



Findon

December 2023
January 2024

Community newsletter for
Findon, West Sussex
Including the Church Parish of
Findon, Clapham & Patching

News

*Findon News is published monthly and is available free of charge from various outlets throughout Findon and can be viewed on the Findon Community website - www.findonvillage.org
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Articles for publication (**maximum 650 words**) can be submitted by email to findonvillagenews@gmail.com, or via the 'Findon News Box' in the Village Shop.

Closing Date for Next Publication : 20th January 2024



Christmas Lights in The Square

The Christmas lights have been installed
and will be switched on at
5.30pm on 3rd December.

As usual we will be able to hear carols
sung by the School Choir and there will
be mince pies and mulled wine on sale,
as well as a special visit from Father
Christmas.

Contrary to our last update, we will **NOT**
be running a fundraising raffle this year,
because, due to the generous support
received from the Sheep Fair, Village
Shop and Parish Council, we have
sufficient funds to cover all our costs.

Thank you from Sue, Gez and the Team



We would like to wish all our
Readers and Contributors

**A Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

From the magazine team
Alan, Sally, Monica and Hilary

And please remember
There will be no Findon News
In January



This magazine can also be read on-line on the following three websites:

Findon Village News - www.findonvillagenews.org

Findon Village Parish Council - www.findonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Findon Churches - www.findon-clapham-patching-churches.com



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From the Rectory

As I write, we are still looking forward to our biennial Christmas Tree Festival in St John the Baptist Church, but by the time you read this, it will either be in full swing or passed! I just want to record here my enormous thanks to the Team who have been planning and working tirelessly for many months to ensure that this event runs smoothly over the first weekend of December, and everyone who comes along to admire the trees has the best experience we can offer. Coming as it does including Advent Sunday, it is a wonderful way for us all to begin our preparations for Christmas!

Some clergy are anti Christmas Tree Festival, but there is a Christian side to the trees. Since they are evergreen, they remind us that the love of God shown in Jesus is not restricted to seasons but is eternal, all year round and every year, like the needles on the fir or spruce tree we have in our homes (even if nowadays it is an artificial tree!) I hope you like our Messy Church tree! It gave us the opportunity to remind our families that Jesus is the very best Christmas present of all time for all people, through the words of a children's song I remember from my own childhood and my Finnish mother. The sparkling lights on the tree remind us that Jesus came to bring light to a dark world, and how we all need that light in the desperate turmoil of our world today! My hope and prayer is that all who come to the Tree Festival are touched by God's love for us all.

Thinking of that love and how we are called to reflect it to those we meet, we

Helena Buqué



are now in the darkest time of the year and while for many Christmas is a time of joy, family get-togethers and celebration, I am mindful of those among us who are alone and perhaps find it difficult or impossible to go out, and there are many who will be feeling the absence of a loved one at this time of year. If you, or anyone you know is in this position and would appreciate a visit, do please get in touch and I, or a member of our Pastoral team, will always help. Similarly, if you would like to come to church but have no transport, please contact the Parish Office and we will arrange a lift.

Meanwhile, I hope to see you at some of our village events during December, or in the church (or one of the pubs!) as we approach Christmas Day, and there are lots of exciting things happening, which you can find out about on the Parish Christmas card which should have come through your door if you live in Findon, Clapham or Patching. There are cards in all 3 churches if you live outside the villages or want to pass one on to a friend or relative. All are welcome!

This is a double edition of the Findon News, covering January as well, so we wish you a thoughtful Advent, a very happy Christmas and peace and joy for 2024.

Every blessing, Helena

Rev. Helena Buqué, Vicar
and Rev. Colin Cox, Associate Vicar
c/o The Rectory, School Hill Findon, BN14 0TR.
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Light Lunch @ 1

(Last Tuesday of the month)
***No lunch in December but we
welcome you back in January***

Time **1.00pm**

Everyone welcome from
12.45pm

(not Midday - as we don't want our visitors
to arrive too early whilst we are setting up)

Worship and Praise Music with Cornerstone

Sunday 3rd December

Findon Church 10.00am

Christmas Tree Festival Weekend

*Visit the trees and cafe
after the Service*

Christmas Tree Festival

Jean Burden

St John the Baptist Church, Findon

Saturday, 2nd December - 10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday, 3rd December 11.00am - 4.00pm

This year's 'Christmas Tree Festival' promises to be a wonderful celebration to start your Christmas festivities.

Findon Village Church will sparkle with 26 Christmas trees, all decorated by local businesses and groups. Which will be your favourite?

It promises to be a feast for your taste buds, with homemade cakes to buy, refreshments to enjoy, and a 'Guess the Weight of the Cake' competition.

This year, we also have two magnificent hare door stops, which will grace the doors of whoever guesses their names. A craft stall will showcase the best that Findon has to offer, from Christmas table top decorations, to jewellery, to the all-important jams and chutneys.

The festival will be a family occasion. Curious children (and adults) will love

to find the church mice hiding in each Christmas tree, and a 'Pick a Painted Lolly' activity will be sure to be very popular amongst the younger generation.

