

Lurgashall News

JANUARY 2026



Pheasant Copse

Highlights

The Horticultural year - pages 22-25

Get your entries in
- see page 14

**LURGASHALL
CHRISTMAS QUIZ**



What is the community shop
worth to you and your family? - page 18/19

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year
in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

William E. Vaughan.

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CHURCHWARDENS

Amanda Worrall, Hillgrove House, GU28 9EW 01428 707436
Rob Holgate holgate.family@btinternet.com 0738758 2100

St. Laurence Church Cleaning

Enjoy lively conversation and a great work out in a beautiful village location .

Church cleaning 1 morning a month for an hour .

Contact: Judy Pavia 01428707265

Church Services for January 2026

4 January <i>Epiphany</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Venerable Philip Jones</i>
11 January <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Lurgashall Ebernoe	Holy Communion <i>Canon Nigel Nicholson</i> Plough Sunday Service <i>Canon John Bundock</i>
18 January <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	<u>11.00 am</u> 10.30 am	Lurgashall Northchapel	Holy Communion <i>Rev Richard Lloyd</i> Morning Prayer
25 January <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	10.00 am 10.30 am	Lurgashall Ebernoe	Holy Communion <i>Rev Dr Thomas Carpenter</i> <i>Archdeacon of Chichester</i> Morning Service

Sidesmen

Date	Sidesman	Reading	Colour
4 Jan	Rob Holgate	Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	White
11 Jan	Judy Pavia	Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-end	White
18 Jan 11.00 am	Mark Hammond	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	White
25 Jan	Andy Kinnear	Acts 9:1-22 Matthew 19:27-end	White

From the Churchwardens

As the old year draws to a close and we step into a new one, many of us find ourselves thinking about *resolutions* — those hopeful promises to do better, live more kindly, or simply make more time for what matters. It's a natural moment to pause and take stock: to look back with gratitude for the blessings of the year gone by, and to look forward with hope and trust for what lies ahead.



But perhaps our resolutions this year don't need to be big or ambitious. The Christian faith reminds us that it's often the *small* things — done with love — that truly make a difference. Jesus spoke about mustard seeds, those tiny beginnings that can grow into something much greater than themselves.

So maybe this year, we might each resolve to do one or two little acts of kindness that bring light to someone else's day. Here in Lurgashall, that might mean checking in on a neighbour who lives alone, offering a lift to the shops or to church, or simply stopping for a chat instead of hurrying past. It might be baking a cake for someone who's been under the weather, sweeping a shared path after a storm, or remembering to say thank you to those who quietly keep things going — from those who run the shop and pub to the volunteers who make village life tick along so seamlessly.

There's a quiet holiness in these small gestures. They don't make headlines, but they weave the threads of our community together. They remind us that we belong to one another, and that through the simplest acts of care, we share something of God's love and grace.

And when our good intentions begin to fade — as they sometimes do by February — let's take heart in knowing that God's mercies are new every morning. Each day brings another chance to begin again. As St Paul writes, "*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Renewal doesn't come from our effort alone, but from God's gentle work within us.

Of course, we also know that not everyone greets the new year with cheer. For those who are lonely, grieving, or anxious about what's to come, may we as a village and as a church family walk beside them with kindness, patience and prayer. A listening ear, a cup of tea, or simply being there can mean more than we imagine.

Whatever this year holds, may 2026 be a year of grace, friendship, and hope here in Lurgashall — a year when we continue to care for one another, and to see God's quiet blessings in the everyday life of our beautiful village.

With every good wish for the year ahead,

Amanda and Rob

BLIND LANE

As anybody who used Blind Lane regularly knows it proved increasingly difficult to drive down that road without meeting another vehicle and invariably having to reverse sometimes up to 150 yards. This is because there are more delivery vans and wide cars using it. As it was only going to get worse I thought it was time to do something about it.

My first move about a year ago was to persuade Leconfield to improve the passing spaces about 50 yards beyond the crossroads. Even this relatively small improvement made a great difference and so I began to think about other possible spaces where something could be done.

