

Lurgashall News

JULY 2026



Highlights



The report from the fete committee
is on page 12

Village Hall AGM - see Page 9



If I had my way, I'd remove January from the calendar
altogether and have an extra July instead.

Roald Dahl

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Many thanks, as usual, to Jax Lawson for her title and photo for the front cover.
We wish her all the best for her upcoming operation.

CHURCHWARDENS

Rob Holgate cwstlaurence@gmail.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

From the Churchwarden



Who Is on the PCC - and What Do They Actually Do?

Over recent months, several people have said things like *"I'm not sure who's on the PCC these days"* or *"What does the PCC actually do?"* If you've wondered the same, you're not alone.

So, this article is simply to lift the lid a little - to explain what the **Parochial Church Council** is responsible for, especially while we have no vicar, and to introduce the people who quietly keep St Laurence running. It's also a chance to thank the many former PCC members whose years of service have shaped the parish we enjoy today.

Why the PCC matters even more during the vacancy

In normal times, the PCC shares responsibility for the running and oversight of the parish with the vicar. But during a vacancy, that responsibility shifts almost entirely onto the PCC and the churchwardens. They are the ones ensuring continuity, stability and good decision-making while we either wait for the appointment of a new vicar or decide to carry on as we are.

What the PCC is responsible for

Although St Laurence is not a registered charity, the PCC is legally recognised as a charitable body, and its members are treated as charity trustees. In practice, that means the PCC is responsible for:

- **Safeguarding** - ensuring St Laurence is a safe place for everyone and meeting all diocesan requirements.
- **Finance & Stewardship** - managing budgets, monitoring income and expenditure, and keeping St Laurence financially stable during the vacancy.
- **Buildings & Churchyard** - caring for our beautiful Grade I listed church, overseeing repairs, and maintaining the churchyard.
- **Worship & Mission** - supporting visiting clergy, organising services, and sustaining the mission and outreach of the parish.
- **Legal & Governance Duties** - fulfilling the responsibilities required of a PCC under church and charity law.
- **Supporting Parish Life** - everything from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to fundraising, pastoral support and the everyday running of the church.

It's a long list - and none of it pauses just because we don't currently have a vicar.

Who is on the PCC?

We are deeply grateful to the members of the current PCC, all volunteers, who give their time, judgement and goodwill to keep St Laurence functioning smoothly:

Rob Holgate (Churchwarden & Chair), **Neil Harding** (Hon Treasurer), **Mark Hammond** (Hon Secretary), **Andy Kinnear** (Buildings), **Sally Stainton** (Safeguarding), **Russell Lawrence** (Churchyard), **Rebecca Lawrence** (Events), **Tony Macaulay** (Every kind of Practical Support), and **Phil Osborne** (newly joined). The PCC is supported by **Sarah Matthews** as Administrator.

Although these are the roles people “slot into”, the truth is that everyone does far more than their role suggests. The PCC works as a team, stepping in wherever needed, sharing the load, and keeping the parish running with good humour and a great deal of unseen effort.

Supported by over 100 volunteers

The PCC could not function without the extraordinary team of over 100 helpers who give their time and energy to the life of St Laurence. They look after:

- cleaning and polishing
- flowers and decorations
- music and the choir
- sidesmen and welcoming
- bellringing
- brass cleaning
- daily inspection of the church
- coffee and refreshments
- fundraising and events
- churchyard gardening and maintenance
- seasonal preparations (Easter, Harvest, Christmas)
- and countless other small but vital tasks.

Much of this work is done quietly, faithfully and without fuss - but it is the heartbeat of parish life.

And a word of thanks to those who served before

St Laurence stands where it stands today because of the dedication of many people over many years. Countless former PCC members have given their time, wisdom, and energy to the parish - often quietly, often without recognition, and always with the good of the church at heart.

We are profoundly grateful for their service. The stability we enjoy now, even during a vacancy, rests on the foundations they laid.

A final word

If you've ever wondered how the church keeps going without a vicar - how services continue, how the building is cared for, how the finances stay on track, how the community is supported - the answer is simple: because the PCC is working faithfully behind the scenes, supported by a remarkable network of volunteers, and building on the work of those who came before.