And then there's the 'Instant Raffle', which has been generously supported by so many local businesses and individuals, and this year boasts over 140 fantastic prizes. Oh, and, by the way, there's a silent auction for two very special experiences. You simply cannot miss it!

Entry is free, we just ask for a donation.

If any villagers are able to walk to the church, it would help greatly with car parking.

The Christmas Tree Committee

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ONE KUALA LUMPUR OR TWO?

Findon Trees Group

Robin Carr

Findon's Trees Group is a small team of which little may be known but the result of their work is highly visible in the Village.

It all started back in 2019 when Cheryl English contacted the Woodland Trust and was surprised when they offered to deliver 200 saplings (all indigenous to the UK) to Findon within a couple of weeks, varieties including field maple, cherry, birch, oak, blackthorn, rowan, hawthorn, hazel and spindle. A permanent nursery area has been created behind the basketball court where these saplings were temporarily bedded, in preparatory to planting .

The planting has taken place during the three following winters under the expert guidance of Matthew Ward (the Village's Tree Warden) with some assistance from members of the Working Party (The Findon Village Volunteers). There have been further deliveries of saplings from the Woodland Trust and from Arun District Council who have also provided several mature trees. In addition, there has been a number of trees generously donated by

Findon residents and also from people outside the Village. Findon Parish Council have played their part and have provided evergreen trees such as holly and yew planted in North Wood to help screen from view from Nepcote Green what is likely to be extensive development east of Soldiers Field Lane.

Findon is doing its bit to try and reduce climate change, the aim of course being not only to help the aesthetic look of the Village but also to help capture as much carbon dioxide as possible.

When you are out walking you will see the trees in areas including Nepcote Green, North Green, North Wood, Pond Green, the Glebeland (particularly next to the basketball court), the embankment along High Street, verges near The Black Horse and at the Steep Lane/Cross Lane junction. Altogether some 400 saplings/trees have been planted mostly on Findon Parish Council land and the success rate is well over 90%. Tree planting work will continue during the winter .

200 Club

Alan Wadhams (Secretary FVHSC)

On Saturday the 18th November, we held our Autumn grand draw at the Village Hall. As well as our grand draw we were able to present a cheque for £2,500 to Roger Stone, the Village Hall Chairman. I'm sure this will come in handy for all the ongoing work on the hall.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and our Grand draw winners were :

1st prize was no.1 Sean Hellett £500 - **2nd** 52 Charlotte Green £200.

3rd 102 Cathrine Gear £100 - **4th** 189 Peter Green £50 - **5th** 86 M Bowen £25 and finally **6th** 143 Angus Charlton £25.

Anyone interested in becoming a member please email (findon200club@gmail.com) with your name and address. When a number becomes available you will be contacted.

We have draw each month for £25 and in May & November we have a draw for £500, 200, 100, 50 and 2x25. It costs £20 per annum for a number.

Thank you to all members for your continued support of our Village Hall.



Warner and Watts Antiques & The Forge Emporium

**Wish all our customers, old and new
a special, healthy and prosperous 2024**

**We have small, medium, large tables and small to
large sets of chairs available for the holiday's.**

**Warner & Watts have agreed to give 10% of their takings
to the local charity "Supporting Independence" based in
the Village. The support cares for young adults with needs
and some without families over Christmas. We have agreed to
raise money to help them with the support they need during
November and December.**

The Forge Emporium

**Offers some great, unique and collectible Christmas gifts
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Findon's Live Nativity

Tuesday 12th December

Starting at 6.15 pm from
the Village Hall walking to the Gun
with Donkeys, Sheep,
St John's School Choir
& the Monarch Way Singers



All Welcome

Findon Sheep Fair Saturday 14th Sept 2024

The planning for each Sheep Fair starts at the end of the previous one as we need to organise some attractions 12 months in advance.

We have already had confirmation that the "Sheep Show" from Devon with the dancing sheep, will return next year. Also this years very popular "Farmyard Circus" from Somerset has also been booked and they are looking forward to visiting us again.

If anybody would like to know more about volunteering at the fair, please make contact via findonsheepfair@gmail.com

Thank you
Sheep Fair
Committee



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PLEASE NOTE that due to the current circumstances, we will be operating from our Storrington office for now. All contact details remain the same.

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Findon Village WI

Our November meeting was a crafty one! We created snowflakes for the Village Hall, festive Christmas trees for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival and reindeer for the church craft stall. The ladies sewed, stuck, and cut out whilst enjoying a very sociable evening - take a look at our website to view the fruits of our labour.

Thank you again to all the villagers who made poppies to add to our collection; their addition made the display on Pond Green all the more impressive

Hopefully you can come along to the Christmas Tree Festival (2nd and 3rd December) and admire all the trees and buy some of the homemade crafts for sale

Our next meeting is our Christmas party, Thursday 14th December, 7.30pm which is a ticketed event

Our first meeting of 2024 will be our Fun Auction, Thursday 11th January 7.30pm at the village hall. Please bring along unwanted Christmas presents for Sassy to auction for charity. This is always an enjoyable evening and, as usual there will be a coffee, tea and cake for all

Visitors are very welcome - we look forward to seeing you.

