

Lindfield Life

Inc. Scaynes Hill & Wolstead

*Local village talk,
by the village*

November 2010 Issue #20

FREE!



Bonfire Night build-up p.7

It's Lindfield, but not as you know it! p.18

Lindfield Ladies' wartime stories p.12

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Paula Clark

Bonfire Night procession from across the pond. Got a great cover picture? See website for details: www.lindfieldlife.co.uk

Welcome

ONE OF MY favourite days in Lindfield's calendar is 5th November. There is a real buzz on the High Street as children gather to see Guy Fawkes outside the butchers after school and there is always a chatter amongst them of their plans for the bonfire celebrations. Since having children our day includes two events – an early evening party for the children with friends, followed by the main event on the common. I have never failed to be impressed by The Bonfire Society and the incredible display they put on. Please support them by becoming a member or making a donation so we can keep this village tradition alive.

The other significant event in the November calendar is Remembrance Day and so this month, Jamie Stratton has been finding out about the role that women played during WW2. We are very grateful to Betty and Gladys for sharing their special memories with us.

We continue our Sussex food feature with DaintyBites – a local cupcake business – providing a feast for the eyes as well as the taste buds. Local author Richard Watson shares his passion for the simple things in life and, at the other end of the spectrum, BT's new Infinity broadband could be coming to Lindfield – if we get enough votes! Chiropractor, Dr Jennifer Layton, returned home recently to Lindfield, Australia and she brings us some insight into our namesake down under! I am relieved that we don't have the same wildlife here, although we did receive lots of messages about the albino squirrel featured in September. He, and his brothers perhaps, have been spotted in several locations around the village, along with a fallow deer in The Hollow.

Emma Tingley, Editorial Team

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LCCH Autumn Fair

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS of the Spring Fair to support the work of Lindfield Christian Care Home (Compton House), there will be an Autumn Fair on Saturday 13th November from 10.00am until 12noon at Lindfield United Reformed Church in the High Street. There will be an early opportunity to buy some Christmas Gifts and also featured will be cards, cakes, chutneys and jams, crafts, jewellery, plants and much more. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Lindfield Horticultural Society

ON WEDNESDAY 10TH November there is a special Lindfield Horticultural Society event at 7.30pm in the King Edward Hall. The evening starts with a short AGM followed by a talk at 8pm from Graham Gough entitled 'A Nurseryman's Lot'. Graham Gough is the founder/owner of one of the finest small nurseries in the UK - Marchants Hardy Plants at Laughton in East Sussex. The nursery specialises in herbaceous perennials and beautiful grasses. It has been featured in virtually every significant gardening publication. This promises to be a really special evening for keen gardeners. Admission charges for this talk are £1 for members and £2 for visitors. Everyone is welcome to both events but only members can vote at the AGM.

Remembrance Sunday

November 14th 2010

THE PROGRAMME FOR the Parade will follow the usual pattern. The Standards, members of the Branch and members of the Women's Section will "Fall In" at the War Memorial at 2.45pm. The Boys' Brigade and the Lindfield Scouts will "Form Up" behind the Branch members. Will those who wish to attend the Remembrance Service assemble at All Saints Church at 2.40pm. Wreaths will be laid by representatives of the various organisations to honour The Fallen. The pattern of the Service will include children from the local junior schools who will read poems in remembrance of all those who gave their lives in all the conflicts. The Remembrance Day Tea will be arranged by the ladies in the King Edward Hall at approximately 4pm.

Two Minutes Silence

We are again asked to remember the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month and it is hoped that as many people as possible will make a point of doing this.

Poppy Appeal

The Poppy Appeal team will be busy again shortly arranging and distributing the collection boxes to the usual volunteers. Pauline is always pleased to receive the names of new volunteers for this task. If anyone, who is not on her list, but is able to spare a little time for this valuable work (just one hour would be a help) please contact her on 01444 482672.

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The Toll House to reopen

MANY OF YOU will remember The Toll House in the High Street as a stylish ladies dress shop. It was operated for 20 years by Gunvar Heaseman, a Swedish lady, before she closed up to concentrate on new projects. The Toll House will reopen this Autumn selling ladies vintage clothing, shoes, amazing handbags, jewellery and homewares. Coincidentally the proprietor this time around is also a Scandinavian: Inger Moss is a Norwegian who came to live in Lindfield 13 years ago with her husband Peter. Inger has had a love of vintage clothing for some years and finally decided to put her eye for the marvellous designs of the past into a retail environment. The Toll House is a perfect setting for this project. A new addition to the shop will be the opportunity for customers to have a relaxing cup of tea or coffee and a small piece of cake whilst considering whether to buy the Horrocks dress or that 1920's handbag.

Inger's shop will also include "Just for the Occasion", a small millinery business specialising in wonderful hats for special occasions such as weddings or days at the races. To complete the offering, in the "Vintage Room" upstairs at The Toll House you will find Lindfield-based Anna Bain and Charlotte Kell, also Lindfield based, selling vintage homewares. The pair have artfully reworked and thoughtfully sourced a stunning range of items for the home. Inspired by the creativity and style of the past,



they have a collection of pieces that can be re-loved and add a little vintage chic to any room. Collections range from bone china tea sets and plates, textiles, furniture, glassware and table settings to the more unusual vintage bus signs, ice barrels and sugar shakers.

There is sure to be something of interest to the discerning shopper at The Toll House!

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Walk on fire and raise money for St Peter & St James Hospice!



Photo © Eddie Howland

ARE YOU FEELING like you need a new challenge in your life? Well, St Peter & St James may have just the thing for you! It's said that walking on fire is one of those experiences that can change your whole outlook on life, so why not give it a go? Come and join us on Saturday 13th November at The Potters Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. Anyone over the age of 16 can take part as long as they

pledge to raise a minimum of £100 in sponsorship and pay the £10 entry fee. You can only enter in advance so make sure you get in touch soon as there is a limit on the number of places we have. Supporters and cheerers will be very welcome on the night too! So don't miss out, make a positive decision to do something different and challenging – who knows where it will take you! Contact the Fundraising Team on 01444 471598 or visit www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk

Lindfield Wildlife cont.