I was particularly keen to do this not least because it might help The Village Shop which we all know desperately needs to increase its turnover.

I therefore took the matter up with Gerard Ayerton-Grimes as it is his field that backs onto a large section of Blind Lane. He was amazingly supportive from the start and mentioned it to Jonathan Wright who works for him, and also proved very willing to help and felt that he could do the work with minimal disruption.

They decided that the two best places would be where there were already smallish passing spaces and if doubled in size would dramatically improve that bit of the road which was causing most trouble.

On top of that Neil Harding kindly agreed to look into the possibility of using some of The Fete's surplus funds to pay for this work, and subsequently obtained approval of his committee.

Following completion of the two new passing spaces, I have been greatly encouraged by the positive reaction generally and very much hope that the frequent frustrations in Blind Lane will now be a thing of the past.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gerard, Jonathan and Neil for making this happen. It is much appreciated.

Philip Robinson

Northchapel Primary School Christmas Highlights

This festive season has been full of joy and creativity at Northchapel Primary School! Our Caterpillar Class delighted everyone with their wonderful Nativity play, Stable Surprise, while Grasshopper and Dragonfly Classes gave a fantastic performance, The Christmas Rose, that truly captured the spirit of Christmas.

Dragonfly Class also spread cheer beyond the school gates by singing Christmas carols at the village lunches in Lurgashall and Northchapel—a lovely way to connect with our community. As a special treat for all the children's hard work, the children were taken to see Beauty and the Beast Pantomime in Guildford, which was a magical experience they will remember for years to come.

Adding to the festive spirit, the children created beautiful artwork to decorate the window at Screwfix in Haslemere—what a creative way to share Christmas joy! It is certainly an extremely important and busy time in the School's calendar.

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA and the Northchapel Running Club for organising events that raised vital funds for the school. This year, we moved the Christmas Fair to the end of the school day to make it more inclusive for the children, and we're thrilled that it was still a great success.

We'd like to apologize to any villagers who felt the events were a little too close to Christmas or clashed with other activities. With such a short festive period and so many school commitments, it's always a challenge to fit everything in—but we truly appreciate your understanding.

Finally, thank you to all governors, parents, volunteers, and supporters for your continued dedication to our children and staff. Your efforts make a real difference, and we couldn't do it without you.

A Message from the Headteacher

"As we come to the end of another busy and joyful term, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our school community. The children have worked so hard and shown such enthusiasm in all their performances and activities—it's been wonderful to see their confidence and creativity shine. Thank you to our staff, parents, and volunteers for making these moments possible. Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year."

Ms Coggin



THE VILLAGE HALL 50:50 CLUB



Congratulations to December's Winners:

1st prize: Jacquie Lawson

2nd prize: Caroline Ayrton Grimes

Annual Christmas draw additional prize: Jacquie Lawson

The 50:50 Club is one of the main sources of income for our Village Hall, and its contribution is vital to maintaining this important village asset. Please join and help your Village Hall.

Just call Steve on 077783357272 or email to catherine.nicholes@hotmail.co.uk

Lurgashall Oil Buying Group

Northover Energy had the lowest price this month for our 25,000 litres order, at 55.95 ppl +VAT.

Look out for my email on New Years Day re our first order of 2026.

Please let me know if you are interested in joining the Group.

Wishing all a very happy and warm 2026.

Colin Robertson lurgashall.oil@gmail.com



VILLAGE HALL

Here for our community

Lurgashall Village Hall and its equipment are available for hire, with special discounted rates for residents of the parish.

The hall is great for children's parties, exercise and dance classes, family gatherings, meetings, film shows – in fact, almost anything you can think of!

Equipment for hire includes tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery, glassware and the ever-popular large urn!

Our rates are very reasonable indeed. To find out more, please go to www.lurgashallvillagehall.org or contact the Booking Secretary on lvhmc.bookings@gmail.com

Karen Bonnett

Karen died on November 13th, 2025. She had spent thirty-seven happy years living on Black Down, teaching at Northchapel School and participating in many village activities.