Paddy Winter

Email

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Well. No missing Christmas this year. You will be greeted by a wonderful Christmas tree post box topper, and a lovely Seasonal/Christmas display designed by Siân Keating. A very big thank you from us all.

The shop has all sorts of loveliness out on display, all ready for Christmas. Gift-wrapped panettoni, filled with delights such as lemon or pistachio cream, boxes of chocolates of every variety, Sicilian lemon marshmallows, festive shortbread, tins of mouth-watering biscuits, mince pies, stollen, and all the goodies usually associated with Christmas. If you fancy a bit of baking or decorating, how about a gingerbread house kit? And, of course, we stock all the essentials such as frozen Yorkshire puddings and parsnips, to save a last-minute panic.

This year, we are stocking Smock Alley wine. One of their wines won Bronze in the 2020 Champagne & Sparkling Wine World Championships, and was recently chosen as 'Wine of the Month' by Michael Yeoman, an English Wine Specialist. What really appeals to me is the way in which Smock Alley is run. Local workers are each responsible to tend and care for a number of rows of vines. This truly roots (get it?) the vineyard within the community - West Chiltington, just up the road. Much like our shop ... So go on, give it a try; you won't be disappointed.

Now, an idea for a present for someone very special. It's a different sort of present, an investment that would help keep Findon the vibrant village it is. It's related to the shop, but

you can't buy it there. Have you guessed what I'm talking about? I'll give you a clue. Often, we don't appreciate something until it's not there. I am, of course, talking about our shop. For about six months in 2017, there was no shop. People had to go elsewhere to go to the Post Office, or to buy their newspapers or provisions. The village was quiet; Dee Dees suffered, as did Peckham's. That was until a share scheme was set up and we managed to purchase the building. Well, you can see the result of that in our buzzy, thriving community shop. The problem is that time moves on, circumstances change, and shares might get taken out. Meanwhile, the need for the capital is still there. If you're interested in buying a share, contact our Secretary via the shop.

And just to illustrate how much of a community shop we are, we've sponsored the sound system in Nepcote Hall, we're giving hampers to families in need this Christmas, and are supporting the Findon Christmas lights, as well as contributing to the school library and their theatre production.

How about buying bespoke Christmas cards this year? Maggie Martin has painted a beautiful Christmas flower card. We are also selling cards personalised from Findon in a variety of designs, which are selling well.

What would we do without our post office? You can buy last minute Christmas gift cards, which always make good presents, as well as posting your parcels.

Continued on Page 15

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Continued from Page 13

Which reminds me, the last posting dates are:

First class: 20th December
Second class: 18th December
Abroad: various dates from
6th onwards, so get them sent soon!

And the most important thing you need to know for those last-minute necessities is our shop opening hours:

Christmas Eve: 6.30am-12.30pm
Christmas Day: Closed
Boxing Day: 6.30am-12.30pm
New Year's Eve: 6.30am-12.30pm
New Year's Day: 6.30am-12.30pm

Oh, and talking about the New Year, the shop stocks 2024 diaries, so you can be ready to hit the ground running next year (or not, as the case might be – that may be a bit aspirational).

Finally, all that remains is for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas, and to remind you that if you need anything over the festive season, you can rely on your community shop.

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	Mon to Sat 07:00 - 19:00	Mon to Sat 08:30 - 17:30	
	Sunday 07:00 - 12:30	Sunday 08:30 - 12:00	
	www.findonvillagestore.org	findonvillagestore@gmail.com	

Love in a Box - Shoeboxes Hilary Langford

A very big thank you to everyone who filled a Shoebox for the appeal by Mustard Seed Relief Mission with necessities and treats for children in Moldova, the poorest country in Europe.

The boxes have now been collected from me. We sent 65 boxes which the children will enjoy unpacking and they will even treasure the shoebox itself.

Why not start gathering goodies now for next year.





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Wednesday 9am - 2pm

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The Cinnamon Trust Christmas Fair
will be held in the Village Hall
on Saturday 9th December 2023
from 10am till 12.30pm.



Entry £3 to include hot drink and a sweet or savoury goody.

Extra drinks or treats £1 each.

Children under 12 admitted free.

Well behaved dogs welcome

You will hopefully be able to do some Christmas shopping there with lots of gifts, cards and goodies available to buy whilst you enjoy our festive treats. This will include treats and presents for your furry friends.

Your pre-ordered Christmas Cakes will be ready for collection at the Fair at £7 each. Hope you enjoy them.

We are delighted to welcome the Monarchs' Way Singers who will entertain us with Christmas songs at approximately 10.30. Thank you Carole and team.

There will be a grand raffle, Guess the Name of the (toy) pet, Lorna's "Tropic" Beauty, Ben from West Sussex Fire Prevention, stalls with crafts, bric-a-brac, cakes and goodies, pet treats and gifts, jewellery, a lovely selection of Christmas Gifts and cards and a cafe area to sit and enjoy the wonderful array of sweet and savoury treats with friends.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Cinnamon Trust, the only National Charity which helps both people and pets.

