



Findon

February 2026

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

News

*Findon News is published monthly and is available free of charge from various outlets throughout Findon and can be viewed on the Findon Community website - www.findonvillage.org
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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 February 2026

Tree Group News

Pond Green

After the felling of the dangerous Sycamore on Pond Green we have planted two replacements, a flowering Cherry, Prunus Tai-Haku (the Great White Cherry) and a Scots Pine. The cherry has blossom in the spring and also good autumn colour. It has a Sussex connection, lost to cultivation in Japan a single specimen was found growing in a Sussex garden in 1923 and reintroduced to Japan. The Scots Pine is a native tree that tolerates chalk and one day could be a Christmas tree!

Community Orchard

We are going to plant five more apple trees to complete the community orchard. They are all varieties with

Sussex connections, Alfriston, Bossom, Dr Hogg, Egremont Russet and Saltcote Pippin.

Tree Nursery

We have lifted all saplings off our nursery and are distributing them to individuals around the village, replacing trees on roadsides and any remaining will be donated to Gallops Farm and Wild Heart Hill. In March we are receiving another donation of saplings from the Woodland Trust which will be planted in the nursery for future planting.

Matthew Ward,
Findon Village Tree Warden

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

On the Feast of Epiphany, which we celebrated on Sunday 4th January, we bade a fond farewell to Helena as she retired from her role of Vicar of our parish. The church was full as many came to show their appreciation for her many years of faithful service to the church, to our schools and to the community, and for all the support and kindness she has shown to those going through hard times. Many also attended the surprise party at Findon Place the previous Friday. Instead of a bouquet of flowers, Helena was presented with a rather nice olive tree for her new home as her old home in Durrington had an ancient one in the back garden that they had to leave behind. Helena was also presented with a substantial cheque from the many gifts that had been received.

The party almost didn't happen though, as it was originally planned for 9th January and at the last-minute Helena's family in Australia booked flights for her and for Chris, her husband, to go out the 5th January. There was a lot of rearranging to do and Caroline at Findon Place very kindly came to the rescue. The party was a great success with a wonderful spread of food provided by many people from across the three villages. We shall all miss Helena and Chris. But they are not going far, that is when they get back from considerably warmer climes, and I'm sure we will still

regularly see them walking Tilly their dog around Findon.

The work of the church goes on as before, and the services will take place as usual. This includes Messy Church that meets in Findon Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month. The Church Office will be open as usual on Monday, 8am to 11am and Friday 8am to 2pm, ably staffed by Wendy our Administrator. If you need to get in contact with the church office outside those times you can leave a message on the Rectory phone or by email and they will be picked up on a regular basis.

As I am the Associate Vicar of the Parish many people have assumed I will be taking over from Helena. This is actually not the case, as I have been appointed to a supporting role. As the position of Vicar is now in vacancy it is actually the Church Wardens who run the parish, though I am available to take services and to be there for anyone who would like to speak to me.

Easter is very early this year (5th April) so we begin our Lenten observance early too, with Ash Wednesday falling on 18th February. Although we might not think of Lent as something to look forward to, I personally find it a very useful time of reflection and

Continued on page 5

Rev. Colin Cox, Associate Vicar
c/o The Rectory, School Hill Findon, BN14 0TR. Tel: 873601
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preparation for Easter. Used well, it can be a time to take stock, which I think we all need in our busy lives. Fasting is optional (!) but some people find that focuses the mind and has its benefits, providing any savings are

put to good use. Wishing you a very belated Happy New Year and a blessed Lent.

Colin Cox, Associate Vicar.

From Helena



Thank you for the wonderful goodbye you gave me for my retirement. Thank you too to everyone who contributed to the very generous gifts you gave me and to those who organised the huge surprise. The olive tree is very special and will give us so much enjoyment seeing it in the garden.

We look forward to meeting with everyone and catching up on all the news when we see you.

Film Afternoon **TOY STORY!**



Sat. 21st February
2.00pm in Findon Church

All families welcome.

