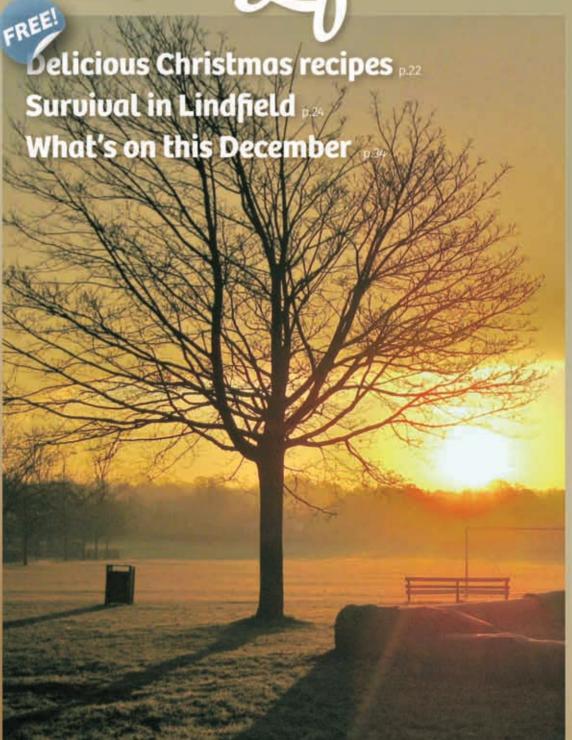


Local village talk, by the village

December 2010 Issue #21





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Lindfield Life



Polly Paice - A cold sunrise over Lindfield Common.

Got a great cover picture? See website for details: www.lindfieldlife.co.uk

Welcome

I LOVE WINTER and since investing in a good pair of waterproof trousers last year, I don't even mind the wet and windy days. I'm even happy to go shopping in them! My children are not so keen, but at least I stay dry. Although they weren't needed on Bonfire Night this year. The rain stayed away and our amazing bonfire boys and girls treated us to another spectacular night. Thank you!

We've got a great Christmas edition for you to enjoy. There are plenty of festive ideas within the pages, from Caroline's mincemeat to gift ideas from our very own High Street. We are so fortunate to have such a great range of independent shops, all of whom have got something special to offer this Christmas so there is no need to travel far to get the perfect gift. Why not invite a friend over to the village to see what we've got and enjoy coffee or lunch in one of our cafes? Our churches have also got something for everyone over the festive season and details of all their services can be found in the centre spread.

Cllr Alan Gomme has provided us with an update on our progress with 'BT's Race to Infinity'. There is still time to vote and if you do not have a computer, or the internet, then you can still cast a vote and help the community. Watch out for the opportunity to register your vote at some of the events happening in Lindfield over the next few weeks, or pop into the Parish Council office during the week.

Christmas time reminds me to be grateful for the many home comforts we enjoy, but while reading this magazine you'll appreciate them all the more! James Gaydon tells us what happened when he embarked on a survival weekend right here in Lindfield. Winter bobble hats off to him, but only for a minute! Wrap up warm, and enjoy the Christmas buzz as we close 2010.

Emma Tingley, Editorial Team

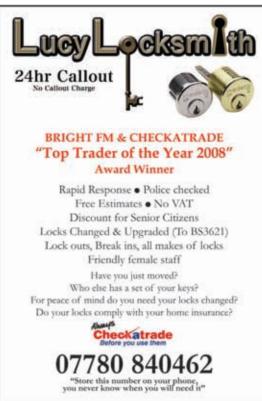
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December 2010

NEWS

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

Blackthorns Christmas Fair

BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY Primary School are holding their Christmas Fair on Saturday 11th December between 11:00am and 1:30pm. There will be opportunity to buy Christmas presents, eat in the cafe or from the BBQ, enjoy games and crafts for the children and meet Father Christmas

Picture lost and found

IF YOU RECOGNISE this picture and called

the Lindfield Life office about it some time ago - do please get in touch, as we have mislaid your contact details! Sorry!



Successful Arts Festival needs new leaders

ARE YOU SOMEONE who likes a challenge? Would you like to see Lindfield Arts Festival happen again?

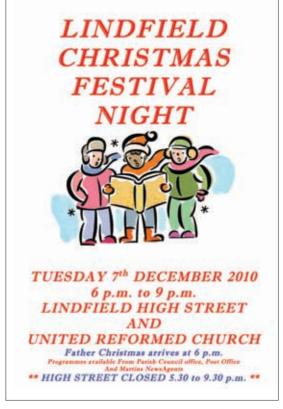
Following the success of this years Festival we are looking for a community minded group of people or person to step forward and organise the next festival. This years

organisers did a great job and have set the ball rolling, everything is in place for a Festival ensuring the next event, to be bigger and better

We need people to take over the reigns and ensure this event happens again if not in 2011 then 2012 - Olympic Year - so if you would like to find out more please email Leesa on: leesalemay@btinternet.com or Claire on: cefuller@btinternet.com









Santa's coming to town!

LINDFIELD DUO Simon Cartwright and John Higgins are launching a charitable Santa Fun Run in aid of The British Heart Foundation (BHF). They are calling on all budding Santas to take part in the first Haywards Heath Santa Fun Run and Santa Saunter in Victoria Park.

This fun event will take place on Sunday 12th December 2010 in Victoria Park, Haywards Heath. This event caters for all the family, whether you run or jog the 3 miles round the park or choose a more leisurely saunter of a mile it promises to be fun for all. All entrants will receive a fabulous FREE Santa Suit and children under ten are asked to wear fancy dress, there will be a prize for the most festive!

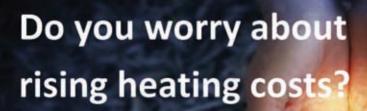
All budding Santas must register prior to the event. This can be done online at www.bhf.org.uk/haywardsheathsantafunrun. The BHF are asking everyone

to raise sponsorship for their fun run or saunter and help the charity save lives. Santas can enter as individuals or as a team, with family, friends or colleagues.

