

Lurgashall News

SEPTEMBER 2026



Highlights

Pet service - Page 3



**LURGASHALL
FULL FIBRE
BROADBAND SURVEY**

See Page 12

Fete Distribution meeting pages 22-23



September is the season of renewal. As the dust settles and the clouds finally roll in, may the turning tide bring refreshment to our parched fields, peace to our minds, and a well-deserved rest to our hosepipes.

IN THIS ISSUE

St. Laurence Church.	2-5
Village Hall	6-7
Horticultural Club	8-9
Cricket Club.	10
PACT.	11
Lurgashall Full Fibre survey	12
Parish Council	13-17
Coffee Morning & Arts Society	18
Harvest Festival	19
Lurgashall Village Shop	21
Fete distribution meeting	22-23
David Young	24-25
Lurgashall Archive	26-29
Local Information	30-40

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

Church Services for September 2026

6 September <i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Pet Service <i>Canon Nigel Nicholson</i> 
	10.30 am	Northchapel	Holy Communion
13 September <i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Rev Richard Lloyd</i>
	10.30 am	Ebernoe	Morning Service
20 September <i>16th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Canon Nigel Nicholson</i>
	6.00 pm	Northchapel	Pot-Luck Songs of Praise
27 September <i>17th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Rev Jack Mulder</i>
	10.30 am	Ebernoe	Holy Communion & Baptism



From the Churchwarden

A friend of mine once told me, quite proudly, that his faith was “C&E”. When I asked what that meant, he explained that he was Christmas and Easter - nothing more, nothing less. And of course, many people are. But as we head into autumn, I suggested he might consider becoming **C&E+**: Christmas and Easter Plus. Because the “plus” is where some of the most quietly meaningful moments of the church year live - the ones that don’t come with carols or chocolate eggs, but with community, gratitude, memory and belonging.

Conveniently, the next few months give us three perfect opportunities to try out C&E+.

The first is the **Pet Service on 6 September**, led by Canon Nigel Nicholson. It is one of the most inclusive services we hold - genuinely for everyone, however young or old, and whatever creature they bring with them. Over the years we’ve had dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, ponies, fish and chickens. It is noisy, chaotic, joyful and utterly uninhibited. It reminds us that creation is bigger than us, and that companionship comes in many forms. If you’ve never been, come. If you have, come again. It is impossible to leave without smiling.

The second is **Harvest Festival on 11 October**, followed by the **Harvest Supper** - a real community meal, held after the 6pm service.

Tickets are now on sale in the village shop, and we only have **80 places**, so do get yours early. The supper is one of those evenings that quietly binds the village together: good food, shared tables, familiar faces, and the sense that gratitude is not just a feeling but something we practise. In a world where food arrives in supermarkets without any sense of the labour behind it, Harvest is our annual reminder that abundance is never accidental. It is grown, gathered, transported, prepared - and it is shared. The supper is a chance to celebrate that, and to do so as a village.

And then, in November, comes **Remembrance Sunday**, completing the C&E+ trio of Pets, Harvest and Remembrance.

It is the most solemn of the three, but also the most grounding. Remembrance is not about looking backwards; it is about recognising the cost of peace, the fragility of freedom, and the responsibility we carry to

honour those who gave more than we can repay. It is a service that draws people who may not come at any other time of year, because it speaks to something deep and human: the need to remember, to reflect, and to stand together in silence.

What I like about C&E+ is that it isn't a programme or a challenge or a guilt trip. It's simply an invitation to discover that the church year has more texture than the big two festivals. Christmas and Easter stand out, of course, but the services in between are where belonging deepens - the "plus" in C&E+. Pets, Harvest and Remembrance each reveal a different facet of belonging: joy, gratitude, memory. They are quieter, gentler, less dramatic - but they are no less important.

Perhaps that is the point. Belonging doesn't only happen in the spectacular moments. It happens in the ordinary ones: blessing a nervous dog, sharing a meal in the village hall, gathering in silence in the church, remembering those who remind us of what belonging and sacrifice really mean. These are the threads that hold a community together. They are the "plus" in C&E+ - the part that turns occasional attendance into something deeper, steadier and more rooted.