IN RESPONSE TO your article about the albino squirrel, I too have seen it while walking my dog in the Scrase Valley reserve. I heard a big thud and looked round to see that the squirrel had fallen out of a huge tree and landed in the river. It scampered away looking very miserable but seemingly uninjured! Early one morning my husband disturbed a fallow deer eating the grass next to our front door in The Hollow. Quite a surprise given how busy our road is. We've also seen foxes and a badger on William Allen Lane. This is why we love Lindfield - so much wildlife. *Julia*

WE HAVE ALSO seen this little fellow in Chestnuts Close, Lindfield. He is in such fine fettle. *Squirrel Watcher*

Art Exhibition

U.3.A PASTEL & ACRYLIC Group are staging an exhibition and sale of paintings on Friday and Saturday 26th and 27th November, 9:00am - 4:30pm. The exhibition will be held in The Old Stables behind the Tiger Hall (next to All Saints Church) at the top of Lindfield High Street. The exhibition and sale is to raise a donation to The Parkinson Disease Society. Christmas cards will also be on sale. A similar exhibition last November raised a substantial donation to St Peter & St James Hospice.

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A Big Thank You to Lindfield...

THE LINDFIELD BONFIRE Society would like to thank the kind residents of Lindfield for their generous support in raising funds so the tradition of Bonfire Night can continue. We have over seventy new members and have raised £830 in donations and subscriptions.

We are however, appealing to the people of Lindfield for more donations and subscriptions so we can cover the costs to hold Bonfire Night which have increased from approximately £4000 to over £7000. This large increase in cost is primarily to do with new Health and Safety legislations based on the increased amount of people that visit Lindfield on Bonfire Night. The police have also insisted that we have additional marshalls on the night so if you feel that you could volunteer a couple of hours to marshall please come to the marshalls meeting at The King Edward Hall on the 21st October at 7.30pm.

How can you help?

We are asking the people of Lindfield for just £10 per year by becoming a member of the Lindfield Bonfire Society. For this, you will receive our monthly newsletter and be a part of supporting this local event. If you are able to offer more, please fill in the form for your desired amount.

Please dig deep into your pockets to keep this unique village tradition going by completing the standing order form overleaf and returning it to either: Alison Eggert-Hobbs, Field View, Spring Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2RF or a LBS standing order box situated in The Stand Up Inn in Lindfield High Street.

Please contact Alison Eggert-Hobbs on 01444 484752/ alison@lawnevents.co.uk for more information on corporate sponsorship opportunities or Jenny Denyer 01444 482500 for membership enquiries.

**Turn over for
standing order > > >**

"Costs to hold Bonfire Night have increased from £4000 to over £7000."

Photo: Andrew Forsythe



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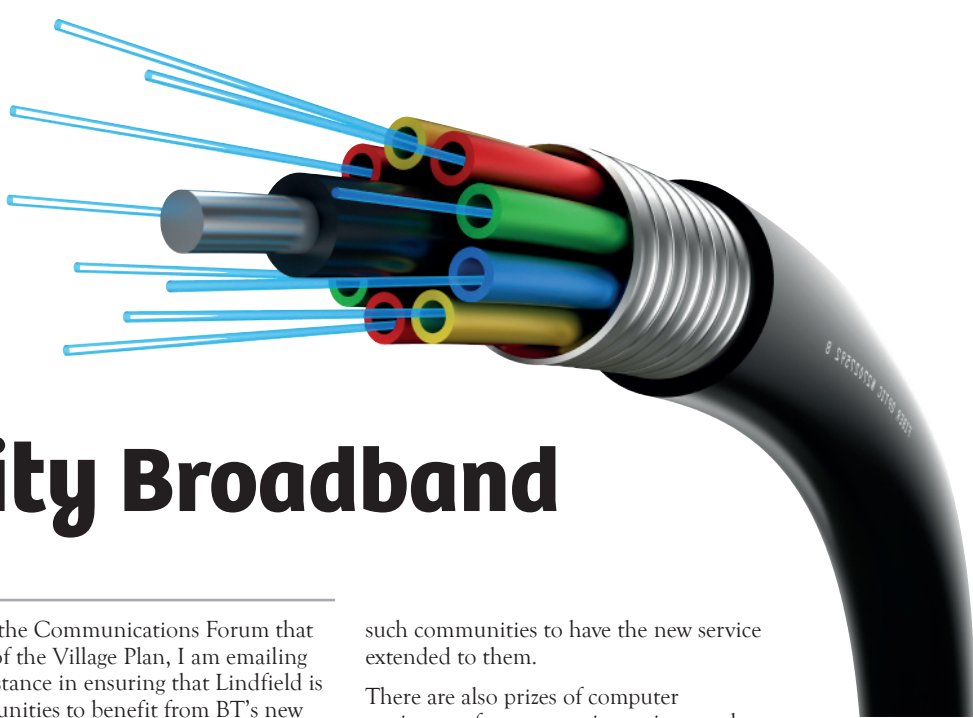
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Infinity Broadband

By Cllr Alan Gomme

AS CHAIRMAN OF the Communications Forum that was set up as a result of the Village Plan, I am emailing you to enlist your assistance in ensuring that Lindfield is one of the first communities to benefit from BT's new superfast "Infinity" broadband service.

Currently Broadband users, regardless of the supplier that you are signed up with (be it BT, talktalk, Sky etc), receive a service no faster than 8MB and in practice much slower. If you work from home in particular this can be not only frustrating but also time wasting. Now I have found out that that BT is going to install their new "Infinity" broadband system in the Haywards Heath exchange in March 2011, but only Haywards Heath will actually receive the much faster broadband service then! More remote communities such as Lindfield will not get their street cabinets connected by fibre optical cables to the exchange until 2012 at the earliest, and possibly much later.

BT's website www.racetoinfinity.bt.com provides more details of BT's 'Infinity' programme and the way they intend to roll it out, plus provides an opportunity for villages like ours who will not benefit when their exchange is upgraded to join a race to be one of FIVE

such communities to have the new service extended to them.

There are also prizes of computer equipment for community projects such as the schools for the FIVE winners.

We only have until 31st December to vote. Lindfield has a potential of 2024 votes, and we need everyone with a phone line to vote not just those who have broadband.

This article in the Guardian contains more information www.guardian.co.uk/money/2010/oct/05/bt-customer-survey-broadband

It seems to me that even if we do not actually get enough votes to be one of the five winners, then the more votes we actually get will have a significant effect on speeding up our own connection by BT to the Haywards Heath exchange by fibre optical cables and so enable as to benefit from the improved "Infinity" service.

Please vote for Lindfield and talk to everyone you know in the village. To vote online click here: www.racetoinfinity.bt.com

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Women at War

By Jamie Stratton

IN SEPTEMBER 1939 Britain declared war on Nazi Germany. The worldwide conflict would last until 1945 and claim millions of lives. With the majority of men fighting with the military, women played a vital role on the Home Front. In line with this year's Remembrance Day, I spoke with two Lindfield women who played contrasting roles to "do their bit" during WWII.