To every current and former member of the PCC, and to every volunteer who helps in any way: thank you. Your service is valued, appreciated, and vital to the life of St Laurence.

Rob

Churchwarden, St Laurence

Church Services for July 2026

5 July <i>5th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Canon Nigel Nicholson</i>
12 July <i>6th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am 10.30 am	Lurgashall Ebernoe	Holy Communion <i>Rev Richard Lloyd</i> Morning Service
19 July <i>7th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am 10.30 am	Lurgashall Northchapel	Holy Communion <i>Rev Jack Mulder</i> Holy Communion
26 July <i>8th Sunday after Trinity</i>	 6.00 pm	Lurgashall Ebernoe	No Service Songs of Praise

LURGASHALL HORTICULTURAL CLUB

42nd ANNUAL SHOW

in the

VILLAGE HALL

on

Sat, 15th August 2026



Schedules available from the Village Shop



ABOUT THE SHOW

- All residents of Lurgashall Parish may exhibit - even if they are not Club Members.
- Non-residents of the Parish may exhibit - as long as they are paid-up Club Members.
- Club Members' children (*under 16*) who live outside the Parish may also exhibit.
- There are **2 ENTRY FORMS** in each free **SCHEDULE** available from **The Village Shop**, as are **EXTRA ENTRY FORMS**.
- Please use a separate form for each competitor and deliver to the tin in The Shop by **5pm, Wednesday 12th August**. We cannot accept late entries.
- **ENTRY FEES:**
 - 30p** per entry for paid-up Club Members
 - 60p** per entry for non-members
 - FREE** for all Juniors (*under 16*)
- **On the day of the Show:**

STAGING:	8.30 am - 10.45am
JUDGING:	11.15 am - 12.30 pm
SHOW OPEN:	2.30 pm
PRIZE-GIVING:	4.00 pm

GET SOWING * GET GROWING * GET SHOWING!

VILLAGE HALL



Join the Lurgashall Village Hall 50:50 Club!



Support your village hall while having a chance to win a monthly **cash prize!**

Each month, half the subscription pot goes to two lucky winners, and half helps maintain and improve the hall.

✦ Why join?

- Monthly cash prizes (totalling around £100)
- Bumper Christmas draw (£200 last year)
- Help keep our village hall thriving

Subscriptions: You can subscribe for as little as £1 a month and contribute as much as you like to a maximum of £20 a month.



To join or learn more:

Contact Steve Corr (07778 357272) or Cathy Nicholes
(catherine.nicholes@hotmail.co.uk)



Thank you to everyone already supporting us!

Please Note: *If you already subscribe and feel able to increase your existing subscription (to max. £20 a month), we would be very grateful.*

I am afraid I do not have the details of June's winners

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

VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 14th July, 7pm



The Annual General Meeting of Lurgashall Village Hall will take place at the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th July at 7pm.

The meeting is open to everyone.

VILLAGE BUFFET LUNCH

The next village lunch will be on the 13th July. Just put your name on the list in the Shop. This closes on the Thursday before the lunch.
For the buffet lunch do bring a friend for free.

LURGASHALL OIL GROUP

Well the good news is that I've managed to get a price this month requiring a slightly less sharp intake of breath - 77.20 ppl +VAT for standard kerosene, 79.20 ppl +VAT including additive. Northover Energy will be making the delivery this month.

The next order will be in August before monthly orders recommence in October. Please contact me if you would like to join the group

Colin Robertson lurgashall.oil@gmail.com



LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE
HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2026
AT 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

All members of the public are welcome to attend and as usual there will be time set aside for anyone to raise any concerns they may have in the parish.

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 cars are now 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 flooding? 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

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

BONFIRES Please be mindful of others when having bonfires. 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

POWER CUTS

Call 105 to report or download the Power Track app.

Do you, or someone you know, need extra help if there's a power cut? Join SSE's free Priority Services Register today

Phone 0800 294 3259 or online www.ssen.co.uk/psr

WSCC RECYCLING CENTRES: BOOK TO RECYCLE

To book to visit a Recycling Centre in West Sussex. Phone 01243 642106 or www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle

DITCHES: Please be reminded that land owners are responsible for maintaining ditches and any watercourse on their land.

