

March 2016

Happy Easter

# Parish News



Delivered Free to Homes in the Villages of  
Colgate & Faygate

Issue 10





# The Cherry Tree

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8:30pm*

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## Gardener's Journal.....

St. Valentines Day & while there are no roses blooming there is plenty of activity in the garden & Spring is in sight. Glorious camellias are in full bloom. Rhododendrons have begun their eight



month long cycle of flowers starting with Christmas Cheer & early azaleas are in evidence. In the woods there is a carpet of naturalized daffodils, while within the fence there are brave snowdrops, crocuses, hellebores & cyclamens. Due to the mild winter mowing has started already. Keep lawns tidy & properly edged. Keep paths open, brush up young trees to shape & facilitate summer mowing & maintain or restore sightlines - there is still time to cut back overgrown shrubs such as abelia & tree heather. Hydrangeas can be deadheaded. Roses, currants & fuchsias should be pruned. Add compost & manure to beds & sprinkle with fertilizer. Citrus trees should be putting on new growth & fruit inside the conservatory, with periodic helpings of fertilizer, but keep an eye out for pests & dryness as the days lengthen. The vegetable garden remains in production with carrots, frost sweetened parsnips & leeks. Clean up & add mulch to strawberry & raspberry patches. Add manure & compost to

vegetable beds & remember to rotate crops in the coming season. It is time to buy seed potatoes & onion sets, & to start seeds for such as tomatoes in the greenhouse.

New growth is evident in the fishpond. Look out for frogspawn. Feeding the fish can pick up but keep the net on to protect from opportunistic herons. In the woods deer are regularly seen & in frosty weather owls can be heard calling to claim territory in the early morning & late at night. Even the occasional woodcock can be seen.



The birdfeeders are a picture of activity, & this year a flock of long tailed tits has been much in evidence. Protect them from sparrow hawks & squirrels & enjoy looking for the rarer species.



*Quercus*

# The Parish of Colgate with Faygate

## St. Saviour's Parish Church, Forest Road, Colgate, Nr. Horsham



<b>Rector</b>	Reverend Nick Flint	01293-871251
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Mr John Sired	01293-851458
	Mr Johnny Armstrong	01293-851403
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	Mrs Sarah-Jo Davies	<b>VACANCY</b>

### Parochial Church Council ~ Elected Representatives

<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Kay Roots	
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	<b>VACANCY</b>	
Mrs Ruth Calvert	Mrs Elsiedale Armstrong	Mrs Rosemary Lane
Mrs G Davis	Mrs Sue Taylor	Mr John Sired
Mr David Stillwell	Mr Johnny Armstrong	Mrs Sarah-Jo Davies
<b>Organist</b>	<b>VACANCY</b>	
<b>Hon. Assistant Organist</b>	Mr Duncan Noel-Paton MA (Cantab.) FRSA	

### Useful Contacts

<b>Church Roll Officer &amp; Flower Rota</b>	Mrs Rosemary Lane	01403-257829
<b>Brass Cleaning Rota &amp; Colgate Hall Bookings</b>	Mrs Rosemary Sired	01293-851458
<b>Newsletter Advertising, Editor &amp; Distributor</b>	Mrs Julie Stace	01293-851140 <a href="mailto:cfparishnews@gmail.com">cfparishnews@gmail.com</a>
<b>Faygate Hall Bookings</b>	Sharon Saunders Dickie Palsar	07920-431210 07841-373954 <a href="mailto:faygatevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk">faygatevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk</a>

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<http://colgateandfaygate.community21.org>

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## To all our Readers.....

### **Note from the Editor...**

Could I please request that any articles to be included are e-mailed to me at the following: - [cfparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:cfparishnews@gmail.com), by Monday 14th March.

Unfortunately there is no puzzle page this month! ☹, should be back next month! ☺

Thanks, Julie

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### **New shops open in Colgate & Faygate**

After many years of not having any local shops, Colgate & Faygate now have a Farm Shop & a Village Store.