John Higgins, Event Organiser, said "With Christmas just around the corner why not book in some festive fun and join us for a walk, run or even skip in the park. As well as being fun we hope the event will raise much needed funds for the fantastic work of the BHE."

Get your festive season off to a fantastic start and be Santa for a few hours - have some fun, get fit and help save lives this Christmas

For further details and to register go to www.bhf.org.uk/haywardsheathsantafunrun or contact the BHF regional office on 01892 893918, or the organiser John Higgins 07715 491686.



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December 2010

Lindfield artists display work

at The Limes

IN THE RUN up to Christmas, local artists from Lindfield have been given the opportunity to display their art work at The Limes development on Newton Road in the village by Barratt Homes. The developer who last year sponsored the first ever Lindfield Arts Festival has offered the artists this venue as part of its ongoing commitment to the annual event.

Local artists will be exhibiting their art work at The Limes where their work can be viewed by the public. An ideal opportunity for those looking for inspiration for Christmas presents, the exhibition will commence on Saturday 27th November and will run up until 23rd December. No money will be exchanged on site.

Lynnette St-Ouintin, Sales Director for Barratt Southern Counties. comments: "Through our sponsorship of the Arts Festival last year. we got to know a lot of the local artists and it was clear to see that they were keen to find new ways to promote their art work. So when we had some space in the rooms above our sales centre, it seemed like the ideal solution and the artists were quick to take us up on our offer. We will be exhibiting the art work in the room above the sales and marketing suite at The Limes and we would welcome anyone interested to come and see the local talent in the run up to Christmas 7

Leesa Leemay, organiser of the Lindfield Arts Festival comments: "It's great to see how the arts festival helped so many local artists and that companies like Barratt are opening some doors to new opportunities here in Lindfield. We are currently looking for organisers to help with the running of the annual event and we would welcome anyone who is interested in taking a role to come and speak to us now."

The sales and marketing suite is located at The Limes development at Newton Road, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH16 2ND. For further details about The Limes please visit www.barratthomes.co.uk



included

350). The









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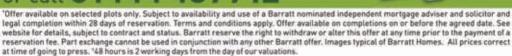
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barratthomes.co.uk



Lindfield disadvantaged by copper broadband!

By Cllr Alan Gomme, Chairman of Lindfield's Communications Forum

DO YOU KNOW that Lindfield has one of the slowest broadband services in Mid-Sussex, with many users who are connected to the Alma Road telephone exchange often experiencing speeds so slow that their connection often times out on them while they are waiting for a web site.

The experts keep telling us that broadband speed depends on the distance the user is from the exchange and the quality of the copper cable that connects our houses to the exchange. No one lives very far from the exchange in Alma Road so we must conclude that Lindfield has some very poor quality copper cable affecting our connections. Many of our villagers report speeds well below the 8mb we should receive and according to a recent survey of broadband speeds across Mid Sussex, users of the Haywards Heath exchange do receive 8mb, and Burgess Hill users do even better with speeds of up to 10mb.

These speed differences are soon going to increase dramatically as our near neighbour Haywards Heath is to get its exchange upgraded shortly to the latest "Infinity" fibre optical cable system by BT, which will give their users a speed of up to 40mb.

This is why the Lindfield Communications Forum are trying to get the Alma Road telephone exchange upgraded by BT to the "Infinity" system so that the village gets the faster broadband service and is no longer disadvantaged. We believe that upgrading the Lindfield exchange so that it is equipped with the latest fibre optical system will bring considerable benefits for all its users but in particular to local businesses and school children.

The supply of telephone and broadband connections at the exchange, and between the exchange and our houses, is the responsibility of BT, regardless of the service provider that individual householders have contracts with for these services. We therefore have to persuade BT that there is enough demand within the village for this faster service, and we believe that by entering Lindfield in BT's "Race to Infinity" there is an opportunity before the end of December to do just that.

We need all 2024 users of the Alma Road telephone exchange to vote for Lindfield. Someone in the village said to me today, "they are happy with their broadband speed", but I asked them, and I would ask everyone, to consider those in the village who either are suffering from a very poor connection and so receive the slowest service, or have a genuine need for a much faster service.

You can vote online at bt.com/racetoinfinity for LINDFIELD NOW.

If you only have a phone line then you still have a vote. You can cast your vote at Village Night on Tuesday 7th December at the United Reformed Church, or at the Parish Office in Denmans Lane during normal opening hours during December.

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December 2010

Christmas Shopping -**High Street** Style

EACH YEAR the challenge is to find that perfect gift for those special people in your life. Often we spend hours trainsing around large shopping centres, only to return home feeling frazzled and with a headache. Many of us sit in front of computer screens scrolling through pages on the internet in an attempt to make Christmas shopping more convenient, but you can't get more convenient than our very own High Street. You can make an outing of it too by enjoying a treatment in one of the salons (remembering gift youchers make a great present), enjoying a coffee break in one of the lovely tea rooms and meeting a friend or two for lunch. Christmas shopping just got easy! With the help of our traders, why don't you give it a go shop local this year.





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perfect gift. Available in a range of sizes and designs - beautiful!

Tuffnells





bursting with festive ideas and a range of decorations by Gisela Graham. It's a feast for the eyes and a little winter wonderland here in Lindfield.



Heart & Soul

Delicious chocolates for Christmas table favours available as individually boxed chocolates, or you can make up larger boxes containing up to 30.





The Toll House

Vintage fashions are a must for Christmas and New Year parties. The 'wish list' in store makes it perfect for husbands to pick the right gift. Decorate your Christmas table with beautiful and unique homewares



from 'The Vintage Room'.