HEDGE CUTTING: As we move into the summer months, we kindly remind residents of their responsibility to keep hedges, trees, and other vegetation bordering roads and footpaths trimmed back. Overgrown growth can reduce visibility for drivers, make it difficult for pedestrians to pass safely, and be simply dangerous.

Landowners are responsible for ensuring that vegetation does not encroach onto the highway. Light trimming can be carried out during the bird-nesting season (1 March–31 August) **provided you check carefully for active nests and avoid disturbing any wildlife.**

Please take a moment to check the boundaries of your property and arrange any necessary maintenance. Keeping our lanes and footpaths clear helps everyone move around the parish safely and comfortably.

Thank you for your help in looking after our shared spaces.

Mrs Helen Cruikshank

Clerk to Lurgashall Parish Council

Email: clerk@lurgashall-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01798 860788

<https://lurgashall-pc.gov.uk/>

CHAIRMAN

Mrs A Martin-Jenkins

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Dr A H J Tate

COUNCILLORS

Mrs B Burkhart

Mr N P Jowett

Mrs J Landstrom

Mr A Lougha

Mr T Macaulay

Mr A Stainton

Mr P Wilding

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mrs Brett Burkhart

07876 594168

bburkhart@chichester.gov.uk

Mrs Eleanora Newbery

01428 656941

enewbery@chichester.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs Janet Dunton

01798 344914

janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk



Weathering the storm!

Despite the truly dreadful weather, the Fete Committee is delighted to report that early indications show this year's Fete gross income, including sponsorship, are expected to exceed £19,000. While this is below last year's rain-affected total of £21,854, it remains a remarkable achievement and a testament to the strength and spirit of the village.

Huge thanks to all our supporters

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who gave their time, energy, good humour and talents to make the day possible in such challenging conditions. We are also very grateful to our sponsors — Turner Legg Consulting, Knight Frank, Managed By and NFU Mutual — for their generous support.

Distributions to follow

Expenses from stallholders are still being received, so we will share a further update in time for the Distributions Meeting in September on how much will be available for the six village institutions who benefit automatically, as well as any special projects. Although for obvious reasons we do not expect to match last year's £12,500 total we are pleased to confirm that we are in a strong position.

Neil Harding

Chairman, Lurgashall Fete Committee

lurgashallfete@gmail.com



GRASS FINISHED BEEF & LAMB



MEAT SALE DAY!

1st AUGUST

2:00PM TILL 9:30PM



Scan me!



COMPLIMENTARY
TEA, COFFEE AND
CAKE AVAILABLE
ALL DAY.



PULLED BRISKET
BURGERS AND
LOCAL BEER
AVAILABLE
FROM 6:30PM



PRE-ORDER ONLINE AT
ORCHARDPARKMEATS.CO.UK





P A C T NEWS

Petworth Area Churches Together

working together in harmony

Sir Alex Beard CBE, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden will be our speaker at the opening of Petworth Festival event in St. Mary's Church, Petworth. It will start at 6.30 with a choir and music by Matthew Cooke. All are welcome. Refreshments are served after the Service. Sir Alex is widely acknowledged as one of Britain's leading lights in the artistic world.

The Kids Club Summer Holiday Bible Club will be held from Monday July 27th to Friday 31st for all Primary School age children. The theme will be The Mystery Gang, based on the Scooby Doo stories. For more information contact: Annie Sneller 07790 107377 or The Sylvia Beaufoy Centre at

Enquiries@sylviabeaufoy.org

Further details from Geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com

<https://petworthareachurchestogether.com>

Petworth Festival Service, 2026

With an address by



Sir Alex Beard

The 2026 Petworth Festival opens with the annual service in celebration of the arts and creativity. Our speaker will be Sir Alex Beard CBE, who is chief executive of the Royal Opera House, London, an appointment he has held since 2013. Previously, he spent nineteen years with the Tate where he was responsible for the business plan for the creation of Tate Modern, and before that worked for the Arts Council England for seven years.

The service will be led by Canon Martin Poll, with choir and music directed by Matthew Cooke.