*Snacks and drinks,
donations welcomed*

Return of the **Ron Green Big Band Concert**



Sat. 18th April
7.30pm in Findon Church

Tickets £7.50 from Dom,
Village Shop or Peckhams.
£10 on door



Worship and Praise

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“Is it too late to wish all our volunteers and customers a Happy New Year?”, Angus (our manager) questioned, when I asked whether he had anything for this month’s article. Well, maybe it isn’t such a New ‘Year’ anymore, but we are coming up to Spring, and that always holds the promise of new things. And it’s always good to spread cheer; so, I’ll start by wishing you all a ‘Happy New Year’ anyway!

Talking of new, there’s all sorts of new things to tell you about. All you wonderful volunteers, this bit is especially for you, so read on. You may remember, back in 2022, we were awarded the ‘Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service’. The award came as a crystal, which stands on the shelf behind the counter, but hasn’t been very visible. Well, all that has changed. It is now backlit, with a purple backdrop (thank you Dorothy Barber and Simon Whitchurch). It looks very resplendent, and so it should! We should all be very proud of our achievement.

If, however, you can’t get to the shop to see it, all is not lost. Our website (www.findonvillagestore.org) has recently had an update (so it’s almost new!), including photos of the crystal. Do take a look.

A member of our Post Office staff, Sue Martin, has a new role. Having worked since we opened in 2017 behind the PO counter, she has decided to step back, but, guess what, she is now working as a volunteer. Fantastic news for us of course, but

I’m not sure how much difference she’ll notice. Thank you so much, Sue, for continuing to support us.

Before Christmas, we stocked some cyclamen and hyacinths from Ferring Nursery. Everyone was very impressed with their quality, and they sold well. Please keep an eye out; we will be stocking more plants from them. So, to continue my theme, we have a new local stockist. Perfect!

Now this next item happens every year, so isn’t exactly new as such, but you might be celebrating it with a new person! I’m referring, of course, to Valentine’s Day. As you’d expect, we’ll be stocking cards and chocolates, so come and take a look.

Now, I’m going to finish this month’s article with a story guaranteed to warm the cockles of your heart on a cold February day. A customer, in some degree of distress, came into the shop to say they’d lost their car – they’d obviously read my article about us being the guardians of lost objects. But no, their car hadn’t been brought to us for safekeeping. However, the duty volunteer thought they might know where the car was, from the sparse details that lost-car-person could remember. Like intrepid explorers, volunteer and lost-car-person walked off together (I’d like to say ‘into the sunset, the start of a beautiful romance’, but I think that might be stretching the Valentine theme too far!). Anyway, their mission was successful, and the car was found. A happy ending!

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A thank you from the Christmas Lights Team

We had a wonderful turning on ceremony of the Village Christmas Lights on 7th December – it feels like every year the number of attendees rises! We would like to thank Clive, our master of ceremonies, the School Choir and The Gun Inn staff for their support and for making it such a lovely evening. We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did, despite the wind!

As usual we could not put on such a great display without the helpers with setting up and taking down weekends: Gez, Clive, Graham, Chris, Eric, and Ritchie and the helpers at the turning on ceremony: Father Christmas, Indie our elf, and Jan for helping escort Father Christmas. This year we had two new helpers who will be taking over the installation side of things (with Gez ably shadowing next year) – thank you Jim and Matt.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Clive Ball who has been

our master of ceremonies for many years – he has managed the turning on event with humour and stoicism, dealing with rain, wind, mud and dodgy PA systems! Thank you Clive and thank you to Sean Smith who has agreed to take over from December 2026.

As always there are lots of supporters in the background, lending either their equipment or services, and we thank you too: Findon Parish Council, Southern Cranes, residents and businesses who allowed us to tap into their electricity; Puckamuck for the use of a van, Graham for the walkie-talkies and Mike for the use of his driveway for storage.

Thank you once again to everyone who has helped support the Findon Christmas Lights.

Sue and the Christmas Lights team.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival was a tremendous success and there was a wonderful atmosphere in Findon Church all through the weekend.

People came from all over West Sussex and a total of 1,066 people attended the festival even though the weather was very wet.

Final figures have resulted in an amazing £6,539 being raised for Church funds.