Jeremy, Hadley, Julian and the rest of the family invite you to remember and celebrate Karen's life with a drink and canapes in The Village Hall on Saturday January 17th 2026 at 6.00pm.



Please drop in if you can, we would love to see you. It would be helpful if you could let us know you will be coming by sending an email to j.s.bonnett@outlook.com.

VILLAGE LUNCH

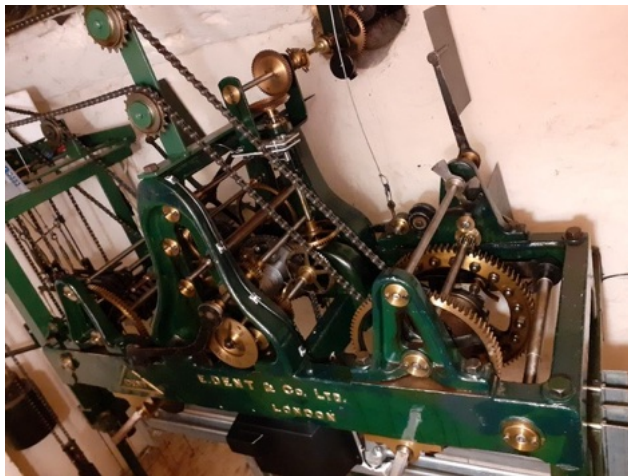
The next village lunch will be on the 12th January. Just put your name on the list in the Shop. This closes on the Thursday before the lunch. Please contact Sally Stainton on 07810634063, if you have any dietary requirements.

VILLAGE TEA.

The next village tea will be on Wednesday 26th January..

Lurgashall Church Clock

The church clock was installed in 1933. It would have been a big project because, not only was a very fine three-train clock movement ordered from Dent and Co, but a clock dial was installed on the outside of the tower and the church bells, which were already in the tower, were taken down and recast to provide 8 bells; these are used for bell ringing and by the clock for striking the hour and chiming the quarters. Although many villages have a clock which strikes the hours, very few chime on the quarters. All this work was paid for by a parishioner, Edgar Jones in memory of his wife, Sarah. There may have been a clock in the church before 1933 but no records survive.



Clock mechanism: the central section is the part which keeps the time, on the right is the striking section and on the left the chiming section.

Five of the eight bells - These are located in the belfry above the clock room.



The clock originally needed winding three times a week and it became difficult to find someone to undertake this job. In the 1980s, Thwaites and Reed installed automatic electric winding to the striking and chiming trains because these both needed winding more than once a week. In 2016, Smith of Derby installed automatic winding to the going train and a pendulum regulation system to regulate time keeping. The regulation system automatically checks the time keeping of the clock every hour against a quartz clock and corrects it, if necessary. This is achieved by making the clock gain slightly. The pendulum is then grabbed by an electromagnet just before the hour and released exactly on the hour. This ensures that the first stroke of the hour bell will sound exactly on the hour. The regulation system also makes the changes for Summer and Winter time.



Each hour, the dark green pendulum bob is grabbed and held by the silver electromagnet on the left.

The clock needs power for the automatic winding and the regulation system, so there is a battery back-up system to ensure the clock continues to run during a power cut. One of the ironies about the clock is that the clock, which is 92 years old generally operates trouble free, and most faults occur in the modern technology in the automatic winding and the pendulum regulation system!



Peter Wilding

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Lurgashall Parish Council's next meeting is on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

DRAFT minutes from the last meeting are available to view on the Village Green noticeboard and the website.

DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Government has now launched the formal consultation on the proposals to reorganise local government in Sussex. The consultation is open until Sunday 11 January 2026, and welcomes feedback from residents, businesses, and stakeholders on the proposals put forward by councils across the region. Your input will help shape the Government's final decision on the best way forward for Sussex. Since the consultation includes proposals from West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. It's important that as many people as possible have their say.

www.chichester.gov.uk/devolution

HEDGE CUTTING: Please may residents be reminded that hedgerows and trees bordering our parish roads are the responsibility of the adjacent landowners, not West Sussex County Council Highways. This is especially important on our rural roads where sight-lines and widths are already limited. Please be considerate and check and cut if required.

