

Lurgashall News

OCTOBER 2026



Highlights



Harvest Festival & Supper
See pages 3 and 15

Macmillan coffee morning
Village Hall 3rd October - see page 18



October had tremendous possibility. The summer's oppressive heat was a distant memory, and the golden leaves promised a world full of beautiful adventures. They made me believe in miracles.

— Sarah Guillory, *Reclaimed*

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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 October 2026

4 October <i>18th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Rev Richard Lloyd</i>
	10.30 am	Northchapel	Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Ebernoe	Harvest Festival <i>Canon John Bundock</i>
11 October <i>19th Sunday after Trinity</i>	6.00 pm	Lurgashall	Harvest Festival Service <i>Canon Nigel Nicholson</i> 
18 October <i>20th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Rev Jack Mulder</i>
	10.30 am	Northchapel	Morning Prayer
25 October <i>21st Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Canon Nigel Nicholson</i>
	6.00 pm	Ebernoe	Evensong

Looking ahead....



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2026
at 10.50 a.m.
taken by Canon Nigel Nicholson





From the Churchwarden

What is the Church for now?"

The modern church does not become relevant by trying to beat the digital world at its own game. It becomes relevant by excelling at what the fast, online world cannot provide: unconditional belonging, physical presence, intergenerational wisdom, and a hope that isn't tied to the latest trend.

It's worth remembering that the Church of England once provided the only education many families ever received. Sunday Schools in the 18th and 19th centuries were the first classrooms for ordinary people. Churches taught reading, ran basic health clinics, supported the poor, and kept the civic records of births, marriages and deaths. In many villages, the church was effectively the local council.

But the world has changed. The state now runs schools, hospitals, welfare systems and public services that churches once pioneered. So, the question is obvious: if the church no longer teaches reading or runs the local clinic, what is it for today?

The answer, I think, lies in what modern life has become. In the last ten years alone, we've seen the rise of instant everything - instant news, instant entertainment, instant opinions, instant outrage. Social media connects us globally but often isolates us locally. Communities are more diverse, which is a gift, but also more fragmented. Many people live fast, busy, overstimulated lives, yet feel strangely lonely.

The church cannot compete with that speed, and it shouldn't try. Its purpose now is not to be another digital platform or another source of instant content. Its purpose is to offer the things modern life has quietly eroded.

First, the church offers depth in a shallow world. When everything is designed to be consumed quickly, the church offers something slow, reflective and rooted. Silence. Prayer. Stillness. A place where you can breathe without being bombarded by notifications.

Second, the church offers presence in a digital world. Real faces. Real conversations. Real community. A place where toddlers, teenagers, working adults and 80-year-olds share the same space without needing to buy a coffee to sit there.

Third, the church offers belonging in an isolated world. Not the “follow me” or “like me” kind of belonging, but the kind that grows through shared meals, shared stories, shared responsibilities and shared hope.

Fourth, the church offers memory in a forgetful world. We mark births, marriages, funerals and Remembrance. We hold the stories of the village. We remember the people who shaped us. We keep alive the idea that gratitude and grief both matter.

And finally, the church offers hope in an anxious world. Not optimism, not distraction, not positivity - but hope. The kind that steadies people when life is difficult and reminds them, they are not alone.

So, what is the purpose of the church today? Not to run schools or hospitals. Not to compete with social media. Not to be a museum of old traditions. But to be a community that meets the deepest human needs modern life has left unmet: belonging, meaning, memory, hope, and the chance to be known.

And that is why St Laurence still matters. Not because we are large, or loud, or modern, or slick - but because we are here. Because we open our doors. Because we gather people of all ages. Because we hold silence together. Because we remember together. Because we celebrate together. Because we offer something the digital world cannot manufacture: a place to belong, a place to breathe, and a place to hope.

Rob
Churchwarden, St Laurence

Sunday 11th October

Harvest Festival
Service in church – 6pm
Harvest Supper at
Village Hall – 7.30pm



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.*

September's prizewinners:

1st prize	Judy Flint - a first time winner!
2nd prize	David Godfrey

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 12th October. 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.