Maggie Martin

07544 572702/01903 874173

maggiemartin8@gmail.com

FINDON FRIENDS OF ST.BARNABAS HOSPICE

Charlotte Green

We would like to thank everyone who came out on a horrible Saturday morning, in the wind and rain, to support our Fair in the village hall. The turn out was amazing and we managed to raise approx £800-£900. If you visit our Facebook page, the total amount will be put on there very soon.

A massive big thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events this year, from the businesses, the general

public and the fireman that came to the village hall, we are so grateful to you all.

On behalf of our group and St.Barnabas House, we want to wish everyone a
Very Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year.

For future events find us on Facebook...
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Findon Free Range Eggs

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So, Nepcote Hall has its kitchen it has gas and therefore, heating and is ready to go! We still have some landscaping to do outside, a couple of PIR lights to install but, essentially the extension is complete and events are already being held in the new facility. The acoustics are, of course still an issue but we are hoping to get some professional advice in the near future and to implement a solution (which will improve the acoustics in both Chanctonbury and Nepcote) sooner rather than later. We will be gradually adding to the facilities in Nepcote – a microwave in the kitchen for example as we understand more about how people want to use it.

The Premises licence has been granted and this will allow us to arrange a bar without having to worry about how many single event licences we have left or the bureaucracy of applying for them each and every time. This will slightly change some of our previous arrangements so, when you see “Challenge 25” posters and more formal measuring of the size of drinks served – you will know why!

There will also be other changes behind the scenes as the premises licence does come with obligations attached. We will be putting even greater emphasis on asking people to be quiet when entering and leaving the hall, especially early in the day and after 9.00pm in the evening – whether there is a bar or not.

We had some feedback that the hearing loop in Chanctonbury was not working very effectively and have had some modifications made to the way it is set up. This means that the

microphone in the ceiling is now, normally “off”. This means that, that when the microphones or any part of the sound system in Chanctonbury are used, the feed from the sound system will be fed into the hearing loop signal without the additional input from the ceiling microphone. We believe this will make the system much more effective for the users of the loop. It does also mean that, if you have events where there is a speaker, then for the loop to work at all, they cannot use their own amplifier and must use the microphone from the main hall sound system. We need further feedback from the hearing loop users to ensure that this is now working as expected. We expect it will be improved further when the other acoustic improvements are made. We also plan to use this system on film nights, but need a little experimentation to get the film equipment and the sound system to talk to each other so, we hope this is in place for the first film night in the New Year at the latest.

The 200 Club evening was held only a few days ago and was a great success – the Trust is very grateful for the club’s efforts and for the cheque for £2500 that was handed over to supplement trust funds during the evening.

By the time you read this, we will have had this year’s AGM as mentioned last month so we should be all set for another year and look forward to using our new facilities to provide more opportunities for the community as a whole to take advantage of what the hall can offer.

News from Findon Village School

Our delightful local primary school provides one of the focal points for good community village life in Findon. The school provides places for all children within the village and its numbers are supplemented by pupils from within local areas. We never lose sight of the fact that many of our parents drive their children past other primary schools to attend our village school. They do so because of the caring atmosphere that pervades in a small community C of E school which ensures good pastoral care whilst providing the learning necessary to equip children for later life and turn out confident learners.

Like all schools, we are subject to inspections from local and national regulators and are pleased to report that OFSTED (The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) carried out an in-depth 2-day inspection during September. The Governing Board are delighted to advise that the school was graded as 'GOOD' with an 'OUTSTANDING' for provision in Early Years.

As is always the case, the expectations of a school increase every year in all areas such as safeguarding, curriculum content

and delivery, special educational needs and school leadership and management, so to evidence an improvement is fantastic and testament to the hard work and professionalism of all of our stakeholders.

With this in mind, the Governing Board would like to thank all parties who have contributed to our continued success and, with OUTSTANDING for Early Years, the improved ability we now have to attract new families to our school. We appreciate the hard work put in by our excellent teachers, support staff, school management, the village church, our parents who do so much to support their children's learning and raise additional funds through our very successful village events, our colleagues in the community and of course, our children who are our focus at all times.

A 'good' school enriches the life of the community that it serves. Our school stakeholders have certainly ensured that this is the case in Findon.

John Roche.
Joint-vice-chair of Governors.

“Pupils love their school” – St John the Baptist Primary celebrates ‘Good’ Ofsted and ‘Outstanding’ in Early Years

St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School, which is based in Findon Village retained its 'Good' judgement following their recent two day inspection. They also had 'Early Years' upgraded to 'Outstanding'.

The school promotes itself as a nurturing, family place to learn and the inspec-

tor found that “pupils enjoy attending this friendly school”.

“The school has high expectations of pupils' learning and behaviour. The ambition for children in Reception is exceedingly strong. Pupils love learning and relish the opportunities to demonstrate their understanding. As a result, pupils usually achieve well.”

“There is an enthusiasm for the learning which is evident throughout the school day. Pupils from Reception onwards, aspire to positions of responsibility, such as looking after the school chickens. Pupils recognise how the broad range of trips and experiences link to what they learn”.

Headteacher, Jane Sharrock, advised that the whole process went very smoothly. Inspectors saw a typical day in the life of pupils at St John the Baptist C of E Primary School.