All welcome

**Thursday 16th July 2026 at 6.30pm at
St Mary's Church, Petworth
for approximately one hour. Refreshments are
served after the service.**

www.petworthareachurchestogether.com

Lurgashall Archive

Archive is open at the Village Hall on
Wed 15th & Wed 29th July, 2.30-4.30pm
archive@lurgashallvillagehall.org

*Our heritage
matters*

Baptisms and the font at St Laurence Church – what we learn about village society over the ages

At a wedding in the church last month there was a spectacular arrangement of flowers sitting on top of the font which is located just inside the main door into the church.

Two weeks later, a baptism was held at the font in the church – the only one so far this year.



These events got the Archive thinking: what is the history of our church font, who has been baptised there over the centuries, and what, if anything, do those baptisms tell us about how our village society has changed?

There was a font in the church probably from Medieval times, but during the 'Interregnum' of Oliver Cromwell from 1649 to 1658, many places of worship were stripped of their artifacts.



In about 1653 the old font, 'made from a rude block of stone', was smashed, but some of its pieces are still in the church to this day – look out for them in the south porch as you enter the church.

(Acknowledgement: R. Stedall)

Parish records show that baptisms in the church did continue during the Interregnum, but it wasn't until 1661, after the Restoration of Charles II, that a new font was provided.

Its unusual shape is carved from petrified winkle-stone, known locally as Sussex or Petworth marble, quarried at nearby Kirdford.

The new font was first used in March 1662 when a Mary Stone, daughter of William and Elizabeth, was baptised.



In 1776, the year of American Independence, there were 12 baptisms at the church. Some of the family names are recognisable even today – Ceanler (or Chandler), Stevens, Randel, Varndel, Sumafeald, Chalcroft, Luffe, Lickfold, Tribe, Terrey and Chalwin.

By 1826, the occupation of the baptised child's father was being recorded in the baptism register, and this tells us a lot about the social make-up of the village at the time. Thirty children were baptised that year – among the fathers there were 21 labourers, three bricklayers, two blacksmiths, one miller, one corn chandler and one farmer.

Move on almost a century, to 1921, and there were 11 baptisms in the church, with family names such as Lillywhite, Shotter, Dummer, Potter, Lander, Luff and Coombes. The fathers' occupations were still those of a very rural, agriculturally-based and quite poor community – mostly farm carters, stockmen and labourers, a gardener and two farmers.

Fifty or so years later, in 1976 and after the mechanisation of farming and the sale by the big estates of farm labourer housing in the parish, the demographic make-up of the parish had radically changed. Six children were baptised that year and their fathers' occupations included two company directors, a manager, a banker, a management consultant and... one farmer.

A POSITIVE MUSING FROM THE AULD FOOL.....

This morning at 5.20am my security team – Labradors Tess and Molly alerted me to an intruder in the garden – a young fox was demolishing the feeders on the bird table and the dogs did not think that this was right.....

So we went out – dogs in their well designed hairy coats and the Auld Fool in his shortie pyjamas – (whatever happened to the long stripey ones and that thick dressing gown which for years hung behind the bedroom door ?)

– NOTE TO SELF - discuss with the Badger AKA Mrs C regarding my sartorial elegance versus cold nether regions....

Back to this morning – at 5.21am a Robin started the Dawn Chorus from an old Hawthorn tree in the hedge at the edge of the Green, almost immediately joined by birds every few yards along the hedge, I could pick out the blackbirds, and a wren from the pair that nest in my shed, but within minutes everyone was having a go – even a tawny owl in the wood.

If you have never heard this feathery ‘Ode to Joy’ then do yourself a favour – set the alarm for 5am and dress for the prevailing weather – a cup of coffee is a good idea – shortie pyjamas are not the Auld Fool sat on the old garden chair by the wood pile until the chorus started to subside and his bones creaked as he moved – however he and his security team returned to the house feeling that there was just a bit of light to be found even when the world is going through these horrible dark times.....



Chichester District Council

Council updates direct to your phone!

Finding out information about local council services – including receiving recycling and waste collection day reminders – has never been easier, thanks to our free Chichester District Council app, which is available from the Apple Store and Google Play Store.