So much effort and time had gone into the 26 trees around the church and the voting found the following were the top three:-

CTF Committee

- 1st - Findon Wildflower group
- 2nd - St John the Baptist Primary School
- 3rd - Cinnamon Trust

We would like to thank everybody who helped either entering trees, being on a rota, supplying raffle prizes, or providing refreshments,

The next planned Christmas Tree Festival will be held over the weekend of 4th/5th December 2027. If you enjoyed the weekend and would like to help, please contact Findon Rectory at findoncprectory@gmail.com

Thank you

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Findon Light Lunch

Light Lunch 2026 will be held at Findon Village Hall on the last Tuesday of every month (except Aug and Dec).

Join us on 24th February 2026
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

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Please tell your friends and neighbours to come along! Everyone welcome - the more the merrier! (that includes your four legged friends!)

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and Chat
-
Monday afternoon sessions are back for 2025 - 2026
-
Starting Mon 20th October 2025 until 30th March 2026
2pm - 4pm
-
Where: Npcote Hall Findon Village Hall
-
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Cinnamon Trust

Hello to all you lovely people of Findon. This is just a huge thank you and short update about our Christmas Fundraising which was record breaking!

The total raised for Cinnamon Trust came to an amazing £2,293 which will make a huge difference to the lives of many pets and people! "I have been advised that the money we raised is being spent on a hydrotherapy pool at the Poldarves Sanctuary in Cornwall. This will be used by the elderly and poorly dogs and other small animals. How lovely to know this!"

We are so grateful to everyone who supported us in any way. You are all stars! I must just point out that £200 of this was raised by Gill Silver's

Christmas Lights Party and she has since given me an extra sum which will be put towards next event. Likewise Mary Childs' knitted sweet filled Christmas Stockings raised well over £200 and thanks to Angus, Helen and team for selling them in shop as well as special thanks to Mary for her hard work.

The whole team worked so hard in the weeks pre Fair, and on the day itself, and it was a wonderful happy event. Thank you each and every one of you!

All the best for 2026
from
Maggie and John"



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Findon Sheep Fair Sat 12th September 2026

Planning has already started for this year's Findon Sheep fair which is less than 9 months away. It has been going for hundreds of years and it is so important to keep old traditions. If lost, they will never come back.

The Sheep Fair committee view their position as guardians of the show for generations to come. We do though need your help over the 4 days to volunteer from 10th to the 13th September no matter how little time you are able to spare.

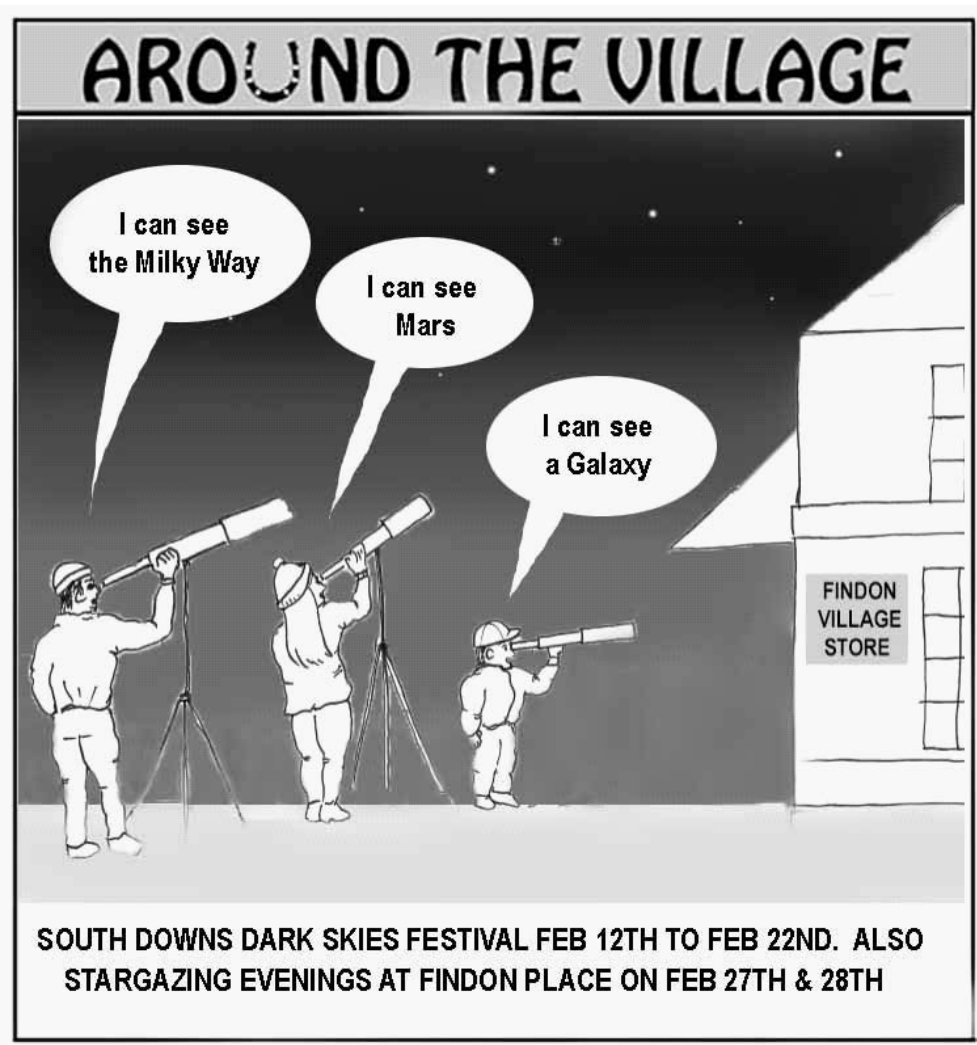
If you are new to the village, or now find yourself in a position to help, please contact volunteers@findonsheepfair.org.uk. We also need extra help on the organising committee. It takes time to

