission in Principle for 1no. self build dwelling on previously developed land at Dunnocks

Bentons Place, Hooklands Lane, Shipley | Demolition of modern extension to east elevation. Construction of single storey rear extension. General repair and conservation works to house and minor internal alterations (Listed Building Consent)

News from West Sussex County Council

Highways | Teams have spent the first six months of this financial year delivering essential works to strengthen the resilience of the county's road network ahead of the winter season. These efforts aim to keep West Sussex moving, whatever the weather brings. While there has been a continued focus on repairing safety defects such as potholes, ensuring that the highways network is prepared for winter weather has been a top priority. With the onset of winter, there will be increasing clearance of drainage systems to ensure water can run off the roads as effectively as possible should there be heavy rain. Extra resources are being provided and we will be working with our district and borough council partners, who have responsibility for clearing the roadside gullies, to keep our drainage network clear and free flowing. However, it is not just the rain that causes disruption on the roads - both cold temperatures and falling trees can make roads difficult to navigate. The operations team have also been working across the county, removing 1277 diseased or dangerous trees, cutting back vegetation and cleaning roadside signs to improve visibility and keep users of our roads, footways and public rights of way safe.

Vaccinations | I have been asked by our Public Health department to highlight the severity of the current flu virus which has already resulted in a number of vulnerable people being hospitalised. The flu virus is spreading much earlier this year, so being vaccinated will help protect you and others. The number of infections among children currently is higher than previous years and

there is a nasal spray available for children from 2 to 15 years old. The vaccine will be available at least until the end of the year and possibly into January. It takes two weeks for the vaccine to be effective.

Connect to Work | People who live in West Sussex who find it difficult to successfully apply for jobs can now get personalised job-seeking support from the County Council and partners through the government funded Connect to Work programme. Participants will receive one-to-one coaching and mentoring from specialist employment advisers to help them build the confidence and skills need to successfully apply for jobs that suit them. To give them the best chance of long-term success, support will continue after work is started to help them adjust into their new role. People who are already in work but at risk of losing their job can also access tailored help through the programme. Further details can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk/connecttowork.

Specialist Support Hub | The County Council has launched a new specialist support hub for children and families to deliver earlier, more effective psychological support for children, young people and families. It aims to help families to stay together, support children through complex emotional and mental health challenges and it brings previously independent specialist services under one psychology-led leadership team which is accessed via healthcare referrals. This integrated model ensures that support is timely, co-ordinated and tailored to individual needs. The hub will also feature therapy pods based at

News from County Council cont...

County Hall North in Horsham, providing dedicated spaces for therapeutic work in a calm and welcoming setting.

Devolution | The Government confirmed recently that it will proceed to establish a Mayoral Strategic Authority for Sussex from May 2026 which involves the consent of the County Council and other upper tier authorities. The County Council Cabinet approved and consented to the establishment of this authority at its meeting on 22nd October.



With best wishes for Christmas and New Year

Amanda Jupp
amanda.jupp@westsussex.gov.uk

News from Meadow Hall Vets

Winter Hazards

Winter brings crisp days, cozy nights, and plenty of excitement, but it can also come with a few hidden dangers for our pets. Here are some simple ways to keep them safe and happy this season:

- **Store antifreeze carefully.** Even tiny amounts can be deadly if swallowed, especially for cats. Keep all products sealed and out of reach of animals.
- **Avoid festive treats.** Chocolate, grapes, raisins, and other dried fruits can cause serious illness in dogs, even small amounts can be toxic. We know these are common in lots of yummy food at this time of year, so keep anything that might be tempting for your pets hidden away!
- **Rinse paws after walks.** Rock salt and grit used on icy pavements can irritate paws, or make pets poorly if consumed. A quick clean of their paws after a walk will help to prevent any problems.

- Keep medicines out of reach.

Painkillers like ibuprofen and paracetamol are dangerous for pets, particularly cats, so be sure to store them somewhere safe and away from your pets.

- If your pet eats something they shouldn't, call your vet straight away.

Let them know what happened, how much was eaten, and when. If you can, take the packaging along with you. The vet being able to see all the information will help them to treat your pet as quickly as possible.

Stay safe, stay warm, and enjoy all the winter cuddles with your pets!





Ford Recycling Centre Visit

Greener Shipley are arranging a visit in January or February to the Ford Recycling Centre near Arundel to see the state-of-the-art processes at work.

If you'd like to join us, there are still a few places available. Visits are on week days only. Drop us an email to: greeneranshipley@gmail.com or message us via our Facebook page, Greener Shipley.