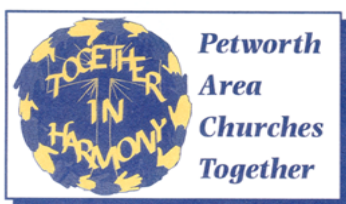
Our next order will be placed at the beginning of October, when autumn/winter monthly orders will recommence.

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





Autumn Lecture 2026

7.30pm on Friday 9th October
at **St. Peter Ad Vincula Church,**
Wisborough Green

Roger Ellis

will speak on...

‘The Church of the Future’

Roger is from
Revelation Church in
Chichester.



He believes that God is calling us in this district to live out the missional heart of God... to rewrite the story of the district, weaving in the tapestry of the good news of God's kingdom – a message of hope, restoration, and abundant life for all.

Free Entry.

Wine and Canapés.

Parking in the Village Hall Car Park

Website: <https://petworthareachurchestogether.com/>

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

Lurgashall Archive

The Archive is open at the Village Hall on request. Please contact:

archive@lurgashallvillagehall.org

*Our heritage
matters*

The Dallyn family of Blackdown Farm

The view from Blackdown Farm (now Home Farm) is probably one of the best in West Sussex. Sitting high up in Blackdown Park, in its heyday the farm covered over 160 acres of the Blackdown estate.

The history of the farm deserves a chapter of its own, but here we focus on the Dallyn family who ran the farm for 50 years from the late 1880s to just before WW2.

This is a delightful photograph of Thomas Dallyn and his family at Blackdown Farm, taken in 1911. The photo was kindly given to the Archive by the grandson of Eva Helen (Nellie) Dallyn, standing back left.



Back left to right: Eva Helen (Nellie), Frederick Thomas (Fred), Eveline Anne
Seated left to right: mother Emily Ann, on her lap Kathleen Grace, Ivy, father Thomas
On the ground: Mary

Thomas Dallyn (1862-1916) was born in the North Devon village of Challacombe, the only son of grocer William Dallyn. As a young farmer, Thomas was one of the first to try and escape the agricultural depression of the 1880s in the West Country and seek better fortunes in Sussex and Surrey. His subsequent farming success here encouraged others, such as John Anstey, to make the same migration.

Thomas came first to work as the tenant farmer on Cotchet Farm, bringing his parents, William and Evelyn, with him. Each year he would return to North Devon to buy Exmoor horn ewes for wintering in the milder Sussex climate. One year, he also brought back with him his bride, Emily Ann Burge, whom he married in Barnstaple in 1889.

It seems that other members of the Dallyn family made the move to Lurgashall at this time, because in the 1891 census Thomas' uncle, Richard Dallyn, was farmer at Blackdown Farm. By 1901, Richard Dallyn had moved on to a farm at Hardham, near Pulborough, and Thomas had taken over Blackdown Farm.

Thomas and Emily Dallyn had seven children in all, but their second son Maurice Stanley sadly died in 1900, aged only 11 months, and was buried in Lurgashall churchyard. Interestingly, five of the six remaining children were baptised all together at Lurgashall in January 1909. They all attended Lurgashall School before moving on to the private Granville House school in Midhurst when they reached 12 or 13 – perhaps an indication that the family was quite prosperous by the time of this photograph.

Five years later, Thomas Dallyn died, aged 54. A report from the North Devon Journal at the time (July 1916) says the death *"was caused by the accidental discharge of a gun whilst he was shooting rooks... Mr Dallyn was in the habit when conversing of resting his hands and chin on the muzzle of the gun... and the gun went off through being placed sharply on the ground."*

Thomas was buried in Lurgashall churchyard, next to the grave of his infant son. His son Frederick, after serving in the Sussex Yeomanry during WW1, took over the running of Blackdown Farm until c.1938 when he and his family moved to Cotterell's Farm near Shere in Surrey.

Four out of five of Thomas and Emily's daughters went on to marry farmers; Eveline and Mary returned to live in North Devon; Eva Helen (Nellie) and Grace settled with their families in the Hambledon area near Godalming, and Ivy lived for a while near Petersfield. Mother Emily died in 1940 and was buried with her husband in Lurgashall churchyard.

