

Lindfield Life

Inc. Scaynes Hill & Walstead

Local village talk,
by the village

Feb 2016 Issue #83

Free

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

When looking for images to adorn our **front cover** we have a range of criteria. Sometimes it's nice to have new or unusual parts of the village. Sometimes it's a technically brilliant shot. Sometimes having a great photo of folk in Lindfield is what's required. And on other occasions it's just a photo which sums up the village. This is the case for **Alex Miles'** image, taken last month. I accept it's not the highest resolution for such a position - but it's a cracker of a photo, captured at just the right moment on her phone. Thank you, Alex. She will receive a **£20 shopping voucher** to spend in Lindfield now it's been used on the cover. If you have anything to add to our library, please email in to photos@lindfieldlife.co.uk

On the centre pages this month Claire Cooper talks to Lindfield resident **Mary Kelly** in our popular **Village People** feature.

If you know someone who could be persuaded to be interviewed for this feature, we would always love to hear from you. An email to editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk is a great starting place, or call the office - see below.

On the subject of fab people, some of you may not have noticed that a now-retired teacher from **Oathall Community College** was listed on the Queen's New Year Honours list this year. See **page 15** for details of the special accolade placed on **Howard Wood MBE**.

On **page 13** we explore what could be a new Lindfield tradition over the Christmas period. Turn to the page to find out what's involved in the **Denmans Lane Dash!**

Talking of tradition; Jay Patel and the team at Esso in Scaynes Hill will be holding their **Charity Car Wash** on 13th of this month. Car washes are free, but they ask for a donation to charity. Read the story on **page 5**.

I hope you enjoy this magazine and the rest of the month!

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

The youth of today to the rescue

A lady wishes to pay tribute and publicly thank a group of three teenagers who came to her aid over the Christmas break.

The lady, in her 80s, was walking her elderly Schnauzer through the Scrace Bridge Nature Reserve when it took off in the middle of a heavy rain shower. The dog, who is deaf, wouldn't turn back. One of the boys immediately shouted that he'd get her and ran to grab the wayward pooch.

The owner was extremely grateful to the boy – who took the action without thinking, while his mates laughed in hysterics. "I just wanted to acknowledge that there are good news stories about today's young people. We hear a lot of negative ones, so this was not only helpful to me but comforting to know too," she said when she phoned the Lindfield Life office to share the story.

If you have a story to tell, call the office on 01444 884115 or email editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk

Lindfield Club raises funds for charity

Meat raffles, golf days, race nights and a murder mystery evening are just some of the ways members of Lindfield Club have raised money for charity.

Last month, members presented a cheque for £4,100 to Carol Hughes from St Peter and St James Hospice.

The club, above the King Edward Hall, has more than 1,500 members who support the many fundraising events, from a stall at the annual Village Day to a weekly 'Guess the Bonus Ball' National Lottery competition. There are also regular Sunday lunches with meat raffles.

Every year members choose a different charity to support. Previous charities have included the Tadworth Children's Trust which received more than £4,000 from the club. This year members will be raising funds for Parkinsons sufferers.

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Scaynes Hill annual charity car wash event - 13th Feb

Staff at the Esso Garage/Spar shop in Scaynes Hill will be running their annual charity car clean event on Thursday 13th February to raise money for Cancer Research.

Motorists can have their cars cleaned in return for a donation to charity. The event also includes a chance to buy raffle tickets and win a £50 Spar Hamper.

Manager Jay Patel and his staff have run the event every year since 2009, always on 13th February. Last year's event saw 206 cars cleaned and more than £2,000 was raised for charity.

Lindfield lad goes for golf challenge to raise cash for Cancer Research

On 6th February Sam Grant will be raising money for Cancer Research.

His challenge is to complete a 9 hole game at Cuckfield Golf Centre in less than 60 minutes (usually this would take a couple of hours), aided by his golf pros Neil Plimmer and Neville Perryman Best, who run the Jolf (Junior Golf) at Cuckfield Golf Centre.

Sam is 11 years old and lives in Lindfield. He has been playing for just over two years and wanted to do something to help raise money and awareness for this worthwhile charity.

He decided to raise money for Cancer Research having lost both his grandparents to the disease a few years ago.

Sam hopes to raise at least £500. If you would like to help him reach his target please donate to his Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/samg11



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New World Coffees owner

World Coffees, based in The Old Forge on Denmans Lane, changed ownership last month. Jackie McGahan started the business 16 years ago but decided that the time was right to sell it now.

New owner Kris Whelan lives in Lindfield with his wife Amy and stepson Josh. Kris has given up his job working for a spirits company in London to make this big lifestyle change. "I'd been looking around for a local business to follow my passion for coffee," Kris said. "World Coffees is a perfect fit for me; it's local and the product is great. The roasting side fascinates me. You can take a green bean with an unpleasant flavour but by roasting it you alter it into an aromatic, flavoursome, complex coffee bean."