to understand how the show is run. Again if you would like to investigate this, please use the above contact email.

We would like to thank the Findon Valley Scouts who look after the car parking. The money they raise helps the troop provide for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts throughout the year. They have in recent years helped with the traffic flow around the village, but we need some extra people to help in this respect.

New for 2026 will be a Podcast which we hope will provide more information about the Fair.

Findon Sheep Fair Committee



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FINDON FRIENDS OF ST BARNABAS



Are having a **Curry Supper & Quiz Night**

Tuesday 3rd March 6.30pm.



Tickets £15.00 per person, with teams of up to six.
Jonathan, our regular Quizmaster is doing his usual great quiz,
there will also be a raffle and Guess the Weight of the Cake.
Vegetarian option available, please advise upon booking.

Tickets from Charlotte.....07818290032

Find us on FacebookFindon Friends of St Barnabas

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

From Findon Friends of St Barnabas.
To everyone one that attended our
fund raising events throughout 2025,
to the local businesses that offered
the use of their venues, their staff and
provided great meals. Also, to
everyone who put monies in the
collection tins in various shops/pubs
in the village and the buckets
that were put out at events.
We raised £5,438.00 which is a great
amount going to the hospice.

On behalf of the Friends group and
St Barnabas House, thank you all
very much.

We would like a couple more people
to join our little group, and help us
organise and run events. If anyone is
interested in coming along please
contact Charlotte 07818 290032.

Follow our Facebook page,
Findon Friends of St Barnabas
and keep an eye on the Findon News
for our upcoming events for 2026.

Love in a Box

Hilary Langford

Sadly, after 40 years, Mustard Seed Relief Mission have made the
decision that they can no longer afford to carry on their Love in a
Box campaign and therefore 2025 will be their last year.

Very many thanks to all those in Findon who have filled
boxes and to those who have knitted and collected extra
items for the boxes.

If you would like to continue filling a box, there are other charities who still collect
them. Link to Hope and Samaritan's Purse are particularly notable. Details are
available on-line.



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Findon Wildflower Group

As I write this, I woke this morning to a thin layer of snow covering the village which has followed a week of sub-zero temperatures at night and glorious sunshine and a hard frost – beautiful and what we expect from the winter season (albeit rare and short lived nowadays). The wildflowers, bees and bird populations rely on these winter conditions to bolster their resilience in preparation for spring and summer.

We are hoping this summer will again bring another beautiful display of wildflowers at the top of Steep Lane and along the southern end of the High Street embankment – but we won't know what will emerge until it does!