**New House Farm** - selling all kinds of locally sourced produce. While you're there you could stop for lunch in the Tea Room or for a cake & cuppa in the afternoon.

**Faygate** - the Village Shop at Durrant's Village will be selling a fantastic range of everyday groceries & fresh produce.

### **Opening Times: -**

Monday to Saturday 7:00am to 7:00pm

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***Charity Quiz Night @ The Cherry Tree Pub***  
***Saturday 5th March @ 7:00 pm***

### ***A charity quiz in aid of Crohn's MAP Vaccine.***

Limited spaces - if you would like to take part please contact Pam on  
07519-173398. Maximum team size of 6.  
£10.00 per person to take part includes food.

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## **Colgate Memorial Hall**

**Please make a note of the following dates:**

### ***Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 9th March at 8:00pm***

Everyone is welcome to attend. The committee would welcome new faces & support to maintain the general running of the hall.

There is a vacancy for a secretary & also committee members.

The meeting will be followed with wine & cheese where arrangements for the forthcoming fete will be discussed.

### ***Jumble Sale on Saturday March 12th at 1:00pm***

If you have any unwanted items please bring them along to the hall after 10:00am.

If you have large items that need collecting please ring David Stillwell on 01293-851275.

### ***Village Fete on Sunday June 26th at 1:00pm***

Although this seems a long way ahead we are open for ideas for some new stalls & side shows. Offers of help would also be greatly received.

May I remind everyone that the village hall car park is for the use of Hall & Church Patrons only.

**Thanks, Pat Stillwell**

**Colgate Memorial Hall Management Committee**



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## Community News.....



# Cuppa & Chat

*First Monday of each month*



**Monday 7th March & 4th April 2016**

***Anytime between 10:30 - 12:00 in St. Saviour's Church, Colgate***

It's Cuppa & Chat time again! You never know who you will meet because new faces join us all the time & so we get to know more & more local people.

If you haven't been before but have always meant to pop in & see what it is like, you can be assured of a warm welcome no matter how long you can stay.

*'Like' us on Facebook: Colgate and Faygate Cuppa & Chat*

*Check out local information & events on our web site: <http://colgateandfaygate.community21.org>*

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## Holmbush Farm as an Events Location

You may have seen the headlines in the WSCT announcing a 3 day 'Music Festival' at Holmbush Farm over the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

Although tickets are already being sold online, the requisite licence from Horsham District Council has not yet been granted. By law they are required to post notices of this request around the boundary of the event but although it covers a considerable area, nearly all of it is either along the dual-carriageway or on private Holmbush Farm land, so you may well have missed them.

The event will in fact be a large scale Pop Festival with more than 24 big bands & overnight camping in the fields between Holmbush Farm & the A264 - & a purpose-built stage in the woods with the sound 'facing towards Colgate'. They are looking for an attendance of 10,000, though it may be more like 5,000 'in the first year'. Check out the website: -

[General Info - The Big Kahuna Festival - Horsham, West Sussex - 26/27/28 August 2016](#)

There are also plans for 2 other weekend events, 'Tough Mudders', in September, which entail very grueling assault courses & again overnight camping. They are looking at '**a contract for 20,000 participants & spectators for the weekends with overnight camping/party/dancing each year for 5 years**'. Again they are already selling tickets online, but so far have not sent in any licence application. The website is: -

<https://toughmudder.co.uk/events/2016-london-south>

[2016 London South HALF](#)

As regards traffic, the plan appears to be to cone off the nearside lane along the full length of the south lane of the A264 past Holmbush, which is likely to cause congestion backing up at either end, with motorists doubtless seeking to by-pass it via Colgate & Pease Pottage. You may find this letter about a similar event of interest: -

[Henley on Thames News | Artists hit by traffic chaos](#)

Their promotional website is pushing a family-friendly impression, but the last licence application, line-up of performers, & a warning against the use of nitrous oxide may suggest that this is not so family-friendly after all!