Bookstop

Everyone loves a good book and what better time to start one than over the holiday season. There is something for everyone at Bookstop with a great range of children's books and biographies for the perfect Christmas

...and don't forget

to get your turkey, meat and vegetables locally. A large range of local products, such as ginger wine, relishes, chutneys and chilli jelly make great gifts too.



Paul's Greengrocers

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December 2010



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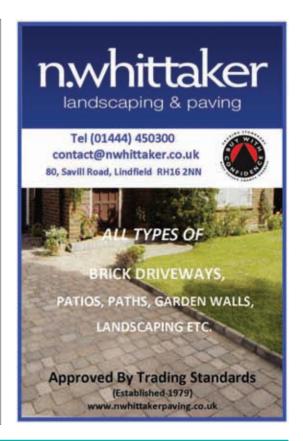
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The B pound in our diets and chilling

By Emma Tingley



I DON'T KNOW about you, but I am definitely one of those people who are scared of chillies! I have never cooked with them

for fear of getting it wrong, but I love food with a bit of a kick, that surprise that follows the initial flavours. The humble chilli is a pocket sized food giant, not just in terms of its potentially strong flavours, but its increasing popularity in the UK is creating a multi-million

pound industry. Although chilli peppers have been part of our diets since at least 7500 BC, they are enjoying a revival and chilli festivals are being held worldwide. Originating in the Americas, Christopher Columbus is thought to have been the first to bring them to Europe, where at first they were grown as botanical curiosities in the monastery gardens of Spain and Portugal. As the monks experimented with them in the kitchens, they discovered that their hot spicy taste could be used as a substitute for black peppercorns, which at the time were so costly they were being used as legal currency in some countries.

Sussex

Not unlike the early explorers, Jason and Charlotte Lacny, creators and owners of 'Lily's Chillies', first discovered chilli jelly the other side of the Atlantic. The idea to create their own chilli jelly began when Charlotte's father brought a jar over from the States and they loved it. Their search to find a UK version brought disappointment and they never managed to find anything that hit the mark, so they started making their own. They spent the next year experimenting with recipes and testing them on friends. The feedback they got inspired them to take it further. In April this year they won an amateur award for their Lime and Ginger Chilli Jelly at the Hove Chilli Festival and now, 18 months after they started, they have launched a range of six chilli jellies, all handmade right here on our doorstep and available in local shops.

Jason, originally from Australia, is a professional chef. He ran his own restaurant in Melbourne, before retraining as a television editor. It was whilst he was working on 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here!' that he met Charlotte. They have always had the desire to set up a business together and since the arrival of their two children, the impetus to put the gruelling television industry behind them is even stronger. "We named the business after our daughter Lily. It helped that her name rhymed with chilli, but our family is central to why we want to have a business that keeps us near home" explains Charlotte. The couple moved to Haywards Heath from London 16 months ago and Sussex has very much been their inspiration. Their first chilli bramble jelly was made from fruits picked from hedgerows, and the apple chilli jelly was made with wind falls. Charlotte's mother was brought up in Lindfield and her aunt married the curate. Her grandfather is interred in the Parish Church because of all the places he lived, Lindfield was his favourite. Although her mother's family are no longer here, after 20 years in London she feels as though she's come full circle.

Lily's Chillies have worked hard to source all their ingredients as locally as possible. Most chilli jellies use vinegar as a base, but Jason and Charlotte decided that a fruit base gives a better flavour. They use Lord Derby

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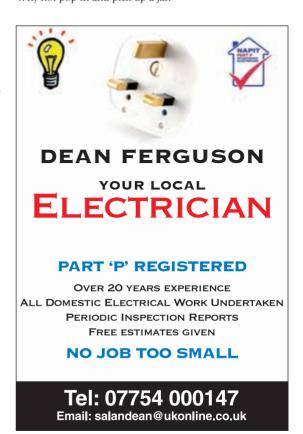
apples, a heritage variety from Old Mill Farm at Bolney, and tomatoes from Arundel. Chillies are harder to source in commercial quantities but they have found two suppliers: Edible Ornamentals in Bedfordshire, who grow from May to October and Dry River Chillies in Henfield. "It was important to us to find our supplies in England and as close to us as possible" explains Jason, "we use different chillies for each jelly. Bird's Eye chillies, like the sort grown in Thailand, are used in the Lime and Ginger Chilli Jelly because we think its bitter sharp heat complements the oriental flavours. For the Tomato Chilly Jelly we have chosen Scotch Bonnets, one of the hottest chillies with a fruity flavour to enhance the tomato's sweetness."

Making the jellies is a simple but time consuming process. First the fruit is stewed, such as apples or tomatoes, with the chillies and any herbs or spices such as tarragon, for around 20-40 minutes. All the ingredients are hand-chopped, and lemons are added at this stage to increase the acidity. This helps the jellies to set and means that there is no need to use commercial pectins which can have citric acid and sulphites in it. "We want to keep our jellies as pure as possible and maintain their handmade feel" says Charlotte. Once the fruit is stewed it is strained through muslin overnight. The clear fluid that is collected is then brought to the boil with sugar and once it has nearly reached the optimum setting temperature, the garnish is added - be it mint, chopped Scotch Bonnets or in the case of Lime and Ginger, thinly sliced Birds Eye chillies and lime zest. The finished product is then poured into sterile jars and labeled ready for sale and the process starts over again.

Lily's Chillies make a range of six flavours of jelly, each jar looking unique in the way that the chilli and fruit garnishes are suspended in the clear jelly. And they come in a range of strengths to suit every palate. The 'Mint', 'Tarragon' and 'Quince' varieties are all mild in flavour and are an ideal accompaniment for a Sunday roast. The apple based 'Lime and Ginger' is medium in terms of chilli strength, along with the tomato based 'Smoked' variety. If you like your chillies hot, then go for 'Tomato' – it has a real kick! As well

as with meats, you can use it to spice up some cream cheese on a bagel or spread on cheese on toast.