Thermal Imaging Surveys

A thermal imaging survey can reveal where your home is leaking heat. The cameras are sensitive to infra-red and make 'temperature map' images. This can show weaknesses in insulation, draughts, damp and more. This needs to be done when the outside temperature is at least 10° colder outside than inside, so it's a winter job.

Some of the problems shown are easy for householders to fix, like draught-proofing, and some, like faulty insulation, may need professional help. Fixing some of these problems can save you money, cut your carbon emissions and make your home cosier.

Book your free survey now by dropping us an email to: greeneranshipley@gmail.com or message us via our Facebook page, Greener Shipley.

Retrofit and New Build Open House Tours

If you are thinking about upgrading your boiler to an air source heat pump, there is a wonderful example in the parish so you can see and hear exactly what was involved to retrofit part of an old house.

Alternatively, if you are considering a new build or a new extension, join us for a tour of a new build. We think you'll be inspired!

Places are limited so book your place soon. Drop us an email to: greeneranshipley@gmail.com or message us via our Facebook page, Greener Shipley.

By Nancy Brock

Sudoku

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←
Medium

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Extreme

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News from Sussex Green Living

Sussex Laundry Challenge to reduce microfibre pollution at home

What does our laundry have to do with plastic pollution in Sussex's rivers, our soils and even our bodies? Synthetic clothing sheds tiny plastic fibres during washing, and these microfibrils are now being detected in rivers, coastal waters, the open ocean, farmland, and even in the human body.

Sussex Green Living is launching the Sussex Laundry Challenge in partnership with PlanetCare filters to learn how households across the county can help reduce this pollution before it leaves the home. The charity is seeking volunteers to help explain the issue and share practical solutions in their communities. Volunteers will receive training and support and can choose roles that match their interests and the time they have available. Activities may include speaking with residents at events and community hubs demonstrating ways to reduce microfibre pollution and gathering stories and feedback from people taking part in the challenge.

Microfibrils are shed in large numbers during washing. Wastewater treatment removes many but not all, and those that remain contribute to microplastic pollution in rivers and coastal waters. Others are captured in sewage sludge which is applied to farmland and has become a recognised pathway for microplastics into soils. This work forms part of wider efforts across Sussex to improve water quality, reduce waste and safeguard wildlife, giving local people a



practical way to protect the environment in the places they rely on.

Carrie Cort Founder and Director of Sussex Green Living said: *"Much of the plastic entering our environment goes unseen and begins in everyday activities at home. Reducing microfibre pollution at source helps local wildlife and keeps plastics out of our food system. Community involvement is essential because change in our environment starts with change where we live."*

People interested in volunteering to support the Sussex Laundry Challenge can register their interest at: <https://forms.office.com/e/NRigrBCB0Y>

By Marianne Lindfield

E: marketing@sussexgreenliving.org.uk



News from Shipley Community Hub




Time to reflect... And just like that we have almost reached December. A whole wonderful calendar year of community hubs has brought so much support, joy, and happiness to many, along with broadening our mindsets with talks from across the board. Whilst doing our bit to be more 'Green', we have fixed, sharpened, and repaired many a treasured or useful object at our repair café.

If you are reading this before December 2nd, then hurrah, you haven't missed our last hub of 2025 - A session full of festive cheer, mince pies, and a small selection of stalls from wonderful local folk. We will have handmade items, cheeses from Village Larder, jams and chutneys from Garden to Jar, and all things chilli by Claire's Chillis. There will even be something for your four-legged friends' stocking from the wonderful Trumbles, who sponsored our virtually virtual dog show in the summer!



We are also delighted to invite Graham Simmons from Southwater for some acoustic sounds of the eras gone by, so please pop in and say hello. Everyone is welcome.

Introducing
All things Christmas
At the hub...



Tuesday 2nd December..
11am - 2pm
Andrew Hall, Shipley.
Please do come join us for a
wonderful selection of local stalls,
refreshments, raffle & our last repair café
for 2025

As we wind down for the year, it gives me the greatest pleasure to thank everyone who has helped or volunteered their time throughout 2025. Special thanks go to...

Amanda Jupp for her ongoing support and kindness in helping me to pursue my vision, and to Shipley Parish Council for recognising the benefit of our community hub and donating funds to cover next year's rent.

To Jason Emrich and Knepp Castle Estate for donating their maintenance manager Matt, free of charge, to our repair

News from Shipley Community Hub

café, partnered by Rob Blackburn who generously gives his time to create our fantastic fixing duo.

To the ladies that run the refreshments and everyone who has so kindly donated cakes and savouries over the past year.