If you are also concerned you can help by:

- ♦ Viewing the plans at Horsham District Council Planning Office & putting in your formal objections (**deadline 10th March 2016**) for appointments call **Chris Boyle on 01403-215578**, [chris.boyle@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:chris.boyle@horsham.gov.uk) (licensing officer)
- ♦ Spreading the word that tickets are being sold before a licence has been granted to try to make it harder to pull out.
- ♦ If you are unable to get to Horsham Council, please contact us by e-mail at [colgatefaygate@outlook.com](mailto:colgatefaygate@outlook.com). We can use your e-mails as part of the response to the licence application or help you find out how to object.

***Please act now before it's too late! , Residents of Holmbush House, Faygate***

## News from the Rev. Nick Flint.....

The Rectory  
Rusper  
Tel: - 01293-871251

### *Eggsact Timing.....*

Easter is early this year, but why, people have been asking me more than in past years, does it not fall like Christmas, on the same day? I personally agree that there would be more than simple convenience in having the greatest festival in the Christian year fixed on a certain date. How did we get where we are now on this?

Like the Jewish Passover, which for Christians anticipated it, the Resurrection is held to mark an historical fact, but one which occurred at a time when methods of measuring time were different. A 4th Century council of all the Bishops in Christendom, including representatives from our own shores, decided to fix Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon, following the Spring equinox. Over time, however, inexact astronomical observations led to different interpretations of when the feast should be kept. Three hundred years later it was our Celtic ancestors who were considered to have gone furthest adrift & at a church council in Whitby in 664 Bishop Wilfred (the saint credited with converting Sussex to Christianity) laid down the law on this.

Unfortunately, as far as the timing of Easter this was not the end of the matter, simply that Rome considered itself the sole authority of such matter. Accordingly it was the Pope who in the 16th Century revised the calendar & formula for calculating when Easter should fall. It is to be regretted that at the time the Eastern Orthodox Churches which then as now comprise a hugely significant part of the Christian world, were not consulted.

As I write this, Pope Francis is engaged in a historic meeting with the Russian Patriarch & healing old divisions is back on the agenda. Archbishop Justin has spoken recently of revisiting the question of the date of Easter. Churches could be seen, in a lovely phrase coined by Father Gregory CSWG the late superior of the monastery at Crawley Down to be 'bending towards one another in humility'.

It would be a wonderful symbol of unity of the leaders of the divided churches could agree on a date for Easter at only the cost of a little loss of pride. Meanwhile; well, what would happen if like the first Christians we kept every Sunday (even in lent) with Easter gladness?

There is only one way to find out!



## **EASTER LILIES 2016**



Easter is a time to remember those we have loved and have lost.

Would you like to remember a loved one by buying a lily in their memory to be displayed in church at Easter?

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**Easter 2016 – Sunday 27th March**

**St. Saviour's Church, Colgate**

**Services in the United Parishes of Colgate & Rusper**  
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**A warm welcome awaits you at all our services.**

**March 2016**

Mothering Sunday	6th	11:00am	Family Service
Palm Sunday	20th	11:00am	Liturgy of the Psalms
Maundy Thursday	24th	8:00pm	Holy Communion at Rusper
Good Friday	25th	10:00am	Prayers at the Cross
Easter Day	27th	11:00am	Holy Communion

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE ON SUNDAY 13TH MARCH**

**April 2016**

Sunday	10th	11:00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	24th	11:00am	Holy Communion

**Clergy Day Off**

Nick is here to serve the needs of the community. He is pleased to hear of new people moving in who may need visiting and welcomed by the Church.

Holy Communion can be arranged for the sick or housebound.

He tries to take just one day off each week and it would be appreciated if he is not contacted on a Thursday.

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**News from St. Saviour's.....**

The PCC met on January 19th & again, with the Archdeacon & Bishop Mark present, on February 1st. A major topic for discussion was the proposal from the Deanery that St. Saviours should end the link with Rusper & enter a new one with Roffey. Roffey renews an old association & perhaps rural Colgate will serve to complement Roffey's urban characteristics.