And so with Christmas knocking on the door, what better way to spice up your festive food and warm yourself up than with a touch of chilli. Lily's Chillies Chilli Jellies are available at Glyn Thomas & Son, as well as The Orchards Fruit & Veg, Grape & Grain and Old Mill Farm, Bolney. Why not pop in and pick up a jar?





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the reason for the season



Christmas is coming! Are you getting excited? Or perhaps feeling "here we go again!" Or just a bit cynical about the huge commercialisation of it all?

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Why is an age-old story about an improbable birth in a smelly stable still the reason for all this fuss more than 2000 years later? Surely it's all totally irrelevant to the harsh realities of these recession-hit times?

There is a reason! It has to do with a baby... who became a man... who died... who came back from the dead... who is still alive now... because He was, and is, God. It's true, and what's more, He's very relevant to life today - He loves YOU and wants to get to know you.

Worth a bit more investigating? Come and get in touch with us this Christmas.

A very happy Christmas to you all from the churches in Lindfield!

James Clarke Charles Martin James Easley



all saints parish church

Sunday 19th December

8:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10:30am The joy of Christmas - Christmas Family Service

4:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols

6:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

3:30pm Christingle Service

5:00pm Christingle Service

11:15pm Midnight Communion

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8:00am Christmas Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9:30am All-age Christmas Service

11:00am Christmas Communion

Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day)

10:30am Saints Alive at Christmas

Sunday 2nd January

8:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9:30am Holy Communion

11:15am Matins

6:30pm Evening Worship

All Saints Church

01444 482405 www.lindfield.info



united reformed church

Sunday 19th December

10:30am Family Service

4:30pm Christingle Service

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

4:30pm Crib Service

7:30pm Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10:00am Christmas Family Worship

Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day)

10:30am Family Communion

6:30pm Carols in "Ryecroft"

Sunday 2nd January

9:30am Family Communion

11:00am Morning Worship

6:30pm Evening Worship

United Reformed Church

01444 482098 www.lindfieldurc.org.uk



evangelical free church

Sunday 19th December

10:30am Morning Service

4:30pm Carols by Candlelight (with tea afterwards)

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10:30am All-age Christmas Day Service

Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day)

10:30am All-age Boxing Day Service

Friday 31st December (New Year's Eve)

11:00 for Joint Churches Watchnight Service with Communion

11:30pm

Sunday 2nd January

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Good Food...

By Caroline Young

THE FOODS WE enjoy at Christmas are so traditional that, in many homes, I am sure there would be a riot if anything other than roast turkey, brussels sprouts, bread sauce, roast potatoes and lots of gravy were to be served, followed by Christmas pudding and custard!

In a way, I agree, now that once rare dishes such as curry, pizza and pasta are staples of our everyday cooking, we should, at least once a year, do things the traditional way.

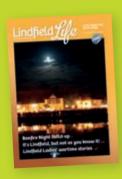
However, our tastes have changed and there is no harm in a little tweaking of well-known recipes to make them perhaps less rich, quicker to make or just to ring the changes. Try my suggestions...

Mincemeat

Make two or so weeks ahead to allow the flavours to blend. For longer storage, freeze then thaw overnight. Use as you would commercial mincemeat (but this is far nicer!).

Use a very large bowl. Tip in 200g each of sultanas, seedless raisins, currants, roughly chopped (or use scissors) ready-to-eat dried figs and apricots. Add 400g peeled and cored dessert apples, roughly chopped, and 100g chopped almonds. Mix together then tip into a food processor and buzz until chopped. Return to the bowl and add the finely grated rind and juice of 2 lemons, the juice of 2 oranges, 4tsp mixed spice, 2tsp ground cloves, 8tbs clear honey and 4tbs rum or brandy. Thoroughly stir together. Cover and refrigerate, stirring occasionally.





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Trifles

Numerous ideas abound for this traditional dessert including the blatantly commercial recipes using custard powders, lurid gelatine and tinned fruit cocktail. You probably have your own favourite recipe but if not, try my version. First served to me from a cut crystal bowl served by a gentleman wearing white gloves (in Williamsburg, Virginia) it is one of our family traditions. Quantities depend on number of servings – be generous.

Using any hard almond biscuits such as ratafias, amaretti or macaroons (they must be almond) sandwich in pairs with orange marmalade and pile in a beautiful glass bowl together with drained canned apricot halves. Sprinkle generously with sweet sherry. Whisk together equal quantities of greek-style yogurt and top quality chilled dairy custard (made with cream, from the dairy section) and pour over the fruit. Whip double cream and swirl over the top. Cover and chill overnight (very important). Decorate with whatever takes your fancy crystallized fruits, toasted almonds, grated plain chocolate or chocolate flakes, chopped candied chestnuts (marrons glace) - my favourite. Just simply enjoy!

Cranberry Sauce

A fairly recent newcomer to our Christmas feast, serving cranberries with turkey, dates from the first Christmas enioved by the Pilgrim Fathers who bravely set sail for the far shores of America. There they found wild turkeys and the brilliant crimson fruit growing in the huge sandy bogs of New England. They are also called bounceberries because ripe berries bounce. Easy to make from scratch but if time is short improve on the bottled variety by stirring in chopped dried apricots, diced fresh apples or pears or orange segments plus chopped pecans and a little dash of alcohol. Even better served warm.



Survival in Lindfield

Bu James Gaudon

I CHECKED THE weather forecast on Friday morning; no change - rain, rain, and more heavy rain, but my enthusiasm for the weekend was not dampened.