Also, to Jozef who has supported us with an eco-refill station within the village each hub, and for all those that have given their time to come help or share their knowledge and experiences.

Alongside our sister project 'Greener Shipley', which originated from the Hub, we have seen our little community grow in strength, and with financial support from Horsham District Council and Co-op, we have been able to progress further with our vision of a greener future.

Lastly, a huge thank you to those who have come along to the hub, without you, the doors would have remained closed.

So, with warmest wishes for the last few weeks of 2025, it leaves me to just say a huge thank you to you all.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and healthy 2026.

Please note: The hub will be closed in January, but we have a wonderful line up of talks and themes for 2026 which we hope that you will enjoy and share with us when the hub starts again on Tuesday 3rd February. Doors open at 11am. Please note that from February 2026 we will be closing at an earlier time of 1.30pm.

By Sarah Cuthbertson

Founder - Shipley Community Hub

Community Spirit Award 2025

Do you know someone within the Shipley Parish who has shown community spirit throughout the year? Now's your chance to nominate them for a Christmas Hamper full of Christmas goodies.

Please vote before **12noon on Tuesday 2nd December.**

Fill out the questionnaire **online** by scanning the **QR code** below or visit **<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/92KFKQF>**. Or **pop along to the Hub on Tuesday 2nd December** and **fill out a paper form.**

The winner will be decided by the Hub committee and announced at 12.30pm along side the monthly raffle.



Last year's winner - Richard Killner

News from Knepp Castle Estate

It's mid November and still blissfully mild. We are grateful for the continued grass growth for our livestock after such a dry summer and a troubling amount of acorns.

Some Staff News | We now have a colossal workforce working across the estate – well over 100 people. Julie, who is Knepp's longest serving member of staff, is going to step down from managing lettings in the spring, albeit happily will continue to lead on HR, so we are just starting to think about recruiting a new manager to head-up property lettings. The role is being designed at the moment but would suit someone looking for 25-30 hours/week.

We are on the more urgent search for a new safari manager for next season and are also recruiting for a new head grower at the market garden having bid a sad farewell to Rosanna and Signe last month. Do listen to the latest Knepp Wilding Podcast "Rebelling with Integrity: Geetie & Guy Singh-Watson on Food, Farming and Fairness" for a really interesting discussion held in Knepp's market garden.

This month we hear from head gardener and Shipley village resident Charlie H, also from Hospitality - Nick who is in full Christmas mode, also Matt our ecologist and Ranger Steve, but first an uplifting update from Newbarn Farm resident **Ryan from the Knepp Wildland Foundation**, which hosted a residential field course this summer in partnership with Operation Wallacea, for the fifth year running. *"The course at Knepp gives participants, mostly aged between 18 and 25, the current practical skills needed to pursue careers in wildlife*

conservation, ecological data management and nature recovery in the UK. We hosted over 80 students, including ten bursaries provided to young people who wouldn't have otherwise been able to attend the course, as part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion. They take part in a variety of hands-on wildlife surveys, such as bird ringing, invertebrate surveys and mammal surveys, as well as learning techniques used to assess habitat quality, measure biodiversity and estimate carbon storage. They also get plenty of time with the Knepp safaris team, discovering the remarkable story of transformation and how the process led approach has delivered nature restoration on a scale rarely seen. There is a big focus on providing information about careers, to allow attendees an understanding of the pathways they might take into this field. These include opportunities to meet professional scientists, field biologists, environmentalists, film makers, farmers, livestock managers, freshwater and marine biologists. Some of the feedback is truly inspiring, as we look to inspire the next generation of nature restoration pioneers, and we look forward to expanding the course in years to come."

In the garden, Charlie H writes: The Rewilded Walled Garden's busiest tour season yet came to an end at the end of October. It's been an exciting season, where



© Ellie Field



the garden has featured in many books and magazines, an episode of *Grand Designs*, and Isabella Tree's TED talk, which is now live on the TED website. Now, with fewer visitors, Knepp's garden team are enjoying getting stuck into developing various areas of the garden experiment which haven't worked quite as intended. Knepp's clay is easily compacted, and many areas within the Walled Garden have historic compaction where water doesn't drain. This has a negative impact on the soil ecosystem and resulting plant growth. A bit of compaction is of course valid in a functioning ecosystem, but too much restricts the number of plants that can be grown. The garden team are therefore experimenting by making the garden more lumpy and bumpy in these flat, compacted areas – even in the Kitchen Garden, where growing food is a primary aim. Varied topography, rather than the pancake-flat lawn that covered most of Knepp's Walled Garden, massively expands the opportunities for plants and wildlife – even when only subtle - and it looks great too! Follow the *'Wilding the Garden Blog'* to follow the journey of our experiment, or come and have a look in the 2026 season, which kicks off in April. Details of both are on the Knepp website.