As long as you switch your notifications on, we will be able to let you know if our recycling and waste crews are running late, and if we have any planned changes to collections. You can also find out about other council services, and keep up to date with all of the latest council news and information. You can find out more at: www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp

‘Step by Step Guide’ to downloading the Chichester District Council app:

- 1** Head to the Apple Store or Google Play Store on your smartphone device.
- 2** Type in ‘Chichester District Council’ into the search bar. Our free app will pop up in the results.
- 3** Click to download it onto your mobile device. You can now exit the app store. The app should now show up amongst the icons on your home screen.
- 4** Open the app, type in your postcode and select your address from a drop-down list. You will also be prompted to enter your contact details, so you can receive important updates when reporting incidents to us.
- 5** Don’t forget to click ‘allow notifications’ in the notifications tab to ensure you don’t miss out on important reminders and announcements.

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

Shop local and support your community shop



We are delighted to welcome Gaynor Oakes who joined the shop staff in May and has settled in quickly working alongside Jo to undertake post office training. Gaynor has already proved a great asset to the shop with valuable experience to offer from her twelve years in retail at Cook and Sky Park Farm.

Attracting visitors to our beautiful village during the summer months is vital if we are to increase sales income and safeguard the future of the shop. The new 'bean to cup' coffee machine is proving very popular for take away coffees and we have extended the selection of cakes, including scones with clotted cream and jam, delicious! We hope that all our local customers will call in and take some time to enjoy a coffee or tea and cake sitting overlooking our lovely village green.



JULY	VILLAGE SHOP		POST OFFICE	
	OPEN	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE
MONDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
TUESDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
WEDNESDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
THURSDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
FRIDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	CLOSED	
SATURDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	CLOSED	
SUNDAY	10.00 AM	4.00 PM	CLOSED	

TEL 01428 707277
 EMAIL lurgashallvillageshop@gmail.com
 WEBSITE www.lurgashallvillageshop.uk



Haslemere Library July and August Events 2026



Molly's Special Movement Storytime



Tues -28/07 & 18/08

11.00m - 12.00pm

up to age 7yrs

£1.00 per child



Spin Drum Craft

Saturday 8/08 & Friday 21/08

Drop in 10.00 - 4.00pm

Ages 5yrs+

£2.00 per child

Andrea's Musical Rhythm

Workshop

Play to the beat with percussion instruments.

Thursday 06/08 & Tuesday 25/08

Ages 4-7yrs

**11.00 - 11.30
FREE**

Other summer Events

in your Library

Rhymetime

Every Wednesday & Thursday

10.00 - 10.30am

Ages 0 -4yrs

Stay and Play

Every Friday

10.00 - 11.00am

Ages 0 - 4yrs

Storytime with Craft

Every Saturday

10.30 - 11.00am

Ages 0-4yrs

REMEMBER THE SUMMER

READING CHALLENGE

STARTS 04/07!



Design Your Own Album Colour!

**ALBUM COVER
REMIX**

FRI 7TH | SAT 22ND AUG | DROP-IN: 10AM-4PM

£2 Per Child



Musical Bingo!

Saturday 04/07,

1/08 & 15/08

11.00 - 11.30am

£1.00

**Prizes for
winning cards!**

Junk Modelling Instrumtents

**Make a drum, shakers or
bell wristband.**



Saturday- 25/07 & 29/08

Drop in - 10.30-12.00hrs

£2.00

**Any age -just imagination
required!**



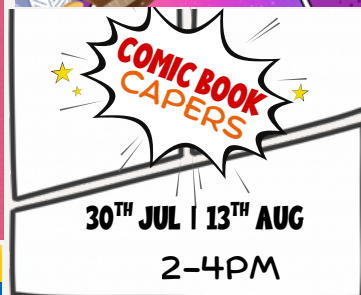
Lego Walk In

Wednesday 29/07,05/08,

12/08, 19/08 & 26/08

Drop in 10.00 - 4.00pm

£1.00 per child



COMIC BOOK CAPERS

30TH JUL | 13TH AUG

2-4PM



ISSUE #1

**£4 £3
Siblings**

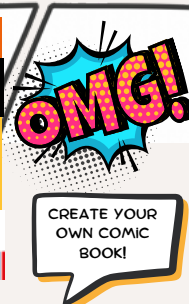
**COMIC BOOK
WORKSHOP**

Kids 8-12

**Haslemere
Library
COMICS**

BOOK NOW:

HASLEMERE.LIBRARY@SURREYCC.GOV.UK



**CREATE YOUR
OWN COMIC
BOOK!**

On Tuesday July 7th Raymond
Warburton will give a talk on



Vanessa Bell's Art and her Tangled Bloomsbury Group Relationships

Vanessa Bell was the founder member and leading light in the Bloomsbury Group. She produced some of the most important art in the 20th century although she is often overshadowed by other members of the colourful group..