The Land Girl who kissed Winston Churchill

Betty Merrett (née Long) joined the Women's Land Army in 1942, at the age of 24. Prior to this she had worked in a stately home in the New Forest, cooking for a retired army Colonel. "When the time came for me to do my bit for the war effort I had lots of options. I had grown up in the New Forest countryside, which I loved, so I decided to join the Women's Land Army (WLA)."

The WLA was a civilian organisation set up during World War I, and again in World War II, in which women worked in agriculture to replace the men who had been called up to the military. The women who worked for the WLA were commonly called Land Girls. The Land Girls were placed on farms that needed workers and were effectively employed by farmers. It was vital during the war that as much food as possible was grown in Britain, so the WLA played a key role in the war effort.

Betty trained for six weeks in a hostel near Billingshurst with about 32 other young women. She soon found her niche driving a tractor. "Some of the other women were a bit dim to understand and control a tractor but I picked it up straight away". From then on Betty was very much involved in sowing, ploughing and corn planting on the farm. But the women did not fit in to farm life straight away: "To begin with the farmers had their reservations about employing women on their farms because they thought it was men's work, but after a while they realised that us women could do just as a good a job – if not better!"

After a couple of years, Betty was moved from Billingshurst to private farms in Worthing and then onto Hastings, doing contract work on farms all over the South East. Here, she continued her work on the

tractors: "I was a real sun lover and I used to cut my dungarees right up above my knees so my legs were on full show to the sun. I

would also wear a skimpy top and a sun hat and ride my tractor with pride!" Betty also vividly remembers the wet days on the farms when she would hide herself away in the tractor shed, turn the radio up loud, and sing along while cleaning her tractor.



"After a while they realised that us women could do just as a good a job – if not better!"

Not long after the war, Betty along with other Land Girls and service people, were invited to London to a Remembrance Day ceremony, which Winston Churchill was attending. Churchill walked down the lines of people and shook hands with each of them and thanked them for their efforts during the war. Being the "cheeky

girl" she was, Betty was not content with just a handshake so she reached in and gave him a kiss on both cheeks, he replied "I do not usually get these sort of treats!" "The other girls could not believe that I had the cheek to do it and they were all a bit envious," said Betty.

Betty describes those days as the best of her life and says that she had a wonderful life living and working in the countryside. After the war she won many beauty contests that have taken her all around the world. She eventually married and currently lives with her husband in Lindfield.

The secretary with a secret job

At the height of the war in 1943, Gladys Muir (née Goodchild), a former secretary, was summoned to the foreign office at Devonshire House in London for an interview. At the age of 23, her formal contribution to the war effort was to begin.

"We were unsure as to the job that we were going to do. We were issued with a pass and a railway warrant and told to travel to Bletchley Station at a certain time, on a certain day, where we would be met". She, along with around eight other ladies were then greeted and taken aboard a bus on route to former stately home, Bletchley Park.

The grounds to Bletchley Park, recalls Gladys, were highly guarded, and with good reason. The park, also known as Station X was the site of the United Kingdom's main decryption establishment during World War II. It was here that the ciphers and codes of the enemies were decrypted, including ciphers generated by the German Enigma and Lorenz machines.

The work that Gladys did was of extreme importance to the war effort and was covered by the Official Secrets Act. They were asked to sign a contract declaring that they would not divulge any information to anyone and would only face terrible consequences if they did so – even prison!

Before the ladies started their work they had to learn the Morse code and the skill of touch typing. Once fully trained they were introduced to the British version of the Enigma machine, named Type X. These machines were in all theatres of war and their job was to listen in to the German and Japanese wireless traffic and after encoding, send them to Bletchley Park.

Gladys and her colleagues would then interpret the message sent to them in Morse Code and then interpret the dots and dashes. The messages were then passed on to the "funny looking" mathematicians and expert puzzlers who would try and crack the codes.

Time was of the essence in the role as demonstrated by one of Bletchley Park's most illustrious aids to the war effort.

The German pocket battleship Scharnhorst had been responsible for the loss of many British lives in the Atlantic and had been in the Port of Brest for some time when one of the British listening stations picked up a signal from the German naval headquarters.

The signal carried a message to the Scharnhorst's captain telling him when to set sail. This message was sent, by Morse Code, to Bletchley Park where it was deciphered and the code was broken. The message was read and passed on to the Home Fleet who could then wait for the ship to emerge. After a long chase the Scharnhorst was sent to the bottom of the sea. Though Gladys was on her night shift when he visited, Winston Churchill

was so impressed that he visited Bletchley Park to congratulate all involved. He described the workers as his "geese who did not cackle".

After a while, Gladys was promoted to the 'secret room' where she was employed on enciphering, which was of great interest to her. It was here, also, that she encountered the American Code and Cyphering Machines that were being used for all traffic between the United Kingdom and Washington.

After the war, Gladys returned to her job with the bakery where she stayed for some years and met her future husband until moving to Sussex where she remains.



The Jewellery Workshop

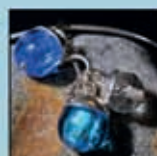
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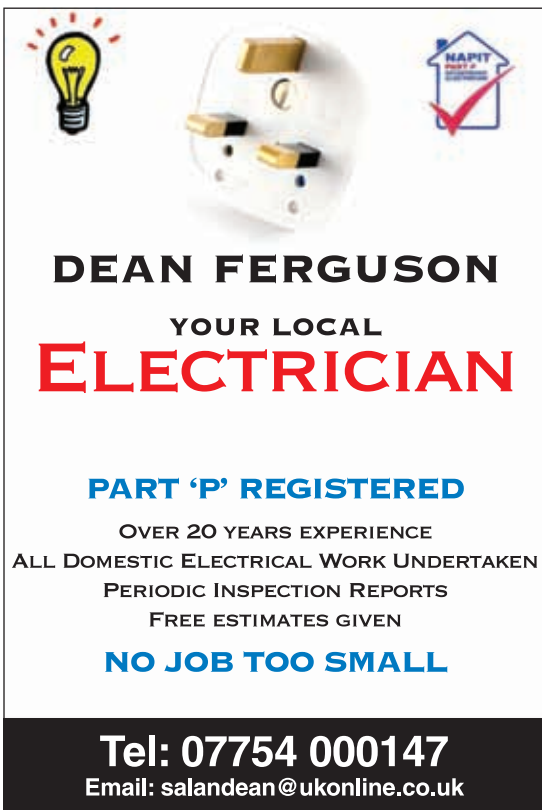
WITH AN ALMOST childlike excitement I took delivery of three new wallpaper books last week. I love new fabric and wallpaper books and on opening the latest additions to our collection, I was taken straight back to Saturday trips to FADS in South Croydon with my parents....many many years ago! It's amazing how evocative scents can be and the aroma of vinyl instantly transported me to starkly lit show rooms, a mass of loud pattern options and my younger brother crashing the hinged display panels back and forth. My father, a DIY perfectionist, would always put up the paper himself (and still does). He used to save me the off cuts so I could decorate the inside of a cardboard box for my Sindy dolls.