The poster is designed to look like a classical building facade with two columns and a triangular pediment. The title 'Findon Film Nights' is in the pediment. The main text is centered between the columns. At the bottom, there is a dark banner with white text for the venue and activities, and a Facebook logo on the right.

Findon Film Nights

There will be no film night in December,
however we will return on
19th January
when we intend to show the acclaimed
film

starring
Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson

which tells the true story of
Bernard Johnson who in 2014
absconded from his care home to
attend the
70th anniversary of the
D-Day landings in France

The events team would like to thank
everyone who has supported our film
nights and wish you all a very Merry
Christmas and we look forward to

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Findon Parish Council Report

Linda Martin - Chairman

Not sure how this year has whizzed by at the rate of knots, but here we are hurtling towards the end of 2023. Details of the 2024 Full Council and Planning Committee meeting dates can be found elsewhere in Findon News.

It has been an eventful year for the Parish Council and a detailed review of the year will be presented to you at our Annual Parish Meeting on 22 April 2024.

I am pleased to report that the saga of the village clock chimes has at last been settled. At its meeting on 23 October 2023, FPC voted for the chimes to be restarted at the original start time of 7.00am. If anyone was in any doubt as to the depth of feeling about the suspension of the chimes, then this episode showed very clearly how residents value village traditions and will not give these up lightly.

Stop News regarding the FPC Operation Watershed funding application to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) concerning the flooding events in The Quadrangle, WSCC Cllr Deborah Urquhart (Deputy Leader of WSCC, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, and WSCC Councillor for Findon) has approved our application. More details will be available in the next edition of Findon News. £38,000 of grants given to two projects by West Sussex County Council's Operation Watershed scheme (sussexexpress.co.uk).

We also have some news to report about the restoration of the pond on Nepcote. You will have seen that the pond area has been cleared and UK Power Networks have removed those branches that stretch across the area in order to clear the power lines. The next stage is to crowdfund to enable the works to carry on. If you are able to support FPC in this exciting challenge, you can find details on <https://crowdfunded.co.uk/p/Nepcote-green-pond-restoration>. The next stage is to finalise the specifications and the contractors with a view to work starting in the Spring of 2024. Posters have been put up around the village and I would like to thank Cllr Chris Gilbert who is overseeing this important project and is working closely with South Downs National Park Authority.

Weather permitting, the annual Tree Survey of FPC trees will have taken place on 30 November 2023.

There are a quite a few Christmas events taking place during December and I am aiming to come along to as many as I can so I look forward to seeing you. It seems the right time now to send the Seasons Greetings to you all and to wish you a peaceful and healthy 2024.

Findon Parish Council Website
www.findonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Findon Parish Council – Car Parking at Pond Green

I have been made aware of inconsiderate and anti-social parking on the grassed area to the west of the tarmac parking spaces. This has resulted in the grass being churned into mud and also blocks off the access to the area for visitors to Pond Green, not to mention A C Gardens (Sussex) Ltd who keep the Green in such good condition.

Short term car parking at Pond Green is vital to residents using the village amenities as well as to visitors, and, as you will be aware from the FPC signage, is not intended for all day or long term parking.

Please be considerate of others when parking at Pond Green. Thank you.

Fiona MacLeod - Clerk to Findon Parish Council

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Findon Parish Council Meetings 2024

Full Council (Monday unless otherwise stated)

22 January 2024
18 March 2024
22 April 2024 Annual Parish
meeting (7pm) #
13 May 2024 Annual Parish
Council
17 June 2024
29 July 2024
09 September 2024
21 October 2024
02 December 2024

Planning Committee (Thursday unless otherwise stated)

18 January 2024
15 February 2024
14 March 2024
18 April 2024
23 May 2024
27 June 2024
25 July 2024
22 August 2024
26 September 2024
31 October 2024
05 December 2024

All meetings will start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated and will be held in Nepcote Hall

this meeting will be held in the Chanctonbury Hall

Comet the Horse

The day November's Findon News went to press, Alice posted a photo of Comet's horse passport emblazoned with his full name "Comanche Comet". So, we've gone back to spelling his name Comet, rather than Comit, which was the spelling used by his previous owners.

Comet is doing very well. His recovery from being gelded (castrated) was remarkably smooth and his hooves are looking much better. He's been enjoying lots of visitors coming to see him, especially if they have a carrot or a chopped apple!

Francesca Thomas

Alice is very grateful to all of Comet's fundraisers. Your donations have helped cover the cost of his castration, vet bills, two visits from the farrier to trim and care for his hooves, fencing equipment, membership of the British Horse Society (which includes insurance) and hay and bedding. Alice plans to get the fencing improved as soon as possible, get him worm tested, and arrange a dentist for him in the New Year.