Kris continues: "Even with the explosion of independent speciality coffee shops, 77 percent of homes in Britain still use instant coffee. My challenge is to overcome this, which is why I want to open more days a week to increase dialogue with our customers."

Jackie commented: "I'm pleased to be handing over the business to Kris, who I know will look after our existing customers and take it to a new level."



Pictured: Jackie McGahan, Kris Whelan with Amy & Josh

The business will continue to be known as World Coffees. Skilled roaster Miranda Moolenaar will continue to work for the company, which has now increased its opening hours in the village to Monday – Friday, 9am–1pm.

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Beautician wins regional award

Beauty therapist Francesca McEvoy, from La Touche Beauty in the village, has been awarded the title of 'Regional Therapist of the Year 2016' by global skincare brand Guinot.

High performing Guinot therapists from all over the UK and Ireland were carefully selected to compete with others from their region for this prestigious title.

Francesca brought back the award to La Touche Beauty saying: "I'm so proud and happy to have been given this award. It is a fantastic achievement for me and I couldn't have done it without the great support from my colleagues and clients at La Touche."

All 10 regional therapists have been automatically shortlisted for the National Therapist of the Year award, to be announced at Guinot's Mary Cohr conference.

Salon owner Touchell Thaddeus commented: "This is a wonderful opportunity. We are delighted and proud of Francesca's achievements and will continue to support her and all the team members as their careers develop."

La Touche Beauty has also been shortlisted as a finalist for three additional salon awards: Business Growth Award, Crown Salon Status 2016 and the new outstanding Salon of Excellence Award.



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The Denmans Lane Dash

Regulars from the Stand Up may well have started a new village tradition by staging a Boxing Day beer race along Denmans Lane.

The inaugural 'Denmans Lane Dash' saw 12 competitors go head to head in the new contest which combined both speed and skill.

The idea was to race from the pub along the whole length of Denmans Lane and back again while holding half a pint of beer. The winner was the competitor finishing in the first six with the most beer left in the glass.

All the competitors wore Christmas jumpers, which added to the festive spirit, and enjoyed a couple of 'warm-up' drinks before gathering on the starting line at the corner of Denmans Lane and the High Street.

The idea came from Stand Up regular and Denmans Lane resident Ray Gower who had witnessed many similar beer races known as 'The Tommy Trot', run by the Laughing Fish pub in Isfield.

"There's very little going on in the village on Boxing Day, so I thought it would be a good chance to get out of the house, meet up with friends and do something fun," said Ray. "When I mentioned it to Andi Frost, the manager at the Stand Up, she not only lent us the half pint glasses but donated the beer as well!"

Ray was also delighted when Andi's partner Mike Steer designed and made a trophy featuring the Denmans Lane gate which is now kept behind the bar.

The winner of the first Denmans Lane Dash trophy was James Warren, the son of one of Ray's friends.

"Even though we gave ourselves a five second start, the youngsters were too fast for us oldies," said Ray. "We may have to amend the rules next year!"

The event has already attracted attention, with several people asking how they can get involved next year. "It would be great if it became an annual village event!" added Ray.



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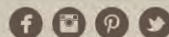
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Residents pack public meeting

There was standing room only in the King Edward Hall earlier this month as more than 300 residents gathered to protest against plans to build 200 new homes on the outskirts of the village.

Developer Wates has applied to Mid Sussex District Council for outline planning permission to build land to the south of Scamps Hill, off Scaynes Hill Road.

The proposals include 200 homes, a country park and land for a new half form entry primary school.

The public meeting, organised by Lindfield Rural Parish Council, gave residents the chance to hear from the developers and council officers, and to voice their concerns over the effects of the proposed development on village infrastructure, in particular traffic and drainage.

Following the meeting, Richard Gossage said: "As a resident of Walstead I was very pleased that the meeting was so well attended and that opinion was unanimously against the proposal.

"The points made were practical and planning related. We hope that the right decision will be made. There was a plea for people to urgently submit their views to the council - there is still time, and to vote on the local plan on January 28th."

Debbie Nisbett added: "It was full to bursting - people were standing out in the corridor to listen. Lots of excellent points made by members of the local



community with questions and comments running for more than two hours.

"The predictable responses from the developers who pretty much admitted they are exploiting the fact the District plan isn't yet in place. Overall a resounding response from the community against this plan. Well done everyone!"

To view the plans and to make comments, visit www.midsussex.gov.uk/online-applications using the application number DM/15/4457.

For more information about the Save Scamps Hill protest group visit the Facebook page.



