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and ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM



PARISH MAGAZINE



December 2024 – January 2025



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# From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

Many of you will be spending time with relatives this Christmas. Beyond our immediate family, I grew up with only two first cousins, but with a very large number of second cousins many of whom I didn't know at all. Tracking down one's ancestors is a very popular exercise. One of my close relations was excited to discover a well-known five-times great grandmother. I did point out that we had 127 other, similar relations: four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, 16... 32... 64...

Jesus' own human ancestry is set out at the beginning of both Matthew and Luke's gospels – long lists of names that at first glance don't look worthy of attention. Matthew 1 starts, *'A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ...'* Starting with Abraham, and including David, the list goes through to *'Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.'* Verse 17 continues, *'There were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile in Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.'*

Luke, perhaps not wanting to lose his readers attention too early on, waits until the end of Chapter 3 to give us his version. He begins the other way round, stating, *'(Jesus) was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph...'* and goes back 37 generations including David to *'Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.'*

For a first century Jew, a person's family line was very important. Matthew's version essentially sets out Joseph's lineage, and Luke, Mary's ancestors; both were direct descendants of David's. There are probably more generations than those listed, as genealogies were often compressed so that not every generation was mentioned specifically. Being a descendant of Abraham, the father of all Jews, Jesus was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about himself.

Some people don't find it easy to accept the circumstances of Jesus' birth without a human father (and similarly the other two great miracles of his life, his resurrection and his ascension); for many small children, such considerations just aren't an issue. Like perhaps some of you, I can just recall the joy of childhood Christmases of long ago, un-tinged by adult angst. When his disciples rebuked some children, it was Jesus who said, *"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."* When the 25<sup>th</sup> comes, may you have a Christmas sprinkled with childlike joy.

**James Campbell**

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## The Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Withyham, with All Saints, Blackham

**www.withyhamchurch.org**

Rector	<b>The Rev. Canon James Campbell</b> The Rectory, Withyham, TN7 4BA withyhamrector@gmail.com	01892 770069
Churchwarden	<b>Mrs Jill Pardey</b>	01892 661882
Churchwarden	<b>Mrs Gilly Halcrow</b>	01892 770607
Sexton & Verger	<b>Mr John Collins</b>	01892 662389
Licensed Reader	<b>Mr Donald Yonge</b>	07872 529740
Organist	<b>Mrs Sue Stone,</b> GRSM ARCM DipEd	01892 770978
Deputy Organist	<b>Mr Peter Ellefsen,</b> BSc CEng MIEE	01892 653965
Bell Tower Captain	<b>Mrs Julie Richardson</b>	01892 652008
Hon. Treasurer	<b>Mrs Anne Barker</b>	01892 661393
Hon. Secretary	<b>Mrs Alison Hunnam</b>	01892 770347
Parish Safeguarding Officer	<b>Mr Donald Yonge</b> safeguarding.withyhamchurch@gmail.com	07872 529740
Blackham Church	<b>Mrs Sue Schooling</b>	01892 740397
Withyham Flower Guild	<b>Mrs Jill Pardey</b>	01892 661882
Withyham Altar Linen	<b>Mrs Diane Pedder</b>	01892 770240
Withyham Church Cleaning Rota	<b>Mrs Anne Radford</b>	01892 770021
Family Support Work	<b>Mrs Miriam Boobier</b>	01892 662780
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## Churchwardens' Notes

by Jill Pardey & Gilly Halcrow

Instead of Evensong, an Anglican healing service was introduced on 17<sup>th</sup> November, at 4pm. With beautiful music it proved very peaceful and was appreciated by those who attended.

The weather forecast Storm Bert to hit Sussex in time for the Churchyard clear up on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, but some work did get done as there were brambles to trim and leaves to clear up.

The funeral of 97 year-old Arthur Harris took place on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Arthur was the much-respected Priest-in-Charge at Withyham from 1987-1996 and we were delighted when he and his wife Hazel returned from Salisbury to become part of our congregation.