So, if you are a C&E person - and many are, consider joining us for one or more of the C&E+ services this autumn. Bring your pet. Book your Harvest Supper ticket. Stand with us on Remembrance Sunday. You might find that the "plus" is where belonging begins.

Rob
Churchwarden, St Laurence



Pet Service
Sunday, 6th September,
10.00 am

Taken by Canon Nigel
Nicholson, this service will
celebrate and give thanks
for all our wonderful pets.
Everyone and their pets
are welcome!

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.*

August's prizewinners:

1st prize	Amanda Worrall
2nd prize	Jeremy Lewis

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



Can you spare some time to help?

Would you like to be a part of the team involved in the future success of the village shop?



Village Shop: Volunteers are needed to work alongside staff in the shop for 2-hour shifts either weekly or twice a month. Enjoy serving customers and meeting other volunteers, neighbours and residents of the village. Full training given and if you are not able to commit to a regular slot we also have adhoc or holiday cover opportunities. Please email lvsvolunteers@gmail.com

Management Team: Join the Steering Group or Board of Directors to help with management, finance and retail business projects. Administrative, retail, finance and IT skills helpful. To find out more, please email Sally Ohlson on sallyohlson@outlook.com

VILLAGE LUNCH

The next village lunch will be on the 14th September. Just put your name on the list in the Shop. This closes on the Thursday before the lunch. Please contact Sally Stainton on 07810634063 by Friday morning if you need to cancel so she can buy the correct amount of food. Many thanks.

LURGASHALL OIL GROUP

Thankfully we were in a relatively calm week in the Gulf for our August order placement and so managed to secure a price of 79.50 ppl +VAT from Northover Energy for standard kerosene.

Our next order will be placed at the beginning of October, when autumn/winter monthly orders will recommence.

If you are not yet part of the Group and would like to join or know more, please get in touch.

Colin Robertson

lurgashall.oil@gmail.com





LURGASHALL HORTICULTURAL CLUB 42nd ANNUAL SHOW, 2026

Thanks and congratulations to everyone who contributed to making the Horticultural Club's 42nd Summer Show such a success! Thanks because without you and your entries there would be no Show. And congratulations because this year has to have been the most difficult for gardeners since the first of these Shows in 1984.

And yet the number of people entering was up by 30%, and the actual number of individual entries was up by 39% over last year. Amazing!

Thank you also to the judges who gave up their time and to the committee and our supporters who put so much effort into getting the show ready and then running it on the day.

This is a very special part of Lurgashall. Although it is intensely competitive (!) it is conducted with the greatest goodwill and humour. It is a classic English country event – somebody remarked that many would not believe that it could exist outside television programmes about the 1950s! Long may it continue, we look forward to next year, and thank you all for your support.

Elizabeth Clark

TROPHY WINNERS, 2026	
PRESIDENT'S SHIELD (Most points in adult classes)	Gillian Evans
RHS BANKSIAN MEDAL (Most points in Horticultural classes)	Ellie Kinnear
PRENTICE SALVER (Most points in Vegetable classes)	Elizabeth Clark
CHRISTIAN TANKARD (Collection of Vegetables)	Daphne Bleach
TED ROGERS TROPHY (Any other Vegetable)	Ellie Kinnear
ORCHARD PARK FARM AWARD (Fruit classes)	Cathy Nicholes
SWANNELL ROSE BOWL (Most points in Flower classes)	Pete Landstrom
BLACK SALVER (Sweet Peas)	Vernon Ellis
LAND ROSE BOWL (Rose classes)	Andy Tate
MOLLIE ASPINAL CUP (Dahlia classes)	Derek Lawson-Hill
WILLAN ROSE BOWL (Any other Flower)	Gillian Evans
CENTENARY TROPHY (Flower Arranging classes)	Sonia Maskell
STRUDWICK TANKARD (Pot Plant classes)	Lynette Underwood
BOXALL GOBLET (Cookery classes)	Gillian Evans
MARMION SALVER (Handicraft classes)	Rosa Pimentel
NOAHS ARK FRAME (Photography classes)	Gillian Evans
MORGAN CUP (Homemade Drinks classes)	Tonita Baker
JUNIOR SHIELD (Most points in classes J1-J6)	Peggy Bearn



LURGASHALL HORTICULTURAL CLUB **42nd ANNUAL SHOW** **2026**





LURGASHALL CRICKET CLUB



Founded 1840



Lurgashall Cricket Season 2026

As we are all aware, there has been little respite from the heat this summer, but that does bring a few advantages for the cricket on the village 'Brown' - no cancelled matches and no need to mow!