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Retired teacher gets MBE

OATHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Claire Cooper

Past and present pupils, parents and staff at Oathall Community College were over the moon to hear that teacher Howard Wood was among the recipients of this year's New Year's Honours.

Howard, who retired in 2014, has been awarded an MBE for Services to Education.

Mr Wood, or 'Woody' as he was known to many of the students and parents, taught science, ICT and PE at Oathall but is best known for setting up and running the school farm.

Over his 38 years at Oathall, Howard developed the school farm into a profitable business, receiving both national recognition and the Royal seal of approval.

Over the years Howard welcomed many high profile visitors to the farm, including politicians Charles Clarke and David Miliband and TV gardener Alan Titchmarsh.

He also set up the thriving Young Farmers group, giving students a chance to show cows, pigs and sheep and win prizes at the annual South of England Show.

When the farm was in danger of closure due to cutbacks by the Local Education Authority (LEA), students wrote to Prince Charles to appeal for help.

After visiting the farm and meeting Howard, the Prince persuaded the LEA to allow the farm to remain open.

Prince Charles later invited Howard to his country house, Highgrove, to mark the launch of the Year of Food and Farming, paying tribute to him in a speech.

"This remarkable man runs an outdoor classroom at his school and his lessons might include watching a calf being born, dealing with the death of an animal or giving animals injections. Howard weaves every aspect of the curriculum into his teaching, from maths to art and science," said Prince Charles.

"He gets 100% pass rates for his students in agriculture, despite taking on students who are in danger of dropping out. Howard has managed to change countless lives for the better and that is a wonderful thing," he added.

In 2014, Howard won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual TES School's Awards.

The Awards aim to celebrate and reward the extraordinary innovation, dedication and hard work of those schools, individuals and teams who every day are making a real difference to the lives of future generations.

His final project was fundraising to buy a new tractor as a retirement gift to the school.

Edward Rodriguez, Head of Oathall Community College, said: "I was delighted to hear of Howard's much deserved recognition in this year's Honours list.

"His dedication to the students at Oathall over 38 years transformed the lives of many young people and the lasting legacy he created is destined to do the same for future generations in the school."





Mary Kelly

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By Claire Cooper

When 10 year old Mary Kelly won a riding lesson after entering a competition in a Crawley newspaper, it was the start of a lifelong love of horses and a career which has taken her all over the world.

From the excitement and speed of the race course to the skills and precision of carriage driving and the discipline of the Metropolitan Police, Mary has spent a lifetime training, nurturing and preparing horses for many different roles.

She explained how it all began. "My twin sister Anna and I grew up in care, so luxuries like riding lessons, which cost five shillings, were out of the question," Mary recalled. "But after winning that first lesson, I was determined to carry on riding. I used my allowance and delivered leaflets to pay for more lessons."

Mary and Anna had spent their first few years at the council run children's home at Horsgate House in Cuckfield before being fostered by a family from Copthorne. The sisters now live in St Nicholas Court near Lindfield Primary Academy. "By coincidence our home is built on the site the nursery moved to after Horsgate House closed," said Mary.

After leaving school Mary became a working pupil at Crabbet Park near Crawley, where she qualified as a riding instructor. "When I left Imberhorne School I was advised not to work with horses as the hours were long, the work was hard and the pay was low. Luckily, I ignored that advice and it paid off!"

Crabbet Park was a big international equestrian centre and Mary completed a 13 month course, working to pay for each section. "When I took my final assessments I thought I had just scraped through but I got the third highest score out of a class of over 30."

Despite passing her course with flying colours, Mary didn't do much teaching. "Being small and light meant

I was always in demand to break in and ride horses and ponies," she said.

Keen to widen her experience, Mary left Crabbet Park after being offered a job working at a racing stables in Newmarket.

"We were each given three race horses to look after and worked very closely with the jockeys," Mary recalled. "I rode wonderful race horses, some that won at Royal Ascot and others related to champions and Derby winners. It was wonderful to be among a group of 40 racehorses riding together on the gallops. When you ride race horses it's not about looking pretty, it's about hanging on tight!"

Mary's time at Newmarket came to an abrupt end following an accident. "I came off backwards," she said. "It was a nasty fall and I lost my nerve. It took all the fun out of riding racehorses."

It wasn't long before Mary's career took a new direction. "I registered with an agency and was offered a job working with teams of driving horses at Baynards Park near Cranleigh."

The stables were owned by Alan Bristow, founder of Bristow Helicopters. "I remember being driven to the yard in a friend's battered old car and meeting Alan Bristow coming the other way," said Mary. "When I told him I was his new groom he commented: 'You're a bit small aren't you.' I was used to such comments and replied 'and they don't make diamonds as big as bricks.'"





He quickly replied that he had, in fact, seen diamonds as big as bricks! We hit it off straight away!"