Find out more about Comet's story from Alice via
her GoFundMe page Comit's new life
gofund.me/1d19eeaf or
Comet's Instagram [instagram.com/majesticcomet/](https://www.instagram.com/majesticcomet/)

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News from Paws Animal Sanctuary

Thank goodness the fireworks are over (until New Years Eve). Our dogs were so scared, shaking and afraid to go down the garden for days. They wouldn't go further than the back door. Two of our Volunteers offered to come in and calm the pony, donkey, cats and hens while the fireworks were going off. Lots of people rang saying their cats had gone missing. There were also many photos of missing cats on lost and found on face book after the fireworks. I was also told of a dead squirrel and of two deer who had all died lying on the side of the road the morning after the Findon Village Firework display. Not good news now that we are part of Findon Village "Southdown National Park".

One Sunday afternoon a bag containing three tiny kittens were handed in at the back gate. We were told they were all the way from Norfolk. They were far too young to have left their mum and were in such a state after being in the bag for the long journey. They all needed a bath. My granddaughter, Jo, bathed them and put them in a pen with an electric heated bed. Luckily they were able to eat on their own, and we had a good supply of kitten food, as we have other kittens. All three of the kittens are thriving, playing all day. All wormed, flea'd, and had their first inoculations.

I recently had an accident and cracked my hip socket and fractured my pelvis. So, although I can walk on crutches, I am on

the mend but absolutely no use to Jo who is working so hard running the Sanctuary. Looking after me, working from home and busy with her own office job. Luckily we have Volunteers coming in every day keeping all the animals fed, groomed and cages and pens cleaned. It gets dark early but we are fortunate enough to have a few volunteers who come in at 4.00pm to help Jo put all the animals to bed at night.

We are still bursting at the seams with so many guinea-pigs, hens, cats, kittens and of course, also, Elvis the pony and Jasper the donkey.

I have been told that the Christmas lights are up in the village looking lovely and the postbox has a beautiful knitted Christmas decoration on top. Christmas is nearly here. Wishing you all a Happy Peaceful Christmas.
from Stacey.

Paws Animal Sanctuary Findon

15 The Oval, Findon Village
West Sussex BN14 0TN

01903 872 734 / 0790 447 6819

email: pawsanimals@hotmail.co.uk

We never use an ansaphone so keep trying someone is always around.

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Findon Village Gardens Association

Sally Evans

There is no regular meeting in December, but we have our Christmas Social on the 8th. This is always a good evening, with lots of good food and a chance to chat. Our first meeting of 2024 is on 26th January.

There will be a short AGM, followed by a "Gardeners' Question Time" type session with Jean Griffin. Jean may be a familiar voice for those of you who listen to Sussex and Surrey Radio.

Everyone is welcome to meetings. We meet on the last Friday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall - Members £2, Non Members £3, Annual Membership £5.

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Planning applications for Findon are under the authority of South Downs National Park and listed on the SDNPA website (www.southdowns.gov.uk).

Findon Parish Council (FPC) Planning Committee meetings are scheduled monthly to consult on planning applications received from the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). Parish Consultation Letters (PCL) received from the SDNPA are displayed on the Notice Boards outside the newsagents and the Village Hall, and published on the FPC website (<http://findonparishcouncil.gov.uk>) along with the schedule of Committee meeting dates.

Please note that due to Findon News publication deadlines, some applications may have already been placed before the Committee. Residents should check the Notice Boards and FPC website regularly to view notices and meeting details.

Any enquiries should be addressed to the FPC Clerk - 01903 877225.

Since the last issue of Findon News, the following Planning Applications have been posted on the SDNPA website:

The installation of roof lights and solar panels

3 Homewood Findon BN14 0XA

Ref. No: SDNP/23/04661/HOUS

A - Remove top of large ash tree. B - Group of 5 trees crown lift to 12 clearance of the branches on the North side of the trunks and a 30 percent reduction in height of the largest sycamore. C - Reduction in height of four large sycamores close to Nepcote Lane by 30 percent.

3 Convent Gardens Findon BN14 0RZ

Ref. No: SDNP/23/04574/TPO

Holly T1 - Tree is ivy clad and has been heavily altered. Tree was pruned to 3.5m height approximately 10 years ago. Works being requested: Tree is currently 7 meters in height with 5 meter crown spread. Reduce tree to previous prune points of 3.5m height and round off sides by removing 1 meter from all sides to create a rounded attractive shape.

1 Summerfields Findon BN14 0TU

Ref. No: SDNP/23/04376/TPO

Retrospective change of use of ancillary outbuildings (C3) to 5no. tourist accommodation units (C1)

The Vale House Findon Road Findon
BN14 0RA

Ref. No: SDNP/23/04256/FUL

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LIFE STORY  IN A BOOK

Nepcote Flock - 2009-2023

Graham Langford

Back in 2009 we started the flock because of our love of sheep. There was so much to learn but there were always people to help us and interested people in the village who checked the sheep when out walking.

However, the time has come to bring the flock to a close and sadly our last two sheep were re-homed early in November. We know it was the right decision at the right time and we have so many happy memories and we've met so many people and made good friends.

Every year shepherding is different, whether it is lambing, treating them, shearing or entering agricultural shows there are always new challenges.

At lambing time, each new birth seems like a miracle despite the often late nights and being out in all weathers. Watching those lambs grow to adulthood is a joy, just like watching your own children grow.