In our butchery, whilst Ian's team are super-busy processing our annual beef harvest, we are so excited to learn that our delicious charcuterie will be for sale in Fortnum's in 2026. It's one of our biggest sellers in our own shop and online, but a real honour to have our produce in such a famed food hall. Meanwhile the **deer**

stalking season is well underway, mostly in the southern block (south of Countryman Lane) – do please contact me (jason@knepp.co.uk) if you would like to receive SMS warnings of deer stalking activities, as ideally we would prefer people to walk and ride elsewhere on the estate on the occasions that we mobilise to undertake this difficult but necessary work.

Nick H from the Wilding Kitchen and Shop at Swallows Farm writes: A huge locally grown Christmas tree in our shop shows that the festive season is in full swing at Knepp! We have a huge selection of ethically sourced gifts and we are offering hampers that can be posted, collected or made bespoke in store. If you are looking for the perfect present but your wrapping skills leave something to be desired, our gift-wrapping service may be just what you are after and if you simply can't choose what to buy, we will shortly be launching a new gift voucher that can be spent not only in the Wilding Kitchen and Shop but across all Knepp businesses including our online butchery, garden tours, wildlife safaris and our campsite.

We were delighted to be named recently by the famous Michelin Guide as one of the best places to eat in West Sussex and The Financial Times columnist Marina O'Loughlin found the menu a *"Huge surprise... we loved it!"* If you haven't been this year, now is the perfect time: our Christmas menu launched on 17 November. We are open seven days a week for breakfast and lunch and in the run up to Christmas, we are also open on Saturday

News from Knepp cont...

evenings. If you're after something more casual then our coffee trailer is still open at the weekends (weather permitting) for a takeaway coffee or a sandwich and during weekdays we have toasties on the Kitchen menu inside. We also have some great events available to book online: from wreath making workshops to suppers with authors like Harriet Rix (*The Genuis of Trees*) in December and Jake Fienness (*Landhealer*) in January.

Over the Christmas period we will be open every day, although to give the staff some well-earned rest with their families, we will be closed Christmas Day. On Boxing Day the Shop will be open and our coffee trailer for those wanting some refreshment after a festive walk and then we are back to normal on December 27.

Our new **Ranger and Tree Safety Manager**, Steve, is settling in and thoroughly enjoying getting to know the estate. *"A major part of my role is carrying out tree health inspections alongside the many roads, tracks, properties and Rights of Way. Most of the follow-up work is then carried out by professional contractors, leaving as much of the wood on site to provide habitat for wood-boring beetles and fungi. We also arrange a winter work programme for our band of practical volunteers. Tasks include some hazel coppicing which provides materials for the Walled Garden as well as habitat improvement for woodland flowers and insects. I also oversees our band of ever-observant Roaming Rangers. These gallant people are out in all weathers checking paths, engaging with visitors, litter picking, carrying out small maintenance jobs and generally being eyes and ears around the estate. If you're interested*

in finding out more about this role, or any other opportunities to get involved, please get in touch with the team volunteering@knepp.co.uk"

In the woods | As well as continuing with ash dieback work around Shipley, we have thinned a Corsican pine and oak plantation, originally planted to celebrate Ned Burrell's birth 29 years ago, and also Douglas Fir in nearby Bentons Gorse. This work is the start of a new ten year management plan for the woods, during which time we hope to revitalise our firewood business and run the woodchip boilers with homegrown produce.

And finally, **Autumn at Knepp, an Ecology update from Matt** | After the seemingly never-ending summer, autumn has finally crept in at Knepp, and while the days are shorter and there's a definite chill in the air, as ever the landscape feels anything but quiet. The scrubland has been glowing bronze and gold in the autumn sunshine (when we've had some!), with sloes and hips hanging heavy in the hedgerows, providing a banquet for the redwings and fieldfares arriving from colder climes for their winter holiday. Perhaps we may see a repeat of last winter when we were treated to an influx of hawfinches, who made light work of the glut of sloes and other treats on offer in the scrub.