Once again, we have had a fairly full fixture list with local club support from Grayswood 3rd XI, a number of the Chiddingfold younger teams and the ever present Hammer Bottom Butsers. Between now and the season's close on 20th September we have a number of one-off fixtures from regular supporters of Lurgashall cricket. Aside from bringing in revenue for the Club, they bring a number of people into the village who frequent the pub and shop, and we are looking at ways to enhance that offering.

Thank you to those of you around the Green who move your cars on match days. It is much appreciated. I am regularly surprised by visitors who casually leave their Bentleys and sports cars parked on the roadside precariously near the action in spite of the warning signage. Please encourage them to move on.

Al Sword 07983 699650

swordalastair@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2026 FIXTURES

	4	Fri		Roddy Scaife
	5	Sat		Tom Blackwood
	6	Sun		Hammer Bottom Butsers
	12	Sat		Hammer Bottom Butsers
	13	Sun		Grayswood v The Fine Legs
	19	Sat		Christopher Warrack
	20	Sat		Hammer Bottom Butsers



P A C T NEWS

Petworth Area Churches Together -

working together in harmony

SEPTEMBER NEWS

PACT's Summer Holiday Bible Club for any child from Reception Class to Year 6 took place every morning in the week July 27-31.

The subject was *Mystery Gang* – a week of mystery, fun and adventure all with a Christian message. The Herbert Shiner Community Hall in Petworth was full to the brim with happy children.

There was a great team of helpers from across the PACT churches in both Petworth and the surrounding villages, and especially the Sylvia Beaufoy Youth Centre, led by Danny.

As usual, our team of many young teenagers provided a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm and previous young leaders are now fully fledged adult leaders making the Kids Club Family more effective year on year.

On the final day there was a lunch, games, bouncy slide, songs, puppet show, crafts, a quiz, Kids Club Race Day and to crown it all Maureen Purser being “gunged”.

Special thanks should go to Annie Sneller and her Committee.

Gerald Gresham Cooke

Geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com

LURGASHALL FULL FIBRE BROADBAND SURVEY

At the moment fibre is only available to certain parts of the village. We are trying to bring full fibre broadband (FTTP) to more households and the village shop, where it is desperately needed.

Openreach decide whether to install new fibre based on how many households and businesses are likely to take it up.

The more interest we can show, the stronger the case for getting it built.



There is no commitment or cost involved, we are simply gauging interest!



If you are interested in receiving full fibre broadband to your house, at no cost to you, please register your interest at the Village Shop.

WHY FULL FIBRE IS WORTH HAVING



Faster and more reliable: full fibre is far more stable than ageing copper, with fewer dropouts and consistent speeds for everyone in the home at once.



Better for working from home: strong upload as well as download, ideal for video calls, cloud files and running a business from home.



Often cheaper: full fibre packages frequently cost less than old copper deals while offering far more speed.



Adds value to your property: a full fibre connection is increasingly expected by buyers and renters.



Future-proof: the old copper phone and broadband network is being switched off nationally, so fibre is where everything is heading regardless.



Supports the village: underpins the shop, Post Office, card payments and free WiFi on the green for the whole community.



e: sallyohlson@outlook.com

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE
HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 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.

The MOBILE SKIP will be returning to Lurgashall on **Saturday 3rd October 2026 between 10am and midday at the Village Hall car park.**

VILLAGE TIDY UP/LITTER PICK – Saturday 31st October

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

WSSC 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: 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. Now we are in September full hedge cutting is permitted.