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Lurgashall Parish Council held a meeting on Thursday 10th September 2026. DRAFT minutes from this will be available to view on the Village Green noticeboard and the website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MOBILE SKIP

Saturday 3rd October 10am - midday
Village Hall car park

VILLAGE TIDY UP/LITTER PICK

Saturday 31st October at 10am
Meet at the Village Hall car park for equipment.
Please come along and help keep our village tidy

DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Government announced on 7th September 2026 that plans to create unitary authorities in West Sussex will be paused while it undertakes a review of its Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme.

As part of this review, decisions on Essex, Hampshire, Norfolk and Suffolk have been withdrawn following new legal advice. Plans for a further 14 areas, including West Sussex, will also be reviewed and paused while this is carried out.

The Government has also confirmed that local elections scheduled for May 2027 will go ahead on existing council boundaries. No timeline has been given to local authorities as to when the review is to be carried out or when it will be concluded.

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

PLANNING BREACH

Please report any planning breach to the Chichester District Council Enforcement team via the website www.chichester.gov.uk/report-a-planning-breach

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

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.

Mrs Helen Cruikshank
Clerk to Lurgashall Parish Council

Email: clerk@lurgashall-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01798 860788

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

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

**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 AULD FOOL ON AGRI-ENVIRONMENT MATTERS AND THOUGHTS ON AGEING.....

Doesn't a year go quickly – The Auld Fool has just completed the annual cut of the wild flower meadow which is Whites Green.

It is two weeks early – but wet weather is predicted – and cutting is governed by weather not just diary dates.

So cranking up the old MF35 tractor and doing the knee bends ready for the heavy pedal work to come The Auld Fool connects his cutter collector (to maintain flower meadows the cut material has to be removed).

Reliable as ever the MF35 fires up and a test run is undertaken – Disaster !!! – The drive belts – all three of them - take it upon themselves to shred - spectacularly !

No belt – no drive – no cutting.....in the shed where he stores his tractor he has a vague memory of some belts of the same length – much searching and two hours of knuckle scraping work and the machine is ready to cut.

New set of belts ordered – the cost of which causes The Auld fool to need a sit-down and a strong cup of tea !

10.30am start (after a quick check to see what the toad population is doing – last year they were here in abundance and the cut had to be much higher (whizzing blades and slow moving residents is not a good combination).....



..... 8.30pm finish with just a couple of two minute breaks for water uptake and removal !

.....and the Green is ready to overwinter



When The Auld Fool and The Badger (AKA Mrs C.) moved to Whites Green – over fifty years ago – his neighbour, Leconfield Estates' Head Keeper – Jim Aplin gave him an old scythe to cut the edge of the Green outside of his house – just the edge mind you - and his skills were pretty limited. He's still got the scythe and a short pitchfork gifted by Farmer Bill Elcombe. Next he bought a redundant tractor and grass cutter to cut and remove the grass on the Green (the monochrome picture is from the 1980's) - much later came the Wessex Cutter/Collector – but it is still damned hard going and the Auld Fool is mid eighties now – and wonders who will take it on – these patches of isolate wild meadow are rare – and Whites Green hosts one of the best colonies of Snoozewort on record.....

Local Electrician - Matt Wheatley

Part P Approved & fully insured

All types of Electrical work carried out
for prompt & friendly service please call

07976 465 974

email: mattwheatley1971@btinternet.com

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.



On October 6th
Gillian Hovell will give a talk

Pompeii : Digging Deeper with the Muddy Archeologist

Gillian has excavated in Oplontis in the Pompeii region.
We will find out what it was like in AD 79 and discover what it
was like to dig in these remarkable places.

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

Haslemere Library October Events 2026



HASLEMERE LIBRARY
HALLOWEEN LANTERN CRAFT

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER
 DROP IN 10.00AM - 4.00PM
 £2 PER CHILD

CROCHET FOR BEGINNERS

Learn how to crochet granny squares in preparation for our exciting 2027 craft project.



Saturday 10/10

2.00 - 4.00 pm

Cost £8.50 per person



Ages 14yrs+

Booking recommended @

haslemere.library@surreycc.gov.uk

BOOK FOLDING Halloween Series

Saturday 24/10
£3
 Walk in 10.00 - 4.00pm
 Ages 7yrs+

Age 6yrs+
Autumnal Fabric Wreath

 Thursday 22/10
 Friday 30/10
 Walk in 10.00 - 4.00pm
 £2.50

Tales and Treats
Funny Bones!