Wallpaper has been making a come back for a while now but each year more and more interesting designs and designers hit the market. The new Autumn collections were showcased at Decorex last month with some stunning new designs from GP&J Baker, Baker Lifestyle and the American wallpaper giant, Thibaut. I was particularly drawn to some of the Thibaut designs. Their Natural Resource collection features some lovely papers – a soft brush-stroked blossom, a couple of subtle leaf patterns, all in a wide range of subtle tones, and some cork paper which despite my cynicism about cork, looks amazing....trust me!

Wallpaper is a great and relatively simple way to add drama, texture or colour to a room. Used cleverly it can correct the proportions in a room, provide a feature, or hung as a panel behind a bed, create the feel of a headboard. Floral designs are more associated with the traditional and period interior and pictorial prints such as toile de Jouy more commonly found in period bedrooms. In recent years the market has been awash with more contemporary designs – geometrics, modern interpretations of florals and traditional stripes, interesting textures and papers with a metallic quality which can reflect light back into a room.

When it comes to ordering wallpaper, there are a few things to bear in mind. Measure the walls you plan to paper including doors and windows. Consider the pattern of the paper and what your cuts will be to ensure that the pattern matches correctly. A half drop will require even more consideration since the pattern is staggered so that your second drop will have to sit slightly lower on the wall than the first to make the pattern match. Every other strip will be the same at the ceiling line.

Most rolls are 10m long and 52cm wide, although the US rolls are wider at 69cm and shorter at 8.22m on the roll. Some handmade papers are even wider. Aim to buy your rolls from the same batch since base shades can vary a little from batch to batch. Hanging paper is an art form so make sure that you use a decorator with a track record in this field. Using the correct paste is key – always follow the supplier's instructions to make sure you use the appropriate adhesive.



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The Charming Quirks of Others

by Alexander McCall Smith

By Cavan Wood

ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH is best known for the series of books about the No1 Ladies Detectives agency, set in Africa. However, he is equally at home writing books about his home city of Edinburgh.

This charming and witty novel is set there and concerns the life and friendships of Isabel Dalhousie. She is a moral philosopher by profession, which means that she often reflects on the experiences of others and her own feelings about things that happen to her.

Isabel is asked by her friend to find out who sent a poison pen letter to a school about the candidates for the job of principal. Add in the problem that Isabel's own niece Cat is in love with one of the applicants and you have the makings of a great moral dilemma.

Meanwhile, Isabel's boyfriend is under pressure from a young woman who has told him that she is dying of cancer. As the novel unfolds, we see fully rounded

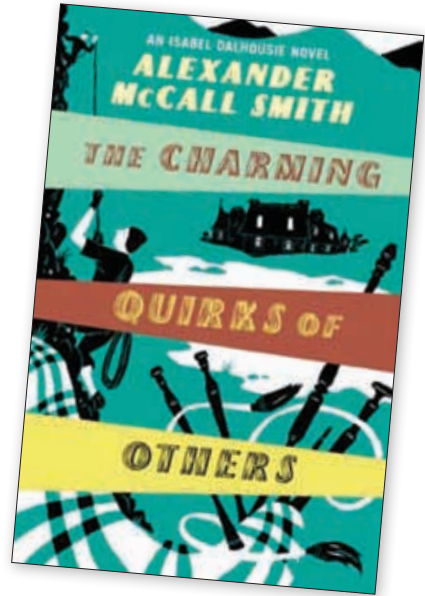
characters who grapple with moral issues in a lively and engaging way.

These are characters that seem to be easily identifiable as people you meet in the real world.

McCall Smith manages the

Jane Austen trick of being both

satirical and showing a great love for people. The novelist is accepting of the quirks of others. A novel that will make you laugh and make you think: a rare feat.



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Lindfield - the 'other' one!

By Jenny Layton

I SPENT MY first twenty five years in Lindfield. Not this one, the other one, in Sydney. So it's quite a coincidence that I am now at the Lindfield Chiropractic Centre, in the Sussex Lindfield. Let me explain a little about how Lindfield came to be, and what it's like there now.

Lindfield, Sydney, is named after Lindfield, Sussex. It is a leafy suburb eight miles north of Sydney Harbour, located on a ridge surrounded on the east and west sides by the reaches of Sydney Harbour.

Sydney was first settled by Europeans in January 1788 when the First Fleet with its cargo of convicts arrived from Portsmouth. Later that year, exploration parties were sent to the area north of Sydney Harbour, searching for farmland, and encountering local aboriginals of the Kuringgai clan. Within a year, the devastating effects of smallpox had taken its hold on the Kuringgai population and nearly all had died. Any remaining had promptly been rounded up and sent to the hinterland.

Over the next hundred years, the area had been settled with land grants, firstly for timber using convict labour, and once the land was cleared, as dairy farms, orchards and market gardens. These settlers faced problems of bushfires, burglaries by former convicts, and the difficulties of isolation. Supplies and produce were transported by road to the river, with the main track from the ridge to river about a mile long.

In 1890, the new North Shore railway line opened, and Lindfield was one of the new stations on this line. The station was named "Lindfield" after a home built by Francis List on Bent Street in the 1880's, giving the new suburb its name. Mr List had named his house after this Lindfield, here in Sussex.



Many homes were then built along this ridge around Lindfield, in the "Federation" style, and the school (my old school) was opened in 1903 (I wasn't there then!), at the top of the biggest track up from the river. By this time also, there was the cricket club, chess and whist club, and the tennis club. Between the wars, Lindfield expanded quickly, with many more residential estates developing, and the style of houses changing to "Spanish Mission" and "Californian Bungalow". Shops opened along the ridge on the main road, which is now a six lane highway.

The opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 then linked Lindfield, and the rest of the North Shore, to central Sydney by both road and rail. Previously, the harbour was crossed only by ferry. The War years, 1939-1945, involved the school: trenches were dug and air raid drills were an everyday occurrence. Following the war, the former RAAF Station in Lindfield became a migrant camp.

Lindfield in 2010 is a residential suburb with a local retail centre around the railway station, the public school, a major private school, a Jewish school, a university, churches, a synagogue, and parks. The reaches of Sydney Harbour on each side are National Parks and so are native bushland, bringing with that the risk of

bushfire. Major fires have been experienced in 1968 and in 1994, with houses in Lindfield being destroyed in the more recent one. The bush is mainly gum trees and the eucalyptus oil in the leaves makes them explode when ignited, the fire jumping from tree to tree.