Likewise with ditches and any watercourse on your land – riparian owners have the responsibility to maintain. Please check especially give the amount of rain of late.

REPORTING ISSUES

Please contact OPERATION CRACKDOWN for anti-social driving (i.e., speeding, careless and aggressive driving and driving whilst on a mobile phone). Either via the website www.operationcrackdown.org

or 01243 642222. Abandoned vehicles should now be reported to Chichester District Council.

To report all non-emergency POLICE matters, call 101 or visit www.sussex.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/

Want to report a pothole or road issue? www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/

To report a problem with a right of way directly then either report online <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way/> or email prow@westsussex.gov.uk or phone 01243 777620 or inform the Parish Council

BONFIRES

Please be mindful of others when having bonfires now the weather is improving. Guidelines and how to report them if they are a nuisance, can be found on Chichester District Council's website www.chichester.gov.uk/reportbonfireproblem

Keep up to date with local road closures: www.one.network/uk/westsussex

Happy New Year 2026

Mrs Helen Cruikshank
Clerk to Lurgashall Parish Council

Email: Lurgashallpc61@gmail.com
Tel: 01798 860788
<http://www.bitcloud.org.uk/lurgashall/>

LURGASHALL CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Fun for all the family!

*Put your festive knowledge
to the test for a chance
to win*

£100 cash!

Quiz Sheets: £2 each
available from The Village Shop
(you may enter as many Sheets as you like!)

**Return completed Sheets to The Shop by
Saturday, 10th January, 2026**

**All correct entries will be put into a hat
for the lucky winner to be drawn**

**Answers and the winner's name will be
published in February's Lurgashall News**

Proceeds in aid of Lurgashall Village Hall

THE STORY BEHIND THE VISITING COACH AND FOUR

Some of you will have been lucky enough to see the visiting coach and four which stopped outside the Noah's Ark on 18 October as reported in the October Newsletter. This was one of two such replicas of 19th century road coaches built in Poland and used for fund-raising events, *The Nimrod* belonging to John and Pebs Brown which arrived in Lurgashall drawn by four Geldlander horses, and *The Monarch* drawn by Hackneys belonging to Peter Worrall's sister, Barbara Stockton and her husband Rod, which they breed at their stud farm in Staffordshire. Both coaches have regularly been involved in coach driving events for twenty years.

Barbara has written to explain how these 'stage' coaches were used originally. They operated primarily on the major trunk roads connecting London to outlying market towns providing a vital means of communication during the 18th and early 19th centuries until the advent of the railways. Each journey was based on stages, approximately 10 miles long, between hostleries or coaching inns, with a single coach typically doing one return trip in a single day between destinations fifty miles apart, a total of around 100 miles. One team of horses would cover the first stage after which they would be changed for a fresh team for the second stage. The first team would be fed, watered and rested until they were required for the return trip home later that day. This process would be repeated at all the subsequent stages until the coach arrived back at its starting point. This meant that the coachman had to handle several different teams of horses. Tight scheduling meant that quick changes were essential. These were highly organized and relied on the efficiency of hostlers and stable hands at the inns. A well-practiced team could change horses in just a few minutes. The reputation of a coach route depended on the reliability and speed of changes, as well as the quality of the horses provided.

Each coach would display signs to show its total journey and the names of the inns between the starting point and the final destination. Coaches would normally have had a crew of two: the driver ("coachman"), and the hornblower, who doubled as a guard. The coachman sat on the "box", the front seat on right hand side of the coachroof, and the hornblower sat on a seat on the back left of the coach roof. In addition, up to fourteen passengers could be

accommodated: four “insiders”, wealthier travellers who could afford to travel in the “canoe” (the more expensive inside seats), and ten “outsiders” who travelled on the coachroof, where there were two benches each seating four people, the one behind the coachman facing forwards and the other facing backwards. An additional passenger seat, the ‘box-seat’ next to the coachman was always much in demand, with another next to the hornblower.



