



Findon

October 2025

Community newsletter for
Findon, West Sussex
Including the Church Parish of
Findon, Clapham & Patching

News

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Articles for publication (**maximum 650 words**) can be submitted by email to findonvillagenews@gmail.com, or via the 'Findon News Box' in the Village Shop.

Closing Date for Next Publication : 20th October 2025

All are invited to our Harvest Festival School Assembly
Wednesday 15th October.

Our school is always keen to explore ways in which we can invite the wider community into school. Our more senior pupils (known as Redwood Class) are leading this year's school Harvest celebration assembly, and would like to invite everyone in our community into school on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th October at 1.15 pm.

We will be offering tea and biscuits with some of the children staying behind to talk to us, so this may be of particular interest to any former pupils of our school, as well as other residents in the area.

We would like to get an idea of numbers, so it would help if participants could phone the school office on 01903 873072 or send an e-mail into school to tell us that you are coming. The email address is:

OFFICE@STJBPS.CO.UK

We hope to see you on Wednesday 15th October at 1.15 pm.



This magazine can also be read on-line on the following three websites:

Findon Village News : www.findonvillagenews.org

Findon Village Parish Council : www.findonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Findon Churches : www.findon-clapham-patching-churches.com



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From the Rectory

Changing seasons always come with mixed feelings, and as we are without doubt well in to autumn now, I confess to a sense of regret that the days are shortening, the temperature is dropping, and our abundant crop of French beans is dwindling fast! Although personally I'm fortunately not affected by 'SAD' (seasonally affected disorder) there may be some of you who are, or have neighbours or friends affected by the shortening days and lack of sun. Please be mindful particularly of neighbours living alone, and if we as a church can offer any support, let me know via the Parish Office.

I am conscious that a number of parishioners across the villages have suffered a bereavement this past year and assure you of my prayers. Let me know if I can support you in any way as winter approaches. Our prayers are very much with Hugh Wyatt and the family at their loss of Jane recently. Jane was a wonderful farmer in her time at Cissbury, alongside caring for her family, and will be much missed.

I'm sure that most of you will already know that I will be retiring in early January 2026. This was not an easy decision to make as I really love being your Vicar, but I am increasingly feeling my age (I will turn 70 in November) especially at busy times in

the church calendar. Chris and I have bought a bungalow in The Chase, so I will still be around, but not as your Parish Priest! Lots of people have asked who my successor will be, so I thought it might be helpful to explain something of how the Church of England works when there is a Vacancy in a Parish.

A Vacancy (or sometimes referred to as an Interregnum) occurs when the Incumbent (the Priest Licensed to serve in a Parish on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop) either moves on to a new post or retires. Although the Bishop and his Senior Clergy Team will be aware of an upcoming Vacancy (the statutory notice period is 3 months) and may well have discussed possible ways forward, nothing is actually done until the existing Priest has gone. The first step is for Churchwardens to meet with the Archdeacon and Rural Dean, at which point Sequestrators are appointed to oversee the running of the Parish and the process of a new appointment, which is always at the Diocesan Bishop's discretion. Unlike in a business context, there is no 'handover' between the new person and the previous one, which many people from outside the church find hard to understand! I think the reasoning is that it gives the Parish a

Continued on page 5

Rev. Helena Buqué, Vicar and Rev. Colin Cox, Associate Vicar
c/o The Rectory, School Hill Findon, BN14 0TR. Tel: 873601
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space between appointments, so it is like a fresh start when a new Vicar is appointed, as well as providing an opportunity for the Parish to run things as a team, with the help of retired and visiting clergy. From personal experience as a Warden in Durrington during a Vacancy some years before my ordination, this can be a time of growth for many people as they step up to take responsibility for a certain area and it really does bring the congregation together as a team.

We are of course fortunate here as we have our Associate Vicar, Colin, who,

in the meantime, will support the Worship and Mission of the Parish, but please remember that he will not be able to do everything that currently he and I do as a team, when I have retired! Please pray for him as he prepares to work out what is possible for him to commit to once I've gone. I know you will all work together well, just as you did in the run up to Findon Sheep Fair and on the day despite the weather this year!

Every blessing
Helena



The Ron Green Big Band



Saturday, 18th October at 7.30pm
St John the Baptist Church Findon

Playing a wonderful repertoire from jazz composers including George Gershwin, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington plus many more.

The Ron Green big band was started by jazz fanatic Ron Green in 2001, comprising of 5 saxophonists, 3 Trumpets, 3 trombones, piano, bass, guitar, drums and female vocalist. The band have played a number of weddings, receptions, the Amex Stadium in Brighton, plus are regulars at the Cranleigh Arts Centre where they are based in Surrey.