Our Church Choir augmented by the Markbeech Choir will travel by coach to Chichester on 4<sup>th</sup> December to sing Evensong at the Cathedral.

Now the scaffolding in the Chancel has been removed there are many Christmas services to look forward to, starting with the Advent Service on 1<sup>st</sup> December with St John's and Groombridge. The Carol Services take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December at Withyham and 22<sup>nd</sup> December at Blackham. The Christingle service will be the Sunday before Christmas, 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

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# Church Calendar – December 2024

**St. Michael and All Angels, Withyham, with All Saints, Blackham**

*(All services in Withyham Church unless stated)*

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b> 1 <sup>st</sup> in Advent	9.45 am	Zoom
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Joint Advent Service with St. John's and Groombridge
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Advent	11.00 am	Matins
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> in Advent	11.00 am	No Service
	6.30 pm	Carol Service, Withyham
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30 pm	Outside Nativity, The Rectory
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	6.00 pm	Carol Singing, BuckhurstPark
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b> 4 <sup>th</sup> in Advent	9.45 am	Zoom
	11.00am	Nativity Christingle Service
	6.30 pm	Carol Service, Blackham
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	4.00 pm	Crib Service
	11.00 pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Christmas Day Service followed by a short Communion
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b> 1 <sup>st</sup> after Christmas	11.00 am	Matins

## Parish Registers – November 2024

### Baptism

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November the christening of Rowan Douglas LOVE, son of Stephanie and Calum, took place at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Withyham.

### Funerals

On 15<sup>th</sup> November, the funeral took place at All Saints Church, Blackham of Marie STRANAGHAN who died on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 aged 89, followed by burial in the Churchyard.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the interment of the ashes took place in Withyham Churchyard of Richard Patrick Stirling MACNUTT who died on 30<sup>th</sup> April aged 88.

# Blackham Village Hall Christmas Market



Saturday 7th December  
10am – 12.15pm

*Lots of lovely produce for sale: homemade pasties,  
\* cakes, scones, chutneys, jams, free range eggs, bread,  
bird food, honey, handmade craft items and lots more  
Christmas treats.*

*Enjoy a glass of mulled wine & a mince pie  
or a  
cup of delicious coffee/tea and homemade cakes*

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# Church Calendar – January 2025

**St. Michael and All Angels, Withyham, with All Saints, Blackham**

*(All services in Withyham Church unless stated)*

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> after Christmas	9.45 am	Zoom
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b> 1 <sup>st</sup> after Epiphany	11.00 am	Plough Sunday Service
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> after Epiphany	9.45 am	Zoom
	11.00 am	Matins
	4.00 pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> after Epiphany	11.00 am	Matins
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	
	9.45 am	Zoom
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Candlemas Evensong



*Warm Hubs  
Withyham*

Thursdays in the Kings' Hall, Withyham between 11am - 2pm (See dates below)

Why heat a whole house when you could stay warm in the village hall and at the same time meet old acquaintances or new friends?

We offer hot drinks all day, with a choice of two soups a roll and traybakes at lunchtime.  
All you need to do is come along, bring a book, puzzle, knitting or just yourself.

Welcome to all ages.

If you would like to volunteer to make soup or a traybake, or help to serve drinks please contact Meg Stafford on 07972 161243.

**Dates:** 5th, 12th & 19th December, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th January, 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th February, 16th & 13th March .



# The Outside Nativity

18th December 2024 - 6.30pm  
St Michael and All Angels  
Church, Withyham

All welcome  
Gather in Withyham Church  
to follow Mary and Joseph  
to the Manger

Traditional carols and  
readings, featuring real  
animals and local characters  
Mulled wine and mince pies  
afterwards

Wear wellies,  
wrap up warm  
& bring a torch





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# Family Support Work November 2024 update

by Nikki Kerr,  
FSW Director of Fundraising & Marketing

Dear Friends,

The end of the year is hurtling towards us, and our focus is on what we can do to support our families during what can be a very stressful few months. Many of our families are currently living in very unsuitable conditions so our practitioners are spending a lot of time liaising with the housing departments of the local council. We would love to see all of our families able to enjoy a safe and warm Christmas. Our usual *Winter Fuel* campaign has been unable to run this year because of the changes imposed by the new Government, but we've been blessed by donations from individuals throughout the Diocese, to help those in more difficult circumstances.