The deer rut was particularly spectacular this year, with bellowing fallows and roaring reds staking their claims as the leaders of their respective packs. For those who love the quieter side of Knepp, this is a wonderful time of year to visit. The rewilded landscape feels rich and full, but there's also a sense of peace as everything

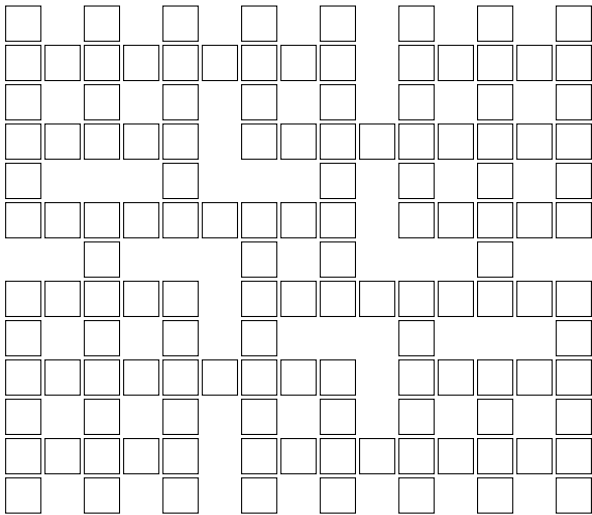
News from Xnepp cont...

prepares to endure the winter. Crisp mornings and golden afternoons offer the perfect backdrop for a walk, and if you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of a barn owl quartering over the fields or a kingfisher flashing over the Hammer Pond or Mill Pond. Do please sign up for Jason's SMS warnings though so your visit doesn't coincide with the deer stalking excursions. Happy Christmas everyone!

By Jason Emrich, Estate Manager



Xriss Xross | Answers in the next edition



4 LETTERS

AUNT
BETA
GAIT
JEFF

5 LETTERS

EXACT
FEAST
HARSH
LINEN
SINKS
WOOLF

6 LETTERS

FILING
ITSELF
PHASES
ROTTEN
SAFETY
SHOCKS
STATED
WARMLY

8 LETTERS

CHEROKEE
EVOLVING
OBTAINED
PRISONER

9 LETTERS

EXISTENCE
FIELDWORK
FORECASTS
REVOLVING
TREASURER
TWENTIETH

False Accusations

From Halloween bunting to sensationalised stories, spiders have an unfair creepy-crawly-villain reputation. The shift into autumn often reignites a focus on indoor spider sightings, and with it a renewed batch of clickbait fearmongering. Some of those getting the worst of it are the false widows.

Among six species of false widow spider in the UK, three are most common. The smaller of the two are native; the Rabbit Hutch Spider and the Cupboard Spider. The largest of the three, at 10-14mm body length, is the Noble False Widow. Although technically non-native, this species is pretty much part of the furniture, having arrived in the 1800s. They are mostly brown in colour with varying pale shades and patterns on the abdomen, which sometimes look 'skull-shaped'; an awkward addition to the PR nightmare.

The latter two species have been known to deliver a bite to humans. However,

Missing sector spider, *Zygiella x-notata*
© Graeme Lyons



like most spiders, they are not typically aggressive, sometimes biting in defence when handled. As ever, medical advice should be sought if you are concerned or vulnerable, but the bite is said to be comparable to a wasp sting.

Despite the clue in the name, false widows are often aligned with Black Widow Spiders. These non-UK species have a more potent bite, which can cause illness in humans, though to continue the arachno-advocacy, they are similarly passive in behaviour.

As with many vilified creatures, alarmism can lead to misidentification and incorrect reporting. One confusion species for the Noble False Widow is the Missing Sector Orb Web Spider. One way to differentiate them is by the webs; the latter produces the famous concentric circle style (often with one sector missing!) whereas Noble False Widows create criss-crossing, messy looking 'tangle' webs.

Contrary to the aspersions, spiders make excellent house guests. They are private, tidy and keep unwanted flying insects to a minimum, which is especially helpful if you have houseplants. If you have a spider

Noble False Widow, *Steatoda nobilis*
© Helen Burton





Example of orb web © Uanda Pellins

in your home this autumn, at best, leave them be and observe their fascinating habits. If it's necessary to move them do

so gently, using a glass and piece of card, and carefully pop them outside, preferably in a similarly protective building, such as a shed, or nearby vegetation.

Tolerance and coexistence are vital for effective conservation, whether in our wider ecosystem, or in our own gardens and homes. With our urban environment expanding, we must continue to make space for nature, especially those who, like the false widows, are so wrongly maligned.

By Kerry Williams,
Communications Officer –
Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust

An Ocean Oversight

December has a real indoors vibe. Short days, finishing work in the dark and inconsistent weather doesn't exactly motivate us to get out, even if we know it's good for us. This poses a challenge for connecting with wildlife, which we know can increase people's desire to protect the natural world. Despite many species hibernating or migrating, there is still so much to see. To throw yourself in at the deep end, I encourage you this winter to explore our beautiful Sussex coast.