Mary travelled all over England and Scotland with Bristow's 'four in hand' (four horse) FEI driving teams, and as a member of British teams competing in Holland, Germany and Hungary. One of her fellow British team members was HRH Prince Phillip.

"Driving four horses at speed can be very dangerous and there is great skill in getting the team to work well together," she said. This included the 'spare' horses taken along in case another was injured.

"We took great pride in our appearance and our teams were always immaculately turned out," she added.

Mary's experience with the British teams led to an invitation to travel to the USA - accompanied by 12 horses and four cars!

"We received a request from a very wealthy American lady, with an open ended cheque book, to buy 12 driving horses and four Mercedes Benz cars and fly them from Germany to her in America," said Mary.

"I travelled on a special charter flight, with all the seats removed, along with the horses and cars."

Their destination was a farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains - known around the world as 'Tara' in the film *Gone with the Wind*. "During our stay we were visited by many influential guests, including Elizabeth Taylor who lived nearby."

Reluctant to spend winter in the States, Mary returned to England, working with the driving horses at Bristow's and also venturing into the world of stage and screen.

"We worked with horses on several films but, for me, the highlight was the Metropolitan Police Tattoo at Wembley," Mary recalled.

"The show, which ran for two weeks, was a celebration of 150 years of the Metropolitan Police and we did a

highwayman scene. They created a wonderful Victorian London atmosphere, complete with fog and the sound of water."

Following the show, Mary stayed with the Metropolitan Police, working at the training stables at Imber Court. "There were 90 horses on-site, divided into three sections - the probationers stables, remount stables and sick horse stables," said Mary who worked as the 'leading hand'. "Being a civilian rather than a member of the police force meant I didn't always have to do as I was told!"

"I particularly enjoyed working with the sick horses, alongside the vets and helping with operations." One very special horse under Mary's care was Echo, who was injured in the Hyde Park bombings in 1982.

Several horses died but, despite horrific injuries, Echo and Sefton, the Army horse, survived and their road to recovery was followed by the nation. "When they were well enough they made a special appearance at the Horse of the Year show," said Mary. "I'll never forget how the lights went down and the arena fell silent. The spotlights were put on the horses as they came into the arena, the audience got to their feet and applauded."

"Working with the Metropolitan Police was wonderful. We were involved with Royal Weddings, Lord Mayor's shows, sporting fixtures as well as displays at the Horse of the Year Show, Royal Windsor and Olympia. Sometimes the Queen would visit the stables and everything had to be kept spotless and highly polished."

When horses from the Household Cavalry and Kings Troop came to Ardingly for a holiday, Mary rode out with them!

Despite being in what was then a male dominated world, Mary earned respect through her riding skills. "I was small but I could stay on most horses," she said.

"I remember a group of police riders gathering on the balcony to watch me ride one particularly difficult horse and expecting to see me fall. They were disappointed!"

"From the start I was told that I have really good hands and a light touch. I think you need to have a certain telepathy with horses - you can't make them do what you want but you can ask."

"They say you can tell a gelding, ask a mare and negotiate with a stallion! I'd agree with that."

Although officially retired, Mary can be found delivering morning papers in the High Street and The Welkin. "I really enjoy being a Lindfield paper girl," she laughed. "It gets me up and out in the fresh air and I enjoy meeting people!"

Never far away from horses, Mary will also be stewarding at the Ardingly Showground on 9th & 10th April for FEI International Eventing. "The event will see some of the world's top riders in action, hoping to secure their places in this summer's Rio Olympics, so it should be really exciting," said Mary. "I'd encourage people to go along and watch. It's really good value for a family day out!"

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Toffee Fruit Cake

Put 200g soft brown sugar and 175g butter into a large pan and stir over gentle heat until melted. Leave to cool. Preheat oven 180° and butter a 27x17cm shallow tin. Add 2 beaten eggs, 115g glace cherries, 175g sultanas and 1tsp vanilla to the cooled sugar mixture. Stir to combine then sift over 225g self-raising flour and gently fold in. Spoon into the cake tin, smoothing the top. Bake 40-45 min until tests cooked. Cool in the tin before cutting into squares.

Fruit and Nut Bars

Preheat oven 180°. Butter and line a 27x17cm shallow tin. Gently melt 100g butter. Into a large bowl measure 250g self-raising flour, 2tsp cinnamon, 300g Demerara sugar, 100g desiccated coconut, 100g sultanas, 75g broken walnuts and 100g coarsely grated carrots. Mix to combine. Add 2 beaten eggs, 1tsp vanilla and 100ml vegetable oil to the butter, add to the dry ingredients and stir to combine. Pour into the pan, level the top and bake 35-40 min until firm and golden brown. Cool for 10 min before turning out on to a cooling rack. Cut into bars.