Our calendar is full with end of year treats including pantomime trips and visits from Santa, and our foodbank is overflowing with the generous donations we have received from all over Sussex. We are grateful to everybody for their generosity in supporting us with donations of food, presents and volunteering time to make this a memorable time for our children. We received lovely feedback recently from a parent who said: "We had a fun-packed day and the staff go above and beyond to make it special for us."





Finally, we hope to see you at our carol service in Fletching on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, where the Bishop of Lewes will commission our new Chair of Trustees. With many thanks for your continued support and prayers.

### October's work in numbers

- 262 individual visits and 1,309 calls with families supporting 269 adults and 205 children
- 44 supported meetings with other agencies
- 58 group sessions held supporting 665 parents and 274 children
- 88 food deliveries made

### Prayer points

- Give thanks for the very generous major gift we have recently received from an individual donor
- Pray for good health for all of our staff during the Christmas period when they are so busy with events as well as the usual family support activities
- Give thanks for all our supporters who have kept us in their thoughts and prayers throughout the year

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# The Wealden Community Lottery

by Freya Holman

The Wealden Community Lottery was set up to help good causes throughout Wealden, fundraising to make improvements to services across Sussex. From every £1 ticket sale, the chosen cause receives 50%, with an additional 10% going to support the local community. There are weekly cash prizes up to the value of the £25,000 jackpot, and with odds of winning a prize at 50:1 it's a low risk fun way for residents to support their local community.

Groombridge Community Post Office and Shop on the Corner joined the lottery to boost income and protect the asset, which is an important part of the village. The post office has generated more than £2,000 and helped to promote the service and encourage new users. One of the first purchases made with the funds was a new card stand.

Sam Caitlin from the Post Office said, "The lottery was straightforward when signing up and the support given to us throughout the process, from the initial application to acceptance of application was brilliant. The information we requested was readily available to us and any questions we had were answered quickly. All the resources on the webpage are tailored to your specific cause, which saves a lot of time and effort. They can also be used in different ways from posters to social media which means you only need five minutes a week to market the lottery."

Over the past 18 months, a total of £79,030.80 has been raised for good causes and the central fund combined, and we've had 3,343 winners, totalling combined cash prizes of £14,250, plus a total of 7,610 free tickets have been won.

Not-for-profit organisations such as charities, sports clubs, residents' associations, community groups, parish councils, village halls and PTAs are all welcome to join the lottery and are encouraged to sign up and start benefitting from the lottery. If you're part of a local organisation engaging with Wealden residents and interested in raising unrestricted and monthly income or are wanting to play the lottery, please visit the Wealden Community Lottery website for further information. If you are a local resident that would like to support local organisations in your area, please buy a ticket through [www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk](http://www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk)





# WEALDEN

Community Lottery

[www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk](http://www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk)



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goes towards local  
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## Notes From Withyham Parish Council

Withyham Parish Council serves residents of Blackham, New Groombridge (the East Sussex side of the River Grom), Marden's Hill (St John's, Crowborough) and Withyham.

Full action from this meeting is available at [www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/WithyhamParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WithyhamParishCouncil)

Minutes can also be obtained from the Clerk via the Parish Office on 01892 864557 or [clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Wealdlink** – This month, writes Di Kelly, Withyham Parish Council Chair, I thought you might like more details about the Wealdlink, community bus, that is supported by parish councils, including Withyham Parish Council. Wealdlink offers a weekly unique door-to-door shopping service for those who have difficulty accessing public transport. It is for all ages – you don't have to be elderly or infirm – it will pick you up from your home in villages located on and around Ashdown Forest and take you to Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells or Eastbourne. It will give you time to do your shopping, relax over a coffee and enjoy the town before safely returning you to your home. Passengers need to register with the office on 01892 771332 and the friendly staff will discuss your travel requirements and help book your journey, up to 24 hours in advance.