After cutting and raking both sites in the autumn, we decided that we would not sow any more wildflower seeds (except for Yellow Rattle) to allow for the natural growth of perennial wildflowers and to see which annual wildflowers managed to self-seed. We expect the ox-eye daisies and corncockles to dominate as always but we also hope to see the emergence of the beautiful pyramid orchids again and other species. Last spring we planted over a hundred plug plants of various species on the embankment site, and whilst only a few grew to flower, we are hoping that more will emerge this year. We also planted a dozen foxgloves around the trees on the embankment. We also hope to see the further colonisation of those spring bulbs we planted year before last which include crocuses,

snowdrops, bluebells and wild tulips, which we also planted in the autumn at the top of the Steep Lane site.

As we have learnt, and as is well known in the environmental/botanical world, wildflower colonies are very difficult to establish. They require poor soil conditions and minimal competition from robust grass growth (hence the continued sowing of Yellow Rattle seeds which reduce the growth of grass – but in themselves are very difficult to grow!). For us gardeners, the village is blessed with fertile soil, certainly in the lower parts of the village and more chalky soil further up toward Cissbury Hill. For Wildflowers, these conditions are challenging. We have tried to create the right soil conditions on both sites and tried to sow the right seeds for those differing soil types. It is an ongoing project!

Our aim is to create self-sustaining wildflower colonies on both these sites and hopefully, once we have achieved this, we can look at developing other sites in the village.

A unique and precious part of our village community is the impact of voluntary groups and the support given to them. The Wildflower Group was very grateful to the Fabulous Findon Ladies for donating £200 raised from their Charity Day last year. We have used some of this money to purchase more yellow rattle

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seed and spring bulbs and in the spring we will purchase more wild plants for the embankment.

Our group of volunteers has slightly grown to 11 but as with all voluntary groups (and is totally understandable) it is unusual for all 11 of us to be able to make a work session. Our most labour-intensive work is in the spring and autumn when we must cut and rake both sites (to reduce soil fertility). We would greatly welcome more volunteers. Having done all the hard

work over the last three years digging and removing turf to create the 'beds', there are now only a few sessions required throughout the year. Each work session is usually carried out in the morning for 2- 3 hours but of course, we are flexible and any amount of time volunteers can give, is much appreciated. If you are interested in our project and feel you could become involved, please contact Siân Keating email: doders1@hotmail.co.uk

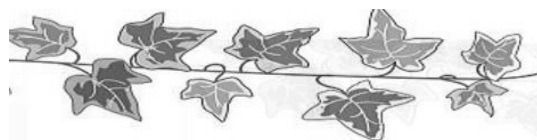


FINDON VILLAGE GARDENS ASSOCIATION

**Friday 27th February at 7.30pm
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“ARUNDEL CASTLE GARDENS”

**A talk by Head Gardener
Martin Duncan**



**Martin talks about his time in
charge of this fabulous garden**

**Members £2.00 Guests £3.00
ALL WELCOME**

Findon Parish Council

I am pleased to announce that three new members joined Findon Parish Council (FPC) at our recent January meeting. Alan Gardner, Agneta Jagfeldt and Phil Silver were all co-opted onto FPC bringing our Councillor membership up to its full quota. That is good news considering the full programme of projects we have scheduled in 2026 to preserve and enhance our village environment. On behalf of all councillors, I would like to congratulate all on their co-option and look forward to serving our community together in the coming years.

FPC was delighted with feedback from our volunteer organisations, Open Spaces Group, Litter Picking Group and Wildflowers Group regarding their Christmas Social Events funded by FPC. This year was the first year that FPC extended its support to these volunteer bodies to allow such a celebration following their efforts and plan to make this an annual occurrence where we can say thanks to these terrific volunteer groups, we look forward to working with you through 2026.

Following concerns raised by residents and Findon Parish Council (FPC) regarding the condition of several verges in the Village, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Cllr Deborah Urquhart escalated the matter on our behalf and received the following response from WSCC Highways:

‘We requested that our contractor promptly investigated this issue, please see their findings below from their senior management team. We inspected the site on the 18th

December 2025 and can confirm the damage is consistent with a weed-spraying tractor and the pattern suggests a poorly calibrated centre nozzle.

Please accept my sincere apologies. We strive for the highest standards, but unfortunately, issues like this can occasionally arise. I will be speaking with the operator to reinforce the importance of equipment calibration and care.