Tickets available from the Findon Village Store or Peckham Butchers - £5 !!!!
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Entry by donation
Refreshments available

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Boxes required by 4th November

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Peckhams Butchers, Findon Village Shop
and our three Churches

Shoeboxes may be available from
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If you would like to make a donation towards delivery costs, rather than filling a box, or would like further information, please call 07899 990748 and leave a message.

The boxes are taken to a central depot in Eastbourne
of a small Christian charity

MUSTARD SEED RELIEF MISSIONS

Last year the boxes were driven across Europe to Moldova, the poorest European country, & distributed to underprivileged children in orphanages, schools and hospitals. In addition Moldova, along with many other European countries, will be providing refuge for those who have fled from the conflict next door in Ukraine. It is likely these boxes will be the only presents the children will receive.

Wrap your box in cheerful Christmas wrapping paper, (please wrap the lid and box separately), place the contents inside & if you wish include a donation for its delivery, which is very costly.
(Instructions on leaflet)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Mustard Seed website www.msrm.org.uk & see a video of children receiving their boxes.



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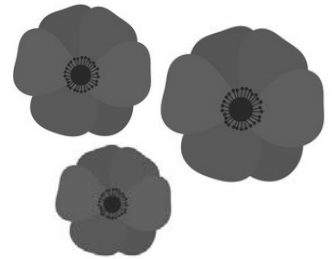
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01903872225 www.tajdar.co.uk



Remembrance Day Poppies

Calling all knitters and crocheters

We are planning a Remembrance Display of Poppies on the church gates this year. We will need lots of knitted or crocheted poppies (approx 3-4 inches in diameter) to complete this project. If any of you would like to make some it would be very much appreciated. Please get them to Gill Gostick 11 Downland Close by **Friday 11th October** at the latest, or we can arrange to collect.



Free poppy patterns readily available online or contact us for more details.

gill.gostick@yahoo.co.uk 07734298800

Thanks in advance

Gill and Gay

The Friends of St John the Baptist Church Findon



Invite you to join us
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3.00pm

at Findon Church

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From Findon Parish Council

A24 Worthing to Horsham and Dorking Transport Improvements – public engagement
West Sussex County Council (WSCC) is seeking views on potential transport improvements along the A24 corridor between Worthing, Horsham and Dorking. This is part of a joint public engagement exercise being undertaken by WSCC and Surrey County Council. The comments received will help identify key constraints, issues, and opportunities that will be used to shape their plans for the corridor and enable them to seek future funding opportunities.

The area covered by the engagement exercise includes the A24 from the A25 Dorking Deepdene roundabout and nearby railway stations in Dorking, to Horsham, and to the A27 Offington Roundabout in Worthing. The area also includes the A280 Long Furlong between the A27 at Clapham and A24 at Findon because of the importance of this link in connecting the A27 with the A24.

Improvements

The types of improvements that we are considering along the A24 corridor include:

- junction capacity improvements
- bus priority and bus stop improvements

- walking and cycling path improvements
- crossing facilities for people walking, cycling and horse-riding
- road safety improvements including junction modifications, safety barriers and speed limit changes

Have your say

You can find out more about these suggested improvements by visiting <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/A24-worthing-horsham-dorking> where you can also have your say by completing the questionnaire and commenting on an interactive map. This initial engagement period will close at 11:55pm on 27 October 2025.

If you would like any of the materials in alternative formats, or have any questions, please email LTP@westsussex.gov.uk or contact WSCC by telephone on 01243 642105. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and have a BT Relay UK app installed on your PC, laptop or smartphone, you can contact WSCC 18001 01243 642105.

Fiona MacLeod
Clerk, Findon Parish Council



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200 Club

The 200 club September draw was held on 9th September.

Congratulations to the lucky winner - ball number 37, Judith Davies.

Sadly, summer has now gone and the evenings are drawing in...but we have the 200 Club Autumn Grand Draw Social Evening to look forward to! The event will take place on Saturday 15th November at Findon Village Hall commencing 6.45pm. We are planning a fun night to include supper and drinks, the ever-popular general knowledge quiz set by Steve Sharp, a raffle and card bingo. Following the quiz the 200 Club Grand Draw will be held with prizes ranging from £500 to £25.

Entry is by pre-purchased ticket costing £10pp to include a light buffet. You are welcome to bring your own nibbles for the table, but please NO DRINKS as the Village Hall Committee will be running their licenced bar. The Village Shop and Peckhams the Butchers have kindly agreed to sell the tickets, which will be available from mid-October.

We are also approaching the new financial year for membership renewals. As usual the cost is £20 due at the beginning of November. Approximately 30% of the membership pay by by cheque or cash. These are expensive items for banks to process and we run the risk of attracting bank charges, which would reduce the amount we can raise for the Village Hall. It would therefore be immensely helpful to our Treasurer, Cathrine Gear if members could, where possible, either set up an annual bank standing order or pay their membership by bank transfer in early November.