That said, in reviewing my parish magazine articles of this year, I realise I've not included any marine species. This is awkward. If our marine team find out they'll be livid. But also, we work hard to connect people with blue spaces, promote the value and wonder of the ocean and fight for its protection, so how could I have overlooked it?

The marine environment has long since suffered from a lack of attention in the conservation world and beyond. At the risk of sounding like I'm defending myself, in a way it's understandable. We're terrestrial mammals, desperately under-resourced for the aquatic. We seek warmth, dryness, a firm foundation underfoot, and can align more easily with perils of the warm-blooded – and things with a face.



Nudibranch (*Facelina auriculata*)
© Alexander Mustard 2020 UJSGU

Many of us value coastal connections; beach trips, swimming, travel to warmer waters. But our oceans are not a luxury. They are a lifeline. A critical feature of our ecosystem, which we and all other life on earth could not survive without. Our disconnect with the ocean environment is contributing to its demise, and we must turn it around.

There is something fascinating about the unknown of the big blue, and once you start to investigate, you realise how truly epic it is. Although much is out of sight from land, the diversity of healthy UK waters has such colour and vibrancy, from royal blue Lobsters to 90s-neon Corkwing Wrasse, and other-wordly nudibranchs.



Corkwing Wrasse © Sally Sharrock

In winter it's wild. The drama of furious waters, crashing waves and freezing sea-spray. Watching, huddled in layers, a freezing cold nose and the promise of an after winter-walk's too-hot-yet chips. Heading to the water's edge for stone-sprinkled sand and shell treasure discoveries. And there's nothing like a stomp along a windswept beach to galvanise a slumped after-Christmas-dinner bunch.



Newhaven wave © Peter Brooks

So, this December, why not skip a shopping trip, dodge the odd social occasion, push that deadline. Instead, head to the sea. And I'll submit many a marine article in 2026. Promise.

By Kerry Williams,
Communications Officer –
Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

Quick crossword

	1	T	R	I	U	3	M	P	H	A	5	N	T		
		E			Π		E				A		6	R	
7	I	N	T	H	E	E	Π	D		8	C	L	A	D	
		O			A		K		G		R			D	
	9	R	U	B	Y			10	R	E	V	E	R	I	E
					I		11	T		H					U
			12	A	S	T	R	O	Π	O	M	E	R	S	
				V				L		G		X			
14	D	E	C	R	E	E	S		15	S	P	U	D		17
		Π	A		R			18	U		L				O
19	Q	U	A	Y			20	A	I	R	B	O	R	N	E
		E		O		N		D		I					O
			21	I	N	S	T	R	U	C	T	O	R		

Wordsearch

R	T	C	A	N	D	Y	F	L	O	S	S
E	E	G	U	N	P	O	W	D	E	R	E
V	K	Y	S	F	E	T	O	L	P	R	W
E	C	T	O	I	P	S	E	E	I	R	S
L	O	R	G	R	G	S	M	F	R	Y	B
S	R	A	U	E	R	A	N	E	E	R	O
N	E	P	Y	W	L	O	R	F	R	O	K
O	L	O	F	O	B	C	F	D	M	L	M
V	K	P	A	R	L	I	A	M	E	N	T
E	R	S	W	K	G	S	O	E	F	N	I
M	A	C	K	Y	O	N	H	R	R	E	A
B	P	F	E	E	S	N	E	W	T	N	
E	S	Y	S	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	P
R	T	O	R	C	H	F	I	F	T	H	M

Codeword

3	19	23	11	24	21	23	3	14	11	23	7	1	11
A	S	C	E	T	I	C	F	R	E	C	K	L	E
5	14	11	23	8	24	21	17	11	24	14	2	10	5
S	R	H	L	L	X				H			X	
11	4	11	23	8	24	21	17	11	24	14	2	10	5
E	X	E	C	U	T	I	V	E	T	R	A	M	P
5	14	11	23	8	24	21	17	11	24	14	2	10	5
P	S	D					X		R		K		8
24	2	23	7	13	8	25	21	1	2	24	21	26	15
T	A	C	K	J	U	B	I	L	A	T	I	O	N
21	11	25	11	25	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	6
I	E	B											G
23	5	15	2	14	9	2	5	A	L	I	E	N	A
C	A	N	A	R									
18	18	11	26	5	P								
22	8	26	24	2	25	1	11	22	8	2	14	24	16
Q	U	O	T	A	L	L		Q	U	A	R	T	Z
5	14	11	23	8	24	21	17	11	24	14	2	10	5
U													
11	4	11	23	8	24	21	17	11	24	14	2	10	5
E	X	A	C	T	I	T	U	D	E				
5	14	11	23	8	24	21	17	11	24	14	2	10	5
L	P	B	Y										Z
1	2	14	6	26	5	12	11	26	10	11	15	2	A
L	A	R	G	O	P	H	E	N	O	M	E	N	A
11	4	11	23	8	24	21	17	11	24	14	2	10	5
E	O	N	U										G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
D	A	N	C	E	R	S	B	E	S	D	E	S	