The Nimrod arriving at Blenheim Palace

was to get horses and passengers to their destination safely and on time.

Coachmen were a tough breed able to withstand the long hours on the box with all that the British weather could throw at them. Horses are unpredictable, always causing an element of danger. This only increased when coachmen sometimes raced rival coaches. Yet they knew their route well and their job

A team of four horses wore collars attached to traces to pull (or more correctly push) the coach. The front pair, the ‘leaders’, had to be forward-going and brave, so as not to shy at loud noises or unexpected movements. The rear pair, the ‘wheelers’, were usually more powerful, doing the harder work, with the leaders helping out on hills. On the steeper hills it was not uncommon for a ‘cockhorse’ to be attached at the front to provide extra horsepower. These would be stabled at a coaching inn (often ‘the Cock inn’) at the bottom of the hill and would usually be ridden to make life easier for the coachman.

The guard / hornblower, resplendent in his red coat and brown top hat, was responsible for the safety and smooth running of the coach, checking tickets, collecting payments and sounding distinctive warnings to passengers and passers-by with his coach horn. Some would even entertain passengers with popular tunes of the day. Another responsibility was to operate the “drag shoe” which locked the back wheels for a more controlled descent of a steep hill. As a guard, they may also have carried a firearm.

Several of the original road coaches still survive, some in this country but many exported to Europe and America. They mostly date from the later 19th century, when there was a short-lived revival of interest in the golden age of coaching with the romance and the skills required to tool a coach and four down the road - attracting many to take up the sport.

John and Pebs Brown are tremendous advocates of coach driving. They also own the "Tally Ho" an original Shanks built road coach, which they save for the show ring. The Nimrod is used mainly for pleasure and for spending days on the road. Over the years the Nimrod and the Monarch have made several tours to raise money for charity.



The Nimrod and The Monarch at Stratford upon Avon

Some years ago they passed through Lurgashall, retracing the route taken by Naval officers from London to Portsmouth to join their ships, and stopping for lunch opposite the Lurgashall Winery on Jobsons Lane.

You can still see road coaches at some of the larger shows during the summer season. At Royal Windsor a prize is awarded to the winner in each section and a judge will then decide the overall Champion.

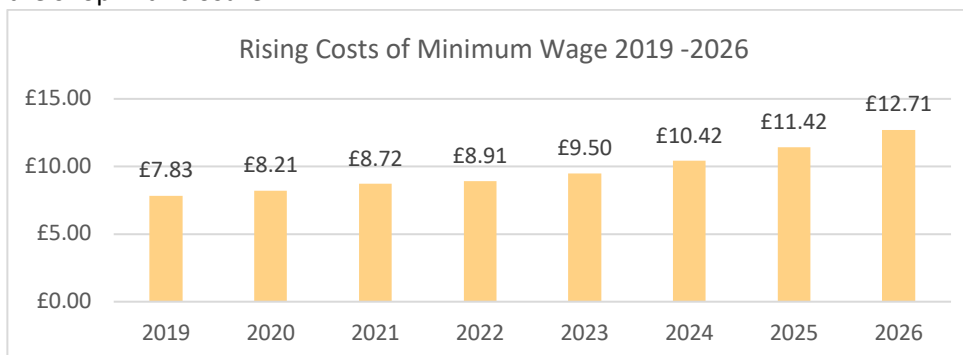
Many phrases in common use today hark back to a time when coaches were the only mode of transport. One example is 'nightmare' – where unscrupulous proprietors put a blind or unsound horse in the team at night when no one could see them. These 'nightmares' could be dangerous and difficult to control.

What is the community shop worth to you and your family?