We do have a waiting list of potential members so if any members wish to give up their membership for next year please let me know by emailing me at the following address: findon200clubsecretary@gmail.com.

Further details of the Autumn Grand Draw and membership renewal will be provided in the Autumn newsletter which will be sent out shortly.

Tony Brimyard - 200 Club Secretary



Christmas Lights in The Square



The Christmas lights are being installed on the weekend of 15th November and will be switched on at 5.30 pm on 7th December.

We hope everyone will come and join us for the festivities, including mince pies, mulled wine and carols.

Our special guest will be Father Christmas and his Elf helper.

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Village Shop News

October 2025

The Great British weather! There's always something to talk about! It's our 'National Conversation', and if that term doesn't exist, it should do!

Anyway, the weather hasn't let us down this year as a talking point, as you will know if you went to the Sheep Fair last month. I didn't, actually. (Where I went would have won hands-down in the rainfall stakes, but then nobody had spent many, many hours preparing for an outdoor event there.) Anyway, even though I wasn't physically at the Sheep Fair, I've heard plenty about it.

I'm always fascinated by the way in which adversity brings out a spirit of comradeship amongst us. Setting up the shop gazebo was difficult this year, but everyone rolled their sleeves up (well, maybe not literally in the rain) and got on with it. A further challenge presented itself when water started cascading onto the stock and those behind the stalls. (I wish I'd been there to see it – but maybe that's a bit mean!) It took a team effort to come up with a way to limit the internal downpour. At this point, I'm asking myself whether it was wetter under the gazebo, or outside! Apparently, the card reader and till both worked despite the rain, apart from the odd idiosyncrasy, but that's pretty normal. That's some achievement – I'm sure that they stopped working altogether last year at one point. Despite all, volunteers persevered, and kept serving customers with a smile, refilling water containers (couldn't they

Jean Burden

have just left them out in the rain and they would have filled themselves?), baking sausage rolls, and doing their best to keep things dry with copious sheets of blue roll.

Just as in the fabled ditty, 'Incy Wincy Spider', the sun did come out at about 2pm, but that's where the similarity ends. Unfortunately, the sun did not dry up all the rain. Nevertheless, the good people of Findon came out, hopefully in wellies, and visited our stall. So, all was not lost. But it was a Sheep Fair to remember! Let's hope they're not too many like that. What amazes me, though, is how inconsistent the weather is from year to year. The Sheep Fair two years ago fell on probably the hottest day of the year! A distant memory now.

This month, in true storyteller's tradition, I will end where I started. The weather. It is definitely getting cooler now, after a wonderful summer, and it is time to say a fond farewell to our ice cream machine. I don't know whether anyone writes down the number of ice creams sold year on year, but this year probably broke the record. It was so hot!

And with autumn, come sweet delights such as Hallowe'en. The shop will be stocking all sorts of sweets and other goodies nearer the time, for all your parties and celebrations. This year, Hallowe'en falls in half term, so all the more reason to celebrate!

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Findon Friends of St. Barnabas

would like to say a Big Thank You to ...

The Monarchs Way Singers...

who held a Summer Concert in the Village Hall...

Wendy Glanfield put out the bucket along with a photo of her husband,
in memory of Mike, who sadly passed away early this year...
they raised £180...

and

The Village House Dart Players,

had another Fun Tournament...
the bucket was put out once again
and they raised £128...
well done to Cobby who won and
Peter Green came second.

Left-Cobby & Peter Green



Findon Friends of St Barnabas

A Fish & Chip evening, with a quiz and a raffle

is being held on Thursday 16th October
at The Findon Manor, 6.30pm for 7.00pm start.

Tickets are £17.00 per person,
with teams of up to 6 people.

Vegetarian option available.,,
please advise on booking.

Tickets are available from
Wendy Glanfield 07709 860534



Worship and Praise

Findon Church at 10.00am

Music led by
Becca Leiu and her students

Speaker Tabitha Scott
Everybody very welcome | Please stay for refreshments



Findon Sheep Fair

Despite somewhat inclement weather during the morning, this year's Sheep Fair was another great success. Although this resulted in a lower than normal turnout, those who did attend provided very positive feedback.

There were the normal attractions, including the Sheep Show, Farmyard Circus, Punch & Judy, Morris Dancing, Pony Rides, Vintage Cars and much much more. Unfortunately due to restrictions relating to Avian Flu, the Birds of Prey were unable to join us this year. An added attraction this year was Bellringing. A temporary structure was erected with bells on it simulating a bell tower. Visitors were invited to have a go!

The evening events were as popular as ever. The Barn Dance was well attended, and on Saturday, a packed marquee enjoyed Murdoch's Crazy Eyes, who for the first time had a support act Blue Dakota who got the show going.