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By Caroline Young

On a cold dark February day there is no better place to be than in the kitchen...and no better thing to be doing than baking. Just fill your house with the delicious aromas of ginger, chocolate, toffee and cinnamon and the day will feel instantly better.

One-Bowl Gingerbread

Preheat the oven 180°. Butter and line a 27x17cm shallow tin. Sift 225g white or wholemeal plain flour into a large bowl with 1tbs ground ginger and 1tsp bicarbonate of soda. Add 75ml light oil, 100g soft brown sugar, 100g golden syrup, 100g black treacle (or molasses), 2 beaten eggs and 75ml milk. Stir to combine (a wooden spoon is best for this) then beat for 1-2 min until smooth and shiny. (At this point you could add some chopped dates or other dried fruit.) Pour batter into the prepared tin and scatter a handful of flaked almonds over the top. Bake for 30-35 min then cool in the tin for 10 min before loosening the sides and turning out on to a wire rack. If you can resist eating this immediately, wrap in foil and keep for a week – it will get stickier with age.

Cream Cheese Brownies

Preheat oven 160°. Butter and line a 27x17cm shallow tin. Beat together 75g cream cheese, 25g soft butter and 25g castor sugar until creamy. Beat in 1 egg and 2tbs self-raising flour and set aside. In a larger bowl melt 100g plain chocolate (over hot water or in the microwave) and stir until smooth. Stir in 175g castor sugar, 2 beaten eggs, 1tsp vanilla, 125g self-raising flour and 50g broken walnuts. Spread half the chocolate batter evenly in the tin, top with the cream cheese batter and then the remaining chocolate batter. Swirl an upright blunt knife through the batter to get a marbled effect. Bake for 30-35 min then cool completely in the tin before cutting into squares.

Have you tried any of these recipes? If so, why not let us know on Facebook, Twitter or send an email with a photo to editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk

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Competition Tent

By David Tingley

In 2013 and 2014 Lindfield Village Day enjoyed what we hoped would be a new tradition to the day: The Grand Competition Tent. However last year, we, on the organising team, weren't able to resource it. This was noticed by a number of folk who fed back to us saying they missed it.

If you feel you might be able to offer your time to help bring the competition tent back to Village Day this year (Sat 4th June) we would love to hear from you. Please send an email to villageday@kingedwardhall.org.uk in the first instance, and one of the team will be in touch.

Lindfield Village Run booking now open

The annual cross-country 5k and 10k runs, which start and finish at Hickmans Lane Playing Fields, are taking place this year on Bank Holiday Monday 30th May.

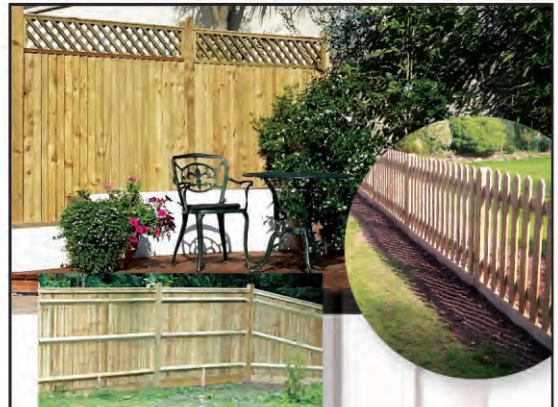
Online booking for the run - generously sponsored again by Lindfield businesses Potential Personal Training and Six Physio - is now open. Go to the King Edward Hall website: www.kingedwardhall.org.uk for more details and to book your place at the early bird rate.



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Celebration of the life of David Irwin

A joyful celebration of the life of David Irwin, who died on 7th December 2015, will be held at All Saints Church in Lindfield on Wednesday 17th February at 2pm.

Since his retirement from international banking, David had played an active role in The Acorns Nursery School, run by his wife Janet. She commented: "David enjoyed chatting to everyone as he walked up and down Denmans Lane and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all those who have played a part in David's village and nursery school life to join us at this special service."

Acorns parents will be holding a family fun day in David's memory for past and present Acorns families at Westmeston Parish Hall - date to be confirmed - call Janet Irwin for details on 01444 455081.

The nursery is hoping to spread the word to as many past Acorns families as possible and invite them to join the event, making it a very memorable and happy day as David had hoped and suggested. If you know of a family whose children used to come to The Acorns, please pass on these details.