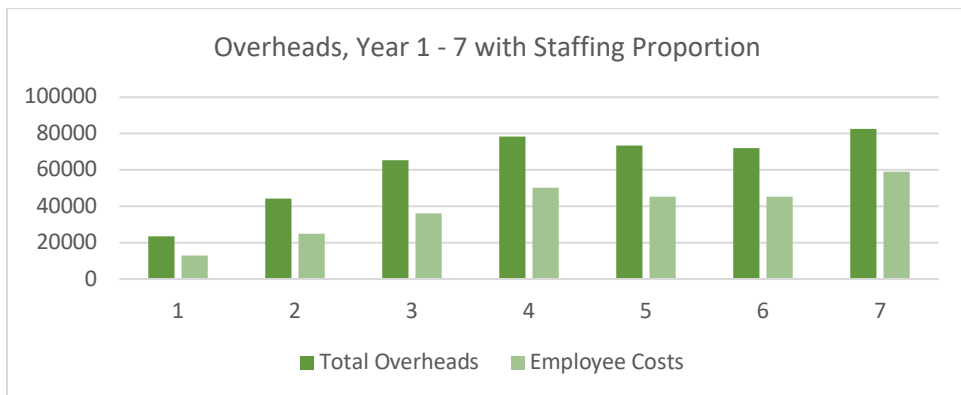


In November at a village hall meeting, a proposal was introduced designed to save the shop from imminent closure and provide long-term stability and regular monthly finance for the community shop. Thank you to those customers and supporters who attended the meeting but for those who were not able to join us, here are a few of the salient points of interest.

The community shop was launched in 2018 and has now been trading for nearly eight years. From the outset the challenge has been to maximise sales and minimise costs in order to pay the overheads. However in recent years we have seen employee costs rise dramatically, driven by the increase of the minimum wage from £7.83 in 2018 to £12.71 in 2026. In the last five years, LVS salary costs have increased by 140% and in 2025 accounting for 72% of overheads. Inflation and a stagnant economy combined with a recent drop in both retail sales and gross profit have resulted in an operating monthly shortfall which now threatens the shop with closure.



Last year, 60 households in the village raised capital by buying shares in the LVS community benefit society and some readers may ask why not draw down on the money to cover the monthly shortfall? This would be a short-term solution and the fund would be depleted after two to three years. The interest accrued from the shareholders' fund will be utilised but unfortunately this is not sufficient to cover the deficit. The new team of directors must plan for a long-term and sustainable future for the shop



The aim is to raise operating income generated by monthly subscriptions from 60 or more village households. This regular monthly financial support will enable the new management team to make strategic plans to improve sales including; changes to staffing to facilitate extended post office opening hours and holiday cover, improvements to the product range, as well as a campaign to attract and retain customers.

A monthly subscription available to everyone

We are asking our customers and supporters to sign up to a monthly subscription (£5, £15, £25, £50 etc). This is an opportunity for everyone to demonstrate their support for our community shop. Each subscriber will benefit from entry to win a LVS gift voucher each month as well as other benefits including takeaway teas and coffees.

Please pledge your support and email cbbs@lvshop.org.uk to receive details on how to sign up for a LVS Subscription. Alternatively collect a form from the shop counter.

We would like to wish our staff, volunteers and customers health and happiness for the year ahead and thank everyone for their continued and invaluable support, Cathy Nicholes, Sally Ohlson & Sophie Jowett.

TEL

EMAIL

WEBSITE

01428 707277

lurgashallvillageshop@gmail.com

www.lurgashallvillageshop.uk



THE NOAH'S ARK COUNTRY PUB



We look forward to welcoming you to the Noah's Ark. Join us for a drink at the bar, or for lunch or supper in our restaurant, bar and spacious Ark room.

To book your table, see our current menu, or for opening hours, what's on, and more information, please visit our website.

reservations@noahsarkinn.co.uk | 01428 707346 | noahsarkinn.co.uk

On Sunday Jan. 18th, St. Mary's Church, Petworth will hold our annual Christian Unity Service at 3pm. All are welcome. All the Churches in the Petworth area come together celebrating the warmth of relationship that we have in Petworth. As Father Peter of Sacred Heart RC Church said: "PACT is one of the things that makes Petworth great".