Another first this year, was a free 24 page programme which contained all you needed to know about the fair past and present. Also for the first time, there was a Sheep Fair calendar for sale as well as Mugs. If anyone missed out and is interested in any of these please let us know at admin@findonsheepfair.org.uk

As always, the committee are indebted to all the 130 volunteers who helped over the weekend and the sponsors who generously supported us.

Sheep

For the first time in many years' sheep farmers arrived from all over the south of England in a downpour to unload their animals getting soaked through in the process. With delays on the roads due to the conditions we managed to start on time with the Shetland and Romney

sections at 9-30 am. We are the only show in the South of England that has a Shetland section and we had a record entry of 54 sheep in all classes.

We finished the morning classes at midday and this was followed by the Young Shepherds where 20 youngsters took part. A lot of these young people are the future farmers of the Industry and Katie Lovejoy from Tenterden Kent was the Young Shepherd Supreme champion.

After lunch there was another downpour while the Wool on the Hoof Championship took place but sunshine appeared when the Supreme Championship winner was decided by all the judges. The winning sheep was a Suffolk ram owned by Kevin and Sally Hasemore from Bosham West Sussex.

It is not only the judges that travel a great distance to be at the show but we have volunteers from all over, including London. Without Volunteers we couldn't put this show on, so a very big thank you to everybody who helped over the days from Thursday to Sunday.

As the farmers drove out of the green, many were very complementary saying "Best show"

The mock auction was also a big success again showing the public what used to happen up to the year 2000 on Nepcote Green





Friends of St John the Baptist Church Findon

Despite the best efforts of the morning weather at the Sheep Fair, visitor attendance at the Friends refreshment stall exceeded our initial expectations and enabled us to make an excellent contribution of over £800.00 to the FoSJB charitable trust. Our offering of teas, coffees, cakes, scones, and sausage rolls (many homemade) was complemented by hot dogs and burgers during the lunch period.

This achievement, in helping raise funds for the upkeep of our Parish Church, was only achieved by the selfless assistance of our many volunteers, too many to thank, but we know who you are! In similar vein a big thank you to the many, many visitors who bought refreshments from us.

Interesting to note is the pleasure experienced by our volunteers, who commented on how much they enjoyed participation, and the many friendly conversations with those that bought from our stand. This leads us nicely on to the dreaded, at this early

time of the year, 'Christmas' word, and a reminder of the Christmas Tree Festival in our Church on Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th December. The Friends will be looking for volunteers to help on the refreshments stall but there will be many other ways to support this event so keep an eye out for further information in the Findon News.

In closing, the Friends Committee extends its warmest thanks to all who bought and volunteered at its stand, for without you, it would not have been possible.

FoSJBF is a charitable trust which supports the restoration, preservation, repair, maintenance and improvement of our Church. For more information about our

Church and the role of The Friends, visit our website <https://www.fosjbf.org>



Mobile Belfry Report from The Sheep Fair

We finally managed to get the Mobile Belfry to the Sheep Fair this year, after it being unavailable last year.

The Charmborough Ring was well received by visitors, enabling them to see how a bell works, and how bell ringers control bells to ring for Sunday Service, Weddings and Funerals and important occasions. We wanted to raise the profile of bell ringing and show how much fun it can be and how social it is as well.

We had over 170 people having a go at chiming, including many children, which is just rocking the bell to make a noise. If people were interested, and many were, we let them have a go at proper bell ringing, under instruction, as it isn't as easy as it looks. After a brief explanation, and with help, everyone was able to ring the bell at backstroke, which is half the cycle of ringing, with the experienced ringer pulling on the Sally at Handstroke to keep the bell going. Everyone who had a go managed it, some only briefly, but quite a few rang unaided for a couple of minutes, which is a great achievement. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience.



Hopefully we will be back at a future Sheep Fair, but first we need to have a discussion on how we can improve things if needed, and how often we would like to attend.

I would like to thank Adrian Riches for sorting all the paperwork and booking the ring, The many ringers from Findon and Angmering who helped throughout the day, and June Somerville who handed out badges, talked to people about the tower and helped organise people. We literally couldn't have done it without them.

From a personal point of view, I would say the 6½ hours we were there went by in a flash. Hopefully some local towers may be contacted with people wanting to have a try at the real thing. All towers are always on the look out for anyone who would like to take part and have a go at an ancient English art, and play on the largest musical instruments around.

Simon Knights Tower Captain,
St John the Baptist, Findon



Findon Parish Council

Sheep Fair

It was terrific to see another successful Findon Sheep Fair enjoyed by villagers and visitors alike. The hard work undertaken by the Sheep Fair Committee well in advance of the event ensures its success, along with the significant efforts of many volunteers before, during, and after the day.

We extend sincere thanks to everyone involved for such a wonderful event, which showcased the very best of Findon's community spirit.