However with the bush comes the wildlife. Possums can always be spotted each night in the trees or on roofs, along with a colony of fruit bats that fly over each evening.

Birdlife is abundant, particularly the noisy rainbow lorikeets and sulphur



crested cockatoos which enjoy being fed by the residents. The cockatoos can be destructive and peck at the window frames looking for a feed. As for dangerous creepy crawlies, there is the funnel web spider and red back spider, so care needs to be taken when pottering around the garden. Snakes are occasionally encountered. These are mostly grass snakes but sometimes a diamond python; neither are dangerous species but are still not to be meddled with. The harmless blue tongued lizard hides under rocks in the garden.



In 1978, a 75 year Jubilee Celebration was held at Lindfield School, and a lime tree planted to commemorate its links with Sussex. Also that year, Lindfield School, Sussex, was visited by a staff member from the school in Sydney, and presented a plaque to the principal and pupils. In turn, they presented her with a book on Lindfield, Sussex, and a plaque to take back. The school captain who received the plaque was my brother.



My father, aged 84, still lives in Lindfield, on the land he bought in 1958.



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Simply Good Food...

By Caroline Young

NOVEMBER is a month of many 'special' days marked both in the past and today with traditions and traditional foods. It was 405 years ago that Guy Fawkes and his friends decided to try and blow up King James I and Parliament. Little did they know we would be still be celebrating their failure today.

"Please to remember
The Fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot."

Remember Guy Fawkes with a very English warming supper before joining everyone at our village's traditional procession, bonfire and fireworks.

Sausages with Apples, Cabbage and Bacon Serves 4

Using a large frypan with a lid, gently fry 450g meaty pork sausages for 10 min or until golden brown on all sides. Remove to a plate and keep hot.

Add 1tbs olive oil, 4 roughly chopped rashers of back bacon, 1 large English dessert apple, (peeled, cored and thickly sliced) and 1 finely chopped large onion to the pan. Sprinkle with 2 tsp sugar and cook over low heat until soft and golden brown, stirring once or twice.

Meanwhile, trim 1 small green cabbage and cut into very fine shreds, discarding the core and any thick stems. Pack into the pan (it will cook down), add 150ml vegetable stock, seasoning and 2 tsp white wine or cider vinegar. Cover and cook over low heat for about 15 min, stirring once or twice, or until the cabbage is very soft.

Stir 2 tsp whole grain mustard into 150ml soured cream. Pile the cabbage mixture onto hot plates and top with the sausages and soured cream. Excellent with jacket potatoes or garlic bread.



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2nd November is All Souls' Day when prayers were said for souls in purgatory. The poorer people would offer their richer neighbours their prayers for departed relatives in return for alms or "soul cakes". The cakes, which were eaten with mulled ale, could just be simple flat fruited buns marked with a cross or more elaborate recipes containing fruit.

"A soul, a soul, a soul cake,
Please good missus a soul cake,
An apple, a pear, a plum or a
cherry,
Or any good thing to make us
merry."

Plum Soul Cake

Serve warm as a pudding or cold as cake. Be sure to use ripe plums.

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Lightly butter a shallow 23cm cake tin and line the base.

Put 250g golden caster sugar, 2 medium eggs, 150ml grapeseed (or other mild-flavoured oil) oil, 1tsp vanilla extract and the finely grated rind and juice of 1 small orange into a large bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until light and creamy.

Sift 225g self-raising flour, ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda and a pinch of salt on to a plate then gradually blend into the egg mixture with a metal spoon. Gently stir in 300g ripe plums, halved and stoned.

Spoon into the prepared tin and bake for 45 min or until the cake is just pulling away from the sides of the tin. Cool for 20 min before turning out on to a wire rack.

Sift a little icing sugar over the top before serving.



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When Lucy went...

Miniture Rifle Shooting

By Lucy Cooper

I'VE NEVER BEEN quite sure about guns.

Although I've always felt it would be exciting to have a go at shooting, the thought of having a loaded weapon in my hand was pretty scary!

So it was with a little trepidation that I accepted the invitation from Lindfield Rifle Club to visit their rifle range and learn about shooting.

Hidden down Alma Road is the rifle clubhouse. I was warmly welcomed by Nick Holden and Dickie Bird who introduced me to several of the club members in the cosy tea area before proudly leading me through to the modern new rifle range.

I was amazed! The indoor range is 25 yards long. I hadn't imagined it to be so vast. The walls are made from 80cm steel panels, so there's no way a bullet would go through.

Dickie explained that the original range was built in 1913 and was very basic, with no heating and no electricity. The club completely refurbished the range last year, keeping the original structure, leaving the new build with beautiful original wooden beams – a flavour of the old clubhouse.

The re-vamp cost £35,000 and all the money was earned from fund-raising and a sport lottery grant. "Even though it was 100 years old, it served us well up to last year," Nick said; "But the whole place was pretty grubby, there were dozens of spiders. It wasn't a good look to attract new members!" After the structural work was done by builders,

it was members who took on all painting and decorating, and even electrical work. The new range was officially opened in July this year.

After my tour of the premises it was down to the serious business of shooting.

I explained that I had never fired a gun in my life, so wasn't expecting to be let anywhere near the gun case. But it was clear the members were keen to see me give it a go!

Before it was my turn to pull the trigger, I sat with a cuppa and chatted with Davina Braidwood, leading lady at the club. She began shooting in 2000. "I knew there was a club around Lindfield somewhere, and then I found it!" Davina is particularly involved with the junior shooters, and explained the benefits of young people joining. "It encourages kids to relax, take their time, and take on a huge responsibility. They're in charge of dangerous weapons after all, but it also takes the glamour out of the idea of guns."

I then watched some of the members fire a few rounds. It was nowhere near as loud as I had thought!

I was worried they would watch me give the shooting a go, but there was no pressure whatsoever. When it came to my turn to shoot, though everyone was keen for me to do well and enjoy it, I was left to it. Dickie explained the stances for shooting. Guns can be fired in a 'prone' stance (meaning lying down), kneeling stance and standing. For each round the shooter has a couple of practice shots.

There wasn't loads of talking or theory. Even though I was pretty nervous, we got down to the interesting stuff quickly, and I found it really addictive.

Nick pinned up the sheet of paper with all the targets on 25 yards away at the end of the range. It looked so small;



I couldn't imagine how I would be able to fire anywhere near there. I was handed a rifle – it was so heavy! But once I looked into the sight I could see my targets clearly.