Once we had gathered, Leon, the lead instructor, led us deep into the dark wood to ensure that we had as authentic an experience as possible of survival. Having two children I couldn't help but be weary of Gruffalos lurking with terrible teeth and turned out toes... but the wood was Gruffalo free

The rain was already falling heavily but all of us were excited about what was ahead. A male nurse, a solicitor, a warehouse manager, and an IT technician were some among the group, and we all had an interest in bushcraft. Although we had different levels of experience, we all had a desire to get stuck in and enjoy the course.

On arrival at the 'campsite' we had a warm mug of chunky lentil soup and got straight into 'Fire by Sparks'. Using a Fire Steel we scraped sparks into a bundle of hay. For some this was picked up quickly, but others took a little longer to get the technique. Afterwards with a cup of hot nettle tea, Leon explained the importance of the four cornerstones of survival (fire, shelter, water and food) and how we were going to cover each component in the morning. As the fire died down we turned in for the night.

We slept under a tarp (canvass sheet) with rucksacks as pillows and listened to the rain falling above. Camaraderie increased and we laughed into the night about what was to come and we soon felt at home with each other and shared stories.

Next day we were up at 7am to collect water from a nearby stream. Following it to the source we collected several

litres which were then filtered through special canvass bags (later boiled too) and then we went foraging for food. As we

walked Leon showed us different plants, fungi and berries and explained that some are good if cooked (acorns) and others will stop your heart beating within minutes (foxglove). With this in mind nothing went into the tin without Leon giving it the nod... Other than the last of the blackberries we collected burdock, roots from bulrushes, which taste like sweet potato, elderberries and some garlie bulbs from a river bank.

Back at camp we drank more nettle tea and made breakfast. Flour mixed with water and a sprinkle of raisins made bannock, a basic dough. When cooked it was absolutely delicious. Later we learnt how to gut and skin rabbits which resulted in lunch and dinner, which were two very tasty meals added with the other things we had collected.

As the rain continued to fall Leon explained that it was now our turn to build a shelter. I pulled down a previously built shelter which clearly didn't have much rain to contend with and started again. This was my big mistake. I should have placed new bracken on the older more compacted leaves to increase the density of the roof covering, rather than replacing it. By the time I realised this it was too late and I just had to get as much bracken as possible which was very energy sapping.

As I unfolded by foam mat and sleeping bag (with broken zip) I feared the worst. However I did have an ace card up my sleeve; a bivi bag - a waterproof covering

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for my sleeping bag so I felt as ready as I would ever be. I wriggled down into my bag hoping that I was the only thing with legs in my bag. Once I found a position that didn't hurt I prepared for sleep. You yourself will know that point where you exhale deeply as you relax your body for the first time and prepare for a change in consciousness..... well it was at this time I felt a drip land on my forehead. It was only a drip so I wiped it off and still congratulated myself on the shelter I had built.

Three and a half hours later with rain dripping from everywhere I could take no more! Fumbling to find my head torch I tried to get out of my sleeping bag which was stuck to me and struggled to pull my wellies on which were behind my head... not easy in a 3 foot high shelter. I marched up to the tarp which has been used the previous night and closed my eyes... ahhh the joy of a tarp... I quickly slept/passed out.

I opened my eyes.... at last it was morning, AND it wasn't raining. With more bannock and nettle tea in my tummy we evaluated the success of our shelters. Leon then taught us about making 'Fire by

Friction'. After much effort with the bow and drill I tipped the orange ember into some dry tinder (hay) and teased it into a hot spark and then a flame. The sense of achievement and satisfaction was amazing. It was great to encourage others to keep persevering until they too

had smoke then fire. Then we looked at how to turn stinging nettles into cord, which I struggled with from the start, but others did really well.

The last two activities were cooking lunch; a sea bream gutted, washed and then slowly cooked on a stick in the heat of the fire, which was fairly straight forward and tasted really good. Finally for the last

hour we were shown how to make a wooden spoon using a piece of silver birch. Using a saw and a crook knife we all managed to create something that looked like a spoon. We chatted about what we had learnt and what we would do again and how much we were looking forward to a hot bath!

You may have noted that I haven't mentioned the toilet... well this was a survival weekend.... best left at that!

www.wildwoodbushcraft.co.uk http://justi4mes.tumblr.com





25 December 2010

home front

By Jacqui Smith, interior designer

Deck the Halls!

THOSE WHO KNOW me will know that I love to entertain and where time permits, it's a true indulgence for me to decorate my dinner table to suit the occasion. It does not have to be OTT – nothing worse than enormous great big floral arrangements that act as a barrier to conversation or over cluttered tables with no space to put food. For me it's the simplest things that work best – less is more, so long as the less is well chosen! The festive season gives me the perfect excuse to pander to my table dressing weakness, and to me getting the colours and balance right is, of course, most important. My well used and much washed linen napkins are my starting point and then it's whatever takes my fancy and works with the colour scheme. You don't have to spend huge amounts of money to make your table sparkle; here are some ideas:

- Raid the garden sprigs of greenery, spray paint, some twigs and, of course, holly will charm any festive table. Not original, but perhaps the paint colour you use could provide the point of difference, or the fact that the winter leaves are immersed in a gold fish style bowl of water.
- Candles are a must. I love their magical quality and their subtle movement and they impart such a flattering glow.
- Mirror tiles make great candle plates.
- Use a craft punch and make your own table confetti from coloured foil.
- Re-use ribbons or strips of sheer fabric remnants in place of napkins rings.
- Add a touch of glamour to a dessert plate by sprinkling ground cinnamon, icing sugar or similar through a star shaped cookie cutter.
- Buy a length of glitzy fabric and transform it into a table runner...and my curtain maker cringe, but 'Wundaweb' will make it a quick job if you are pressed for time!
- Cluster cutlery sets together on a plate and tie them together with curling ribbon.
- Max the glassware sparkling goblets in varying colours always make a table look special.
- Arrange two rows of tea lights down the centre of the table; repetition creates maximum visual impact.
- Small and compact pot plants in threes are another simple but effective centre piece.
- Paint nuts and fruits in edible fake gold leaf.
- Pour yourself a large glass of mulled wine and admire table...