Findon Community Orchard

Located behind Findon Village Hall (just follow the elegant signpost), Findon Community Orchard held its open day with a healthy turnout of over 35 attendees celebrating its launch. The orchard is developing beautifully, with apple and pear trees—each marked with its own handmade pottery name tag, kindly created and donated by the wife of our Tree Warden. FPC will keep you updated on its progress and any future events in this space. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of a second location, further news will follow.

The FPC Traffic and Parking Group continues its work to ease traffic and parking challenges across Findon. Two current projects are underway to this end.

The first focuses on managing vehicle speed along road leading to Cissbury Ring, extending from Nepcote at the bottom of Nepcote Green. This stretch currently carries an outdated speed limit of 60mph, which drops to 20mph upon entering Nepcote - consistent with limits across the rest of Findon.

Several accidents have been reported, and FPC has been lobbied by concerned residents who believe this road should

follow the same speed limit as the rest of the village. Recent changes to traffic regulations now give greater consideration to pedestrians and other non-vehicular users. In light of this, FPC is applying to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in line with the rest of Findon.

The second application seeks to change School Hill from a two-way road to one-way access. The direction of travel would be determined by Highways, not FPC, if the application is approved. The current two-way use frequently causes bottlenecks when entering or exiting Findon and poses a significant risk to pedestrians and children accessing St John the Baptist School.

Working with WSCC and concerned residents, FPC will be carrying out a survey to collect evidence to support these two applications, details of which will be in next month's Findon News.

We are especially keen to hear from **pedestrians, equestrians, cyclists, parents, commuters, business owners and residents**—anyone who uses our roads and paths. Your lived experience is vital to shaping practical, inclusive solutions.

As FPC progresses both applications, we will continue to keep the village informed of any developments.

Continuing along the theme of traffic, please see a separate article (*see pg 11*) from our Clerk on the A24 Worthing to Horsham and Dorking Transport Improvements consultation, which includes Long Furlong.

Cllr Sean Smith
Chairman, Findon Parish Council
www.findonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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FINDON VILLAGE GARDENS ASSOCIATION

Friday 31st October at 7.30pm
Findon Village Hall

"SUSSEX GARDENS TRUST"
A talk by Sally Ingram about
the work of the Trust



For you to enjoy and celebrate
the Gardens of Sussex

Members £2.00 Guests £3.00
ALL WELCOME



Findon Light Lunch

Light Lunch 2025 will be held at Findon Village Hall on the last Tuesday of every month. (except August and December)

Join us on 29th October 2025

Doors open-12.45pm

Lunch served at 1pm

£6 for 2 courses-homemade soup with bread and homemade puddings.

Tea and coffee available

Raffle with prizes including a free voucher for Light Lunch. Prize donations appreciated

Everyone welcome



Tea, Coffee, Biscuits
and Chat

Monday Afternoon
Sessions are back
for 2025 - 26

Starting Mon 20th
October 2025 until
30th March 2026

2pm - 4pm

Where: Nepcote Hall
Findon Village Hall

Spread the Word and
see you there!

FROM MON 20TH OCT TEA, COFFEE, BISCUITS AND CHAT

A CHANCE TO MEET UP WITH FRIENDS AND
MEET NEW VILLAGERS

Our regular drop ins at the Village Hall during the autumn /winter months are returning.

Just 50 pence for your first cuppa - refills are free. Biscuits also 50p. Please tell your friends and neighbours to come along!

Everyone welcome, the more the merrier! (and that includes your four legged friends)



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www.findonvillagehall.net

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PLEASE NOTE that due to the current circumstances, we will be operating from our Storrington office for now. All contact details remain the same.

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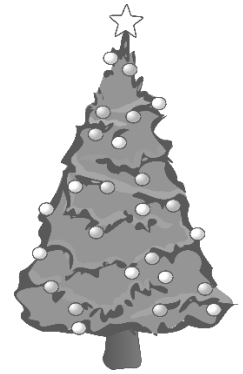
SAVE THE DATE – CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025

Please put the weekend of **6th and 7th December** in your diary,
Findon Church are holding their 10th Christmas Tree Festival

on **Saturday 6th 10-5**

and **Sunday 7th 11-4**

Vote for your favourite tree decorated by local businesses and families, enjoy refreshments with friends and take part in the instant raffle. It really is a great start to the festive season and we hope to welcome over 1000 visitors across the 2 days.



We have already had expressions of interest from many local groups but if anyone else would like to enter a tree (as a local individual, family, organisation or business) please contact gill.gostick@yahoo.co.uk or 07734298800 as we still have a few spaces left.

Any prizes for the instant raffle and chocolate tombola would be very welcome too. Donations can be left in the church, the rectory or can be collected. For more details contact Gill Gostick (details above).

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Findon Village WI

We welcomed professional artist Andrea Griffiths to our September meeting. Andrea showed us how to make tissue paper flowers: carnations, camellias, sunflowers and poppies.