With earmuffs on and the safety catch removed, I was ready to go. My first shot was exhilarating, but I felt remarkably calm and in control, and was soon re-loading and firing as if I'd been doing it for years!

I really wanted to improve each time, thinking; "I'll be much steadier on this one" and "I'll really focus on this next one."

When I'd fired at all the targets, Nick went to the end of the range and picked up my scorecard. I shot 69, which I'm told isn't too shabby for a beginner. Experienced members aim to shoot scores within the 80's upwards. Still, I was so proud of myself I took my scorecard home.

Nick Holden explained why he feels rifle shooting is so addictive: "You get a great sense of self-achievement. Unless you're in a competition, you're competing against yourself to improve your own aim. The desire to achieve makes you totally focused for up to 20 minutes at a time."

Many of the members shoot in regular competitions, some even so advanced they have represented the country.

The club enjoys a very social aspect, with members in their teens to those in their seventies. They regularly share a drink at Lindfield Village Club, have an annual Christmas party, and enjoy outdoor shoots.

The following weekend I was invited to join several of the members on an outdoor shoot at a rifle range hidden deep within the South Downs at Patcham.

Shooting outside is really good experience, as there are far more distractions. The wind can interfere with the bullets, meaning taking aim is much more of a challenge.

During the morning I was there, other distractions included sheep, walkers and even a group of horses and riders in the distance!

I thoroughly enjoyed rifle-shooting, and would encourage anybody who is even just a little bit intrigued to go along and just have a go. You might be surprised at how quickly you pick it up!

If you feel like giving rifle shooting a go, you can pop down to the club as a 'guest' for up to four visits. Contact Dickie Bird on 01444 233692. You don't need to bring anything; all equipment and guns can be borrowed. Just bring a fiver for a box of ammunition, and fire away!



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By Emma Tingley

EVERYONE LOVES CAKE! And who can resist the temptation of a delightful cupcake? An individual cake, just perfect for one. I first met Michelle Dainty of DaintyBites at Cockhaise Farm earlier this year. She was selling her cakes from a small table in the barn and they were absolutely delicious – a feast for both the eyes and the taste buds!

The idea of cupcakes was first mention in 1796 by Amelia Simms in her book 'American Cookery' in a recipe that described 'a cake to be baked in small cups'. The term 'cupcake' came later in Eliza Leslie's 'Receipts' written in 1828. The origin of the word is not known but two theories exist. First, that the cakes were cooked in small containers, such as tea cups. This was a lot quicker than baking larger cakes and cake tins did not become available until the start of the 20th century and paper liners were

first introduced after the First World War. The second theory is that the ingredients used to make the cakes were measured in cups – a revolutionary way to bake at the time as it saved so much time in baking. Although the cupcake's roots are in the USA, they are now popular around the globe, nowhere more so than here.

Michelle has a both a real talent and passion for cake baking, although she was never really a keen cook. It wasn't until she met husband, Alan, and he drew her into cooking that she began to see food as the glue of social events. When the children came along she began to make birthday cakes and found that she really enjoyed it. "There was a baker hiding within me!" laughs Michelle. DaintyBites has grown very organically from a desire to do something that she loved. And now that her twins are at school and youngest daughter is at nursery, she is beginning to develop the business. DaintyBites started small, taking orders from friends, and then selling cupcakes at local craft markets and fairs. It is now about to start supplying cakes to local business. The neatness and simplicity of the cupcakes make them a hit every time.



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"I love cake and I don't see it as an indulgence" says Michelle. "I love creating something for others. It's so enjoyable and satisfying." DaintyBites' aim is to make good quality cakes – something simple that tastes good and looks great. She uses local ingredients where possible, collecting fresh eggs and carrots from Lower Laines Farm in Cuckfield, and cooking apples, plums and pears from Balcombe. When a local product is not available all her cakes are made with the best fair trade or organic ingredients. The cupcakes are extremely popular. The range includes vanilla, chocolate, orange, lemon, carrot and ginger as well as a coconut and lime flavoured sponges. Beautifully topped with butter icing and decorated with florist sugar icing, sugar paste or edible glitter, the cakes make lovely gifts or are perfect for special occasions.

Michelle can also help with displaying cakes at events, adding the finishing touches that make DaintyBites' cakes stand out. Gorgeous boxed sets of cupcakes, tied with ribbon, to celebrate the arrival of a baby in either baby blue or pink icing and decorated with tiny booties are popular gifts for new parents. Delicious gingerbread, carrot and brownie tray bakes are also available along with the more traditional layer cakes such as chocolate, lemon and coffee and walnut.

"I like to experiment with recipes and I keep modifying them until I'm satisfied. I take inspiration from the likes of Nigella Lawson, Rachel Allen, the Primrose Bakery and a bit of Mary Stewart, but I like to add my own twist!" shares Michelle. All her recipes are tried and tested on her family and willing friends. They are sent out with

a questionnaire so that she gets as much feedback as possible in order to achieve the perfect flavour and texture to the cakes. She loves being creative with the decoration too, with simple yet stunning cake tops. "It does need skill but you also need the right tools. There are a lot of gadgets out there but knowing how to do something from basic principles helps you to be able to use the right tools," explains Michelle.



With the festive season fast approaching, DaintyBites is already very much in the Christmas spirit preparing suet-free Christmas puddings made with cranberries, blueberries and stem ginger that will be perfect to finish off that special meal. Christmas cupcakes as well as the more traditional sized cakes are already being nurtured in the store – a spice fruit sponge with fondant icing decorated with snowflakes and holly and finished with some festive sparkle. A stunning addition to any Christmas table.

If, like me, your mouth is watering just thinking about the cakes, then you don't have to go far or wait for long. DaintyBites will be selling cakes at the Bonfire Society event on Saturday 20th November in the King Edward Hall. So get down there and not only support the society, but enjoy a beautifully made and scrumptious tasting cupcake. Or even better, take a box home!

To see more or order for a special event, visit www.daintybites.co.uk

Slowing down in the rush of life

By Richard Watson

I HAVE JUST moved from Australia back to England and have decided to live just outside Lindfield. People think I'm mad. This isn't because some people have an irrational dislike of the village. Rather it's because there's a recession going on and it's almost winter. Over in Australia it's almost summer and the global recession refused to travel through Asia. Both facts amuse my Australian friends, especially the ones with a warped sense of temperature that say it's been winter in England for years.