Wealdlink buses are driven by trained volunteers from the parishes, and much appreciated by passengers for not only driving them safely door-to-door but for helping them carry their shopping into their homes. More drivers are required so if this something you might like to do we have a couple of volunteer drivers from Groombridge who would be happy to chat about their experience. One said, "We all derive pleasure from helping other people and from being with friends. It is a happy day when I drive Wealdlink passengers." Wealdlink's future was in the balance when grants were withdrawn during 2006-07, but thanks to the sponsorship from eight parish councils it survived, and acquired its first bus in March 2011. The parish councils also sponsor the shopping service. There is also the opportunity for community groups to book Wealdlink for trips out. Visit [www.wealdlink.co.uk](http://www.wealdlink.co.uk) to find out more.

Last month, I offered write a little about some of the WPC's 'Housekeeping' responsibilities, and so this month we have details about grit bin provision.



**Thermal Imaging Camera Project** – Withyham Parish Council’s Climate and Emergency Group have launched their first community project: the Thermal Imaging Camera Project. We have purchased a thermal imaging camera, which residents can borrow for a week at a time, to find out where your homes are leaking heat. We include instructions on how to use the camera and a guide to interpreting your images – so you know what you are seeing, plus a next steps and resources guide. See page 22 for details.

It’s free for residents; get in touch at [stephanie@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:stephanie@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk) or 01892 864 557 to book your time. We’re fully booked until January, but will be lending through March and April, helping residents discover what can be done to keep homes warmer, saving money on heating bills  
Find out more on our website at [www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Grit Bins** – These are for public use on the roads and paths in the parish, found at the locations listed below. Please note that a little goes a long way!

<p><b><i>St Johns and Mardens Hill</i></b>          Top of Hoadleys Lane          (near Forest Fold Church)          Hoadleys Lane (bottom corner)          School Lane, opposite “Woodview”          Reading Room Corner, School Lane          Top of Mardens Hill          Mardens Hill          (near Friars Gate Farm entrance)          Friars Gate (Buckhurst entrance)</p> <p><b><i>Motts Mill</i></b>          Motts Mill / Sherlocks Lane          Motts Mill at “Laundry Cottages”          Motts Mill / Corseley Road / Forge          Road</p> <p><b><i>Groombridge</i></b>          The Ridge, Withyham Road          Eridge Road near “Roffeys”</p>	<p>Park Corner crossroads          Orchard Rise          Meadow Road          Tanyard Hill, opposite “Pengarth”          Corseley Road at “Lynwood”</p> <p><b><i>Withyham and Blackham</i></b>          Withyham, Station Road          (opposite the school)          Withyham, Beech Green Lane          (by the pond)          Opposite “Duckings” cottage          Station Road          Balls Green estate          Canterbury Hill (Beech Green Lane)          Canterbury Hill (near main road)          Sussex Lane (on the Railway Bridge)          Blackham Ironchurch Lane          (by the Village Hall)          Blackham Willetts Lane, Teasley Mead</p>
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## AND THE WINNERS For

November 2024 are:

£20 - Paul Sellars  
£15 - Nikki Newcombe  
£10 - Honey Wilson

December 2024 are:

£20 - Debbie Dickens  
£15 - Dave Newcombe  
£10 - Jenny Skinner

Christmas Bonus

£60 - Richard Standring

## The Kings' Hall Withyham

We are very grateful for everyone's support but are happy to encourage more local people to become members and help our fundraising for further maintenance and improvements to our hall. Our numbers are about 100 but we have recently lost some subscribers so would really welcome new ones THANK YOU!!!!

Each number costs £12 per year, if you would like to join, please contact Rick Hunnam (01892) 770347 or email [chair@withyhamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:chair@withyhamvillagehall.co.uk).