The sheep farming community come together at the very many country shows around the country, including our very own Sheep Fair. It is a day out from the hard work at home for the farmers and a chance to catch up with old friends.

When our ewe, Sunshine, lost her lamb after a caesarean we were all downhearted and dejected. A lamb, whose mother had rejected her 4 days

earlier, snuck into Sunshine's pen, suckled from her, which Sunshine allowed, and before we knew it the pair bonded to our joy and relief.

So, having made the decision to end the flock the sheep have all been found good homes. One last drama we had to deal with concerned Sunshine. She had been attacked by flies at the end of the summer and developed a sore despite all the treatments. She and her lamb could not leave the flock until this had recovered. Every time she seemed to be recovering, the wound erupted again, and again. No matter what we tried it wouldn't stay healed.

Then it was discovered she was being attacked by magpies pecking at the wound. I read on the internet that magpies don't like the smell of vinegar so we then sprayed vinegar on her back to deter them. (She smelt like a bag of chips.) We moved her away to a different field and thankfully, with various healing ointments, we have finally been able to move her and her teenage ewe lamb to their new home.

If anybody has been thinking they would like to start a flock, we can say it is very rewarding with various challenges along the way but who would have thought a problem for a sheep would be settled with a bottle of vinegar!!

Findon News Online

We apologize for the fact that the Village Shop has sometimes run out of your favourite Findon News magazine.

We rely on income from our advertisers to pay for the printing of the magazine. If we were to print more copies it would mean that we would have to find more advertisements, which would incur more printing costs for the extra pages. So, we would need even more advertisements!

We feel that at present we have a reasonable balance of news and advertising.

It is possible to read the magazine online from these websites (also displayed on the front cover of Findon News each month).

www.findonvillagenews.org
www.findonparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.findon-clapham-patching-churches.com

Village Hall Diary December 2023

For one off events e.g. children's parties, meetings and weddings please email Elaine Dibben on bookingsecretary@findonvillagehall.net or visit <https://sites.google.com/findonvillagehall.net/home/hire-the-hall>.

Please contact organisers directly for further information about activities/classes. Their details are available on the Village Hall website - www.findonvillagehall.net.

Please note the hall will be closed from Dec 24th and reopen on Dec 28th

Weekly	Day	Hall	Time
Just Yoga	Monday	Nepcote	10:30am
Drop In Afternoon Tea	Monday	Nepcote	14.00pm – 16.00pm
Circle Dancing	Monday 11th only	Chanctonbury	14.00pm – 16.30pm
Encore Choir	Monday	Chanctonbury	18.45pm
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	09.15am
		Nepcote on 19.12	09.15am
Lambstails	Tuesday 5th only	Nepcote	10.30am
You Yoga	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	18.00pm
Line Dancing	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	10.00am
Strictly Dancing with Lisa	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	19.00pm
Pilates	Thursday 14th only	Chanctonbury	09.30 / 10.30 / 11.45am
Carpet Bowls	Thursday	Chanctonbury	14.00pm
Tai Chi	Friday	Chanctonbury	10:00am
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Friday	Chanctonbury	04.45pm
Danceholics (fortnightly)	Sunday (3rd & 17th)	Chanctonbury	18.30pm
Monthly	Date	Hall	Time
Full Parish Council Meeting	4th December	Nepcote	19.00pm
Messy Church	5th December	Chanctonbury	03.30pm
Parish Council Planning Meeting	7th December	Nepcote	19.00pm
Findon Garden Association	8th December	Chanctonbury	14.00pm
Findon Village WI	14th December	Chanctonbury	19.30pm
Dance of Awareness Workshop	15th December	Chanctonbury	18.45 pm
Bead Magicians	19th December	Chanctonbury	10.00am – 02.30pm
Meditation	21st December	Nepcote	19.30pm

Dates for your Diary and Future Events

Every Monday afternoon	Drop In Afternoons	Chanctonbury Hall	02.00pm – 04.00pm
Saturday December 9 th	Cinnamon Trust	Chanctonbury Hall	10.00am
	Christmas Fair		

Be Safe - Be seen

Don't forget to carry a torch or wear reflective clothing during these dark dreary winter afternoons and evenings.
You cannot be seen by motorists if you are wearing dark clothing in unlit areas.

Village Hall Diary January 2024

For one off events e.g. children's parties, meetings and weddings please email Elaine Dibben on bookingsecretary@findonvillagehall.net or visit <https://sites.google.com/findonvillagehall.net/home/hire-the-hall>.

Please contact organisers directly for further information about activities/classes. Their details are available on the Village Hall website - www.findonvillagehall.net.