There is no talk in August

Talks held at 2pm in Fittleworth Village Hall, RH20 1JB

Doors open 1.15. Coffee & tea afterwards

Visitors most welcome - £10

For further details contact Gilly Myers on 07805731663

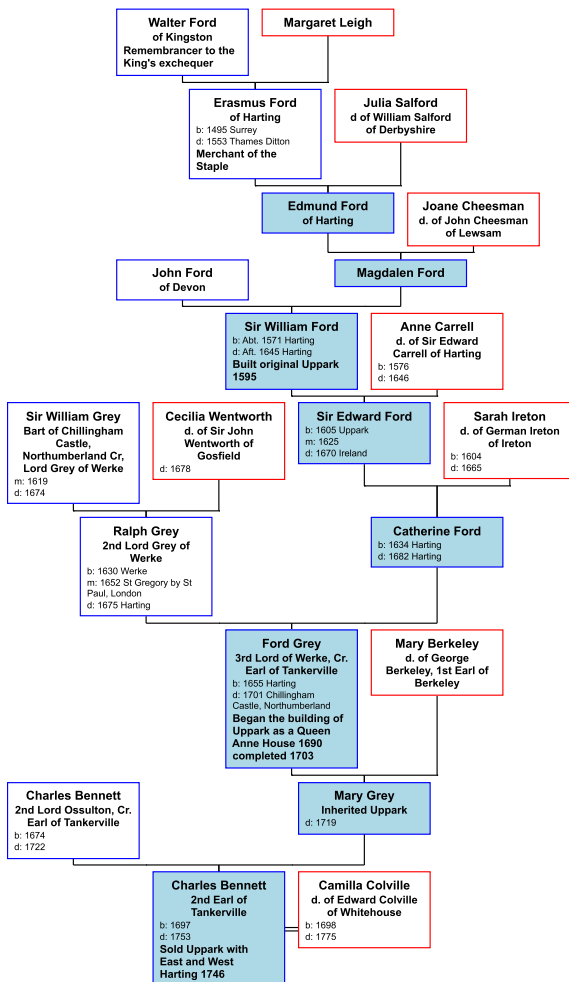
or email westsussex@theartssociety.org

www.theartssocietywestsussex.org

THE OWNERSHIP OF UPPARK

Many people know the beautiful Queen Anne house and garden at Uppark near West Harting in West Sussex. They are open to the public through the National Trust with the house having been restored after a devastating fire in 1989. Less well understood is the history of the ownership of the house.

The first recorded reference to Up Parke and Down Park is in 1440 when they were two deer parks but at some stage the land, including land at West and



East Harting was acquired by the well-to-do Ford family of Kingston. Little is known about them, but Walter Ford was Remembrancer to the King's Exchequer and his son Erasmus Ford (1495-1533) was a merchant of the Staple. Neither of them seems to have lived at Harting, but Erasmus's son Edmund is described as 'of Harting'. He married Joane Cheesman of 'Lewsam' (Lewisham?) and their daughter Magdalen Ford inherited the estate encompassing Uppark and the Hartings having married John Ford from Devon (presumably a kinsman). Their son, Sir William Ford (c.1571-aft. 1645) held strongly non-conformist views and built

the original Elizabethan House at Uppark. He married Anne Carrell/Carryll (1576-1646), the daughter of Sir Edward Carrell who owned a separate estate nearby. Their son Sir Edward Ford (1605-1670) married Sarah Ireton a great-aunt of Oliver Cromwell's general and son-in-law. The Fords' daughter Catherine was no doubt a wealthy 'catch' and in 1652 she married Ralph, 2nd Lord Grey of Werke (1630-1692) whose family home was at Chillingham Castle in Northumberland.