# What's on?

## Forthcoming Events in the Withyham Village Hall

HALL CHRISTMAS LUNCH Thursday 28th November - 12:15 for 12:30

CHRISTMAS LOCAL CRAFTS MARKET Saturday 30th November 11:00-16:00

WARM HUB Thursdays 5th, 12th and 19th December 11:00 - 14:00

CAROL CONCERT - Thursday 12th December 19:00 Fully Booked

FRIDAY CAFÉ Friday 13th December - 10:30 - 12:00

WARM HUB Thursdays 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th January 11:00 - 14:00

FRIDAY CAFÉ Friday 10th January - 10:30 - 12:00

QUIZ Saturday 1st February 19:30 for 20:00 start

# FRIDAY CAFÉ

A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY  
COMMUNITY CAFÉ

**WHERE?**

Kings' Hall, Withyham

**WHAT TIME?**

Between 10:30 - 12:00

TEA  
CAKE  
COFFEE  
REMINISCENCE  
CRAFTS  
LAUGHTER  
QUIZ  
TALKS  
CHAT  
FUN



**WHO'S IT FOR?**

For anyone, any age who would like to meet new people or catch up with old friends

**WHAT HAPPENS?**

Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes are served in the first half an hour with plenty of time to chat, followed by a fun memory provoking or craft activity for the next hour

**2025 Dates**

10th January  
14th February  
14th March  
11th April  
9th May  
13th June  
11th July  
8th August  
12th September  
10th October  
14th November  
12th December

**INFORMATION**

Please contact Anne Radford for more information on 07885 486733 or just come along on the day

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# QUIZ NIGHT

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**7.30 for 8pm start**

**Kings' Hall, Withyham**

**£12 per person**

**(includes hot food)**

**Cash or Card Bar**

To book a table:

Call Rick on 01892 770347

## Kings' Hall Community Lunches dates for 2025

### Dates for 2025

20th March 2025

17th April 2025

15th May 2025

19th June 2025

17th July 2025

18th September 2025

16th October 2025

27th November 2025 Christmas Lunch







## Groombridge Horticultural Society by Sue Obbard



A big thank you to one and all for all your support this year, at all of our events. The speaker evenings, the outings, the shows and plant sales were really well attended, and this makes the work of the committee, behind the scenes, so worthwhile. Our AGM will be in the clubroom at 7.30pm on 16<sup>th</sup> January, followed by a talk from Neil Miller, head gardener at Hever, titled *The Secrets of Hever Castle Gardens*. Merry Christmas.

If you would like to join us, please contact Gwyneth Davies on 01892 862430  
[groombridgehorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:groombridgehorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)  
[www.groombridgehorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.groombridgehorticulturalsociety.co.uk)



## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS 2024 WITHYHAM & BLACKHAM CHURCHES

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 6.30pm: Carol Service, Withyham

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 6.30pm: The Outside Nativity,  
starting in Church and ending at The Rectory

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.** 6.00pm: Carol Singing, Buckhurst Park

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.** 11.00am: Christingle Nativity Service, Withyham  
6.30pm: Carol Service, Blackham

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 4.00pm: Crib Service

**Christmas Eve** 11.00pm: 'Midnight' Communion, Withyham

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 11.00am: Christmas Day Service, Withyham  
followed by short Communion





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or Rick Hunnam on [chair@withyhamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:chair@withyhamvillagehall.co.uk)

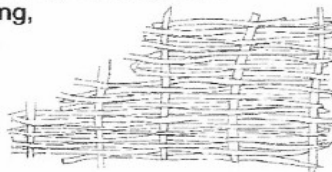
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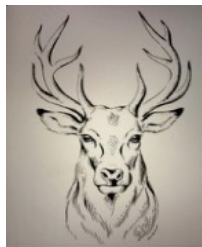
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Withyham Parish Council's

# Community Cafe



with  Groombridge WI

Everyone Welcome!



**Saturday 18th January**

**10am -12pm Groombridge Village Hall**

## Withyham Parish Amblers

**Saturday 18th January**




Meeting at: St.Michaels Primary School TN7 4BP

9am Meet to walk at 9.15am

Approx. 1hr 20. Suitable footwear recommended. Well behaved dogs welcome.