Weekly	Day	Hall	Time
Just Yoga	Monday	Nepcote	10:30am
Drop In Afternoon Tea	Monday	Nepcote	14.00pm – 16.00pm
Circle Dancing	Monday (15th & 29th)	Chanctonbury	14.00pm – 16.30pm
Encore Choir	Monday	Chanctonbury	18.45pm
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	9.15am
Lambstails	Tuesday	Nepcote	10.30am
You Yoga	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	18.00pm
Line Dancing	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	10.00am
Paracise	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	14.00pm
Strictly Dancing with Lisa	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	19.00pm
Pilates	Thursday (Not 2nd)	Chanctonbury	9.30am/10.30am/11.45am
Carpet Bowls	Thursday	Chanctonbury	14.00pm
Tai Chi	Friday	Chanctonbury	10:00am
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Friday (5th, 19th, 26th)	Chanctonbury	16.45pm
	Friday (12th)	Nepcote	16.45pm
Danceholics (fortnightly)	Sunday (7th, 14th, 28th)	Chanctonbury	18.30pm
Monthly	Date	Hall	Time
Tastevin	4th January	Chanctonbury	19.00pm
Findon Village WI	11th January	Chanctonbury	19.30pm
Meditation	15th January	Nepcote	19.30pm
Bead Magicians	16th January	Chanctonbury	10.00am – 02.30pm
Parish Council Planning Meeting	18th January	Nepcote	19.00pm
Full Parish Council Meeting	22nd January	Nepcote	19.00pm
Findon Garden Ass	26th January	Chanctonbury	19.30pm
Light Lunch	30th January	Chanctonbury	12.45pm

Dates for your Diary and Future Events

Every Monday - Drop In Afternoon Teas - Nepcote Hall - 14.00pm - 16.00pm

Friday January 10th - Bright Lights Comedy Night - Chanctonbury Hall - Doors 19.00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bright-lights-comedy-paul-tonkinson-comedy-roadshow-tickets->

Friday January 17th - FVHT Film Night - 6.30pm. Film TBC Tickets in advance from <https://findon-village-hall-trust.sumupstore.com/>

Findon Village Hall
www.findonvillagehall.net

PARISH OF FINDON, CLAPHAM AND PATCHING

DECEMBER 2023

There is a 10.00am Said Eucharist in Findon Church every **Tuesday**,
and Morning Prayer every **Wednesday** and **Friday** at 9.00am

Church Services for Advent and Christmas

Sunday 3 rd Advent Sunday	08:00am 10.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Worship and Praise Service in Findon Church with "Cornerstone" Eucharist in Patching Church
Sunday 10 th Advent 2	08.00am 09.30am	BCP Holy Communion in Clapham Church Eucharist in Findon Church
Sunday 17 th Advent 3	08.00am 09.30am 10.00am 04.00pm	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Eucharist in Findon Church Eucharist in Clapham Church Candlelit Carols in Findon Church
Sunday 24 th Advent 4	08.00am 09.30am 03.00pm 11.30pm	BCP Holy Communion in Patching Church Eucharist in Findon Church Crib/Christingle Family Service in Findon Church Midnight Mass in Findon Church
Monday 25 th Christmas Day	08.00am 10.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Eucharist in Findon Church Eucharist in Patching Church
Sunday 31 st December First Sunday of Christmas	08.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Patronal Festival Eucharist at Patching Church

Additional Christmas Celebrations

Saturday 2 nd	05.30pm	Findon Christmas Lights are switched on
Sunday 2 nd to Sunday 3 rd	10am-5pm 11am-4pm	Christmas Tree Festival in Findon Church
Tuesday 12 th	06.15pm	Walking Nativity in Findon Village, with carols in the garden of The Gun Inn
Friday 15 th	07.00pm	'A Potpourri of Music for Christmas' - a Christmas Concert in Patching Church with music to suit all tastes.
Monday 18 th	06.15pm	Carols Round the Coals in Patching Church, (starting at the Old Forge, to follow the donkey to the Churchyard). Father Christmas is expected to make a visit too
Tuesday 19 th	02.00pm 06.00pm	Carol singing with residents of Clapham Lodge Carol Singing around Findon Village by the Monarch's Way Singers, starting at the Oval.

PARISH OF FINDON, CLAPHAM AND PATCHING

JANUARY 2024

All three Churches are open daily for private prayer.

There is a 10.00am said Eucharist in Findon Church every **Tuesday**, and Morning Prayer every **Wednesday** and **Friday** at 9.00am.

There is no Worship & Praise Service in Findon in January – please join us on Sunday 4th February with ‘Hope Rising’

Sunday 7 th Epiphany	08:00am 09.30am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Eucharist in Findon Church Eucharist in Patching Church
Sunday 14 th 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	08.00am 09.30am	BCP Holy Communion in Clapham Church Eucharist in Findon Church
Sunday 21 st 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	08.00am 09.30am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Eucharist in Findon Church Eucharist in Clapham Church
Sunday 28 th Presentation of Christ	08.00am 09.30.am	BCP Holy Communion in Patching Church Eucharist in Findon Church



Messy Church - Starts again on Tuesday 6th February

3.30 - 5.30pm in Findon Village Hall

All children welcome with an accompanying adult for crafts, a story, singing and food!

Lambs Tails - Starts again in January

Parent & Toddler Group for babies, toddlers, & parents/carers.

Tuesday mornings at 10.30am in Findon Village Hall. Contact Sue Stone:

belgiumsue@hotmail.com

Rev. Helena Buqué, Vicar, and Rev. Colin Cox, Associate Vicar:

c/o The Rectory, School Hill, Findon BN14 0TR.

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