It was nice to hear of Roffey's enthusiasm for the new union. The PCC listened to the Archdeacon positively & also picked up on Bishop Mark's suggestion that perhaps a joint PCC would be sensible. There will clearly be much to discuss between the churches & with the Patron prior to a formal, historic vote around the service on February 28th.

Other subjects discussed included services, the project to revamp & refurbish the back of the church where quotes have been sought, ongoing external repairs (now completed), the Parish Magazine & the parish contribution to our Deanery (to remain at a similar level to last year). The AGM is scheduled for April 26th.

There will be additional services for Colgate on Mothering Sunday, March 6th, & over Easter.

Watch the magazine for details.

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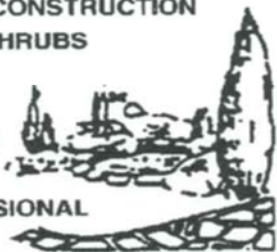
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# Colgate Parish Council News.....

## Colgate Parish Council Contacts

<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Sheila Marley	01293-851347
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Cllr Ruth Calvert	01293-851478
	Cllr Christine Crosdil	01293-851580
<b>Planning</b>	Cllr John Sired	01293-851458
	Cllr David Stillwell	01293-851275
	Cllr Stephen Davies	01293-852898
<b>Finance</b>	Cllr Steve Wong	01293-852867
	Cllr Steve Garley	01293-851322
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	Beverly Clayden	01293-883944 <a href="mailto:colgateclerk@hotmail.co.uk">colgateclerk@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Colgate &amp; Faygate Website</b>		<a href="http://www.colgatefaygate.com">www.colgatefaygate.com</a>

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## Colgate Parish Council - News.....

Good news! The WSCC mobile library is coming to Durrants Village every Tuesday at 3:30-4:00pm starting on 5th April 2016. It is open to all members of the community.

Any issues with the Highway including potholes & drainage can be reported directly on this e-mail address: [highways@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:highways@westsussex.gov.uk)

All Council & Planning meetings are available on the website.

### **The next meeting will be held at: -**

14th March at Colgate Village School at 7:30pm - this meeting will include the Annual Meeting where we will review the year, our successes & celebrate working with our partners.

We look forward to you joining us. Everyone is welcome.

### **Further meetings will be held as follows: -**

9th May Faygate Village Hall 7:30pm

18th July Colgate School 7:30 pm

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## Village Agent Rusper & Colgate

As you will know from the previous notice placed in each of the two Parish Magazines, Sarah Jo has now left the role of Village Agent and the role is currently being overseen by Jane Cullum.

The Village Agent service very much continues in place for all Villagers, so as the last notice stated, please continue to use the service designed to enable everyone to 'Love Later Life'.

The phone numbers remain the same 01403-751322 or 07591-049042. Or visit the website at: -

[www.ageukhorshamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.ageukhorshamdistrict.org.uk)

The Village Agent role is provided by Age UK Horsham District and supported and funded by the Hope Keith Trust.

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# News from PCSO Tracy Bicknell.....



## **Operation Tulip - Is your outdoor property safe?**

Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team is launching Operation Tulip again this Spring to tackle outdoor property theft in the Horsham District. As the warmer weather arrives, the opportunities for thieves can increase with open windows, insecure sheds & gardening tools left out. Here are some simple ways you can help keep your outdoor property safe.