Mrs Helen Cruikshank
Clerk to Lurgashall Parish Council

Email: clerk@lurgashall-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01798 860788

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

BISHOPS HANGER
CHALARA ASH DIEBACK TREE FELLING AND OAK
THINNING

Ash trees throughout the country are in decline and dying from Chalara ash dieback, which causes dieback of the tree crown and in most cases leads to the death of the tree and in conjunction with other fungal attacks, such as Honey fungus, can cause the trees to decay and fall over. The degree and speed of effect varies from tree to tree, but the best information we have at present, is that about 95% of the ash will die and even those that show tolerance to the disease will not be completely unaffected. We are already seeing increasing numbers of trees with decay within the trunks, crown dieback and fallen branches. Ash wood and branches become brittle when they die and soon break. This is becoming a major concern for owners of these trees, especially where they are adjoining a road, property, or where there is public access, where public safety and inconvenience are likely to become a major issue. Leconfield estate, other local landowners and Councils are therefore taking a proactive approach and felling most ash trees

I'm sure you will have noticed that the woodland hanger to the east of Lurgashall playing fields is almost entirely dead and there is severe decline in the ash trees further south in that same woodland. We as the land owners representative, are aware these woods are used extensively for public access, both on the footpath and unofficially throughout the area and are very concerned that a tree or branch may fall and injure someone. We are therefore intending to clearfell area A on the map and selectively fell area B and clearfell area C. Where there are clumps of younger oak and some very old oaks, these will be retained to soften the landscape and wildlife impact. The top path will extend across the footpath and permit access to area A. A small section of the rail fence (beside the footpath) will be removed temporarily. In order to fell the trees, we will have to cut the understorey of hazel, etc and this will also enable us to replant the felled areas. Initially it will look messy (there's no point telling you otherwise) but as soon as the felling and timber removal has taken place, we will remove all the remaining lop and top.



We appreciate that this will not be welcome news, as this is a very pleasant woodland as it is and we can assure you that there was no intention of doing any more than minimal intervention in these areas up till now. This will have a visual impact but nature has a marvellous way of recovering and in 2 or 3 years, young trees will be growing back up and it will help to diversify the woodland. Trees are inspected and marked and checks are made for bird and bat roosts and other protected species and information is passed to workers prior to felling. Please accept our apologies for any short term disturbance, which is unavoidable. During the work, public access will not be permitted within the working areas for your own safety.

We are hoping to carry out the work during August and September. Signage will notify you of work commencing. Some of the preparatory work may take place well before the main felling. The footpath will not be shut but there will be warning signs and/or banksmen. Please take care and keep away from felling and machines. Even with specialist tree felling equipment, the job of felling a tree takes time, so please be patient and bear with us. At the end of the day, we are doing this work so you can safely continue to enjoy the beautiful surroundings that we all live in.

All the timber will be removed and sold for milling timber and cordwood (firewood). This will not be removed immediately but will

be removed as soon as possible and is essential to cover some of the costs. We should point out that this is not a money making exercise and in fact quite the opposite. We are doing this to keep people safe and because we wish to pro-actively care for the woodland.

This disease and many others afflicting trees at present are very regrettable. The best thing we can do is to continue to actively manage our trees and woodlands, so they are as vigorous and healthy as possible and better able to withstand attacks.

We have a Forestry Commission felling license in place and the work complies with all statutory requirements. If you have any queries concerning the work please call me,

Neil Humphris

(Leconfield Estates Head Forester)

Lurgashall Parish Council

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 Duncton

01798 344914

janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

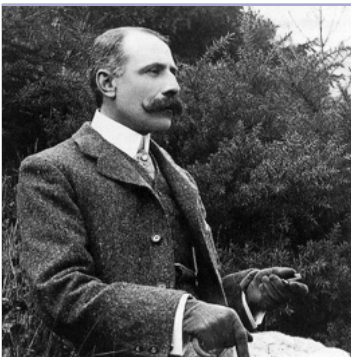
Friday 2nd October 10.30am-12.00pm
Lurgashall Village Hall

Bake Sale, Fresh Produce sale, Raffle, Christmas Cards.