On Saturday 13th September we dodged the showers at the Sheep Fair, kept smiling and had a steady stream of visitors to our WI cake and chutney stall. We managed to sell out of all the cakes with only a few jars of chutney remaining. These will be available at our next meeting where we hope to add to the total and reach around £500. A big thank you to all our ladies who baked and contributed items to our stall and to those who braved the weather to come and say 'Hello.'

Our October meeting is on Thursday 9th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We will hear from Jamie Clark of the Mary How Trust. He will be talking about how to stay well and the services they offer.

The competition will be 'something that makes you feel good.'

Visitors are always welcome. Drop us a line or just turn up on the night.

Website – It has lots of news about our activities, sub-groups, and upcoming initiatives – Check it out.

Sara Clarke – President
Email: findonvillagewi@hotmail.co.uk
Website:
<https://findonvillagewi.wixsite.com/mysite>

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Tuesday 6.30pm-7.30pm - online
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range of ages and lifestyles as well as
those looking for a healthier way of life.



For further information contact Michelle

Email: yogamichelle@pm.me

Website: www.yogafortoday.yoga

Article from Robin Carr - LongTime Resident of Findon and Former Parish Concillor

"In 1989, with increasing traffic delays, I was keen to move out of Worthing, where my Wife, Sally and I had been living for many years, to somewhere nearer to my workplace, Pulborough.

Sally and I felt that Findon would be the ideal place and we were very lucky to find a cottage in Nepcote. Originally built as two workman's cottages in about 1780, long since converted into one cottage, it had been badly neglected and was in need of considerable renovation.

After builders had been at work for a few weeks we were beginning to think we had taken on more than we could cope with. However, to our great delight a marvellous bonus presented itself in that our builder was suspicious that there was something behind a blank wall in the hall. He removed the wall to reveal a marvellous inglenook fireplace ---see the two accompanying photos on next page.

The garden too needed lots of work to "knock it into shape" and we were surprised that the vegetable patch next to the old privy seemed exceptionally fertile. This we learnt was due to what was called the "night soil".

In about the year 2000, I decided I wanted to try and join the Parish Council. I was involved in what was the last public election involving the Parish Council. It was in fact a by election and had certain characteristics of a political election

including leafleting much of the Village, canvassing votes and phoning friends and acquaintances. A former Parish Council Chairman lived near me and always seemed somewhat fearsome. I gathered my strength and phoned her for support expecting to get "short shrift" but after half an hour we were still chatting.

On the evening of the day when the result was to be declared by the Returning Officer at the Village Hall, I was reluctant to attend expecting to be publicly humiliated but my sponsor more or less frog marched me along and to my great surprise I was duly elected. I think I was the recipient of some tactical voting because one of the other candidates was very unpopular in some quarters of the Village so that I gained a lot of votes to ensure he was not elected.

One of the earliest jobs I was involved in as a Parish Councillor was the clearance of what was then a heavily overgrown area now known as North Green. It was a major undertaking and the undergrowth was as thick as the Amazon Forest. After clearance the surface was levelled with the help of a local farmer, grass seed was sown and on a very cold December morning 900 saplings were planted along the northern boundary and have now grown into a magnificent hedge. A number of lime trees were planted next to the road which have matured nicely after 20 odd years. North Green has become a very pleasant recreational area.

continued on page 29

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Another early and unusual job I took on on behalf of the Parish Council was in relation to Nepcote Green. Nepcote Green was registered as a Village Green way back in the 1960's but much later it was discovered that the definitive plan was incorrect and showed the Green extending into the kitchen of the large house next to the Green so, technically speaking, anyone taking their dog for a walk

could go through that house's kitchen on their way to the Green and if early in the morning might have been offered a "full English" to share with the dog! The formalities for correcting the error were extremely long winded and were complicated because quite extraordinarily The Campaign for Rural England objected. Thankfully their objection was overruled."



Cinnamon Trust

I had a lovely thank you letter from the Cinnamon Trust following our amazing Summer Fair/Cream Tea. They told me that our money is paying for a new heating system at the Devon Sanctuary which will keep the elderly pets warm and cosy in winter and cool in summer. I always so like to hear how our funds are being used and this sounds very important.

As you probably know our next event is the Christmas Fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 13th December from 10.00am till 12.30pm. Cost will be £4 (sorry, first price increase for several years) to include hot drink and sweet or savoury item, extras £1 each. Bring

your good doggies and enjoy all the Christmas treats! Card reader available. (Children under 12 admitted free).

Good quality items welcome please particularly Christmas goodies and pet items.

Orders for my small iced Christmas cakes at £8 each will be taken from mid October onwards on 07544 572702 or maggiemartin8@gmail.com.

Thanks again for your continued support, it means a lot to all the people and pets.

All the best from Maggie and John

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Findon Planning Applications

Planning applications for Findon are under the authority of South Downs National Park and listed on the SDNPA website (www.southdowns.gov.uk).