Saturday 31/10
 11.15-12.15
 £1.00 donation
 Ages 3 - 7yrs

Special Autumn Storytime

Tuesday 20/10
 £1.00 donation
 Ages 4- 7yrs

Hedgehog Book folding Craft

Thursday 29/10
 Walk in 10.00-4.00pm
 £2.00
 Age 4yrs+

Please support & shop at your community village shop



From October to March, with fewer visitors to the village, shop sales income is particularly dependent on residents choosing to shop local. If it has been a while since you have visited, please call in, you may be surprised by the range of food available. Shop local and save yourself a journey into town.

Here is how you can make a difference.

Order in Advance

Whether it is a joint of meat for Sunday lunch or quality fish required for a meal with friends, fresh vegetables or a half-case of wine, please telephone in advance and let us know what you would like to order 01428 707277.



‘Choose 5 items Challenge’ from your weekly supermarket list

Did you know the Village Shop offers over 600 different items? From everyday fresh food to all those last minute essentials such as ketchup, mustard, herbs and spices or household items like bin bags.

Starting this month when making your weekly supermarket shopping list, please try the '5 items challenge'

Choose and highlight at least five items to buy from the Village Shop.

Not sure an item is available? Before you make your journey to the village, telephone us, we are always happy to take your call and check our stock.

Weekly Shopping List	
Butter	Biscuits
Cheese, Cheddar	Peas, frozen
Fresh Soup	Broccoli
Sliced Ham	Potatoes
Milk	Tomatoes
Bread	Apples
Eggs	Bananas
Bacon	Lemons
Fairy Liquid	Tea Bags

For our customers' convenience ...

Extended Post Office hours

We have listened to customer requests for extended post office hours. From October, the counter will now be open **every** weekday morning for your convenience. Date of the first Friday morning opening will be confirmed online and instore.



Sunday Opening

From Sunday 4th October, the shop will be reverting to winter hours and closing at 2 pm. This is an extra hour longer than previous years but we hope by staying open until later, customers have the opportunity pop in for those little extras or forgotten items for Sunday lunch.

OPENING HOURS	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	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
SATURDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	CLOSED	
SUNDAY	10.00 AM	2.00 PM	CLOSED	

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

THE MONASTIC FOUNDATION OF BOXGROVE PRIORY

It was common practice for wealthy individuals in medieval times to endow religious institutions with money or land to fund a priest to sing masses for the spiritual salvation of the benefactors. These 'chantries' became a principal means of providing funding for churches and monasteries often making them extremely wealthy. Sometimes small rooms or side altars were set aside for the purpose, but very wealthy individuals would consider funding the building of a new church or monastery to provide religious salvation for the benefactor.

Founding a new monastery was not a straightforward process and required the support of one of the monastic institutions which were named in accordance with the colours of their habits, the Benedictines – 'the Blackfriars', the Cistercians – 'the Whitefriars' or the Franciscans – 'the Greyfriars'. The earliest were the Blackfriars founded in Italy in 529 as a contemplative order following the Rule of St. Benedict, a demanding set of instructions that covered most aspects of monastic life. Each monastery was autonomous but formed part of a collective undertaking to adhere to the rule of St Benedict. A new monastery required to be sponsored by an existing monastic institution which would be visited by the benefactor to agree the form that the new monastery would take.

A typical example was Boxgrove Priory at Halnaker. This was already a Saxon church in 1086 when the Domesday book mentions 'clerks of the church' who appear to have been a community of secular canons. In 1105,

Robert de Haye, Lord of Halnacre (sic), a Norman knight, granted the church of



*The ruins of Boxgrove Priory
by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm 1781*

St Mary and St Blaise, Boxgrove to the Benedictine Monastery of Lessay in Normandy. St Blaise was a 4th Century bishop from Turkey who had been martyred for his Christian beliefs in 316. In 1117, the clerks of the church were supplanted by monks from Lessay, allowing monastic building work to begin at the east end of the church with a high altar for monks to pray within a small presbytery, so that by 1123 Boxgrove was operating as a monastery with three monks who had arrived from Lessay. In 1126, Robert transferred the sponsorship to his daughter Cecily on her marriage to Roger St John and the number of monks was increased from three to six.