- ◇ Secure your rear garden by shutting & locking any gates. You should also check any boundary fences to make sure they are secure & well maintained.
- ◇ A gravel path is a good crime prevention alternative to paving slabs or pavers. If the gravel is laid fairly thick it will crunch underfoot & act as a deterrent to the thief.
- ◇ Put away tools & gardening equipment securely after use - they could be stolen or even used to break into your home if left lying around - & remember to lock your shed. Fitting good quality locks to all doors. Padlocks should be at least 6cm/2½ins wide, of hardened steel, have at least 5 pins & be a closed shackle type (to reduce the risk of being forced). Try to ensure that you fit British Standard approved locks.
- ◇ Remember to always lock your garage door securely. Metal 'up & over' doors can be secured with extra locks fitted to either side and/or a floor-mounted locking 'T' bar with a closed shackle padlock. Wooden garage doors can be secured with two substantial hasps & staples & closed shackle padlocks.
- ◇ Security mark or paint property such as lawn mowers, furniture & tools with your postcode & house number/name.
- ◇ Advertise the fact that your property is marked & keep a note of serial/make/model numbers.
- ◇ Register your property for free & improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- ◇ Take photographs of any valuable garden ornaments. If they are stolen, police can circulate the photographs to help with identification. If an ornament is going to be placed to the front of the home place it in clear view of the house or a main road so that attempts to steal it may be seen. Have experts permanently fix the item onto a purpose made concrete foundation block.
- ◇ Ensure that bicycles are security marked & secured to an anchor point inside the shed or garage using a high security lock.
- ◇ Security lighting which is activated by movement offers a great deterrent to burglars as well as offering comfort for the owner. It should be fitted on the front & rear of the house to illuminate the garden area.
- ◇ Newly planted trees & shrubs can also be stolen. Remove evidence of recently disturbed soil by washing down paths & drives & placing bark around the planting area & a couple of meters either side of the new plant & remove the label. There is also a range of plant anchors specifically designed to protect new shrubs & trees. These consist of a high tensile steel cable which loops around the base of the plant & is attached to an anchoring device which is driven deep into the ground.
- ◇ There have been instances of flagstone theft, & in particular York stone. Mark each stone with an identifiable mark or etch your postcode so they can be identified if stolen. Also consider the use of SmartWater to mark flagstones. SmartWater is a uniquely coded forensic liquid which is only visible under UV light. It provides undeniable proof of ownership & is capable of linking criminals to the crime scene.

**PCSO Tracy Bicknell 13375 - Police Community Support Officer - Mobile 07912-893868**

**Horsham Police Station, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Tel: - 101, Ext 13375**

# Dates for your Diary.....

## Colgate Village celebrates the Queen's 90th Birthday!

You are invited to Colgate Village Hall for an afternoon tea party to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday on Saturday 21st May at 3 o'clock.

There will be a family quiz & all the usual birthday party trimmings.

Let's celebrate this great occasion!

Please let us know if you would like to attend to assist us with catering or if you are able to donate cakes, etc



Contact Christine on 01293-851658 or 07796-273091



## Colgate Village Dance "The Royal Birthday Celebration"



### Saturday 21st May

This year we celebrate the 90th Birthday of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

To mark this special occasion we are holding a Royal Birthday Dance at

Colgate Village Hall on Saturday 21st May.

Our guest band 'Forever Young' will return once again to provide us with an evening of great music & entertainment.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to dance the night away or just listen to some great music.

The evening will have a 'Royal Birthday' theme, so you are welcome to dress accordingly if you would like to do so, but this is entirely optional!

The evening starts at 7:30pm through to midnight with a buffet served during the evening.

Soft drinks will be provided, so just bring your own alcoholic beverages!

Tickets are just £12 per person so reserve yours now.

Call Dave on 01293-851520 / 07917-095350

OR

Christine on 07796-273091



## Answers to Last Months Puzzles.....

3	9	1	8	7	6	2	5	4
5	7	6	4	1	2	9	8	3
8	2	4	3	9	5	7	1	6
1	4	9	5	3	8	6	2	7
6	5	3	7	2	9	1	4	8
2	8	7	1	6	4	5	3	9
4	1	8	6	5	7	3	9	2
9	6	5	2	8	3	4	7	1
7	3	2	9	4	1	8	6	5

1	3	4	7	9	6	2	5	8
8	6	2	5	3	4	9	1	7
7	9	5	1	2	8	3	6	4
4	5	3	8	6	1	7	9	2
2	1	7	9	4	5	8	3	6
9	8	6	3	7	2	1	4	5
5	7	1	6	8	9	4	2	3
3	2	9	4	5	7	6	8	1
6	4	8	2	1	3	5	7	9