Findon Parish Council (FPC) Planning Committee meetings are scheduled monthly to consult on planning applications received from the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). Parish Consultation Letters (PCL) received from the SDNPA are displayed on the Notice Boards outside the newsagents and the Village Hall, and published on the FPC website (<http://findonparishcouncil.gov.uk>) along with the schedule of Committee

meeting dates.

Please note that

due to Findon News publication deadlines, some applications may have already been placed before the Committee. Residents should check the Notice Boards and FPC website regularly to view notices and meeting details.

Any enquiries should be addressed to the FPC Clerk - 01903 877225.

Since the last issue of Findon News, the following Planning Applications have been posted on the SDNPA website:



Erection of car port and log store.

1 Pony Farm Findon BN14 0RS
Ref. No: SDNP/25/03820/HOUS

Extend existing loft conversion to main roof area

40 Nepcote Lane Findon BN14 0SL
Ref. No: SDNP/25/03692/HOUS

Install 16 solar panels to the dormer flat roof

Glymur 7 The Quadrangle Findon
BN14 0RB

Discharge of Condition 8 (Extraction and Odour)

for SDNP/24/03816/FUL.

Findon Place Horsham Road Findon
BN14 0RF

Ref. No: SDNP/25/03588/DCOND

To fell three trees to ground level and to re-plant with replacement trees (1 x Silver Birch, 1 x Lawson Cypress, 1 x Ash). To reduce the crown of 1 x Copper Beech
40 Nepcote Lane Findon BN14 0SL
Ref. No: SDNP/25/03572/TPO

Be Safe - Be seen

Don't forget to carry a torch or wear reflective clothing during these dark dreary winter afternoons and evenings.

You cannot be seen by motorists if you are wearing dark clothing in unlit areas.



Goatchers studio and cottage



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Windlesham House

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'We had an extended stay in lovely Goatchers Cottage in Findon ...
it was a lovely haven to come back to at the end of the day.'

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Paws Animal Sanctuary

We have had a very busy month with new arrivals; all our cat pens are full. Most of the cats need visits to the vet, some need blood tests or scans and regular medications carefully administered needing charts and a lot of extra work for the volunteers.

Three Tortoises all with badly damaged shells after being bitten by the owner's dog are greatly improved, all having lukewarm baths every day eating lots of bananas, strawberries, tomatoes, melons and lettuces and grass out in a pen in the sun.

A Guineapig was dumped in a heavy downpour in a box in a local park discovered by dog walkers running for cover. He is the nicest friendliest little guineapig who loves being picked up.

Unwanted baby rabbits are a worry, people regularly buy two rabbits that turn out to be a male and a female. When they notify the shop, that they have baby rabbits the shops regularly refuse to take the babies saying they don't have room. We don't have the room either or enough Volunteers to take care of more rabbits all I can advise is when they are old enough is to do an appeal with photos to try and find homes for them.

Fortunately, I have discovered a new baby bird rescue, who was able to

take a baby pigeon who was blown out of a nest, it was icy cold so I had it round my neck under my T-shirt until 3am. It warmed up to so I put it on a heat pad wrapped in a towel, so pleased it was still alive next morning. I don't know how to tube feed a baby pigeon, I rang seven rescue numbers, all said they were full, one told me to defrost a frozen pea and put it down its throat which I did. Eventually I was guided to a young man who has started up on his own and was experienced in tube feeding baby pigeons. One of our Volunteers took the baby bird to him who fed it and put it in an incubator. He thought the tiny baby pigeon was only one day old. Four days later the bird was still alive and he told us that it was the wrong thing putting a pea down its throat, you could still see the pea in its crop !
Stacey.

Paws Animal Sanctuary Findon
15 The Oval, Findon Village,
BN14 0TN

01903 872 734 / 0790 447 6819

We never use an ansaphone so keep trying som one is always around.
24hrs. 7days a week.

Email. pawsanimals@hotmail.co.uk
Registered Charity 1096231

Findon News is produced by volunteers and our only expenses are the printing costs. These costs are covered by advertising revenue and we are very grateful to all our advertisers for their continued support.
Please support them whenever you can.

Village Hall Diary October 2025

For one off events e.g. children's parties, meetings and weddings please email Elaine Dibben on bookingsecretary@findonvillagehall.net or visit www.findonvillagehall.net/home/hire-the-hall.

Please contact organisers directly for further information about activities/classes.

Their details are available on the Village Hall website - www.findonvillagehall.net.