Merry Christmas to you all!

BOOK REVIEW

Have a little faith by Mitch Albom

Bu Cavan Wood

MITCH ALBOM is best known for his novel, "The Five people you meet in heaven". He also has written an excellent memoir about the relationship with his former university professor, "Tuesdays with Morrie." This book is a a remarkable true story of ordinary people with faith. Albom is asked by the Rabbis of his local synagogue to give the eulogy at the Rabbi's funeral. This surprised him as he had become a lapsed Jewish believer, a person who seldom attended worship. As Albom gets to know the Rabbi, he develops a great respect for the man. He also befriends the leader of a local church whose aim is to help the poor and the powerless. He begins to see the importance of faith. Rather than the often negative or extreme thing that the media can often present it as, he realises that these two men have had a power to do good and overcome enormous limitations in order to transform themselves and their communities because of their faith, not despite it. He comes to appreciate that faith can bring hope and love alive in peoples' lives. As we come up to Christmas, this tale of good people doing their best should insprire us and challenge us. Be warned - this will make the worst cynic reconsider their views!



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December 2010

At work in the village

By Michael Bradley

LINDFIELD MOTORS is not what I expected. In amongst all the cars being prepped for servicing are a few classic gems, and you could be mistaken in believing that this was part of the classic car racing scene. Nicola Yule – part owner of Lindfield Motors explains:

"The reputation of doing good quality work plus our motorsport heritage (Jim and Janette Yule, who started the business, worked in Formula 1 with such names as John Surtees) means we have a lot of quality and prestige cars to work on (mainly because our customers don't want to pay outrageous dealer prices!) but first and foremost we are a garage and have the latest diagnostic equipment for all makes of cars."

Garages in general don't necessarily have the best of reputations. In my past experience, when something goes wrong with the pride and joy (or it needs a MOT) that sinking feeling sets in - how much will it cost and how long will it take. As I talk to Nicola I am struck by the openness of the garage. This isn't just due to its physical appearance, even though all of the garage is open to view. Furthermore, it is the cleanest garage I have visited and looks and feels like a good outfit. But there is more to it - this is a family business - as Nicola and her husband Alan (Jim and Janette's son) now play the prominent role. It is obvious in how they are dealing with their customers that they take pride in their quality of service and their honesty - and this is reflected in their ongoing business growth and high levels of customer satisfaction. Simply, trust generates loyalty and this is essential to all good businesses, particularly within the motor trade.

"About half of our business comes from Lindfield itself," explains Nicola "but we have customers from Brighton who come back to us every year. One lady even comes all the way from Devon in her Ford Puma since she moved out of the village!"

Whilst I am there a new customer is talking to a lady at reception and is shown into the garage to meet a mechanic, Paul (an employee for around 20 years), to discuss the problem. Again, an obvious but important feature – I normally hand over the keys and get handed back a bill!

Since Jim and Janette moved to the village 35 years ago and set up the garage, Lindfield Motors has played a prominent role in village life. They sponsor the Lindfield Juniors football team and had a stall (or I should say a DB9!) at Village Day this year. Add to this that most of the staff are local and live in Lindfield and the surrounding area. Lindfield Motors main role, however, is the service it provides the village and our cars. One recent change, for example, is the fact that the garage is now open later to enable customers to pick up their cars after work - a little bit extra which makes the whole experience that little bit easier.



In terms of marketing their business, loyalty and trust is again key. Repeat business is common and from that naturally stems recommendations and customers through word of mouth. New business development is supported by advertising and a website – but Nicola admits that the website could work harder than it currently does. This is a common issue with many small to medium size companies – trying to balance the time and cost of running an effective website whilst more traditional and successful forms of marketing generate the necessary level of business. It is worth bearing in mind that recent changes in Google, for example, and how it delivers search results has meant local businesses are highlighted first (tying in with Google maps), a handy feature for targeting local audiences.

In summary, you can't argue with happy customers, a great service and a growing turnover. A slightly tongue-incheek line on the Lindfield Motors' website stands out:

"We make taking your car for an MOT or service a more pleasant experience, our reception is bright and spacious with breathtaking views of the workshop alongside."

As strange as it sounds - it's true!

For more about Lindfield Motors please visit www.lindfield-motors.co.uk or call 01444 482988



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Michael and Diane, two Mid Sussex based London Blue Badge Guides, are offering a very personal tour of the city to their fellow residents. (Limited to 16 for each tour).

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*The sites include The Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.





An Indian Summer

Bu Paul Burris

SOME PEOPLE, allegedly, have fairies living at the bottom of their gardens,

I had a six foot six pure bred Canadian Blackfoot Red Indian living at the bottom of mine; yes, in a teepee wigwam thing. O.k and with a headdress, peace pipe, the lot; don't give that look of "ee's bin at it again bless im, needs a rest, or arrestin", it's true, and how (How! being rather appropriate) "Big Eagle" (you're doing it again) came to be bivouacked at my reservation shall now become clear through the smoke signals of his now embered camp fires.

'Big Eagle', or Laurence as he was sometimes known, was caretaking for a property company at a partially derelict pile of a pad 'Stonelands Manor House' located behind my humble abode (or should I say adobe) and I had powwowed with him at my local trading post, oh alright, boozer then, where he had told me, without prior knowledge, that I needed some healing to my back, which he could supply using his 'hands on' (stop it).