### Valentines Day Quiz

Cupid	Fergie
Holly Johnson	(Duchess of York)
Aquarius	Ophelia
Joe Dimaggio	Rudolph Valentino
Policemen	Clare Danes
	"Something"

**Food & Drink Anagrams:** - Mineral Water, Cauliflower, Ginger Ale, Tomato, Cider, Artichoke, Champagne, Asparagus, Orange Juice, Legume, Tea, Chocolate, Lager, Peanut Butter, Custard, Porridge, Spaghetti, Prawn Cocktail, Peach, Apricot.

## Colgate Weather...Nov 15 to Jan 16

**November** was a generally mild month, with an often humid south-westerly airflow bringing damp overcast conditions. The 1st gave us fog all day but it was mild & dry & in Trawsgoed, Ceredigion the highest November temperature ever recorded was reached, a balmy 73F (22.3C). After a further 2 dry days an Atlantic depression arrived giving 0.14" of rain overnight on the 3rd followed by increasing rainfall for the next 5 days, the heaviest of the whole month being 0.64" on the 5th. However it remained exceptionally mild & the 6th saw 61F (16C), with only a slight fall off over the next two weeks, although the western side of the country was struck by a succession of autumn storms, now named, so we had Abigail, Barney & Clodagh in fairly quick succession. There was a notable absence of frost during this period until the wind became more northerly on the 20th with some sleet the following day & a slight frost & an early morning temperature of 31F, recovering to 41F during the day. At least there were 2 dry days before there was heavy rain overnight on the 23rd, giving 0.43" & the temperature was around 48F for a few days but the month ended with south-westerly winds again in control. It was mild, at around 54F, but winds were gusty & showery rain returned so that only 6 days in the month had 24 hour dry periods, however total rainfall was average at 3.60" but sunshine levels were well down, not much above 50% of normal.



**December** was a record-breaking month because the UK was in a warm & moist tropical air mass for most of the time. In the south we were fortunate to escape the exceptionally wet & often windy conditions of the north, which were due to the frequent deep depression producing storms Desmond, Eva & Frank. Cumbria saw severe floods over the first weekend of December, with a record 13.4" of rain falling over Honister in one 24 hour period whilst the River Eden reached 20.3ft, nearly 5 times higher than previous records. Our month started dry & cloudy with a temperature of 55F but the 2nd brought showers & then heavier rain over subsequent days but the 4th & 8th were dry, worth mentioning as there were only 5 dry days in the month! At times the winds were strong & gusty due to the named storms crossing the country from the Atlantic & wind brought havoc further north. On the 7th & the 10th the rain was very heavy giving 0.36" on each occasion, but the heaviest of the month was 0.50" on the 15th. With daytime temperatures of 54-57F there was little risk of overnight frost, although there was a slight ground frost on the 9th. The second half of December was very similar, with rain on most days, often heavy & accompanied by gusty, strong winds, giving 0.36" on the 20th, followed by 0.40" & 0.31", but Christmas Day was just showery & we were not bothered by storm Eva. The month ended with more heavy rain giving 0.47" on the 30th, whilst New Year's Eve saw the temperature dip slightly to 48F for only the 2nd time in the month. Although it rained on 26 days the total rainfall was 4.30", which is only marginally above our average. However it was the warmest December on record over the country with an average of 8C instead of 4C with records for Central England temperature going back to 1659. Not surprisingly sunshine levels were below average. Rainfall for the year was 33.94", 15" less than last year, but only a couple of inches above the long term average.