Please contact Nicol Tomlinson @ LVHMC.secretary@gmail.com

with offers of donations including:

- **Home-made sweet or savoury baked goods.**
- **Produce: jams, chutneys, vegetables, fruit, flowers etc.**
- **Raffle prizes.**



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
WEST SUSSEX

Join us on Tuesday September 1st for a talk by
Roger Askew on

The Enigma of Edward Elgar

One of our greatest Composers Edward Elgar was an extraordinary man. His father was a piano tuner and owner of a music shop. Elgar was completely self taught, evidence of the strong determination behind his original and unique genius.

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@theartsociety.org

www.theartsocietywestsussex.org

**St LAURENCE CHURCH
LURGASHALL**

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, 11th October, 2026 at 6pm

An

Evening Service

taken by

Canon Nigel Nicholson



followed by

HARVEST SUPPER

in the

VILLAGE HALL

at

7.30 pm

Supper Tickets *(including a glass of wine)* **£12.50**
available from the Village Shop

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

Subscribers still needed



Please join the monthly payment scheme to secure the future of the shop.

Our community shop is so much more than just a local store

Customers have the convenience of collecting daily newspapers, buying fresh produce and everyday items, posting and returning parcels, all which save time and the expense of a car journey to town. The shop is an important and valuable social hub, offering the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. The overheads and staffing costs of Lurgashall shop continue to exceed the profit raised from sales and will continue to do so for the next few years. Without the support of residents, the Shop will be at risk of closure. Any questions please contact us on the email below.

A subscription available to everyone, please sign up

A monthly subscription in 3 easy steps. Each subscriber will benefit from entry to win a hamper worth £25 each month as well as other benefits including news updates and free takeaway teas and coffees.

Step 1 Consider your monthly donation

£5 (min) £15 £30 £50 £ other

Step 2 Please set up a Standing Order

Account: 67422430
Sort Code: 08 92 99
Account Name: Lurgashall Village Shop Ltd
Your Personal Reference:

Be sure to include your own personal reference as follows: First 3 letters of your surname, followed by your forename initial. Eg John Walker WAL J
Ideally select 1st day of the month for your transaction.

Step 3 Please email finance@lvshop.org.uk to advise that you have joined our subscription scheme confirming your personal reference and monthly donation.

LVS Management will contact you within 4 weeks to confirm receipt and details of your subscription. **A sincere thank you to all those residents and supporters who make a donation each month, it means a great deal to the volunteers who work hard to keep the shop open for everyone in our village and your support helps secure its future.**



Distribution Meeting Lurgashall Village Hall

Tuesday 22nd September
7:00 pm for 7:30 pm start

Weathering the storm

Despite the truly dreadful weather on Fete day (has it rained since?!), the Fete Committee is pleased to report gross income (including sponsorship) of £19,522 this year. 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.

Thank you to our supporters

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

Expected distributions: £12,000

Despite the lower income, cost savings mean we still have about £12,000 to distribute — slightly below last year's £12,500, but still a substantial amount. The funds will be distributed as follows:

- 60% to six key village institutions
 - Village Shop: 22.5%
 - Cricket Club, Recreation Association, Horticultural Club, Parochial Church Council and Village Hall: 7.5% each
- 40% for Special Projects supporting parish-related causes

Apply for funding

Have a Special Project that needs support? Please submit a proposal.

- Projects must address parish needs or related causes
- Include a clear breakdown of how funds will be used
- Deadline: Tuesday 15th September

Email applications to: lurgashalfete@gmail.com

Applications will be reviewed and voted on at the meeting. Anyone who contributed to this year's Fete is welcome to attend, share a glass with fellow volunteers and vote on the projects.

Neil Harding

Chairman, Lurgashall Fete Committee

lurgashalfete@gmail.com



THE LECONFIELD SINGERS

Join our Choir!
No Auditions!
Next programme starts on
Wednesday 9th September 2026
Rehearsals every Wednesday
7.45-9.45pm (doors open at 7.15pm)
The Herbert Shiner Hall, Petworth
We are a mixed voice choir
All voice types welcome
Singing experience not essential
Two free 'Taster' Sessions

Next Programmes include...
Come & Sing Event
Mendelssohn's Elijah
Boxgrove Priory
Saturday 3rd October 2026
Christmas Concert
St Mary's Church, Petworth
Saturday 12th December 2026
Mozart Requiem
Arundel Cathedral
Sunday 9th May 2027

www.leconfieldsingers.co.uk

THE AULD FOOL ON TICKS AND OTHER NASTY THINGS.....