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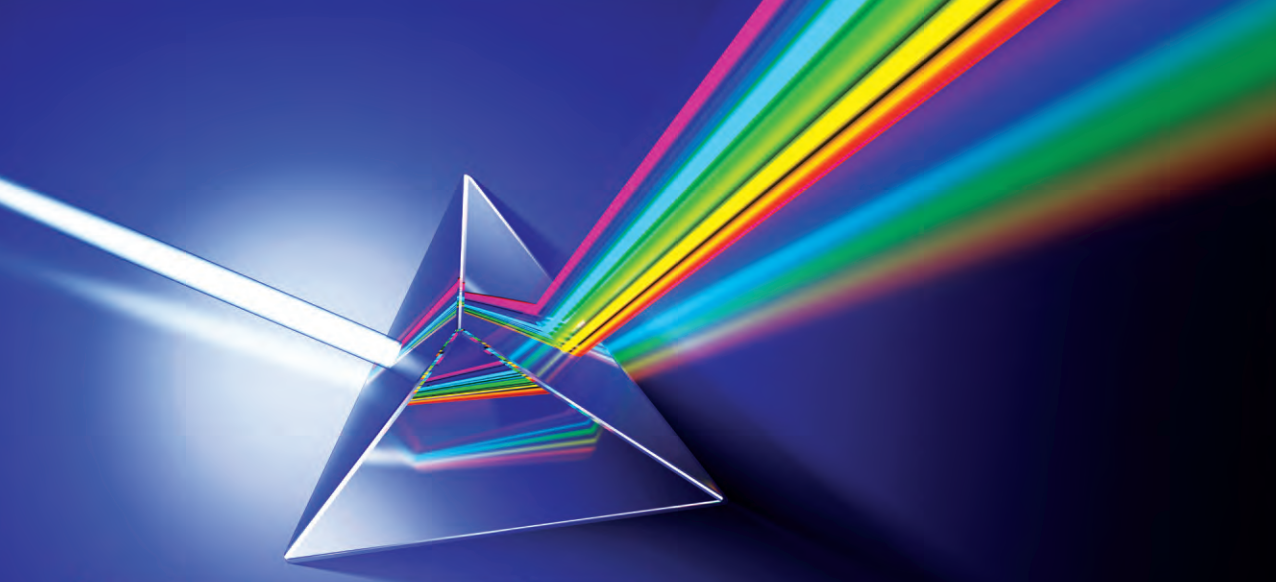
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How we see colour

HOME FRONT

By Jacqui Smith, interior designer

Colour is something that has always fascinated me. My mum has a great eye for colour, so I was brought up in an environment where coordinating and matching was second nature. We would go shopping and Mum would pick something out to go with an item of clothing at home and it was always spot on. Piers will proudly point out to me how the red of his top is the exact tone of the detail in his hoodie – it seems to be in the blood! What I have not really given much thought to is the science of colour. I can look at colours and decide whether they are warm or cold and appreciate how differing light conditions will change the behaviour of colour but up until recently it is just something I have accepted and not considered what the science behind it might be. At the end of last year I embarked on a colour theory course, feeling that it would be a great reinforcement and development of my colour knowledge. Initially I was amazed at the depth of the course content – could there really be so much to say about colour? It turns out there is.

Put simply, colour is wavelengths of light travelling to us from the sun and different colours are just different wavelengths of light. What we understand as colour is how our brains interpret the light hitting an object. Without light there is no colour. The rainbow-like range of colours that we see is referred to as the visible spectrum, with red as the lowest frequency, ie the gaps between the waves are relatively wider, and purple as high frequency where the waves are closer together. Outside the visible spectrum you have infra-red and ultra-violet light. When the full light spectrum hits a white object all the wavelengths (colours) are reflected and we see white, and conversely with black all the wavelengths are absorbed leaving us with black. When the full spectrum shines on to a coloured surface some of the wavelengths are absorbed and the ones that are reflected we see as colour.

The quality of light will alter how colours are perceived. As I write, the sky is a flat January grey making everything in the garden look, well, flat and grey; no shadows and little in the way of colour. There is no warm light coming from the sky so no warm light being reflected off any warm tones, resulting in a rather bleak view. In the same way as natural light variations alter how we see colour, the type of light coming from an artificial light source will make a huge difference to how colour is perceived. Candlelight is by far the most flattering light as it brings out the warm healthy tones in our faces. Similarly a warm tungsten bulb emits a more yellow light so will bounce more yellow light off an object, making a yellow object seem more yellow and appear warmer. Whereas a cool LED light is crisper and bluer, making it great for reading by but not so great for seeing other objects in the room. For instance, red fabrics can look quite brown in LED light since as the blue light hits the red object, it's absorbed rather than reflected. The nerd in me has experimented with this many times in the past, checking fabrics and paint colours against varying light sources. Fascinated to understand more, I set out a variety of different coloured fabrics on our dining room table one evening, dimmed down the lights to off and then brought them slowly back up again to see how the fabrics looked! The light reflectance value of a colour, or LRV as it is referred to in design, is something which plays a key role in healthcare design. LRVs will be compared between critical surfaces of, say, floor and skirting or door and architrave to ensure that they contrast by at least 30 points so that they can be seen properly by an ageing eye. I have applied this principle many times but appreciating the science behind how light behaves makes it even more meaningful.