What a wonderful statement.

In the following week, week day Lunchtime talks, with a soup and roll lunch, will be held as follows

Monday Jan 19th. Graffham, led by Rev'd Vivien Turner

Tuesday Jan 20th. Petworth, led by John & Sue Riddell

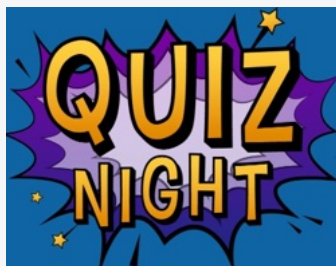
Wednesday Jan 21st. All Hallows, Tillington led by Rev'd David Crook

These lunches run from 12.30 – 1.30. Booking is not necessary.

This year the Unity week theme has been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

PACT - a gathering from different denominations working together to foster positive relationships. [Gerald \[Greshamcooke@gmail.com\]\(mailto:Gerald.Greshamcooke@gmail.com\)](mailto:Gerald.Greshamcooke@gmail.com)

SAVE THE DATE LUGASHALL RECREATION ASSOCIATION



THURSDAY MARCH 26TH 2026

7pm for 7.30pm quiz start

Lurgashall Village Hall

Tickets £20.00 per person (excluding team host).

Up to eight members per team. For more information and to book your team slot contact Joanne Vaughan on 07802 946220. Without a team?

We'll find one for you



LURGASHALL HORTICULTURAL CLUB

Established 1983

December has in turn been cold & wet, then mild & wet – about normal for the South. The gardens are becoming quite saturated already. The short spell of air frosts has knocked back all outside tender growth, but no prolonged ground frosts yet to worry about. Some sheltered roses are still blooming, the Rhodendron Christmas Cheer is now starting to flower, and the odd Helleborus Niger has buds about to open. The Holly is bountiful in berry.

After December's issue I was asked "What is *Mulch* exactly?" Simply, it is a layer of material spread on top of the soil and around plants to insulate, enrich soils, retain moisture or reduce weeds.

Organic: e.g.: leaf litter; home-made or bought compost; grass clippings; straw; bark/wood chippings; leaf litter / mould; even paper or cardboard.

Inorganic: e.g.: loose stones; slate / tile chippings; landscape membrane or plastic sheeting. Will retain moisture & reduce weeds but won't improve soil structure or provide nutrients.

Feature Plants of the Month:

(Plants to consider for your garden or look out for)

***Chimonanthus praecox* – Wintersweet**



Native to China, this deciduous shrub is one of the joys of winter, with its wonderful spicy fragrant creamy lemon flowers. The scent fills the garden & is fantastic as a picked stem for the house. Tolerates most soils, sun or light shade, but thrives against a sunny wall – near to an open window! Can be pruned straight after flowering if size must be restricted.

Cornus Midwinter Fire - Winter Beauty Dogwood



Compact shrub with a fantastic fiery winter colour – it comes alight in our low winter sun, especially against a dark hedge or fence. For the rest of the year stems are a vibrant orange/pink with delicate green leaves in spring turning yellow/orange/pink in autumn. Loves our Lurgashall soils, and needs just pruning, removing some older darkened stems to the ground in early spring to encourage new vibrant coloured growth. DO NOT cut all to the ground as regrowth can be slow.

Clematis 'Advent Bells' (C. napaulensis x C. cirrhosa 'Freckles')

A wonderful winter flowering variety of greenish-cream petals, heavily speckled with dark red on the inside on evergreen foliage. Allow space for this one - a vigorous climber reaching 5m. Don't worry if foliage turns lime-green or falls during summer dormancy. Prune straight after flowering in early summer as it flowers on previous year's growth. Don't overfeed as it may result in fewer flowers.



Jen's Tips & Ideas for January

Winter tidy time – but don't be too tidy!



Try to leave some areas a bit wild... even if it's a corner you can't see all the time. Leave some standing dead perennial stems; leaf litter; logs piles; any berries remaining – all will increase biodiversity and wildlife populations. Plus, a winter garden can look amazing.