**WWW.WITHYHAMPARISHCOUNCIL.ORG.UK**

for more information:  01892 864 557



## Groombridge and Hartfield Surgery Patients Participation Group by Tony Howell

The success of the fund raising quiz night on 5<sup>th</sup> October was such that it not only allowed us to fund the two Doppler probes but following discussions with our Practice to also fund the purchase of three desktop Blood Pressure machines for use in the Groombridge and Hartfield surgeries, so an excellent outcome from all your generosity. Previously we acknowledged the generosity of local businesses that supported the event by donating prizes to the raffle. Unfortunately, Birchden Vineyard was accidentally omitted, so thank you for the generosity.

We are often told that our NHS is broken; in fact many of you may well have experienced the delays in receiving consultations or procedures at our local hospitals including A&E. As part of addressing the problem, NHS England is engaging in probably the biggest ever conversation about its future. We can all take part and if we care about that service, then we should. You can find out on [sussex.ics.nhs.uk/news](http://sussex.ics.nhs.uk/news) where not only will you find details of this survey but also all the other initiatives which are taking place in Sussex. As the New Year approaches we wish you all a happy 2025.

Email us at [gandhppg@outlook.com](mailto:gandhppg@outlook.com)

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# Christmas Tree Recycling

by Richard Moxham

Have your end of season Christmas tree collected from your home and recycled, courtesy of Hospice in the Weald.

This popular service is offered to residents covering twenty postcodes in West Kent and East Sussex. In fact, anyone living in any of the postcodes TN1-TN20 can take advantage of this service, so pass the message on to friends in the area.

It could save time while raising funds to provide free care for those facing terminal illness and their loved ones.

In exchange for a donation of £20, the Hospice elves will collect and recycle your 'finished with' Christmas tree. No hassle, no waste, and no needles in your car.

The team of amazing volunteers will be collecting trees from 12-14<sup>th</sup> January.

More than £40,000 was raised last year with resultant tree chippings donated for use in the community.

Please register via the Hospice's website [hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://hospiceintheweald.org.uk)

Registration closes on 7<sup>th</sup> January.



Withyham Parish Council's



# Community Cafe



with



Groombridge Pre School

Everyone Welcome!



**Saturday 7th December**

**10am -12pm Groombridge Village Hall**



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## View From The Boundary

by Suzanne Whiston

Many thanks to all those who came along to the Halloween Party at the Ashurst and Blackham sports ground on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Attendees had a great afternoon of games, face painting and built a truly gruesome guy. Christmas is just around the corner and with that in mind, the sports ground team would like to invite readers to our 'Family Advent Quiz', at the Ashurst Village Hall on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. The competition will start at 4pm and teams can be made up from family groups, friends or neighbours. The Christmas tree light up and carols will follow the quiz. There will be free hot chocolate, nibbles and a paid bar. See you there!

We are planning the 2025 events calendar, so please email any ideas to [ashurstandblackhamsportsground@gmail.com](mailto:ashurstandblackhamsportsground@gmail.com)

The sports ground facilities can be hired at the booking page of the Ashurst McDermott Village Hall at <https://ashurstvillage.org.uk>

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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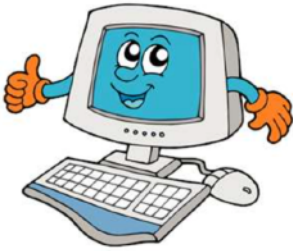
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Email: [gavin@hartfieldscaffolding.co.uk](mailto:gavin@hartfieldscaffolding.co.uk)

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# Computer Corner

Digital Travel by Roger Lyon



A selection of really useful travel aids...

**Planning and Booking** – Apps like **Skyscanner**, **Kayak**, and **TripAdvisor** allow you to compare prices for flights, hotels, and car rentals, helping you to find the best deals. Check directly with the airlines’ websites – they may have excellent deals not found on comparison sources. **TripIt** consolidates all your travel details into a single itinerary, automatically

pulling flight details, hotel bookings, and rental car reservations from your email – no manual input required. It also gives you alerts about gate changes and even suggests alternative flights in case of delays or cancellations.