**January** began with a slight frost on the 1st & a dry day until heavy rain set in in the evening, giving 0.43" & this was to herald rain on every one of the next 14 days! The winds were mainly south-westerly & a succession of Atlantic lows crossed our region with the 3rd being very wet, giving 1.04", that amount of rainfall fairly unusual for us. There was very little change from day to day, with the 6th giving us 0.69" & the 9th 0.48", but at least it was mild with the thermometer stuck on 48F (9C) nearly every day until the 12th but the wind became more north-westerly thereafter. There were some frosty mornings with temperatures around freezing & only rising to 37-39F, but at least it was mainly sunny for a few days & we then had a dusting of snow overnight on the 16th but it rapidly thawed. The dry spell lasted all the third week but on the 22nd the Atlantic lows were back with rain most of the day, although the temperature rose rapidly to 50-52F (10-11C) & this brought some early morning fog on the 23rd & 24th, but also spells of heavy rain of over 0.5" on each of the 26th, 27th & 29th. The wind was strong & gusty but we were spared the effects of Storm Gertrude which was very severe over Scotland. The month ended with a mild day with drizzle & low cloud all day & that just about summed up January! Total rainfall was well above average at 6.45" & although there was a record 10" two years ago, the only other year since 1992 with over 6" was in 1995. Sunshine levels were well below average & temperatures were at near record highs & as yet no sign of the harsh winter we were promised!?



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Horsham  
District  
Council

## Local Health & Leisure Walks

All welcome to guided, **FREE**, sociable, HDC walks led by trained volunteers; no need to book, just turn up at the starting point. Programme booklet containing over 250 walks is available from the Walks Co-coordinator on 01403-215284 or online [www.horshamhealthwalks.co.uk](http://www.horshamhealthwalks.co.uk). Beginners are recommended to contact the Walk Leader to discuss suitability. All walks can be wet & muddy in places. Forthcoming walks in the Colgate Parish & neighboring areas are as follows: -

**Every Monday 10:45am: North Heath, Horsham** – Meet in the car park of the **Sussex Barn Pub**, off **North Heath Lane**, at the junction with **St. Mark's Lane, RH12 5PJ (TQ181328)**. Walkers can choose to walk for 30 or 75 minutes. Gentle up to one hour fifteen minute walks, up to 2 miles around the riverside in the North Heath area. Suitable for slow or new walkers & also those who wish to enjoy a regular easy walk. Refreshments & toilets are available in the pub after the walk. **Leaders Ann & John 01403-268885.**

**Tuesday 1st, 15th & 29th March 9:30am: Buchan Country Park** – A 2-3 mile walk in a largely wooded area with some open heathland, meadows & ponds, easy walking with well-defined paths, taking 1 hour. There is a Nature Reserve area & the Countryside Centre may be open. (First timers & families welcome). Meet at the car park (**RH11 9HQ**) off the **A220 Crawley to Horsham** side of the dual carriageway. **Leaders Richard or Emmy 01403-255517.**

**Sunday 6th, 13th & 20th March 10:30am: Leechpool & Owlbeech Woods** – A lovely woodland 2¼ mile walk, taking 1¼ hours, generally following main paths & easy underfoot, although a small part of the walk will be on narrower paths with tree roots, stubs & uneven ground. Some inclines. Could be muddy in places. A sensible pair of shoes would be advisable. An optional short 30 minute walk is always available. Meet at **Leechpool Wood Car Park (TQ194313)**, off **Harwood Road (B2195)**. **Leader: Armelle 01403-260342.**

**Monday 7th March 10:30am: Rusper Round** – meet at the car park next to the church in **High Street, Rusper, RH12 4PX**. This is a pleasant walk, of 3 miles, taking 1½ hours, starting from the village centre. We walk on the road for a short way. We follow the Sussex Border path which is very pretty. It will be muddy. Some stiles, no dogs. **Leaders: Jill 07780-701184 or Jean 07734-323321.**

**Thursday 10th March 10:30am: Worth Park Wander, Crawley - Snowdrop Walk** – Join us for a delightful guided walk around the beautiful restored garden, very easy flat walking. This is level 1 pace, 1½ mile walk, taking about 1 hour. Meet at **Worth Park Visitor Centre, Crawley RH10 3DH**. Limited parking, which can be accessed from **Milton Mount Avenue**. **Leader Edwina Livesey 01293-438027 & 07826-917846.**