By 1165, Robert de la Haye had died but by 1187 there were fifteen monks under the spiritual supervision of the abbot of Lessay, thanks to the generosity of Cecily's son, William St John, now living at Halnaker. In 1190, the presbytery, was substantially rebuilt to provide eight bays in addition to the high altar, each with subsidiary altars for the monks to say commemorative masses for the salvation of their benefactors' souls ('chantries'). The numbers of monks progressively increased so that a nineteenth monk was added in 1230 by William de Kainesham, Canon of Chichester. In 1235, the Bishop of Chichester augmented their finances by allowing the Priory to hold a three-day fair on the days around the feast of St Blaise on 3 February. The monks also received grants of land from patrons to pay for altar candles and 'pittances' (allowances of wine, fine bread or spices, distributed to the monks on the anniversary of the benefactor's death). The Priory also supported 'corrodians' – often former servants, retainers or retired monks – with of bread, ale, fuel, and sometimes accommodation.

Boxgrove Priory was already an important local landowner endowed with estates, mills and tithes from local parish churches. Its wealth enabled the monks to provide a parish church for the locality, while remaining segregated from the parishioners, who sat in the nave at the west end while the monks occupied the presbytery, from where they celebrated high mass on a daily basis and recited their chantries.

Records of periodic visitations by local bishops show that in the 13th century monks were criticised for being quarrelsome. In 1275, the Archbishop of Canterbury issued several injunctions particularly relating to the regulations controlling the eating of 'flesh' meat (that of four-legged beasts). His

injunctions were also concerned with the admission of women to the Priory church who needed to be restricted to the nave without speaking to the monks. In 1286, the Pope needed to appoint adjudicators to resolve a dispute with Lessay. This was further complicated by war with France but in 1339 Boxgrove was granted its independence from Lessay allowing it to appoint its own abbot. A further problem arose in 1348/49 when two abbots died in quick succession of the black death. In 1409 there was a dispute with the Boxgrove parish priest requiring the intervention of the Bishop of Chichester. Nevertheless, the religious life of the monastery was generally reported to be in good order and this continued up until the dissolution.

During its period as a monastery, the Priory remained for many generations under the sponsorship of the St John family and later their descendants the Poynings family, so that the monks continued to say prayers for their souls, many of whom were buried within the precincts of the Priory. The sponsorship later passed to their descendants, the de la Warr family, who built a chantry chapel in 1532.

By 1535, shortly before the dissolution of the monasteries in 1537, there were eight priests and one novice, with twenty-eight servants and eight children living there (probably for their education),



Interior of Boxgrove Priory today

but after this the Priory church became the parish church which still remains in use, while the former Priory buildings have been allowed to fall into disrepair.

References

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/boxgrove-priory/history>;
Wikipedia

Robert Stedall ©

COME & SING

Choruses from Mendelssohn's



THE
LECONFIELD
SINGERS

Elijah

Saturday 3rd October 2026

10am - 4.30pm

Boxgrove Priory, Boxgrove PO18 0EE

Conductor Graham Wili

Registration 9.30am | Informal Concert (free entry) 3.30pm

Tea/coffee/cakes and music hire included | All levels of singers welcome

Tickets £24 at the door or scan QR code for Box Office:

www.leconfieldsingers.co.uk





LURGASHALL HORTICULTURAL CLUB

Established 1983

*"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."
Emily Brontë*

October can be a great opportunity for forward planning gardeners. Sowing seeds now gives you a head start for next year. The cool soil and winter chill are just what certain seeds need to thrive. Seeds sown now allow roots to develop deeply over winter, giving stronger growth, earlier blooms or harvests in spring, and are more drought tolerant.

SOW: Sweet Peas, Broad Beans, Garlic cloves, Autumn Onion sets, Cornflowers, Poppies.



For success use protection like **cold frames, cloches** or **fleece**. To prevent rotting, don't overwater - and watch out for slugs and snails!

Hardy annuals can be sown direct into the ground - or into pots or trays. The young plants can then be planted out into their final positions before winter, or kept somewhere sheltered for planting out in spring. You can sow half the packet now and the rest in spring to extend your season.