So why am I, along with the rest of my family, here? There is no simple answer to this. It's a mixture of ageing grandparents, schools, business, gardening and what Donald Rumsfeld, the former American Secretary of Defence, once called "Old Europe." I also got fed up with the regular commute. Sydney to London is a long journey. I did it twice once - in three weeks - and it almost killed me. Mind you, I did establish that once you've got jet lag it's impossible to get double jet lag. You just get a blur - and lots of airmiles.

What will I miss? I will miss getting back from work and throwing myself into a clear blue ocean (OK, there's sea off Brighton but it's brown and murky). I will miss year-round BBQs, fresh mangoes, insects with attitude and the smell of eucalyptus trees after rain.

What am I looking forward to? For someone that's categorised as a futurologist, I am strangely attracted to the old and England, like Europe, does old in abundance. I like the countryside too. We lived in London for a while before we moved to Sydney, but I found the lack of space limited my horizons. With distance comes greater perspective I found.

The countryside sometimes gets a bad press. I assume this is because the media is predominantly metropolitan. Personally, I think that the countryside is, as the writer Harry Eyres once pointed out, a repository of deep, even eternal values. I seem to remember he also said that this is a rather old-fashioned idea. But I think he's right.

The more I become aware of new technologies, particularly digitalisation, virtualisation and telepresence, the more I think that local community matters. Maybe that's why I like Lindfield. I could drive further and use the shops in Haywards Heath, but I find the self-check out machine in Tesco rather soulless. As for the automated do-anything-you-could-want machine in the Post Office in Haywards Heath, I find that quite terrifying.

I would rather take a walk into the village and deal with people rather than machines, especially individuals that

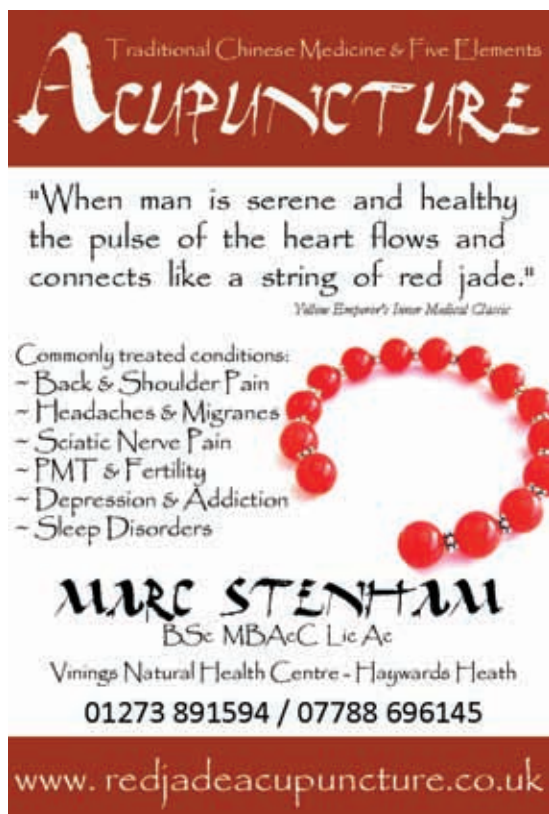


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have an interest in what they're doing and say hello with genuine affection.

Automated retail, along with online shopping, mobile phones, sat-nav (twat nav as someone recently called it), e-books and Google are all wonderful inventions, but I think we have started to ask too much of them. They are destroying our ability to think properly. Our thinking has become shallow, narrow, fractured, cursory and hurried. Equally, our human relationships and physical communities are suffering because we have started to use digital technology (especially mobile phones and online social networks) to replace human contact.

We assume that things like these are connecting people, but evidence is starting to emerge that they are doing quite the opposite. In the US, for example, a study has found that 25% of Americans feel that they have no close friends to share their problems with. A decade ago it was 10%. Similarly, it appears that the internet is not broadening knowledge but narrowing it. Only 1% of Google searches proceed beyond the first page of results for instance.

What can we do about this? I am not arguing that we should turn into a bunch of neo-luddites. All I am saying

is that we should think carefully about the tools we use and should not have technology imposed upon us against our will. I have no problem with e-books, online banking or customer service avatars, but I do if that's all that's on offer. We should therefore fight to achieve some level of balance. One where the fast is weighed against the slow, the physical is weighed against the virtual and the local is weighed against the remote.

Rather than rushing to embrace the electronic grip of the 21st century, I think the village should help people to get parts of their analogue lives back by deleting parts of itself. For example, the village could ban the use of mobiles in shops. OK, that's never going to work, so perhaps we could at least declare Lindfield a 'slow village' whereby green areas are protected, eyesores are removed, traditional crafts are celebrated and healthy living is promoted via local produce, slow eating and real conversation.

*Richard Watson is an author and futurologist. His latest book is **Future Minds: How The Digital Age Is Destroying Our Minds, Why This Matters And What We Can Do About It** (Nicholas Brealey Publishing £12.99)*

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NEXT CONCERT

27th Nov 2010 **PAVLOS CARVALHO** (cello) with
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Local musician Pavlos Carvalho is an assistant teacher of cello at the Royal Academy. He appears regularly as soloist and chamber musician, and this evening he is part of the Manus Ensemble (Clara Biss, violin, Kate Lindon, viola, Jakob Fichert, piano) performing works by Schumann, Brahms and Copland.



12th Feb 2011 **JANET CANETTY-CLARKE***

27th Mar 2011 **YOUNG MUSICIANS' SHOWCASE**

9th Apr 2011 **JAYSON GILLHAM** (piano)

7th May 2011 **CONCERT ROYAL**

All concerts are in St Wilfrid's Church at 7.45 pm except *in Haywards Heath Methodist Church. If you enjoy concerts of live music, please consider becoming a member. Our discount makes membership really worthwhile, and joining will help give the Society a firm financial basis.

*Tickets: £12, conc's £11, member's discount £3
Family rate: 2 adults half price with under-18 (£3)*

For further information, telephone 01444-456227, or visit:
www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk

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Heber Opera Concert

Sussex opera company Heber Opera is 21 years old this year. To celebrate, three concerts in November will feature arias, ensembles and choruses from the many operas performed by Heber Opera since it was founded by director Roger Clow in 1989.

The concert dates and venues are:

Friday 19th November, 7.30 pm
The King Edward Hall, Lindfield

Saturday 20th November, 7.30pm
Plumpton Village Hall, Plumpton Green

Sunday 28th November, 2.30 pm
Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

The final concert in Hurstpierpoint is a true birthday celebration, including something from every one of Heber Opera's productions. There will also be a longer interval, with tea and cake served.

Tickets are £10 for 20 and 21 November, and £12 for 28th November. The £12 ticket price includes a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. Reserve your tickets by calling 01273 495220 (office hours).