**Getting Around** – Apps like **Google Maps** and **Citymapper** make navigation easier, offering turn-by-turn directions for walking, driving, or public transport and other handy features. For example, **Google Maps** allows you to download maps for offline use – essential if you’re in a place with limited or no mobile data. Beyond basic translations, **Google Translate** also offers a “Conversation Mode” where you can speak into your phone, and it will translate spoken phrases back-and-forth between two languages in real time. Great for quick interactions like ordering food or asking for directions. Also, it can translate text on signs, menus, or labels by simply pointing your phone at them – no typing required.

**Keeping Organised** – You can store boarding passes, loyalty cards, hotel reservations, and event tickets in one place using **Apple Wallet** or **Google Pay**. Apple Wallet also integrates with travel apps like **Airbnb** and **Booking.com**, so your accommodation details can be accessed as easily as your flight information.

**Safety – WhatsApp** allows you to share your live location with friends or family, useful when meeting people in unfamiliar places or during solo travel.

**TripWhistle** is an emergency app that lists local emergency numbers for 196 countries. It can pinpoint your location and allow you to share it with emergency responders. **What3Words** is great for pinpointing locations to meet or visit.

**Culture Trip** guides you to hidden gems, local experiences, and cultural insights. It offers curated content from local experts, including articles and guides to the best places to eat, visit, and stay, tailored to your interests. Happy travelling!

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PRECEDING MONTH**

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## **The Forest Row Repair Café**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January  
from 10am – 1pm**

Forest Row Community Centre, RH18 5DZ  
Last orders at 12:30pm

Start the New Year with a good resolution to rescue all of your broken items, new and old, from being thrown in the bin this month

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**CAFÉ** Forest  
Row

## **The Final Word... on Blue Monday by Robert Veitch**

Blue Monday is the name given to the third Monday in January, supposedly the most depressing day of the year – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 apparently.

It was thought to be the day the bills for Christmas landed on the doormat, in the days when the post arrived daily, and arrived before the school run.

Typically it was inclined towards the credit card bill, often overloaded with pre-Christmas bonhomie, when mindsets are a little more swayed by seasonal festivities and Slade's Noddy Holder is yelling "it's Christmas", as he has done, every year since 1973... that's 51 years for those of you who can remember it being released.

Blue Monday does have a formula which includes; weather conditions, debt level (the difference between debt accumulated and ability to pay), time since Christmas, time since New Year's resolutions have been broken, low motivational levels, and the feeling of a need to take action.

Feeling down? There's no need to! The third Friday in June is the most joyous day of the year, apparently that's 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025, so if you have a calendar to hand, mark it up. Merry Christmas and a happy Blue Monday free New Year.

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## Local Information

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Chairman:	Rick Hunnam	01892 770347
Lettings:	Mrs Meg Stafford	07972 161243
<b>Blackham Village Hall</b>	venues4hire.org/venue/details4815	
Bookings:	Mrs Ruth Gubbins blackhamvillagehall@gmail.com	07890 303791
<b>Groombridge &amp; Hartfield Medical Practice</b>	Withyham Road, Groombridge, TN3 9QP Old Crown Farm, High Street, Hartfield, TN7 4AD	01892 863326
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<b>Withyham Art Group</b>	Ali Hunnam	01892 770347
<b>Dorset Arms Angling Club</b>	Keith Grose	01892 652631
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<b>Blackham Country Players</b>	Linda Weekes	01892 740261
<b>Citizens' Advice Bureau</b> , Crowborough		01892 655303
<b>Withyham Parish Charity</b>	<i>Trust providing financial help for those in need</i> Applications should be made to Gilly Halcrow	01892 770607
<b>Withyham Parish Council (WPC)</b>	The Old Station, Groombridge, TN3 9RD www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk	01892 864557
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