Weekly	Day	Hall	Time
Just Yoga	Monday (not 7th)	Nepcote	10.30am
Soccer Tots	Monday	Chanctonbury	09.45am
Monday Afternoon Drop Ins	Monday (from October 20th)	Nepcote	14.00pm
Yoga for Today	Monday (not 7th or 14th)	Nepcote	16.30pm
Encore Choir	Monday	Chanctonbury	18.45pm
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	09.15am
	Tuesday (21st)	Nepcote	09.15am
Tai Chi class	Tuesday	Nepcote	10.30am
You Yoga	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	18.00pm
Line Dancing	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	10.00am
UDanceUK	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	17.00pm
Cloud Nine Yoga	Wednesday (not 15th or 22nd)	Nepcote	19.00pm
Strictly Dancing with Lisa	Wednesday (not 22nd or 29th)	Chanctonbury	19.00pm
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Thursday	Nepcote	09.15am
Carpet Bowls	Thursday	Chanctonbury	14.00pm
Circuit Training	Thursday	Nepcote	17.30pm
Circuit Training	Thursday (9th)	Chanctonbury	17.30pm
Tai Chi	Friday	Chanctonbury	10.00am
Cloud Nine Yoga	Friday (not 15th or 22nd)	Nepcote	10.00am
Baby Steps Dance Group	Saturday	Nepcote	09.30am
Baby Steps Dance Group	Saturday (11th)	Chanctonbury	09.30am
Danceaholics	Sunday (not 19th)	Chanctonbury	18.30pm

Monthly	Date	Hall	Time
Messy Church	7th October	Chanctonbury	03.30pm
Findon Village WI	9th October	Chanctonbury	19.30pm
Art Workshop	11th October	Nepcote	09.00am
Meditation and Sound Healing	14th October	Chanctonbury	19.45pm
Parish Council Committee	20th October	Nepcote	19.30pm
WI Crafty Ladies	20th October	Nepcote	14.00pm
Bead Magicians	21st October	Chanctonbury	10.00am
Parish Council Planning Mtg	30th October	Nepcote	19.30pm
Findon Garden Association	31st October	Chanctonbury	19.30pm

Dates for your Diary

October

Willow Weaving Workshop -Thursday 9th October – Nepcote - 6.30pm-

<https://www.nature-makers.co.uk/worthing-horsham-billingshurst>

FVHT 1% Quiz Night – October 24th - Chanctonbury – 7.30pm

Monday Afternoon Drop In - Starting October 20th – Nepcote – from 2 – 4pm

Light Lunch - Tuesday 28th October – Chanctonbury – 12.45 for 1pm Lunch

November

FVHT Film Night – November 21st – The Penguin Lessons - Chanctonbury – 7.30pm

Light Lunch - Tuesday 25th November – Chanctonbury – 12.45 for 1pm Lunch

Monday Afternoon Drop In – Nepcote – 2 – 4pm

Parish of Findon, Clapham and Patching

October 2025

All three Churches are open daily for private prayer
There is a 10.00am Said Eucharist in Findon Church every Tuesday,
And Morning Prayer every Wednesday and Friday at 9.00am.

Sunday 5 th October Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	08.00am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am 03.00pm	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Worship and Praise (and baptism) in Findon Church with Becca Lieu Harvest Eucharist in Patching Church, followed by Charity Auction of harvest goods; and Blessing of the new gates Pet Service in Findon Church
Sunday 12 th October Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	08.00am 09.30am	BCP Holy Communion in Clapham Church Eucharist in Findon Church
Sunday 19 th October Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	08.00am 09.30am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Eucharist in Findon Church Eucharist in Clapham Church
Sunday 26 th October Last Sunday after Trinity Trinity Nineteen	08.00am 09.30am	BCP Holy Communion in Patching Church Eucharist in Findon Church

FAMILY EVENTS:

	Next Messy Church - Tuesday 7th October - 3.30-5.30pm in Findon Village Hall. All children welcome with an accompanying adult for crafts, as story, singing and food. For further information please ring the Rectory on 01903 873601
Lambs Tails - Parent & Toddler Group for babies, toddlers & parents/carers. Next one Tuesday 7 th October, 2.30pm at Findon Rectory. Contact Dom: fcpfamiliesworker@gmail.com for more information and dates.	
Film Afternoon - showing Paddington 2. Saturday 4 th October, 2.00pm in Findon Church All welcome Donations requested. Refreshments available.	
Swing Time - The Ron Green Big Band - Saturday 18 th October, 7.30pm, in Findon Church Fundraising concert. Tickets £5 available from Peckhams butchers and village shop	

Baptisms	6 th September - Service of Thanksgiving for Henry Faulkner 21st September - Colby Setchell
Funerals	4th September - Brenda Dobbing 22nd September - Jan Wyatt

Rev. Helena Buqué, Vicar, and Rev. Colin Cox, Associate Vicar: c/o The Rectory, School Hill, Findon BN14 0TR. t: 01903 873601 e: findoncrectory@gmail.com Dom (Family Support Worker) – fcpfamiliesworker@gmail.com Facebook: Parish of Findon, Clapham and Patching Website: www.findon-clapham-patching-churches.com	
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