We are committed to repairing the affected areas. I intend to apply topsoil and a cold-weather seed mix to ensure the fastest possible recovery. I expect that by the time of the first treatment next year, there will be little to no visible damage remaining. Please pass on my apologies to all parties involved and assure them we are treating this matter with the utmost importance.’

FPC would like to thank Cllr Urquhart for her intervention and also stress that the damage was not caused by the FPC contractors A C Gardens (Sussex) Ltd.

Traffic and Road Safety Update

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the Traffic and Road Safety Survey in November. Your feedback was thoughtful, constructive, and extremely valuable, with many useful comments and suggestions shared.

The results showed overwhelming support for reducing the speed limit on Nepcote Lane/Cissbury Ring Road, along with a majority in favour of introducing a oneway system on School Hill.

Using this data, Councillors will now submit applications to West Sussex Highways for the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). Final decisions rest with Highways, and some proposals—particularly the School Hill oneway system—will require further safety and trafficflow assessments, which may take time. We are hopeful that the Nepcote Lane/Cissbury Ring Road speed reduction can progress sooner.

To help address ongoing concerns about bus access and safe traffic movement through the village, the Council has also applied for a TRO to introduce double yellow lines on The High Street, opposite The Gun.

We recognise that this will reduce the number of available parking spaces. However, our priority must be public safety and ensuring that public transport can move reliably through the village.

Thank you again for your engagement and continued support as we work to improve safety and accessibility for all who live in and travel through Findon.

In addition to our work via the Roads and Parking Working Group we also monitor the wellbeing of our trees across the Parish via our Trees Group, in tandem with our Tree Warden. Unfortunately, in our surveys, upward of ten trees are showing evident sign of Ash Dieback and as such will have to be felled in accordance with policy. FPC will manage and alert parishioners accordingly.

FPC completed its Precept application for the upcoming year, submitting that to Arun District Council in January 2026. Over the past years FPC has endeavoured to hold expenditure but in light of cost increases and a commensurate drop in FPC Reserves, the decision was taken to raise the precept for 2026 allowing a fully costed proposal to fund the financial year.,

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

200 Club

A huge thank you to all the members who renewed their subscriptions for 2026 and a warm welcome to the 16 new members who joined us this year.

Two £25 monthly draws have recently taken place, congratulations to the lucky winners who are:

December 2025 - Lin Duke - ball number 144

January 2026 - Sinan Kalan - ball number 75

Thanks

Tony Brimyard

FVHSC 200 Club Secretary



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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 address to the FPC Clerk - 01903 877225.

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

Demolition of utility room, two storey and single storey extensions, alterations to roof and associated works

Steepdown Cottage Stable Lane
Findon BN14 0RR

Ref. No: SDNP/25/05034/HOUS

Discharge of Conditions: 3 (Sections), 4 (Retaining walls), 5 (Materials Schedule), 8 (Boundary treatments), 9 (Details), 12 (Refuse and Recyling), 15 (Secure Cycle Storage), 16 (Hydrant position), 17 (Install Fire Hydrants), 18 (Bio enhancement), 22 (Foul water drainage) for SDNP/23/04993/FUL

Land at Elm Rise Findon

Ref. No: SDNP/25/05011/DCOND

Ash tree - severe dieback

4 Convent Gardens Findon BN14 0RZ

Ref. No: SDNP/25/05046/TPO

5 x Sycamore 1 x Hazel 1 x Blackthorn - remove branches and possible reduction on Sycamore
3 Convent Gardens Findon BN14 0RZ
Ref. No: DNP/25/05036/TPO

Discharge of Conditions 4 (retaining walls), 6 (CEMP), 10 (Sustainable Construction) and 20 (Badgers) for SDNP/23/04993/FUL.

Land at Elm Rise Findon

Ref. No: SDNP/25/04954/DCOND

Proposed loft conversion including raising of ridge, bard ended side elevations, front dormer and gabled rear elevation. Single storey front extension. Extended raised rear patio.

Lenzie 30 Cross Lane BN14 0UB

Ref. No: SDNP/25/04537/HOUS

Nanny Sue's Best Eggs

www.Facebook.com/NannySuesBestEggs

Findon Free Range Eggs

South Lodge Cottage, Rogers Lane, Findon, BN140RE

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Findon
01903 877325

Paws Animal Sanctuary

I have never had so many phone calls from pet owners asking if we have room to take their animals. The problem is, even if we have room, we don't have enough volunteers, especially in the evenings, when it is blowing a gale, buses are held up, or it is dark and pouring with rain.