I had actually two, as yet undiagnosed, prolapsed discs; (spooky) but Big Eagle did indeed take away the pain just by touching the painful area, and eventually just by contact over the phone (why are you ringing

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that help line?) hypnosis? autosuggestion? But it worked, and it worked on many of my sceptical friends also

I watched as 'Big Eagle" mystically manoeuvred his pony and sled (sigh, Transit van) down to the foot of the wide open prairie (its my story alright) and set up his compound amidst the woods and under the great western skies (poetic license, "wat ya mean try the post orfice, Western Union ole timer") and he then began to construct a yurtz (tent "darnnitt") made from buffalo hide 'n' rattler skin (although it said 'Halfords' on the label). This canopy was duly attached to the back of the wacky bus, a vehicle equipped, I might add, with a log burning converted butane cylinder and nailed on eco-friendly wooden bumpers. Quicker than you could perform a short sharp shower dance 'Big Eagle' was encamped in my garden! Whooop Whooop etc.

'Big Eagle', for that was his shamanic (medicine man) Indian name, was a striking looking man, for apart from his great stature, waist length jet black hair and razorlike hook nose, Laurence, although in his fifties, had the lean yoga honed body of Adonis.

My wife often looked distant and glazed whilst she observed (purely from anatomical interest she assured me) from our window as 'Big Eagle' performed his early morning exercises on the lawn, inadvertently forgetting his loin cloth.

My friend Gill visited one day, bringing her little collie dog 'Maggie' and we saddled up (not 'Maggie', purely metaphorical) and mosied on down the trail to see 'Big Eagle' before "the earth eat yellow god" (got the idea!).

"Greetings pony soldiers, you have brought dog for me to heal, I am at one with the animal kingdom" upon hearing this empathetic pronouncement Maggie the collie dog hounded at the hapless healers heels and sunk her miniature molars into one of the, by now, flailing Blackfoot feet. A mighty war cry ripped the skies but the great warrior was vanquished as if scalped in his humiliation. "This animal needs psychiatric help" winced 'Big Eagle', "healer heal thyself" said I, and we were all reduced to tear streaked laughter.

'Big Eagle' lived at the bottom of our garden for many moons and when our eight year old daughter's class were set an essay entitled 'what's at the bottom of your garden?' we received a very interesting report that term and...

Maggie the collie dog has never bitten another Red Indian, not in my garden anyway!



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Lindfield Rural Parish Council Newsletter

Millennium Village Centre, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, West Sussex RH17 7PG Tel: 01444 831499 email: lindfieldrural.parishcouncil@virgin.net www.lindfieldrural-pc.org.uk

LR/10/02911/REM – Land parcel at junction of Gravelye Lane and Lyoth Lane

Detail planning application has now been received for the erection of 65 residential units on land at the junction of Gravelye Lane and Lyoth Lane. Members considered this application at its full Council Meeting on 1 November 2010 and made the following comments to the Planning Department of Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC):

- Concern was expressed regarding the LEAP (locally equipped area for play) and its close proximity to Gravelye Lane main traffic route: while councillors accepted that its situation contributed to the open feeling on the site, it would be prudent to ensure fencing to protect the children at play and prevent dog fouling.
- Concern was expressed regarding the volume of traffic in the area. It was suggested that a traffic survey of vehicles on Gravelye Lane be carried out, the possibility of a roundabout at Westlands Road junction be examined, and to establish whether there is a "route to school" along Lyoth Lane and adjoining footpath.
- The parking on the site to be optimised by the establishment of parking bays.
- More variety in house design to reflect site division into character areas, in particular the social housing blocks.
- Further thought should be given to the distribution of the social housing, particular the block of flats in the corner.
- Concern was expressed based on local historical knowledge of the site flooding. Councillors believe that flooding will still occur despite the detailed drainage plan for the site.
- It is imperative that there be no parking on Gravelye Lane while construction work is underway and that mud and debris on the road be kept to a minimum as this is a main route and a hospital route

The detail planning application may be examined at the Parish Office at the Scaynes Hill Millennium Village Centre, MSDC's Office or on line at MSDC's website www.midsussex.gov.uk. The deadline for any objections or comments to MSDC is 2 December 2010.

Scaynes Hill Village Plan

The Scaynes Hill Village plan continues to move ahead apace. At the end of November we held an open day in the village for all residents to chat with the Steering group who were able to share the findings drawn from the Public questionnaire, the results of which we had in by the end of the summer. We had good discussions and positive feedback and are now preparing a draft of the village plan to share with the Lindfield Rural Parish Council and also other statutory authorities such as Mid Sussex District Council, the Police, and West Sussex County Council. The plan is for the final document to be available to all by the end of January.

A really important part of bringing this plan to life will be for volunteers in the village to step forward to help us move this plan forward and to take action. If you would like to be at the heart of helping Scaynes Hill achieve what the villagers have expressed, then please do contact our Parish Clerk, Karin Milne, on 01444 831499.

The Race to Infinity

Frustrated by lack of a fast internet connection? Frustrated by no internet connection at all? If you live in an 'out of range' or poor internet speed area you have a disadvantaged lifestyle because of your postcode. Well now you can do something about it!

BT's website www.racetoinfinity.bt.com provides more details of the 'Infinity' programme and the way it is intended to roll it out, plus 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.

We only have until 31st December to vote and we need everyone with a phone line to vote, not just those who have broadband and regardless of your service provider. 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 us to benefit from the improved "Infinity" service.

Please vote for Scaynes Hill and Lindfield. To vote online go to: www.racetoinfinity.bt.com

Help tomorrow take shape 2011 Census coming to a letterbox near you

ON 27 MARCH 2011 all residential households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a census. Since 1801 a day has been chosen every ten years for this purpose. The census provides an excellent source of information about the population. This enables central and local government, health authorities and many other organizations to identify need for housing, education, health and transport services for years to come.