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Tourist guides launch tours from your doors

WHEN MICHAEL ROBINSON gained a place on the prestigious training course to become a London Blue Badge tourist guide he was surprised to find fellow Mid Sussex resident Diane Flint on the same course.

Only 40 people from around the world are invited to complete the training each year, following a rigorous interview and entrance exam.

Now Michael, from Burgess Hill and Diane, from Lindfield are qualified Blue Badge guides and are pooling their expertise to organise tours to London and out of town sites for local residents.

"It is a very demanding course with 18 months of lectures on a variety of subjects including British history, architecture, sport and agriculture as well as practical sessions on guiding top London sites," said Diane.

"We are also trained to guide on coaches and are qualified to give tours to out of London sites such as Windsor Castle, Stonehenge and Bath.

"We both really enjoyed the course and decided to team up to offer a bespoke service to local residents."

Michael, known to many people as the former owner of Picturesque in Haywards Heath, is already an experienced

driver guide in London and the South East. Diane, a former Sussex and Surrey newspaper editor is now working regularly as a guide in and around London.

The two guides also discovered another coincidence – they both have MA degrees in Art History; Michael is a freelance lecturer in the subject.

The pair offer tours for private individuals or groups of any size including schoolchildren and students. Because they are both based in Sussex they can tailor any tour to start locally.

A typical day tour by coach starting in Mid Sussex includes a panoramic tour of London, a visit to see the Guard Change, a personal tour of Westminster Abbey and either a tour of the Tower of London or a walk around Roman and medieval London. The tour includes all admission prices and costs £69 per person. A similar day tour starting in London costs £49.

To contact Michael or Diane telephone 07774 907563 or 07595 301421 or email michaelgrobinson@mac.com or diane.flint@mac.com or visit their website at www.guidesoflondon.com



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Lindfield residents build homes in Romania



AT THE END of September, 25 mismatched people from All Saints Church, Lindfield, flew out to Oradea in North-West Romania. Our average age was 55, with the youngest of us being 22 and the oldest 81. The travel insurance company thought we were pulling their leg. What were we doing? We were there to help build houses with Caminul Felix and Habitat for Humanity. Caminul Felix (translated “happy home”) was set up in 1990 by a couple moved by the plight of abandoned children in Romania after the fall of Ceausescu revealed the reality of depravity and neglect. They adopted 18 children and soon built a village of other likeminded couples doing the same. Since then they’ve expanded even further and we were there to assist on a new project: building basic two-bedroom bungalows with convertible attics for young newly married couples from the original villages, now grown up and needing affordable first homes of their own. Hardly any of us had building skills

beyond basic DIY and the houses were a far cry from IKEA flat-pack furniture but we were there to get stuck in, give our all and help serve these sacrificial and loving people who give up so much to look after those less fortunate.



When we arrived there were two and a half houses and a foundation block. When we left there were four shiny red-tiled roofs looking back at us from the landscape. But the physical construction work is only really part of this story.

So what exactly is Caminul Felix all about?

It’s a septuagenarian allowing a young boy to beat him at cards, even though they’ve never met before and because he has a charming, innocent, toothless grin as he cheats and wins every time... It’s a young girl, safe and smiling and happy, delighting in all the foreign doting attention, fully enjoying her first year at school and captivated by our digital cameras... It’s listening to a “house mother” describe with sadness and concern the state of two children she and her husband are about to adopt (whilst having a house full of 12 others already)- living on the streets like animals, amongst the squalor of boxes and drains whilst their father is at work- a sadness tinged with

hope for the future... It’s walking through a half-built house with its young lady beneficiary, excitedly talking about the imagined position of a table, mirrors, bright purple sofa and the paintings she’s designed for the walls... It’s collapsing in a seizure of exhaustion after building all day, with one arm cramped up and tense (with muscle spasms affectionately dubbed “hammer claw”) but being unable to stop grinning because you know you’re helping to give young people a future and a start to life... It’s about freedom for children, churches and a country rising from years of oppression... It’s about “Caminul Felix” – a happy home, a happier future, and family.

Visit www.caminulfelix.com for more information.

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What's on at King Edward Hall

- 4th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 5th Lindfield Bonfire Society
Guy Fawkes Celebrations (Wendy Box 482809)
- 7th Central Sussex Cage Bird Association
Annual Show (Don Hunter 01444 235736)
- 10th Lindfield Horticultural Society
AGM and Talk with Guest Speaker
(Alison Elliott 483039)
- 11th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 12th Vintage Fashion Show and Coffee
Evening in aid of Macmillan Charity
(Jeanette Anning 416323)
- 13th Haywards Heath & District Lions Club -
Jumble Sale (Mandy Dembrey 01273 890777)
- 13th King Edward Hall Film Show
Afternoon and Evening
(Gillian Alderman 483181)
- 14th Remembrance Sunday
Royal British Legion Afternoon Tea
- 18th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 19th Lindfield Crafts and Market
(Beverley Smith 440274)
- 19th Heber Opera 21st Anniversary Concert
(Gillian Goodsman 01273 495220)
- 20th Lindfield Bonfire Society Craft Fair
(Wendy Box 482809)
- 21st Ruwach Christian Church
Morning and Evening Services
(Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 24th Salsa Julia - An evening of Salsa
Dancing (Julia Cooper 417781)
- 25th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 25th Mid Sussex Leukaemia & Lymphoma
Research - Quiz Night and
Fish & Chip Supper Tickets £8.50
(Lesley Wale 457928)
- 26th Heatherley Cheshire Home
Fundraising Lunch (Mrs M Olver 483578)
- 27th Sale of King Edward Hall Centenary Book
(Brian Newcombe)
- 28th Ruwach Christian Church Morning
and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025)

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 Bookings Secretary or see the website:
www.kingedwardhall.org.uk

What's on elsewhere in/around Lindfield

Tuesday 2nd November, 8pm

Mid Sussex Wine Society - Annual General Meeting

To be followed by 'Cheese, Wine and Raffle'.
(Meeting and Membership information from
Angela Seward 484447).

King Edward Hall

Tuesday 16th November, 2.30pm

Lindfield Preservation Society

'Brighton Station' an illustrated presentation by Jackie Marsh-Hobbs. (Meeting and Membership information from John Chapman 484470).

King Edward Hall

Friday/Saturday 26th/27th November, 9am - 4.30pm

U.3.A Pastel & Acrylic Group Exhibition and Paintings Sale

The Old Stables (behind the Tiger Hall)

Friday 26th November, 8.00 - 10.00pm.

Lindfield Primary school PTA Christmas shopping evening

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Saturday 11th December, 11.00am - 1.30pm

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