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We are all completely beside ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler

BOOK REVIEW

By Cavan Wood

Underlying this novel (nominated for the Booker Prize in 2014) is a clever tale of the interaction between science, animals and human beings. One of Fowler's earlier works was *The Jane Austen Book Club*, which skilfully merged Jane Austen's plots with a US reading group's individual lives. There was a wit about that. There is not so much wit here, but there are some deliciously ironic moments when we are considering what is human and what is animal. What I am trying to do here is to avoid telling you one key piece of information which takes seventy five pages to get to, as that would spoil the effect. I think there might actually be two twists in this tale, rather than one. The characters – a psychologist and his family are well delineated over the years. The sense of time is developed by recalling just enough key events in their lives.

There is a very clever softening of the line between fact and fiction, which is so gentle that you might not always spot it. Highly readable and cleverly proficient, I wanted to love it but found myself more respecting the craft involved than totally appreciating the story. It is a book that would, I am sure, raise some interesting discussions in a book group.

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Rev Norman Smith obituary

In September last year Lindfield lost a resident who had served the village faithfully. Rev Norman Smith was the minister of Lindfield United Reformed Church (URC) for 17 years, leaving in 2001. However, he had returned to the village in 2014 after his second wife, Sarah, was re-diagnosed with cancer. David Tingley tells his life story from notes that Norman himself had written in the years before his death aged 78.

Norman Smith was born in December 1936 in a room above a Police station. He lived with his parents, Harold and Kathleen, in Enfield until the threat of bombing became too real during the war - Norman could recall standing in their hallway with all the windows blown out after one bomb fell nearby!

The family moved to his grandparent's home in Woking, Surrey, in 1940, where his grandfather traded second-hand furniture from a disused church and his father joined the business too.

In 1942 Norman's sister was born with spastic quadriplegia. This meant she was severely disabled from birth. Sheila sadly died at the age of 19.

Norman got into Woking Grammar School in 1947 and, to his apparent surprise, became deputy school captain. While he was at school he also attended the local Congregational Church and here he met Hazel Snow, who would go on to become his wife.

In 1955 Norman was accepted into Southampton University to study General Science.

After two years at university Norman felt a calling to go into the ministry but he was advised to complete the science degree first which he did 'scraping second class honours' in 1958.

He could have gone straight into theological college at this point - thus avoiding National Service - but instead he chose to go before a Conscientious Objector Board. He applied to become a nurse, which he did successfully at Chertsey Hospital. 'It was three interesting and challenging years', he wrote in his notes.

In 1961 Norman married Hazel and was also accepted on to a four year course to train as a minister in the Congregational Church at New College London.

Following college Norman and Hazel moved to Paignton, Devon, for his first post as the minister of Foxhole Congregational Church in 1965.

In 1970 he was asked by Tonbridge Congregational Church to accept the call there. He did and the family spent 14 happy years there.

But it was in 1984 that Norman and his family moved to Lindfield, having accepted the call to be the minister at Lindfield URC. The family very much enjoyed their High Street location and life in the village. Those who knew Norman will recall his study with dozens of shelves of books. Norman was a self-confessed book fanatic and he used to claim he could provide a directory of the



charity shops in the south as he often frequented them shopping for new titles for his collection.

Norman's father died in 1989 after a 19 year battle with cancer and in 1990 his wife Hazel was diagnosed with the condition to their dismay.

During his time in Lindfield he was particularly pleased to have seen the building project completed, where the church sanctuary was increased in size as well as adding other facilities. The £420,000 cost for this was completely paid off within two years of the new building opening!

Hazel died in 1996 but he notes that his daughters, Clare and Debbie, while deeply distressed, were very supportive and helpful at such a difficult time for him.

Norman eventually found comfort in an old friend who had lost her sister to cancer at the same time. Norman married Sarah in 1997 and they remained in Lindfield until 2001 when he accepted a part-time call to Church Stretton in Shropshire. The couple retired in 2004 and moved to Storrington, where they worshipped at a local church in Ashington.

In 2012 Sarah was diagnosed with cancer and this news hit Norman hard - having been in this position some 22 years before.

Norman moved back to Lindfield in 2014 into Lindfield Christian Care Home in Compton Road, after Sarah was re-diagnosed with cancer. His mother, Kathleen Smith, had also been a resident from 1997 until 2000. Being apart from his wife he found tough. Sarah visited as much as she could while she was well enough, facilitated by local friends. She also moved into LCCH after being given 3 weeks to live and passed away in February 2015.