Did you know that supermarkets use census statistics to work out the kind of foods they need to sell to keep local communities stocked up with their favourites? Water companies use the census data to plan the pipes for clean and wastewater – to make sure there's enough for everyone. Fire brigades and the police use census data to help communities, putting fire alarms and crime prevention measures in specific areas. The benefits are far reaching.

The census statistics also feed into the allocation of funding for local authorities and play a major part in identifying need for local services in communities, so it is crucial the population estimate is as accurate as possible. When the questionnaire envelope comes through the door you'll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. Take care of it.

If, like many people, you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code is on the front of the questionnaire.

The 2011 Census doesn't want anyone to be left out – so there is a wide range of help options available (such as language guidance booklets, large print format, Text Relay and census field staff on hand, as well as online help and telephone call centres).

More information about the 2011 Census can be found at: www.census.gov.uk

Scaynes Hill Millennium Village Centre: Mrs Janet Harris

LINDFIELD RURAL Parish Council is seeking support from the Residents to commemorate Mrs. Janet Harris, the former Chairman of the Parish Council.

Mrs. Harris suddenly passed away in May this year after a short illness. She was the driving force, supported by Derek Millard, Dennis Hicks and Sheila Hobbs, in starting the development of the new Millennium Centre, brought to conclusion in 2000. Now the Centre is the pride of Scaynes Hill, enjoyed by everyone.

The Parish Council is considering a permanent monument and is willing to part fund this project, and would be interested to learn of any contributions the Residents would like to make

Please contact the Parish Council on 01444 831499 or call into the office

Refuse freighter

Free collection of household and garden waste will be provided for residents on:

Sunday 5th December 2010

Sunday 27th February 2011

at the North End, Scaynes Hill Common between 10am and mid-day

No trade or builders' waste will be accepted. Please do not leave rubbish in the absence of the refuse freighter.

Thank you.



Lindfield Rural Parish Councillors, Clerk, Deputy Clerk & Assistant Clerk would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

Your Parish Councillors:

| John Dumbleton (Chair) | Tel: 482633 | Steve Minter | Tel: 831786 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Sheila Hobbs (Vice Chair) | Tel: 483396 | Christopher Snowling | Tel: 482172 |
| Brian Bunt | Tel: 831636 | Steve Windsor | Tel: 484796 |
| Chris Hersey | Tel: 482270 | Parish Clerk: Karin Milne | Tel: 831499 |
| Margaret Hersey | Tel: 482270 | Deputy Clerk: Tricia Longley | Tel: 831499 |
| Ray Jones (Newsletter Editor) | Tel: 453868 | Assistant: Irene Nicholas | Tel: 831499 |
| | | | |

Lindfield Rural Parish Council Office is open to the Public on Tuesdays 12.30 to 13.30 and Thursdays 10.00 to 11.00

What's on at King Edward Hall

| 1st | Performance by the Fretful Federation Mandolin Orchestra (David Barwell 412704) |
|------|--|
| 2nd | Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396) |
| 3rd | Lindfield Crafts and Market (Beverley Smith 440274) |
| 5th | Ruwach Christian Church - Morning and Evening Services - (Ruth Hollis 459025) |
| 7th | Mid Sussex Wine Society - 'Christmas Warm Up' with music by Mood Swing. (Angela Seward 484447) |
| 9th | Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396) |
| 12th | Ruwach Christian Church - Morning and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025) |
| 15th | Hickory and Lindfield Montessori Nursery School Nativity Play (Jackie Pickett 473311) |
| 16th | Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396) |
| 17th | Lindfield Nursery School - Nativity Play (Emma Russell 487872) |
| 19th | Ruwach Christian Church - Morning and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025) |
| 25th | Ruwach Christian Church - Morning Service (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 Honorary Bookings Secretary for further information on telephone number 01444 483266 or by e-mail on bookings@kingedwardhall.org.uk

What's on elsewhere in/around Lindfield

Saturday 4th December, 10am - 12 noon

Mid Sussex Association of the National Trust — Christmas Coffee Morning

URC Church Hall, Lindfield

Monday 6th December, 5.45pm for 6pm

Village Networking

All welcome (for further details contact Natalie Stafferton 07957 184275 or see www.villagenetworking.biz)

The Witch Inn, Lindfield

Sunday 12 December, 3pm - 5pm

Symphony of Music & Carols

Enchanting evening of Christmas Music with festive choral works and traditional carols for all to sing.

The very talented Sussex Symphony Orchestra will be led by the charismatic conductor, Mark Andrew James. Andrew Rees recently described as 'an exciting tenor with a voice to burnish gold' will be joined by soprano Jo Appleby to celebrate the Christmas season with seasonal and traditional music that perfectly captures the spirit of Christmas

The Triangle, Burgess Hill

Sunday 12 December, 7.30pm

The Last Carnival + support

Rock show for Christmas 'Tomorrow's band, here today'. An extraordinary evening of pure energy. Support band - '900 Spaces'.

The Triangle, Burgess Hill

Monday 20th December, 5.45pm for 6pm

Village Networking

All welcome (for further details contact Natalie Stafferton 07957 184275 or see www.villagenetworking.biz)

The Witch Inn, Lindfield

Friday 24th December, 9pm - 12am

Nassau Royal

Singer/Songwriter Nassau Royal performs songs from his debut studio album plus all the popular covers/Christmas songs.

Born in Nassau, Bahamas but Lindfield bred, David Ross has taken his stage name from his birthplace. Known as Nassau Royal he has been relentlessly touring, promoting his debut studio album "Breath of the Universe". The album has 10 original tracks and includes one track he recorded with Grammy Award winner Moya Brennan. Throughout 2010 he



has performed in countries such as the USA, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Ireland, Spain and Italy. With accolades from Mark Knopfler to Mark Ronson this Singer/Songwriter will be performing his first gig in the U.K for 18 months.

www.myspace.com/nassauroyal

The Witch Inn, Lindfield

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December 2010





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