Sudoku

Easy

9	1	3	6	5	8	4	7	2
6	8	7	4	3	2	9	5	1
2	5	4	9	1	7	6	3	8
7	2	6	5	8	1	3	9	4
3	4	5	2	9	6	8	1	7
8	9	1	7	4	3	2	6	5
4	7	9	8	6	5	1	2	3
1	6	2	3	7	4	5	8	9
5	3	8	1	2	9	7	4	6

Hard

7	2	4	3	9	1	8	6	5
5	1	9	7	6	8	2	4	3
3	8	6	4	2	5	7	9	1
1	7	8	5	3	4	6	2	9
6	5	2	1	8	9	3	7	4
9	4	3	6	7	2	1	5	8
2	3	1	9	4	7	5	8	6
8	9	5	2	1	6	4	3	7
4	6	7	8	5	3	9	1	2

Extreme

8	3	2	1	5	7	4	9	6
1	9	6	2	8	4	7	5	3
7	4	5	3	9	6	2	1	8
9	8	4	6	7	2	5	3	1
2	5	7	8	3	1	6	4	9
6	1	3	5	4	9	8	2	7
4	2	9	7	6	3	1	8	5
5	6	1	9	2	8	3	7	4
3	7	8	4	1	5	9	6	2

Master

6	7	2	5	3	1	9	8	4
5	4	9	8	2	7	6	1	3
8	3	1	6	4	9	2	5	7
4	1	5	9	6	2	3	7	8
7	6	3	1	8	5	4	2	9
9	2	8	3	7	4	5	6	1
1	5	7	4	9	6	8	3	2
3	9	6	2	1	8	7	4	5
2	8	4	7	5	3	1	9	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
L	A	F	X	P	G	K	U	Y	M	E	H	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	N	Z	V	D	S	W	I	Q	C	T	B	O

The Dan and Morfa Pope Memorial Fund Shipley's Charity for Young People

A Whole World of Ideas Where You Might Get Real Support

"From whence cometh my help?" asks Psalm 121 that begins famously, "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills."

Could you do with a hand-up instead of reaching vainly for a hand-out? A young person's dignity and belief in themselves is often enhanced if the help they receive can be attributed in part to their own efforts and initiative.

This is why the **Dan and Morfa Pope Memorial Fund** (Shipley's Charity for Young People) is appealing for applicants to come forward who might benefit from a financial donation that could benefit their future. The terms of the charity are set out on the page opposite. You are urged to read them if you think you have the credentials that would entitle you to a grant.



A little help goes a long way, as we all know, and the available support for an activity or occupation of your own choice could help meet the challenges of growing your own future that you might not otherwise be able to fund. You might dream of pursuing an acting career, or aim to become a writer, or an expert in first aid or photography, or seek to be a performing musician, a dancer, an athlete, or sportsperson. There are plenty of forums for training opportunities and for skills development that are exciting but not always affordable. Do please come forward if you have the hope or ambition of achieving something that could lead to your personal advancement or help you accomplish some skill to which you might aspire, and which could guide you to a successful career.

It is sometimes assumed that one's future is something that just happens to us, and that we have little or no power over it. But, the best way of predicting the future is to invent it for ourselves! A *'very present help'* could be the answer. There may be others of you whom we could assist. Do get in touch and please note that the offer is also available for active Shipley Scouts and Explorer Scouts.

**Fund now open to
active Shipley Scouts and Explorer Scouts**

THE DAN AND MORFA POPE MEMORIAL FUND

Shipley's charity for young people

The trustees of the fund would like all members of Shipley Parish to be aware of the above fund which was formed to help young people enhance talents they would otherwise have found difficult to develop due to lack of funds.