We've got lots of lovely wildlife things at Whites Green – we also have our fair share of nasties.....and currently I speak of TICKS – related to spiders, mites and SCORPIONS.

Your local council has issued a Tick Warning with lots of advice regarding long trousers and boots – currently The Auld Fool is sporting his disreputable shorts so he feels he should stick his nose into this matter.....

Ticks are not funny – Ticks in England can carry infections, including [Lyme disease](#) and — very rarely — [tick-borne encephalitis](#) (TBE). They are very definitely on the list (with Horseflies and Wasps) of things that I wonder why the Almighty thought that it was a good idea to pop into Noah's Ark.....

Ticks live in many different outdoor environments but they are particularly common in grassy and wooded areas. You are therefore more at risk of being bitten if you take part in activities such as hiking, cycling or camping. You might also be exposed to ticks while on a walk in some urban parks and gardens.

Whites Green is prime Tick Country

Three different varieties of deer come onto the Green – Muntjac, Roe and park escapees in the form of Fallow.....and Ticks like deer – they also like dogs and cats, Auld Fools in shorts, resting cyclists (Lycra gives little protection), and young children (and others) who fancy a roll in the grass.

So The Auld Fool urges caution – they are nasty little fellows, their stages varying from pin head size spiders to bloated blood filled sacks nearly 1cm long. Our household checks the dogs every evening with a fine tooth comb – and human legs at the same time !



The Auld Fool tries to keep a short grassed pathway around the outer edge of the Green so those wanting to check the wildflower rotation can avoid the longer grasses on which Ticks lurk in ambush -



Local Treasures
where experience matters

Now in Lurgashall and surrounding villages

Local Treasures brings together everything you need

- To keep You (or your loved one) living independently
- To make sure your home and garden remains safe and looking great
- With trusted local people

Companionship - help at home

Gardening - regular or ad hoc visits

Handymen - keeping on top of those jobs around the house

All our team are vetted, reference-checked and insured

Safe hands. Kind people

Call Lou Bushell 0333 577 3301

hellolou@localtreasures.me

www.localtreasures.me

Lurgashall Archive

Archive is open at the Village Hall on
Wed 16th & Wed 30th September, 2.30-
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*Our heritage
matters*

Timber-framed dwellings in Lurgashall – a history of chimneys!

In the early 2000s, the Wealden Buildings Study Group put together a report of the architectural history of many of the older, timber-framed houses in Lurgashall Parish. <https://www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk>

They identified three main structural phases, looking at the timber beams and bays (sections of a house between the timber frames) and the means for allowing smoke from fireplaces in the house to escape.

1. Medieval (open hall) – mid-1300s to mid-1500s

The defining feature of an open hall house was a central, double-height communal hall open to the roof rafters, heated by an open-hearth fire with smoke escaping through the thatch or a louvre – a wooden lantern or turret fitted over a roof hole to vent smoke and let in light while blocking rain.

Valewood Farm House is probably the oldest dwelling in the parish, dating back to the 1300s. Originally built as a high-quality medieval open hall house, the tall chimney stack you see today was probably added in the 1600s.



Artist Helen Allingham painted the farmhouse several times in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and it remains one of the whole area's greatest architectural treasures.

Other houses in the parish identified as originally open-hall dwellings from the medieval period include:

Northhurst Farm - late 1300s

Dickhurst Farm – late 1400s

Hillgrove House – c.1500

Bishop's Cottage – early 1500s

The village shop! – or at least the cottage behind what is now the shop – mid-1500s.

2. Smoke Bay (transitional - hearth contained in narrow bay) – mid-1500s to early 1600s.

The smoke bay was an early, transitional method of managing fire smoke before full brick chimneys became common.

Open-hall houses started to be sub-divided to provide more discreet living spaces, with a second storey created in the roof space. This raised the problem of what to do about the fire which still stood open on the ground floor, and the solution adopted was typically to leave the whole bay that it was situated in double-height while the rest were filled in, so the smoke could still rise up and out of the roof. That bay was called the smoke bay, because it channelled the smoke out of the house and couldn't be built into.