The Greys' son, Ford Grey (1655-1701), became 3rd Lord Grey of Werke and inherited Chillingham Castle on his father's death in 1675. He had a chequered career. Having married Mary Berkeley the daughter of George, 1st Earl of Berkeley, he was found guilty of seducing her sister Henrietta and had to escape abroad. This does not seem to have brought an end to his marriage and in 1683 he was involved in the Rye House plot, an abortive attempt to assassinate Charles II and James Duke of York (later James II) as they returned from racing at Newmarket. Although



Ford Grey



Uppark

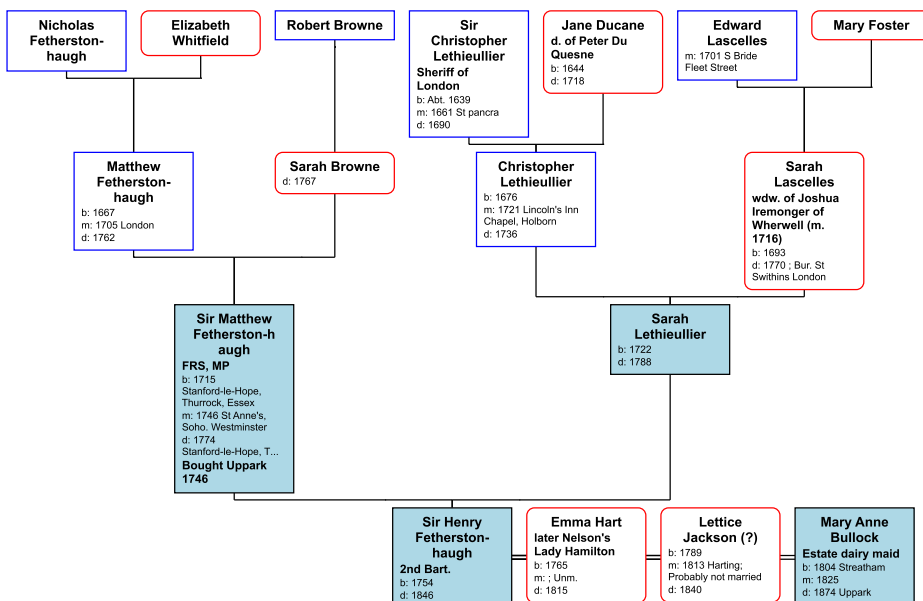
he was sent to the Tower, he escaped after plying the Sergeant-at-Arms with alcohol and he again escaped abroad with the wayward Henrietta and her new husband. He was later a leader of the cavalry on behalf of Monmouth's

rebellion, but his possible cowardice may have led to the rebellion's defeat. Nevertheless, he was restored in 1686 after giving evidence against his former associates. Despite all this he flourished on the arrival of William III and held various lucrative appointments including that of Lord Privy Seal. He was created Earl of Tankerville in 1695, by when he had already embarked on the building of a Queen Anne House style house at Uppark. This was probably designed by William Tolman, the architect at Chatsworth and a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren.



Matthew Fetherstonhaugh Sr.

Ford Grey and Mary Berkeley had two daughters, Mary (d. 1619) who married Charles Bennett 2nd Lord Ossulton (1674-1722) and Annabella (d.1698) who married John Cecil, 6th Earl of Exeter. Mary inherited Uppark and her husband became Earl of Tankerville of a new creation. Their son Charles Bennett (1697-1753) inherited as 2nd Earl of Tankerville in 1722 and married Camilla Colville (1698-1775) but, in



1747 he sold Uppark with the lands he held at West and East Harting for £19,000 to Sir Matthew Featherstonhaugh, FRS, MP (1715-1774).