The terms of the Charity are as follows:

- The young person must be under 25;
- Must live in the ecclesiastical parish of Shipley (which includes Coolham, Brooks Green and Dragons Green);
- Or if not living in the parish, must have previously attended Shipley C of E Primary School or the William Penn Primary School in Coolham;
- **Be an active Shipley Scout or Explorer Scout.**

GRANTS

If you have a child, or are a young person who fits this description, we encourage you to get in touch and apply for a grant.

The fund has limited resources and it may not be possible to fund all applications. However, we promise we will consider them all.

Please contact Nicholas de Zoete at nick@nickdezoete.com or 01403 741460 if you are seeking a grant.

Registered Charity No: 10887795

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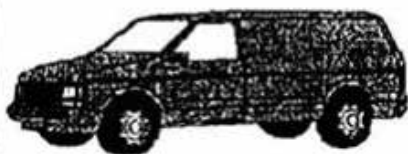
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HAVE YOU GOT THE INSURANCE YOU NEED?

When did you last walk around your house looking in cupboards to check your contents insurance is adequate?

Do you live in a larger, higher-value home, or have a number of expensive items – perhaps jewellery and watches, fine art or collections, or even designer interiors with beautiful curtains and tech. Standard insurance may not be fully protecting you. You may be better protected by an insurance product which enables you to adapt your policy to meet your specific needs – such as agreeing values, increasing cover limits.

WHAT IS UNDERINSURANCE?

To be 'underinsured' means that the amount you're covered for is less than the cost of rebuilding, replacing, or repairing. For example, if you had a fire at your home, and your 'sums insured' is only £30,000, but the actual cost to replace your contents is £100,000 then you're underinsured and the reality is your policy won't pay out beyond £30,000, leaving you with a hefty bill.

DO YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU OWN?

Try to take account of the true value of everything you own – both buildings and contents. If you're unsure of the difference between the two, imagine your house could be lifted off the ground and tipped upside down. Everything that falls out is contents. The rest should be covered by buildings insurance.

Also don't forget about items such as artwork or jewellery that you might have inherited or purchased a long time ago – their value may have changed significantly.

HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN EVERYTHING IS COVERED?

Not only does Bespoke insurance from NFU Mutual offer many specialist features as standard, but unlike many other insurers who have moved online, the team at NFU Mutual value a real conversation with you to fully understand your needs, enabling them to tailor cover right down to the finest detail.

Contact NFU Mutual Henfield on **01273 025715** to speak to Nick or Tracey or visit nfumutual.co.uk for more information.

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

Take time to walk around your house and use the table below as a guide to the amount of contents you need to be insured for. Remember, you should look at how much items are to replace from new as in the event of a claim you can get new for old cover. Exclusions may apply.

Living room £	
Curtains	
Furniture	
Books and ornaments	
Electrical appliances	
Pictures	
Other	
Kitchen/utility room £	
Electrical appliances	
Kitchenware e.g. pans, cutlery	
Other cupboards	
Dining room £	
Furniture	
Rugs	
Pictures and linen	
Diningware - china, glasses, silverware	
Other	
Bedrooms £	
Clothes - including suits	
Shoes and handbags	
Jewellery	
Bed linen and curtains	
Furniture	
Electrical items	
Other	
Bathroom £	
Bath linen	
Furniture	
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Other	
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Office	
Garage	
Outbuildings	
Attic	
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Other	

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Shipley Parish Council Directory (as at May 2025)

Cllr Matthew Payne, Chairman

Email: cllr.payne@shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Horsham Association of Local Councils Rep, Chairman of the Complaints Committee, West Sussex Association of Local Councils Rep, Shipley 1st Scouts

Cllr Ray Wright, Vice-Chairman

Email: Cllr.wright@shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr Nick Barrett

Email: nick.barrett@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Mr Paul Richards, Clerk

Email: clerk@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Ginny De Zoete

Email: cllr.dezoete@shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Rights of Way & Parish Maintenance (Shipley)

Cllr Gill Hood

Email: gill.hood@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Bridget Huggett

Email: bridget.huggett@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Coolham Village Hall representative

Cllr Jason Emrich

Email: cllr.emrich@shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Horsham District Climate Initiative

Cllr Derek Larcombe

Email: Cllr.larcombe@shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

History Society

Cllr Jo Nunn

Email: jo.nunn@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Shipley PCC

Cllr Judy Tuck

Email: cllr.tuck@shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Climate and Environment matters, Greener Shipley

Cllr Rebecca Smale

Email: Cllsmale@shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

www.shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

West Sussex County Councillor

Amanda Jupp Email: Amanda.Jupp@westsussex.gov.uk

Horsham District Councillor

Colette Blackburn Email: Colette.Blackburn@horsham.gov.uk

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