After Sarah's funeral Norman's health began to deteriorate. He had suffered with multiple sclerosis and depression throughout his life. Norman passed away peacefully on the morning of 18th September 2015. His Thanksgiving Service was attended by 200 people in Lindfield at the end of October.

Many will remember Norman for his big heart and booming laugh!

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A chance to putt

TEEING OFF

By James Verrall, Head Golf Professional

Whilst we wait for spring to arrive, let's take a look at a shot which you can practise at the course, at home or at work... the putt.

Putting is a fine art and to be a good putter you must be able to repeat the same stroke over and over again.

I took inspiration this month after watching a classic golf film: The Legend of Bagger Vance, starring Will Smith and Matt Damon (two real life keen golfers). I seemed to find the message of the film was 'it's just you and the ball'. This is a great thing to be thinking when standing over your putt. Take away all your negative thinking and just focus on the ball.

Now let's take a run through some key points to work on this month for your putting.

You must make sure you try to keep all parts of your body still except for your shoulders. These are going to rock back and forth during the stroke. To make sure this is possible, your shoulders should be nice and relaxed, not tense and stiff, or they will not be able to move effectively.

To encourage acceleration as you hit the ball, make sure your follow through is longer than your backswing. If this is something you find difficult then your backswing is perhaps too long or too fast.

Grip the putter slightly firmer with your left hand and slightly softer with your right hand (left-handers do the opposite). The left hand should be doing all the work and the right hand just steadying the putter. This will help to keep the putter face square at impact.

Finally, remember it's just you and the ball....

Thanks for reading and I hope to see you at our brand new pro shop soon.

What's on in February

AT KING EDWARD HALL

AND ELSEWHERE

- 4th **Lindfield Country Market** – 10-11am
(Sheila Hobbs 01444 483396)
- 6th **Coffee Morning & Plant Sale** – 10am-12noon
Lindfield Horticultural Society look forward to welcoming you for coffee and home-made cakes. A selection of plants will also be on sale (Pat Whetstone 01444 483236)
- 10th **Lindfield Horticultural Society** – A talk by David Porter 'Life above a Railway Tunnel. An intriguing talk providing an insight into what it's like living above Clayton Tunnel. All welcome (Entry £1 members, £2 visitors. www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk)
- 11th **Lindfield Country Market** – 10-11am
- 16th **Lindfield Preservation Society** – 2.30pm
An Illustrated Talk on 'Trust me, I am an engineer!!' by Douglas Wragg, who is a consultant engineer and automobile accident assessor. He has been an expert witness in a number of court cases including at the Old Bailey and will discuss some examples involving cars and other subjects. All welcome, entry free. (Meeting and Membership info John Chapman 01444 484470)
- 18th **Lindfield Country Market** – 10-11am
- 18th **King Edward Hall** – Film (TBC) Show Evening
(Jennie Powell 01444 483431)
- 23rd **Lindfield Flower Club** – 2.30pm
Graham King will demonstrate and his talk is called 'I've had an idea!'
- 24th **Age UK Redwood Centre** – Coffee Morning
10am - 12noon (Johanne Hodgkinson 01444 450248)
- 25th **Lindfield Country Market** – 10-11am
- 27th **Lindfield Folk Dance Club** – Barn Dance
(Mike Fairweather 01444 482741)

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

If you would like to hire the King Edward Hall please contact the Honorary Bookings Secretary for further information on telephone number 01444 483266 or by e-mail on bookings@kingedwardhall.org.uk

- 5th **Sussex Mineral and Lapidary Society**
7.30pm, Redwood Centre, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath. Illustrated talk: 'What makes a good and valuable mineral specimen?' by Nick Hawes (Chairman). Mineral of the Month – CAVANSITE. Refreshments, raffle and sales. All welcome. (More info 01444 483041 www.smls.org.uk)
- 9th **Charity Pub Quiz** – 7.30pm for 8pm
The Stand Up Inn, Lindfield
Max 6 people per team, book early for this popular event. Raffle on the night. All proceeds will go to the charity Kangaroos.
- 10th **Tiger Arts: The Roger Hind Jazz Trio**
1pm, Lindfield United Reformed Church
A welcome return visit from Roger Hind (piano) Graham Mintram (double bass) and David Brown (saxophones/clarinet). Popular tunes and a few surprises will make up the programme. Free entry. Light lunches served from 12.15pm.
- 17th **Mid-Sussex Decorative and Fine Arts Society**
10.15am, Clair Hall. 'The Elgin Marbles' talk by Dr Stephen Kershaw. Visitors Welcome £7
- 23rd **Mid Sussex Local History Group** – 9.45am
Franklands Village Hall. Lecture entitled 'The History of Gardens of South East England' (Joan Corless on 01444 470108)

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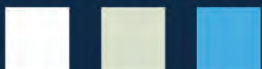
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