Soil Compaction during winter:

The rain has come – and keeps coming, making our clay soils very wet. Ideally try to keep off lawn areas and beds whilst it is saturated as clay soil can easily become compacted – squeezing air out and leaving a difficult unhealthy soil to deal with next year, which in turn will become more easily waterlogged. Use various routes across lawns rather than the same path all the time and wait for drier conditions to work in the beds.

If it's particularly bad, consider laying a step stone path across the lawn next year.

Still time to Mulch:

The ground is still warm so if you haven't managed it yet, get that mulch onto your ornamental beds or veggies.

Dahlias:

Our winters now rarely have a prolonged spell of ground freezing, so lifting Dahlias may be unnecessary, BUT, this really does depend on your garden aspect & soil conditions. With a good thick mulch over the tubers to protect from frosts most Dahlias will survive the winter well. Don't be too eager to uncover in the Spring as this can be the most damaging time for new shoots with very sharp frosts killing off fresh growth.

If your garden is in a frost pocket or is waterlogged for much of the winter than I suggest lifting, drying (upside down) and then store in a dry dark cool but frost-free space.

Garden Waste:

Ideally compost as much as you can – most weeds can be added too, as long as you can get a good heat going in your bins/heaps (grass cuttings are fantastic at aiding this).

As an addition to composting, consider investing in a Council garden waste collection – they are very reasonable and it all gets composted and can be bought back as Eco-compost.

Or consider buying or hiring a garden chipper / shredder – chomp up all the woody stems and add to your compost bins, or store as (No prizes for guessing) MULCH!!

If there are no other means of disposing of garden waste than to have bonfires, then please check fire areas before lighting for any hibernating mammals.



***"The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is today".
(Chinese Proverb)***



***** CALLING ALL YOUNGSTERS *****

We would love to encourage the youth of Lurgashall and surrounding hamlets & villages to get involved in Horticulture: all ages, abilities and interests welcome. Look out for more information in future Parish Magazines. If anyone has an idea or project in mind please get in touch with Jen : jen.p.andreozzi@gmail.com or Jax: jax@lurgashall.com

Club Events 2026

MARCH: **"GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME"** with a panel of experts to answer your questions on just about anything to do with gardening.

JUNE: LURGASHALL FETE where our **Plant Stall** has become legendary around the county - and beyond!

JULY: OPEN GARDENS DAY?? It's been a few years since the last, and we would love to organise another this year. Whether your garden is large or small, can we persuade you to enter yours?

AUGUST: Our **ANNUAL SHOW** gives you the chance to show off not just your flowers, fruit, veg, and pot plants, but also many other skills..

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: **"GARDENERS' ANSWER TIME"** A fun Quiz evening where you don't have to be Monty Don to know the answers!

Help the Horticultural Club **grow** strong... you don't need to **dig deep**, Just £10 gives you **annual** membership, then you can **reap** the benefits of engaging with like-minded enthusiasts.



MEMBERSHIP

Adults: £10 per annum

Juniors (under 16): FREE

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All enquiries to: lurgashallhortclub@gmail.com

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Sizes	Height	Width
1/4 page portrait	90mm	63mm
1/4 page landscape	50mm	130mm
1/2 page landscape	90mm	130mm
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Print quality PDF or JPG preferred. Please contact liz@stedall.com

There is no difference in price for colour advertisements.

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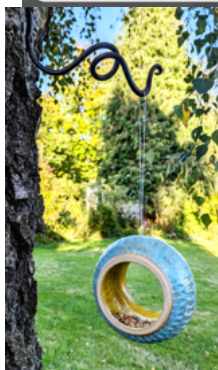
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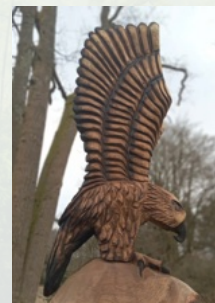
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Details of costs and sizes are on page 32