Below are some plants grown from seed to overwinter and, I hope, make good plants for the Plant Stall at next June's Fete.

Mark



JEN'S TIPS & IDEAS



What will autumn's leaf fall will look like this year? Most leaves may flutter from the trees as Brontë described, but has the summer drought caused destructive stress that may not become apparent until next spring? Or does nature have a way of fighting back and will the plants we fear lost this summer resurrect as Spring brings new life along with **gardeners' optimism...?**

My beech tree highlighted in September's issue is practically bare as I write this, so hardly any blissful colourful leaf drop will come off this specimen in our garden. Same for the birch trees, with their usual buttery hue in October, many already crisp, dull browns.

But leaf drop WILL happen... so on with some positive gardening...

Leaf Mould **Gardener's Gold!**

Collect & store: remove leaves from lawns & drives, store deciduous leaves in large bags or purpose-built leaf bins.

Ensure they are kept damp to aid bacteria and fungi to digest them.

Do not add evergreen leaves, as these don't decompose well and can inhibit growth of other plants



TOP TIP: Mowing your grass **and** leaves at the same time will mix in nitrogen-rich grass with the leaf mould and speed up decomposition.

Finely shredded material can be ready to use in 9-12 months, but some can take up to 2 years to be ready. **Moisture** is key here.

Leaf mould is a fantastic **soil conditioner**, as its gold lies in improving soil structure, enhancing water retention, and feeding beneficial soil fungi. Being low in nitrogen, leaf mould makes great **seed & potting compost**.

>>

Drought Stressed Shrubs & Trees

Many of us will have plants that struggled through the summer drought and have looked close to death. What do we do?

I recommend patience and trust in **gardener's optimism**: see what happens in Spring! Give a light tidy now of obviously dead or damaged, but wait until the Spring for any hard rejuvenative pruning, so any new shoots are not damaged through the winter.

Between now & then, nurture by mulching & sheltering from wintry extremes, and cross our green fingers that new life will break forth.

FORWARD PLANNING...

This summer has shown some extreme conditions for our gardens, and, apparently, it's likely to be the same next year, so **making notes** on what has struggled, what has coped and what has thrived is worthwhile.



Autumn is the time to take stock and plan for next year. The ground is warm, moisture levels are back up, so it is the perfect time to lift and move plants. Add more of this year's successes, whilst moving the stressed ones to more suitable positions.

In the gardens I tend, **nepetas** and **roses** have not struggled, and **geraniums**, **salvias** and **hibiscus** have been real doers week after week.

Bulbs:

This is an exciting time for choosing & planting bulbs for fabulous, colourful spring displays.

Think about drifts of **Camassia**; carpets of native daffs: **Narcissus pseudonarcissus 'Lobularis'** (Lent Lily Daffodil)



Camassia



For your Pots:

Have a go at “**LASAGNE**” bulb planting:

Try **Tulips**, **Hyacinths**, **Alliums**, **Crocus**, **Iris Reticulate** & **Grape Hyacinth**, for a continuous display throughout spring.

(Plant-ready kits are also available in garden centres and online.)



Seed Heads:

So many perennial plants have stunning seed heads after flowering, and these can be even more architectural than the preceding flowers - if not as colourful.

Try leaving these standing as long as possible for autumn / winter interest, as well as being great for birds & insects.

Winter:

We need to start thinking about Winter in the gardens. My initial thoughts are for our wildlife. This is a great time to prepare areas for hibernation & refuge. Create as many safe places as you can for insects, mammals & invertebrates, making sure they will be left undisturbed as much as possible. This can be as simple as leaving hollow perennial stems standing for insects to overwinter; creating dead wood piles for beetles & insects; leaf piles for hedgehogs. (*Lodsworth's hedgehog population is increasing, so let's do our bit in Lurgashall too!*); warm compost bins for slow worms and leaf litter in borders for worms & micro-organisms.



A Hedgehog 'Hotel'



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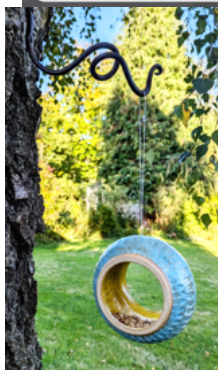
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