<https://www.bluewillowheritage.co.uk/post/a-history-of-smoke-bays>

There are no pictures of parish houses still with an extant smoke bay, as all were later replaced with brick chimney stacks, but houses identified by the Wealden Buildings Study Group as originally smoke bay dwellings include:

Green Cottage – mid-1500s

Knights, Roundhurst - c.1550

Tolt Cottage (now Tolt Coppice) – late 1500s

Caplins – late 1500s

Pear Tree Cottage – late 1500s

Croft's Folly, Windfallwood – late 1500s

Westminster Cottage, Navant Hill – early 1600s

Croft's Folly has an interesting and probably not untypical story of origin, beginning life as a medieval agricultural outbuilding which was extended and converted to domestic usage in the late 1500s. A smoke bay was included in the extension work and would have been open from floor to rafters, with a smoke louvre in the roof. In the mid-1600s the smoke bay had a brick stack inserted within it – much like many other houses at this time.



Croft's Folly

3. Chimney (built with brick stack) – late 1500s to mid-1700s

In Tudor times (1500s), bricks used as a building material were the preserve of the very wealthy and aristocratic – Hampton Court Palace, to name but one example. Brick chimneys became ornate status symbols, and the taller the better!

Brick production flourished here in the Weald in the 1600s, capitalising on local natural resources. Wealden clay was perfect material for brickmaking, and the woodland provided all the firewood needed to work the kilns. The brick kiln on Ebernoe Common started up in the late 1600s (or earlier) and functioned until the 1930s. The brick and tile works at Colhook Common were established in 1779 and ran until the 1960s.

Timber-framed properties in the parish with brick chimney stacks include:

Hobstevens – late 1500s

The Green – mid-1600s

Becketts Cottage – early 1600s

The Malthouse – mid-1600s

Walnut Cottage – early 1600s

Cotchet Farm – mid-1600s

Victory Cottage – early 1600s

Mill Farm – mid-1700s

Wheelwrights – early 1600s

Noah's Ark – mid-1700s

Hobstevens Farm dates from the late 1500s and probably had a smoke bay before a large central brick chimney stack was inserted in the middle of the house where the smoke bay was sometime in the early to mid-1600s.



This house, and others of this period in the village, are almost identical to the early 1600s Pendean Farm House now at the Weald & Downland Museum, Singleton.

Hobstevens, 1954

Smaller properties built their chimneys on an outside wall, to save space.

The Green (i.e. the left-hand side of the building in the photo below) dates from the mid-1600s at a time when many houses in this area were being built or updated with chimneys. Clearly, the then-owners of the older, right-hand part of the dwelling (now Farthing Cottage) were relatively successful and considered it worthwhile upgrading this solidly built medieval house rather than rebuilding it.

The large central chimney stack visible from the village green dates from c.1640 and served fireplaces not only on the ground floor but also in the upper rooms, indicating the status of its yeoman occupant.



There is such a richness of architecture in the parish, timber-framed houses and beyond. If you live in Lurgashall Parish and have a history of your own house that you would like to share with Lurgashall Archive, please contact us on: archive@lurgashallvillagehall.org

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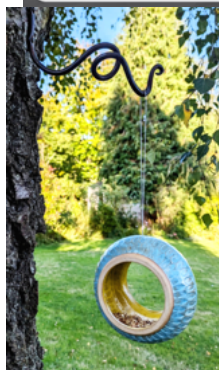
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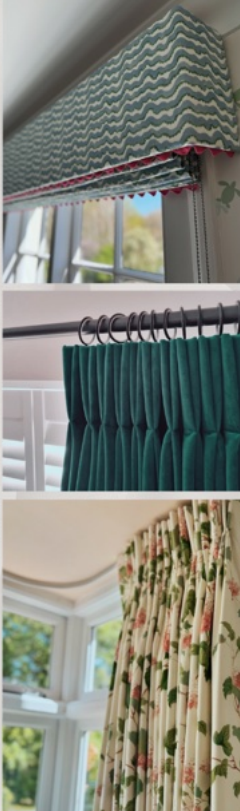
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