Sir Matthew Featherstonhaugh



Sarah Lethieullier

some uncertainty about her ancestry and, although her father is named as Edward in some sources, she does not appear to be connected to the Lascelles of Harewood family. Nevertheless, she was painted as a young woman by Michael Dahl. Sir Matthew and his wife, Sarah Lethieullier purchased Uppark in 1747 and immediately set about remodelling the house

Sir Matthew was the son of Matthew Fetherstonhaugh (1667-1762) and his wife Sarah Browne (1670-1767). The

father had been a successful merchant in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he was mayor of two occasions and lived at Fetherstone Castle, Northumberland. In addition to Fetherstone Castle inherited from his father, in 1646 Sir Matthew inherited the estates of his kinsman (the exact relationship has not been established) Sir Henry Fetherston Bart.(1654-1746) of Blakesware, Hertfordshire, thought to have been worth £400,000. Later that year, Sir Matthew married Sarah Lethieullier (1722-1788) the daughter of Christopher Lethieullier, a member of one of the wealthiest Huguenot merchant families in London, originally from Cologne. Sarah's mother, Sarah Lascelles (1693-1770), was the widow of Joshua Iremonger but there is



*Sarah Lascelles
by Michael Dahl*



*Sir Harry
Fetherstonhaugh*

and garden employing James Paine to work on the interior and Humphrey Repton on the garden. From 1748 to 1753 they embarked on a Grand Tour with Sarah's brother Benjamin (1729-1797) and half-brother Lascelles Iremonger (1719-1793) to collect artefacts to install there. Their only child, Sir Harry



*Emma Hart, Lady Hamilton
by George Romney*

Fetherstonhaugh 2nd Bart. (1754-1846) became an ineffectual MP but was a friend of the Prince Regent, being noted for the spectacular parties held at Uppark. Through the Prince Regent's circle, he met the fifteen-year-old Emma Hart and in 1780 she moved to live at Uppark but was dismissed in the following year, six months pregnant. She went on to become Lady Hamilton and the mistress of Lord Nelson. In 1813, Sir Harry conducted a form of marriage ceremony with Lettice Jackson (?) although this does not appear to have been valid, but she lived on until 1840. In 1825 at the age of 71, he was charmed by hearing the sound of

singing by Mary Ann Bullock the 21-year-old estate dairy maid. She was the daughter of his cow man, William James Bullock, and his housekeeper, Anne Field. Sir Harry approached her and said: 'Don't answer me now, but if, you will have me, cut a slice out of the leg of mutton that is coming for my dinner today.' When it arrived, the slice was cut. They were married for twenty years until Sir Henry's death aged 90 in 1846.

Mary Ann had a sister, Frances, and when Mary Ann inherited Uppark the two sisters were determined to maintain the property in style. Frances became known as Miss Fetherstonhaugh and a suitably grand husband was sought for her but to no avail. The two sisters did much to maintain both the house and gardens in their



Mary Anne Bullock



Frances Bullock 'Miss Fetherstonhaugh'

original form, but they needed an heir. Having failed to find blood relations within the Fetherstonhaugh family, they chose younger sons of landed families, hoping that they would make Uppark their home. They left a life interest in the house to Colonel the Hon. Keith Turnour JP (1848-1930), second son of the Earl Winterton of Shillinglee, conditional on him changing his name to Turnour-Fetherstonhaugh and he lived there with his wife Caroline Chester Bethune from Frances's death in 1895 until his own death in 1930. The remainderment was entailed to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Herbert Meade GCMG, CB, DSO, (1875-1964) 3rd son of the 4th Earl of Clanwilliam, who changed his name to Meade-Fetherstonhaugh on taking possession

of the house in 1931. His wife, Margaret Isabel Frances Glyn, the daughter of the Bishop of Peterborough, who he married in 1911, made it her life work to conserve the rich silk fabric of the brocade curtains and upholstery around the house. In 1954, the Admiral and his eldest son Richard (1911-1958), transferred Uppark to the National Trust with a substantial anonymous donation for its maintenance from a lady who had never seen the house. Lady Meade-Fetherstonhaugh who died in 1977 retained an apartment there which she passed to her widowed daughter-in-law in 1964. The Admiral's younger son, John Herbert Meade (b.1919) succeeded his cousin as the 7th Earl of Clanwilliam.

Sources

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 Stirnet.com
 Ancestry.com
 Wikipedia
 History of Parliament

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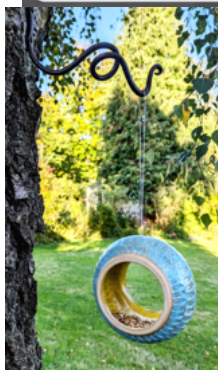
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