Lots of the animals need medication sometimes twice a day, so there are charts and records to be filled in. If nobody can get here it is too late to phone around so I just have to make sure every job is completed (so I miss Emmerdale and Coronation Street). After feeding all the animals and then the dogs and poorly indoor cat Billy, then get myself a meal, there is always the washing machine, tumble dryer and dishwasher to attend to. All our Cats have fluffy vetbeds and electric heated beds and there is always a mountain of dirty towels. The small Tortoises not in hibernation have a bath every night. Also, if the Donkey and Pony are waiting for their evening buckets they both stand out in the rain complaining and then both have to be dried with towels before going to bed in their stables.

Nearly all the latest cats needed visits to the vets. We have to get them all better before we can find them new homes. The latest arrival is a lovely large black and white cat who has lived under a bed for two and a half years, is not neutered, is scared of toddlers and of a dog who chased him. He is really timid. Their photos were on facebook and a lady has already just rung to say she would love the black and white Cat.

I can't wait for the nicer weather, although my tulip bulbs are coming through already and Findon will soon have daffodils everywhere you look.

Stacey.

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

01903 872 734 / 0790 447 6819

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Please contact **Aaran Morriss** (Day or Night) on **01903 896776**

The Changing Face of Husbands

Back in the 1960s and 1970s men were still very much in their chauvinistic era. One male colleague lamented with me over a lunchtime sandwich about his wife who had chosen the path of a career woman rather than look after him. He explained that he had to wait until 8pm for her to come home from work to put his dinner on! It did not occur to him that he could have got her dinner ready. I did not say anything; he was a manager and I was a secretary. I shopped for food in my lunchbreak and cooked the evening meal when I got home. My husband came home with his briefcase and newspaper and read it until dinner was ready. That is what it was like in those days; men were the bread winners and women did mostly everything else; except no one noticed. Luckily the world has moved on and gradually men took on the extra roles of housekeepers, child carers and chauffeurs and were happy to help out more and share the household tasks without feeling unmanly. But it would seem now they have excelled themselves.

I had a stroke recently and was so relieved when my husband collected me from hospital and took me home to care for me himself at home. Many years ago, in our early days he announced to everyone in the pub that he was taking me to Paris. It never came to fruition. But the day he held out his arms to me in the middle of the night to help me spend a penny meant more to me than any grand gesture of romance.

So, thank you to all you men who are currently supporting your poorly wives. You have come a long way and we are grateful for it. The macho man of old has been superseded by a new man with inner strength and compassion who can do anything and everything just as women did in the past, but it has not gone unnoticed chaps. We applaud you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Catherine York 01 Jan 2026

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Findon Village WI

Our January meeting incorporated both a vote on the 2026 WI Resolutions and our annual Charity Auction.

A presentation introduced us to each of the resolutions, before our members voted on the option they wished to take forward to the national forum. The four choices were: accessible public toilets to promote dignity, health and social inclusion, action on women's homelessness, nearer to nature, love your vulva – self checking is your best defence against vulva cancer. The majority vote went to action on women's homelessness.

After coffee, we moved on to our Charity Auction. Our ladies decided to split the proceeds between Turning Tides – who offer accommodation and housing, community hubs and outreach to homeless persons; and RISE, which stands for Refuge, Information, Support and Education – supporting women who are or have experience abuse and violence. We raised a magnificent £250.

A massive thank you to Sassy Crawford our fabulous auctioneer, who squeezed every penny out of us; and to everyone who gave donations

and placed bids on the evening. We were £75 up on last year so a great result.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12th February 2026 at 7.30pm, which will be our 52nd Birthday Celebration. We have a fun evening planned with a few surprises! Visitors are welcome to join us.

The competition is a funny or silly hat.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

What a wonderful weekend. Children were invited to take home an Izzy doll from the WI tree. I can report that all the Izzy dolls found new homes which was a lovely end to the event. Thank you to all our ladies who lovingly knitted and crocheted the dolls.

Website – Take a look at our 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>

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.