**Tuesday 15th March 10:00am: Half Moon, Warninglid - Wykehurst Park** – A 4½ mile circular walk through woods & farmland along the High Weald Landscape Trail past the "Hammer House of Horror". Some stiles & a few short, fairly steep hills giving excellent views. Meet in the **Half Moon** car park **Warninglid (TQ250260)**. No dogs. 2½ hours. **Leader Geoff 01403-258180.**

**Saturday 19th March 10:00am: Horsham Welcome Walks** – Horsham is known as a lovely place to live; do you know its history? Join us for a free guided walk around the centre of Horsham, taking 2 hours & learn more about where we live & work. Meet at the **Museum** in the **Causeway**. **For more information please ring Jill 07780-701184.**

**Saturday 19th March 10:15am: Colgate** – A 4½ mile circular walk through woods & heathland, some stiles & one long gentle hill. Meet at the **Dragon Pub Car Park RH12 4SY (TQ229327)**. Dogs allowed on a lead. 1¾ hours. **Leaders Paul 01403-240419 or Jane 01403-261672.**

**Wednesday 23rd March 10:00am: Rookwood Golf Course Horsham** – The 5½ mile walk taking 2½ hours, is either a clockwise or an anti-clockwise circuit via Warnham, passing 'Field Place', 'Warnham Manor' & the deer park. Please park at the far end of the car park & meet at the car park entrance (**TQ162318**). After the walk we return to Rookwood for refreshments. Boots are advisable as the route can be muddy. Sorry, no dogs. **Leader Michael 07719-467861.**

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**Sussex**  
Wildlife Trust

## **A Sussex Village & Its Birds**

**By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust**

In a village in West Sussex, the residents really do care about what is happening to their birds. At the back end of last year, Henfield Birdwatch published their fourth book, something that occurs every five years & the third book, which came out in 2010, won a national award from the British Trust for Ornithology for being the best community conservation project in the UK.

Established in 1998 Henfield Birdwatch set out a number of aims. Principle among these was to organise a year-long survey every five years across the parish & in doing so encouraging residents to contribute, particularly in the garden surveys. Across all the surveys we have averaged between 5% to 7% of the population taking part, a very high number for a parish that size. It has always been emphasised that you don't have to be an 'expert' to take part, all records are important, particularly so when it comes to the more common species because it is these that are going to give you a more accurate picture of the state of the local environment. Over the four surveys since 1999 over 175,000 records have been entered onto a database & all this information can provide data that can be used in assessing the environmental impact in planning applications.

A pleasing aspect of the surveys is that the data produced is very much in line with what is happening across the UK with bird numbers & underlines the fact that these results provide a proper scientific basis upon which the data can be used in the planning process & is also useful to underpin conservation programmes.



So, what has happened to Henfield's birds since 1999? Sadly, as is happening all over the UK, the majority of species are declining. Once common & familiar species, such as marsh tit & lesser spotted woodpecker, have virtually disappeared. Most of our summer migrants are down considerably, willow warbler, garden warbler & spotted flycatcher have all ceased to breed in the parish within the last 15 years. Nightingale & turtle dove numbers though have remained stable where they are crashing elsewhere.

There is good news however. We have gained little egret, little

grebe & buzzards as breeding species. Those bright colourful goldfinches & the splendid bullfinch are both on the increase. In every survey it is hoped that something special will turn up & in 2014 that accolade went to a grey phalarope that turned up in November & stayed for a couple of days.

Henfield can be justly proud of this wildlife project. It is long-term & plans are already going ahead for the next survey in 2019. It is contributing a tremendous amount to our bird knowledge at a local, county & national scale as well as giving an intimate picture of a Sussex parish & its wildlife.



[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**Pictures Courtesy of the Following: -**

**Marsh Tit & Spotted Flycatcher ~ Derek Middleton, Sussex Wildlife Trust**

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