Village Hall Diary February 2026

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	Nepcote	10:30am
Soccer Tots	Monday	Chanctonbury	9.45am
Monday Afternoon Drop Ins	Monday	Nepcote	14.00pm
Yoga for Today	Monday (23 rd only)	Nepcote	16.30pm
Encore Choir	Monday	Chanctonbury	18.45pm
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	9.15am
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Tuesday (17 th)	Nepcote	9.15am
You Yoga	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	18.00pm
Line Dancing	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	10.00am
UDanceUK	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	17.00pm
Cloud Nine Yoga	Wednesday	Nepcote	19.00pm
Strictly Dancing with Lisa	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	19.00pm
Pilates	Thursday (Not 19 th)	Chanctonbury	9.30am
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Thursday	Nepcote	09.15am
Carpet Bowls	Thursday	Chanctonbury	14.00pm
Circuit Training	Thursday (Not 19 th)	Nepcote	17.30pm
Tai Chi	Friday	Chanctonbury	10:00am
Cloud Nine Yoga	Friday	Nepcote	10.00am
Baby Steps Dance Group	Saturday (14 th , 21 st and 28 th)	Nepcote	9.00am
Baby Steps Dance Group	Saturday 7 th only	Chanctonbury	9.00am
Danceaholics	Sunday	Chanctonbury	18.30pm

Monthly	Date	Hall	Time
Messy Church	3 rd February	Chanctonbury	15.00pm
Parish Council Planning Mtg	5 th February	Nepcote	19.30pm
Art Workshop	7 th February	Nepcote	10.00am
Findon Village WI	12 th February	Chanctonbury	19.30pm
Bead Magicians	17 th February	Chanctonbury	10.00am
Meditation and Sound Bath	19 th February	Chanctonbury	19.30pm
WI Crafty Ladies	23 rd February	Chanctonbury	14.00pm
Light Lunch	25 th February	Chanctonbury	12.45pm
Findon Garden Association	26 th February	Chanctonbury	19.30pm

Dates for your Diary in February –

Monday Afternoon Drop In – **weekly** - Nepcote – 2 – 4pm

FVHT Film Night **Friday 20th February**– Chanctonbury – 6.30pm doors open.

Film - **Springsteen** starts at 7.30pm

Light Lunch– **Tuesday 24th February**– Chanctonbury – 12.45pm for 1pm

Dates for your Diary in March

Monday Afternoon Drop In – **weekly** - Nepcote – 2 – 4pm

Friends of Findon Church Quiz Night - **Saturday 7th March** - Chanctonbury Hall

FVHT Film Night **Friday 20th March**– Chanctonbury – 6.30pm doors open. Film TBC starts at 7.30pm

Light Lunch– **Tuesday 31st March**– Chanctonbury – 12.45pm for 1pm

PARISH OF FINDON, CLAPHAM AND PATCHING

FEBRUARY 2026

All three Churches are open daily for private prayer.

There is a 10.00am said Eucharist in Findon Church
every **Tuesday except 17th February**

as we have a service for Ash Wednesday at 10am on 18th February.

Morning Prayer is said in Findon Church every **Wednesday** and **Friday** at 9.00am.

Sunday 1 st February Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	08.00am 10.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Worship and Praise in Findon Church with Cornerstone Eucharist in Patching Church with our new Archdeacon
Sunday 8 th February Second Sunday before Lent	08.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Clapham Church Eucharist in Findon Church
Sunday 15 th February Sunday next before Lent	08.00am 10.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Eucharist in Findon Church Eucharist in Clapham Church
Sunday 22 nd February Lent 1	08.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Patching Church Eucharist in Findon Church

FAMILY EVENTS:



Next Messy Church – Tuesday 3rd February - 3.30 – 5.30pm in Findon Village Hall

All children welcome with an accompanying adult for crafts, a story, singing and food

Lambs Tails – Parent & Toddler Group for babies, toddlers, & parents/carers. Tuesdays 3-4.30pm at Findon Rectory.

Contact Dom: fcpfamiliesworker@gmail.com for more information and dates.

Film Afternoon in Findon Church,
Saturday 21st February – 2pm – TOY STORY
Snacks and drinks. Donations welcomed.

Baptisms - 3rd January – Rowan Somerset

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

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